**Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB)**

Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) is an active military installation located on the eastern side of Great Falls, Montana. MAFB is one of three US Air Force Bases that maintains and operates the [Minuteman III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minuteman_III) [intercontinental ballistic missile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intercontinental_ballistic_missile). The [341st Missile Wing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/341st_Missile_Wing) reports directly to [Twentieth Air Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twentieth_Air_Force) at [F.E. Warren Air Force Base](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F.E._Warren_Air_Force_Base), [Wyoming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wyoming) and it is part of Global Strike Command headquartered at [Barksdale Air Force Base](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barksdale_Air_Force_Base), [Louisiana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana).

MAFB traces its beginnings back to 1939 when [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II) broke out in [Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europe). Concern about the war caused the local Chamber of Commerce to contact two Montana senators, [Burton K. Wheeler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burton_K._Wheeler) and [James E. Murray](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_E._Murray) and request they consider development of a military installation in Great Falls. In addition, appeals were made to the [Secretary of War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Secretary_of_War), [Harry H. Woodring](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_H._Woodring). In 1941, the [Civil Aeronautics Authority](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Aeronautics_Authority) provided the money for the development of the [Great Falls Municipal Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Falls_International_Airport) also known as Gore Field during its military use.

Construction began on Great Falls Army Air Base (AAB) on 8 June 1942. The base was informally known as East Base. Its mission was to establish an air route between Great Falls and [Ladd Field](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ladd_AFB), [Fairbanks, Alaska](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairbanks,_Alaska), as part of the United States [Lend-Lease](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lend-Lease) Program that supplied the [Soviet Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union) with aircraft and supplies needed to fight the [German Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wehrmacht). On 15 June 1956, the base was officially dedicated as Malmstrom Air Force Base in honor of Colonel Einer Axel Malmstrom, the 407th SFW Vice Commander who perished on 21 August 1954, when his [T-33 Shooting Star](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T-33_Shooting_Star) trainer crashed approximately one mile west of the [Great Falls Municipal Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Falls_International_Airport).

MAFB is a RCRA facility and therefore must comply with the RCRA permit requirements. Investigation and remediation of contamination covered under RCRA is addressed by the DEQ Waste and Remediation Division’s Hazardous Material Section. Investigation and remediation of Military Munitions Response Program sites on MAFB will be overseen by the DEQ Cleanup, Protection, and Redevelopment Section. The petroleum releases were relegated to the Underground Storage Tank program and cleanup on those sites is conducted in accordance with the Montana Underground Storage Tank Act.

The State of Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has 11 open petroleum release sites associated with MAFB including those at the Missile Alert Facilities (MAFs), Launch Control Facilities (LCFS) and on base. Other active contaminated sites include two landfills, six AFFF sites which are all administered under RCRA guidance along with two barrel sites that are addressed under the CECRA program.

Environmental cleanup continues at sites located on or associated with MAFB and is managed by United States Air Force Civil Engineering Center (AFCEC) personnel.