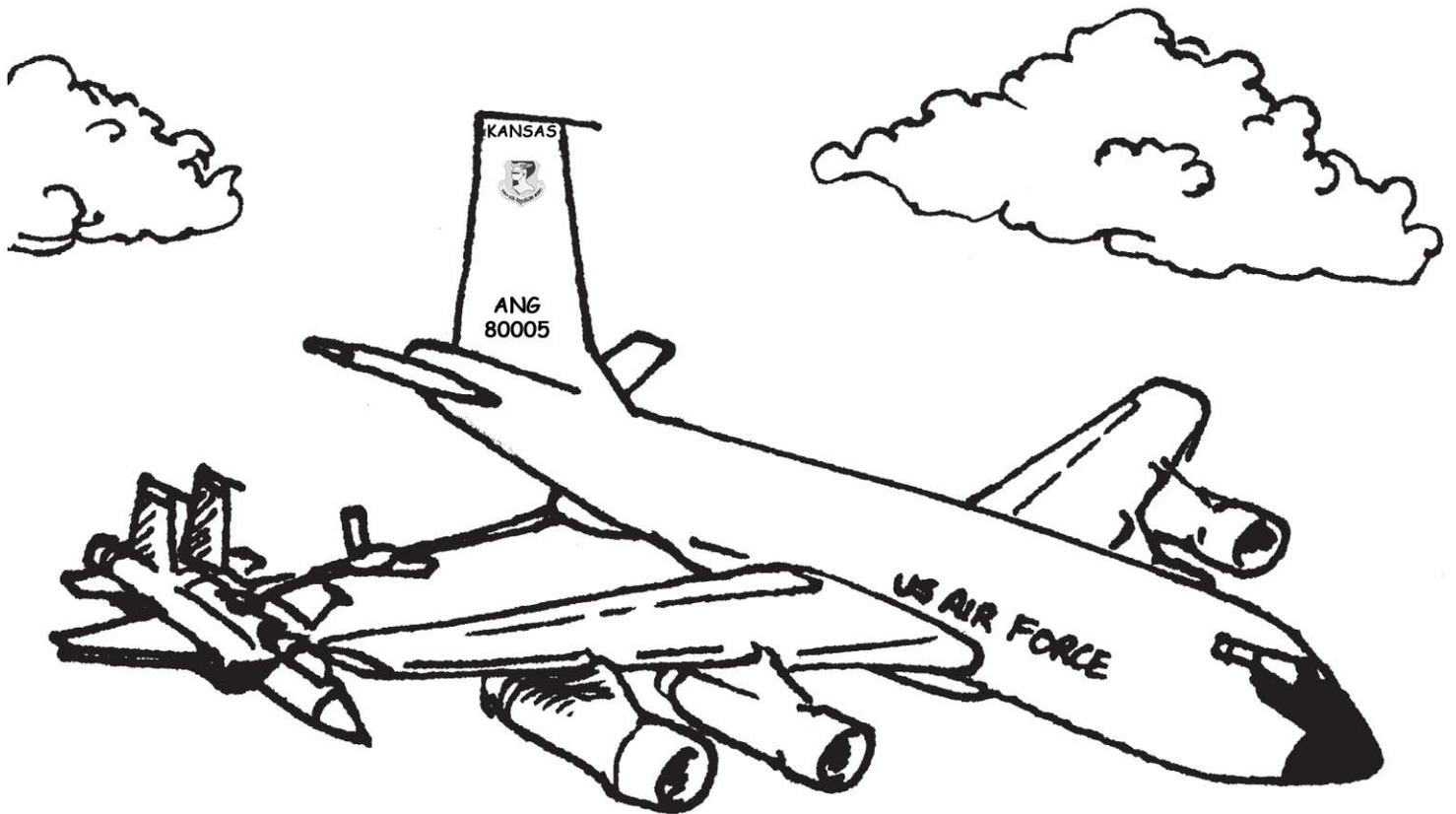




# The Story of The 190th Air Refueling Wing

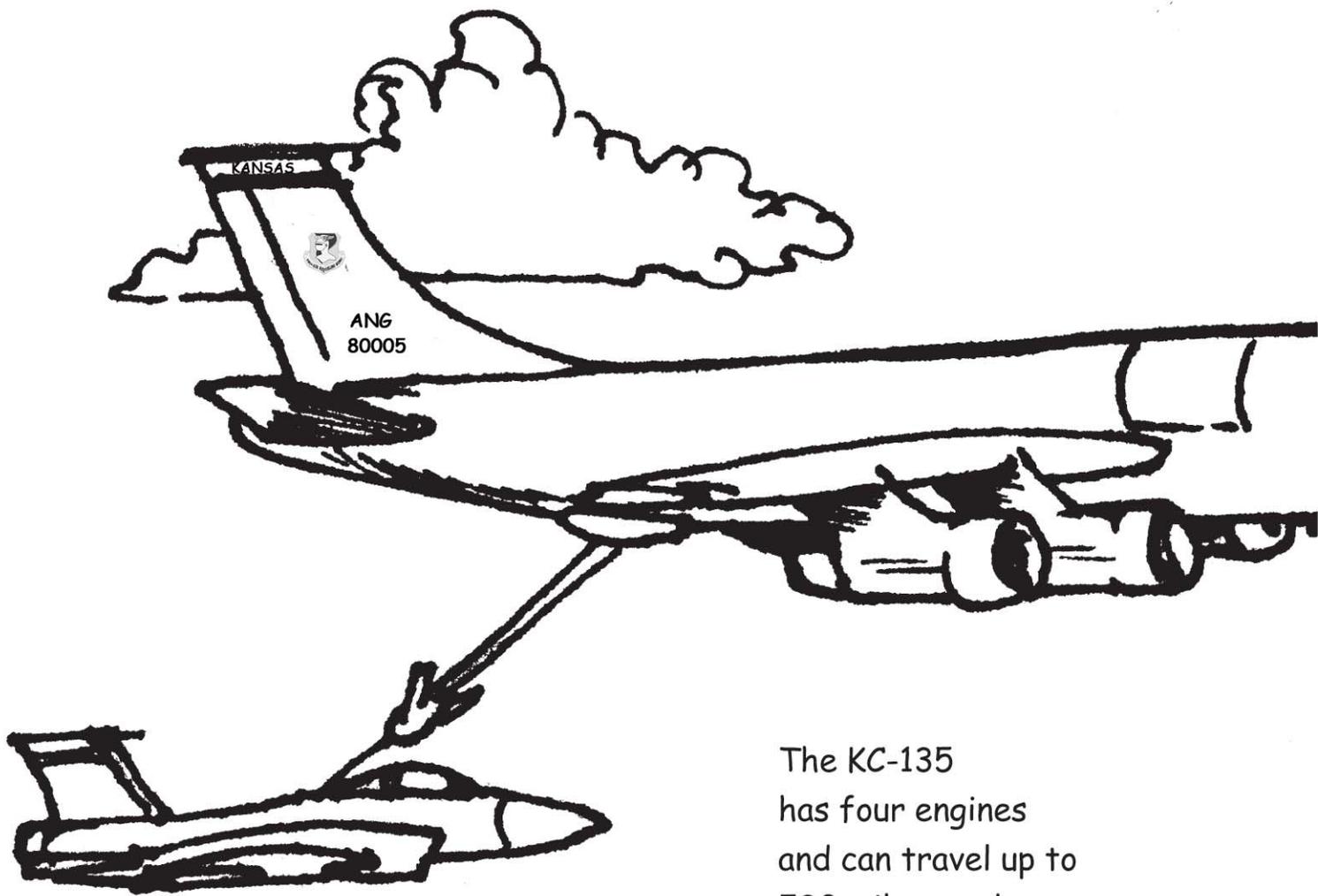


190<sup>TH</sup> AIR REFUELING WING



The 190th Air Refueling Wing  
of the Kansas Air National Guard  
flies KC-135E Stratotanker aircraft.

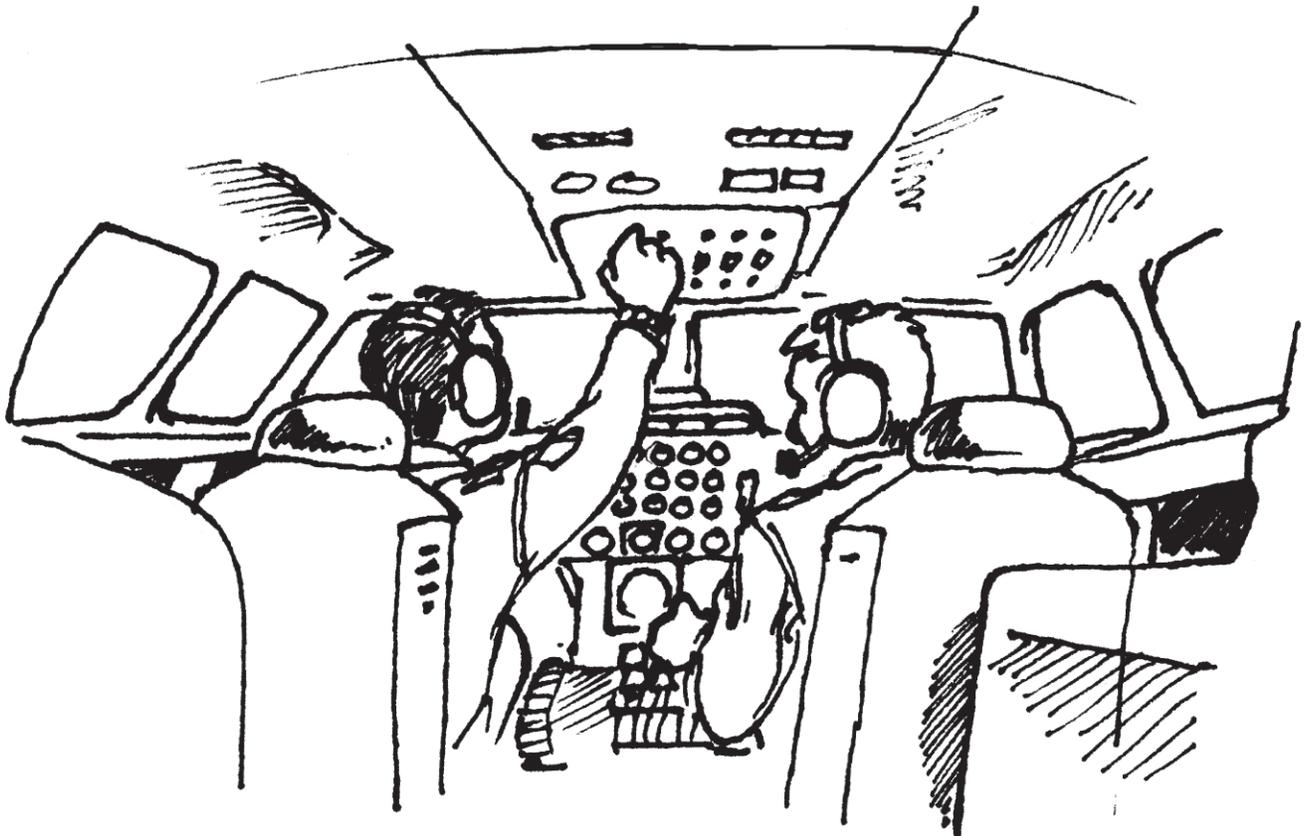
The primary mission of the unit  
is air refueling. The KC-135 also  
refuels other Air Force, Navy,  
Marine Corps, and allied aircraft.



