

66 MISSILE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

66 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 20 Nov 1940
Activated, 15 Jan 1941
Redesignated 66 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 5 Aug 1945
Inactivated, 12 Jul 1946
Activated, 1 Jul 1947
Inactivated, 6 Sep 1948
Redesignated 66 Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 20 Dec 1950
Activated, 2 Jan 1951
Discontinued, 15 Jun 1960
Redesignated 66 Strategic Missile Squadron, 24 Jan 1962
Organized, 1 Jul 1962
Redesignated 66 Missile Squadron, 1 Sep 1991
Inactivated, 1 Sep 1993

STATIONS

MacDill Field, FL, 15 Jan 1941
Barksdale Field, LA, 9 Feb 1942
Will Rogers Field, OK, 26 Jul-25 Aug 1942
Cheddington, England, 12 Sep 1942
Shipdham, England, 10 Oct 1942-15 Jun 1945 (detachments operated from Benina, Libya, 28 Jun-31 Aug 1943, and Tunis, Tunisia, 19 Sep-9 Oct 1943)
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 26 Jun 1945
Great Bend AAFld, KS, 24 Jul 1945

Smoky Hill AAFld, KS, 12 Oct 1945-12 Jul 1946
Andrews Field, MD, 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948
March AFB, CA, 2 Jan 1951-1 Aug 1951
Lake Charles AFB, LA, c. 7 Aug 1951-15 Jun 1960
Ellsworth AFB, SD, 1 Jul 1962

ASSIGNMENTS

44 Bombardment Group, 19 Jan 1941-12 Jul 1946
44 Bombardment Group, 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948
44 Bombardment Group, 2 Jan 1951
44 Bombardment Wing, 16 Jun 1952
Department of the Air Force, 15 Jun 1960
Strategic Air Command, 24 Jan 1962
44 Strategic Missile Wing, 1 Jul 1962
44 Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-18, 1941-1942
B-24, 1942-1945
B-29, 1945-1946
B-29, 1951-1953
B-47, 1953-1960
LGM-30B Minuteman I, 1963–1973
LGM-30F Minuteman II, 1972–1993

COMMANDERS

Lt Col George A. Doersch, #1954

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Antisubmarine, American Theater
Air Offensive, Europe
Sicily
Naples-Foggia
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Kiel, Germany, 14 May 1943
Ploesti, Rumania, 1 Aug 1943

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jul 1969-30 Jun 1970

9 Jun-10 Jul 1972

1 Jul 1974-30 Jun 1976

1 Jul 1983-30 Jun 1985

1 Jul 1985-30 Jun 1986

30 May 1990-29 May 1992

EMBLEM



On a blue disc edged with a yellow border issuing from dexter base a green demi-sphere grid lined yellow from which a white missile is ascending bendwise emitting a yellow arched vapor trail, the missile between six white six-pointed stars. (Approved, 31 Mar 1970)

66th Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Minuteman) emblem: On a blue disc edged with a yellow border issuing from dexter base a green demi-sphere grid-lined yellow from which a white missile is ascending bendwise emitting a yellow arched vapor trail, the missile between six white six-pointed stars. Attached below the disc a blank white scroll edged yellow. Motto: Attached above the disc a white scroll edged yellow and inscribed THE PEACE KEEPER in scarlet letters between two white stars edged black. **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. The overall theme of the design illustrates the mission of the unit-to maintain the peace through deterrence and, if necessary, launch the force of missiles. The six stars, each with six points, symbolize the 66th Strategic Missile Squadron. The missile crossing the water illustrates the intercontinental nature of the force. The demi-globe is representative of the land mass over which the missiles traverse. Approved: 31 March 1970.

MOTTO

THE PEACE KEEPER

OPERATIONS

Operational training unit, Feb-Jun 1942; antisubmarine operations, 28 Jan-22 Jul 1942; combat in ETO and MTO, 7 Nov 1942-25 Apr 1945, including pathfinder missions, 8 May-c. Nov 1944. Apparently not manned, 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948. Operational and replacement training unit, 1 Oct 1951-c. 31 Aug 1952. Trained for operations with Minuteman, 1 Jul 1962.

A USAAF Consolidated B-24H Liberator bomber, *42-95095*, of the 66th Bomb Squadron, 44th Bomb Group, returning home to the USA from Prestwick Airfield crashed at Shieldaig, in the remote Fairy Lochs in Wester Ross, Scotland, killing its entire crew of nine from 66th Bombardment Squadron; also on board were six crewmen from Air Transport Command. Pilot was Jack B. Ketcham.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 19 Feb 2025

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency, U.S. Air Force, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Steven E. Clay. *US Army Order of Battle 1919-1941*. Combat Studies Institute Press. US Army Combined Arms Center. Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Nd.

Unit yearbook. *44 Bombardment Wing (M), 1954*. Army and Navy Publishing Co, Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1954.