

26 TACTICAL MISSILE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

26 Observation Squadron (Light) constituted, 5 Feb 1942

Activated, 2 Mar 1942

Redesignated 26 Observation Squadron, 4 Jul 1942

Redesignated 26 Reconnaissance Squadron (Fighter), 2 Apr 1943

Redesignated 26 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 11 Aug 1943

Disbanded, 30 Nov 1943

26 Air Defense Missile Squadron (BOMARC) constituted, 23 Jan 1959

Activated, 1 Mar 1959

Inactivated, 30 April 1972

26 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron reconstituted and consolidated with 26 Air Defense Missile Squadron (BOMARC). Consolidated squadron Redesignated 26 Tactical Missile Squadron, 19 Sep 1985. Unit remains inactive.

STATIONS

Gray Field, WA, 2 Mar 1942

Salinas AAB, CA, 15 Mar 1943

Redmond AAFld, OR, 16 Aug 1943

Corvallis AAFld, OR, 31 Oct 1943

Will Rogers Field, OK, 14-30 Nov 1943
Otis AFB, MA, 1 Mar 1959-30 Apr 1972

ASSIGNMENTS

70 Observation (later Reconnaissance; Tactical Reconnaissance) Group, 2 Mar 1942-30 Nov 1943
Boston Air Defense Sector, 1 Mar 1959
35 Air Division, 1 Apr 1966
21 Air Division, 19 Nov 1969-30 Apr 1972

WEAPON SYSTEMS

O-47A, 1942
P-39, 1943
CIM-10 BOMARC A, 1959
CIM-10 BOMARC B

COMMANDERS

Unknown, 1942-1943.
Lt Col William B Garlitz Jr, 1 Mar 1959
Lt Col John E Flanagan, 19 Jul 1963
Col John W Emig, 27 Aug 1965
Lt Col James P Jeffrey, 5 Jul 1966
Col Eldor H Schueler, 24 Aug 1967
Maj Burton T Moore, 7 Feb 1969
Maj Larry L King, 31 Dec 1970-30 Apr 1972

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



Over and through a blue triangle, a gold hawk, shaded black, in flight, grasping a machine gun black in dexter claw and a telescope black in sinister claw. (Approved, 20 May 1943)



26th Air Defense Missile Squadron (BOMARC) On a disc per pale AF blue spattered with white stars and white, two AF golden yellow lightning flashes conjoined in base and arched to middle chief point, one in dexter, one in sinister; over all in pale throughout a silver-gray missile, highlighted white, in flight to chief leaving red exhaust to base; outlines and details AF blue throughout. Motto: On a white scroll edged and inscribed AF blue, VIGILANT DEFENDER. **SIGNIFICANCE:** 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. Over a background of deep blue, spattered with stars, and white to represent the night and day sky or 24-hour operations, two lightning bolts are displayed, one against the night sky, one against the day sky to indicate the unit's operational ability to intercept around the clock. The missile provides the center of interest in the design to indicate this is a missile squadron. Approved: 27 October 1960.

MOTTO

VIGILANT DEFENDER

OPERATIONS

Air support for training ground forces, 1942-1943.

Trained personnel and prepared for BOMARC missile operations, 1959-1960.

After 1960, operated and maintained BOMARC missiles and associated equipment; trained personnel; and maintained a capability to intercept and destroy hostile aircraft.

28 CIM-10B BOMARC missile shelters 12 officers - 113 airmen

Operational since 25 March 1960

Missiles can be launched by a NORAD direction center or NORAD control center only, and only in time of war, completely independent with own electricity, heat, fire department, transportation, and supply, total value of BOMARC site is now approximately 200 million dollars.

Sections within the 26 ADMS:

Command: responsible for over-all accomplishment of the squadron mission.

Operations: functions as squadron operations center. Monitors alert status. Takes necessary action for firing of missiles.

Maintenance: responsible for the scheduling, monitoring, accomplishment, and inspection of all maintenance actions on missiles and related aerospace ground equipment.

Weapons: responsible for handling, storing, loading, unloading of warhead and other explosive devices.

Supply: responsible for satisfying the materiel requirements of the bomarc weapons system and maintenance of warehouse facility and stock control complex.

Civil engineer - maintains power and utilities for entire Site. Coordinates and plans any construction or maintenance of new or existing facilities.

Safety: responsible for planning, supervising, and monitoring the cim-10b missile, nuclear explosives and ground accident prevention program. Acts as adviser to the commander on all phases of squadron functions where safety may be a factor. Responsible for timely investigation and reporting of mishaps to proper authorities.

Administration: supervise overall squadron administration management, perform unit level personnel functions, and directs orderly room and command section activities.

