

## 508 MISSILE SQUADRON



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

508 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 25 Sep 1942  
Activated, 1 Oct 1942  
Inactivated, 28 Aug 1945  
Redesignated 508 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 23 Sep 1947  
Activated in the reserve, 15 Oct 1947  
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949  
Redesignated 508 Strategic Missile Squadron, and activated, 9 Aug 1962  
Redesignated, 508 Missile Squadron, 1 Sep 1991  
Inactivated, 28 Jul 1995

### STATIONS

Salt Lake City AAB, UT, 1 Oct 1942  
Gowen Field, ID, 1 Oct 1942  
Geiger Field, WA, Nov 1942  
Biggs Field, TX, 1 Jan 1943  
Pueblo, AAB, CO, 2 Mar-13 Apr 1943  
Polebrook, England, 12 May 1943- 9 Jun 1945  
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, Jul-28 Aug 1945  
Scott Field, IL, 15 Oct 1947-27 Jun 1949  
Whiteman AFB, MO, 1 May 1963-28 Jul 1995

### ASSIGNMENTS

351<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group, 1 Oct 1942-28 Aug 1945  
351<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group, 15 Oct 1947-27 Jun 1949

Strategic Air Command, 9 Aug 1962  
351 Strategic Missile Wing, 1 May 1963  
351 Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991-28 Jul 1995

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-17, 1942-1945  
B-29, 1947-1949  
LGM-30B Minuteman I, 1964-1967  
LGM-30F Minuteman II, 1967–1995

### **COMMANDERS**

Col John T. Allen, 1 May 1963  
Col Walter T. Eisenbrown, 1 Oct 1963  
Col James C. Adkins, 31 Sep 1964  
Col Robert G. Cochrane, 22 Oct 1965  
Col Larkin B. Smith, 2 Sep 1966  
Lt Col Victor L. Dreesen, 1 Oct 1966  
Lt Col Leon M. Burgess, 1 Oct 1968  
Lt Col Thomas O. Dunbar, 15 Jan 1970  
Lt Col Donald R. Butler, 6 Jul 1970  
Lt Col Earl M. Buys, Jr., 5 May 1973  
Lt Col Martin J. Engelken, 24 May 1976  
Lt Col Earl Faraey, 1 Dec 1976  
Lt Col Jackie P. Leathers, 10 Jul 1978  
Lt Col Phillip M. Morris, 19 Mar 1979  
Lt Col Jack A. Royster, 17 Sep 1980  
Lt Col Robert M. Hood, 21 Jun 1982  
Lt Col John M. Ellen, 17 Feb 1984  
Lt Col Michael J. Roggero, 28 Jun 1984  
Lt Col Steven D. Willoughby, 10 Apr 1987  
Lt Col Richard E. Webber, 17 Apr 1989

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Offensive, Europe  
Air Normandy  
Northern France  
Rhineland  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe  
Air Combat, EAME Theater

## Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

### Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Germany, 9 Oct 1943

Germany, 11 Jan 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1965-30 Jun 1966

1 Jul 1967-30 Jun 1968

1 Jul 1969-30 Jun 1971

1 Jul 1973-30 Jun 1974

1 Jul 1975-30 Jun 1977

1 Jul 1980-30 Jun 1982

1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1987

### EMBLEM



508 Bombardment Squadron emblem: It's a golden yellow eagle, wings folded cross-arm style, with a white head, orange beak, gray talons with white Achilles-style wings extending from each, and wearing a red, white, and blue Uncle Sam-style hat, all on a blue disc. The eagle is diving "feet first" toward the dexter base, and a portion of the talons, one talon wing, and the hat all extend beyond the edge of the disc. The emblem is rumored to have been drawn by Clark Gable.

508 Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Minuteman) emblem: A disc with a narrow gold bordure above a gold scroll, the disc blazoned as follows: Per fess embattled azure (celestial) and azure (ultramarine), on a bend arched or between five flames two and three proper, a lightning flash gules. Significance: The lightning on the arched band refers to the squadron's function of missile operations. The embattled partition line and the flames stand for the air offensive over Europe in World War II. The flames allude to participation in five campaigns. The light shade of blue used by

the Strategic Air Command indicates the squadron serves under that organization. Also the light blue, representing the daylight sky, refers to the pioneering of daylight precision bombing of strategic enemy targets during the air offensive over Europe. Approved, 19 December 1967

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Combat in ETO, 14 May 1943-20 Apr 1945.

The 508 Strategic Missile Squadron has long maintained a tradition of excellence. From activation on Feb. 8, 1963 as the 351st Strategic Missile Wing's first operational missile squadron, from the wing's first operational launch facility Bravo-02, and from the wing's first combat ready flight, the Mighty 508 has proudly led the way. Today the members of the 508 continue this tradition through a variety of worthwhile endeavors such as Operation Christmas, which seeks to provide the less fortunate with a merry Christmas. The primary mission of the 508 Strategic Missile Squadron is deterrence, which the 508 provides by maintaining a portion of the "first leg" of America's Nuclear Triad. The 508 maintains 50 Minuteman II Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles spread over 10,000 square miles of mid-Missouri in an exemplary manner.

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USAF Unit Histories

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### Sources

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

Unit History. *351<sup>st</sup> Strategic Missile Wing, Whiteman AFB, MO. 1964-1989, 25 Years of Deterrence.*