

AIR FORCE MISSILE TEST CENTER

LINEAGE

Inactivated 15 May 1964

STATIONS

Patrick AFB, FL

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

MG L. I. Davis, #1961

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Redesignated Eastern Test Range, AF?

On 16 March 1951, the Long Range Proving Ground Division received official approval for the use of its emblem (shown opposite). A shield of azure blue was emblazoned with a long-range

guided missile of argent silver, spouting a flaming tail of red and yellow hue. The blue represented the stratosphere and the guided missile, traveling with great speed and accuracy, denoted the mission of the Long Range Proving Ground Division.

On 30 June 1951, the Division was redesignated the Air Force Missile Test Center. No official action was taken with respect to changing or redesigning the emblem, but several unofficial variations of the original emblem continued in use until a new emblem was approved for the Air Force Eastern Test Range on 19 July 1967

Symbolizing the changes that had occurred on the Eastern Range over the previous 17 years, the new Air Force Eastern Test Range emblem was a shield bordered in gold and divided into ultramarine blue and gold quadrants. Blue was used to symbolize the sky and space, and gold was used to symbolize the excellence required to conduct successful range operations

A study by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in October, 1946, had actually picked El Centro, California, as the location of a new Joint Long Range Proving Ground, but the Government of Mexico refused to allow missile flights over Baja California. The second choice was the Cape Canaveral location, with tracking stations linked down the islands of the Atlantic Ocean. President Truman signed the legislation establishing the Joint Long Range Proving Ground on May 11, 1949, and the Bahamian Agreement was signed with the British government on July 21, 1950, paving the way for the down range tracking stations. After a series of political reassignments and organizational changes, the Air Force took command of the facilities renamed to the Long Range Proving Ground, headquartered at the former Banana River Naval Air Station on May 1, 1950. On August 1st, the Long Range Proving Ground (Division) was redesignated as Patrick Air Force Base, and in May of the following year, placed under the jurisdiction of the Air Research and Development Command. The official name of Air Force Missile Test Center was bestowed on May 14, 1951, with the Cape Canaveral facility officially known as the Cape Canaveral Auxiliary Air Force Base. The Matador was to be the first missile launched from the new Missile Test Center on June 20, 1951. While the original launch locations are undocumented, there had been four launch complexes constructed by 1954 to support the Matador, the Snark, the Bomarc, and the, Army Redstone missile programs.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

AFHRA