

# STRATEGIC MISSILE CENTER



## LINEAGE

1<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Division established, 30 Aug 1943  
Activated, 13 Sep 1943  
Redesignated 1<sup>st</sup> Air Division, 19 Dec 1944  
Inactivated, 31 Oct 1945  
Activated, 7 Jun 1946  
Inactivated, 1 Dec 1948  
Activated, 1 Jul 1954  
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1955  
Redesignated 1<sup>st</sup> Air Division (Meteorological Survey), 12 Apr 1955  
Activated, 15 Apr 1955  
Inactivated, 20 May 1956  
Redesignated 1<sup>st</sup> Missile Division, 18 Mar 1957  
Activated, 15 Apr 1957  
Redesignated 1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Aerospace Division, 21 Jul 1961  
Redesignated Strategic Missile Center, 31 Jul 1990  
Inactivated, 1 Sep 1991

## STATIONS

Brampton Grange, England, 13 Sep 1943  
Alconbury, England, 16 Sep-31 Oct 1945  
Kadena (later, Kadena Army Air Base; Kadena Air Force Base), Okinawa, 7 Jun 1946-1 Dec 1948  
Westover AFB, MA, 1 Jul 1954-1 Apr 1955  
Offutt AFB, NE, 15 Apr 1955-20 May 1956  
Inglewood, CA, 15 Apr 1957  
Cooke (later, Vandenberg) AFB, CA, 16 Jul 1957-1 Sep 1991

## ASSIGNMENTS

VIII Bomber Command (later, Eighth Air Force), 13 Sep 1943  
VIII Fighter Command, 16 Jul-31 Oct 1945  
Pacific Air Command, U.S. Army (later, Far East Air Forces), 7 Jun 1946-1 Dec 1948  
Eighth Air Force, 1 Jul 1954-1 Apr 1955  
Strategic Air Command, 15 Apr 1955-20 May 1956  
Air Research and Development Command, 15 Apr 1957  
Strategic Air Command, 1 Jan 1958

Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Sep 1988-1 Sep 1991

**COMMANDERS**

BG Robert B. Williams, 13 Sep 1943  
BG Robert F. Travis, 18 Dec 1943  
MG Robert B. Williams, 1 Jan 1944  
MG Howard M. Turner, 22 Oct 1944  
BG Bartlett Beaman, 9 Mar 1945 (temporary)  
MG Howard M. Turner, c. 1 Apr 1945  
BG Bartlett Beaman, 8 Jun 1945  
MG Howard M. Turner, 3 Jul 1945  
BG Bartlett Beaman, 26 Sep-31 Oct 1945  
BG Patrick W. Timberlake, 7 Jun 1946  
MG Albert F. Hegenberger, 20 Sep 1946  
MG Charles T. Myers, 6 Dec 1947-1 Dec 1948  
None (not manned), 1 Jul 1954-2 Jan 1955  
LTC Robert G. Bradley, 3 Jan-1 Apr 1955  
BG William P. Fisher, 15 Apr 1955-20 May 1956  
Col William A. Sheppard, 15 Apr 1957  
MG David Wade, 1 Jan 1958  
MG Joseph J. Preston, 1 Jul 1961  
BG Richard O. Hunziker, 22 Jul 1963  
MG Selmon W. Wells, 29 Jul 1963  
BG William S. Rader, 27 Sep 1965  
MG Harold E. Humfeld, 27 Nov 1965  
BG William S. Rader, 23 Jan 1967  
MG William B. Martensen, 27 Jun 1967  
Col George Pfeiffer Jr., 24 Jun 1968  
MG Paul K. Carlton, 19 Aug 1968  
Col George Pfeiffer Jr., 10 Mar 1969  
MG Gerald W. Johnson, 1 Apr 1969  
MG William C. Garland, 28 Jul 1969  
MG Salvador E. Felices, 31 Jul 1972  
MG Leo C. Lewis, 14 Jun 1973 (temporary)  
MG Salvador E. Felices, 13 Aug 1973  
Col Miles C. Wiley Jr., 25 Aug 1973  
MG John W. Pauly, 3 Sep 1973  
Col Miles C. Wiley Jr., 18 Jun 1974  
MG William M. Schoning, 13 Jul 1974  
Col Charles E. McCartney Jr., 12 Jul 1975  
BG Stuart H. Sherman Jr., 27 Jul 1975  
MG David L. Gray, 21 Nov 1977  
MG Edwin A. Coy, 26 Oct 1978  
MG Jack L. Watkins, 25 Nov 1980  
MG Donald O. Aldridge, 1 Oct 1986  
MG Arlen D. Jameson, 31 Aug 1988

BG Thomas E. Kuenning, 15 Jan-1 Sep 1991

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War II European African Middle Eastern Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

