846 TEST SQUADRON

MISSION
The 846 Test Squadron operates the world's premier test facility for rocket sled testing of weapons systems. Provides unique test environments, such as extremely high accelerations and hypersonic velocities. Test items include theater missile defense interceptors, aircraft egress systems, and missile guidance systems. Conducts test planning, execution, and systems performance analysis for program offices.

LINEAGE
846 Test Squadron constituted, 16 Sep 1994
Activated on 1 Oct 1994

STATIONS
Holloman AFB, NM, 1 Oct 1994

ASSIGNMENTS
46 Test Group, 1 Oct 1994

COMMANDERS

HONORS
Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations
Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Oct-31 Dec 1994
1 Jan-31 Dec 1995
1 Jan-31 Dec 1997
1 Jan 2000-31 Dec 2002
1 Jan-31 Dec 2003
1 Jan-31 Dec 2004
1 Jan-31 Dec 2005
1 Jan-31 Dec 2006

EMBLEM
On a disc Or, in dexter chief a Zia symbol Gules, enfiled by a rail in train-aspect issuant from dexter chief bendwise steeled and rebated Argent (Silver Gray) supporting a rocket test sled, nose to sinister base Azure exhausting Proper (Tenne detailed of the Second), all within a diminished bordure for the Fourth. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "846TH TEST SQUADRON" in Blue letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "ON TRACK FOR TOMORROW" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** 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 rocket and rail represents the realistic flight environments in which the weapons systems are evaluated. The Zia sun symbol alludes to the four seasons in which the tests are performed and the four services—Air Force, Navy, Army and Marine Corps—that utilize the facilities. (Approved, 5 Sep 2000)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS
Members of the 846th Test Squadron at Holloman AFB, N.M., conducted a test of a Kinetic Energy Projectile warhead at the base's high-speed test track, according to a Pentagon release. The Oct. 23 test supported the Pentagon's efforts to develop a conventional precision global strike weapon. During the test, the sled accelerated the warhead to speeds of more than three times the speed of sound, states the Oct. 25 release. The test "demonstrated that the warhead functions in a flight-representative environment," said Susan Hurd, special assistant to the Pentagon's director of strategic warfare. The test also collected data to "update and verify our computer modeling and simulation codes that enable us to predict warhead performance," she said. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory designed and developed the warhead. The CPGS concept calls for a weapon capable of flying at hypersonic speeds to strike targets quickly and precisely in difficult-to-reach places around the globe. 2013

Breaking world speed records is becoming a habit for the 846th Test Squadron at Holloman AFB,

N.M. On March 4, the squadron's magnetically levitated sled rocketed down the track at 633 miles per hour, breaking the 513-mile-per-hour Maglev record the team set two days before, according to an April 14 Holloman release. The sled hit 510 miles per hour on the 2,100-foot-long track in 2013. Magnets cooled four degrees Kelvin above absolute zero, or "four degrees above the coldest an object can possibly get" gave the 2,000-pound sled a smooth ride despite the high speeds, according to the release. The set-up allows for testing of weapon components with little vibration. The 846th plans to lighten the sled for future tests to see what new speeds it can hit, Lt. Col. Shawn Morgenstern, the squadron's commander, said in the release. 2016

USAF UNIT HISTORIES
Created: 29 Jul 2020
Updated: 8 Dec 2022

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.