

91 MISSILE WING



MISSION

The mission of the 91 MW is to defend the United States with safe, secure intercontinental ballistic missiles, ready to immediately put bombs on target. The on-alert missiles assigned to the 91 MW are under the operational control of the nation's strategic war-fighting command, U.S. Strategic Command, headquartered at Offutt AFB Neb.

The wing controls 150 Minuteman III missiles, located over an 8,500 square mile area in north central North Dakota, approximately the same size as the state of Massachusetts. Each missile is located in an unmanned remote site called a launch facility. All LFs are located at least three nautical miles apart and situated in unpopulated areas. The missiles are housed in hardened underground silos. Each launch facility has all the equipment needed to maintain the missile in a ready-to-launch condition. All activities at the LFs are monitored and controlled from remote, manned launch control centers.

Located in each launch control center, missile combat crews comprised of two officers operate in 24-hour alert tours. During the tour, the crew controls the 10 missiles assigned to their flight, and has the capability to monitor and control an entire squadron of 50 missiles. Launch control centers are interconnected by hardened, buried, wire, cable communications links used by the combat crews for status reporting, coordination of missile programming and launch actions. Thus, each crew can launch any missile in its squadron, not just the missiles in its flight.

Each launch control center is part of a missile alert facility. The wing's 15 missile alert facilities are comprised of a topside facility, which is continually manned by a minimum of eight people, and an underground complex consisting of a launch control center and an underground support building.

The wing has approximately 1,500 operations, maintenance, security, and support personnel working together to keep missiles on alert. The wing is made up of three groups, the 91 Operations Group, 91 Maintenance Group, and 91 Security Forces Group. Four squadrons, a helicopter flight and a standardization/evaluation division are assigned to the 91 Operations Group, two squadrons and a quality assurance section are assigned to the 91 Maintenance Group and three squadrons are assigned to the 91 Security Forces Group. In addition, the wing staff functions of manpower and quality, financial management, safety, and history are assigned under the director of staff. The plans and inspections office reports to the wing vice commander.

LINEAGE

91 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing established, 11 Oct 1948
Activated, 10 Nov 1948
Redesignated 91 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, Medium, 6 Jul 1950
Inactivated, 8 Nov 1957
Redesignated 91 Bombardment Wing, Heavy and activated, 15 Nov 1962
Organized, 1 Feb 1963
Redesignated 91 Strategic Missile Wing, 25 Jun 1968
Redesignated 91 Missile Wing, 1 Sep 1991
Redesignated 91 Missile Group, 1 Jul 1994
Redesignated 91 Missile Wing, 1 Feb 1996
Redesignated 91 Space Wing, 1 Oct 1997
Redesignated 91 Missile Wing, 1 Jul 2008

STATIONS

McGuire AFB, NJ, 10 Nov 1948
Barksdale AFB, LA, 1 Oct 1949
Lockbourne AFB, OH, 11 Sep 1951-8 Nov 1957
Glasgow AFB, MT, 1 Feb 1963
Minot AFB, ND, 25 Jun 1968

ASSIGNMENTS

311 Air Division, 10 Nov 1948
Second Air Force, 1 Nov 1949
4 Air Division, 10 Feb 1951
Second Air Force, 11 Sep 1951
37 Air Division, 10 Oct 1951
801 Air Division, 28 May 1952-8 Nov 1957
Strategic Air Command, 15 Nov 1962
810 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Feb 1963
18 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Jul 1963
821 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Sep 1964
810 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Jul 1966
4 Strategic Missile Division, 30 Jun 1971

Fifteenth Air Force, 30 Nov 1972
47 Air Division, 15 Jan 1973
57 Air Division, 22 Jan 1975
Fifteenth Air Force, 14 Jun 1991
Twentieth Air Force, 1 Sep 1991

ATTACHMENTS

Second Air Force, 10 Oct 1951-17 Mar 1952
Advanced Echelon, 3 Air Division, c. 5 Feb-15 Apr 1968
Air Division Provisional, 810, 30 Nov 1972-14 Jan 1973

