

395 TACTICAL MISSILE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

5 Reconnaissance Squadron (Medium) constituted, 22 Nov 1940
Activated, 1 Apr 1941
Redesignated 395 Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 22 Apr 1942
Redesignated 395 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 7 May 1942
Redesignated 395 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 20 Nov 1943
Disbanded, 20 Oct 1944

395 Missile Training Squadron (ICBM-Titan) constituted, 1 Feb 1959
395 Strategic Missile Squadron

395 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy reconstituted, 19 Sep 1985 and consolidated with the
395 Strategic Missile Squadron as the 395 Tactical Missile Sq (not active).

STATIONS

Borinquen, PR, 1 Apr 1941
Rio Hato, Panama, 17 Jun 1942-16 Jun 1943
Pratt AAFld, Kan, 1 Aug 1943-12 Mar 1944
Chakulia, India, 11 Apr-20 Oct 1944

ASSIGNMENTS

40 Bombardment Group, attached, 1 Apr 1941, and assigned, 25 Feb 1942
6 Bombardment Group, 9 Aug 1942
40 Bombardment Group, 12 May 1943-20 Oct 1944

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-18, 1941-1943
A-17, 1942-1943
B-24, 1942-1943
LB-30, 1942-1943
B-17, 1942-1944
B-26, 1943
YB-29, 1943
B-29, 1943-1944

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Antisubmarine, American Theater
India-Burma
Air Offensive, Japan
China Defensive
Western Pacific

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Yawata, Japan, 20 Aug 1944

EMBLEM

395th Missile Training Squadron emblem: On an AF blue disc, bordered AF golden yellow, the top of a light blue globe issuing from base, grid lines AF blue, surmounted by two light green olive branches, fructed, and enjoined in base, outlines and details golden brown, one arched to dexter, one arched to sinister, and surmounted by an AF golden yellow open book issuing from base, shaded golden brown; over all palewise throughout a missile in flight upward emitting two exhaust streams to base, all white, shaded light blue, outlines and details AF blue; radiating to base from the nose of the missile two light blue speed lines and two AF golden yellow lightning flashes, one speed line and one flash to dexter one speed line and one flash to sinister; encircling the missile the SAC ribbon, light blue spattered with white stars. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. 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. Against a globe (to indicate the worldwide range capabilities of the Titan missile) and a deep blue background (to represent the unknown curtain of space beyond our globe), an open book symbolizes the learning which is essential to our mission and two olive branches indicate our desire for peaceful co-existence in a free world. Dominating the emblem is a missile in upward flight to represent our Titan missile and our attempts to conquer the unknown. The lightning symbolizes our

rapid reaction capabilities and the star-spattered ribbon indicates our close relationship with SAC. 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. (Approved, 13 Jun 1961)

395 Strategic Missile Squadron emblem is symbolic of the unit and its mission. Against a globe (to indicate the worldwide range capabilities of the Titan missile) and a deep blue background (to represent the unknown curtain of space beyond the globe), an open book denotes the learning which is essential to the mission and two olive branches indicate the desire for peaceful coexistence in the Free World. Dominating the emblem is a missile in upward flight to represent the Titan missile and attempts to conquer the unknown. The lightning represents rapid reaction capabilities and the star-spattered ribbon indicates close relationship to SAC. The design bears the Air Force colors, golden yellow and ultramarine blue. **SIGNIFICANCE:** On a blue disc edged with a yellow border issuing from base a light blue demi-globe grid lines blue, surmounted by two green olive branches arched to chief forming a wreath, fructed, and conjoined in base, surmounted in base by a yellow open book, detailed brown, overall in pale a white missile ascending emitting two white exhaust streams to base, the missile charged with a light blue ribbon spattered with white stars, radiating from the nose of the missile two white speed lines flanked by two yellow lightning flashes both chevronwise. Attached below the disc a blank yellow scroll. (Approved, Oct 1969)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Antisubmarine patrols, Dec 1941-Feb 1943. Replacement and later operational training unit, Jun 1942-May 1943. Combat in CBI, 5 Jun-17 Oct 1944.

If 1STRAD's Minuteman squadron is one at the most active missile units in the Air Force; then another must be the 395th Strategic Missile Squadron, the division's Titan II unit commanded by Col. John J. Linck. Like its counterpart, the 395th has supported every flight test of its weapon system at Vandenberg, to include those involving the original Titan I. Many at these tests were launched by squadron crews, either in the Demonstration and Shakedown Operations (DASO) for which 1STRAD is responsible, or in the SAC Follow-on Operational Test program along with other alert units from the field. One of its major tasks has been the maintenance of the Titan facilities at Vandenberg; first, maintaining them in as near an operational configuration as possible under the unique requirements of the test programs and second, refurbishing the silo after the ravages of the missile exhaust during lift-off. On top of its support mission, the squadron is also tasked with the requirement to fulfill the combat alert mission imposed upon the command by higher headquarters.

The 395th SMS was constituted on Jan. 8, 1959, but it was not activated at Vandenberg until the first of February. Since it was first organized as a Missile Training Squadron, the 395th was not heir to the history and lineage of one of the older bombardment squadrons, but rather had to start its own from scratch. Originally assigned to the division's 704th Strategic Missile Wing, the squadron's initial mission was training combat-ready launch crews and maintenance crews for SAC's Titan alert force.

To accomplish this, personnel of the 395th trained at Cape Kennedy, contractor plants and Air Training Command bases. With the inactivation of the 704th Wing on July 1, 1959, the squadron was reassigned to the 1st Missile Division, where it remained until Oct. 18, 1961, when it was reassigned to the newly activated 392nd Strategic Missile Wing.

During the Cuban Crisis of late 1962, the squadron proved it was more than a training unit by competently fulfilling its essential operational role in SAC's emergency alert posture. As the unit's mission expanded during the intervening years into a more operational framework, its designation as a missile training squadron became a misnomer, and Feb. 1, 1964, its title was changed to the more appropriate "Strategic Missile Squadron." Since then, the squadron has received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its distinguished and meritorious service in the field of missilery during the period July 1964 through June 1966.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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