400 MISSILE SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE
10 Reconnaissance Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942
Activated, 15 Apr 1942
Redesignated 400 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 22 Apr 1942
Redesignated 400 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 6 Mar 1944
Inactivated, 27 Jan 1946
Redesignated 400 Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Minuteman) and activated, 10 Dec 1963
Organized, 1 Jul 1964
Redesignated 400 Missile Squadron, 1 Sep 1991
Inactivated, 19 Sep 2005

STATIONS
Key Field, MS, 15 Apr 1942
Barksdale Field, LA, 17 May 1942
Greenville AAB, SC, 21 Jun 1942
Ypsilanti, MI, 9–19 Aug 1942
Hickam Field, TH, 12 Sep 1942
Iron Range, Australia, c. 4 Nov 1942
Port Moresby, New Guinea, c. 22 Mar 1943
Dobodura, New Guinea, Dec 1943
Nadzab, New Guinea, 23 Feb 1944
Biak, 12 Aug 1944
San Jose, Mindoro, 26 Jan 1945
Ie Shima, 11 Aug 1945
Ft William McKinley, Luzon, 23 Nov 1945–27 Jan 1946
Francis E. Warren AFB, WY, 1 Jul 1964

ASSIGNMENTS

90 Bombardment Group, 15 Apr 1942–27 Jan 1946
Strategic Air Command, 10 Dec 1963
90 Strategic Missile Wing, 1 Jul 1964
90 Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991

WEAPON SYSTEMS
B–24, 1942–1945
LGM-30B Minuteman I, 1964
LGM-30G Minuteman III, 1973
LGM-118A Peacekeeper, 1986

COMMANDERS

HONORS
Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers
World War II
Air Offensive, Japan
China Defensive
Papua; Guadalcanal
New Guinea
Northern Solomons
Bismarck Archipelago
Western Pacific
Leyte
Luzon
Southern Philippines
China Offensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers
None

Decorations
Distinguished Unit Citations
Papua, [16 Nov] 1942–23 Jan 1943
New Guinea, 13 and 15 Sep 1943

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Jul 1968–30 Jun 1969
1 Jul 1973–30 Jun 1975
1 Jul 1982–30 Jun 1984
1 Jul 1986–30 Jun 1988

1 Jul 1988–30 Jun 1989
1 Aug 1991–31 Jul 1993

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

EMBLEM


400 Bombardment Squadron emblems

400 Strategic Missile Squadron emblem: On a light blue disc fimbriated white, within a narrow green border a blue pile in point fimbriated white and voided of the field, between three white cloud formations fesswise one issuing from dexter and two from sinister surmounted by two white missiles pilewise. On the pile between nine gold crosses pilewise a blue disc fimbriated white and bordered green bearing a gold and red bomb burst below a gold star in dexter and surmounted by a gold bomb detailed white and shaded red descending bend sinistenrise. Above the disc an arc of two white stars each bearing a torteau. Below the emblem a white scroll edged green. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. Against the background of sky, the missiles refer to the unit's present mission in SACs aerospace program. Within the "V' (the World War II symbol for victory), the squadron's emblem of the falling bomb, approved in 1943, reflecting its World War II mission. The white stars bearing the red discs denote the squadron's DUCs; the gold star its Philippine PUC; and the gold crosses is World War II Campaign Participation Credits. The green borders commemorate the squadron's long and meritorious service in the defense of our country. Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of

Air Force personnel. (Approved, 25 Feb 1966)

400 Missile Squadron emblem: azure, flames issuant from base proper below a bomb in sinister chief descending bendwise sinister or garnished gules and ten rays issuant throughout from dexter chief of the like surmounted by a cloud fesswise issuing from dexter argent; all within a diminished bordure vert. Attached below the disc, a blue scroll edged with a narrow green border and inscribed "400th MISSILE SQ" in green letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The bomb is emblematic of the unit's history in World War II. The pattern of ten rays suggests the distinctive dispersed pattern of the Peacekeeper weapon system for which the Squadron is responsible. The cloud reflects the unit's heritage within the Strategic Air Command. It also symbolizes that the Air Force provides a blanket of world peace with its mission of deterrence through strength. The flames denote the weapon systems used by the unit in past and present operations. (Approved, 17 Oct 1994)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

On 27 July 2001, approximately 0101 Local (L) (0701 Zulu {Z}), an LGM-118A “Peacekeeper” intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) designated GT-30PA (GT - “Glory Trip”), suffered a catastrophic failure in flight and subsequently impacted the Pacific Ocean several miles off the coast of Vandenberg Air Force Base (APB), California (CA). The missile, assigned to the 400th Missile Squadron, 90th Space Wing, Frances E. Warren AFB, Wyoming (WY), was on a routine-force development evaluation (FDE) test launch. The missile broke up over the ocean with no associated personal injuries or collateral property damage. At 0100L, the missile lifted off after a nominal launch sequence. For the first 60 seconds of flight, all systems operated nominally. Over the next two seconds, the missile failed to achieve Stage I/II separation, resulting in excessive Stage II interstage pressure and subcomponent failure. Dynamic forces caused by a deviation from the flight path precipitated activation of the automatic flight termination system and subsequent destruction of the missile. There is clear and convincing evidence that the primary cause of the mishap was failure to achieve normal Stage I/II separation. The cause of the failure was traced to a portion of the Stage II ordnance train. Evidence shows that the Stage II firing unit properly propagated the ordnance impulse to the Stage II motor igniter and the premature stage separation (PSS) inhibit pressure switches. However, the linear shaped charge (LSC) failed to properly detonate as a result of a malfunction in either the ordnance transmission assembly (OTA) lines, the ordnance transfer block, (OTB) or the LSC. The OTA lines, OTB and LSC are installed during the manufacturing process. Due to the nature of the ordnance transmission system, prelaunch testing of the ordnance beyond the firing unit is not possible (testing would destroy the ordnance).

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.