Vandenberg AFB Minuteman Chronology 1960-1988

February 1960
Siting of the Minuteman silo launch and mobile training facilities at Vandenberg AFB was completed.
MM64-79

1 July 1960
The 394th Missile Training Squadron was activated at Vandenberg AFB, California, to provide combat crew training for the Minuteman squadrons scheduled to be activated in SAC.
SAC46-81

October 1960
Designs for the Minuteman Operational Readiness Training Facility located at Vandenberg AFB were completed.
MM64-79

2 February 1961
Construction began on Minuteman test launch facilities at Vandenberg AFB, California.
SACMSL39-73

1 July 1961
HQ SAC activated the 3901st Strategic Standardization Squadron (Missiles) at Vandenberg AFB. The unit will later be designated 3901st Strategic Missile Evaluation Squadron (SMES).
SACMSL39-73

21 July 1961
HQ SAC redesignated the First Missile Division at Vandenberg AFB, the First Strategic Aerospace Division (1STRAD).
SACMSL39-73

31 May 1962
First test launch of an ERCS Blue Scout Jr rocket from Vandenberg AFB was successful.
SACMSL39-88

5 July 1962
Operational readiness testing of a complete Minuteman was accomplished for the first time. Milestone was reached at Vandenberg AFB and at Boeing's test site at the development center. This was the first time all systems, including the missile, launch tube, and launch control center were tied together and tested as they would perform at an operational launch site. No actual launch was involved in the tests.
OOAMA58-71

18 July 1962
OOAMA's commander signed an agreement (signed by San Bernardino AMA's deputy commander nine days later) covering responsibilities for pre-launch hardening and post-launch refurbishing SM-80 Minuteman and Blue Scout standard launch vehicle (SLV) facilities at Vandenberg AFB and Point Arguello, California.
OOAMA58-71

14 August 1962
Technicians checked out the complete Minuteman weapon system at the Boeing plant in Seattle and at Vandenberg AFB, California.
OOAMA58-71

28 September 1962
The first R&D Category I launch of a Wing I configuration Minuteman missile (LGM-30A) from Vandenberg AFB was completed.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, COMP45-72

28 September 1962
The first Minuteman I launch by a SAC crew was accomplished at Vandenberg.
SAC46-81

28 September 1962
The first Minuteman missile launched from Vandenberg AFB, California, was the first complete weapon system, including ground support equipment, tested in its operational configuration. Malfunctions necessitated destruction of the missile by the range safety officer.
OOAMA58-71

5 February 1963
SAC/AFLC/AFSC and The Boeing Company completed a memorandum of agreement covering follow-on support requirements for Minuteman facilities at Vandenberg AFB, California, once it was turned over to SAC, plus provisioning for joint use of certain facilities, rolling stock, and equipment in support of SAC and Ballistic Systems Division programs.
OOAMA58-71

March 1963
During this month, AFSC turned over to SAC the first Minuteman LF at Vandenberg.
OOAMA58-71

11 April 1963
The first successful launch of a fully-operational model "A" Minuteman I from Vandenberg AFB, California, was conducted by a crew from Air Force Systems Command's 6595th Aerospace Test Wing.
SACMSL39-73, BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, COMP45-72

15 May 1963
All Category II (subsystem development test and evaluation) flights of Wing I Minuteman missiles were completed at Vandenberg AFB. Final test report was completed by 21 June.
OOAMA58-71

15 May 1963
The 4315th Student Squadron was redesignated as the 4315th Combat Crew Training Squadron at Vandenberg AFB, California. Since its organization on 1 May 1958, the 4315th had served as a holding unit for personnel receiving operational readiness training. Concurrently with this redesignation, the 4315th absorbed the crew training functions previously performed by Vandenberg's three ICBM squadrons: the 576th (Atlas), the 394th (Minuteman), and the 395th (Titan). These three squadrons then became primarily responsible for operating the launch facilities and supporting the missiles launched from there.
SAC46-81

24 May 1963
The 6595th Aerospace Test Wing launched flight test missile 458, the first Minuteman I LGM-30B to be launched from Vandenberg AFB.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, COMP45-72, SACMSL39-73

17 December 1963
Only SAC launch of an ERCS Blue Scout Jr by the 4300th Support Squadron at Vandenberg AFB.
SACMSL39-88

1 February 1964
The 394th and 395th Missile Training Squadrons - Minuteman and Titan, respectively - were redesignated Strategic Missile Squadrons.
SAC46-81

