

# **898 MUNITIONS SQUADRON**

## **MISSION LINEAGE**

3098 Aviation Depot Squadron designated and activated, 1 Jul 1971

Redesignated 898 Aviation Depot Squadron, 1 Oct 1992

Redesignated 898 Munitions Squadron, 1 Apr 1994

## **STATIONS**

Kirtland AFB, NM, 1 Jul 1971

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

San Antonio Air Materiel Area (later, San Antonio Air Logistics Center), 1 Jul 1971

377 Logistics (later, 377 Maintenance) Group, 31 Aug 1994

498 Munitions Maintenance Group, 31 Mar 2006

## **COMMANDERS**

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Feb 1980-31 Jan 1981

1 Oct 1982-31 Dec 1983

1 Jan 1984-31 Dec 1985

1 Jan-31 Dec 1986

1 Apr 2004-31 Mar 2006

**EMBLEM**

Approved, 7 Jul 1981

**MOTTO****NICKNAME****OPERATIONS**

Since the early 1950's, San Antonio Air Materiel Area's Directorate of Special Weapons managed and repaired the Air Force's nuclear ordnance commodity items; but prior to 1962, the 3079th Aviation Depot Wing at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio controlled the weapons located at the two aviation depot squadrons (AVDS), the 3096th AVDS at Travis AFB in California and the 3097th AVDS at Westover AFB in Massachusetts. Personnel at these two sites maintained and stored the weapons. On April 18, 1962, as part of an effort to reduce personnel at the headquarters level, AFLC announced the inactivation of the 3097th; Kelly's Directorate of Special Weapons would pick up its responsibilities on July 1. On that date, SAAMA activated the 39th Logistics Support Group, assigning to it the two logistics support squadrons which provided airlift support (the 7th at Robins AFB, Georgia, and the 19th at Kelly) and the two aviation depot squadrons. The 39th was short-lived, however; on July 1, 1963, SAAMA deactivated the group; the 7th and 19th Logistics Support Squadrons were reassigned to the Military Airlift Transportation Service, and the aviation depot squadrons were assigned directly under the Special Weapons Directorate.

The aviation depot squadrons' work load increased during the 1970s. On February 15, 1970, the 3096th AVDS completed its move from Travis AFB, California, to Nellis AFB, Nevada. Located outside Las Vegas, Nellis had more space for expanded facilities and construction of a new air freight terminal needed by the 3096th. On July 1, 1971, AFLC activated a new AVDS, the 3098th, at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. This was part of an overall reorganization of nuclear responsibilities which came about as a result of the redesignation of the Defense Atomic Support Agency to the Defense Nuclear Agency. Two years later, on September 1, 1973, the 3097th AVDS completed its move from Westover to Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, with the phase down of Westover. The 3097th remained at Barksdale until October 1, 1988, when the unit was inactivated and its responsibilities assumed by the other two aviation depot squadrons.

As part of the Air Force's organizational moves to bolster oversight of its nuclear weapons, the service formally relocated on Oct. 25 the 498th Munitions Maintenance Group, along with its new subordinate unit, the 19th Munitions Squadron, from Kirtland AFB, N.M., to Whiteman AFB, Mo. "Our nuclear arsenal is the ultimate backstop of our nation's strategic defense and these units ensure Whiteman is prepared and ready for this responsibility," said Gen. William Fraser, Air Combat Command boss. With the change, the 498th MUMG still retains command of the 898th Munitions Squadron and 708th Nuclear Sustainment Squadron at Kirtland. And the group remains subordinate to the 498th Nuclear Systems Wing at Kirtland, which reports directly to the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, also at the New Mexico base, where it oversees the sustainment of Air Force nuclear weapons and support equipment in the continental US.

New Maintenance Group at Kirtland: Air Force officials will activate the 377th Maintenance Group during a ceremony Wednesday at Kirtland AFB, N.M. The new group will assume the roles and responsibilities of the 798th Munitions Maintenance Group at Minot AFB, N.D., and 498th MUMG at Whiteman AFB, Mo., both of which the Air Force inactivated on Dec. 1. This realignment is part of the Air Force's initiative to transfer the oversight of its munitions squadrons that support the service's nuclear mission from Air Force Materiel Command to Air Force Global Strike Command. "This is a significant milestone for the 377th that will continue to enhance the operations of the nuclear enterprise," said Col. Thomas Ventriglia, who will lead the group. Kirtland's 898th Munitions Squadron will realign under the 377th MXG. These changes are meant to ensure that the Air Force continues "doing things the best way possible for safe, secure, and effective operations," said Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz. 2011

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.