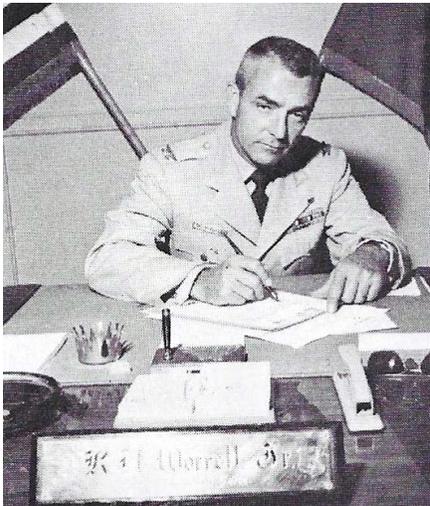
WEAPON SYSTEMS

B/RB-17, 1948-1950
TRB-17, 1949
B-29, 1948-1949, 1950
RB-29, 1948-1951
TB-29, 1948-1949
TRB-29, 1949
RC-54, 1948-1949
B-50, 1949-1950
RB-50, 1950-1951
B/RB-45, 1950-1953
B-47, 1953
YRB-47, 1953-1954
RB-47, 1953-1957
KB-29, 1950-1953
KC-97, 1952-1953, 1953-1957
B-52, 1963-1966, 1967-1968
B-52C, 1967-1968
B-52D, 1963-1968
KC-135, 1963-1966, 1967-1968
Minuteman I, 1968-1971
Minuteman III, 1968
HH/UH-1, 1993

COMMANDERS

Col Frank L. Dunn, 10 Nov 1948
Col Audrin R. Walker, Mar 1949
Col Thomas W. Steed, 5 Aug 1949
Col Randolph L. Wood, 15 May 1950
Col Horace M. Wade, 24 May 1950
Col Thomas W. Steed, 19 Jun 1950
Col Randolph L. Wood, 19 Jul 1950
Col Henry K. Mooney, 21 Jul 1950

Col Horace M. Wade, 12 Aug 1950
Col Henry K. Mooney, 24 Aug 1950
Col Horace M. Wade, 13 Jan 1951
Col Landon E. McConnell, 10 Feb 1951
Col Lewis E. Lyle, 17 Feb 1951
Col Henry K. Mooney, 18 May 1951
Col Lewis E. Lyle, 22 May 1951
Col Joseph J. Preston, 22 Aug 1951
Col Everett W. Homstrom, 2 Jan 1953
Col Joseph J. Preston, 13 Mar 1953
Col John A. DesPortes, 14 Jan 1954
Col Joseph J. Preston, 23 Feb 1954
Col John A. DesPortes, 8 Apr 1954
Col Joseph J. Preston, 9 May 1954
Col Charles M. Eisenhart, 9 Jul 1954
Col Robert E. Kimmel, 24 Jan 1956
Col Elbert D. Reynolds, 9 Jul 1956
Maj Joseph D. Hales, 10 Aug 1956
Col Elbert D. Reynolds, c. 24 Oct 1956
Col Woodrow P. Swancutt, 12 Apr-8 Nov 1957
None (not manned), 15 Nov 1962-31 Jan 1963
Col Gerald G. Robinson, 1 Feb 1963



Col Rowland H. Worrell Jr., 15 Jul 1963

Col William R. Grady, 3 Jun 1965
Col George Pfeiffer Jr., 7 Jul 1965
Col Lawrence E. Stephens, 15 May 1968
Col Robert D. Gardner, 31 May 1968
Col B. H. Davidson, 25 Jun 1968
Col Robert E. Mullin, 10 Jul 1969

Col Grover C. Graves Jr., 4 Aug 1970
Col Charles E. McCartney Jr., 19 Mar 1973
Col Pierce L. Smith, 1 May 1974
Col William R. Brooksher, 29 Jul 1976
Col Charles L. Lipscomb, 27 May 1977
Col Raymond H. Cleveland, 18 Mar 1980
Col Richard P. Jaques, 8 Jul 1982
Col Anthony T. Hogan, 7 Sep 1983
Col Christopher I. Branch, 14 Jan 1985
Col John J. Politi, 13 Aug 1986
Col David F. Seares, 8 Jun 1988
Col Edward L. Bailey Jr., 3 Oct 1989
Col Dennis O. Abbey, 30 Jul 1991
Col Howard G. DeWolf, 7 May 1992
Col Gerald F. Perryman Jr., 15 Jul 1993
Col Franck G. Klotz, 1 Feb 1996
Col Russell J. Anarde, 5 Aug 1996
Col Ronald J. Haeckel, 17 Apr 1998
Col Kimber L. McKenzie, 8 Jun 2000
Col Mark H. Owen, 29 May 2002
Col Daniel S. Adams, Jr., 20 Jul 2004
Col Martin Whelan, 6 Jul 2006
Col Christopher B. Ayres, 13 May 2008