29 February 1964
The second multiple launch of two SAC Minuteman was conducted at Vandenberg AFB. LGM-30A Minuteman I missiles (FTMs 581 and 636) were successfully launched 20 minutes apart in the first ripple mode launch ever conducted. In this mode, a single launch crew gave both commands to launch.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

April 1964
Construction began on a new $1.4 million support facility at Vandenberg AFB, California. It would house the 6595th Aerospace Test Wing's Minuteman project office and be used by Air Force and industry personnel.
OOAMA58-71

9 June 1964
The 100th Minuteman missile since the inception of the flight test program was launched from Vandenberg AFB, California.
BMO45-90

9 November 1964
SAC's Minuteman IA operational test program concluded after 24 launches with the successful flight of FTM 661 from Vandenberg.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, SACMSL39-73

6 July 1965
The last of 50 Minuteman I (LGM-30B) operational test launches was conducted by SAC's 1 STRAD at Vandenberg AFB.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, SACMSL39-73

18 August 1965
The 500th major launch from Vandenberg AFB since 16 December 1958 was also the first Minuteman II (LGM-30F) research and development missile to be flown down the Western Test Range by the 6595th Aerospace Test Wing, as well as the 250th launch from Vandenberg by Air Force Systems Command and its predecessor, Air Research and Development Command. The missile flew 5000 miles down the Pacific Missile Range and its reentry vehicle impacted in the target area.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72

24 August 1965
A SAC crew at Vandenberg AFB launched the 100th Minuteman missile to be fired from Canaveral and Vandenberg. FTM 677 was the first Minuteman I (LGM-30A) follow-on operational test (FOT) launch and the 38th Minuteman I to be launched from Vandenberg.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

6 December 1965
The first operationally-configured Minuteman II (LGM-30F) completed a flawless flight downrange from Vandenberg AFB. All research and development goals were attained.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, COMP45-72

24 February 1966
The first salvo launch of Minuteman missiles was successfully accomplished at Vandenberg AFB, California. Multiple launches occurred at the site on three previous occasions, but they were ripple launchings, with one missile following another at short time intervals. The 341 SMW emplaced the missiles, targeted them, performed all subsequent maintenance, and fired them. Missiles had been removed from their silos by Malmstrom maintenance crews and airlifted to Vandenberg. One of the missiles fired was over three years old and OOAMA's Maintenance Directorate had previously recycled one of them. OOAMA DET 42 provided engineering support.
OOAMA58-71

17 March 1966
The first flight test of the General Electric Mk12 reentry vehicle was made aboard a Minuteman II (LGM-30F) booster fired from Vandenberg AFB.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, COMP45-72

15 May 1966
Category II Test Program for the WS-133B Minuteman at Vandenberg AFB met all objectives and was terminated.
OOAMA58-71

1 August 1966
Minuteman II DASO flights began.
MM64-79

3 October 1966
The flight of Minuteman missile 63-065 concluded SAC's Minuteman I (LGM-30A) Follow-On Operational Test (FOT) program after 13 launches, and was the 50th and final Minuteman IA to be launched from Vandenberg AFB.
BMO45-90, SACMSL39-73

13 December 1966
The first test and evaluation launch of the Minuteman Emergency Rocket Communications Systems (ERCS 494L) was successful. A communications package was successfully launched aboard a Minuteman II fired from Vandenberg AFB, and transmitted its message properly before reentry.
SACMSL39-73, OOAMA58-71

22 December 1966
The first attempted salvo launch of two Minuteman IB ICBMs at Vandenberg AFB was successful.
SACMSL39-73

3-7 April 1967
The first missile competition was held at Vandenberg AFB, California. Participants included two combat crews and one target alignment team from each wing. Crews were tested in missile procedures trainers, while the alignment teams were tested in launch facilities. The 351st Strategic Missile Wing, Eighth Air Force's lone Minuteman unit, made a clean sweep of the competition by winning all the Minuteman awards and the Blanchard Perpetual Trophy, which was awarded to the best overall wing.
SAC46-81, SACMSL39-73

