

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) The History and Heritage of the 341st Missile Wing



By

Troy A. Hallsell, PhD

341st Missile Wing History Office

Malmstrom AFB, Montana

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Chronology

- 1942-1944** The 341st Bombardment Group (341 BG) participated in bombing campaigns in Burma against enemy bridges, locomotives, rail yards, and other targets to delay movement of supplies to Japanese troops. After moving to China in January 1944, the group engaged primarily in sea sweeps and attacks against inland shipping. It also struck rail and transportation targets in French Indochina and the Canton-Hong Kong area of China. It received a Distinguished Unit Citation for developing and employing the “glip” bombing technique against enemy bridges in French Indochina.
- 23 Dec 59** The Air Force Ballistic Missile Committee selected Malmstrom AFB (MAFB), Montana as the first Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) base.
- 16 Mar 61** The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) began construction at MAFB on the first model “A” Minuteman I ICBM operational facilities.
- 23 Jul 62** The first Minuteman IA ICBM arrived at MAFB by rail from Hill, AFB, Utah.
- 16-28 Oct 62** The US and Soviet Union participated in the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tense diplomatic and military standoff, following the Soviet installation of nuclear missiles in Cuba.
- 27 Oct 62** The 10th Strategic Missile Squadron (10 SMS) placed the first Minuteman IA ICBM on alert.
- 28 Feb 63** The 10 SMS accepted its final Minuteman IA and became fully operational.
- Apr 63** The 12th Strategic Missile Squadron (12 SMS) became fully operational.
- 3 Jul 63** The 490th Strategic Missile Squadron (490 SMS) achieved operational status.
- Aug 64** The 341st Strategic Missile Wing (341 SMW) began replacing its Minuteman IA ICBMs with Minuteman IBs.
- Mar 65** The USACE began construction on 10 launch control centers (LCC) and 150 launch facilities (LF) in the area around Conrad, Montana.
- 26 Oct 66** The USACE finished construction on the 564th Strategic Missile Squadron (564 SMS) missile fields.
- 22 Apr 67** The 12 SMS became fully operational with the new Minuteman II ICBM.
- 3 May 67** The 564 SMS became fully operational.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

- 27 May 69** The 341 SMW completed the Force Modernization Program. During this final modification, the Air Force replaced 490 SMS's 42 Minuteman I "A" models and 8 Minuteman I "B" models with 50 Minuteman II "F" models.
- 20 Jan 75** Teams from the Ogden Air Logistics Center began replacing the 564 SMS's Minuteman II missiles with Minuteman IIIs.
- 11 Jul 75** The 341 SMW completed Minuteman III deployment in the 564 MS's area of operations at Malmstrom AFB. This marked the completion of a nine-year force modernization program. The Minuteman ICBM force now consisted of 450 Minuteman II and 550 Minuteman III ICBMs.
- 1 Apr 85** Strategic Air Command (SAC) began Rivet MILE (Minuteman Integrated Life Extension), a multi-faceted program that improved safety, maintainability, and reliability of Minuteman facilities originally constructed in the 1960s. The USAF divided the program into three-year cycles which ran from 1985 to 1994.
- 27 Oct 87** All-female Minuteman missile crews went on alert at MAFB. The 341 SMW was the second SAC wing to incorporate the gender-specific crew concept.
- Mar 94** The 341 MW began installation of the Rapid Execution and Combat Targeting (REACT) Program in its LCCs. This upgrade reduced a missile crew's reaction time, automated many command and monitoring tasks, and increased the weapon's survivability.
- 5 Mar 95** A Russian inspection team conducted the first Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) verification inspection in the United States at MAFB.
- 15 Apr 01** The United States Air Force (USAF) delivered the first Minuteman III booster to Malmstrom AFB under the Propulsion Replacement Program (PRP). The PRP corrected problems with the aging solid fuel propellant in the Minuteman's stage one booster. The wing installed the first new booster at LF H-02.
- 28 Jul 08** Members of the 341st Missile Maintenance Squadron (341 MMXS) extracted the final Minuteman III ICBM from LF T-41 in 564 MS area of operations. This reduction was part of the Pentagon's 2005 Quadrennial Defense Review that called for a reduction in the MM III force from 500 ICBMs to 450.
- 1 Dec 09** As part of a major reorganization of the Air Force's nuclear enterprise, the Department of Defense realigned the Twentieth (20 AF) and Eight Air Forces under the newly formed Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC). This reorganization moved the 341st Missile Wing (341 MW) under AFGSC's chain of command.
- Aug 13** While investigating drug use among missileers at the 341 MW, an Air Force Office of Special Investigations revealed a wide-spread cheating problem in missile

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

crewmembers monthly evaluations. The investigation implicated 82 officers, and nine commanders were relieved of command.

