

308 ARMAMENT SYSTEMS WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

308 Bombardment Wing, Medium established, 4 Oct 1951

Activated, 10 Oct 1951

Inactivated 25 Jun 1961

Redesignated 308 Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM-Titan) and activated, 29 Nov 1961

Organized, 1 Apr 1962

Inactivated, 18 Aug 1987

Air to Ground Munitions Systems Wing established, 23 Nov 2004

Activated, 27 Jan 2005

308 Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM-Titan) consolidated with Air to Ground Munitions Systems Wing, 3 May 2006

Redesignated 308 Armament Systems Wing, 15 May 2006

STATIONS

Forbes AFB, KS, 10 Oct 1951

Hunter AFB, GA, 17 Apr 1952

Plattsburgh AFB, NY, 15 Jul 1959-25 Jun 1961

Little Rock AFB, AR, 1 Apr 1962-18 Aug 1987

Eglin AFB, FL, 27 Jan 2005

ASSIGNMENTS

38 Air Division, 10 Oct 1951

820 Air Division, 15 Jul 1959-25 Jun 1961
Strategic Air Command, 29 Nov 1961
825 Air (later, 825 Strategic Aerospace) Division, 1 Apr 1962
42 Air Division, 1 Jan 1970
17 Strategic Aerospace Division, 31 Mar 1970
12 Strategic Missile (later, 12th Air) Division, 30 Jun 1971
42 Air Division, 1 Apr 1973
19 Air Division, 1 Dec 1982-18 Aug 1987
Air Armament Center, 27 Jan 2005

ATTACHMENTS

21 Air Division, 10 Oct 1951-17 Apr 1952
5 Air Division, 21 Aug-26 Oct 1956

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-29, 1951-1952, 1952-1953
B-47, 1953-1954; 1954-1959
KC-97, 1953-1959
Titan II, 1963-1987

COMMANDERS

None (not manned), 10 Oct-4 Nov 1951
Col George L. Newton Jr., 5 Nov 1951
Col Charles B. Dougher, 5 Feb 1952
Col George L. Newton Jr., 15 Mar 1952
Col Maurice A. Preston, 7 May 1952
Lt Col Perry P. Menzies, 20 Feb 1953
Col Maurice A. Preston, 28 Mar 1953
Col John F. Batjer, 5 Aug 1953
Col James H. Thompson, 15 Aug 1953
Col John F. Batjer, 24 Aug 1953
Col James H. Thompson, 27 Aug 1953
Col Ralph C. Jenkins, 29 Sep 1953
Col James H. Thompson, 1 Oct 1953
Brig Gen Maurice A. Preston, 23 Oct 1953
Col John F. Batjer, 12 Jan 1954
Lt Col John O. Vick, 21 Sep 1954
Col John F. Batjer, 12 Nov 1954
Col Paul W. Tibbetts Jr., 9 Jun 1956
Col William L. Gray, 7 Jan 1958-14 Jul 1959
None (not manned), 15 Jul 1959-25 Jun 1961
None (not manned), 29 Nov 1961-31 Mar 1962
Col Charles P. Sullivan, 1 Apr 1962
Col Collier H. Davidson, 11 Jun 1962

Col Charles P. Sullivan, 1 Jul 1965
Col Edward A. Vivian, 28 Aug 1966
Col Don C. La Moine, 22 Aug 1969
Col William E. Bifford, 6 Jul 1971
Col Max M. Axelsen, 1 Sep 1972
Col Edward D. Bailey, 27 Apr 1973
Col William E. O'Neil, 15 Jul 1974
Col Joe P. Morgan, 17 Nov 1975
Col Gary E. Marsh, 17 Mar 1978
Col John T. Moser, 10 Jun 1980
Col Ronald J. Bishop Jr., 3 Dec 1980
Col Jack A. Leach, 14 Jul 1982
Col John E. Chambers, 3 Aug 1984
Col Albert R. Greene Jr., 9 Jun 1986-18 Aug 1987
Mr. Gerry L. Freisthler, 27 Jan 2005
Mr. Thomas J. Robillard, 4 May 2006

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Nov 1956-1 Apr 1957

1 Jul 1967-30 Jun 1968

1 Jul 1972-30 Jun 1974

1 Jul 1975-30 Jun 1977

1 Jul 1984-30 Jun 1985

1 Jul 1985-30 Jun 1987

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 308 Bombardment Group prior to 10 Oct 1951

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

China Defensive

China Offensive

India-Burma

Western Pacific

New Guinea

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

China, 21 Aug 1943

East and South China Seas, Straits of Formosa, and Gulf of Tonkin, 24 May 1944-28 Apr 1945

EMBLEM



308 Bombardment Wing, Medium

308 Bombardment Wing, Medium emblem designed by Nell Haile



308 Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM-Titan)

Light blue, a pale gules fimbriated argent between in fess abased a mullet of 12 points of the last bearing a hurt voided of the third and a cloud formation of the last emitting three lightning flashes to base or, on a chief per chevron inverted of the fourth, fimbriated of the third, two bombs or between 18 mullets fesswise four, six, four, two and two of the third, overall in pale a futuramic missile of the last finned of the fifth emitting a vapor trail to base of the fourth, all within a

diminished bordure of the fifth fimbriated of the fourth. Significance: Against a background of light and dark blue to represent day and night operations, a futuramic missile represents the wing's primary mission. The two golden yellow fins represent the wing's two strategic missile squadrons and the ultramarine blue tail represents the missile maintenance squadron. The red strip represents valor and the 18 stars indicate the number of missile complexes assigned to the wing upon activation. The two bombs (representing the unit's former mission), the star (symbolizing the 308th Bombardment Group, Heavy), and the cloud with three lightning bolts (representing the 308th Reconnaissance Group, Weather) have all been retained from the former unit emblem (used by the 308th Bombardment Wing, Medium) to indicate this unit's long history of service to the U.S. Air Force. (Approved, 28 Feb 1963)

308 Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM-Titan) emblem: The eighteen stars in the top field of blue represent the eighteen Titan II missiles of the 308th SMW. The two vertical bombs reference the WWII history of the wing. The multi-pointed star defining the atomic weaponry. Later versions of this patch were designed with seventeen stars, one missing in honor of the airman lost in the missile accident at Damascus, Arkansas 1980.

