

*The 4200th SRW was established at Beale AFB on 1 January 1965 to prepare for SR-71 operations, the first T-38A companion trainer arriving at the California base in July 1965. On 6 January 1966 the 4200th SRW received its first Blackbird in the form of the trainer '956. The first operational aircraft arrived on 4 April 1966. Soon after, on 25 June 1966, the 4200th inherited the heritage and numberplate of the 9th Bomb Wing, becoming the 9th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing.*

*The number was then assigned to the 4200th Test Wing, still at Beale, which became the unit responsible for testing and employing the D-21B drone, using two B-52Hs as mother ships. This programme began in late 1966. The first launch was not undertaken until 6 November 1968, at which time the 4200th TW was flying from Groom Lake. Later launches took place from Beale, and the programme was terminated on 23 July 1971.*