

4238 STRATEGIC WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

4238 Strategic Wing (Heavy) activated and organized On 1 Mar 58
1 Apr 1963

STATIONS

Barksdale AFB, LA, 1 Mar 1958-1 Apr 1963

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-52, 1958-1963

KC-135

COMMANDERS

Col Julian M. Bleyer, #1960

Col George J. Eade, 5 Dec 1960 Interim Command

Col Ralph W. Stanley, 1961

Col Robert E. Kimmel 29 Jul 1961-1962

Col William T. Cumiskey, Interim Commander

Col Frank B. Elliott

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Activated early in 1958, the 4238th Strategic Wing has the responsibility for overall operation of the base, and direct control over the tactical units based here. Tactical units assigned to the 4238th are the 436th Bomb Squadron equipped with the B-52; the 913th Air Refueling Squadron, flying KC-135s; and the 301st and 376th Air Refueling Squadrons, both equipped with the KC-97. In addition, the air base group and specialized maintenance squadrons are assigned to the wing. Primary mission of the 4238th is threefold. First, it must be capable of conducting long range operations on any part of the globe, at any time, independently or in cooperation with land and sea forces. Secondly, it must be able to provide combat units capable of sustained and intense combat operations in all parts of the world. Finally, it must train strategic bombardment and refueling crews and units for the performance of such global operations.

Wing Was Involved (Between 15 Apr And 30 Jun 58) In Phasing Out Of B-47 Aircraft Operations At Barksdale Afb. (Wing Underwent Training During Apr 58 For Conversion To B-52 And Kc-135

4238 Strategic Wing (Heavy) Underwent Organizational Changes Involving Subordinate Units, 1960

During Jan 61, 4238 Sw Combat Crews Continued Operational Training. Emphasis Placed On Bringing Combat Crews To Maximum Proficiency With Personnel Working Six Day Work Weeks To Accomplish Goals.

Progress Of Wing Toward Equipping With Gam-77 Missiles By End Of Jan 61 Was Good.

4238 Sw Failed Ori Conducted By Inspector General Of Strategic Air Command And Placed On Probation On 28 Dec 61

4238 Strategic Wing Personnel Deployed In Support Of Operation Chrome Dome Forward Area Tanker Task Force At Torrejon Air Base, Spain. 1961

1961 4238 Strategic Wing (Sw) Completed Keen Axe Commitments During Reporting Period.

1961 Emphasis Placed On Bringing Combat Crews To Maximum Proficiency With Personnel Working Six Day Work Weeks To Accomplish Goals. Beginning 11 Jan, Wing Conducted A Practice Hurry Home Golf To Test Capability Of Wing To Perform During Ori 1961

On 29 Jan 1961, The Wing's Ori (Hurry Home Golf) Was Initiated

Progress Of Wing Toward Equipping With Gam-77 Missiles By End Of Jan 61 Was Good.

Wing Preparing For Airborne Alert Exercise Chrome Dome. Wing Involved In Project Best Man (To Get More Field Grade Officers Back Into Combat Crews). 1961

During Sep 61, Wing's Ground Alert Posture Increased With The Addition Of Two Guided Air Missiles (Gam-77) On Alert.

Wing Had 12 Gam-77 Missiles And 19 Ground And Air Qualified Combat Ready Crews. 1961

After 4238 Sw Placed On Probation Status Due To Failing Operational Readiness Inspection (Ori), Wing Started Corrective Measures And 2 Air Force Requested That Sac Remove Wing From Unit Probation, 1962

Mission Of 4238 Strategic Wing (Sw) To Maintain A State Of Readiness To Conduct Bombardment Operations Globally In Event Its Emergency War Order Was Executed; To Prepare For Mission, Wing Carried On A Program Of Continuous Training Aimed At Keeping Assigned Units In Peak Condition. 1962

Wing's Guided Air Missiles (Gam-77) Sent To Manufacturer For Modification. 1962

1962 Wing/4238/Strategic (Heavy) 436 Bombardment Squadron Had 14 B-52f Heavy Bomber Aircraft Assigned And 913 Air Refueling Squadron Had 12 Kc-135 Tanker Aircraft Assigned.

Wing Participated In Operations Big Blast, Alarm Bell, And Short Punt.

4238 Sw Had 86 Combat Ready Aircrews Assigned.

Activated At Barksdale Afb, Louisiana, On 1/3/58. Inactivated On 1/4/63 When Aircraft And Personnel Resources Passed To The 2 Bw At The Same Base.

