

## **4170 STRATEGIC WING**



### **MISSION**

### **LINEAGE**

4170 Strategic Wing organized, 1 Jul 1959

### **STATIONS**

Larson AFB, WA

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-52, 1960-1963

### **COMMANDERS**

Col Everett W. Best, 1960

Col David A. Tate, 20 Nov 1961

Col Alex W. Talmant, 1965

### **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

Light blue, in dexter chief a lightning bolt gules and an olive branch argent saltirewise, overall an air foil bendwise of the third and or, in dexter base a sphere azure with land masses of the third, in sinister chief seven mullets of the fifth highlighted of the third and all within a diminished border of the last. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the Wing and its mission. Against a background of light blue to represent the sky, the primary theater of operations, an air foil between the world and the universe (stars) indicates the aerospace operation of the Strategic Air Command and symbolizes its goal. The globe indicates the Wing's worldwide mission and the deterrent forces of SAC. The lightning bolt and olive branch at the nose of the air foil represent peace through power. The emblem displays the Air Force colors, ultramarine blue and golden yellow and the national colors, red, white, and blue. (Approved, 6 Dec 1960)

## **MOTTO**

### **OPERATIONS**

1 January 1960, the Strategic Air Command assumed control of Larson and established the 4170th Strategic Wing as a part of Fifteenth Air Force. Larson became a functional base of the Strategic Air Command on 13 July 1960 upon assignment of the 327th Bombardment Squadron's crews and aircraft from Fairchild AFB to the 4170th Strategic Wing. Crews and aircraft of the 327th Bombardment Squadron arrived from Fairchild AFB on 13 July 1960

On 1 February 1963 the 327th Bombardment Squadron was redesignated the 768th Bombardment Squadron and the 4170th Strategic Wing was redesignated the 462d Strategic Aerospace Wing.

Crews and aircraft of the 327th Bombardment Squadron arrived from Fairchild AFB, Washington on 13 July 1960. The first B-52D to arrive was christened "Larson's Lucky Lady". The 43rd Air Refueling Squadron and its KC-135's moved from Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona to Larson AFB on 15 November 1960, thus completing one of the most advanced air weapon systems in the Strategic Air Command.

Construction work on Larson's Titan I missile facilities was completed on 16 March 1962 when the Army Corps of Engineers turned the complexes over to the Site Activation Task Force. Larson's Titan I missiles arrived from Denver, Colorado on 23 Jan 1962. On 16 July 1962 the first complex was declared operational.

On 1 February 1963 the 4170th Strategic Wing was re-designated the 462d Strategic Aerospace Wing in honor of the 462d Bomb Group of World War II. The 327th Bomb Squadron was redesignated the 768th Bomb Squadron after on of the 462d units.

The 568th Strategic Missile Squadron was officially activated on 1 April 1961 as a 4170th Strategic Wing unit. There were three missile complexes consisting of three Titan I's each. The complexes, one located at Royal City, Washington, one at Warden, Washington and another at

Odessa, Washington, were deactivated officially on 25 March 1965. The missiles were moved and shipped to Norton AFB, California for disposition. Most of the aerospace ground equipment including the diesel generators used for power underground during the operational period of the complexes has been removed. The missile sites have been turned over to the General Services Administration for disposal on the open market.

The Wing, since the Strategic Air Command assumed control of Larson, has had four commanders. Headquarters, 4170th Strategic Wing was organized and established at Larson AFB on 1 July 1959 under the command of Lt Colonel Robert R. Johnston. Assisted by one master sergeant, the colonel's job was to pave the way for SAC's assumption of command of the base on 1 January 1960. The 4170th Wing was activated on 1 January 1960, with maintenance, support and medical units. Also on this date command of Larson was taken from Military Air Transport Service's 62d Troop Carrier Wing. The 4170th Strategic Wing was a heavy bombardment organization to be equipped with B-52 bombers, KC-135 jet tankers and the Titan I Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles at a later date. On 8 April 1960, Colonel Everett W. Best assumed command of the Wing. Under the command of Colonel Best, the 4170th SW became a functional unit of the Strategic Air Command on 13 July 1960 upon assignment of the 327th Bombardment Squadron's crews and aircraft. The 43rd Air Refueling Squadron was assigned to the 4170th on 15 November 1960. The first crews of the 43rd arrived on 19 March 1961 from Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, and the first of the KC-135's arrived on 24 March 1961. The 568th Strategic Missile Squadron was also activated while Larson AFB was under the command of Colonel Best.

Colonel David A. Tate assumed command of the 4170th Strategic Wing in November 1961 and, on 1 February 1963, when the wing was redesignated the 462d Strategic Aerospace Wing, Colonel Tate became the commander of the newly designated unit. The redesignation of the wing was part of the Air Force's program to honor former units with outstanding combat records.

Colonel Alex W. Talmant assumed command of the 462d Strategic Aerospace Wing upon the retirement of Colonel Tate on 31 July 1965. Under his command Larson AFB is scheduled to be inactivated on 30 June 1966.

1960 First B-52's arrive (for 327th Bombardment Squadron)

1961 First KC-135's arrive

4170TH SW Activated at Larson AFB, Washington, in 1958-59. Inactivated on 1/2/63 when aircraft and personnel resources passed to the 462 SAW at the same base

Larson Afb Became The First Base In The Pacific Northwest To Receive The Kaman H-43b Jet Helicopter When Two Of The Aircraft Were Assigned To Base Flight (Helicopters Will Greatly Increase Larson's Search And Rescue Capability).

B-52 Aircraft Assigned To 4170 Strategic Wing And Kc-135 Aircraft Assigned To 22 Arefs Collided While Attempting Air Refueling Operation. 1960

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USAF Unit Histories  
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Sources  
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.