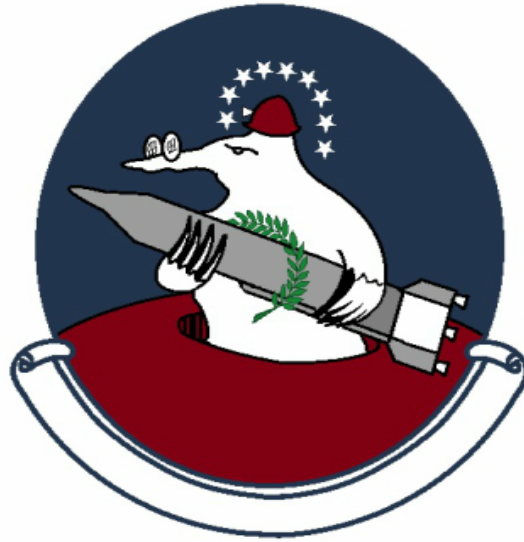


## 566 STRATEGIC MISSILE SQUADRON (ICBM-ATLAS)



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

566 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 19 Dec 1942

Activated, 24 Dec 1942

Inactivated, 13 Sep 1945

Redesignated 566 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 25 Aug 1947

Activated in the reserve, 15 Sep 1947

Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

Redesignated 566 Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Atlas), 22 Apr 1959

Activated, 15 Aug 1959

Inactivated, 15 Dec 1964

### STATIONS

Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 24 Dec 1942

Biggs Field, TX, 1 Feb 1943

Lowry Field, CO, 19 Apr-1 Jun 1943

Hethel, England, 16 Jun 1943-28 May 1945 (operated from Bengasi, Libya, 3 Jul-25 Aug 1943;  
Massicault, Tunisia, 19 Sep-3 Oct 1943)

Charleston AAFld, SC, 12 Jun-13 Sep 1945

Rapid City AAFld, SD, 15 Sep 1947-27 Jun 1949

Offutt AFB, NE, 15 Aug 1959

Francis E Warren AFB, WY, 1 Jul 1961-25 Mar 1965

### ASSIGNMENTS

389 Bombardment Group, 24 Dec 1942-13 Sep 1945

Second Air Force, 15 Sep 1947

Tenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1948-27 Jun 1949  
Second Air Force, 15 Aug 1959  
4321 Strategic Wing, 1 Oct 1959  
389 Strategic Missile Wing, 1 Jul 1961

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-24, 1943-1945  
SM-65E Atlas, 1960

### **COMMANDERS**

Lt Col David L. Freeman

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **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**



566 Bombardment Squadron emblem



566 Strategic Missile Squadron emblem: on a rectangular area arched in chief and base, per pale dark blue spattered with white stars and Air Force blue, the top of a silver-gray globe issuing from base, grid lines dark blue; all surmounted by a white missile palewise pointing upward shaded silver-gray, emitting an Air Force golden yellow blast-off vapor cloud to base, edged white; surmounting the vapor cloud an armored hand, dark blue, highlighted white and shaded silver-gray, grasping three white lightning streaks edged red; encircling the missile a white stylized olive wreath. On a white scroll edged red, GUARDIAN OF PEACE, inscribed dark blue. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. The background of the emblem represents night and day and the globe represents the squadron's capability to encompass the world. The missile indicates the category of weapon with which the organization is equipped and the vapor cloud indicates its blast-off power. The wreath surrounding the missile signifies the missile exists to preserve peace. The mailed fist clenching lightning flashes indicates the destructive power of the missile. The emblem bears the Air Force colors, ultramarine blue and golden yellow. (Approval, 15 Jun 1960)



566 Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Atlas) emblem: On an Air Force blue disc, a mound of terra cotta colored earth; emerging from a hole in the mound, a caricatured mole wearing glasses on the end of his long snout, all white, and a miner's cap, terra cotta, and supporting in

his arms a silver-gray missile, trimmed white and entwined with a green olive branch; above the mole's head a halo of nine white stars; outlines and details black throughout. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Against a background of deep blue to represent the sky of the space age, a mole (white to represent peace and the white clad personnel who work with missiles) emerges from the earth wearing a miner's helmet to indicate the underground worker and glasses to represent the guidance system used in the "blind" launch site. The mole supports in his arms a missile encircled by an olive branch to indicate the unit's weapon system and the tranquility of the United States at peace. The halo of nine stars represents the nine dispersed launch sites. (Approved, 2 Mar 1962)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Combat in ETO and MTO, 9 Jul 1943-25 Apr 1945.

SAC missile operations

Turnover To Sac 30 Mar 1961

Operational 30 Mar 1961

First ICBM off alert 1 oct 1964

Last ICBM shipped 22 Oct 1964

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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.

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