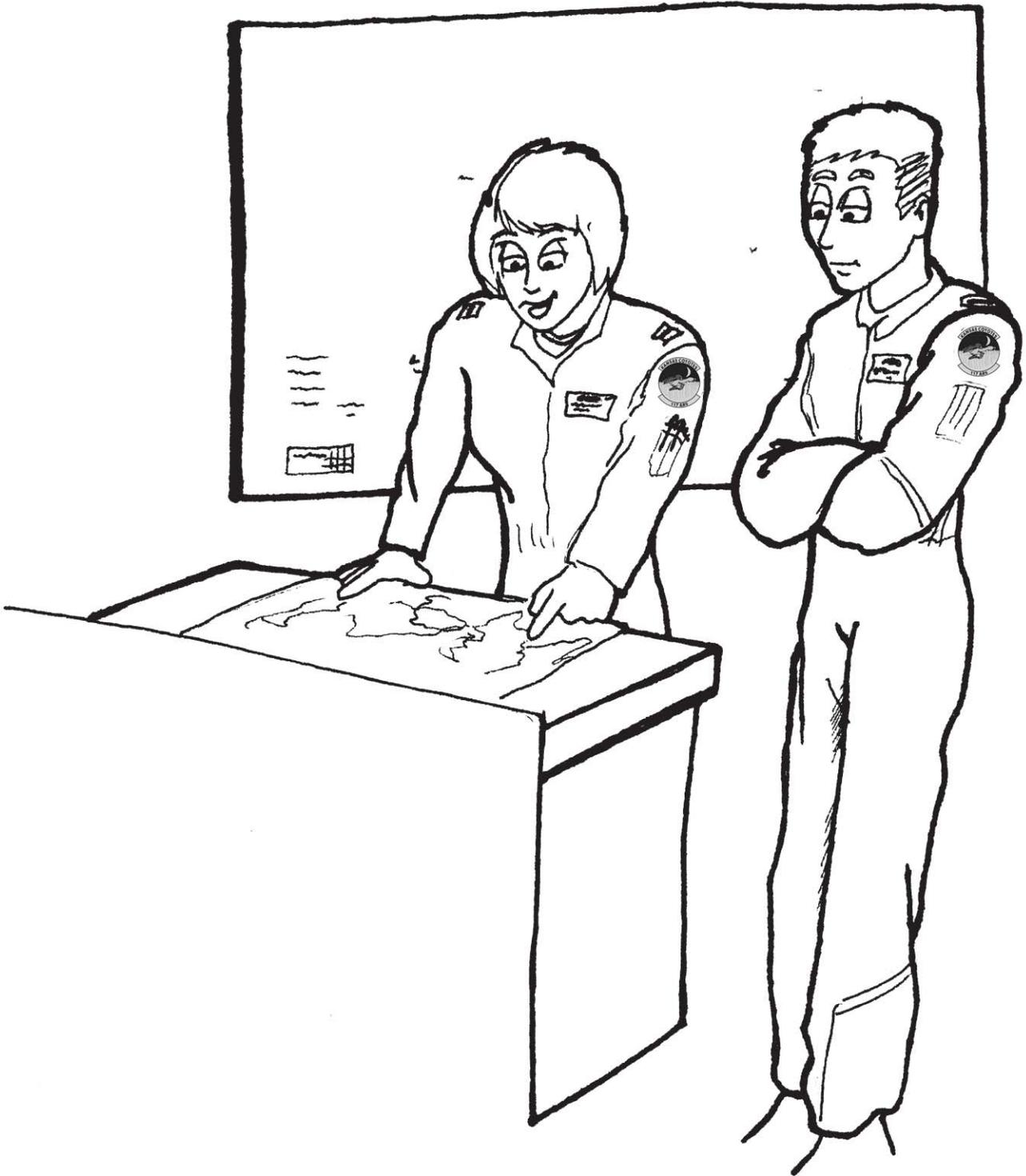
The KC-135 has four engines and can travel up to 530 miles per hour. KC-135's were built in the late 1950's by Boeing. Its civilian counterpart is a Boeing 707.



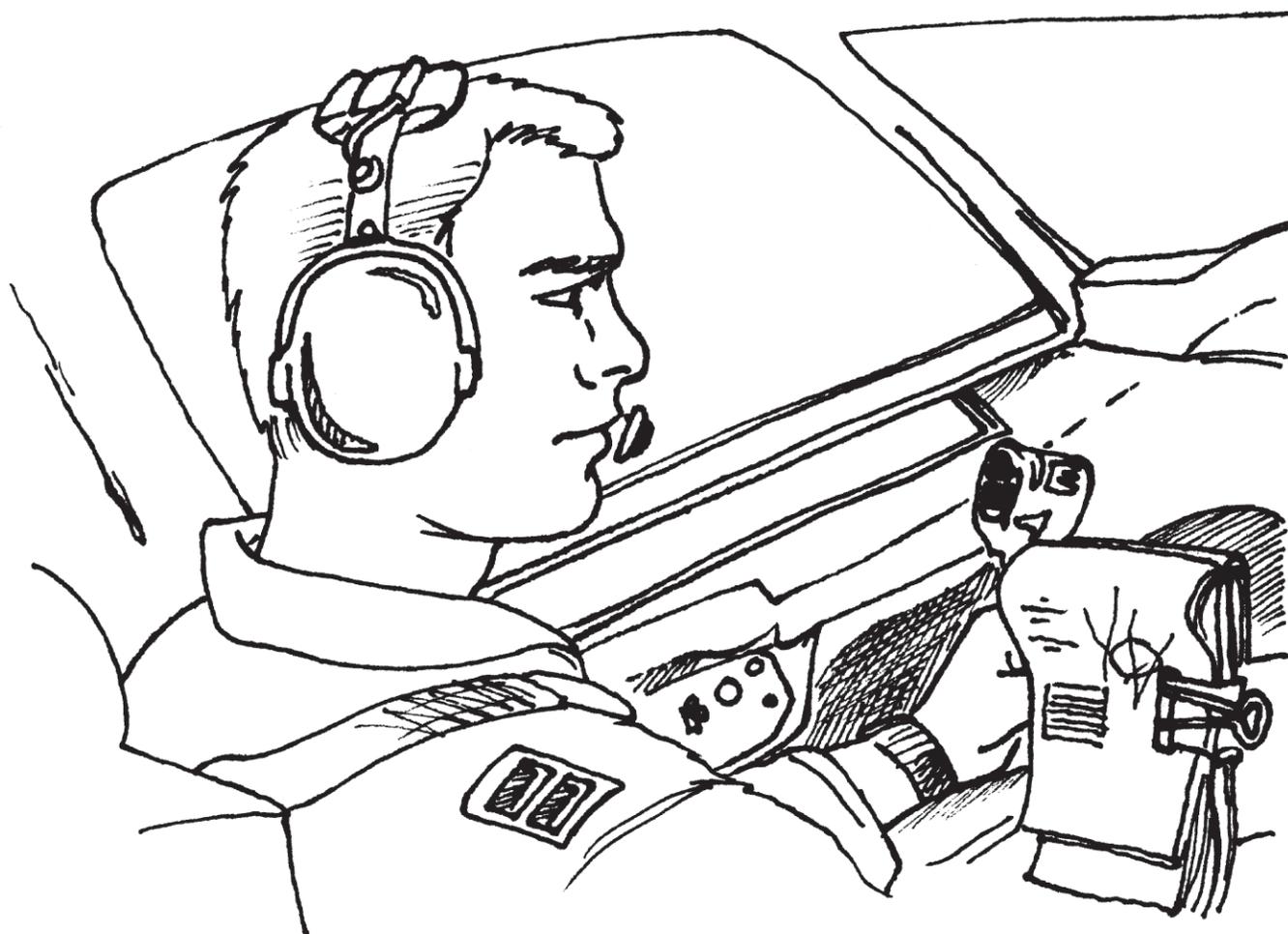
It takes three air crew members to fly a KC-135 - a pilot, co-pilot and a boom operator. Thanks to Air Force navigational computers such as global positioning systems, navigators are no longer needed.

