

4300 SUPPORT SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

4300 Support Squadron

STATIONS

Vandenberg AFB, CA

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The first SAC launch of a Thor IRBM was made by the 4300th Support Squadron at Vandenberg AFB, California. 18 JAN 1965

The last SAC launch of a Thor IRBM (until 1980) conducted by the 4300th Support Squadron at

Vandenberg AFB, California, was successful. Feb 1967

Only SAC launch of an ERCS Blue Scout Jr. by the 4300th Support Squadron at Vandenberg AFB, California. 17 dec 1963

The 4000th Support Group came into being on 1 February 1963 under the cloak of extreme secrecy. It was comprised of four distinct components:

- (1) Headquarters at Offutt AFB, Nebraska
- (2) Detachment 1 at Fairchild AFB, Washington
- (3) Detachment 2 at Loring AFB, Maine
- (4) the 4300th Support Squadron at Vandenberg AFB, California

Due to the unit's high mission priority and the extreme security required for its operation, the 4000th was assigned to Headquarters SAC where it reported directly to the Chief of Staff.

In 1968, the Group name changed to 4000th Aerospace Applications Group. Like its predecessors, the mission of the 4000th Aerospace Applications Group was to provide on-orbit command and control of Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) spacecraft; collect and retrieve all data supplied by those satellites; and provide state-of-health analysis and protection for the assigned satellites. In accomplishing that mission, the Group assumed several new and unique responsibilities. Operations of the 4000th during the first 11 years was protected by a veil of security that remains to this day.

In May 1967, due to a realignment of launch responsibilities, the 4300th was inactivated with a record of 16 launches without a launch failure.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 26 Mar 2022
Updated:

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