

341 MISSILE WING



MISSION

The mission of the 341 Missile Wing is to keep America free and strong by providing combat-ready people and aerospace forces. The 341 Missile Wing is made up of a wing staff and five groups - the 341 Operations Group, 341 Maintenance Group, 341 Mission Support Group, 341 Security Forces Group and 341 Medical Group. Approximately 4,000 people, including more than 3,600 active-duty and more than 400 civilians, comprise the 341 Missile Wing. Malmstrom Air Force Base is also host to a tenant unit, the 819th RED HORSE Squadron, which accounts for 400 personnel.

LINEAGE

341 Bombardment Group (Medium) established, 14 Aug 1942

Activated, 15 Sep 1942

Redesignated 341 Bombardment Group, Medium, 1 Aug 1943

Inactivated, 2 Nov 1945

Redesignated 341 Bombardment Group, Light, and activated in the Reserve, 27 Dec 1946

Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

341 Bombardment Wing, Medium established, 23 Mar 1953

Activated, 1 Sep 1955

Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Jun 1961

Redesignated 341 Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM-Minuteman), and activated, 1 Jul 1961

Organized, 15 Jul 1961

341 Bombardment Group, Light and 341 Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM-Minuteman) consolidated, 31 Jan 1984)

Redesignated 341 Missile Wing, 1 Sep 1991

Redesignated 341 Space Wing 1 Oct 1997

Redesignated 341 Missile Wing on 1 Jul 2008

STATIONS

Camp Malir, Karachi, India, 15 Sep 1942

Chakulia, India, 30 Dec 1942

Kurmitola, India, Jun 1943

Kunming, China, c. 7 Jan 1944

Yangkai, China, 13 Dec 1944–c. Sep 1945

Camp Kilmer, NJ, 1–2 Nov 1945

Westover Field (later, AFB), MA, 27 Dec 1946–27 Jun 1949

Abilene (later, Dyess) AFB, TX, 1 Sep 1955–25 Jun 1961

Malmstrom AFB, MT, 15 Jul 1961

ASSIGNMENTS

10th (later, Tenth) Air Force, 15 Sep 1942

India Air Task Force, 3 Oct 1942

Tenth Air Force, 16 Oct 1943

Fourteenth Air Force, 25 Oct 1943

69th Composite Wing, 26 Dec 1943

XIV Air Force Tactical Air Command (Provisional) (attached to 69th Composite Wing), 21 Jun 1945

69th Composite Wing, 1 Aug 1945

Fourteenth Air Force, 25 Aug–c. Sep 1945

First Air Force, 27 Dec 1946

3rd Bombardment Wing, Light (later, 3rd Air Division, Bombardment), 17 Oct 1947–27 Jun 1949

Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Sep 1955

819th Air Division, 1 Feb 1956–25 Jun 1961

Strategic Air Command, 1 Jul 1961

22nd Air Division, 15 Jul 1961

821st Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Jul 1962

813th Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Jul 1964

18th Strategic Aerospace Division, 2 Jul 1966

810th Strategic Aerospace Division, 2 Jul 1968

4th Strategic Missile (later, 4th Air) Division, 30 Jun 1971

47th Air Division, 15 Jan 1973

4th Air Division, 23 Jan 1987

Fifteenth Air Force, 23 Aug 1988

40th Air Division, 7 Jul 1989

Fifteenth Air Force, 14 Jun 1991

Twentieth Air Force, 1 Sep 1991

ATTACHMENTS

Tenth Air Force, 25 Oct–14 Dec 1943

Strategic Air Force, 15 Dec 1943–c. 7 Jan 1944

3rd Air Division, 9 Jan–c. 4 Apr 1958

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B–25, 1942–1945

A–26, 1945

AT–6, 1947–1949

AT–11, 1947–1949

B–47, 1956–1961

KC–97, 1956–1960

Minuteman I, 1962–1969

Minuteman II, 1967

Minuteman III, 1975

COMMANDERS

Col Torgils G. Wold, 15 Sep 1942

Lt Col James A. Philpott, 21 Sep 1943

Col Torgils G. Wold, 2 Nov 1943

Col Morris F. Taber, 23 Nov 1943

Maj Loren S. Nickels, 2 Feb 1944

Col Morris F. Taber, 17 Mar 1944

Col Joseph B. Wells, 11 Apr 1944

Col Donald L. Clark, c. 1 Dec 1944

Col James W. Newsome, 16 Apr 1945–unkn

None (not manned), 27 Dec 1946–Mar 1947

Lt Col Ralph P. Warriner, Mar 1947–unkn

Lt Col Michael D. Petrosky, 1948–unkn

Col Anthony J. Perna, 1 Sep 1955

Col Frank P. Sturdivant, 3 Dec 1955

Col Calvin E. Peeler, 31 Oct 1957

Col Anthony J. Perna, 1 Nov 1957

Col Jack W. Hayes, Jr., 9 Jun 1959

Col Ralph T. Holland, 3 Feb–25 Jun 1961

None (not manned), 1–14 Jul 1961

Col Burton C. Andrus, Jr., 15 Jul 1961

Brig Gen Lawrence S. Lightner, 20 Feb 1963

Col Rex Downtin, 1 Jul 1964

Col Thomas F. Doyle, 3 Jun 1966

Col John W. Carroll, 5 Jul 1966

Col Eugene J. Crahen, 13 Mar 1968

Brig Gen Gerald G. Fall, Jr., 27 May 1970
Brig Gen Kermit C. Kaericher, 7 Jun 1972
Col Ralph D. Scott, 7 Jun 1973
Col William R. Brooksher, 18 Jun 1975
Col Gerald E. McIlmoyle, 23 Jul 1976
Col Allen K. Rachel, 23 Mar 1978
Col James L. Crouch, 25 May 1979
Col Dennis M. Heitkamp, 5 Jun 1981
Col James B. Knight, 20 Jun 1983
Col Robert W. Parker, 3 Aug 1984
Col Teddy E. Rinebarger, 13 Dec 1985
Col Richard O. Keen, 10 Jul 1987
Col Edward L. Burchfield, 20 Sep 1988
Col William R. Smith, 27 Aug 1990
Brig Gen Thomas H. Neary, 15 Jan 1992
Col Don Petit, #1993
Col Donald P. Pettit, 29 Jul 1993
Brig Gen Robert E. Larned, 14 Jul 1994
Brig Gen Timothy J. McMahon, 19 Jul 1995
Brig Gen Glenn C. Waltman, 20 Feb 1997
Col J. Gregory Pavlovich, 18 Nov 1998
Col Thomas F. Deppe, 9 Jun 2000
Col C. Donald Alston, 11 Jul 2002
Col Everett H. Thomas, 7 Jul 2004
Col Geoffrey A. Frazier (interim), 5 Apr 2006
Col Sandra E. Finan, 7 Jul 2006
Col Michael E. Fortney, 21 May 2008
Col Edward Stanley
Col Tom Wilcox
Col Anthony Cotton, May 2010-Aug 2011

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

India-Burma

China Defensive

China Offensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
French Indo-China, 11 Dec 1944-12 Mar 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

22 Oct 1962-31 Dec 1963
1 Jul 1975-30 Jun 1976
1 Jul 1976-30 Jun 1977
1 Jul 1979-30 Jun 1981
1 Jul 1988-30 Jun 1990
1 Jul 1990-30 Jun 1991
1 Sep 1991-31 Aug 1993
1 Sep 1993-31 Aug 1994
1 Sep 1994-31 Aug 1995
1 Oct 1995-30 Sep 1996
1 Oct 1997-30 Sep 1999
1 Oct 1998-30 Sep 1999
1 Oct 2000-30 Sep 2002
1 Oct 2002-1 Oct 2003
1 Jan 2003-31 Dec 2003
1 Oct 2004-30 Sep 2006
1 Oct 2006-30 Sep 2008

EMBLEM



341 Bombardment Group, Medium emblem

341 Bombardment Group, Medium: Per fess nebuly azure and argent a semee of stars in chief of the last, over all in pale a sheathed sword proper (white, silver gray shading and deep gray outlines), the rim of the sheath and winged hilt and pommel or (outlines and detail deep gray); the blade entwined with a girdele of the last; the sword point downward between two bolts of lightning radiating upward gules; over all, in base a branch of olive vert, detail vein lines or.



341 Strategic Missile Wing emblem: On a shield per fess nebuly azure and argent, a semee of stars in chief of the last, overall in pale a sheathed sword proper (white, silver-gray shading, and deep gray outlines), the rim of the sheath and winged hilt and pommel or (outlines and detail deep gray); the blade entwined with a girdle of the last; the sword point downward between two bolts of lightning radiating upward gules; overall, in base a branch of olive vert, detail vein lines or. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The blue sky spattered with stars represents the SAC banner and the wing's theater of operations. The nebuly partition line represents clouds. The half-sheathed sword represents preparedness and strength of force. The winged hilt of the sword symbolizes the wing as an air arm, and the lightning bolts and olive branch indicate speed and striking power overlaid with peace. (Approved: 5 June 1957)



341 Space Wing emblem



341 Missile Wing emblem: Per fess nebuly Azure, semee of mullets Argent, and White a sheath palewise point to base of the second and rising therefrom a sword of the like its hilt a winged escutcheon Or, between in base two lightning flashes pilewise Gules surmounted by an olive branch Vert veined Yellow; all within a diminished bordure of the last. (Approved, 22 Mar 1995)

MOTTO

PAX ORBIS PER ARMA AERIA — World peace through air strength

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Activated in India on 15 Sep 1942. Equipped with B-25s. Entered combat early in 1943 and operated chiefly against enemy transportation in central Burma until 1944. Bombed bridges, locomotives, rail yards, and other targets to delay movement of supplies to the Japanese troops fighting in northern Burma. Moved to China in Jan 1944. Engaged primarily in sea sweeps and attacks against inland shipping. Also bombed and strafed such targets as trains, harbors, and railroads in French Indochina and the Canton-Hong Kong area of China. Received a DUC for developing and using a special bombing technique against enemy bridges in French Indochina. Moved to the US in Oct 1945. Inactivated on 2 Nov 1945.

