

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

24 October 1960

AFOMO 518m

SUBJECT: Activation of the 551st Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Atlas)

TO: Commander-in-Chief, Strategic Air Command

✓ 1. The 551st Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, is redesignated as the 551st Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Atlas), activated and assigned to Strategic Air Command for organization on or about 8 April 1961, at Lincoln Air Force Base, Lincoln, Nebraska, under an appropriate Unit Manning Document with capability as cited in O/T R1715S, 1 June 1958 (revised 1 July 1960), paragraphs 1 and 2b, Part I (Part IIC); strength, seventy-three (73) officers and four hundred and twenty-eight (428) air-men. This strength is not the authorized strength, but represents the total of the composition as cited in Part II of the O/T.

2. Personnel will be furnished from sources under control of the Commander-in-Chief, Strategic Air Command. Military personnel requirements which cannot be filled from within your resources will be requisitioned in accordance with normal cycle. A flow of personnel cannot be made available until seven (7) months subsequent to authorizations being reflected in the 5-AF-P2 report. Personnel manning will be phased in accordance with the unit's capability to utilize the personnel effectively.

3. For equipping purposes the above is a Category D unit and is authorized Unit Essential Equipment as listed in column 3A of MEAL, column 2A of T/A 010 and T/A 016 items in UME column of UAL. UME column of UAL will be prepared in conformance with paragraph 4c, Chapter 6, Volume XXI, AFM 67-1. Variable items, T/A 010, 016 and MEAL, will be based on UMD strength of unit. Base Support Equipment (BSE) as listed in column 3B of MEAL, and column 2B of T/A 010, is authorized in USE column of UAL. Unit is authorized additional equipment in USE column of UAL in conformance with paragraph 4d, Chapter 6, Volume XXI, AFM 67-1. BSE is not authorized as USE when a T/A item is on hand or on requisition which serves the same function as the BSE authorization, nor does it allow T/A allowances to duplicate BSE allowances.

4. Upon organization this unit is entitled to the history and to any battle honors, colors, and emblem belonging to the 551st Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, inactivated 27 June 1949. Unit history, with information provided by the Director of Military Personnel, Headquarters USAF concerning the existence of battle honors, colors, and emblem, will be forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief, Strategic Air Command by the USAF Historical Division, Air University through automatic distribution. Requisition for the appropriate colors can then be made as prescribed in AFR 35-75, 29 January 1954.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: AFPMP-12-C

10 February 1961

SUBJECT: Battle Honors

TO: AU (USAF Historical Division,
Research Studies Institute)

1. Pursuant to the policy of automatic distribution of unit histories, battle honors, and unit emblems to newly activated units, the following information is furnished concerning the 551st Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Atlas), which was activated by letter, this headquarters, 24 October 1960 (Atch 1):

a. Battle Honors:

(1) Battle streamers for participation in following campaigns:

Normandy - Air Offensive, Europe - Northern France - Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace - Central Europe

(2) Distinguished Unit Citation Streamers for the following actions:

17 August 1943 - for outstanding performance of duty in action
against the enemy over Germany - General Orders
36, War Department, 1944

12 May 1944 - for outstanding performance of duty in action
against the enemy over Germany - General Orders
138, War Department, 1946

b. Squadron emblem approved on 4 May 1943 (Atch 2). Procedures for changing and/or modifying approved emblems when the unit's mission is changed are outlined in AFR 900-3.

c. Unit's past record card (AFHQ Form O-525) is attached (see Atch 3).

2. Request your activity prepare and forward history, with the information provided above, to the command to which the unit has been assigned. It is requested further that your historical records be checked to insure accuracy of battle honors. If any are added to our list, request a copy of your forwarding correspondence be furnished this headquarters (AFPMP-12-C) so that the Battle Honor files maintained by this headquarters may be corrected accordingly.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. D. Norton", is written over the typed name.

R. D. NORTON
Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Awards Branch
Personnel Services Division
Directorate of Military Personnel

3 Atch

1. Activation ltr, 24 Oct 60
2. Emblem and approval letter, 4 May 43
3. AFHQ Form O-525 (unit record card)

Ltr Hq 551 Strategic Missile Sq (551C), 16 Jan 62, Orgl Emblem & Motto

12th Ind (AFPMP-12-C)

Hq USAF, Wash 25, D C

20 JUN 1962

TO: SAC (DPSP)

1. In accordance with AFR 900-3, 5 November 1959, the following emblem is approved for the 551st Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Atlas), to supersede the emblem approved under a former designation, the 551st Bombardment Squadron (H), 4 May 1943:

DESCRIPTION: On a sky blue disc edged Air Force blue, bendwise throughout a mailed hand issuing from sinister (left) base, dark gray, shaded black, highlights white, grasping a drawn bow red, with arrow white, shaded black, the taut string black.