17 April 1967
The Airborne Launch Control System (ALCS) was successfully tested when a Minuteman II was launched from Vandenberg AFB, after having received the necessary signals from a KC-135 aircraft. The ALCS attained initial operational capability (IOC) on 31 May 1967. This system provided HQ SAC with the capability of launching Minuteman ICBMs from airborne command post aircraft.
SAC46-81, MM64-79, COMP45-72, SACMSL39-73

21 April 1967
The 100th Minuteman IB (missile 65-101) was launched from Vandenberg AFB, California.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

9 May 1967
Minuteman F DASO flight tests suspended due to recurrent guidance and control set failures and serious accuracy bias. DASO launches would remain suspended until reliable Minuteman F configuration could be demonstrated. In the meantime, SAC scheduled 14 special test launches to take place between July 1967 and January 1968.
MM64-79

2 June 1967
The "Cold/Heat Soak" special test launch of a Minuteman IB ICBM at Vandenberg AFB was successful. The primary objective of the "Cold/Heat Soak" launches was to investigate the effects of prolonged exposure to extreme atmospheric conditions on the operational capability of ICBMs.
SACMSL39-73

10 February 1968
The final Mk12 reentry vehicle test launch was conducted at Vandenberg AFB.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

13 November 1968
Minuteman F DASO flights resumed.
MM64-79

11 April 1969
Minuteman III (FTM 301), the first G-missile launched at Vandenberg AFB but the fourth R&D missile to be fired, completed a 5000-mile flight and impacted near the Marshall Islands.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, OOAMA58-71, COMP45-72

16 April 1969
The first Minuteman II operational test (OT) launch, conducted at Vandenberg AFB, California, was unsuccessful.
SACMSL39-73

17-24 May 1969
SAC's second missile competition was held at Vandenberg AFB, California. Each wing was represented by two combat crews and one maintenance team. Each crew participated in three exercises which were conducted in a missile procedures trainer. The 4315th supplied the facilities and the exercises were conceived and conducted by the 3901st Strategic Missile Evaluation Squadron. Maintenance teams participated in four exercises, using the facilities of the 394th and 395th and the 51st Munitions Maintenance Squadron. Second Air Force's 321st Strategic Missile Wing was awarded the Blanchard as well as the best Minuteman wing.
SAC46-81, SACMSL39-73

20 May 1969
A SAC crew launched the 50th Minuteman II missile (64-15525) from Vandenberg AFB, CA.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

8 July 1969
The 250th Minuteman missile to be launched from Vandenberg AFB was a SAC operational test flight missile.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

30 July 1969
SAC's First Strategic Aerospace Division (1STRAD) turned over to SAMSO a Minuteman launch facility (LF) at Vandenberg for use in support of the Army's Safeguard System Test Targets Program (SSTTP) that was to evaluate the Army anti-ballistic missile (ABM) systems then under development.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

2 October 1969
SAC's First Strategic Aerospace Division launched the 150th Minuteman IB (64-424) to be launched from Vandenberg AFB.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

28 April – 5 May 1970
The third Missile Combat Competition was held at Vandenberg AFB. Each wing was represented by two combat crews and one maintenance team. Each combat crew participated in three individual exercises in a missile procedures trainer, and each maintenance team participated in four exercises. The 44th Strategic Missile Wing was awarded the Blanchard as well as the best Minuteman wing.
SAC46-81, SACMSL39-73

21 May 1970
A Minuteman II was successfully launched from Vandenberg AFB to the Oeno Island target area in the southeast Pacific. This was the first time that the Oeno Island target was used for a Minuteman ICBM test launch.
SACMSL39-73

23 July 1970
Flight Test Missile 970, a Minuteman I (LGM-30B), was the 300th Minuteman missile launched from Vandenberg AFB and the first missile launched in support of the Army's Safeguard System Test Targets Program (SSTTP). Since the first Minuteman missile was fired on 28 September 1962, Vandenberg launches consisted of 165 Bs, 50 As, 75 Fs, and ten Gs.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

28 July 1970
The final flight test missile in the basic Minuteman III research and development program was launched from Vandenberg AFB. Twenty-five missiles had been flown in the program: eleven from Vandenberg and fourteen from Cape Canaveral.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

4 August 1970
First Minuteman F ERCS operational test launched from Vandenberg AFB.
SACMSL39-88

14 September 1970
The 81st Minuteman II (LGM-30F) missile to be fired from Vandenberg AFB was also the 1000th missile to be launched from the base since December 1958.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