None

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC): Germany, 11 Jan 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1970-30 Jun 1971

1 Jul 1974-30 Jun 1976

1 Jul 1977-30 Jun 1979

1 Jul 1982-30 Jun 1983

1 Jul 1984-30 Jun 1986

1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1988

## **EMBLEM**

Per fess nebuly abased azure and or fimbriated argent, issuant from base a demi sphere with grid lines and land masses of the third, the latter outlined of the first and water areas proper, heightened and encircled by two olive branches vert nerved of the second; surmounting the sphere in pale, a lightning flash gules terminating in chief accosted by two smaller flashes of the like in base radiant from the sphere; in dexter chief a descending nose cone in band proper, with seven streaks of the third; in sinister chief four mullets of the like, all within a diminished border of the last. (Approved, 17 Aug 1959)

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

The division directed and supervised heavy bombardment (1943-1945) and fighter (1944-1945) operations during World War II in the European Theater. Replacing the Eighth Air Force in Okinawa in June 1946, the division directed fighter reconnaissance, and bomber organizations and provided air defense for the Ryukyu Islands until December 1948. From 1954 to 1955, the division served as a holding unit at Westover AFB, Massachusetts, for personnel of Eighth Air Force, who moved to the base as part of a transfer of Eighth's headquarters from Carswell AFB, Texas. Activated again under the Air Research and Development Command in April 1957, it was the first division level organization controlling intermediate range and intercontinental ballistic missiles. It became an operational component of Strategic Air Command (SAC) in January 1958 and began operational testing of missile systems, supporting missile launchings by SAC and

other agencies, and training SAC missilemen.

The 1st Strategic Aerospace Division (1 STRAD) was organized on 30 August 1943 and activated on 13 September 1943 as the 1st Bombardment Division at Brampton Grange, England. Within 48 hours of its activation, the division's BIT bombers were bombing enemy installations in France. Division bombers were also the leading elements in attacks on the ballbearing factories at Schweinfurt, Germany. On 1 January 1945, the unit was redesignated the 1st Air Division, but was inactivated on 31 October 1945. During its 20 months of combat, the division earned the Presidential Unit Citation, six battle honor awards, and eight unit members were awarded the Medal of Honor. After the war, the 1st Air Division was revived twice as a B-29 command: first in Okinawa as a mobile combat strike force from 7 June 1946 until 1 December 1948; and later as a meteorological survey command assigned to SAC from 1 July 1954 until 20 May 1956. On 15 April 1957, the division was redesignated the 1st Missile Division under the Air Research and Development Command (ARDC) and activated on 15 April 1957 at Inglewood, California. The division moved to Cooke Air Force Base (later renamed Vandenberg AFB) on 16 July 1957. Six months later, both the base and division were transferred from ARDC to SAC in preparation for adding ballistic missiles to SAC's operational inventory. The first missile launch from Vandenberg AFB occurred on 16 December 1958, when a crew from the division's 392d Missile Training Squadron fired a Thor intermediate range ballistic missile 1500 miles into the Pacific Ocean. In September 1959, the division's 576th Strategic Missile Squadron launched Vandenberg's first ICBM, an Atlas D. The nation's first ICBM, an Atlas D, achieved alert status on 31 October 1959 at the division's Vandenberg launch emplacement 576A-1. Initially designated as the overall command for the ballistic force, the division lost its operational missile units to the numbered air forces by 1960, restricting its main mission to Vandenberg activities. On 21 July 1961, the division was redesignated the 1st Strategic Aerospace Division, a title more appropriate to its current mission: conducting and controlling test launches, training missile combat crews for the alert force, and supporting the diversified launch programs conducted by a variety of agencies. The division expanded its missile alert contribution during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 by activating all of the Vandenberg missile launch facilities with armed ICBM weapons to supplement the normal SAC alert deterrent force. Although these early alert activities ceased in 1965, the division's Titan II ICBM facilities were later incorporated into the alert force in 1967, but ceased operations two years later. No missiles are on alert at Vandenberg AFB today, but the 1 STRAD continues as an essential element of SAC's alert posture by training the combat crews who maintain the deterrent alert 24 hours a day were trained by the division's 4315th Combat Crew Training Squadron (CCTS). The division was reassigned from Headquarters SAC to 15th AF on 1 September 1988. Currently, the 1 STRAD has four subordinate units directly assigned: 4392d Aerospace Support Wing, the 394th ICBM Test Maintenance Squadron, 4315th CCTS (missile), and the 1st Strategic Hospital. As host command at Vandenberg AFB, the 1st Strategic Aerospace Division provides base support for approximately 40 government and over 65 commercial agencies located on base to include some of the best known aerospace contractors.



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Air Force Order of Battle

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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.