MOTTO: On a white scroll edged and inscribed Air Force blue, STRENGTH MAINTAINS SECURITY.

SIGNIFICANCE: The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. The missile is the weapon system used by the unit as part of SAC's deterrent force. The drawn bow symbolizes the potential instantaneous release of destruction against an aggressor. This state of preparedness is maintained by the squadron. The mailed hand illustrates the firm human controlling agent of the force. The background represents space, the medium in which the missile force operates.

2. Attached is the official painting of the emblem described above, to be forwarded to the unit for file and guidance in reproduction.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

R. D. NORTON, Lt Col. USAF
Personnel Services Division
Department of Defense, Personnel

1 Atch
2. w/d
Added 1 atch
3. Official emblem painting

INFORMATION OFFICE
818TH AIR DIVISION
United States Air Force
Lincoln Air Force Base, Nebraska

3 February 1961

REPLY TO
ATTN: IXO

SUBJECT: Request for brief history of the 551st Heavy Bomb Squadron

TO: USAF Historical Division
Research Studies Institute
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

1. The 551st Heavy Bomb Squadron is being reactivated at Lincoln AFB, Nebraska, as the 551st Strategic Missile Squadron. It is requested a brief history of the unit be made available for use by the 551st SMS.

2. It is further requested that this brief history be forwarded to the following address:

Information Office
Lincoln AFB, Nebraska

Sincerely,

JOHN E. RUMBLE
Major, USAF
Information Officer

HS

7 February 1961

Request for brief history of the 551st Heavy Bomb Squadron

SAC (DITH)
Offutt AFB, Nebr

1. Please note attached letter from 818th Air Division, 3 Feb 1961, subject as above.
2. We began work on the history of the 551st Strategic Missile Squadron on 25 January 1961. The project has not been completed and no further work can be done until we receive data to be provided by HQ USAF.
3. We will do everything possible to expedite the preparation of the history of the 551st Squadron. When completed it will be forwarded, with information concerning the squadron's campaign credits, citations, and emblem (insignia), to your headquarters, as directed by the Department of the Air Force in AFOMO letter 518m. At that time, an information copy of the material will be sent directly to Information Office, Lincoln Air Force Base, Nebraska.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

MAURER MAURER
Administrative Assistant
USAF Historical Division

1 Atch
a/s

RESEARCH STUDIES INSTITUTE
Air University
United States Air Force
Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: HS

28 February 1961

SUBJECT: **Brief History of 551st Strategic Missile Squadron**

TO: SAC (DXIH)
Offutt AFB, Nebr

1. Attached is historical information concerning the above unit, which was assigned recently to your command for organization. This material has been prepared and is being forwarded in accordance with Department of the Air Force Letter AFOMO 518m, dated 24 October 1960, which directed the organization of the unit.
2. This procedure for automatic distribution of historical information concerning newly-organized units that have previous records of service was developed by HQ USAF and the USAF Historical Division. The purpose is to provide historical materials that may be used for indoctrination of personnel, development of morale and esprit de corps in Air Force units, and public relations purposes.
3. The official lineage and brief history were prepared by the USAF Historical Division; the information concerning campaign credits, citations, and organizational emblem was provided by HQ USAF (AFPMP-12-C).
4. If the organization has an official emblem and desires to retain it, new paintings and flag drawings, if authorized, will be furnished by AFPMP-12-C upon request. If it has no official emblem, or the present emblem no longer reflects the unit's mission, a new design may be submitted for approval in accordance with AFR 900-3.
5. See AFR 20-27 for organizational terms; AFR 35-75, AFR 900-10, and AFM 900-2 for information concerning campaigns credits and citations; and AFR 900-3 for information relating to organizational emblems.
6. **Original copy of history, with painting of approved emblem, is being sent to Information Office, Lincoln Air Force Base, Nebraska.**

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

MAURER MAURER
Administrative Assistant
USAF Historical Division

1 Atch
a/s