22 October 1970
Space and Missile Test Center (SAMTEC) supported the first salvo launch of two Minuteman II missiles from Vandenberg AFB. This dual launch also marked the conclusion of Phase I operational testing (OT) of the Minuteman II ICBM. This was the third simultaneous launch of Minuteman missiles from Vandenberg.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, SACMSL39-73

4 November 1970
The first Minuteman III follow-on R&D flight test missile was launched from Vandenberg AFB.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

23 December 1970
A surplus Minuteman IB flight test missile was fired down the Western Test Range from Vandenberg AFB as part of the Safeguard System Test Targets Program (SSTTP) managed by SAMSO's Deputy for Reentry Systems. The reentry vehicle was successfully intercepted by an Army Sprint terminal-defense interceptor launched from Kwajalein Atoll.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, SACMSL39-73

23 March 1971
SAC launched the first Minuteman III operational test (Phase I) missile from Vandenberg AFB.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

24 March 1971
A Minot crew conducted the first Minuteman III operational test with a successful flight from Vandenberg.
SAC46-81, SACMSL39-73

20-28 April 1971
SAC's fourth Missile Combat Competition was held at Vandenberg AFB. Competitors included two combat crews and one maintenance team from each wing. Whiteman's 351st Strategic Missile Wing was awarded the Blanchard as well as best Minuteman wing.
SAC46-81, SACMSL39-73

6-14 April 1972
SAC conducted its fifth missile competition at Vandenberg AFB. To broaden participation and increase interest in the meet, each wing sent four combat crews instead of two as in previous years. For the first time in the history of the competition, a Titan wing secured the Blanchard. The best Minuteman wing award was won by the 351st Strategic Missile Wing, Whiteman AFB, Missouri.
SACMSL39-73, SAC46-81

13 June 1972
SAMSO launched a Force Mod Minuteman II missile from Vandenberg to test an improved command destruct system for use in SAC's Operational Base Launch (OBL) program, Giant Patriot. The Operational Base Launch Safety System (OBLSS) was an internally-mounted destruct system which would allow the launch of a Minuteman II from an operational silo while providing ground controllers with an effective safety destruct system if the missile malfunctioned or deviated radically from its projected flight path.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, SACMSL39-73

25 July 1972
The second Giant Patriot test missile was launched from Vandenberg to evaluate the Operational Base Launch Safety System (OBLSS) in anticipation of implementation of SAC's OBL program, Giant Patriot, in 1974.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

19 September 1972
The first Minuteman III Phase I Operational Test (OT) launch (from a regular Minuteman II LF at Vandenberg AFB) was successful.
SACMSL39-73

16 October 1972
The 42nd Minuteman III (LGM-30G) missile fired was the 400th Minuteman to be launched from Vandenberg. By type, the total included 193 Bs, 20 As, 115 Fs, and 42 Gs.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

20 November 1972
The first Minuteman III Modified Operational Missile (MOM) test was conducted at Vandenberg AFB.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

26 April – 4 May 1973
The SAC Missile Competition once again brought together the command's best at Vandenberg, with each wing entering four combat crews and one composite maintenance team. Since Vandenberg no longer had Minuteman I facilities in operation, a portion of the competition was held at F.E. Warren on 9-13 April. Warren's 90th Strategic Missile Wing won the Blanchard and the best Minuteman wing.
SAC46-81, SACMSL39-73

31 May 1973
The 50th Minuteman III (LGM-30G) missile to be launched from Vandenberg was the third Production Verification Missile (PVM) fired by the Space and Missile Test Center (SAMTEC) in support of the Deputy for Minuteman (MN) PVM program.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

25 April-3 May 1974
SAC Missile Competition took place at Vandenberg AFB. The 321st SMW, Grand Forks AFB, ND, competing under the slogan "Eat 'Em Up," won the Blanchard as well as best Minuteman wing.
SAC46-81

1 July 1974
The initial training of Minuteman combat crews, formerly performed by Air Training Command (ATC) instructors at Vandenberg AFB, was incorporated into the 4315th Combat Crew Training Squadron's Operational Readiness Training (ORT) program. As a result of this action, the entire Minuteman combat crew training sequence, from initial to upgrade, became the responsibility of SAC.
SACMSL39-88

