

Wing I and 564 SMS Malmstrom AFB, MT, Chronology 1959-2014

17 December 1959

In a 6 January 1960 message, AMC informed OOAMA that the Air Force had approved a 17 December 1959 SAC/AF Ballistic Missile Division presentation calling for selection of Malmstrom AFB, Montana, as the first launching site and Hill AFB as the first Mobile Unit Support Base (MUSB) for the Minuteman.

OOAMA58-71

23 December 1959

The Air Force Ballistic Missile Committee approved the selection of Malmstrom AFB, Montana, as the site of the first Minuteman ICBM base.

COMP45-72, SACMSL39-73

31 December 1959

The quarterly report to the President on the ICBM and IRBM programs included the following information: Malmstrom AFB, Montana, selected as support base for first hardened and dispersed Minuteman force.

DEVSUP59-60

January 1960

Minuteman operational site surveys were conducted in the vicinity of Malmstrom AFB, Montana. Individual locations for three squadrons were tentatively selected.

MM64-79

23 March 1960

The Air Force publicly announced that the Department of Defense had named Malmstrom AFB, Montana, as the location for the first Minuteman wing.

OOAMA58-71, BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, COMP45-72

1960

Sites for three Minuteman squadrons in the Malmstrom AFB area were selected.

MM64-79

15 September 1960

Final design of the Minuteman operational facilities to be installed in the Malmstrom AFB area was placed under formal configuration control procedures.

MM64-79

22 September 1960

The Air Force released nearly \$250 million for construction of missile support bases at Malmstrom AFB, Montana; Little Rock AFB, Arkansas; and Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona.

OOAMA58-71

1 October 1960

AMC designated and organized Detachment 18, Headquarters OOAMA (OOAMA Support Detachment Malmstrom) at Malmstrom AFB, Montana, to perform materiel management and engineering in support of the SAC SATAF commander in the execution of installation and checkout work; and in support of the SAC commander when the site for the Minuteman missile became operational.

OOAMA58-71

6 December 1960

The Army Corps of Engineers opened bids for construction of 150 Minuteman hardened launching sites around Malmstrom AFB, Montana, operated by 15 launch control centers. The sites, clustered in 15 flights, were designated by letters.

OOAMA58-71

16 March 1961

The construction of model "A" Minuteman I operational facilities at Malmstrom AFB, Montana, was begun with the excavation for the Alpha Flight launch control center (LCC) and three silos.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, COMP45-72, POL55-68, SACMSL39-73

16 March 1961

The Site Activation Task Force and other Air Force units conducted groundbreaking ceremonies at Malmstrom AFB, Montana, to mark the beginning of the first Minuteman missile complex in the world. A month earlier, 28 February 1961, the Army Corps of Engineers awarded a \$61.7 million contract for the construction.

OOAMA58-71

15 July 1961

HQ SAC activated the 341st Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM - Minuteman A) at Malmstrom AFB, Montana. This was SAC's first Minuteman wing.

SACMSL39-73, POL55-68, SAC46-81, COMP45-72

13 November 1961

The first model "A" Minuteman I ICBM operational base silo was completed at Malmstrom AFB and turned over to an Air Force Site Activation Task Force (SATAF).

SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72, OOAMA58-71

November 1961

Delays in Minuteman program became evident. Delivery of first ICBMs to Malmstrom postponed from February to May 1962.

MM64-79

1 December 1961

HQ SAC activated the first Minuteman squadron, the 10th Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM - Minuteman A), and the 341st Missile Maintenance Squadron (ICBM - Minuteman A); both were assigned to the 341st Strategic Missile Wing at Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72, POL55-68, SAC46-81

15 December 1961

Construction of the first flight of ten model "A" Minuteman I ICBM operational base silos was completed with the acceptance of the tenth site at Malmstrom AFB by an Air Force Site Activation Task Force.

SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72, OOAMA58-71

1 May 1962

Construction work was completed on the first squadron of model "A" Minuteman I ICBM operational facilities at Malmstrom AFB, MT.

SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72

1 May 1962

HQ SAC activated the 490th Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM - Minuteman A) at Malmstrom AFB, Montana. It was the third and last model "A" Minuteman I squadron to be activated by SAC.