Performed strategic bombardment training operations on a global scale, Jan 1956–May 1961, and air refueling, Feb 1956–May 1960.

Deployed at Andersen AFB, Guam, Jan–Apr 1958. Phased down for inactivation at Dyess AFB, TX, Apr–Jun 1961.

Replaced 4061st Air Refueling Wing in Jul 1961.

Became USAF's first Minuteman ICBM wing. Supervised missile training and coordinated silo construction, Jul 1961–Jul 1963 and Oct 1964–May 1967. First missile squadron formed in Dec

1961. First Minuteman I missile arrived at Malmstrom on 23 Jul 1962; first missile emplaced in its silo on 27 Jul 1962. First missile on alert on 27 Oct 1962, and three squadrons became operational by early Jul 1963. A fourth squadron activated 1 Apr 1966 and became combat ready in Apr 1967.

Replaced Minuteman Is with Minuteman IIs, 1967–1969, and added Minuteman IIIs in Jan 1975. Received the SAC Commander's Missile Wing of the Year Award for 1969.

Won the SAC missile combat competition and the Blanchard Trophy in 1976, 1986, 1990 and 1991. Won the Lee R. Williams Trophy as SAC's outstanding missile wing for 1963, 1975, 1976, 1986, 1987, and 1991.

On July 31, 1991 George H.W. Bush and Boris Yeltsin signed the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, concluding almost ten years of strategic disarmament talks between the United States and the Soviet Union. President Bush announced a force drawdown in September 1991, and for the first time since 1962, all of the 341's 150 Minuteman II missiles stood down. Only the 564th Missile Squadron and its 50 Minuteman III missiles remained on alert.

The wing began reducing the number of Minuteman IIs following the drawdown announcement, replacing the systems with the newer Minuteman III. The program was put on hold during the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure Commission, and Malmstrom had only 80 missiles on alert. The BRAC called for the closure of the missile field at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. and the transfer of Minuteman IIIs from Grand Forks to Malmstrom. The 341's last Minuteman II missile was removed in August 1996, and since then the wing has operated only the Minuteman III.

With the conclusion of the Cold War came the eventual transfer of all missile wings, including the 341, from Strategic Air Command to Air Force Space Command in 1993 and the redesignation of the wing to the 341 Space Wing on Oct. 1, 1997. On July 1, 2008, the wing returned to its previous designation as the 341 Missile Wing. Air Force Space Command now incorporates the entire spectrum of space and missile operations as an integral element of air and space power. The 341 Missile Wing operates, maintains and secures 200 missiles, providing strategic deterrence for the nation as the wing has continuously done since 1962 - remaining America's "Ace in the Hole."

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James and Air Force Global Strike Command boss Lt. Gen. Stephen Wilson released the results of a command-directed investigation into widespread cheating at Malmstrom AFB, Mont., Thursday afternoon. Ultimately, 100 officers were implicated in the cheating scandal, up from the 92 last reported. Nine of those allegations were "unsubstantiated" and the officers will be recertified and returned to duty as soon as possible, Wilson told reporters at the Pentagon. The remaining officers—all lieutenants and captains—will face a range of punishments from letters of counseling to courts-martial, said Wilson. In addition, the Air Force has accepted the resignation of 341 Missile Wing Commander Col. Robert Stanley, who will be allowed to retire in the "coming weeks." Col. John Wilcox assumed

command of the 341 MW on Thursday, said Wilson. Wilcox served as the wing's interim security forces commander when Col. David Lynch was relieved of command for a "loss of confidence" in his ability to lead in August 2013. Nine other Malmstrom leaders have been reassigned to staff positions at AFGSC or 20th Air Force, but they will be allowed to continue serving, said James and Wilson. They include the commander and deputy commander of the 341 Operations Group, all three missile squadron commanders, the commander of the 341 Operations Support Group, the directors of operation for the 341 Operational Support Squadron and the 10th Missile Squadron, and the 341 Operations Group's standardization and evaluation officer. These officers weren't "directly involved" in the cheating, but they "failed" to adequately oversee "the crew force," said Wilson. Each will receive nonjudicial punishment.

2014

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.
Unit yearbook. *341 Bombardment Wing. Malmstrom AFB, MT.* @1964.