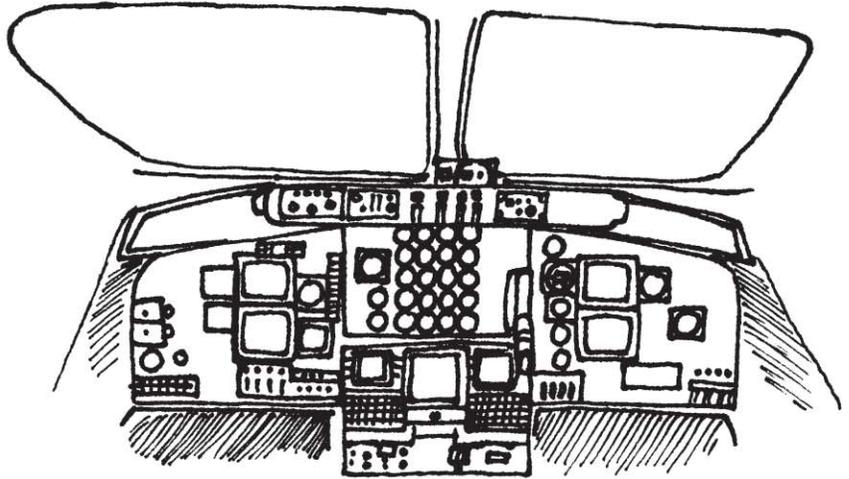


All crew members wear flight suits. They are green and the material is fire-resistant to protect the air crew in an emergency.



The pilot sits in the left seat in the cockpit. He or she is known as the aircraft commander. This person is in charge of the aircraft. The co-pilot sits in the right seat and can take the pilot's place, if necessary.



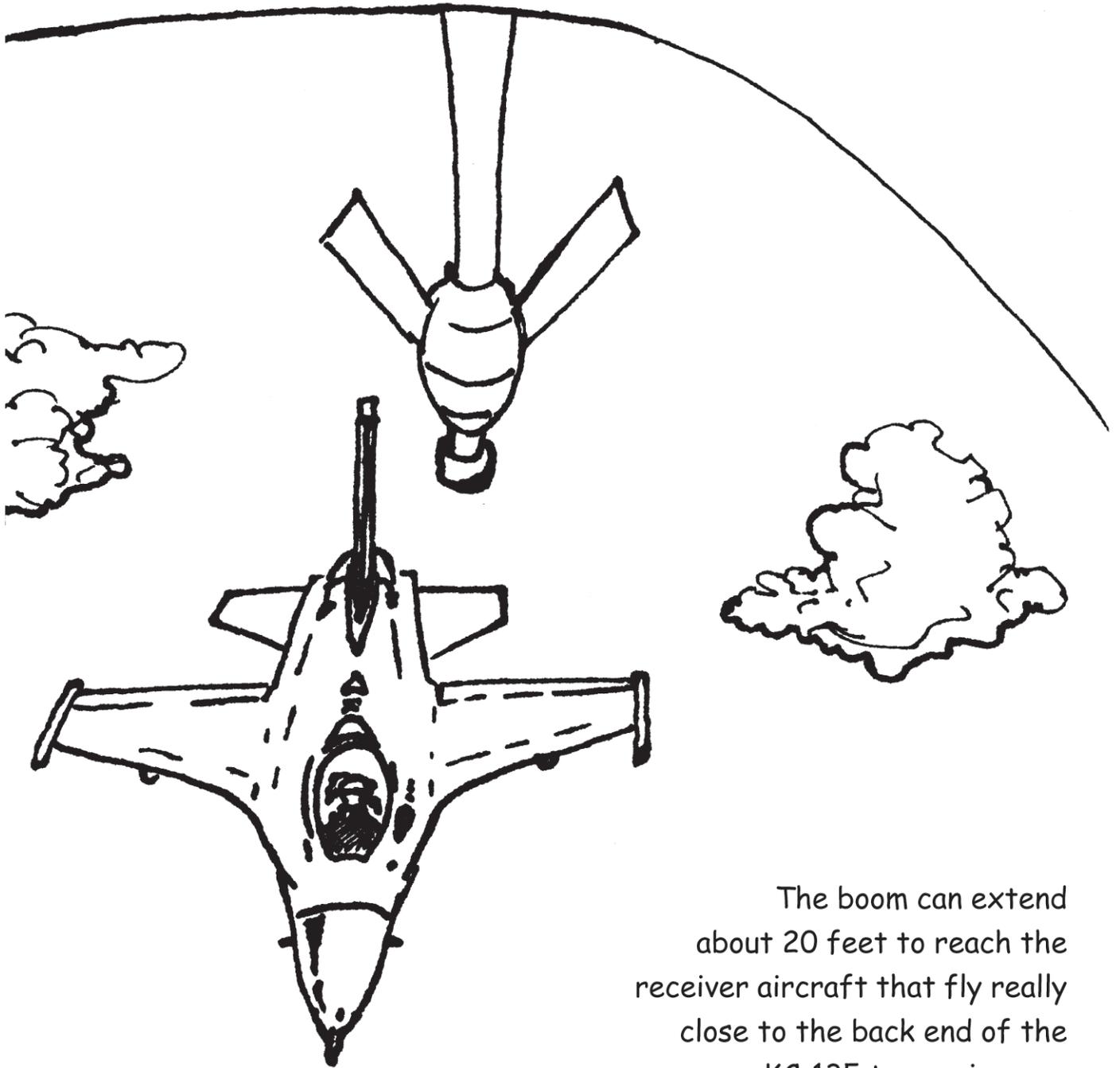


The navigator sat behind the co-pilot in an area that looked like a desk with a map on top of it. He or she used that equipment to direct the plane to its destination. The cockpit now has a newly designed instrument panel called the Pacer Crag System (shown above). This allows the plane to be flown without a navigator.



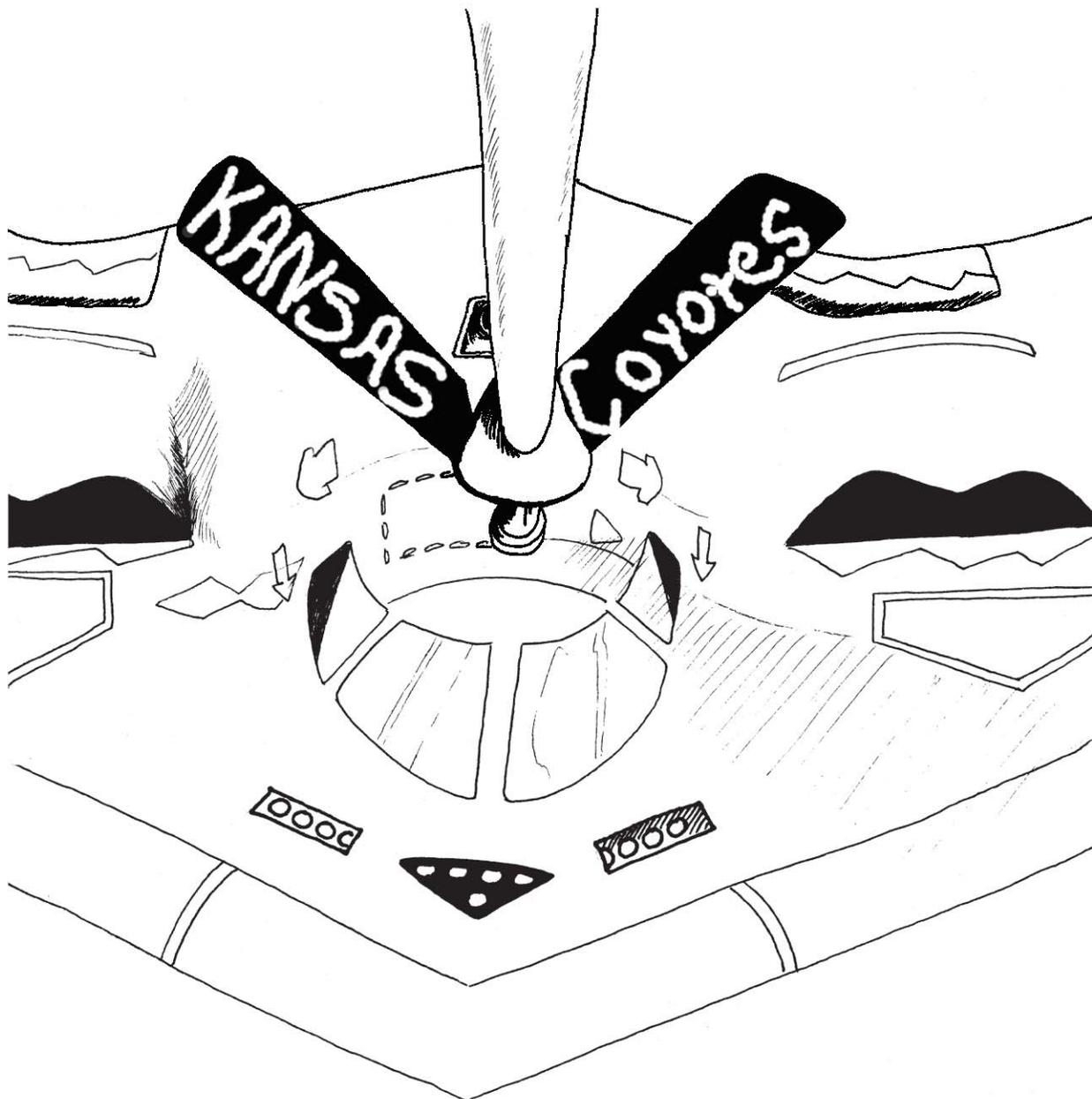
The boom operator is the person who pumps the gas from the KC-135 to other airplanes. He or she lies in the back of the airplane on his or her stomach in a special place called a boom pod. The boom operator looks out a small window at the back of the plane beneath the tail and guides the boom to deliver gas to other airplanes. All this is done while flying thousands of feet above the earth!

