

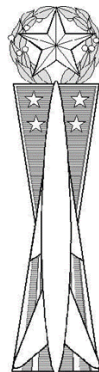
Nuclear Weapons, Conventional Munitions, and ICBM Maintenance

After initial training at Sheppard AFB, TX in maintenance fundamentals followed by a specialty follow-on course either at Sheppard or Vandenberg AFB, CA, 21M officers begin their careers leading maintenance organizations in diverse, challenging assignments around the world.



To learn more about Munitions and Missile Maintenance check out these YouTube videos:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rG0SaIw2Y>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRd1UTQHA9c>



21M: Munitions and Missile Maintenance



What does a 21M Do?

Munitions and Missile Maintenance officers manage maintenance and modification of conventional munitions, nuclear weapons, intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and associated equipment. They administer weapons programs and resources, and direct maintenance production operations and related activities. They are munitions advisors to commanders, staffs, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



Leaders From the Start

Most organizations 21Ms lead are large, granting a lot of responsibility right away. 21M officers compete to command squadrons as a major, earlier than many other officers. 21Ms can command munitions, aircraft maintenance, and other squadrons, including munitions support squadrons in Europe. Many continue on to become maintenance group commanders.



21Ms lead large maintenance organizations right from the start

A Diverse, Challenging Career

CGOs develop expertise in at least two of three specialties: nuclear weapons maintenance, conventional ammunition, or ICBM maintenance. Positions include section and flight commanders, maintenance operations officers, instructors, and munitions accountability officers. There are multiple opportunities to compete for a broadening tour in other logistics career fields, such as aircraft maintenance, prior attaining field grade ranks.



Munitions Support Squadron commanders serve as “mini wing commanders” working hand-in-hand with host-nation forces

FGOs get a chance to compete for squadron command early, and usually command more than once. Developmental education opportunities include Sister-Service schools and highly competitive fellowships at prestigious universities (e.g., Harvard) or National Labs. More senior officers apply their expertise across the Department of Defense serving on Combatant Commands, Air and Joint Staffs. 21Ms can also serve as maintenance group commanders, wing commanders, and historically compete well for General Officer ranks.

Where are 21Ms?



21M assignments span the globe. There are munitions and missile maintenance positions in 26 states and territories, and 9 foreign countries, not counting the numerous special assignments 21Ms can fill beyond just the 21M career field.



21M duties vary widely, from advising coalition partners on munitions expertise (above) to maintaining ICBM command and control systems in America’s interior (below) and much more.

