

565 STRATEGIC MISSILE SQUADRON (ICBM-ATLAS)



MISSION

LINEAGE

565 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 19 Dec 1942
Activated, 24 Dec 1942
Inactivated, 13 Sep 1945
Redesignated 565 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 23 Sep 1947
Activated in the reserve, 15 Oct 1947
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949
Redesignated 565 Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Atlas), 22 Aug 1958
Activated, 1 Dec 1958
Inactivated 1 Dec 1964

STATIONS

Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 24 Dec 1942
Biggs Field, TX, 1 Feb 1943
Lowry Field, CO, 20 Apr-4 Jun 1943
Hethel, England, c. 15 Jun 1943-c. 28 May 1945 (operated from Bengasi, Libya, c. 3 Jul-27 Aug 1943, Massicault, Tunisia, 20 Sep-3 Oct 1943)
Charleston AAFld, SC, 12 Jun-13 Sep 1945
Fairfax Field, KS, 15 Oct 1947-27 Jun 1949

Francis E. Warren AFB, WY, 1 Dec 1958

ASSIGNMENTS

389 Bombardment Group, 24 Dec 1942-13 Sep 1945

Second Air Force, 15 Oct 1947

Tenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1948-27 Jun 1949

706 Strategic Missile Wing, 1 Dec 1958

389 Strategic Missile Wing, 1 Jul 1961

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1943-1945

SM-65D Atlas, 1960

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Europe

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Ploesti, Rumania, 1 Aug 1943

EMBLEM



565 Bombardment Squadron emblem

565 Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Atlas) emblem: On an Air Force blue lozenge edged Air Force golden yellow and spattered with white stars, a range of light blue mountains issuing from base; over all palewise a white intercontinental ballistic missile shaded light blue speeding upward its fins red three rocket motors Air Force blue, emitting trails of flame, red and Air Force golden yellow; encircling the shaft of the missile the light blue SAC ribbon spattered with white stars; outlines and details Air Force blue throughout. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. The deep blue star-studded sky suggests the outer space environment of the ICBM flight. The deterrent-striking power of the squadron is depicted by the mighty thrust of the missile rising toward its target trajectory. The starred bend of blue on the missile identifies it and the squadron as an integral component of the SAC war deterrent force. (Approved, 30 Oct 1958)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Combat in ETO and MTO, 9 Jul 1943-21 Apr 1945.

Turnover to SAC, 4 Mar 1961

Operational, 7 Mar 1961

First ICBM off alert, 1 Jul 1964

Last ICBM shipped, 1 Aug 1964

Headquarters SAC activated the 565 Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Atlas D) at Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyoming. With the activation of this squadron, the 3x3 dispersal configuration was implemented for the first time. 1 DEC 1958

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.

Neufeld, Jacob. *Ballistic Missiles*. Office of Air Force History. Washington D.C. 1990.