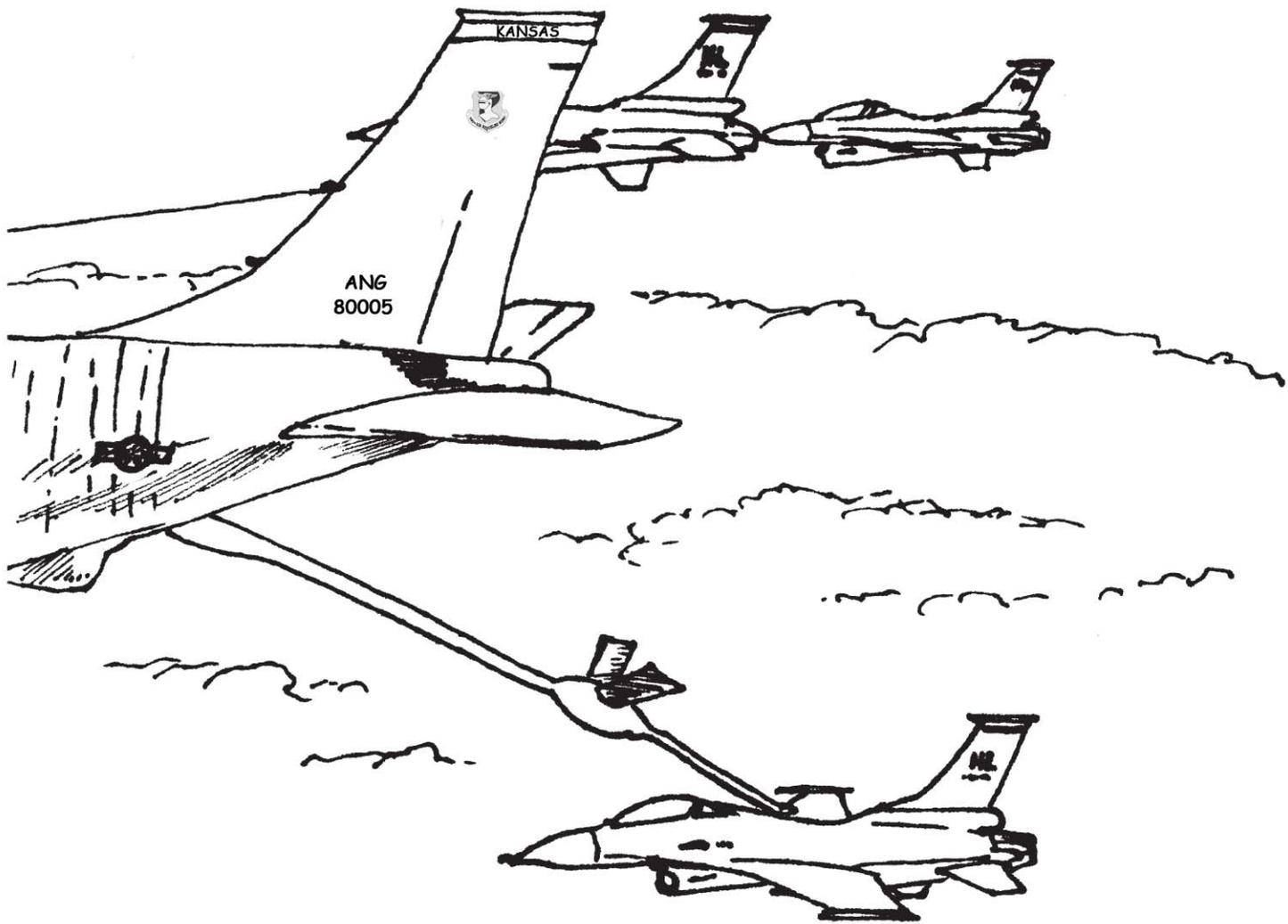




The boom can extend about 20 feet to reach the receiver aircraft that fly really close to the back end of the KC-135 to receive gas.

The KC-135E is giving gas to this B-2 Stealth bomber thousands of feet up in the sky. The B-2 doesn't have to land to get gas. Instead, by getting more fuel from a KC-135 it can keep flying. With help from a KC-135, combat aircraft can spend more time in the air rather than landing to get gas.





Sometimes a KC-135 refuels several aircraft flying together. This is called a cell. While the first aircraft is getting refueled, the others line up next to the KC-135's left wing like with these F-16's. When each aircraft is finished receiving gas it moves next to the KC-135's right wing. The aircraft keep rotating until all have received gas and are on the right side of the KC-135's wing.

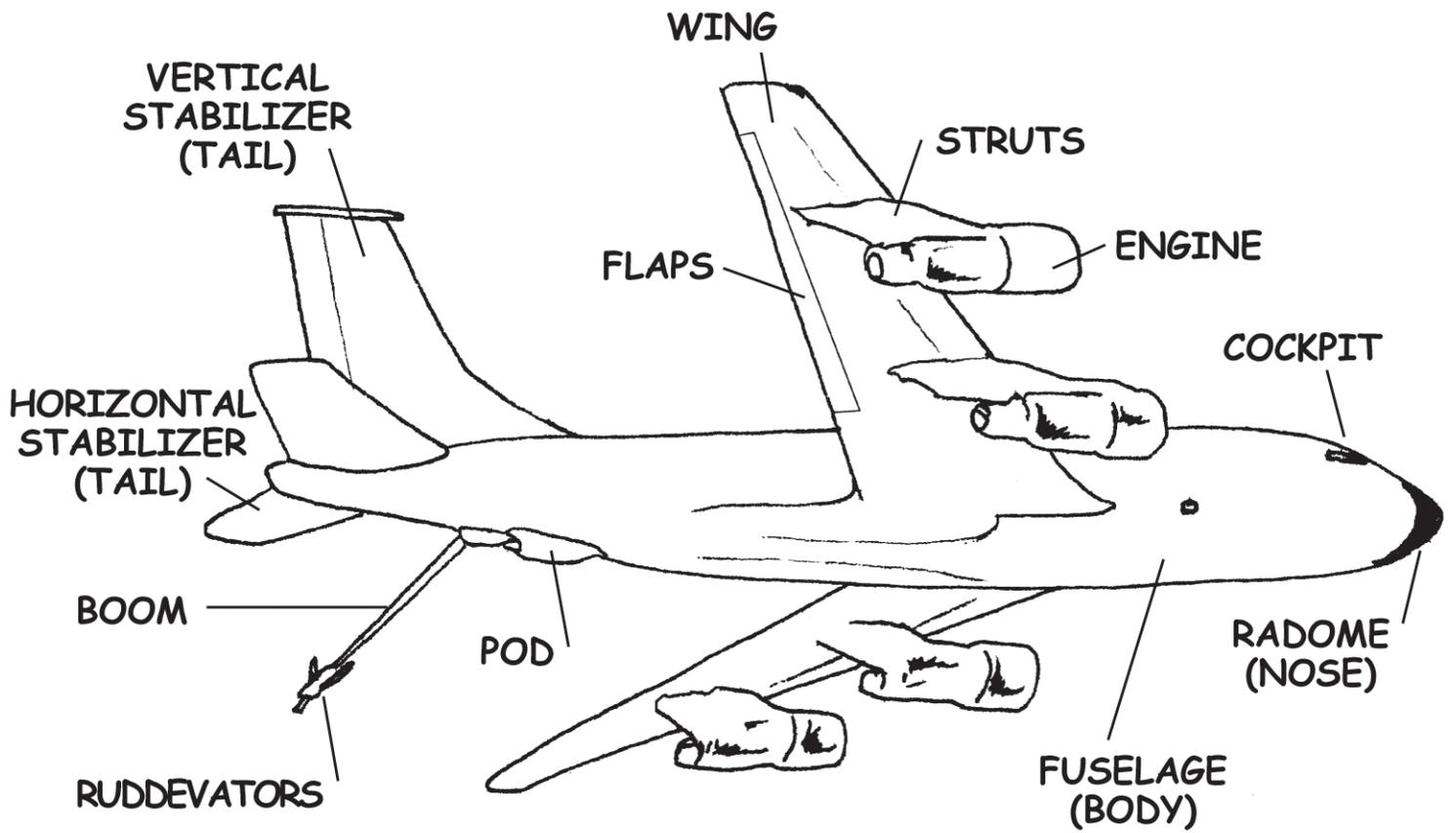


KC-135's can carry 200,000 pounds of airplane fuel. This fuel is carried in the "belly" or bottom part of the plane and in the wings.