- May 14** AFGSC implemented the Force Improvement Program (FIP) at its ICBM wings to identify and address problems among its missile force.
- 11 Feb 14** Contractors began demolition of LF R-23 in the former 564 SMS's area of operations as part of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (NST).
- 2 Nov 15** AFGSC prototyped programed depot maintenance (PDM) at LF C-03 in Malmstrom's missile fields. PDM was an eight-year planned maintenance cycle that sought to bring AFGSC's ICBM force to full operational capability by 2019.
- Oct 17** The 341st Security Forces Group (341 SFG) began operating under the Missile Security Operating Concept.
- 12-14 Jul 19** The 341 MW held its first open house on MAFB since 2007.
- 5 Aug 20** The 490th Missile Squadron (490 MS) posted to the missile fields as the 20 AF's first ever squadron deployment.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

APPENDIX A

341st Missile Wing Lineage

1 Feb 40	The United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) activated the 10th Bombardment (10 BS) and the 12th Bombardment Squadrons (12 BS).
15 Sep 42	The USAAF activated the 341 BG, Medium at Camp Malir, Karachi, India.
17 Jun 44	The USAAF inactivated the 10 BS.
20 Jun 44	The USAAF disbanded the 12 BS.
2 Nov 45	The USAAF inactivated the 341 BG.
27 Dec 46	The USAAF re-designated 341 BG as 341 BG, Light, First Air Force and activated it at Westover Field, Massachusetts.
10 Mar 47	The USAAF activated the 12 BS at Westover Field, Massachusetts.
18 Jun 47	The USAAF activated the 10 BS at Westover Field, Massachusetts.
27 Jun 49	The USAF inactivated the 341 BG, Light, 10 BS, 12 BS, and 490 BS.
1 Sep 55	The USAF consolidated the 341 BG with the 341st Bombardment Wing (341 BW), Medium and activated it, along with the 10 BS, 12 BS, and 490 BS, at Abilene AFB, Texas.
25 Jun 61	The USAF inactivated the 341 BW, 10 BS, 12 BS, and 490 BS.
1 Jul 61	The USAF activated the 341 SMW at Malmstrom AFB (MAFB).
2 Aug 61	The USAF re-designated the 10 BS the 10 SMS and activated it at MAFB.
22 Sep 61	The USAF re-designated the 12 BS the 12 SMS and activated it at MAFB.
18 Dec 61	The USAF re-designated the 490 BS the 490 SMS and activated it at MAFB.
14 Dec 65	The USAF activated the 564 SMS at MAFB.
1 Sep 91	The USAF re-designated the 341 SMW the 341 MW. It also redesignated the 10 SMS, 12 SMS, 490 SMS, 564 SMS the 10 MS, 12 MS, 490 MS, and 564 MS respectively.
1 Oct 97	The USAF re-designated the 341 MW as the 341st Space Wing (341 SW).

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

1 Jul 08 The USAF re-designated the 341 SW as the 341 MW.

15 Aug 08 The USAF inactivated the 564 MS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

APPENDIX B

341st Missile Wing Emblem



Motto: English Translation – “World Peace Through Air Strength”

Emblem Description: Per fess nebuly Azure, semi of mullets Argent, and White a sheath palewise point to base of the second and rising therefrom a sword of the like its hilt a winged escutcheon Or, between in base two lightning flashes pilewise Gules surmounted by an olive branch Vert veined Yellow; all within a diminished bordure of the last. Motto: PAX ORBIS PER ARMA AERIA - World peace through air strength.

Significance: Blue and 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 nebuly fess below a field scattered of stars reflects the emblem of the unit's predecessor and also the wing's support to the Air Force mission of air defense. The half-sheathed sword represents preparedness and strength of force. The winged hilt symbolizes the unit as an air arm in the total national defense. The lightning bolts indicate the speed and striking power of the wing in defense of peace.

