

## 397 BOMBARDMENT WING, HEAVY



### **MISSION**

397 Bombardment Wing, Heavy mission was to organize and train a force capable of immediate and sustained long-range offensive bombardment and air-to-air refueling operations in any part of the world, utilizing the latest technical knowledge and advanced weapons.

Participate to the maximum extent in the Reserve training program. Participate in disaster relief and other domestic emergencies when required. Perform such special missions and assignments as may be directed from higher headquarters.

### **LINEAGE**

397 Bombardment Wing, Heavy established and activated, 15 Nov 1962  
Organized, 1 Feb 1963  
Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Apr 1968

### **STATIONS**

Dow AFB, ME, 1 Feb 1963-25 Apr 1968

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Strategic Air Command, 15 Nov 1962  
6 Air Division, 1 Feb 1963  
45 Air Division, 2 Jul 1966-25 Apr 1968

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-52, 1963-1968  
KC-97, 1963-1964  
KC-135, 1964-1968

## **COMMANDERS**

None (not manned), 15 Nov 1962-31 Jan 1963

Col Harry R. Burrell, 1 Feb 1963

Col John W. Kline, 10 Jul 1963

Col James L. Flanagan, 1 May 1964-25 Apr 1968

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

Sable, abend azure, in dexter base a demi-sphere or, grid lines of the first, issuant from the sphere and arched to dexter chief a trail argent terminating behind an aircraft bend sinisterwise between two three-pointed stars all of the like, all within a diminished bordure of the last. The black background alludes to outer space. The blue band with white stars refers to the SAC stripe. The air vehicle, representing both the manned aircraft and the missile, launched from the earth, symbolizes a high performance vehicle flying at high altitudes and at a high rate of speed signifies constant vigilance and alert posture around the clock. (Approved, 30 Oct 1963)

## **MOTTO**

CUSTODES LIBERTATIS—Guardian of freedom/Custodian of Liberty

## **OPERATIONS**

Replaced the 4038th Strategic Wing in Feb 1963. Conducted bombardment training and air refueling operations to meet SAC commitments.

The projected date officially given for Dow to close was June 30, 1968. It was also announced that until that time normal operations would continue. The plan called for the relocation of the 397 Bomb Wing's B-52 and KC-135 to Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana.

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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.  
Base welcome guide. *Dow AFB, ME*. 1961.