578th STRATEGIC MISSILE SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE
578th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 15 Jan 1943
Activated, 26 Jan 1943
Inactivated, 13 Sep 1945
Redesignated 578th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 13 Aug 1947
Activated in the reserve, 9 Sep 1947
Redesignated 578th Bombardment Squadron, Light, 27 Jun 1949
Inactivated, 10 Nov 1949
Redesignated 578th Strategic Missile Squadron and activated, 25 Jan 1961
Organized, 1 Jul 1961
Inactivated 25 Mar 1965

STATIONS
Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 26 Jan 1943
Biggs Field, TX, 1 Mar 1943
Alamogordo AAB, NM, 18 Apr-18 Jul 1943
Wendling, England, 1 Aug 1943-7 Jun 1945
Charleston AAFld, SC, 23 Jun-13 Sep 1945
Barksdale Field, LA, 9 Sep 1947-10 Nov 1949
Dyess AFB, TX, 1 Jul 1961-25 Mar 1965

ASSIGNMENTS
392nd Bombardment Group, 26 Jan 1943-13 Sep 1945

392nd Bombardment Group, 9 Sep 1947-10 Nov 1949
Strategic Air Command, 25 Jan 1961
96th Bombardment (later Strategic Aerospace) Wing, 1 Jul 1961

WEAPON SYSTEMS
B-24, 1943- 1945
B-24E
B-24H
B-24J
SM-65F Atlas, 1962

COMMANDERS

HONORS
Service Streamers
None

Campaign Streamers
Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations
Distinguished Unit Citation
Gotha, Germany, 24 Feb 1944

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS
Combat in ETO, 6 Sep 1943-25 Apr 1945

Initial responsibility for constructing the 12 Atlas F silos fell on the Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District. The Fort Worth District also received responsibility for the nationwide procurement of the Atlas F's propellant loading system. With the formation of the Corps of

Engineers Ballistic Missile Construction Office (CEBMCO) in 1960, the Fort Worth District was relieved of silo construction oversight. On May 26, 1960, six bids were opened at Abilene, Texas. The low bid of $20 million had been submitted by a joint venture composed of H.B. Zachry Company, and Brown and Root Inc. Construction commenced on June 7, 1960. The locations of the 12 lift-launchers were Abilene, Albany, Clyde, Denton County, Oplin, Lawn, Bradshaw, Winters, Shep, Nolan, Anson, and Corinth.

Construction at Dyess proved to be an exception in that the project was completed on time. There were no work stoppages due to labor unrest. There were 3 fatalities and 33 disabling injuries associated with this project. As construction continued, the Air Force activated the 578th Strategic Missile Squadron on July 1, 1961. Becoming operational in 1962, the 578th and its 12 missiles were all placed on alert status during the Cuban missile crisis.

On May 16, 1964, Defense Secretary McNamara directed the accelerated phaseout of Atlas and Titan I ICBMs. On December 1, 1964, the first Atlas F missile at Dyess was removed from alert status ahead of schedule to preclude costly maintenance expenditures. The squadron was deactivated on March 25, 1965.

Turnover To Sac, 4 Nov 1962
Operational, 15 Nov 1962
First ICBM Off Alert, 1 Dec 1964
Last ICBM Off Alert, 3 Feb 1965
Last ICBM Shipped, 10 Feb 1965

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