The 26th air defense missile squadron of Otis Air Force Base, Massachusetts began its existence in the early spring of 1959, at that time, the first officer and airman personnel began gathering at the proposed site on cape cod, by the end of the summer, approximately ninety percent of

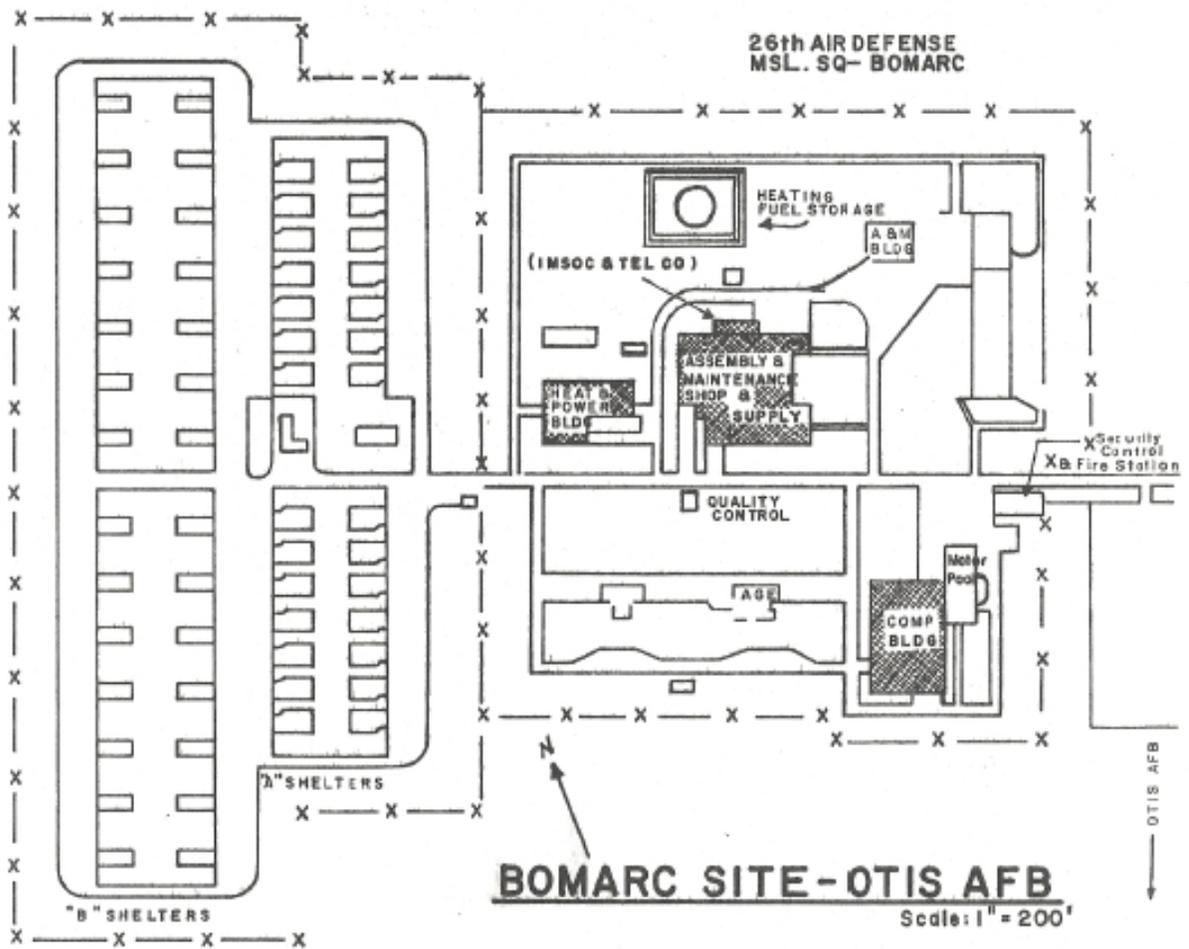
the authorized personnel of the squadron were assembled and departed for Eglin auxiliary field #9 in Florida for three months of training on the BOMARC missile, more technicians joined the trainees in Florida And were assimilated into the training classes upon Graduation, the squadron returned to Otis air force base in the midst of winter, despite the obstacles of very Unfavorable weather and poor working conditions, the squadron was able to meet the requirements of higher headquarters And was operational on the programmed date, 25 march 1960.

Since that date, alert crews have maintained their capability 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, the 26th ADMS was the first tactical squadron to launch during evaluation exercises at Eglin auxiliary field #9, Florida in March and April 1961. The two missiles launched at that time were outstanding successes, scoring direct hits on a Regulus ii (us navy missile) and a qf-80 jet drone target.

The launch during March 1961 was rated as the most successful BOMARC launch of any attempt yet made. The 26th ADMS began the process of implementing the newer cim-10b missile into the squadron in June 1962. Twenty-eight CIM-10A and 28 CIM-10B shelters were in operation at the site from late 1962 until July 1964 when the CIO-10A system was phased out, leaving the present complement of 28 cim-10b shelters.

In January 1969, the unit was awarded the air force outstanding unit award for the period 1 January 1967 to 30 June 1968. Two years later in January 1972, the unit was awarded the outstanding unit citation for a second time, covering the period 1 January 1970 to 30 June 1971.

The mission of the 26 ADMS is to provide the commander 21 Air Division with the maximum number of operationally ready BOMARC missiles for the interception and destruction of hostile aircraft or aerial objects with the control of the 21 Air Division and or adjacent SAGE Air Divisions.



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, VA.

Unit yearbook. *WADS*. 1960.

Unit welcome booklet. *26 AMDS*. 1972.