SACMSL39-73

20 July 1962

OOAMA shipped the first production Minuteman missile to Malmstrom AFB, Montana. A second production Minuteman left the same date from Hill AFB for Vandenberg. Assembled by Boeing at AF Plant 77, the two missiles were sealed inside special transporter-erector vehicles equipped with air conditioning and humidity control units, and transported on 85-foot railroad flatcars. Subsequent shipments of Minuteman missiles would be by aircraft and motor vehicles as well as by railroad. The missile destined for Malmstrom arrived 23 July; the one for Vandenberg, 24 July.

OOAMA58-71

23 July 1962

The first model "A" Minuteman I ICBM arrived at Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

SACMSL39-73

27 July 1962

The first model "A" Minuteman I ICBM was emplaced in site A09 at Malmstrom AFB, MT.

SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72

27 September 1962

Construction work was completed on the last model "A" Minuteman I ICBM operational facilities at Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72

1 October 1962

The OOAMA Site Activation Task Force Detachment 18, Malmstrom AFB, Montana, prepared a plan called Project MAINSPAR. The SATAF submitted it for approval to the Ballistic Systems Division two days later. All levels through USAF eventually approved it. The plan delineated responsibilities and relationships between SAC and SATAF organizations; The Boeing Company, Space Technology Laboratory, OOAMA, Contract Support Detachment, Ground Electronics Engineering and Installations Agency, etc., to effectively perform maintenance of the Minuteman beyond the capability of SAC to keep an Emergency War Order (EWO) status of the missile. This applied during post-turnover periods of operational flights. OOAMA's detachment would furnish field maintenance over that which the 341st Strategic Missile Wing at Malmstrom could provide starting with the first flight turnover and until the last item of late field maintenance ground equipment was accepted by SAC.

OOAMA58-71

16 October 1962

The first of a series of C-47 airlift operations began from Malmstrom AFB (OOAMA SATAF Det 18) to the Boeing Company (Seattle, Washington) and return.

OOAMA58-71

24 October 1962

Turnover from the contractor to the user, 341st Strategic Missile Wing, SAC, of the first operational Minuteman missile Flight A occurred at Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

OOAMA58-71

24 October 1962

Alpha Flight, 10th Strategic Missile Squadron, at Malmstrom AFB, was the first flight of Minuteman I (LGM-30A) missile launchers to be accepted by HQ SAC.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72

27 October 1962

First flight of Minuteman I ICBMs placed on alert at Malmstrom. A response to the Cuban crisis, posture of missile more closely approached emergency combat status than true alert.

MM64-79

1962

27 October 1962

The first model "A" Minuteman I ICBMs were placed on alert at the 341st Strategic Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, Montana.
SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72

6 November 1962

In order to improve morale by detracting from the boredom associated with the lack of activity for crew members and at the same time to attract and retain qualified officers for its missile crews, SAC initiated a graduate college program for Minuteman crews. The school began at Malmstrom in November 1962 and was operated by the Air Force Institute of Technology.
SAC46-81, SACMSL39-73

14 November 1962

The first air shipment of a Minuteman from Hill AFB to a launching site occurred. From AF Plant 77, the missile was delivered to the flight line at Hill AFB, where a C-133B Cargomaster carried it to Malmstrom AFB, Montana. Sealed in a 52-foot-long Shipping and Storage Container, Ballistic Missile (SSCBM), the missile arrived at Malmstrom where it was transferred into a transporter-erector (TE) vehicle, which lowered it into a silo. The C-133 was the primary method of transporting Minuteman missiles, with rail and motor vehicles also used when required to deliver and return missiles to and from Hill AFB maintenance shops. The C-133 was assigned to the 1501st Air Transport Wing of the Western Transport Air Force of MATS, headquartered at Travis AFB, California.
OOAMA58-71

20 November 1962

The first rail movement of a Minuteman Shipping and Storage Container, Ballistic Missile (SSCBM) arrived at Malmstrom AFB.
OOAMA58-71

11 December 1962

HQ SAC declared the first two flights of model "A" Minuteman I ICBMs at Malmstrom AFB, Montana, to be operational. This was the beginning of continuous alert for Minuteman.
SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72, SAC46-81, BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

11 December 1962

More than a month after the first flight had been put on alert during the Cuban Crisis, Air Force Systems Command turned two flights over to the user, SAC, at Malmstrom AFB. The two flights (Alpha and Bravo) were part of the 10th Strategic Missile Squadron, 341st Strategic Missile Wing, Fifteenth Air Force, SAC.
OOAMA58-71

28 February 1963

HQ SAC declared its first Minuteman squadron, the 10th Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM - Minuteman A) of the 341st Strategic Missile Wing at Malmstrom AFB, Montana, to be operational. The squadron was turned over to SAC when the transfer of Echo Flight was completed.