During Jul, 4238 Strategic Wing (Sw) Tactical Units Include 436 Bombardment Squadron Equipped With B-52 Heavy Bombers, 913 Air Refueling Squadron Equipped With Kc-135 Air Refueling Tankers, And 301 Air Refueling Squadron With Older Kc-135 Air Refueling Tankers Was Reduced In Half (Personnel And Aircraft) Due To Nearing Inactivation. 1961

Col Robert E. Kimmel Assumed Command Of Wing On 29 Jul 61 With Previous Commander, Col Ralph W. Stanley, Assigned To 2 Air Force Headquarters.

Wing Conducted Airborne Alert Sorties Called Clear Road/Keen Axe. 1961

Final Completion Of Modifications To Parachute And Dinghy Shop Delayed Due To Deficiency In Roof Design Of Bulilding. 1962

Early In Sep 62, Bombers And Tankers From 4238 Strategic Wing (Sw) Took Part In Sky Shield Ii (Large Scale Air Defense Exercise).

Parachute And Dinghy Shop Completed In June Along With Runway Approach Lighting. 1962

4238 Strategic Wing (Sw) Was Composed Of Two Tactical Squadrons (436 Bombardment Squadron That Flew B-52f Bomber Aircraft And 913 Air Refueling Squadron That Flew Kc-135 Air Refueling Tanker Aircraft), 1962

Wing Completed Participation In Operation Chrome Dome. 1962

Contains Information On Reorganization Of 4238 Strategic Wing (Sw) Brought About By Project Life Insurance. 1961

Wing Participated In Operations Skyshield Ii And Chrome Dome. 1961

4238 Strategic Wing (Sw) Located At Barksdale Air Force Base (Afb) La Was Commanded By Col Julian M. Bleyer. 1960

Mission Of Wing To Maintain Proficiency Of Straegic Crews And Units In Order To Successfully Deliver Atomic And Other Weapons In The Event Emergency War Order (Emo) Was Placed Into Effect. 1960

Wing Participated In Operations Big Blast, Alarm Bell, And Short Punt. Wing's Missile Program Progressed In Areas Of Personnel Training And Construction Of Facility. 1960

4238 Sw Had 86 Combat Ready Aircrews Assigned. 1960

Wing Vulnerable For Hurry Home Golf (A Unit Simulated Combat Mission). 1960

Wing Conducted Team Scrimmage Called Operation Big Show On 3 Through 7 Oct 60.

Wing Flew A Total Of 1,679 Hours In 239 Sorties During Month. 1960

Construction Of Guided Air Missile (Gam) Facility At Barksdale Afb Scheduled For Completion On 18 Jan 61.

Contains Combined History Of 4238 Strategic Wing (Sw) And Barksdale Air Force Base (Afb) La Located At Bossier City La. 1960
Col Julian M. Bleyer Served As Wing Commander. 1960

Capability Of Wing Decreased Due To Five B-52 Aircraft In Inspection And Repair As Necessary (Iran). 1960

4238 Sw Had Eleven B-52 Aircraft And Eleven Kc-135 Aircraft Assigned. 1960

Supervisory Staff Of Civil Engineering Performed Occupancy Date Inspection Of Guided Air Missile (Gam) Facility. 1960

4238 Strategic Wing (Heavy) Was Activated And Organized On 1 Mar 58 At Barksdale Air Force Base La With Col Julian M. Bleyer Assigned As Wing Commander. 1958

Primary Mission Of Wing Was To Develop (At Earliest Possible Date) Emergency War Plan (Ewp) Capability Of 436 Bombardment Squadron (Which Would Be Assigned B-52 Aircraft) And 913 Air Refueling Squadron (Which Would Be Assigned Kc-135 Aircraft), As Well As Maintain And Support Ewp Capability Of 301 Air Refueling Squadron And 376 Air Refueling Squadron (Which Would Also Be Assigned Kc-135 Aircraft). 1958

Mission Of 4238 Strategic Wing (Sw) To Maintain A State Of Readiness To Conduct Bombardment Operations Globally In Event Its Ewo (Emergency War Order) Was Executed 1962

To Prepare For Mission, Wing Carried On A Program Of Continuous Training Aimed At Keeping Assigned Units In Peak Condition. 1962

During The First Three Weeks Of Oct 62, 4238 Strategic Wing (Sw) Continued Normal Training Activities Required To Maintain Wing In Constant State Of Readiness To Conduct Bombardment Operations Globally In Event Its Ewo (Emergency War Order) Was Executed. 1962

Contains Overview Of Events In Cuba Leading Up To 22 Oct 62 When President John F. Kennedy Reported To The American People On The Build Up Of Missiles In Cuba And Steps The United States Government Would Take. 1962

Discusses Base Support Aircraft Activities During Cuban Crisis 1962

During Jan 61, 4238 Strategic Wing's (Sw) Combat Crews Continued Operational Training.