308 Armament Systems Wing emblem: Per chevron reversed Azure and Celeste, a chevronel reversed and diminished Argent, in chief three bombs points to base two and one Or, in base a pale of five Gules and of the third, surmounted by a stylized flight symbol bendwise of the fourth, emitting a contrail arching bendwise to sinister of the third, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "308TH ARMAMENT SYSTEMS WING" 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 three gravity free-fall bombs represent the unit's historical ties with the founding wing, the 308th Bombardment Wing, established on 4 October 1951. The flight symbol with contrail signifies the mission of the 308th Armament Wing to equip warfighters with strike weapons to fight and win decisively. (Approved, 22 Aug 2006)

MOTTO

NON SIBI SED ALIIS--Not for Self, But for Others

The 308 SMW adopted the motto of its predecessor, the 308th Bombardment Wing (Medium). It was first used by General James E. Oglethorpe, a general in King George III's army, and the founding father of the pre-Revolutionary War colony of Georgia. The motto, later adopted by the 308th Bombardment Wing, symbolized that unit's historical association with the state of Georgia (the wing was assigned to Hunter Air Force Base, Savannah, Georgia, from 1952 through 1959).

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Strategic bombardment, 1951-1959, and air refueling, 1953-1959, to meet SAC's global commitments.

1954 Redeployed To Hunter Air Force Base Ga From French Morocco During Month (2100 Personnel And 413,698 Pounds Of Cargo Airlifted From French Morocco By Fifty Five Materiel Air Transport Aircraft And Sixty Five 308 Bw Aircraft).

Deployed to bases in North Africa three times, twice in detachment form and once (Sidi Slimane AB, Morocco, 21 Aug-26 Oct 1956) as a unit. From Nov 1956 to Mar 1957, tested SAC alert plan by maintaining one-third of its bomber and tanker force in continuous alert.

Not operational, Jul 1959-Jun 1961.

Organized in Apr 1962 as a strategic missile wing. Gained control over first missile complex in Aug 1962 and became fully operational with 18 sites in Dec 1963.

From 1963-1987, maintained missiles on 24-hour alert, ready to launch within minutes after receipt of authenticated orders from National Command Authorities.

The 308th Strategic Missile Wing, composed of nearly 1000 personnel, will have three squadrons assigned, the 373rd and 374th Strategic Missile Squadrons and the 308th Missile Maintenance Squadron. The 373rd was activated at the same time the Wing was assigned to the base, and the remaining two will become active after all Titan II ICBM Complexes in Arkansas are completed.

Mission of the 308th will be to man and maintain the Titan Sites throughout Central Arkansas. After America's most powerful ICBM has joined the inventory at Little Rock AFB, the wing will assign five combat ready crews to each Titan II launcher on a rotation basis. Each crew will consist of a crew commander, missile officer and two airman technicians.

These four men will man the controls, as part of SAC's Global strike force. These crews will be assigned to one of the wing's Strategic Missile Squadrons. Personnel assigned to the Missile Maintenance Squadron will be charged with keeping the missiles combat ready and performing periodic maintenance checks at each site.

Each complex manned by the wing will have the general appearance of a gigantic metal igloo, a monstrous metal hopper and a tall concrete building all resting below the earth's surface. Inside will be the latest Titan missile, which will be ready for launch in " moment's notice.

The 308th SMW began deactivating its Titan missiles on April 24. The project took a total of 45 to 90 days per site. The first site to be deactivated was complex 347-8, three miles northwest of Quitman, Arkansas. Complex 374-8 was chosen because one of the propellants had already been removed as part of a regular maintenance routine. After the warhead was removed, the rest of the propellant was drained off and the airframe extracted. By May 31, the Titan II missile would be removed and prepared for shipment to Norton AFB, California. Later, the silo would be stripped of support gear and prepared for demolition.

The deactivation of aging Titan II silos in Arkansas continued through 1986. This activity fit in nicely with the Air Force's budget adjustments in the wake of the Gramm-Rudman Balanced Budget Act and ongoing disarmament talks between American and Soviet leaders. Titan II deployment had been costing the Air Force \$110 Million dollars a year, but would drop to zero by 1989. Another great advantage was that \$60 million worth of UDMH and nitrogen tetroxide and dozens of Titan II airframes were made available for the civilian space program. By March, 1986, 36 of the missiles had been deactivated from the Air Force's Titan II fields, including four in Arkansas (13 remained active as of March 21). Retraining teams were already visiting the 308th SMW's personnel, preparing the crew men and women to transfer expertise from Air Force Skill Code 411XXX (Titan II weapon systems) to 411XOA (Minuteman weapons systems).

Activated in 2004 to design, develop, field and maintain a family of air-to-ground munitions that enhanced warfighter strike capabilities.

USAF Unit Histories

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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.

Unit yearbook. *308 Strategic Missile Wing, End of an Era, 1962-1987*. Walsworth Publishing Co. Marceline, MO. 1987.

Unit history. Little Rock AFB, AR. *Heartland, The History of Little Rock AFB*. Timothy Burford and Stephanie Burford. WireStorm Publishing. Las Vegas, NV. 2002.