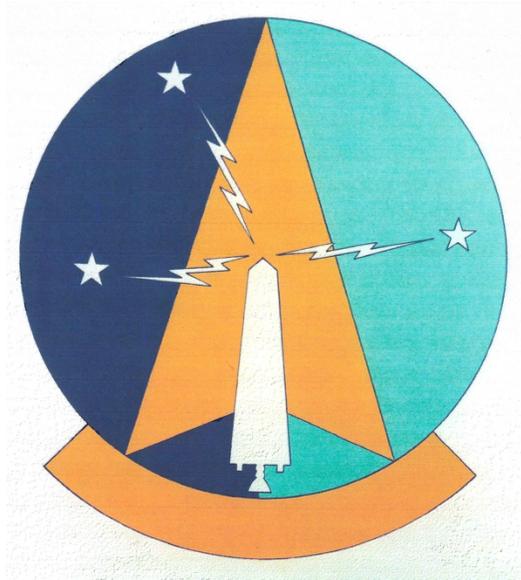


## 25 AEROSPACE DEFENSE SQUADRON



### **MISSION**

Conducted operational readiness and launch of Thor (PMG-17) boosters and various payloads in support of USAF Program 437.

### **LINEAGE**

25 Aerospace Defense Squadron organized, 1 Jan 1967  
Inactivated, 31 Dec 1970

### **STATIONS**

Vandenberg AFB, CA, 1 Nov 1966-31 Dec 1970

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

10 Aerospace Defense Group

### **COMMANDERS**

Lt Col Stephen M Flanagan, 21 May 1969

Lt Col Robert W Walton, 24 Sep 1970

### **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

On a disc divided vertically into two equal halves blue and light blue, a yellow spearhead ascending throughout surmounted in base by a white missile emitting three white lightning flashes, one bendwise to chief, and two bend sinisterwise, each terminating before a white star. Attached below the disc a yellow scroll, blank. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. Ultramarine blue and Air Force 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 two shades of blue represent the night and day, around the clock alert readiness of the squadron. The three stars and lightning bolts represent the three operational crews of the 25 ADS and their strike capability. The missile represents the operational mission of the unit. The spearhead represents the USAF's only purely operational mission through space. (Approved, 25 Feb 1970)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

All personnel of the 25 ADS were permanently assigned to Vandenberg AFB with scheduled temporary duty to Johnston Island. The squadron was organized into 3 crews, lettered A, B, and C, referred to as CCA, CCB, and CCC. Each of those crews was staffed to provide 2 launch crews simultaneously. The three crews operated on a 9-month rotation, with 3 months at each of the 3 duty stations.

At any given time, one crew was in proficiency training and support of the Burner 2 program of the 10th Aerospace Defense Group in their respective shop at Vandenberg; one crew was in launch training at the Program 437 launch complex on Vandenberg; and one crew was on operational duty at the two launch emplacements on Johnston Island. Two missiles were kept on alert at Johnston Island, and two were kept in reserve at Vandenberg AFB, California.

Due to limited housing facilities on Johnston Island, crew turnover was accomplished within one day. The current crew would be packed and ready to leave when the relief crew arrived from Vandenberg on a C-118 aircraft via an overnight at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. Officers and supervisors would conduct their turnover meetings while the aircraft was being unloaded, reloaded, and serviced for the return trip through Hickam AFB.

Periodic training launches were conducted from Johnston. The Thor missiles were transported to Johnston by C-133 aircraft.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency, U.S. Air Force, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.