

68 MISSILE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

68th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 20 Nov 1940
Activated, 15 Jan 1941
Redesignated 68th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 5 Aug 1945
Inactivated, 12 Jul 1946
Activated, 1 Jul 1947
Inactivated, 6 Sep 1948
Redesignated 68th Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 20 Dec 1950
Activated, 2 Jan 1951
Discontinued, 15 Jun 1960
Redesignated 68th Strategic Missile Squadron, 19 Mar 1962
Organized, 1 Sep 1962

STATIONS

MacDill Field, FL, 15 Jan 1941
Barksdale Field, LA, 7 Feb 1942
Will Rogers Field, OK, 25 Jul-3 Sep 1942
Cheddington, England, 12 Sep 1942
Shipdham, England, 10 Oct 1942-15 Jun 1945 (detachment operated from Benina, Libya, 26 Jun-c. 31 Aug 1943, and Tunis, Tunisia, 19 Sep-9 Oct 1943)
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 26 Jun 1945
Great Bend AAFld, KS, 24 Jul 1945
Smoky Hill AAFld, KS, c. 12 Dec 1945-12 Jul 1946

Andrews Field, MD, 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948
March AFB, CA, 2 Jan 1951-1 Aug 1951
Lake Charles AFB, LA, 3 Aug 1951-15 Jun 1960
Ellsworth AAB, SD, 1Sep

ASSIGNMENTS

44th Bombardment Group, 15 Jan 1941-12 Jul 1946
44th Bombardment Group, 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948
44th Bombardment Group, 2 Jan 1951
44th Bombardment Wing, 16 Jun 1952
Department of the Air Force, 15 Jun 1960
Strategic Air Command, 19 Mar 1962
44th Strategic Missile Wing, 1 Sep 1962

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1942-1945
B-24D
B-29, 1945-1946
B-29, 1951-1953
B-47, 1953-1960
LGM-30B Minuteman I, 1963
LGM-30F Minuteman II, 1972
B-24H
B-24J

COMMANDERS

LTC Bernard J. Finan

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Antisubmarine, American Theater
Air Offensive, Europe
Sicily
Naples-Foggia
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Kiel, Germany, 14 May 1943

Ploesti, Rumania, 1Aug 1943

EMBLEM



68 Bombardment Squadron, Medium emblem: On a shield sky blue, between a cross red, edged white, in the two upper quarters, six bombs, points downward, three on each side of the cross, white, shaded blue; in the two lower quarters, eight stars, four on each side of the cross, white, in base over the cross a sphere, white, markings blue, over the center of the cross a star white, thereover an eagle flying blue, markings white. **BLAZON:** On shield azure, between a cross gules, fimbriated argent, in the first and second quarters, six bombs, three and three, chevron wise reversed, argent, shaded azure; in the third and fourth quarter, eight stars, four and four, argent; surmounting the center of the cross, a star argent, thereon an eagle volant azure, nark logs argent, surmounting the crocs in base a sphere ardent, markings azure. The design will face to the front when used on aircraft. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The field of tie shield is blue far the sky. The cross is similar to that which Crusaders used during the Holy Wars as a token that Cod's help could never fall them. The red is the color adopted by the squadron. The blue is for the sky where the true mission awaits fulfillment. The eagle ls a symbol of flight, wings over the world, and guardian of world peace. The boobs allude to the mission of a bombardment squadron. There are six of them, and eight stars, which refer to the numerical designation of the unit.

68th Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Minuteman) emblem: On an AF disc azure, in central and prominent position, an American eagle, displayed proper, is clutching in his talons a thunderbolt or fesswise throughout flanked on either side by missiles gules, highlighted of the second depicted in a blue sky, converging toward base beneath the red missiles eight red dart-shaped vehicles pointed downward; issuant from base a demi-globe checky of the second and

sanguine; over the eagle in chief semi- circular six eight-pointed stars blue. **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 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 missiles represent the function of a missile squadron and the dart-shaped vehicles represent reentering missile warheads. The six stars and the eight vehicles refer to the numerical designation of the unit. The eagle is a symbol of flight and guardian of world peace. The lightning bolts represent the control exerted over missiles by the airborne launch control system (ALCS) and allude to a function of the unit. (Approved, 31 Dec 1968)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Operational training unit, Feb-Jun 1942; antisubmarine operations, 28 Jan-4 Jul 1943; combat in ETO and MTO, 7 Nov 1-5 Apr 1945.

Apparently not manned, 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948.

Operational and replacement training unit, 1 Oct 1951-31 Aug 1952.

Trained for operations with Minuteman, 1 Sep 1962.

USAF UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *44 Bombardment Wing (M)*, 1954. Army and Navy Publishing Co, Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1954.