1 August 1974
The last flight in the Safeguard System Test Target Program (SSTTP) occurred. This program provided targets that allowed functions and system checkout of the Safeguard radars and interceptors for the Army's Safeguard Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) System. Since 23 June 1970, there had been 27 Minuteman I and seven Titan II flights.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

24 October 1974
As an early air-mobile flight demonstration of the feasibility of launching a ballistic missile from a wide-body aircraft, a Minuteman I missile was dropped from an Air Force C-5A over water at the Western Test Range. Ignited at 8000 feet, the Minuteman rose to 20,000 feet before expending its propellant and falling into the ocean 20 miles from Vandenberg AFB. SAMSO's Deputy for Minuteman at Norton AFB, CA, completed the necessary work for the air-mobile demonstration in just over two months. The data gathered from this first live demonstration of the air-mobile concept was to be used in SAMSO's Advanced ICBM Technology (MX) program to determine technology and basing concept for the next generation of US land-based strategic missiles.
BMO45-90

24 April – 2 May 1975
The SAC Missile Competition was held at Vandenberg AFB. In addition to entering combat crews and maintenance teams, each wing sent a new entry - a security police team. This competition was also significant in that women participated for the first time. A Titan wing took the Blanchard, but Ellsworth was named best Minuteman wing and Grand Forks had the best security police.
SAC46-81

6 May 1975
Minuteman III Production Verification Missile 10 was successfully launched from Vandenberg. This was the first Minuteman to be launched with the new Wing VI command data buffer (CDB) hybrid-explicit software.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

16 May 1975
Special Test Missile 9W (STM-9W) was the first Pave Pepper flight test. It was successful. The program was designed to evaluate the use of increased numbers of reentry vehicles on the Minuteman III.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

2 July 1975
LGM-30G Production Verification Missile 11 (PVM-11) was successfully launched from Vandenberg to evaluate stage III thrust termination capability of the Hybrid-Explicit Flight Program.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

August 1975
The final test of the Launch Equipment Room Full-Up Floor Test Program was completed at Vandenberg AFB. This test program began in January 1973 with tests of the complete Wing V upgraded floor shock isolation system with mass-simulated electronics (Block I) and continued with tests of the Wing V upgraded floor with operating electronics (Block II), tests of single isolators (Block III), and tests of a Wing VI upgraded floor with mass-simulated electronics (Block IV). The highly successful program not only qualified the upgraded floor to design criteria, but also demonstrated that the subsystem had inherently harder shock capability than was required.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

9 January 1976
The first flight test of the operational Hybrid Explicit Flight Program was conducted successfully from Vandenberg AFB aboard PVM-12.
SAMSO54-79

12 November 1976
Special Minuteman test flight STM-12W was launched from Vandenberg AFB. It was the first Fly-2 flight test (dual NS20 IMU).
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

27 April – 6 May 1977
SAC Missile Competition took place at Vandenberg AFB. Whiteman captured the Blanchard, along with best Minuteman wing, best operations, and best civil engineering. Malmstrom was awarded best maintenance, Minot took best security police, Ellsworth won best communications, and F.E. Warren secured best vehicle operator.
SAC46-81

18 May 1977
TDV-1, the first of three technology development vehicle flights in CY77, was successfully launched from Vandenberg AFB to the Kwajalein missile range on a Minuteman I booster. It successfully conducted complex experiments dealing with nosetip materials, aerodynamics, and electronics.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

January 1978
The Boeing Company and SAC completed the initial operational test and evaluation of the Guidance Improvement Program at Vandenberg AFB, California.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

28 April – 4 May 1978
SAC Missile Competition took place at Vandenberg AFB (excepting Titan maintenance, which occurred at McConnell AFB, Kansas). Due to budgetary constraints, vehicle operator teams were dropped from the event and the number of combat crews representing each wing was reduced from four to two. Minot won the Blanchard and best Minuteman wing, plus best operations. F.E. Warren took best civil engineering.
SAC46-81

20 January 1979
STREP-1, an ABRES flight test conducted in support of the Army's System Technology Reentry Experiments Program, was launched on a Minuteman I booster from Vandenberg to Kwajalein. The primary mission was successful, but a secondary payload, the advanced Star decoy sponsored by ABRES, deployed improperly because of improper loading, and data on its performance could not be collected.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

