

625 STRATEGIC OPERATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

The 625 STOS supports STRATCOM's mission in three distinct areas. First the Strategic Automated Command & Control System Flight is responsible for setting up and managing emergency action message dissemination systems in use at bomber, tanker, ICBM, and headquarters bases around the world.

The Weapons and Tactics Flight supports STRATCOM's Joint Forces Component Command-Global Strike and Integration in maintaining current and accurate targeting for the Nation's 500 ICBMs. The flight also analyzes foreign ballistic missiles and provides threat information to the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System.

The Airborne Launch Control System Flight provides training and combat forces for two crew positions on board the Navy E-6B Mercury aircraft when performing the STRATCOM Airborne Command Post mission. Flying as integral members of the STRATCOM Battle Staff, the 625th provides a survivable means to launch the Nation's ICBM force.

LINEAGE

625 Missile Operations Flight constituted, 1 Apr 1996

Activated, 15 Apr 1996

Redesignated 625 Strategic Operations Squadron, 14 Jun 2007

STATIONS

Offutt AFB, ME, 15 Apr 1996

ASSIGNMENTS

Twentieth Air Force, 15 Apr 1996

COMMANDERS

LTC Allen Steenhoek

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards:

1 Oct 1999-30 Sep 2001

1 Oct 2001-30 Sep 2003

EMBLEM



The 625 Missile Operations Flight emblem represents all three functions of the flight, as represented by the elements and the office symbols.



625 Strategic Operations Squadron emblem: On a disc per bend Azure and Celeste, three arrows issuant from sinister chief to dexter side Gules detailed Or pointing to a globe of the first detailed Argent in dexter base, three mullets, one in dexter chief and two in sinister side aligned vertically Argent, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "SI VIS PACEM PARA BELLUM" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "625TH STRATEGIC OPS SQ" in Yellow 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 mission element symbolizes three mission areas and flights (Airborne Launch Control System Flight, Strategic Automated Command and Control System Flight). The world globe represents the unit's global spanning missions. The stars represent the Squadron's commitment to the ever vigilant forces at three missile wings located at F. E. Warren AFB, Malmstrom AFB and Minot AFB. (Approved, 20 Dec 2007)

MOTTO

SI VIS PACEM PARA BELLUM--If You Wish Peace, Prepare For War

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In a ceremony held today in the shadow of the Minuteman I Intercontinental Ballistic Missile outside USSTRATCOM Headquarters, Major General Thomas Deppe, commander Twentieth Air Force and STRATCOM Task Force 214 activated the 625th Strategic Operations Squadron. The 625th is a tenant unit on Offutt AFB and reports directly to 20 AF, located at Frances E. Warren AFB in Wyoming.

While the unit designation is new, the missions are not, dating back to the early days of Strategic Air Command. Lt Col Allen Steenhoek, 625 STOS Commander, said of the activation "The reorganization is important recognition for the critical nature of our role in national defense and will ensure the unit continues to fulfill its long standing mission requirements, yet be flexible

enough to meet future challenges." "The 625th has a long history of cooperation dating back to SAC and its critically important role in nuclear command and control. This squadron activation is simply another step in our desire for the Air Force, Air Force Space Command and Twentieth Air Force to provide the best possible support to United States Strategic Command." Major General Deppe commented.

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The intercontinental ballistic missile targeting unit within the 625th Strategic Operations Squadron recently celebrated its 60th anniversary at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

The 625 STOS has its roots as an ICBM targeting unit within the 544th Combat Applications Squadron which started in 1958 with the first Atlas ICBMs going on alert. Since inception, the 544th has undergone many name changes and has wound its way through Air Combat Command, Air Force Space Command, Headquarters 20th Air Force and others. Today, the 544th CAS, now known as the 625 STOS, reports to the 595th Command and Control Group.

"We enjoy the mission very much," said Capt. Bennett Johnson, Chief of Current ICBM Operations. "As a missileer spending 6 years at F.E. Warren and in the missile fields of Wyoming, Nebraska, and Colorado, it is fascinating to be part of a squadron that does so much for the crews out in the missile wings."

"I am honored to work with motivated, highly skilled airmen who carry on a long legacy of excellence," said Air Force Civilian Allen Steenhoek, Assistant Director of Operations. "We are a small elite group that appreciates the critical nature of the mission. Targeting the ICBMs and building the ICBM war plans is essential, and the pressure can be immense as targeting must be perfect."

Over the past 60 years, the basic elements of targeting have not changed; however, the methods have been steadily fine-tuned to improve accuracy and speed. "The targeting mission has endured as the ICBM weapon systems have evolved," Steenhoek said.

Even after 60 years, it appears the 625 STOS maintains a vital role in the nuclear enterprise. In fact the future holds exciting things for the squadron such as modernizing the targeting system with state of the art technology and the introduction of a new ICBM.

"With a new ICBM in the works, we have a lot to look forward to. This will be years away, but the capabilities and the systems of Ground Based Strategic Defense will give us new capabilities and increase our warfighting abilities," said Johnson.

Despite these new challenges, the 625 STOS will endure as long as it has Airmen dedicated to this important mission.

“We envision a future that will be much like our past. It will be a mix of new and old. We may face more organizational and infrastructure changes, but the one constant will be the flawless execution of the mission,” said Steenhoek.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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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.