

44th MISSILE WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

44th Bombardment Wing, Medium established, 20 Dec 1950
Activated, 2 Jan 1951
Discontinued, 15 Jun 1960
Redesignated 44th Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM-Minuteman), 24 Nov 1961
Organized, 1 Jan 1962
Redesignated 44th Missile Wing
Inactivated, 4 Jul 1994

STATIONS

March AFB, CA, 2 Jan 1951
Lake Charles (later, Chennault) AFB, LA, 1 Aug 1951-15 Jun 1960
Ellsworth AFB, SD, 1 Jan 1962

ASSIGNMENTS

Fifteenth Air Force, 2 Jan 1951
12th Air Division, 10 Feb 1951
21st Air Division, 4 Aug 1951
806th Air Division, 16 Jun 1952-15 Jun 1960
Department of the Air Force, 15 Jun 1960-23 Nov 1961
Strategic Air Command, 24 Nov 1961
821st Air (later, 821st Strategic Aerospace) Division, 1 Jan 1962
4th Strategic Missile (later, 4th Air) Division, 30 Jun 1971

ATTACHMENTS

5th Air Division, 19 Jan-22 Feb 1953 and 19 Apr-17 Jun 1954

WEAPON SYSTEMS

TB-29, 1951

B-29, 1951-1953

B-47, 1953-1960

KC-97, 1953-1957, 1957-1960

Titan I, 1962-1965

Minuteman I, 1963-1973

Minuteman II, 1972

COMMANDERS

Col Howell M. Estes, Jr., 2 Jan 1951

Col Carlos J. Cochrane, 7 Mar 1951

Col Herbert O. Wangeman, 1 Apr 1953

Col Frank W. Ellis, 2 May 1953

Col Joel A. Carroll, Jr., 14 May 1953

Col Frank W. Ellis, 3 Aug 1953

Col Jacob J. Brogget, 1 Feb 1956

Col Robert M. Tuttle, 27 Jul 1957

Col Louis W. Rohr, 25 Jul 1958-15 Jun 1960

None (not manned) 16 Jun 1960-31 Dec 1961

Col Virgil M. Cloyd, Jr., 1 Jan 1962

Col Wilson E. Burrill, 15 Jul 1965

Col Ernest B. Wilson, 1 Feb 1967

Col Charles J. Adams, 15 Aug 1969

Col Ralph H. Dowell, Jr., 31 Jan 1970

Col Thaddeus P. J. Gicewicz, 12 Feb 1971

Col Miles C. Wiley, Jr., 2 Jul 1971

Col George F. Bennett, 9 Jun 1972

BG Kermil C. Kaerichei, 27 Jun 1973

Col William H. Bush, 24 Oct 1973

Col Judson C. Faurer, 20 Jun 1975

Col Ralph E. Spraker, 9 Jun 1977

Col Roscoe Moulthrop, #1993

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1969-30 Jun 1970

9 Jun-10 Jul 1972

1 Jul 1974-30 Jun 1976

EMBLEM



44th Bombardment Wing, Medium emblems



44th Strategic Missile Wing emblems

Azure, a missile palewise nose to base or. the warhead encircled by three electronic orbits argent, between eight mullets palewise, four in dexter flank and four in sinister flank of the last, all within a diminished bordure of the second. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Against a background of blue with stars to represent the sky and space, a reentry vehicle, its nose encircled by a nuclear symbol, represents the mission and the nuclear energy and power of the wing. The emblem indicates determination and professional excellence which are the unit's goals. The stars, placed in two groups of four, indicate the unit's numerical designation. (Approved, 18 Jul 1962)

MOTTO

AGGRESSOR BEWARE

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Activated in training status when Korean war was 6 months old. Depended on 22d Bombardment Wing for initial cadre and help in becoming organized. Commenced operational training in Mar 1951. From 1 Oct 1951 to 29 Aug 1952, served as operational training unit for B-29 aircrews and maintenance personnel for Far East Air Forces. From 10 Oct 1951 to 15 May 1952, trained all elements of the 68th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. Became a first-line strategic bombardment wing in Aug 1952 and gained an air refueling mission in 1953. Deployed at Sidi Slimane AB, French Morocco, 19 Jan-22 Feb 1953 and 19 Apr-17 Jun 1954. Discontinued in 1960. Organized in 1962 as a strategic missile wing, initially with a single Titan missile squadron, but later with three Minuteman missile squadrons.

Twenty-six bombers flew from Lake Charles Air Force Base. Louisiana, to Sidi Slimane Air Base. The Wing commander. Colonel C. J. Cochrane. brought 1,268 support personnel from the home base to help maintain the airplanes and assist with base support functions for the thirty-day tour. The new 5th Air Division commander, Maj. General David W. Hutchison, greeted the 44th Bomb Wing on arrival. 1953

Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

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