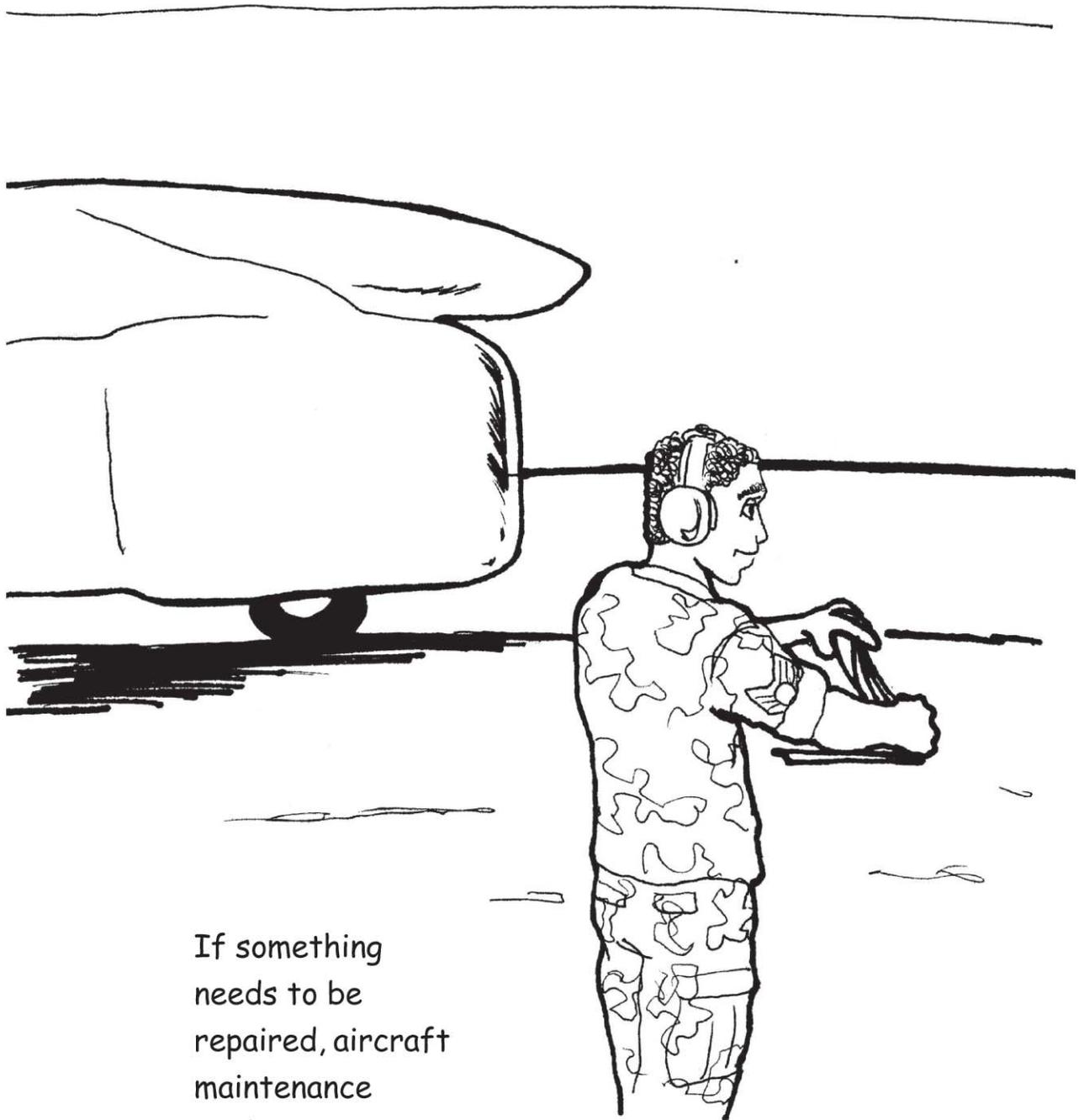
Besides refueling other aircraft,  
the KC-135 can be used to  
transport military passengers.

The seats are different from  
those on civilian airliners. Cloth  
seats fold down from the sides of  
the plane. Cargo can also be  
carried on a KC-135 by tying it  
down to the floor.



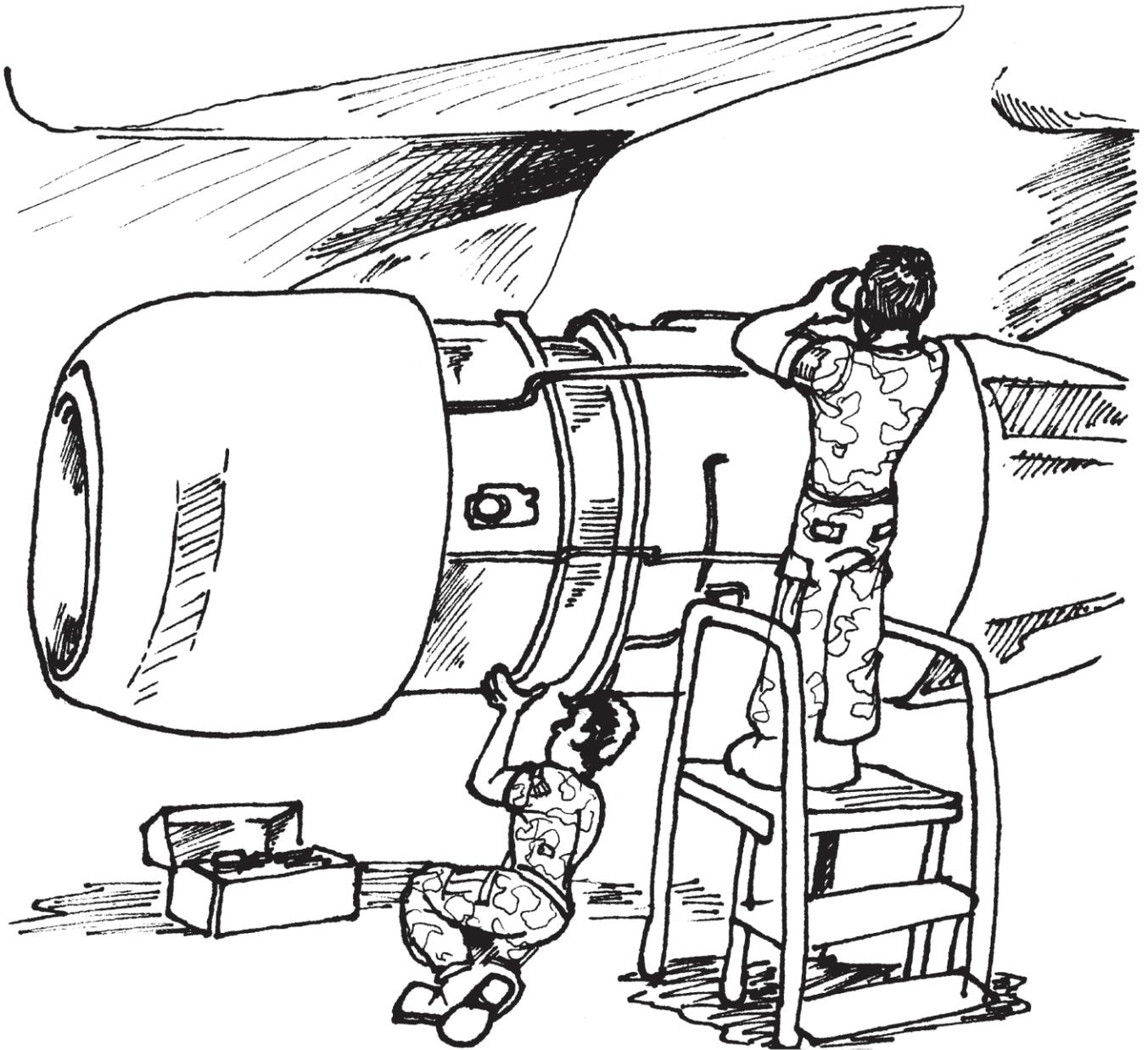


This is a diagram of the different parts of a KC-135.

