

4038 STRATEGIC WING



MISSION

4038 Strategic Wing Organized and train a force capable of immediate and sustained long-range offensive bombardment and air-to-air refueling operations in any part of the world, utilizing the latest technical knowledge and advanced weapons. Participated to the maximum extent in the Reserve training program. Participated in disaster relief and other domestic emergencies when required. Perform such special missions and assignments as may be directed from higher headquarters .

LINEAGE

4038 Strategic Wing activated, 1 Feb 1960

Inactivated, 1 Feb 1963

STATIONS

Dow AFB, ME

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-52, 1960-1963

COMMANDERS

Col George W. R. Zethren

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



4038 Strategic Wing emblem: Azure, between a pattern of eleven four-pointed mullets argent Issuant from dexter honor point a cloud formation fesswise of the like and in sinister base a sphere of the last with land masses dark blue, radiating from and surmounting the sphere in dexter base three vapor trails each terminating in a stylized aircraft, nose to dexter and in sinister chief a ballistic missile palewise emitting three vapor trails to base all or, all within a diminished bordure of the last. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The significance of the emblem is symbolic of the Wing and its mission. Against a background of light blue sky and stars (suggesting the SAC ribbon), and a cloud (reminiscent of the SAC emblem) to represent the major command, the earth in space indicates that this unit, being formed as the Air Force entered the space age, had a global mission. The three aircraft represent the three original tactical squadrons which made up the new Wing (the 341st Air Refueling Squadron, 71st Air Refueling Squadron, and the 341st Bombardment Squadron) and the manned aircraft complement of the organization. The ballistic missile indicated the dual role of utilizing the airborne "Hound Dog" missile in conjunction with the B-52G. (Approval, 6 Apr 1961)

MOTTO

SUSTENTAMUS PACEM--We Sustain the Peace

OPERATIONS

The 4038th Strategic Wing flying the B-52G at Dow AFB, New Hampshire, became the first SAC unit to carry Hound Dog missiles on airborne alert., 17 Jan 1962

Upon inactivation of 4038th Strategic Wing, the mission and resources were assumed by the 397th Bombardment Wing, Heavy.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Base welcome guide. *Dow AFB, ME. 1960.*