



## 1st States Air Force

Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20330

MAJOR GENERAL DONALD O. ALDRIDGE

Major General Donald O. Aldridge is commander, 1st Strategic Aerospace Division, Strategic Air Command, with headquarters at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. He is responsible for directing all Strategic Air Command missile combat crew training, controlling and conducting Strategic Air Command ballistic missile operational testing, and providing host base support for all tenants located at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

General Aldridge was born July 22, 1932, in Solo, Mo. He received a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Nebraska, Omaha, and studied international relations at Creighton University Graduate School, also at Omaha. He is a distinguished graduate of Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and the National War College.

He enlisted in the Air Force in April 1951 and completed Russian language training as a distinguished graduate in June 1955. While serving as a Russian linguist, he was appointed to Officer Candidate School, where he was a distinguished graduate and recipient of the school leadership award, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in March 1958.

After completing primary flying training at Moore Air Base, Texas, and basic pilot training at Greenville Air Force Base, Miss., General Aldridge entered B-47 combat crew training, later flew B-47s as a co-pilot and, then, was an aircraft commander for the 44th and 68th Bombardment Wings at Chennault Air Force Base, La.

In January 1963 he entered B-52 combat crew training and flew B-52s as a co-pilot, aircraft commander and instructor pilot for the 17th Bombardment Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. While assigned to Wright-Patterson, General Aldridge completed Squadron Officer School and the central flight instructors course at Castle Air Force Base, Calif.

The general was assigned to the 93rd Bombardment Wing at Castle Air Force Base from February 1967 to July 1971. He served first as a B-52 simulator instructor pilot until August 1967, then as a B-52 combat crew training school instructor pilot until March 1969. In October 1968 he departed for four months' temporary duty at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, where he served as a crew control officer for the combat crews participating in B-52 and KC-135 missions in Southeast Asia, and later as a B-52 "Charlie" launch control officer.

He returned to Castle in 1969 and was assigned as B-52 emergency war order study officer, and then as chief of the Combat Operations Branch. In late 1970 he assumed the additional duty of chief, Non-Tactical Standardization Branch.



In June 1972 General Aldridge graduated from the Air Command and Staff College and was assigned to the 43rd Strategic Wing, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, as chief, non-tactical operations. In September 1972 he became the wing assistant deputy commander for operations. During Linebacker II operations General Aldridge was airborne commander of a 12-aircraft B-52D raid against Hanoi. From February to August 1973 he served as wing executive officer for both the 43rd Strategic Wing and 72nd Bombardment Wing, Provisional, commanders. In August he became special assistant and executive officer to the commander of the 303rd Consolidated Maintenance Wing, Provisional.

General Aldridge was assigned to the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., in November 1973 and served successively as operations planner, planning team chief, nuclear options planning officer and assistant chief of force application. During this period he developed the planning approach to implement a major change to U.S. nuclear targeting policy. As an additional duty he briefed all single integrated operational plan reports to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and to the unified and specified commands.

After graduating from the National War College in June 1977, General Aldridge reported to Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., as assistant chief, Strategic Forces Division, Directorate of Plans, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Operations. From April 1978 to March 1979 he served as deputy assistant director of plans for joint matters, before becoming deputy assistant director of plans for joint and National Security Council matters. From March 1979 to April 1980 he served as special assistant to the director of the joint staff for joint matters, Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

He then was named deputy director for plans and requirements at the Defense Mapping Agency, Washington, D.C., and in June 1981 became the agency's deputy director. In September 1981 General Aldridge was appointed deputy U.S. representative to the military committee, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Brussels, Belgium. In June 1983 he returned to Air Force headquarters as the Joint Chiefs of Staff representative to the Strategic Arms Reductions Talks with the Soviet Union. After attending the Schultz-Gromyko meeting of January 1985 in Geneva, Switzerland, he continued as JCS representative for strategic offensive systems in the new Nuclear and Space Talks with the Soviet Union in Washington, D.C., and Geneva. In April 1986 he was assigned the additional duty of chief negotiator for strategic systems. He assumed his present duties in October 1986.

The general is a command pilot with more than 4,200 flying hours and 35 B-52 combat missions in Southeast Asia. His military decorations and awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster and Army Commendation Medal.

He was promoted to major general Aug. 1, 1984, with date of rank Nov. 1, 1980.

General Aldridge is married to the former Hallie J. Hlebica of Sacramento, Calif. They have five children: LaDonna, Scott, Holly, Stuart and Melanie.