

4950 TEST GROUP (NUCLEAR)

MISSION

LINEAGE

4950 Test Group (Nuclear)

STATIONS

Kirtland AFB, NM, 1 Sep 1956-16 Aug 1961

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Throughout the 1950s, with the Sandia/Kirtland complex certainly the nation's center for nuclear testing, AFSWC continued to support the various Nevada and Pacific test series through its 4950th Test Group (Nuclear). The Center also planned and supported an increasing number of missile tests at the Nevada Test Site and at the White Sands Missile Range in southern New Mexico. By the early 1960s, missile development work became AFSWC's major emphasis, in cooperation with the Air Force Missile Development Center at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico. On August 1,

1970, the latter merged with AFSWC to continue missile development out of Kirtland. The American moratorium on nuclear testing, announced on October 31, 1958, had a significant effect on Kirtland activities. AFSWC personnel had developed studies of the effects of a test ban on nuclear readiness, as well as contingency plans based on Soviet reactions to the ban. In preparation for phasedown of AFSWC test activity, the Center lost a significant number of staffing spaces, and during 1961, disbanded its 4950th Test Group (Nuclear) and 4925th Test Group (Atomic).

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