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

8 Sep 1953-8 Nov 1957

1 Jul 1965-30 Jun 1966

1 Jul 1966-30 Jun 1967

1 Feb-1 Mar 1968

2 Mar-15 Apr 1968

1 Jul 1972-30 Jun 1973

1 Jul 1976-30 Jun 1978

1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1980

1 Sep 1993-31 Aug 1995

1 Sep 1995-31 Aug 1997

1 Oct 1998-30 Sep 2000

1 Oct 2000-1 Oct 2001

1 Jan-31 Dec 2002

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 91 Operations Group prior to 10 Nov 1948

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Hamm, Germany, 4 Mar 1943

Germany, 11 Jan 1944

EMBLEM



91 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing emblems



91 Bombardment Wing emblems



91 Strategic Missile Wing emblem: Light blue, issuant from sinister base a mailed hand bendwise argent grasping three lightning flashes to chief and one to base or, in dexter base a sphere azure with land areas of the second and grid lines-counterchanged of the last and the fourth, overall an entwining olive wreath vert, in dexter honor point a nuclear symbol of the second, all within a diminished bordure of the third. Significance: Placed on an azure blue background which portrays the sky as our primary theater of operations is the globe representing the scope of activities. Surrounding the world is the olive branch, symbolizing peace, which is also entwined with the mailed fist of SAC, poised and holding lightning bolts which symbolize the striking power of the wing. The nuclear symbol is indicative of the modern age in which we live, lending credibility to the awesome might held "poised for peace." (Approved, 25 Aug 1967)

91 Missile Group emblem: Azure a demi-globe issuant from base Azure gridline Argent, supporting a dexter hand braced grasping three lightning bolts, one bendwise, one bendwise

sinister chief and one bendwise sinister to dexter base Or and an olive branch entwining to dexter base Vert, all between an arc of six mullets of the third, all within a diminished bordure. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Yellow Blue and 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 globe represents the worldwide mission capabilities of the wing The armored hand grasping lightning bolts and issuant from the globe Symbolizes the power and speed of the unit's weapon system The hand also grasps an olive branch which suggests that peace is attained through deterrence. The six stars reflect the spirit of the wing's personnel and stand for integrity, courage, tenacity, service, competence and patriotism. (Approved, 21 Nov 1994)



91 Missile Wing patches

MOTTO

Poised for Peace

OPERATIONS

Performed global strategic reconnaissance, 1948-1957, with emphasis on aerial photography and mapping, 1948-1950; added aerial refueling mission, 1950-1957.

To form the 91 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, orders went out, in the summer of 1948, to Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, where the 91 Reconnaissance Group was stationed, and to MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, the home of the 16th Photo Squadron and the 11th Photo Technical Squadron. By the end of August, these organizations had arrived at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, and faced the task of rehabilitating and administering this base which had been closed since the end of World War II.

The difficulties encountered in those first months at their new home base were almost without end. Difficult assignments were not a novelty to these officers and airmen. Men, who were stationed at McGuire AFB, had, not long before, been selected to record the atomic bomb tests at Bikini and Eniwetok and could look back on that mission as one of the many

successfully accomplished. Daily, new men arrived at the base and on the 10th of November, 1948, the wing was officially activated with Colonel Frank L. Dunn commanding.

Within the newly formed wing there were now the following groups: 91 Strategic Reconnaissance Group; 91 Maintenance & Supply Group; 91 Air Base Group; and the 91 Medical Group.

Shortly thereafter, a unique demonstration of aircraft refueling was conducted by the wing, in conjunction with the Esso Corporation. Fuel lines, running underground to the ramp into hydrant like terminals, were installed. Small, mobile pumping machines connected to these outlets and, in turn, to the aircraft on the line, eliminating the use of fuel trucks. The experiment was successful and received wide comment in various trade publications in many countries and languages.