SACMSL39-73, SAC46-81, COMP45-72, BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

April 1963

The first model "A" Minuteman I squadron, the 10 SMS, Malmstrom AFB, Montana, brought the last of its missiles up to alert.

SACMSL39-73

25 April 1963

The Boeing Company delivered the first increment of the strategic missile support base at Malmstrom AFB to SAC. Of the four increments to be delivered, the last would be 22 June 1963. The first increment gave SAC a 60% capability. Boeing declared a 100% capability would not be attained without workaround, as new items were required which were not contractually covered.

OOAMA58-71

15 May 1963

12th Strategic Missile Squadron operational with LGM-30A

COMP45-72

13 June 1963

The last scheduled delivery of a Minuteman missile to the Wing I SATAF was made by C-133B. This was the 134th missile-carrying sortie to Malmstrom from AF Plant 77 at Hill AFB by the 1501st Air Transport Wing of the Military Air Transport Service (MATS).

OOAMA58-71

3 July 1963

490th Strategic Missile Squadron operational with LGM-30A

COMP45-72

3 July 1963

The 341st Strategic Missile Wing at Malmstrom AFB was completed and turned over to SAC.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

1 August 1963

AFLC discontinued OOAMA DET 18 at Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

OOAMA58-71

8 August 1963

Official turnover ceremonies for Wing I took place at Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

October 1963

The third and last model "A" Minuteman I squadron, the 490th SMS, Malmstrom AFB, Montana, had an alert requirement for all of its missiles. This completed the first Minuteman wing, the 341 SMW.

SACMSL39-73

5 November 1963

The Minuteman Contract Support Detachment (CSD) 18 at Malmstrom AFB was inactivated.

OOAMA58-71

9 December 1963

The SAC Inspector General conducted the first ORI of a Minuteman wing at the 341st Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM - Minuteman A), Malmstrom AFB, Montana. The wing's 490th Strategic Missile Squadron was the first to successfully exercise all missiles on alert during an ORI. The full inspection lasted five days.

SACMSL39-73

30 July 1964

HQ USAF announced that one additional squadron of 50 Minuteman II (LGM-30F) missiles would be co-located with the existing three Minuteman I (LGM-30A) squadrons of the 341st Strategic Missile Wing at Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, COMP45-72

1 August 1964

The USAF Chief of Staff confirmed earlier congressional and news releases that the Air Force would install an additional fifty Minuteman II missiles at Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

OOAMA58-71

August 1964

The gradual replacement of model "A" Minuteman I ICBMs with model "B" Minuteman Is began at the 341 SMW, Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

SACMSL39-73, MM64-79, COMP45-72

1 October 1964

AFLC designated and organized at Malmstrom AFB, Montana, Detachment 26, HQ OOAMA (OOAMA Support Detachment Malmstrom).

OOAMA58-71

23 February 1965

Morrison Knudsen won the contract to build the WS-133B sites at Malmstrom AFB.

564MS

September 1965

Manpower for construction of Squad 20 peaked at 1593 men.

564MS

15 October 1965

A milestone of the Minuteman Education Program was reached when 16 launch control officers (LCOs) of the 341st Strategic Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, Montana, received Master of Science degrees in aerospace engineering.

SACMSL39-73

1 April 1966

HQ SAC activated the 20th and last Minuteman squadron, the 564th Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM - Minuteman II), at Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72

26 October 1966

Construction was completed on Minuteman II ICBM operational launch facilities at the 564th Strategic Missile Squadron, Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

SACMSL39-73

18 January 1967

The 341 SMW accepted Minuteman II Papa Flight in the 564 SMS. This was the first flight at Malmstrom to be operational with the Minuteman II.

564MS

10 February 1967

The 341 SMW accepted Quebec Flight Minuteman II sites assigned to the 564 SMS.

564MS

17 March 1967

The 1000th (and last) Minuteman silo (T49) was completed at Malmstrom AFB.

