

510 STRATEGIC MISSILE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

510 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 25 Sep 1942

Activated, 1 Oct 1942

Inactivated, 28 Aug 1945

Redesignated 510 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 25 Aug 1947

Activated in the reserve, 15 Sep 1947

Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

Redesignated 510 Strategic Missile Squadron, and activated, 15 Nov 1962

Organized, 1 Jul 1963

Redesignated 510 Missile Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

Inactivated, 15 Nov 1993

STATIONS

Salt Lake City AAB, UT, 1 Oct 1942

Gowen Field, ID

Geiger Field, WA, Nov 1942

Biggs Field, TX, 2 Jan 1943

Pueblo AAB, CO, 2 Mar-12 Apr 1943

Polebrook, England, 12 May 1943-9 Jun 1945

Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, Jul-28 Aug 194

Wold-Chamberlain Field, MN, 15 Sep 1947-27 Jun 1949

Whiteman AFB, MO, 1 Jul 1963

ASSIGNMENTS

351 Bombardment Group, 1 Oct 1942-28 Aug 1945
351 Bombardment Group, 15 Sep 1947
381 Bombardment Group, 3 May 1948-27 Jun 1949
Strategic Air Command, 15 Nov 1962
351 Strategic Missile Wing, 1 Jul 1963
351 Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991-15 Nov 1993

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17, 1942-1945
B-29, 1947-1949
LGM-30B Minuteman I, 1963-1967
LGM-30F Minuteman II, 1966-1995

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Walter E. Eisenbrown, 1 Jul 1963
Lt Col William H. Seigle, 1 Oct 1963
Col Walter F. Duch, 8 Jun 1964
Lt Col Richard B. Cheatham, 1 Oct 1966
Lt Col Robert E. Marsh, 1 Oct 1968
Lt Col Delmar A. Worms, 5 Sep 1969
Lt Col William O. Wissman, 15 Apr 1971
Lt Col Lawrence Hasbrouck, 10 Jul 1972
Lt Col David W. Thompson, 15 May 1973
Col Wayne Hughes, 2 Dec 1973
Col Lawrence Hasbrouck, 1 Apr 1974
Lt Col Donald K. Wolf, 21 Jan 1975
Lt Col Alfred A. Breaud, Jr., 12 Jul 1976
Lt Col Robert E. Ceruti, 10 Jul 1978
Lt Col Gary L. Neighbors, 10 Aug 1979
Lt Col Michael Denington, 15 Jul 1980
Lt Col Royce M. Kjosa, 5 Nov 1981
Lt Col Forrest A. Burkard, Jun 1984
Lt Col Joseph E. Sutler, Aug 1985
Lt Col Robert E. Largent, 25 Aug 1986
Lt Col Nicholas Motowylak, Jr., 23 Jul 1988
Lt Col Thomas Gioconda, 28 Aug 1989

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France

Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Germany, 9 Oct 1943 Germany, 11 Jan 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1965-30 Jun 1966
1 Jul 1967-30 Jun 1968
1 Jul 1969-30 Jun 1971
1 Jul 1977-30 Jun 1979
1 Jul 1980-30 Jun 1982
1 Jul 1984-30 Jun 1986
1 Jul 1991-30 Jun 1993

EMBLEM



510 Bombardment Group emblem: On an ultramarine blue disc, border ultramarine blue, piped black, three yellow aerial bombs, one to dexter, one to sinister, pointing to center base point, larger one in center in pale, surmounted by the head and face of a grinning red devil affronte, trimmed black and yellow. (Approved 9 Dec 1943)

510 Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Minuteman) A blue disc edged with a narrow black border on which is a green demi-globe issuing from sinister base with axis bend wise gridlined black below an arced pattern of five white five-pointed stars and a yellow atomic symbol, above the globe a stylized white missile ascending bend sinister, wise emitting three red lightning flashes surmounting the upper portion of the globe. Attached below the disc a blank yellow scroll edged

black. Significance: The missile represents the unit's function, and the atomic symbol its nuclear technology. The three lightning bolts symbolize the missile's speed, power, and strike capability, and the grid and sky are emblematic of the unit's global capability. The five stars represent the unit's World War II participation in five campaigns. Approved: 20 April 1976.

The 510 was unique in that it was the only Minuteman squadron to equip some of its missiles with radio transmitters rather than nuclear warheads. These were intended as a backup system to broadcast the "go-code" to strategic forces in the event of war. The system was called the Emergency Rocket Communications System (ERCS) and, in spite of the stated significance of the lightning flashes, their orientation on the emblem reveals that they actually represent the ERCS radio transmission from the missile. Since not all missiles in the squadron were so-equipped, the atomic symbol was also appropriate to represent the other missiles with nuclear payloads. The Minuteman ERCS mission commenced in October 1967 and was terminated on 1 October 1991, two years before the squadron was inactivated.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Combat in European Theater of Operations (ETO), 14 May 1943-20 Apr 1945.

The 510 SMS is the only squadron in the Air Force operating the Emergency Rocket Communications System (ERCS). ERCS is a missile-based method for ensuring communication among all SAC's forces in a wartime environment. ERCS, which is in addition to the squadron's traditional nuclear capabilities, was added to the squadron's responsibilities on Aug. 29, 1967. ERCS crew members are expected to maintain proficiency in both traditional Emergency War Order and weapon-system operating practices and in ERCS procedures—a dual responsibility that makes 510 SMS personnel the only line crew members qualified to pull alerts anywhere in the wing.

ERCS is not the squadron's only unique feature. Oscar-01, the 510 SMS Command Post, is the only operational launch control facility actually on an Air Force base. With that unique location come thousands of visitors each year—among them top-ranking government officials, celebrities, and the first Soviet military delegation ever to visit Whiteman.

510 SMS became fully operational on June 30, 1964.

USAF Unit Histories

Created: 3 Jan 2022

Updated:

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 History. *351 Strategic Missile Wing, Whiteman AFB, MO. 1964-1989, 25 Years of Deterrence.*