Approved on 5 Jun 1957, modified on 22 Mar 1995.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

APPENDIX C

Wing Commanders

Name	Assumed Command
Col Torgils G. Wold	15 Sep 1942
Lt Col James A. Philpott	21 Sep 1943
Col Torgils G. Wold	2 Nov 1943
Col Morris F. Taber	23 Nov 1943
Maj Loren S. Nickels	2 Feb 1944
Col Morris F. Taber	17 Mar 1944
Col Joseph B. Wells	11 Apr 1944
Col Donald L. Clark	1 Dec 1944
Col James W. Newsome	16 Apr 1945
Unknown	Sep 1945
Unknown	27 Dec 1946
Lt Col Ralph P. Warriner	Mar 1947
Unknown	Jan 1949
Col Anthony J. Perna	1 Sep 1955
Col Frank P. Sturdivant	3 Dec 1955
Col Calvin E. Peeler	31 Oct 1957
Col Anthony J. Perna	1 Nov 1957
Col Jack W. Hayes, Jr.	9 Jun 1959
Col Ralph T. Holland	3 Feb 1961
Unknown	1 Jul 1961
Col Burton C. Andrus, Jr.	15 Jul 1961
Brig Gen Lawrence S. Lightner	20 Feb 1963
Col Rex Dowtin	1 Jul 1964
Col Thomas F. Doyle	3 Jun 1966
Col John W. Carroll	5 Jul 1966
Col Eugene J. Crahen	13 Mar 1968
Brig Gen Gerald G. Fall, Jr.	27 May 1970
Brig Gen Kermit C. Kaericher	7 Jun 1972
Col Ralph D. Scott	7 Jun 1973
Col William R. Brooksher	18 Jun 1975
Col Gerald E. McIlmoyle	23 Jul 1976
Col Allen K. Rachel	23 Mar 1978
Col James L. Crouch	25 May 1979
Col Dennis M. Heitkamp	5 Jun 1981
Col James B. Knight	20 Jun 1983
Col Robert W. Parker	3 Aug 1984
Col Teddy E. Rinebarger	13 Dec 1985
Col Richard O. Keen	10 Jul 1987
Col Edward L. Burchfield	20 Sep 1988
Col William R. Smith	27 Aug 1990

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Brig Gen Thomas H. Neary	15 Jan 1992
Col Donald P. Pettit	29 Jul 1993
Brig Gen Robert E. Larned	14 Jul 1994
Brig Gen Timothy J. McMahon	19 Jul 1995
Brig Gen Glenn C. Waltman	20 Feb 1997
Col J. Gregory Pavlovich	18 Nov 1998
Col Thomas F. Deppe	9 Jun 2000
Col C. Donald Alston	11 Jul 2002
Col Everett H. Thomas	7 Jul 2004
Col Geoffrey A. Frazier (interim)	5 Apr 2006
Col Sandra E. Finan	7 Jul 2006
Col Michael E. Fortney	21 May 2008
Col Anthony J. Cotton	26 May 2010
Col Heraldo B. Brual	22 Aug 2011
Col Robert W. Stanley II	8 Feb 2013
Col John T. Wilcox II	27 Mar 2014
Col Ronald G. Allen, Jr.	18 Apr 2016
Col Jennifer K. Reeves	19 Jun 2018
Col Anita A. Feugate Opperman	5 Aug 2020
Col Barry E. Little	18 Jul 2022

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

APPENDIX D

Unit Decorations and Awards

Streamers

World War II: India-Burma; China Defensive; China Offensive
Global War on Terror (GWOT-S)

Decoration	Date of Award
Distinguished Unit Citation, French Indochina	11 Dec 1944 - 12 Mar 1945 22 Oct 1962 - 31 Dec 1963 1 Jul 1975 - 30 Jun 1976 1 Jul 1976 - 30 Jun 1977 1 Jul 1979 - 30 Jun 1981 1 Jul 1988 - 30 Jun 1990 1 Jul 1990 - 30 Jun 1991 1 Sep 1991 - 31 Aug 1993 1 Sep 1993 - 31 Aug 1994 1 Sep 1994 - 31 Aug 1995 1 Oct 1995 - 30 Sep 1996 1 Oct 1997 - 30 Sep 1999 1 Oct 1998 - 30 Sep 1999 1 Oct 2000 - 30 Sep 2002 1 Oct 2002 - 1 Oct 2003 1 Jan 2003 - 31 Dec 2003 1 Oct 2004 - 30 Sep 2006 1 Oct 2006 - 30 Sep 2008 1 Oct 2008 - 30 Sep 2009 1 Jan 2010 - 31 Dec 2011 1 Jan 2015 - 31 Dec 2015 1 Jan 2017 - 31 Dec 2017
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	

Trophy	Date of Award
Blanchard Trophy	1976, 1986, 1990, 1991, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2006, 2008, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021
Omaha Trophy	1993, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2021 (12 MS)

UNCLASSIFIED