

Wing II, Ellsworth AFB, SD, Chronology 1960-1997

19 December 1960

The Air Force Ballistic Missile and Space Committee directed the selection of Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, as the support base for the second wing of 150 hardened and dispersed Minuteman missiles.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, MM64-79, COMP45-72

1 January 1961

First B model Minuteman I wing, the 44 SMW, activated at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

MM64-79

15 May 1961

AFLC designated and organized Detachment 21, Headquarters, OOAMA (OOAMA Support Detachment, Ellsworth) at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. The detachment furnished materiel management and engineering in support of the SATAF and SAC commanders during installation, checkout, and final operation of this Minuteman launching site.

OOAMA58-71

August 1961

Construction of the first Minuteman IB operational facility begins at Ellsworth AFB, SD. The B model includes substantial performance improvements and a larger second stage motor.

POL55-68

21 August 1961

Construction began at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, on the first model "B" Minuteman I operational facilities.

SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72

1 September 1961

Construction began at the Wing II site, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

11 September 1961

SAC officials conducted groundbreaking ceremonies for start of construction of the second Minuteman launching site at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. The Air Force selected the site on 9 January 1961.

OOAMA58-71

1 January 1962

HQ SAC activated the first model "B" Minuteman I wing, the 44th Strategic Missile Wing, at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72

24 June 1962

Turnover of the first flight at Wing II, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, occurred. Construction of the site began 21 August 1961 with groundbreaking ceremonies coming the following month, 11 September 1961.

OOAMA58-71

1 July 1962

HQ SAC activated the first model "B" Minuteman II ICBM squadron, the 66th Strategic Missile Squadron, at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

SACMSL39-73

20 July 1962

Western Contract Management Region (CMR) documents showed transfer of responsibility for providing technical guidance to Detachment 6, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, from the AFPRO Martin-Marietta, Denver, Colorado, to the Ogden Contract Management District, Hill AFB, Utah. Personnel and allotments were re-allocated to the Ogden CMD.

OOAMA58-71

22 March 1963

OOAMA prepared a support plan for the operational readiness training program to be conducted by Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. As the SSM for the Minuteman, OOAMA provided logistical support for operationally-configured facilities and equipment used in such training.

OOAMA58-71

April 1963

The first model "B" Minuteman I ICBM was emplaced in a silo at Ellsworth AFB, SD.

SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72

1 April 1963

In joint agreement, OOAMA DET 21, SATAF, 44 SMW, and Boeing established inventory turnover procedures and policies. This assured accurate and expeditious turnover of supplies and equipment from the contractors to SATAF for simultaneous issue to SAC.

OOAMA58-71

2 April 1963

OOAMA SATAF DET 21 at Ellsworth AFB received its first operational Minuteman missile. It arrived by rail in an SSCBM from AF Plant 77 at Hill AFB, Utah.

OOAMA58-71

6 April 1963

Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, received its first Minuteman missile by airlift.

OOAMA58-71

21 April 1963

Construction of launch facilities for Wing II at Ellsworth AFB was completed ahead of schedule. Ellsworth facilities were being readied for operational use by the installation and checkout of missiles and supporting equipment.

OOAMA58-71

3 June 1963

Transferred from Vandenberg AFB to Ellsworth AFB was responsibility for conducting operational readiness training for Minuteman crews.

OOAMA58-71

24 June 1963

HQ SAC accepted the first flight of ten Model B Minuteman I ICBMs at the 66 SMS, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. Ranges of the two Minuteman I models are 4800 nm (A) and 5500 nm (B).

MM64-79, SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72

July 1963

First model B Minuteman I ICBM is placed on alert at 66th Strategic Missile Squadron, Ellsworth AFB.

COMP45-72, SACMSL39-73

19 August 1963

Work on the first squadron at Wing II, the 66th Strategic Missile Squadron at Ellsworth AFB, was completed and the squadron turned over to SAC.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

29 August 1963

The 67th Strategic Missile Squadron at Ellsworth AFB was completed and turned over to SAC by Ballistic Systems Division's Site Activation Task Force (SATAF).

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

16 September 1963

66th Strategic Missile Squadron operational with LGM-30B

COMP45-72

30 September 1963

HQ SAC declared the 66th Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM - Minuteman B) at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, to be operational. This was the first model "B" Minuteman I ICBM squadron to achieve this status.

SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72

4 October 1963

67th Strategic Missile Squadron operational with LGM-30B

COMP45-72

23 October 1963

68th Strategic Missile Squadron operational with LGM-30B

COMP45-72

23 October 1963

With the turnover of the 68th Strategic Missile Squadron, the first model B Minuteman I ICBM wing at Ellsworth AFB is complete. Three hundred Minuteman ICBMs are now deployed.

COMP45-72, BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

1 November 1963

Operational status of Wing II made it possible for AFLC to discontinue Detachment 21, HQ OOAMA (OOAMA Support Detachment, Ellsworth).

OOAMA58-71

1963 (date unknown)

The Minuteman Educational Program was expanded to include crews at Ellsworth and Minot.

The schools at these bases were operated by state universities under contract with the Air Force Institute of Technology.

SAC46-81

10 May 1964

The SAC Inspector General conducted the first ORI of a model "B" Minuteman wing at the 44th Strategic Missile Wing, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. The inspection lasted six days.

SACMSL39-73

1 March 1965

A missile combat crew of the 44th Strategic Missile Wing, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, successfully launched the first modified model "B" Minuteman I ICBM under the Project Long Life program. The launch was conducted exactly as if it had been under strategic retaliatory conditions, with firing orders originating from HQ SAC. The test demonstrated the ability of a SAC missile combat crew to launch a Minuteman ICBM from an operational launch facility.

The missile carried only enough fuel in its first stage for a seven-second flight.

SACMSL39-73, OOAMA58-71

1 January 1967

AFLC designated Detachment 28, HQ OOAMA (OOAMA Support Detachment Ellsworth), but specified the detachment would not be organized until 1 April 1968.

OOAMA58-71

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 Perpetual Trophy as well as the best Minuteman wing.

SAC46-81, SACMSL39-73

23 June 1972

66th Strategic Missile Squadron operational with LGM-30F following Force Modernization
COMP45-72

15 November 1972

67th Strategic Missile Squadron operational with LGM-30F following Force Modernization
COMP45-72

13 March 1973

The 68th Strategic Missile Squadron, the third and final squadron of Wing II at Ellsworth AFB, SD, was returned to SAC control after completion of Force Modernization, Upgrade Silo, and other miscellaneous force improvements. Turnover was completed 30 days ahead of schedule.
BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, COMP45-72

1 February 1974

The first Simulated Electronic Launch - Minuteman (SELM) exercise, Giant Pace 74-1, was completed at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. During this test, eleven SELM-configured Minuteman II ICBMs underwent successful simulated launch on command by test launch control centers (LCCs) and the Airborne Launch Control System (ALCS).

SACMSL39-88

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

18 March 1976

The Wing II water stop modification project, aimed at preventing water seepage into the rattlespace area of the launch facility, was completed. This was SAMSO's final effort at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

30 June 1976

SATAF Detachment 33, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, was deactivated.

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

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

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

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

28 September 1991

SecDef released Minuteman II force from SIOP alert. Combat crews dissipated enable and launch codes. Safety Control Switch (SCS) was installed at each LF.

DKS

4 October 1991

Deactivation of Minuteman II force began at LFs G-02 and G-04 at Ellsworth.

DKS

29 October 1997

Deactivation of Minuteman II force at Ellsworth completed with LF O-07 demolition and observation completed.

DKS