

# AIR FORCE WEAPONS LABORATORY



## MISSION

## LINEAGE

Air Force Weapons Laboratory constituted, activated and organized, 1 May 1963

## STATIONS

Kirtland AFB, NM, 1 May 1963

## ASSIGNMENTS

## COMMANDERS

## HONORS

Service Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

## EMBLEM

## MOTTO

## OPERATIONS

On May 1, 1963, the Air Force Weapons Laboratory (AFWL) was established at Kirtland to engage in weapons research and development of simulation techniques, since full-scale testing was no longer possible in atmospheric, space, or underwater environments. AFWL became, and remains, one of Kirtland's major tenant organizations, building facilities during the 1960s to simulate nuclear effects such as transient radiation, X-rays, and electro- magnetic pulses. To study the latter, the TRESTLE, largest simulator facility ever built, was completed on the east side of Kirtland AFB during the 1970s.

In the wake of the full-scale tests and signing of the test ban treaty, the Air Force Weapons Laboratory was created from elements of the Special Weapons Center. The Weapons Laboratory built facilities during the 1960s to simulate nuclear effects such as transient radiation, x-rays and electromagnetic pulse. To study the latter, the Trestle, the largest simulation facility ever built, was completed on the east side of Kirtland AFB during the late 1970s.

In December 1990, the Air Force Space Technology Center and Weapons Laboratory consolidated to become Phillips Laboratory, and later, the Air Force Research Laboratory.

---

USAF Unit Histories  
Created: 9 Jun 2013  
Updated:

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