

447 MISSILE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

447 Bombardment Squadron (Medium) constituted, 19 Jun 1942
Activated, 26 Jun 1942
Redesignated 447 Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 6 Mar 1944
Inactivated, 12 Sep 1945
Redesignated 447 Bombardment Squadron, Light, 26 May 1947
Activated in the Reserve, 22 Jun 1947
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949
Redesignated 447 Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 25 Nov 1953
Activated, 15 Dec 1953
Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Oct 1961
Redesignated 447 Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Minuteman) and activated, 19 Oct 1964
Organized, 1 Feb 1965
Redesignated 447 Missile Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

STATIONS

Barksdale Field, LA, 26 Jun 1942
Columbia AAB, SC, c. 1 Aug 1942
Walterboro, SC, 18 Sep 1942
DeRidder AAB, LA, 2 Dec 1942–21 Jan 1943
Oujda, French Morocco, 7 Mar 1943
Ain M'Lila, Algeria, 12 Mar 1943
Souk-el-Arba, Tunisia, 1 Jun 1943
Soliman, Tunisia, 8 Aug 1943

Grottaglie, Italy, 3 Oct 1943
Amendola, Italy, 25 Nov 1943
Vincenzo Airfield, Italy, 14 Jan 1944
Gaudio, Italy, 18 Feb 1944
Solenzara, Corsica, 3 May 1944
Falconara, Italy, c. 9 May 1945
Pomigliano, Italy, c. Aug–12 Sep 1945
Luken Aprt, OH, 22 Jun 1947–27 Jun 1949
Pinecastle (later, McCoy) AFB, FL, 15 Dec 1953–25 Oct 1961
Grand Forks AFB, ND, 1 Feb 1965

DEPLOYED STATIONS

RAF Lakenheath, England, 9 Dec 1954–5 Mar 1955
Sidi Slimane AB, Morocco, 9 Apr–3 Jul 1956

ASSIGNMENTS

321 Bombardment Group, 26 Jun 1942–12 Sep 1945
Eleventh Air Force, 22 Jun 1947
321 Bombardment Group, 29 Jun 1947–27 Jun 1949
321 Bombardment Wing, 15 Dec 1953–25 Oct 1961
Strategic Air Command, 19 Oct 1964
321 Strategic Missile Wing, 1 Feb 1965
321 Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991
321 Missile Group, 1 Jul 1994

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-25, 1942–1945
AT-6
AT-11, 1947–1949
B-47, 1953–1961
Minuteman II, 1965–1971
Minuteman III, 1971

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Tunisia
Sicily
Naples-Foggia
Anzio

Rome-Arno
Southern France
North Apennines
Central Europe
Po Valley
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

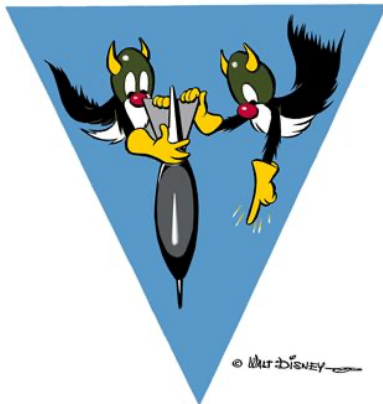
Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Athens, Greece, 8 Oct 1943
Toulon, France, 18 Aug 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1968–30 Jun 1969
1 Jul 1985–30 Jun 1987

EMBLEM



Celeste, a cloud Argent surmounted by a Wyvern Gules, its tail encoiled around a bomb descending bendwise sinister Silver Gray; all within a diminished bordure of the third.



447 Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Minuteman) emblem: On a blue disc within a narrow gold border in chief two gold roundels charged respectively with a white Greek temple surmounted by a bar bearing a canton of the Greek flag, light blue and white, and a white fleur-de-lis surmounted by a bar bearing the French tricolor, blue, white and red and between in either flank a gold star of five points and a gold star of four points, both shaded brown, a light blue escutcheon bordered white bearing over a white cloud formation a red chimerical flying reptile entwined around a white weapon with red marking. Emblem between two blue scrolls edged gold. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. Against the blue field which alludes to the sky, ... the two roundels denote the unit's World War II DUCs, one received for operations over Athens, Greece, indicated by the Greek temple bearing a canton of the flag of Greece, and the other for assisting in the Allied invasion of southern France, indicated by the fleur-de-lis surmounted by a bar bearing the colors from the flag of France. The stars symbolize the squadron's World War II Campaign Participation Credits. The escutcheon with its field of sky denotes the unit's assignment to the Strategic Air Command. The flying red reptile, half bird to represent swift flight and half reptile to represent accurate striking power, entwined around a bomb, symbol for aerial weapons, signifies the squadron's aggressive, driving desire to ascend above all others in accomplishing any assigned 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. 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.

(Approved, 25 Nov 1966)



447 Missile Squadron emblem: On an ultramarine blue disc, over a white cloud formation, a chimerical flying reptile red, his body entwined around a silver-gray bomb with black tail fin. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Against a blue field which alludes to the sky, a flying red chimerical, half bird to represent swift flight and half reptile to represents accurate striking power, entwined around a bomb, symbol for aerial weapons, signifies the squadron's aggressive driving desire to ascend above all others in accomplishing any assigned mission. (Approved, 17 Oct 1994)

MOTTO

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OPERATIONS

Combat in MTO, 16 Mar 1943–25 Apr 1945. Not operational, 1 Feb–Dec 1965. Missile operations, Jan 1966.

Headquarters SAC declared the first Minuteman II ICBM squadron, the 447 Strategic Missile Squadron at Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota, to be operational. 25 APR 1966

The 447 SMS, Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota, became the first Minuteman II squadron to attain full alert status. 7 MAY 1966

9 October 1957 Boeing DB-47B-35-BW Stratojet, 51-2177A, of the 447 Bomb Squadron, 321st Bomb Wing, taking part in a practice demonstration at Pinecastle Air Force Base suffers wing-failure during the annual Strategic Air Command Bombing Navigation and Reconnaissance Competition. The aircraft comes down north of downtown Orlando, killing pilot Colonel Michael N. W. McCoy, commander of the 321st Bombardment Wing, Group Captain John Woodroffe of the Royal Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Joyce, and Major Vernon Stuff. Pinecastle AFB is re-named McCoy Air Force Base in McCoy's honor on 7 May 1958. Details of the accident remained classified for five decades, presumably because they would reveal flaws in the aircraft, but an FOIA request resulted in the release that showed that the investigation laid the blame on pilot McCoy.

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.