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### Did You Know?

As of February 2021, there were only 10 female B-2 pilots.

Barksdale's first all-female B-52 crew took flight in 2016.

Sandra M. Scott was not only in the first class of female pilots in the AF in 1977-78, she was also the first female tanker commander to perform alert duty for SAC.



## Heritage Highlight

### The Women of SAC and AFGSC



Throughout Strategic Air Command and Air Force Global Strike Command history many women worked hard to overcome the obstacles they faced in the armed forces to break records and achieve greatness. For example, on March 25, 1975, the eighth missile competition began at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. Women actively participated in the competition for the first time ever. Airman First Class Jeanine A. Sousley (pictured left) competed as a member of the 308th Strategic Missile Wing's reentry vehicle maintenance team and Sergeant Jo A. Williamson competed as a member of the 321st Strategic Missile Wing's electronic laboratory maintenance team.

In 1978 the first fifteen women officers and twenty-five women enlisted volunteers were selected for Titan II crew training. First Lieutenant Patricia M. Fornes (pictured right) became the first female officer to perform alert, and A1C Tina M. Ponzner became the first female airman to go on alert



"Fair Force One" was the nickname given to the first all-female crew to participate in a five hour KC-135 training sortie from Castle Air Force Base in June 1982 Led by Captain Kelly S. C. Hamilton, then SAC's only female aircraft commander. The aircraft and crew were prepared for their flight by an all-female ground crew. Also in the flight crew were copilot First Lieutenant Linda Martin, navigators Captain Cathy Bacon and First Lieutenant Diane Oswald, and boom operator Sergeant Jackie Hale. The mission included a midair refueling of a B-52 Stratofortress.



In 1985 women were allowed for the first time to serve on Minuteman and Peacekeeper crews. The first female officers began initial qualification training for Minuteman crew duty in 1986. They were: Linda Aldrich, Nancy Dean, Sandra Morton, Marcia Weiss, Lydia Negron, and Beverly Rolling. After graduation all six Minuteman combat crewmembers were scheduled for duty with the 351 Strategic Missile Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. On 25 March 1986, for the first time, an all-woman Minuteman missile crew served on alert duty (at Alpha-01); the crew was assigned to the 351st Strategic Missile Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base. Captain Linda S. Aldrich (pictured left, front) and fellow “pioneer” Captain Nancy K. Dean (pictured left, back) became the first all-female crew to stand alert at Whiteman. That November, the wing called on Aldrich to be the first female instructor in the training division, and three months later, Dean became the first woman to join the evaluations division.

The first time a full Minuteman squadron’s deployed complement of missile combat crewmembers were all women was January 30, 2012. The ten missileers were from the 10th Missile Squadron that deployed to the five missile alert facilities for a 24-hour alert were (pictured right, starting front row far left) 1st Lt Simmona Robinson, 2d Lt Tracie Davis, 1st Lt Ashley Wolfe, 1st Lt Jacqueline Payne and 1st Lt Suzanne Thiele, (back row far left) 2d Lt Kathryn Lynn, 1st Lt Kelly Crockett, 1st Lt Kaitlin Staples, 1st Lt Laura Ribbing and 1st Lt Sarah Phillips.



In 2016 ninety female missileers made history as the first all-female missile alert crews to serve on alert at three ICBM wings simultaneously. “The goal of this day was to highlight all the women who worked hard to make a difference in public service and government jobs in the past,” said Col. Stacy Huser, 91st Missile Wing OG commander. “We honored those women who have worked to gain opportunities and disavow stereotypes when they began their careers. This day was our tribute to them, as well as to inspire future generations of women to work in public service.” 91st Missile Wing members are pictured above.



The first two female B-2 crewmembers, Captain Kristin E. Goodwin and Captain Jennifer Wilson (pictured above), flew their initial B-2 sorties in February 2002. Captain Wilson became the first woman to fly the B-2 in combat a year later.