27 April – 3 May 1979
SAC Missile Competition took place at Vandenberg AFB (excepting Titan maintenance, which occurred at McConnell AFB, Kansas). Malmstrom was awarded best Minuteman wing, plus best maintenance. Grand Forks won best operations and Minot best security police. Ellsworth took best civil engineering.
SAC46-81

6 July 1979
The Large Ballistic Recovery Vehicle (LBRV) was launched from Vandenberg to Kwajalein on a Minuteman I booster. The purpose of the experiment was to recover the external shell of a Mk 12A reentry vehicle intact after reentry in order to assess the performance of staple-fiber heat shields. The LBRV was successfully recovered intact. A secondary payload, the advanced Star decoy sponsored by ABRES, was successfully deployed and tracked after a previous failure on 20 January.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

10 July 1979
SAC launched two Minuteman III ICBMs from Vandenberg AFB, California, during exercise Global Shield, a comprehensive exercise of SAC nuclear forces. One of these missions, Glory Trip 40GM, was the last Minuteman III phase I flight test. The missiles were launched 12 seconds apart by a task force from the 90th Strategic Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming.
SACMSL39-88, SAC46-81

31 January 1980
Minuteman III PVM-18 was launched from Vandenberg. This was the first operational flight test of production Mk 12A reentry vehicles.
BMO45-90

24-30 April 1980
SAC Missile Competition took place at Vandenberg AFB (excepting Titan maintenance, which occurred at McConnell AFB, Kansas). F.E. Warren was awarded best Minuteman wing, plus best security police. Ellsworth took best communications.
SAC46-81

17 September 1980
Glory Trip 77GM, a Minuteman III operational test, became the longest Minuteman flight test from Vandenberg AFB when its payload impacted a broad ocean area target over 5600 nautical miles downrange.
SACMSL39-88

1-7 May 1981
Held at Vandenberg AFB, California, the SAC Missile Competition produced the following winners: Whiteman - Blanchard and best Minuteman wing, Minot - best maintenance, and F.E. Warren - best security police.
SAC46-81

23-29 April 1982
The 44th Strategic Missile Wing, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, captured the Blanchard Trophy at the fifteenth annual missile competition held at Vandenberg AFB, California.
SACMSL39-88

2 December 1982
BMO and SAC successfully launched a Minuteman III (Glory Trip 91GM) from Vandenberg to Kwajalein to evaluate the range's capability to support future Peacekeeper flight tests.
BMO45-90

3-10 May 1984
The 90th Strategic Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, won the Blanchard Trophy as the best missile wing in SAC during the annual missile combat competition.
SACMSL39-88

26 April – 2 May 1985
The 308th SMW (Titan II) won the Blanchard at the 18th annual SAC Missile Combat Competition. This outcome marked the 308th's only win. The 341st SMW, Malmstrom AFB, Montana, won honors as the best Minuteman wing.
SACMSL39-88

7 February 1986
The first class of female Minuteman combat crew officers completed initial qualification training at Vandenberg AFB, California.
SACMSL39-88

17 March 1986
ASMS conducted a Minuteman launch, IPA-3, for the reentry systems launch program. A modified Minuteman I booster propelled an R&D payload downrange to the Kwajalein Atoll. This was the first launch to deploy five decoys as part of the Decoy Deployment System.
BMO45-90

16-22 May 1986
Malmstrom won the Blanchard at the 19th annual Missile Combat Competition at Vandenberg.
SACMSL39-88

2 April 1987
BMO conducted the first of two Minuteman III test flights from LF06 at Vandenberg for the Alternative Inertial Navigation System (AINS) competition between the General Electric (stellar inertial) and Litton (ring laser gyro) systems.
BMO45-90

1-9 May 1987
The 321st Strategic Missile Wing, Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota, won the Blanchard Trophy during the 20th annual missile competition at Vandenberg AFB. This marked the first year that the Titan wings did not compete, due to their inactivation.
SACMSL39-88

1 September 1987
A second Minuteman III was launched from Vandenberg LF06 to support the AINS competition.
BMO45-90

18 January 1988
The Reentry Systems Launch Program of ASMS launched a Minuteman I booster for the purpose of a technology demonstration of a Maneuvering Reentry Vehicle. The objective of the TDMaRV program was to demonstrate the technology for the development of a maneuvering reentry vehicle that would be capable of anti-ballistic missile defense penetration and improved ICBM accuracy.
BMO45-90