

Minuteman Missile

Junior Ranger Program (Ages 7-11)

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Minuteman Missile
National Historic Site
Southwestern South Dakota





Welcome Junior Rangers to Minuteman Missile National Historic Site!

Minuteman Missile is part of the national park system. Minuteman Missile is the only national park unit that tells the story of **the Cold War**.

The Park:

- Minuteman Missile National Historic Site is made up of two areas, Launch Control Facility Delta-01 and Launch Facility Delta-09.
- Beneath the Launch Control Facility is an underground Launch Control Center. This is where Air Force officers, known as missileers, could launch Minuteman missiles if the United States was attacked by the Soviet Union with nuclear weapons.
- Launch Facility Delta-09 is a missile silo with a Minuteman II missile on display.



Launch Control Center Delta-01



Launch Facility Delta-09

What you need to know:

- The **Cold War** lasted from 1945-1989. During that time there was a long and troubled conflict between the **United States and the Soviet Union**.
- This war led to a huge weapons buildup on both sides. These weapons included nuclear missiles, such as the Minuteman.
- The first Minutemen were deployed in 1962. Within five years a total of 1,000 were online.
- Minuteman missiles were operational across the Great Plains region.
- United States policy was to only use Minuteman missiles if the Soviet Union first attacked with their own nuclear weapons.



United States

versus



Soviet Union

Your mission: This Junior Ranger program is made up of four missions.

Mission 1. Questions? Questions?

Mission 2. Symbols of Strength

Mission 3. Word Search

Mission 4. Missile Jobs

Mission 5. Blast Door Art

Choose any **three** of the above missions to complete the program. Once you have completed the program give it to the ranger so they can grade your work.

Mission 1 - Questions? Questions?



Your mission: As you start your journey to become a Junior Ranger, Minuteman Missile would like to know more about you. In addition, we would like to tell you a little bit ourselves and our mission.

Who – are you? _____

When – were you born?

Where – are you from?

How – did you find out about Minuteman Missile?

Now we would like to see how much you know about Minuteman Missile. Use the information found on the introductory page to answer the following questions.

Who – were the two main nations fighting the Cold War?

When – did the first Minuteman Missiles become operational?


Where (region) – were Minuteman Missiles deployed in the United States?

How – many Minuteman Missiles were operational during the Cold War?

Mission 2 - Symbols of Strength

The 150 Minuteman missiles in South Dakota were made up of three squadrons of 50 missiles each. The Air Force personnel who worked in each squadron took great pride in protecting the United States. Squadron personnel developed logos to display their sense of duty. The logos shown below all symbolize in their own way the strength of the Minuteman system and the Air Force.

Your mission: Study the logos below. Then design, draw and color your own Minuteman Missile logo.



Mission 3 –Word Search

Your Mission: To complete this mission, read the following about Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. The words highlighted are hidden in the word search puzzle below. See if you can them all!

When the initial Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) was signed in 1991 by U.S. President George H.W. Bush and the Soviet Union's Mikhail Gorbachev, the 150 Minuteman II missiles on the **South Dakota** prairie were removed and dismantled. The Minuteman II **missile** system played a major role in deterring, or preventing, World War III. During the height of the Cold War, there were 15 underground launch control centers and 150 missile silos here in South Dakota ready to respond at a moment's notice. Each **silo** contained one missile, capable of reaching its target in 30 minutes or less. Atop each Minuteman II missile was a 1.2 **megaton** nuclear warhead, equal to 60% of all the munitions used in World War II.

The Minuteman II missile stood alert as a silent sentinel during the **Cold War** - preserving the peace, deterring war, and ensuring that the war that could not be won would never be fought.

a l i t n l d t m o t
o d g k l s e i e d i
m g a k r k o u g t a
i l g a e o r e a l i
s c t w o c o s t m a
s o u t h d a k o t a
i l d d l s t u n e a
l d i n s i l w c i g
e w l i m w l t a i k
a a s i l o t t i m c
g r k m h o s n t o e

Mission 4 –Missile Jobs

There were 10 Air Force personnel stationed at the Launch Control Facility (LCF) pictured above. All of the personnel were stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base near Rapid City, South Dakota, and drove out to the LCF for their duty.

Your mission: Use the job descriptions on the left to help you decide which of the Air Force personnel at the LCF would live and work in these areas or (vehicles!). Draw a line connecting the job description with the correct picture.

Job Descriptions

The facility manager was responsible for managing all topside support operations. The facility manager was assigned their own bedroom.



The flight security controller worked in the security control room. They monitored the LCF grounds, checked identification of visitors, and supervised the security police.



The security police responded to any alarms or security problems at the silos in an armored vehicle.



One cook was responsible for serving four meals a day – breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a midnight meal.



The missile combat crew worked in the underground Launch Control Center (LCC). Their duty was to always be prepared to launch Minuteman missiles under their control.



Mission 5 - Blast Door Art

The 150 Minuteman missiles in South Dakota made up the 44th Missile Wing. The Air Force personnel who worked with these missiles took great pride in protecting the United States. Missileers developed artwork to paint down in the Launch Control Center in order to display their sense of mission. The blast door shown below symbolizes how the missile personnel felt about the strength of the Minuteman system and the Air Force.

Your mission: Study the blast door below, then design, draw and color your own blast door in the space provided.





Congratulations! You have now completed the Minuteman Missile Junior Ranger program. To make sure you receive an official Junior Ranger certificate and patch, write your name and address in the spaces provided below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Our Mailing Address: Minuteman Missile National Historic Site
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