Training in the primary job and developing the base continued. Training and operational reconnaissance missions were flown.

Where natural disaster struck, planes of the 91 were aloft in the shortest possible time, recording the damage and, in doing so, making possible the study of the condition so that protective measures could be taken to prevent future recurrence.

In keeping with the wing's efforts to constantly improve and learn all possible methods of strategic reconnaissance, an important experiment took place in February, 1949. The 91, collaborating with the National Broadcasting Company, participated in the first successful aerial televising of American cities ever made. This test indicated that television may be an instrument of far-reaching significance in any future reconnaissance.

Not only can bomb damage be assessed, but television may be used to spot enemy troop movements and ground installations of all types. It can flash this information instantly to screens in the headquarters of combat commanders.

Often the pioneer, "Playboy II" was the aircraft chosen for the television test. This C-54 had played an important role in the now historic atom bomb tests. The plane's interior was completely modified to accommodate the TV installation. Wing personnel and NBC technicians worked side by side to successfully accomplish the project.

Shingle by shingle, and plank by plank, McGuire AFB was beginning to assume that bright, clean "Air Force Base" appearance. Rutted, muddy trails were becoming roads. In their spare time, airmen landscaped their areas, planting sod and shrubs. Neat, white picket fences blossomed around buildings and barracks. Mess hall vied with each other in getting the "new look."

On the 5th of August, 1949, Colonel Thomas W. Steed assumed command of the 91 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. Not long after that, the wing learned that it was to leave the base in

New Jersey and would move to its present home, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. By the beginning of September, advance parties of officers and airmen were moving to Louisiana. Concurrent with the move, the 91 Wing dedicated McGuire Air Force Base with an open house which attracted thousands of visitors and in solemn ceremony honored the memory of Major Thomas B. McGuire, fighter ace of the Pacific campaigns.

An impressive formation of B-29's and B-50's, led by the wing commander, saluted the cities of Shreveport and Bossier City, marking the official arrival of the wing.

During the move to Barksdale, certain squadrons were redesignated, others absorbed into different organizations, and one was transferred out of the wing. New squadrons, formerly with other wings of the 2nd Air Force, became members of the 91. Again, in addition to its primary mission of strategic reconnaissance, the wing is charged with the administration of the base.

Wing headquarters integrated with headquarters of 301st Bombardment Wing, 1 Apr 1950-9 Feb 1951, although each wing continued tactical operations independently. Tactical components occasionally detached for periods up to three months for duty with other USAF establishments. More frequently, wing maintained operational detachments comprised of aircraft and crews drawn from several components to provide reconnaissance support in overseas areas. Such detachments were maintained in England, 19 Jan 1951-20 Mar 1952, 18 Mar-11 May 1952, 21 Oct-12 Dec 1952 and 8 Apr-9 May 1954; in Japan, 23 Mar 1951-30 Nov 1953; in north Africa, 3 Aug-4 Nov 1956; in Newfoundland, 3 Aug-2 Nov 1956; and in Greenland, 1 Oct-8 Nov 1957.

From Aug to Nov 1956 most of the wing deployed overseas in detachments not under operational control of the small establishment remaining in the United States. Inactivated in Nov 1957.

Activated in Feb 1963 as a bombardment wing to train for global bombardment and aerial refueling.

Except for a small rear echelon, the wing's headquarters staff, tactical aircraft and crews, and most support personnel integrated in the Strategic Air Command Arc Light force for combat in Southeast Asia, c. 11 Sep 1966-c. 31 Mar 1967.

Deployed in Okinawa in response to the Pueblo incident, 5 Feb-c. 15 Apr 1968. Not tactically operational 1 May-25 Jun 1968 while closing Glasgow AFB, Montana.

Moved without personnel or equipment on 25 Jun 1968 to Minot AFB, North Dakota, absorbing personnel and equipment of an inactivated missile wing. Thereafter operated and maintained strategic missiles in a state of operational readiness.

USAF Unit Histories
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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.

Unit yearbook. *Glasgow AFB, MT, 91 Bombardment Wing (H). 1963.* Army and Navy Publishing Co Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1963.

Unit yearbook. *91 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. 1950.*