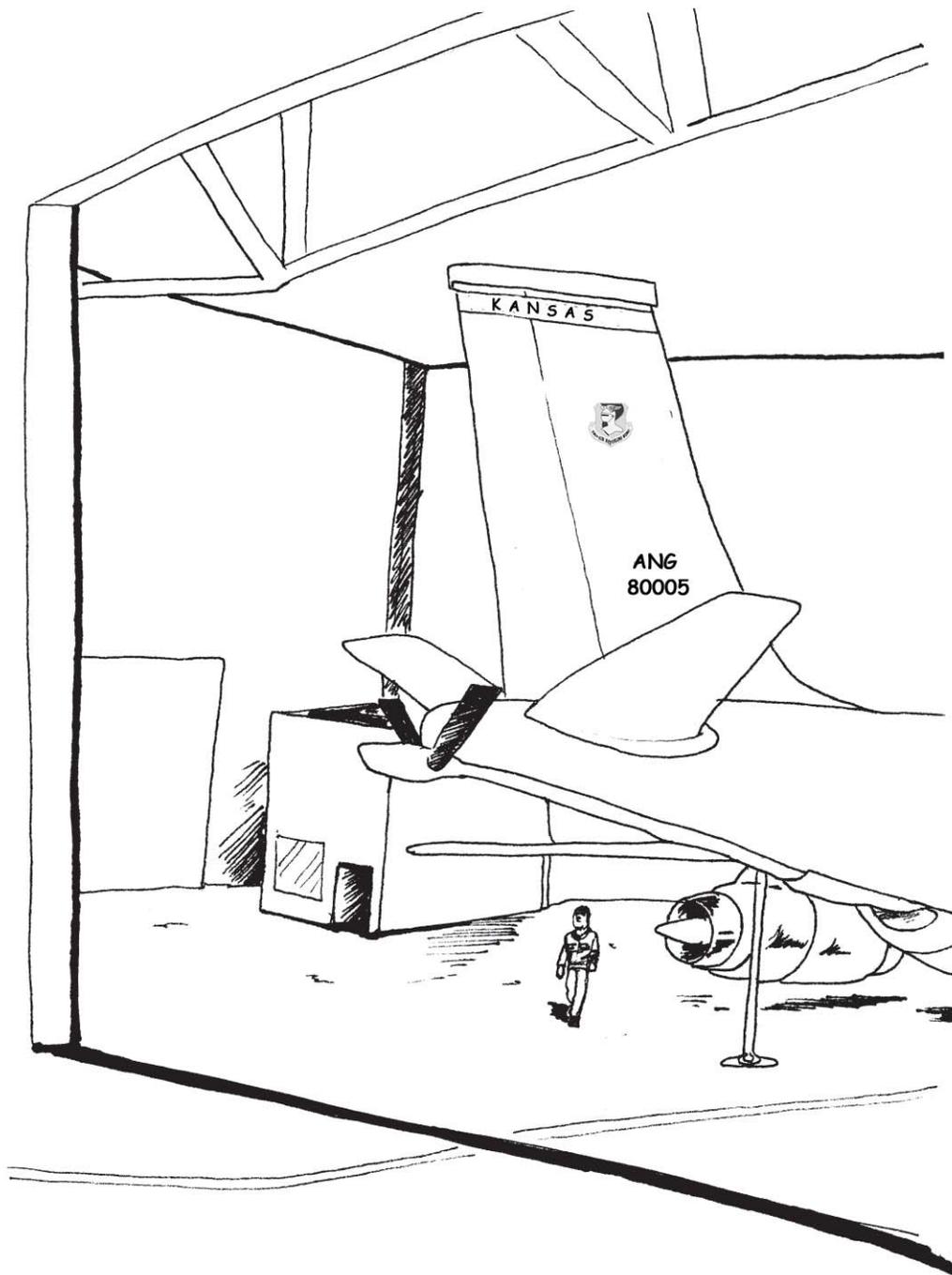


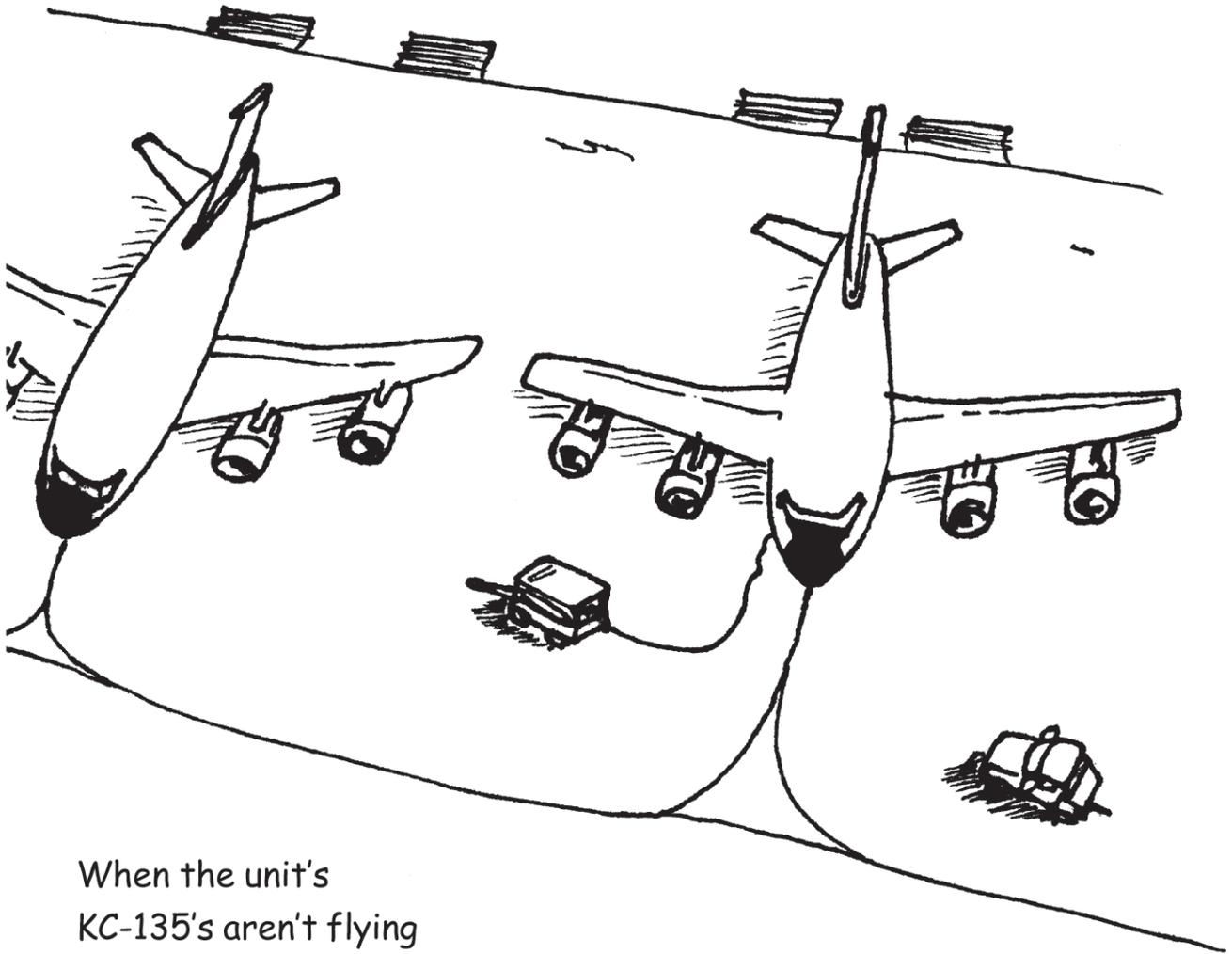
If something  
needs to be  
repaired, aircraft  
maintenance  
workers are  
trained to work on  
the airplane.

It takes a lot of people to take care of a KC-135.  
Each aircraft has an assigned crew chief  
to make sure the airplane works well  
before each flight. Crew chiefs have a list  
of all the things to check.



If a KC-135 needs maintenance work, it is driven into a special shop called a hangar that is big enough to put the entire plane inside.



