

Wing III, Minot AFB, ND, Chronology 1961-1988

1 February 1961

Minot AFB, North Dakota, was selected as the site for Minuteman Wing III, and Whiteman AFB, Missouri, was chosen as Wing IV's location.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, COMP45-72

March 1961

HQ USAF announced the selection of Minot AFB, North Dakota, as the support base for the third Minuteman wing.

MM64-79

1 September 1961

AFLC designated and organized Detachment 22, Headquarters, OOAMA (OOAMA Support Detachment, Minot) at Minot AFB, North Dakota, to furnish materiel management and engineering to the SATAF and SAC commanders during installation, checkout, and later operation of this Minuteman launching site.

OOAMA58-71

22 December 1961

USAF awarded a construction contract for \$67.8 million for Minuteman facilities for a launch sites near Minot AFB, North Dakota. Here would be the third of four planned Minuteman wings.

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

20 February 1963

Minot completed a successful exercise with the transporter-erector (TE) on site. Begun six days before, the tests included checking underpasses for safe clearance, road access to LFs and LCFs, inspection of railroad crossings on Minot bypass, measuring pylon hookups for spacing accuracy, and TE driving characteristics and maneuverability over routes in subzero weather.

OOAMA58-71

9 September 1963

The first missile was placed in a silo at Wing III, Minot AFB, North Dakota. It arrived at Minot from AF Plant 77 on a C-133 on 6 September.

OOAMA58-71

13 September 1963

The first rail shipment of a Minuteman missile from Hill to Minot occurred. The missile, in a SSCBM, was loaded by Union Pacific Railroad. Delivery to Minot was made by Great Northern Railroad on 17 September.

OOAMA58-71

24 January 1964

The 740th Strategic Missile Squadron of the 455th Strategic Missile Wing at Minot AFB, ND, became operational with the LGM-30B and was turned over to SAC.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, COMP45-72

19 February 1964

The final production missile was delivered to Minot AFB, North Dakota, by a C-133B aircraft from Hill AFB, Utah. The offloading operation lasted about two hours.

OOAMA58-71

27 February 1964

The 455th Strategic Missile Wing's second squadron, the 741st, was turned over to SAC at Minot AFB, North Dakota.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

27 February 1964

741st Strategic Missile Squadron operational with LGM-30B

COMP45-72

19 March 1964

The third wing of Minuteman ICBMs was completed when the 742nd Strategic Missile Squadron was turned over to SAC at Minot AFB. The Minuteman force then totaled 450; Wing I with 150 LGM-30As and Wings II and III each with 150 LGM-30B missiles.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, COMP45-72

1 August 1964

AFLC discontinued Detachment 22, HQ OOAMA (OOAMA Support Detachment Minot).

OOAMA58-71

16 September 1968

The last on-base maintenance trainer (a training launch facility) was accepted from the contractor at the 455th Strategic Missile Wing, Minot AFB, North Dakota.

SACMSL39-73

12 January 1970

The Force Modernization program began at Minot AFB, ND, when Hotel Flight of the 741st Strategic Missile Squadron was turned over to the contractor to be modified. Minuteman I “B” series missiles were removed and replaced with Minuteman III “G” series. The Minuteman III employed an improved third stage, carried more penetration aids to counter ABM defenses, and could carry the Mk 12 multiple independently targetable reentry vehicle (MIRV) with three nuclear warheads.

SAC46-81, BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

14 April 1970

The first Minuteman III to arrive in the field was accepted by the 91st SMW, Minot AFB, North Dakota.

SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72

17 April 1970

The first Minuteman III ICBM was emplaced in LF H02 at Minot AFB, North Dakota.

SACMSL39-73

1 June 1970

The first highway shipment of a Minuteman III was made from Hill AFB to Minot AFB.

OOAMA58-71

19 June 1970

The first flight of Minuteman III (LGM-30G) missiles was turned over to the 741st Strategic Missile Squadron of SAC’s 91st Strategic Missile Wing at Minot AFB, North Dakota. Force Modernization involved refurbishment of ground facilities to accommodate the Minuteman III. Air Force Logistics Command (AFLC) also had its depot facilities ready to repair Minuteman III systems as of this date, this was the first time in the history of US missile systems that initial operational capability (IOC) of a major new weapon system and depot repair capability were achieved simultaneously.