564MS

17 March 1967

The 1000th Minuteman missile, an LGM-30F, was shipped to 564 SMS at Malmstrom AFB and emplaced on 23 March 1967.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

29 March 1967

The 341 SMW accepted Sierra Flight Minuteman II sites assigned to the 564 SMS.
564MS

21 April 1967

Tango Flight, last of the five in the 564th Strategic Missile Squadron, was accepted by 341 SMW commander Col John Carroll.
564MS

21 April 1967

The final flight of the 564th Strategic Missile Squadron was turned over to SAC. This brought the strength of the 341st Strategic Missile Wing at Malmstrom AFB, Montana, to 200 missiles (50 Minuteman IIs co-located with 150 Minuteman Is). The formal turnover on 3 May 1967 of SAC's 20th Minuteman squadron completed the deployment of the programmed 1000 Minuteman missile launchers.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, MM64-79, SACMSL39-73, SAC46-81

3 May 1967

The last Minuteman II was put on alert in Tango Flight and the 564th Strategic Missile Squadron, achieving full alert status, was declared operational at Malmstrom AFB, Montana.
564MS, COMP45-72

3 May 1967

Ballistic Systems Division announced that the twentieth Minuteman ICBM squadron, the 564th Strategic Missile Squadron at Malmstrom AFB, Montana, was now operational and that the total deployment of 1000 missiles was completed.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

5 May 1967

A formal turnover ceremoniously completed the deployment of the 1000 Minuteman missiles. The 564th Strategic Missile Squadron was both the first (Atlas) and last (Minuteman) operational ICBM squadron to be activated in the United States.
564MS

12 December 1967

The first flight of the first Wing I squadron to complete Force Modernization, the 12th Strategic Missile Squadron, was returned to SAC at Malmstrom AFB, Montana.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

1 March 1968

The first Minuteman Mark I penetration aid was deployed on a Minuteman II ICBM at the 341st Strategic Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, Montana.
SACMSL39-73

22 April 1968

The 12th Strategic Missile Squadron at Malmstrom was fully equipped with five flights of Minuteman II missiles following Force Modernization.

SAC46-81

27 May 1968

12th Strategic Missile Squadron operational with LGM-30F following Force Modernization. This was the first Force Modernization squadron at Wing I.

COMP45-72, BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

20 June 1968

Force Modernization work was officially completed on the first squadron (12th Strategic Missile Squadron) of Minuteman II missiles at Malmstrom AFB, Montana. The work included renovation of the launch facilities (LFs) so that they would accommodate the Minuteman II missile.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

8 January 1969

10th Strategic Missile Squadron operational with LGM-30F following Force Modernization

COMP45-72

15 January 1969

The last model "A" Minuteman I ICBMs were released from alert at Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

SACMSL39-73, MM64-79

12 February 1969

The final Minuteman I (LGM-30A) missile was taken out of its silo at Malmstrom AFB, Montana, marking the end of the operational deployment of the original model Minuteman ICBM. This removal was part of the continuing Force Modernization program at Malmstrom. Immediately thereafter, contractors began refurbishing the facilities in order to outfit them with Minuteman II "F" missiles.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, SAC46-81, SACMSL39-73

6 May 1969

LGM-30 production missile number 2660 was shipped to Malmstrom AFB for use in the Force Modernization program.

OOAMA58-71

27 May 1969

490th Strategic Missile Squadron operational with LGM-30F following Force Modernization

COMP45-72

27 May 1969

The Force Modernization program was completed at Malmstrom AFB when Kilo Flight was returned to the 341st Strategic Missile Wing. With the completion of the program at Malmstrom, the SAC Minuteman ICBM force was composed of three wings or ten squadrons of model "B" Minuteman I ICBMs, and three wings or ten squadrons of Minuteman II ICBMs. Of the ten Minuteman II squadrons, six (three at Malmstrom and three at Whiteman) were of the Force Modernized variety.

SACMSL39-73, MM64-79, SAC46-81

27 May 1969

The last flight of Force Modernization Minuteman II missiles was turned over to SAC's 341st Strategic Missile Wing at Malmstrom AFB, Montana. Wing I Force Modernization turnover was officially completed on 13 June 1969.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

1 July 1969

AFLC inactivated Detachment 26, HQ OOAMA (OOAMA Support Detachment Malmstrom).

OOAMA58-71

31 March 1970

Minuteman II Retrofit at Wing I was completed.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

20 January 1975

Minuteman F/G conversion began at the 564th Strategic Missile Squadron at Malmstrom AFB, Montana. Ogden Air Logistics Center handled the swap on an individual site basis.

SAC46-81, BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, SACMSL39-88, 564MS

8 July 1975

Malmstrom's 564th Strategic Missile Squadron completed the upgrade to Minuteman III, bringing T49 back to strategic alert.

564MS

11 July 1975

Minuteman F/G conversion completed at the 564th Strategic Missile Squadron at Malmstrom AFB, Montana. This action brought the force to a 450 Fs and 550 Gs mix.

