

## **Wing V, F.E. WARREN AFB, WY, Chronology 1962-1998**

29 March 1962

The Secretary of the Air Force approved selection of F.E. Warren AFB, near Cheyenne, Wyoming, as headquarters for Minuteman Wing V.

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

4 April 1962

HQ USAF officially announced that Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, would be the site for the fifth wing of Minuteman ICBMs.

*BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79*

15 June 1962

Western Contract Management Region (CMR) of Air Force Systems Command showed transfer of responsibility for technical guidance to Det 17, CSD Warren, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, from the AFPRO General Dynamics/Convair Astronautics, San Diego, California, to the Ogden Contract Management District, Hill AFB, Utah. The detachment handled contract management for the Western CMR to support the Warren SATAF commander in installation, checkout, and testing responsibilities. Personnel and allotments were re-allocated to the Ogden CMD.

*OOAMA58-71*

1 July 1962

AFLC designated and organized Detachment 24, Headquarters, OOAMA (OOAMA Support Detachment, F.E. Warren) at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, to execute materiel management and engineering responsibilities for OOAMA's commander in support of SATAF and SAC commanders in site activation, installation, and checkout and in eventual operational site functions for this Minuteman Wing V complex.

*OOAMA58-71*

15 October 1962

Morrison-Knudsen Company of Boise, Idaho, and four associate contractors (including the Utah Construction and Mining Company of Salt Lake City) received a contract for \$83.96 million. Construction began ten days later on the largest Minuteman launch complex (Wing V) to be operated from F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming. It would consist of 200 missile silos and 20 launch centers in northeastern Colorado, southeastern Wyoming, and western Nebraska when completed in about two to three years.

*OOAMA58-71*

8 June 1964

The first Minuteman missile destined for Wing V at F.E. Warren AFB left Hill AFB via the Union Pacific Railroad. The missile in a SSCBM arrived at Warren the following day; the empty SSCBM returned to Hill on 10 June.

*OOAMA58-71*

30 June 1964

By this date, Supply had handled the shipment by rail of 12 Minuteman missiles to Wing V at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming.

*OOAMA58-71*

1 July 1964

HQ SAC activated the sixteenth and last model "B" Minuteman I squadron, the 400<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron, at Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyoming.

*SACMSL39-73*

18 September 1964

The initial squadron at Wing V, the 319<sup>th</sup> at Francis E. Warren AFB, became operational with LGM-30B and was turned over to SAC.

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

18 December 1964

The second of four Minuteman squadrons at Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, the 320<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron, was completed and turned over to SAC's 90<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Wing.

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

22 March 1965

The third squadron at Wing V, the 321<sup>st</sup>, was turned over to SAC at Francis E. Warren AFB.

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

27 May 1965

DET 24 at Wing V received its last missile this date. It was emplaced at LF T-06 on 1 June 1965, with Boeing conducting a ceremony on site to note delivery of the 800<sup>th</sup> missile.

*OOAMA58-71*

15 June 1965

HQ SAC declared the 400<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron (Minuteman IB) at Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, to be operational. This completed the deployment of the Minuteman I force.

*MM64-79, COMP45-72, SACMSL39-73*

15 June 1965

The fourth and final Wing V squadron, the 400<sup>th</sup>, was turned over to SAC at F.E. Warren AFB and subsequently declared operational on 30 June. This action completed the only four-squadron wing of Minuteman missiles yet deployed. The 90<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Wing's 200 missiles brought to 800 the total number of Minuteman ICBMs turned over to SAC.

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

1 July 1965

AFLC discontinued Detachment 24, HQ OOAMA (OOAMA Support Detachment Warren) at Wing V.

*OOAMA58-71*

1 July 1965

HQ SAC inaugurated an undergraduate college education program for Minuteman ICBM crews at the 90<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Wing, Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyoming.

*SACMSL39-73*

1 December 1965

The first of a series of High Explosive Simulation Technique (HEST) tests began at a launch facility at Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyoming. Developed by the Air Force Weapons Laboratory, the HEST test was intended to use high explosives to simulate ground motions associated with, and induced by, a nuclear airblast and thus validate hardness assessment of ground facilities and the degree of structural survivability.

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

June 1968

SAC representatives on the initial hard rock silo siting survey identified F.E. Warren AFB as the best choice for development.

*SACMSL39-88*

4 September 1969

The 90<sup>th</sup> Missile Maintenance Squadron (ICBM - Minuteman B) at Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, received the USAF Maintenance Award for FY 1969 for being the best maintenance squadron in the Air Force. This was the first time that a missile unit had received this award.