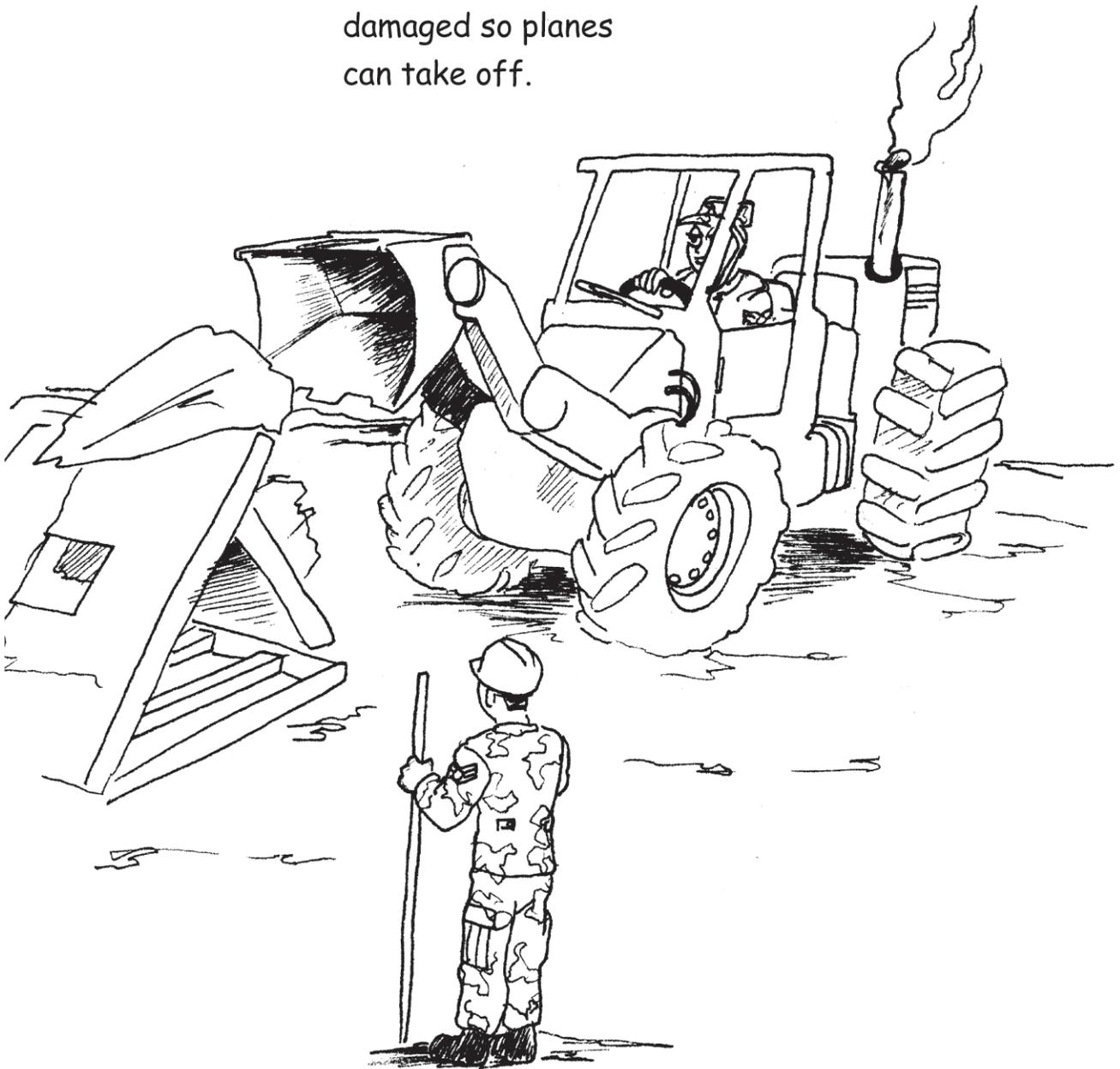


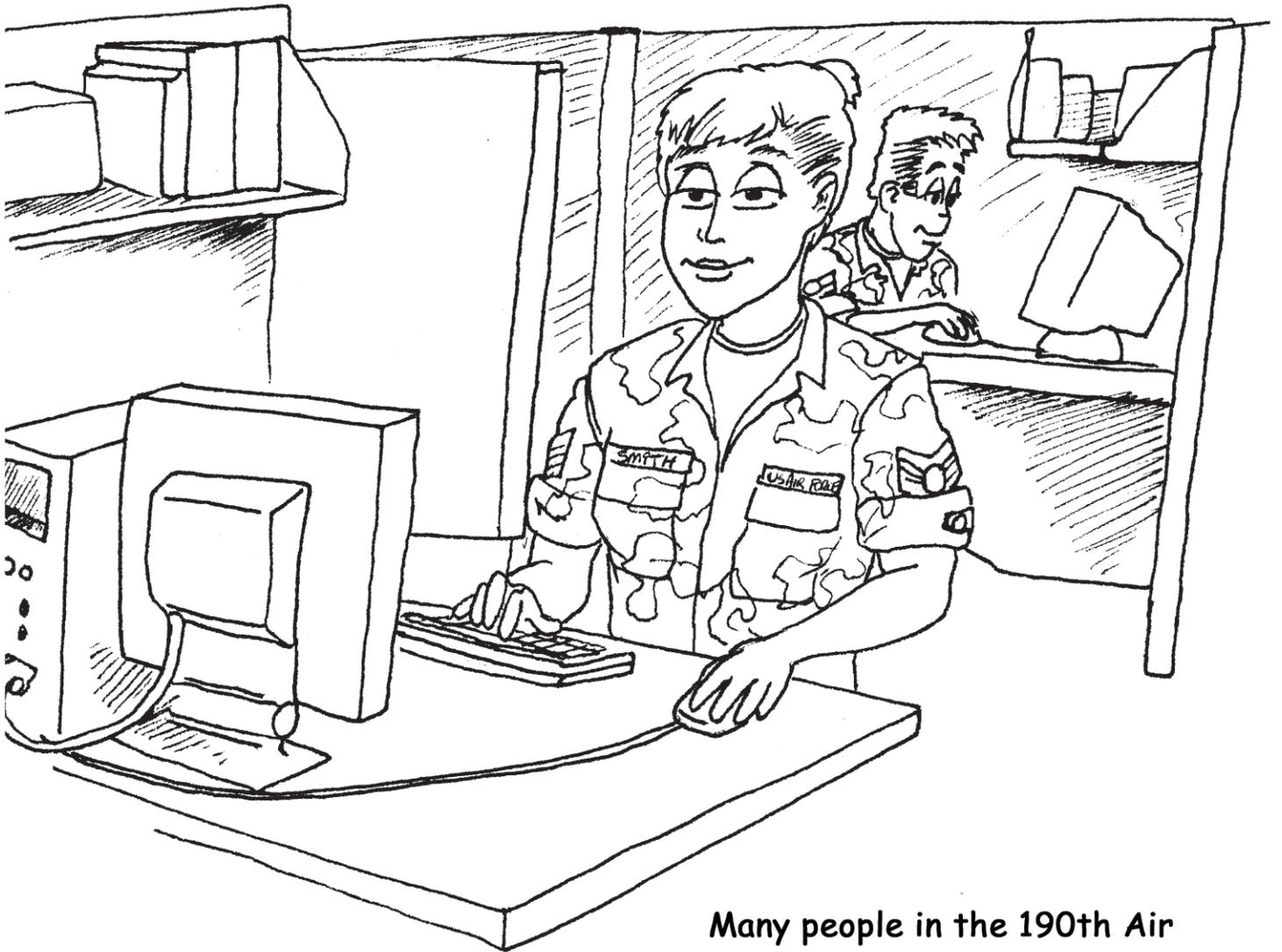
When the unit's  
KC-135's aren't flying  
or having maintenance,  
they are parked  
on the flight line.

It takes a lot of people to support a refueling mission. Besides aircrew and aircraft maintenance people, many other people work to keep the planes ready to fly. Security police help guard the planes at home and when the planes land in a foreign country.



Civil engineering  
workers repair  
runways if they are  
damaged so planes  
can take off.





Many people in the 190th Air Refueling Wing of the Kansas Air National Guard work in offices using computers to keep track of flying schedules the money spent, records of military members and supply items.

Some of the members of the unit are health care professionals and are assigned to the 190th Medical Group. Guard members receive physicals and shots to make sure all members stay healthy.

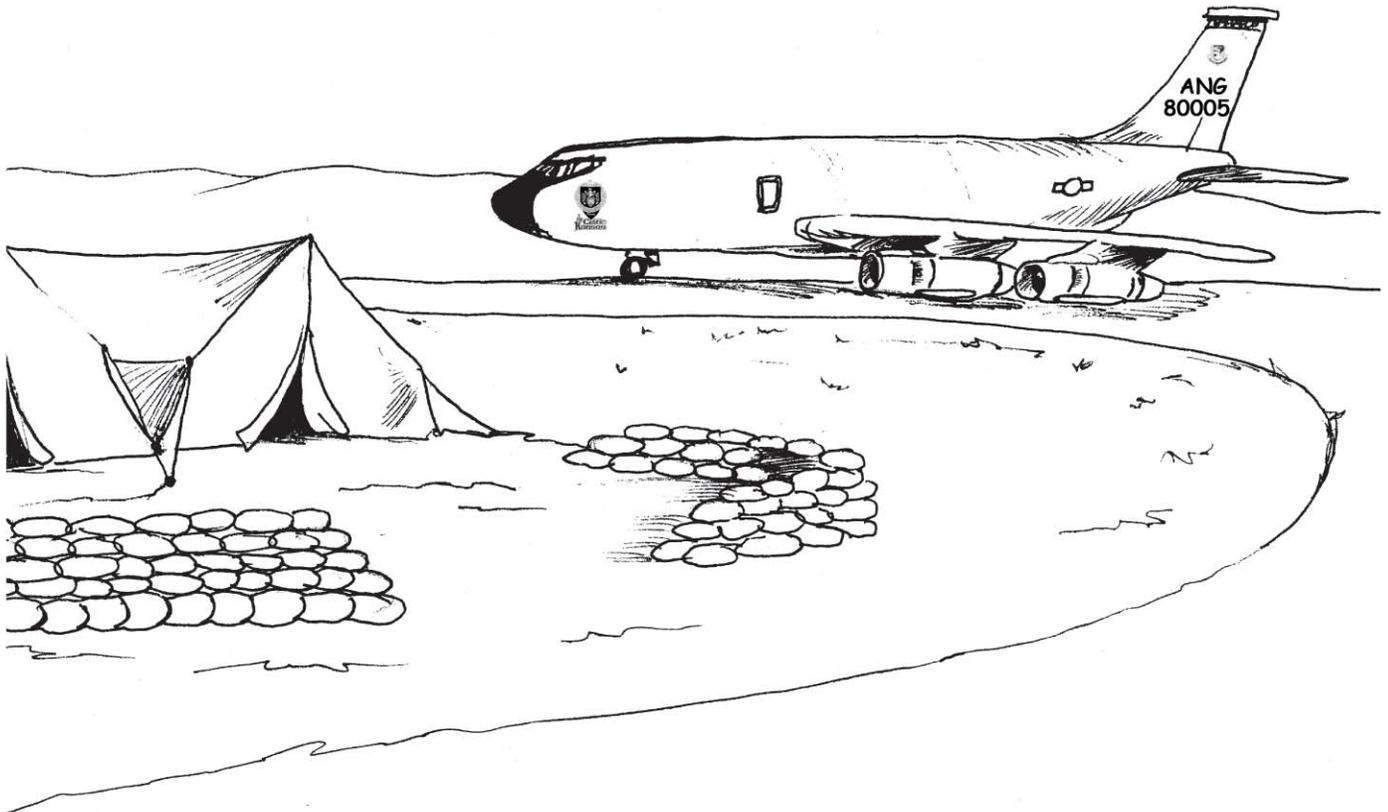


Sometimes many of the workers in the unit need to go to other countries or other states to do their jobs.

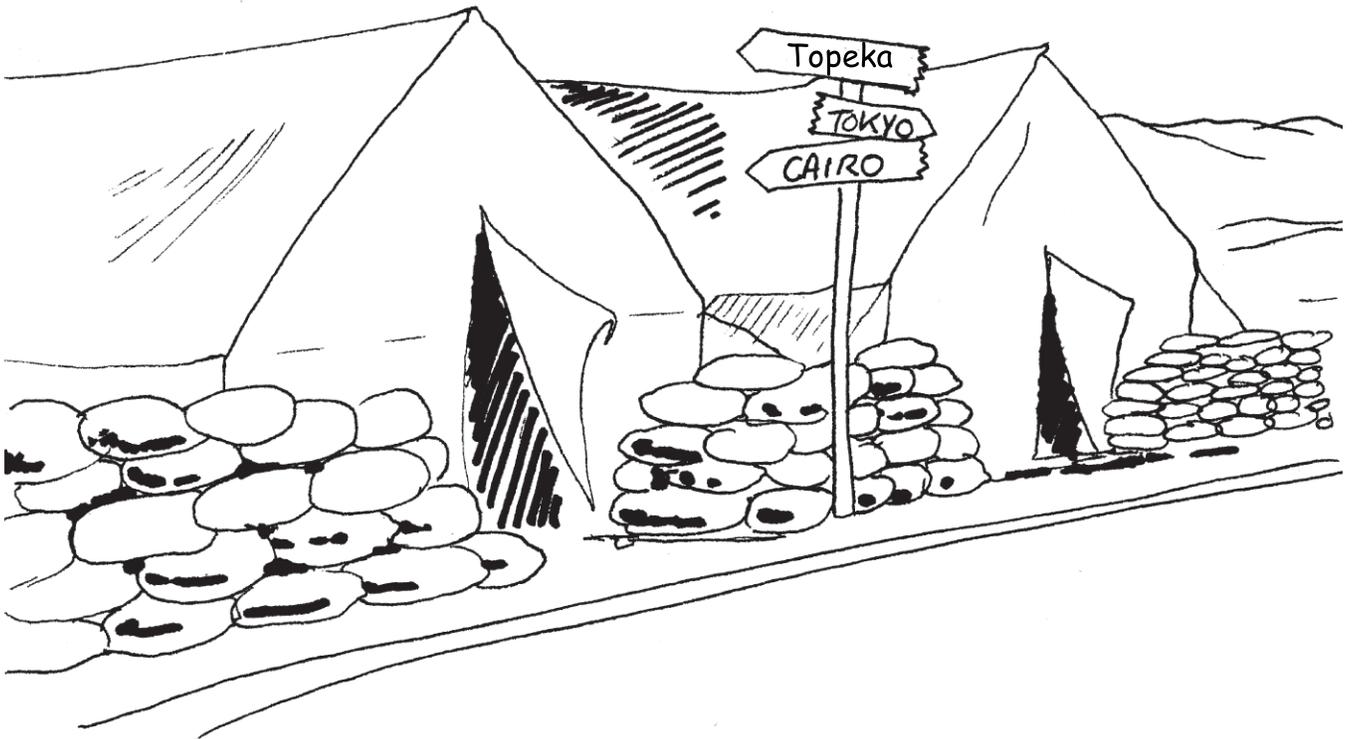
This can be for a deployment of a few weeks or longer if needed

During Desert Storm in 1990 and 1991, many 190th members and planes participated. Many people went to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where the 190th was the first unit to arrive.