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

19 August 1970

The first Minuteman III ICBMs went on alert at the 741st Strategic Missile Squadron, Minot AFB, North Dakota.

SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72

29 December 1970

HQ SAC declared the 741st Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM - Minuteman III) at Minot AFB, North Dakota, to be operational. This was the first Minuteman III squadron to achieve this status.

SACMSL39-73, COMP45-72

30 December 1970

The 741st Strategic Missile Squadron at Minot AFB was fully equipped with 50 Minuteman IIIs.
SAC46-81

31 December 1970

Force Modernization and emplacement of Minuteman III missiles were completed on the last flight of 741st Strategic Missile Squadron at Minot AFB, North Dakota. This marked the turnover of the first complete Minuteman III squadron to SAC. Formal turnover took place on 8 January 1971.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, COMP45-72

8 January 1971

The first squadron of Minuteman III (LGM-30G) ICBMs was officially turned over to SAC's 91st Strategic Missile Wing at Minot AFB, North Dakota.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

23 March 1971

The SAC Inspector General conducted the first formal operational readiness inspection (ORI) of a Minuteman III unit, the 91st SMW, Minot AFB, North Dakota. The event lasted seven days.

SACMSL39-73

26 May 1971

The final flight of the 740th Strategic Missile Squadron, the second Force Modernization squadron of Minuteman III missiles to be completed at Wing III, was turned over to the 91st Strategic Missile Wing at Minot AFB, North Dakota.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, COMP45-72

9 November 1971

The last LGM-30G delivery to Minot was made, by aircraft, for the Force Mod effort.

OOAMA58-71

13 December 1971

SAC accepted Oscar Flight of the 742nd Strategic Missile Squadron at Minot AFB, ND. This completed Force Modernization at Wing III and the 91st SMW became the first wing to be equipped with the MIRV-carrying Minuteman III.

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

13 December 1971

SAC assumed control of final Minuteman III flight at Minot. Completion of program was 45 days early and saved \$1 million.

MM64-79

24 November 1972

HQ USAF ordered the Improved Digital Computer Unit (IDCU) program experiment to be ended in December at Wing III.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

15 May 1973

The fifth and last Modified Operational Missiles (MOMS) test took place at the 742nd Strategic Missile Squadron, Minot AFB, ND. To replace the MOMS program, SAC developed the Simulated Electronic Launch - Minuteman (SELM) program.

SACMSL39-73

17 May 1973

The last Minuteman III (MOMS) test was completed at Wing III.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

13 September 1974

Upgrade Silo Program began at Wing III, Minot AFB, North Dakota.

BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79

27 February 1976

The Integrated Program at Wing III was turned over to SAC. This program had included silo upgrade modifications, electromagnetic pulse protection, dust hardening, and conversion to the command data buffer system.

BMO45-90

30 June 1976

Upgrade Silo Program, Hardness Modification, and installation of Command Data Buffer (CDB) completed at Wing III. SATAF Detachment 32, Minot AFB, North 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

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

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

July 1979

A successful technical acceptance demonstration (TAD) of the Mk 12A reentry system was held at Minot AFB, North Dakota, with a newly installed Mk 12A trainer.

BMO45-90

July 1980

The Air Force began retrofitting Minuteman III missiles at Minot and Grand Forks AFBs with the Mk 12A reentry system. It involved modifying the Mk 12 already mated to missiles at those bases. A total of 300 missiles was involved.

BMO45-90

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

May 1986

Testing of a prototype Improved Minuteman Physical Security System (IMPSS) concluded at Minot AFB, North Dakota.

SACMSL39-88

5 November 1986

Martin Marietta technicians began installing SAC Digital Network (SACDIN) equipment in 91st Strategic Missile Wing launch control centers. SACDIN upgraded the SAC Automated Command and Control System installed in the 1960s.

SACMSL39-88

21-28 April 1988

The 91st Strategic Missile Wing from Minot AFB, North Dakota, won the Blanchard Trophy during Olympic Arena at Vandenberg AFB. Female crew members competed for the first time.
SACMSL39-88