*SACMSL39-73*

November 1972

Wing V at F.E. Warren AFB entered the Force Modernization program, removing its Minuteman I "B" series missiles and making the sites ready for the new MIRV-carrying Minuteman III. As part of the 90<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Wing's program, a new targeting system was to be installed. Called Command Data Buffer, the new system would enable crews in the LCCs to retarget rapidly through electronic means. This would replace a time-consuming procedure that required maintenance personnel to physically load a new target tape into each missile.

*SAC46-81*

November 1972

Command Data Buffer and Upgrade Silo programs began at F.E. Warren AFB as part of the Minuteman Integrated Improvement Program.

*SACMSL39-88*

7 April 1973

The Wing V Operational Snow Test was successfully completed at F.E. Warren AFB with the firing of the Minuteman launcher closure door carrying a full-criteria load of snow and ice. This test verified the performance of the Upgrade Silo Program launcher closure system.

*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 90<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Wing won the Blanchard and the best Minuteman wing.

*SAC46-81, SACMSL39-73*

20 June 1973

The first flight (Papa) of the 400<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron at F.E. Warren AFB was returned to SAC. The Wing V Integrated Improvement Program at Warren included Force Modernization, replacement of LGM-30B missiles with LGM-30Gs, installation of Command Data Buffer, Extended Survivability, and Upgrade Silo Program modifications.

*BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, SAC46-81*

16 November 1973

The 400<sup>th</sup> SMS was first to complete the Wing V Integrated Improvement Program: Force Modernization to Minuteman III, Command Data Buffer, and Upgrade Silo Program modifications.

*BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79*

21 November 1973

The 400<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron became operational with Minuteman III missiles with the acceptance of Sierra Flight from Force Modernization.

*SAC46-81*

3 September 1974

The last Minuteman I was taken off alert at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming.

*SAC46-81*

21 January 1975

The Wing V Integrated Improvement Program was completed at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, 20 days ahead of schedule, when Boeing turned over to SAC the last flight to be refit with Minuteman III missiles (Juliet Flight in the 320<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron). This program, the greatest single effort in the Minuteman program since the early days when the missile was first placed in service, included the swap-out of Minuteman I missiles for Minuteman IIIs.

*BMO45-90, SAMSO54-79, SAC46-81*

26 January 1975

SAC completed its Force Modernization program. This nine-year effort to replace all Minuteman I missiles with either Minuteman IIs or IIIs ended when the last flight of the 90<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, was outfitted with the Minuteman III. *SACMSL39-88*

27 February 1976

The last SAMSO program at Wing V, the retrofit of microfarad capacitors, was completed. *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*

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*

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*

7 January 1983

Detachment 1, BMO, was activated at F.E. Warren AFB to plan and coordinate construction, assembly, checkout, and transfer of Minuteman silos modified to house Peacekeeper missiles. *BMO45-90*

3-10 May 1984

The 90<sup>th</sup> 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 September 1985

SAC completed the installation of Minuteman III / Mk12 carbon-carbon nosetips at the 90<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming.

*SACMSL39-88*

4 April 1986

The first Minuteman launch control center began conversion to the Peacekeeper system.

*BMO45-90*

20 April 1986

The first canister for Peacekeeper conversion in a Minuteman silo was placed in LF Q02 at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming.

*BMO45-90*

17 October 1986

The first Peacekeeper went on alert in a converted Minuteman silo at F.E. Warren, under control of the 400<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron.

*BMO45-90*

22 December 1986

A major milestone for Peacekeeper occurred as the tenth missile was turned over to SAC, completing initial operational capability (IOC) on schedule at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming.

*BMO45-90*

16 March 1988

Computer Aided Message Processing was simulated in a launch control center trainer at F.E. Warren AFB.

*SACMSL39-88*

4 April 1988

Maintenance technicians at F.E. Warren AFB removed the 50<sup>th</sup> and last Minuteman III from alert, prior to converting the launch facility for use by a Peacekeeper ICBM.

*SACMSL39-88*

11 April 1988

The 400<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron completed the phaseout of Minuteman III which had begun on 23 January 1986 in preparation for the deployment of Peacekeeper missiles.

*SACMSL39-88*

1 August 1988

SAC tested Computer Aided Message Processing at an electronically-isolated LCC at F.E. Warren AFB. The test represented the first such experiment in a launch control center setting and continued through 10 September.

*SACMSL39-88*

20 December 1988

Final operational capability for Peacekeeper was achieved as the 50<sup>th</sup> silo was turned over to SAC at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming.

*BMO45-90*