Since September 11, 2001, the 190th has participated in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.



Sometimes the members of the 190th  
live in tents while they do their jobs.



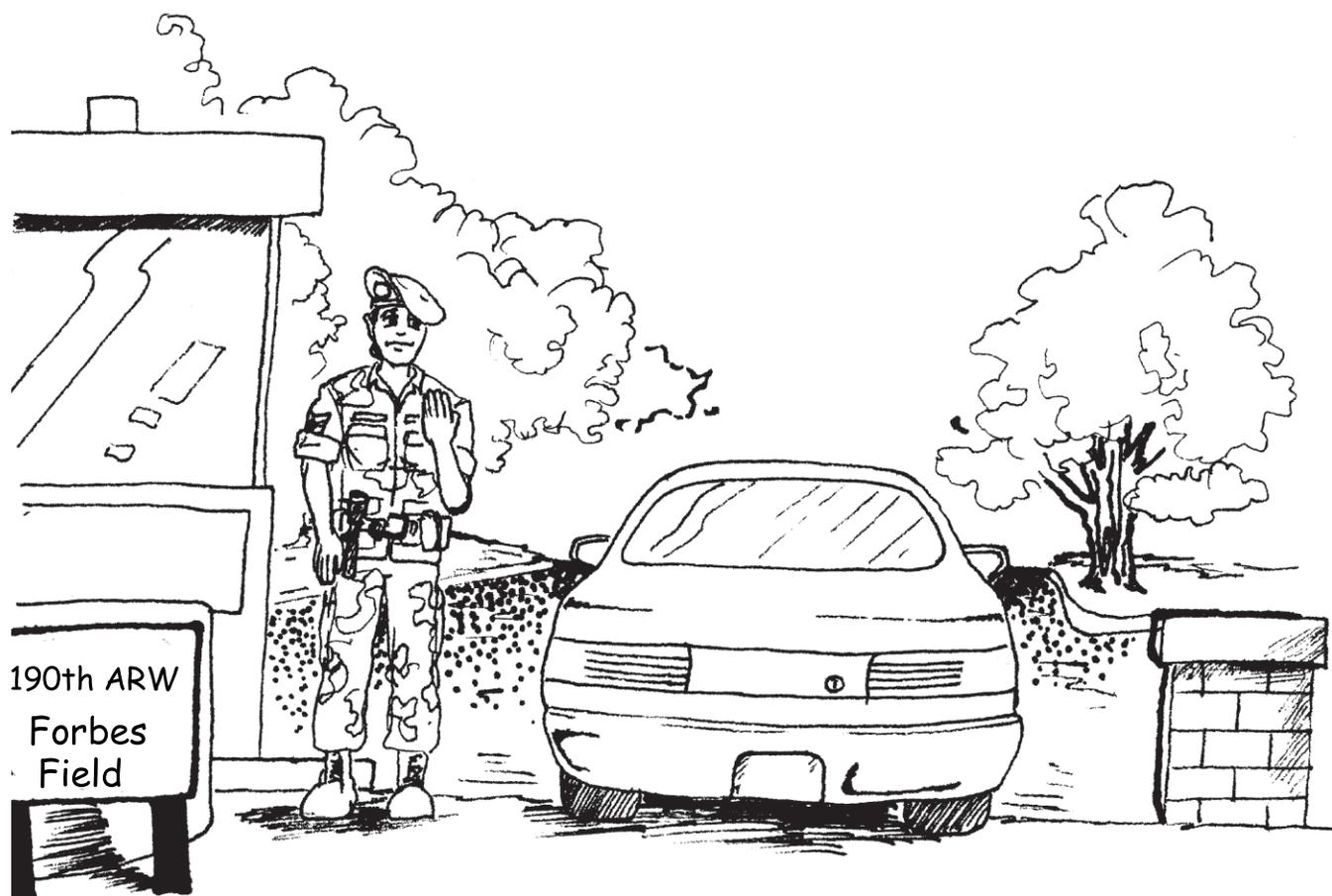
Sometimes, members of the 190th Air Refueling Wing have been called to duty by the governor to support the state of Kansas. 190th members help during floods, storms, civil disturbances, and provide security at state events.



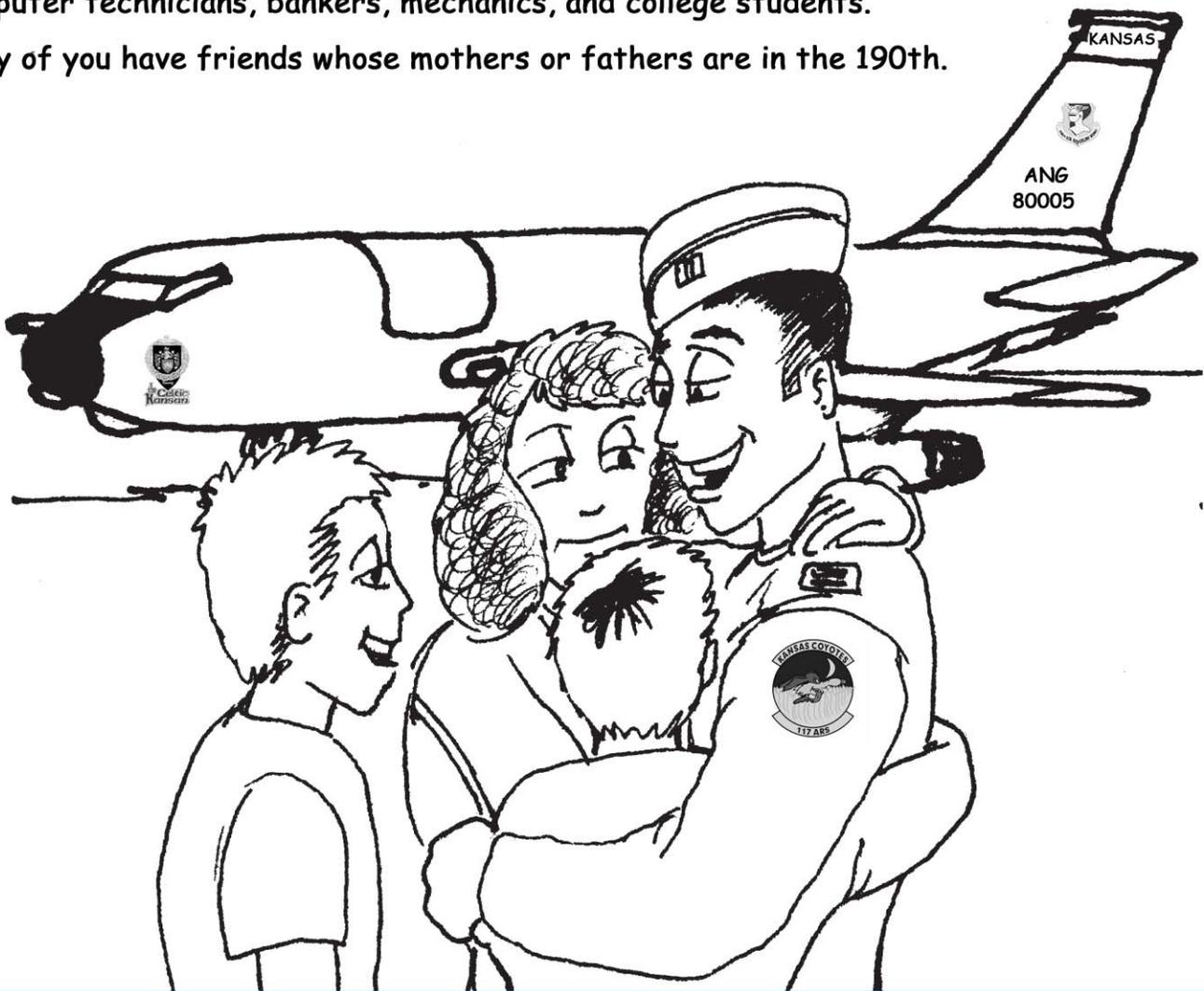
This is the unit patch that is worn by all members  
of the 190th Air Refueling Wing.



Members of the 190th Air Refueling Wing,  
Kansas Air National Guard, work on Forbes Field  
Air National Guard Base. A military security policeman or policewoman  
must approve of your entry by waiving  
or saluting your vehicle onto the base.



Most of the people who belong to the 190th Air Refueling Wing of the Kansas Air National Guard live in or near Topeka with their families. Some work full time at their jobs, but most work one weekend a month and 15 days of annual training per year. These people also have other jobs in many different professions. Some are teachers, nurses, lawyers, business owners, computer technicians, bankers, mechanics, and college students. Many of you have friends whose mothers or fathers are in the 190th.



**We hope you enjoyed this book. Feel free to print out and color.**



This publication is adapted from the "Story of the 141st ARW."