

4043 STRATEGIC WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

4043 Strategic Wing

STATIONS

Wright Patterson AFB, OH, 1 Apr 1959-1 Feb 1963

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-52, 1960-1963

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Because of tight security requirements for strategic air operations and the existing layout of Wright-Patterson, it was decided that facilities for the new strategic wing would be constructed as a separate complex in Area C. The project started in August 1958 and was completed by mid-1960. The 4043rd Strategic Wing was activated at Wright-Patterson on April 1, 1959. Major components were the 42nd Bombardment Squadron and the 922nd Air Refueling Squadron (assigned effective December 1959).¹⁵ On September 15, 1959, the 66th Aviation Depot Squadron was also assigned to the 4043rd. Effective October 1, 1959, four additional units were designated and organized at WPAFB and assigned to the 4043rd Strategic Wing: 4043rd Armament and Electronics Maintenance Squadron 4043rd Organizational Maintenance Squadron 4043rd Field Maintenance Squadron 4043rd Support Squadron

The first KC-135 refueling aircraft was delivered on February 29, 1960. On June 15, 1960, the 42nd Bombardment Squadron moved its B-52Es in combat-ready status to Wright-Patterson from the 11th Bomb Wing, Altus AFB, Oklahoma and the SAC B-52 strategic wing became fully operational.

4043 SW personnel also participated in Persian Rug operation of 5 Jan 62 when 922 Air Refueling Squadron provided KC-15 tanker aircraft support for record/breaking flight of 15 AF B-52H aircraft from Kadena Air Base, Japan To Torrejon Air Base, Spain.

Activated at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio on 1/4/59. Inactivated on 1/2/63 when aircraft and personnel resources passed to the 17 BW at the same base.

USAF directives issued in early 1958 led to the signing of a joint tenancy agreement between the Air Materiel Command and the Strategic Air Command (SAC) for the support of SAC units at WPAFB. The location of a SAC B-52 strategic wing at Wright-Patterson was part of the SAC dispersal program initiated in 1958 to decentralize large concentrations of bomber aircraft

and make SAC bases less attractive targets for enemy missiles. Under this USAF-mandated program, not more than 15 aircraft were to be stationed at each of 33 locations. A \$549 million construction bill was passed by the House of Representatives authorizing construction at 29 locations, including \$22.6 million for facilities at Wright-Patterson.

In early 1958, Air Materiel Command signed a joint tenancy agreement with Strategic Air Command for support of SAC units at Wright-Patterson. Basing of a B-52 strategic wing at the base was part of the SAC dispersal program initiated in 1958 to decentralize large concentrations of bomber aircraft, making them less vulnerable to enemy attack. Under the Air Force-mandated program, not more than 15 aircraft were to be stationed at each of 33 locations around the nation. A \$549 million construction bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives authorized construction at 29 locations, including \$22.6 million for facilities at Wright-Patterson.

Due to the existing layout of Wright-Patterson and tight security requirements associated with nuclear operations, Air Force officials decided to construct facilities for the new strategik wings as separate complex in Area C. The base acquired 465 acres on its northeast boundary in 1954 for construction of the West Ramp. Construction began in August 1958. To accommodate the complex, the Fairborn, Ohio, sewage and waste treatment plant and a base recreational area known as Hadden Park were relocated. The land was leveled and subgraded, and the Mad River was widened. In 1960, the extensive \$25 million complex was ready to support the 4043rd Strategic Wing and its B-52 missions.

The 4043rd activated at Wright Patterson on April 1, 1959. Its operational units included the 42nd Bombardment Squadron and the 922nd Air Refueling Squadron (assigned effective December 1959).

On July 1, 1963, the 4043rd Strategic Wing (SAC) inactivated and was replaced by the 17th Bombardment Wing (Heavy).

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