

## 12 MISSILE SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

12 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 22 Dec 1939

Activated, 1 Feb 1940

Redesignated 12 Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 7 May 1942

Redesignated 12 Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 21 Sep 1943

Disbanded, 20 Jun 1944

Reconstituted and redesignated 12 Bombardment Squadron, Light, 10 Mar 1947

Activated in the Reserve, 24 Jul 1947

Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

Redesignated 12 Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 7 Jun 1955

Activated, 1 Sep 1955

Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Jun 1961

Redesignated 12 Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM–Minuteman) and activated, 22 Sep 1961

Organized, 1 Mar 1962

Redesignated 12 Missile Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

#### STATIONS

Langley Field, VA, 1 Feb–26 Oct 1940

Borinquen Field, Puerto Rico, 1 Nov 1940

Benedict Field, St Croix, 8 Nov 1941

Dakota Field, Aruba, 10 Oct 1942 (detachment operated from Borinquen Field, Puerto Rico,

Nov 1942–unkn)  
Coolidge Field, Antigua, 23 Nov 1943–24 Mar 1944  
Alamogordo AAFld, NM, 6 Apr–20 Jun 1944  
Westover Field (later, AFB), MA, 24 Jul 1947  
Hartford, CT, 24 Oct 1947–27 Jun 1949  
Abilene (later, Dyess) AFB, TX, 1 Sep 1955–25 Jun 1961  
Malmstrom AFB, MT, 1 Mar 1962

### **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

Andersen AFB, Guam, 9 Jan–4 Apr 1958

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

25 Bombardment Group, 1 Feb 1940–20 Jun 1944 (under operational control of Antilles Air Task Force and VI Fighter Command, 1 Nov 1942–unkn)  
341 Bombardment Group, 24 Jul 1947–27 Jun 1949  
341 Bombardment Wing, 1 Sep 1955–25 Jun 1961  
Strategic Air Command, 22 Sep 1961  
341 Strategic Missile Wing, 1 Mar 1962  
341 Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B–18A, 1940  
B–25, 1943–1944  
AT–6, 1947–1949  
AT–11, 1947–1949  
B–47, 1956–1961  
LGM-30A/B Minuteman I, 1962  
LGM-30F Minuteman II, 1968  
LGM-30G Minuteman III, 1996

### **COMMANDERS**

Maj Neil B. Harding, 1 Feb 1940-Jan 1941  
Unknown, Jan 1941-Sep 1941  
1Lt Edwin H. Hawes, Sep 1941  
1Lt Arthur H. Rogers, 1 Nov 1941-Jan 1942  
Col James L. Jacobson  
Lt Col Jeffrey Voetberg  
Lt Col Justin McMillian

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Antisubmarine, American Theater

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

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

#### **EMBLEM**



12 Bombardment Squadron, Medium emblem

12 Bombardment Squadron, Medium emblem: On a disc of Light Blue sky spattered with White stars, the top of the globe issuing from base, Black, grid lines White; over all a Dark Gray mailed hand issuing from sinister chief, outlines and highlights White, details Light Blue, grasping a sword in pale, point to base, hilt and pommel AF Golden Yellow, blade White, shaded Light Blue, outlines and details Dark Gray, a Red oval spot on pommel, all between a Red lightning flash edged White and a Green Olive branch, details AF Golden Yellow, pilewise. (Approved, 5 Aug 1957)

12 Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM Minuteman) [22 Sep 1961 - 1 Sep 1991]. Description: On a shield of light blue sky spattered with white stars, the top of a globe issuing from base, dark gray, grid lines white; over all a dark gray mailed hand issuing from sinister chief, outlines and

highlights white, details light blue, grasping a sword in pale, point to base, hilt and pommel AF golden yellow, blade white, shaded light blue, outlines and details dark gray, a red oval spot on pommel, all between a red lightning flash edged white and a green olive branch, details AF golden yellow, radiating from middle base point. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem symbolizes the squadron's mission and its relationship with Strategic Air Command. A mailed fist holding a downward pointed broadsword symbolizes the force and preparedness of a unit possessing striking power. The mailed fist and lightning bolt as well as the olive branch are from the emblem of the Strategic Air Command and signifies power and striking potential while maintaining the peace. The element of the grid-lined globe notes the worldwide capability of the unit while the upper portion of the field of the shield contains the star-encrusted blue of the SAC banner.



