

Activated on March 31, 2006, the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center is headquartered at Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Center is composed of five execution directorates: the Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications Integration Directorate, located at Hanscom AFB, MA; the Minuteman III Systems Directorate and the Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent Systems Directorate, both located at Hill AFB, UT; and the Air Delivered Capabilities Directorate and the Nuclear Technology and Integration Directorate, both located at Kirtland AFB, NM. Currently, the Center has over 1,800 personnel assigned to 18 locations across the United States and Europe.



December 1, 1949

The Air Force Special Weapons Command (AFSWC) activated at Kirtland FB, NM, from agencies that had sited there after WWII to determine the employment of emerging weapon systems



April 1, 1952

AFSWC absorbed by Air Research and Development Command (ARDC) and tasked with supporting development and testing of nuclear capable weapons



July 1, 1970

AFSWC assumed management of Air Force Systems Command (AFSC) test and evaluation facilities at Holloman AFB, NM



April 1, 1976

Driven by budget restrictions,
AFSWC inactivated and
Kirtland AFB host
responsibilities transferred to
AFSC's Air Force Contract
Management Division



July 1, 1971

Kirtland AFB merged with nearby Manzano and Sandia Bases, the AFSWC served as host organization



August 1, 1970

Air Force Missile
Development Center
(AFMDC) merged with
AFSWC



January 1, 1993

The 377th Air Base Wing (ABW)
activated as new host
organization when Air Force
Materiel Command (AFMC)
assumed responsibility for
Kirtland AFB



February 14, 2006

498th Tactical Missile Group (TMG) (inactivated 31 Dec 1969) re-designated 498th Armament Systems Wing (ARSW) and reactivated on 31 March 2006



March 31, 2006

Air Force Nuclear Weapons
Center (AFNWC) activated to
address need to consolidate and
unify nuclear weapons and
related support systems
sustainment in a single
organization; both the 377 ABW
and 498 ARSW assigned to the
Center



February 28, 2009

AFNWC assumed responsibility for munitions storage areas



April 1, 2009

498 ARSW re-designated 498th
Nuclear Systems Wing, assigned
to AFNWC, and accepted
responsibility for life-cycle
management of nuclear-capable
weapons and equipment



May 30, 2008

526th Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Systems Group at Hill AFB, UT reassigned to AFNWC



June 2, 2009

AFNWC reached Initial
Operational Capability, signaling
readiness to manage Air Force
nuclear sustainment issues



September 22, 2009

498th Munitions Maintenance
Group reassigned to Whiteman
AFB, MO, in proximity to the
bomber community, to streamline
nuclear-capable munitions
maintenance



June 30, 2010

526th ICBM Systems Group inactivated and the ICBM Systems Directorate activated in its place at Hill AFB, UT; 498th Nuclear System Wing inactivated and the Nuclear Capabilities Directorate activated in its place at Kirtland AFB, NM



October 1, 2015

AFNWC relinquished command authority over the 377 ABW, and with it host organization for Kirtland AFB, to AFGSC; reorganized and created three execution directorates: ICBM Systems Directorate, Air-Delivered Capabilities Directorate, and Nuclear Technology & Interagency Directorate



November 28, 2011

AFNWC transferred management of munitions storage facilities to Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC)



January 20, 2011

AFNWC reached Full Operational Capability, reaching initial manpower goals and establishing measurable, tested, and repeatable nuclear sustainment processes



August 2, 2016

AFNWC designated the
Nuclear Materiel Manager
for the Air Force; Nuclear
Technology & Interagency
Directorate re-designated
the Nuclear Technology &
Integration Directorate;
Center established a fourth
directorate, the Nuclear
Command, Control &
Communications Integration
Directorate



May 15, 2020

ICBM Systems Directorate split in two: the Minuteman III Systems Directorate and the Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent Systems Directorate, to focus funding and manpower on the different ICBM weapon systems



September 14, 2020

AFNWC awarded the Air Force
Organizational Excellence award for
the seventh time; first in 2010, then
2012, and each year thereafter since
2014



March 31, 2021

AFNWC celebrates fifteen years of innovative nuclear materiel management of two of the three legs of the Nation's nuclear triad.