

## 549<sup>th</sup> WEAPON SYSTEMS EVALUATION SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

549<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 25 Nov 1942

Activated, 1 Dec 1942

Inactivated, 28 Aug 1945

Redesignated 549<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 25 Aug 1947

Activated in the reserve, 15 Sep 1947

Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

Redesignated 549<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Atlas), 19 Apr 1960

Activated, 19 Apr 1960

Organized, 1 Oct 1960

Discontinued, 15 Dec 1964

Redesignated 549<sup>th</sup> Weapons System Evaluation Squadron, 12 Feb 1986

Activated, 1 Jul 1986

Inactivated, 15 Feb 1990

#### STATIONS

Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 1 Dec 1942

El Paso, TX, 4 Jan 1943

Geiger Field, WA, 1 Feb 1943  
Great Falls AAB, MT, 11 Mar-7 Jun 1943  
Great Ashfield, UK, 6 Jul 1943-6 Aug 1945  
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 14-28 Aug 1945  
Selfridge Field (later Selfridge AFB), M, 15 Sep 1947-27 Jun 1949  
Francis E. Warren WY, 1 Oct 1960  
Offutt AFB, NE, 1 Jul 1961-15 Oct 1964  
Offutt AFB, NE, 1 Jul 1986-15 Feb 1990

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

385<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 1 Dec 1943-28 Aug 1945  
Second Air Force, 15 Sep 1947  
Tenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1948  
First Air Force, 15 Aug 1948  
Tenth Air Force, 1 Dec 1948-27 Jun 1949  
Strategic Air Command, 19 Apr 1960  
706<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Wing, 1 Oct 1960  
4321<sup>st</sup> Strategic Wing, 1 Jul 1961  
385<sup>th</sup> Strategic Aerospace Wing, 1 Jan 1963-15 Dec 1964  
Strategic Air Command, 1 Jul 1986-15 Feb 1990

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-17, 1942-1945  
B-17E  
B-17F  
B-17G  
ICBM Atlas, 1961-15 Oct 1964

### **COMMANDERS**

#### **HONORS**

##### **Service Streamers**

World War II  
American Theater

##### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Air Offensive, Europe  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe  
Normandy  
Northern France  
Rhineland  
Air Combat, EAME, Theater

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation

17 Aug 1943

12 May 1944

## **EMBLEM**



549<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron emblem

549<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron emblem: On a rectangular area arched in chief and base, per pale dark blue spattered with white stars and Air Force blue, the top of a silver-gray globe issuing from base, grid lines dark blue; all surmounted by a white missile palewise pointing upward shaded silver-gray, emitting an Air Force golden yellow blast-off vapor cloud to base, edged white, surmounting the vapor cloud an armored hand, dark blue, highlighted white and shaded silver-gray, grasping three white lightning streaks edged red; encircling the missile a white stylized olive wreath. (Approved, 2 Mar 1962)

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 549th Strategic Missile Squadron was the first SAC operational unit to have ICBMs - the Atlas Missile. They were deployed near SAC headquarters at Offutt AFB, Nebraska, most likely so that

the brass could be close by to establish procedures, etc. Prior to that, the missiles were only assigned to the training units at Vandenberg AFB, California.

Turnover to SAC 20 Nov 1961

Operational 20 Nov 1961

First ICBM off alert 4 Jan 1965

Last ICBM Off Alert 30 Jan 1965

Last ICBM Shipped 8 Feb 1965

A combat ready crew from 549 SMS successfully launched an Atlas missile from Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA 11 Apr 62.

During 1962, 549 Strategic Missile Squadron maintained a round the clock alert posture of assigned Atlas D missiles following Golden Ram modification of missiles. 1962

Four crews from 549 SMS participated in missile launching from Vandenberg AFB, CA 1962

Light fixed wing aircraft test terminated on 15 Jan 62 and indicated urgent requirements for air transportation in support of 549 SMS missile sites

1964 anticipated phasing out of Atlas D missile and inactivation of 549 Strategic Missile Squadron.

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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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.