Emphasis Placed On Bringing Combat Crews To Maximum Proficiency With Personnel Working Six Day Work Weeks To Accomplish Goals. 1961

Beginning 11 Jan, Wing Conducted A Practice Hurray Home Golf To Test Capability Of Wing To Perform During Operational Readiness Inspection (Ori). 1961

On 29 Jan, The Wing's Ori (Hurry Home Golf) Was Initiated. 1961
Progress Of Wing Toward Equipping With Gam-77 Missiles By End Of Jan 61 Was Good. 1961

4238 Strategic Wing (Sw) Wing Historian Was Transferred Overseas In May 61 (Shortly After Completing Mar 61 History); Wing Was Without A Historian Until Jul 61; This History (Written In Aug 61) Covers Three Months.

Participated In Clear Road Sorties. 301 Air Refueling Squadron Scheduled For Inactivation In Sep 61, With Some Phase Out Activity Started In Apr Through Jun Period.

Discusses Modification Of B-52 Aircraft To Integrate Gam-77 Into Bombardment Capability Of Wing. 1961

4238 Strategic Wing (Sw) Commander, Col Robert E. Kimmel, Transferred To 4 Air Division At Barksdale Air Force (Afb) La; Col William T. Cumiskey Served As Interim Commander Of Wing Pending Arrival Of Permanent Commander, Col Frank B. Elliott. 1962

Wing Had 20 Guided Air Missiles (Gam-77) Assigned. 1963

4238 Strategic Wing (Sw) To Inactivate Effective 1 Apr 62.

2 Bw Would Move Without Personnel Or Equipment And The Personnel And Equipment Of 4238 Sw Would Become Assets Of 2 Bw. 1963

Throughout Mar 62, 4238 Sw Continued Normal Operations With B-52 Bomber And Kc-135 Tanker Aircraft On Constant Ground Alert.

4238 Strategic Wing (Sw) Attained An Outstanding Score On Operational Readiness Inspection (Ori), Management , And Compliance Inspection Completed On 9 Feb 61.

Wing Continued Having Limited Success In Radar Bomb Scoring (Rbs) Activity On Nike Sites. 1961

4238 Strategic Wing (Sw) Normal Training Activities Interrupted In Oct 62 Due To Crisis That Developed With The Build Up Of Russian Missiles And Military Strength In Cuba.

Wing Remained In An Increased Alert Posture During Early Weeks Of Nov 62;

By 15 Nov, With An Easing Of Tensions, Wing Resumed Limited Training Sorties. 1962

Wing's Missile Strength Now At Full Authorization Of 22 Guided Air Missile (Gam-77). 1962

4238 Strategic Wing (Sw) Had 16 B-52f Bomber Aircraft And 20 Kc-135a Tanker Aircraft. 1963

The introduction of these new aircraft initiated a wave of reorganization activity within Second Air Force. Barksdale was especially active in this reorganization. Effective March 1, 1958, the 4238th Strategic Wing (B-52 and KC-135) was designated and organized at Barksdale Air Force Base. This new wing was assigned to the 4th Air Division, stationed at Barksdale.

The organizational structure of the new wing included its headquarters squadron, the 4238th Periodic Maintenance Squadron, 4238th Field Maintenance Squadron, and the 4238th Armament Electronics Maintenance Squadron.

On 1 March, 1958, Barksdale's 301st Air Refueling Squadron was transferred to the 4238th Strategic Wing. This gave the newly organized wing two combat - ready tanker squadrons.

On April 1, 1963, the 4238th Strategic Wing and its associated support squadrons were deactivated at Barksdale. The 436th Bombardment Wing was also deactivated. All of the personnel equipment and aircraft of the deactivated units were absorbed by the newly arrived 2nd Bombardment Wing. With the deactivation of the 4238th, Barksdale's remaining tactical units were the 2nd Bombardment Wing, the 20th Bombardment Squadron, and the 913th Air Refueling Squadron.

In March, the 4238th Strategic Wing, flying B-52s and KC-135s, was designated and organized at Barksdale AFB. The wing was assigned to the 4th Air Division. On April 15, 1958, the 301st Bombardment Wing moved from Barksdale AFB, and the base's 805th Air Base Group was inactivated and replaced by the 4238th Air Base Group. In August 1958, the 436th Heavy Bombardment Squadron (B-52) moved to Barksdale AFB from Carswell AFB, and was assigned to the 4238th Strategic Wing.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.