

# 148<sup>th</sup> SPACE OPERATIONS SQUADRON



## LINEAGE

Redesignated 148<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron  
Redesignated 148<sup>th</sup> Combat Information Systems Squadron, 1 Jul 1985  
Redesignated 148<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron  
Redesignated 148<sup>th</sup> Space Operations Squadron, *1 Jan 2001*

## STATIONS

Ontario, CA  
Vandenberg AFB, CA, *1 Jan 2001*

## ASSIGNMENTS

### COMMANDERS

LTC Steven Beck, Jan 01 - Jun 03

### HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### Decorations

### EMBLEM

On a disc Sable, issuant from base a demi-globe Azure landmasses Vert surmounted in dexter with a Minuteman Soldier traversed Bronze detailed Sable, in sinister chief eighteen mullets Argent forming Ursa, the Bear constellation, all within a diminished border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "148TH SPACE OPERATIONS SQ" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a

narrow Yellow border and inscribed "WE HOLD THE KEYS" in Yellow letters. Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The Minuteman, symbol of the Air National Guard, represents honor, majesty and wisdom. Ursa the Bear constellation refers to the State of California, as well as perfection, purity and truth. The globe signifies the ultimate target of communications for the Squadron.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

### **148 Space Operations Squadron**

- **Mission – Operates and maintains a 24-hour command and control (C2) capability for the MILSTAR weapon system**
  - **Assists in satellite activation**
  - **Repositions satellites when directed**
  - **Provides over-the-air-rekey (OTAR) services for secure communications**
  - **Provides 24-hour communications support to combat operators**
- **Location – Vandenberg AFB**
- **Command – AFSPC**

Pioneering the way in Space Operations for the Air National Guard, the 148<sup>th</sup> Space Operations Squadron, based at Vandenberg AFB Tracking Station, CA, has shared the command and control mission for the Milstar satellite constellation with the 4<sup>th</sup> Space Operations Squadron at Schriever AFB, CO, for the past 10 years. 18 Apr marked the decommissioning of the Milstar Satellite Mission Control Subsystem and Air Force Command Post Terminal, which had been in operation for the Air Force for more than 16 years.

Since 23 Mar 2001, the 148<sup>th</sup> Space Operations Squadron's decade of successful round-the-clock operation marks a momentous accomplishment for the first Air National Guard squadron to assume a command and control space operations mission. The 148<sup>th</sup> operations crews have worked tirelessly to provide secure, protected communications to the warfighter and the commander in chief, with 82,059 total satellite sorties thus far. The Lockheed Martin-built Milstar Flight 1 was launched in 1994 and followed by five successful additions to the cross-linked constellation, including the most recent Advanced Extremely High Frequency payload last year. The original ground control system was the Mission Control Element (MCE), shortly followed by the highly advanced follow-on dubbed the Satellite Mission Control Subsystem, or SMCS. The "smucks," as it is known, was a dramatic technological and system design improvement over the MCE. It has the ability to command one satellite while monitoring the health of the entire constellation and simultaneously allow throughput of secured communications. Fulfilling its operational life expectancy with complete success, the SMCS was replaced last year by the Advanced SMCS, though the SMCS still served as the backup until April 18. The new Unix-based Advanced SMCS allows high-tech features such as the capability to command two satellites at once in efforts to support the new Advanced Extremely High

Frequency satellites as they assume position in orbit in the near future. The 148<sup>th</sup> continues 24-hour-a-day operations with a force of four full-time crews, including 10 traditional officer and enlisted operators.

---

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 12 Oct 2010

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.