SAC46-81, MM64-79

20-30 April 1976

SAC Missile Competition at Vandenberg AFB was further expanded to include communications, engineering, and vehicle support teams. The 341st Strategic Missile Wing at Malmstrom took the Blanchard along with best Minuteman wing, best operations, best maintenance, best

communications, and best civil engineering. Whiteman won best vehicle support and Grand Forks won best security police.

SAC46-81

3 November 1976

The integrated program at Squad 20 at Malmstrom AFB, Montana, began. It included silo upgrade, the addition of command data buffer, electromagnetic pulse protection, and dust hardening.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

14 April 1977

Work began on the integrated program of improvements at Wing I.

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

15 August 1977

The integrated program of improvements was completed at the 564th Strategic Missile Squadron, Malmstrom AFB, Montana, and the last flight was turned back over to SAC.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

14 August 1978

The Weld Reentry Program, to inspect and correct defective welds in LFs, began at the 564th Strategic Missile Squadron, Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

6 February 1979

The integrated program of improvements to Minuteman ground systems was completed at Wing I and the sites were returned to the custody of SAC.

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

15 April 1980

Detachment 1, BMO, was inactivated at Malmstrom AFB, Montana. The detachment corrected welding deficiencies discovered at Malmstrom during its tenure and completing the task in December 1979.

BMO45-90

1 June 1984

Maintenance technicians completed the installation of carbon-carbon nosetips on Minuteman IIIs at the 341st Strategic Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

SACMSL39-88

26 April – 2 May 1985

The 308th Strategic Missile Wing (Titan II) won the Blanchard at the 18th annual SAC Missile Combat Competition. This outcome marked the 308th's only win. The 341 SMW, Malmstrom AFB, Montana, won honors as the best Minuteman wing.

SACMSL39-88

16-22 May 1986

Malmstrom won the Blanchard at the 19th annual Missile Combat Competition at Vandenberg.

SACMSL39-88

26 September 1986

General John Chain, CINCSAC, joined a Minuteman crew at Malmstrom for a portion of their alert tour. General Chain's visit represented the first time that a CINCSAC had witnessed ICBM crew duty since General Bruce Holloway observed two crews at Malmstrom on 28-29 December 1971.

SACMSL39-88

27 October 1987

All-female crews went on duty at Malmstrom AFB, Montana. Malmstrom thus became the second base to incorporate the gender specific crew concept.

SACMSL39-88

31 December 1987

By the end of 1987, the SAC Digital Network had become operational at all launch control centers at Malmstrom, Whiteman, and Grand Forks.

SACMSL39-88

September 2005

The 564th Missile Squadron's Quebec Flight became the first to complete the Guidance Replacement Program.

564MS

January 2006

General Kevin Chilton, Commander, Air Force Space Command, announced that the forthcoming quadrennial review would call for a reduction in the Minuteman force from 500 to 450, and that the fifty missiles to be eliminated would be those of Malmstrom's 564th Missile Squadron.

564MS

29 June 2007

The 341st Missile Wing received formal direction to proceed with deactivation of the 564 MS.

564MS

12 July 2007

The 341st Space Wing began deactivation with the removal of a Minuteman III ICBM from LF S-38 near Brady, Montana.

564MS

28 July 2008

Members of the 341st Missile Maintenance Squadron extracted the final weapon system component from the 564th Missile Squadron at LF T-41.

564MS

15 August 2008

The 564th Missile Squadron inactivated at Malmstrom AFB, Montana, as the last ICBM squadron inactivated to that point.

564MS

23 August 2009

The 341st Maintenance Group completed deactivation of the last site belonging to the 564th Missile Squadron. The process involved removing all major equipment and components, and the secondary doors from the 50 LFs and five MAFs. All facilities went into caretaker status.

564MS

11 February 2014

Contractors began demolition of LF R-23. In compliance with the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, the first silo elimination began the process of permanently removing the 50 LFs and five MAFs that once belonged to the 564 MS.

564MS

5 August 2014

The 341st Missile Wing completed Phase I of the elimination program of sites formerly assigned to the inactivated 564th Missile Squadron. The wing reached the milestone as contractors finished demolition of LF T-49 near Conrad, Montana. Phase II of the process had begun on 21 July, with concrete caps poured over 40 launchers.

564MS

24 October 2014

Bryan Construction completed Phase II of demolition for sites formerly belonging to the 564th Missile Squadron. Phase II required grading the sites and leveling the immediate areas flush with the surrounding landscape.

564MS