

## 4925 TEST GROUP (ATOMIC)



### MISSION

The Group's mission was to support the development of atomic weapons through live drops, weapon aerodynamics and ballistics tests, delivery methods, and weapon/aircraft interface development.

### LINEAGE

4925 Test Group (Atomic)

### STATIONS

Kirtland AFB, NM

### ASSIGNMENTS

### COMMANDERS

### HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

### EMBLEM



## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Air Force Special Weapons Command activated at Kirtland Air Force Base along with subordinate 4901st Support Wing (Atomic), 4925th Test Group (Atomic), and 4910th Air Base Group which served as base host group. 1 Dec 1949. 4925th Test Group (Atomic), assigned Boeing B-50 and Convair B-36 strategic bomber aircraft.

4925th EB-50Ds dropped more live atomic weapons than any other platform during US atmospheric testing. Live drops occurred in OPERATIONS RANGER (five Mk IVs and one Mk 6), BUSTER-JANGLE (three Mk IVs), TUMBLER (three Mk IVs) and UPHOT-KNOTHOLE (one Mk 5 and one Mk 6). All live drops were made at the Nevada Test Site from aircraft based at and launched from Kirtland AFB.

The Group's first jet-powered bomber, a North American B-45, arrived during mid-1950, and was followed by Boeing B-47 bombers.

The first four B-45Cs were billeted with the 4925th Test Group (Atomic) of the Air Force Special Weapons Center at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, where they participated in classified operations. The first series of tests were designated Operation "Buster/Jangle" whereby number 48-001 (call sign "Rosebud") dropped an experimental TX-7 warhead nicknamed Thor. Previously, a series of six inert drops were conducted on the Salton Sea Range, California, with circular errors averaging 285 feet from the target.

4925th Test Group (Atomic) disbanded and mission absorbed by Test Directorate to eliminate administrative overhead and create a status comparable to other research and development directorates. 1 Apr 1961

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USAF Unit Histories  
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
*Kirtland AFB, NM, 1956.* Army and Navy Publishing Co Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1956