

219th SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

The 219th Security Forces Squadron members work alongside security forces from the base's 91st Missile Wing to maintain security of the missile wing's 150 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles.

STATIONS

Minot AFB, ND

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Tad Schauer

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The North Dakota Air National Guard on Oct. 18 formally activated its new 219th Security Forces Squadron, which is to work with the active-duty 91st SFS at Minot AFB, N.D. to secure

91st Missile Wing ICBM facilities. When fully staffed, the 219th SFS will have 140 personnel, making it the largest security forces unit in the Air Guard. Though attached to ANG's 119th Wing at Fargo, the 219th SFS operates from Minot and marks a new venture for the Air Guard in western North Dakota, said MSgt. Tanya Augdahl, a recruiter with the 219th. North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven, who attended the ceremony, remarked on "the strong partnership" between the state and Minot Air Force Base that enabled creation of the new unit, which began operations as a detachment in July 2007. State officials pressed the Air Force for the new mission following BRAC 2005 actions that stripped the 119th FW of its F-16s. Some 30 airmen from Fargo have shifted to the new squadron at Minot.

12/19/2008 Officials at the Minot-based 219th Security Forces Squadron of the North Dakota Air National Guard's 119th Wing have dispatched security Airmen into the missile fields at Minot Air Force Base for the first time. "Putting guardsmen into the field to work side by side with the active duty is a significant accomplishment and it would not be happening without the exceptional Airmen of the 219th who have shown unwavering dedication to their mission," said North Dakota Governor John Hoeven.

"The 219 Security Forces have prepared and trained for this mission and I was proud of their accomplishments earlier this month with the Headquarters Air Force approval of their Personnel Reliability Program," said Army Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota National Guard adjutant general. "This marks a milestone and the N.D. National Guard looks to the future through this exceptional partnership with the Minot Air Force Base." This milestone of putting 219th SFS Airmen into the missile fields was made possible when the unit received Headquarters Air Force approval of their Personnel Reliability Program for full-time Air Guard Members earlier this month.

"To be PRP-approved means that we have implemented all of the necessary procedures and requirements set forth by the secretary of defense and the Air Force to ensure only the most reliable Airmen fill positions associated with missile field security" said Master Sgt. Lonnie Ballweg, 219th SFS senior medical technician. "The approval of the 219th PRP program is significant because it allows full-time guardsman of the 219th SFS to conduct mission specific training and support the 91st Missile Wing in day-to-day training and surge requirements."

On Dec. 18, Staff Sgt. John Chalupa and Airman 1st Class Erik Foss, both of the 219th SFS, will be the first PRP-certified airman to deploy into the missile field. "Sergeant Chalupa and Airman Foss are leading the way within the 219th SFS the same way that the 219th itself is leading the way in the nation. Guardsmen working alongside active duty airmen on a daily basis is the future and that is exactly what we're doing in Minot," said Col. Robert Becklund, 119th Wing commander. Currently, 219th SFS leaders are working with Headquarters Air Force officials to establish a special plan required for the inclusion of traditional guardsman into the PRP program. Traditional guardsmen are part-time Air Guard members who typically serve one weekend a month, two weeks a year. "We've had to overcome many hurdles, which are expected when you're forging your way in new territory," said Lt. Col. Tad Schauer, 219th SFS commander.

"We could not have done this without the support and commitment of 'Team Minot.' No one has ever done anything like this before and we are working together to ensure it gets done right the first time." The relatively new squadron celebrated its official activation on Oct. 18,

but recruiters began filling the 140 positions in April 2007. Once fully staffed, the 219th SFS will be the largest Air Guard security forces squadron in the nation. "It is very exciting because we just hit the halfway point in filling the positions in the 219th SFS," said Master Sgt. Tanya Augdaul, 219th SFS recruiter. "We are right on target for our recruiting goals, but we're not slowing down. We need to keep working hard to make sure people know that there are Air National Guard opportunities in the western part of the state."

Air Guard Unit Controls Minot Missile Field Security Members of the North Dakota Air National Guard's 219th Security Forces Squadron at Minot Air Force Base made history when they assumed control of security for a sector of the base's missile fields during a recent exercise, according to a base release. During the late-May drill, the Air Guardsmen were in charge of protecting the northern sector of the base's Minuteman III fields and dealt with scenarios ranging from suicide bombers to launch facility breaches, states the release. The drill was the "graduation" event for the squadron to show that its airmen could run the missile field security and seamlessly integrate with Minot's Active Duty security forces, states the release. Col. Robert Vercher, commander of Minot's 91st Missile Wing, called the exercise "a huge milestone, major success," noting that having the Air Guardsmen in control "has actually never occurred before." In May 2007, the 219th SFS began helping Minot's Active Duty security forces to protect the base's 150 missiles, which are spread over an area in northwestern North Dakota about the size of New Jersey, according to the May 31 release. 2013

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.