

706 STRATEGIC MISSILE WING (ICBM-ATLAS)



MISSION

LINEAGE

706 Strategic Missile Wing established, 13 Feb 1958

Activated, 23 Feb 1958

Redesignated 706 Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM-Atlas), 1 Apr 1958

Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Jul 1961

STATIONS

Francis E. Warren AFB, WY, 23 Feb 1958-1 Jul 1961

ASSIGNMENTS

1 Missile Division, 23 Feb 1958

Fifteenth Air Force, 15 Jan 1959

13 Air Division, 1 Jul 1959-1 Jul 1961

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Atlas, 1960-1961

COMMANDERS

Col Hilbert F. Muentert, 23 Feb 1958

Brig Gen William R. Large, Jr., 15 Jan 1959

Col William S. Rader, 10 Jun 1959 (permanent) and 1 Jul 1959 (additional duty)

Col George T. Chadwell, 24 Aug 1959-1 Jul 1961

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



Azure, issuing from base to dexter chief throughout a cloud argent bearing in bend a ribbon of the first semee of mullets of the second surmounted by a globe or bearing lines of longitude and latitude dark blue, overall in pale a missile of the like front fins gules emitting to base three flashes of the last both globe and missile spiralled from dexter base to sinister chief by an olive branch proper. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The background of sky and clouds represents our primary theater of operations. The globe reflecting the sun's light and the deep blue missile reflecting the night sky, together, indicate day and night activities. The destructive power of the missile is represented by the three red lightning bolts. The olive branch, encircling the globe and missile, symbolizes power for peace. The blue streamer, spattered with white stars, indicates our relationship to the Strategic Air Command. (Approved: 14 October 1958)

Emblem was designed by A2C Pete Frias, Headquarters Section, 3450th Technical Training Group (ATC), and selected from entries submitted in a base-wide contest.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Replaced 4320th Strategic Wing (Missile) in Feb 1958. Accepted first two missile complexes in Aug 1960, gaining initial operational capability. Replaced by 389th SMW (ICBM-Atlas) in Jul 1961.

Headquarters SAC inactivated the 4320th Strategic Wing at F. E. Warren AFB, Wyoming and in its stead activated the 706th Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM-Atlas). 23 FEB 1958

1st Missile Division Assigned to SAC - Through exhaustive and successful testing in 1957, the Air Force's strategic missiles developed to the point where they could start the transition from the research and development to the operational stage. As part of this transition, the 1st Missile Division, located at Cooke Air Force Base (renamed Vandenberg in October), California, was transferred from Air Research and Development Command to SAC. The transfer was effected on 1 January, and Major General David Wade assumed command of the division on the following day. Included in the transfer was the 704th Strategic Missile Wing, which had been activated as USAF's first missile wing on 1 July 1957. The 704th had a dual mission of training missile crews for other units and attaining an operational capability with the Atlas ICBM. It had one Atlas D squadron, the 576th Strategic Missile Squadron, assigned. Activated on 1 April, the 576th had a dual responsibility of maintaining an Atlas D alert force and providing training for other SAC Atlas units.

Atlas and Titan Wings Activated - The first Atlas wing was activated at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, on 1 February under the designation of 4320th Strategic Missile Wing. In an inactivation and activation transaction on 23 February, the designation was changed to 706th Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM-Atlas). Later in the year, two Atlas D squadrons were activated and assigned to the 706th. On 25 September, the first Titan unit, the 703d Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM-Titan) was activated at Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado. Both missile wings were assigned to the 1st Missile Division. 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.