#### **MOTTO**

Red Dawgs

#### **OPERATIONS**

Antisubmarine patrols and convoy escort in the Caribbean area, during World War II.

Following the initial deployment to Puerto Rico, the Squadron participated in various training and familiarization flights with its small complement of aircraft, until 8 November 1941 when it was ordered to deploy to Benedict Field, St. Croix.

Following the outbreak of war for the U.S., the Squadron commenced operations out of Benedict with three B-18s. These were exchanged for four B-18As by the 16th of January 1942. By mid-February, these had been augmented by a further B-18 and the Squadron had a total of four crews.

On 3 January 1943, LT William A. Smith, flying B-18B 37-519, attacked a surfaced sub at 0640 at position 12°23'N -67°17'W. The crew consisted of LT Ivan N. Berson (Co-pilot), LT Francis N. Davies (Navigator), SSG David P. Reese (Bombardier), SGT Harrell M. Hudson (Engineer), CPL Laurel S. Stalhauske (Radar Operator) and SGT Rexford L. Selbe (Radio Operator). A radar contact had been made, and was immediately followed to the position reported to the pilot. A

salvo of three depth charges was released after a 30 second interval following the estimated time of sighting, and on a second run, a fourth depth charge was released on the still-surfaced sub. Visual observation was impossible as the first flare which had been dropped burned out while vision was still impaired from its brightness and the second had hit the sea before burning. Smith and his crew remained at the scene, but no further contact was made.

On 30 July, B-18C s/n 37-512 was on a search mission. Piloted by LT Thomas L. Merrill, the attack took place at 13°40' N - 70°20' W and the rest of the crew consisted of LT Robert S. Davidson (Co-pilot), LT Louis C. Lozes (Bombardier), SGT Amos Shirley (Radar Operator), SGT William F. Martin (Radio Operator), CPL Roy N. Kimball (Turret Gunner) and CPL Billy M. Sprott (Engineer). A radar contact had been made at 0040 and, after proceeding to the position, a flare was dropped and the sub was sighted in full view, fully surfaced. Bombs were released at 0045Hrs at about 100ft altitude as the aircraft made a low pass at 140Kts. LT Merrill noted a geyser resulting from the explosions, but was not able to see the sub. At the same instant, tracer bullets of heavy caliber were seen to pass over the left wing, outboard from the port engine. Evasive action was initiated, and a radar sweep turned up no further contact. The results of this attack were ruled as inconclusive.

The Squadron moved on 23 November to Coolidge Field on Antigua. While there, it provided continuous coverage for Convoy TAG95. By the end of December, the unit had started to re-equip, and had two of B-18Bs, three North American B-25D's and 12 B-25Gs at Coolidge.

4 November 1958 A B-47E 51-2391 catches fire during take-off from Dyess AFB, Texas, crashes from 1,500 feet. Three crew eject, Capt. Don E. Youngmark, 37, aircraft commander; Capt. John M. Gerding, 27, pilot; and Capt. John M. Dowling, 30, observer and navigator. The crew chief was killed - no bail out attempted. Fire sets off single bomb casing on board, creating crater 35X6 feet. Some tritium contamination at crash site.

On March 1, 1962, the 12 transitioned to its current role as part of America's deterrent force when it became the 12 Strategic Missile Squadron. It quickly achieved the distinction of being the first Minuteman missile squadron to become 100 percent combat ready.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE 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<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Wing. Malmstrom AFB, MT. @1964.*

Unit yearbook. *Malmstrom AFB, First Minuteman Wing of the Air Force.* Army and Navy Publishing, Co., Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. Nd.