

4th SPACE LAUNCH SQUADRON



LINEAGE

4th Space Launch Squadron constituted, 29 Mar 1994
Activated, 15 Apr 1994
Inactivated, 29 Jun 1998
Activated, 1 Dec 2003

STATIONS

Vandenberg AFB, CA, 15 Apr 1994-29 Jun 1998
Vandenberg AFB, CA, 1 Dec 2003

ASSIGNMENTS

30th Operations Group, 15 Apr 1994-29 Jun 1998
30th Launch Group, 1 Dec 2003

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Titan IV, 1995-1997
Titan II, 1997-1998

COMMANDERS

LTC Michael E. Hatch, 15 Apr 1994
LTC Edwin A. Zehner, 21 Jun 1996
Maj Christopher B. Hale, 21 Jul 1997
LTC Richard M. Patenaude, 10 Oct 1997
None (unmanned), 18 May-29 Jun 1998
LTC Lee W. Rosen, 1 Dec 2003
LTC David B. Goldstein, 20 Jun 2005
LTC Heather R. Knight, 17 Jul 2007

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Oct 1994-30 Sep 1996

1 Oct 1996-30 Sep 1997

1 Jan-31 Dec 1997

1 Jan 1998-[29 Jun 1998]

EMBLEM

Approved, 31 Mar 1995

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**MOTTO****OPERATIONS**

The 4th Space Launch Squadron was activated to lead the Air Force's Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program on the west coast. The squadron's Delta IV and Atlas V launch vehicles provide the nation's sole medium/heavy lift capability to polar orbit. Insight into Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle operations enables the squadron's essential mission of providing continuous risk assessment and mission assurance for the 30th Space Wing and the Space and Missile Systems Center.

Delta IV is Boeing's Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle. There are many different configurations for the Delta IV, capable of lifting anywhere from 9,000lb - over 13,000 lb into Geosynchronous Orbit.

Atlas V is Lockheed Martin's Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle. Also with many different available configurations, this system can lift between 10,000lb and 30,000lb to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.

9/13/2012 - The 4th SLS executes Western Range Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle spacelift operations with a combined team of engineers, space operators, program managers and missile assurance technicians. "Any time someone is touching the rocket we have to have a mission assurance technician from the 4th SLS out there observing operations," said Maj. Joseph Howerton, 4th SLS Atlas V flight commander. "Mission assurance technicians have missile maintenance backgrounds, so they have the hands-on experience to know what to look for."

Airmen are currently engaged in preparations for the Atlas V rocket carrying a National Reconnaissance Office payload into orbit from Space Launch Complex-3 here. "We are looking good (for launch) from a launch vehicle prospective," said Howerton. "This is one of the cleanest launch vehicles we have seen for Atlas; we have not seen any major issues." This will be the fifth Atlas V mission for Vandenberg, and Howerton's second mission as the Atlas V flight commander. "Before launch I have Airmen out at the pad watching the corners of the mobile service tower during roll back," said Howerton. "They are watching the sides of the tower to ensure it is not hitting the launch vehicle, and if anything happens they can troubleshoot." Technicians from the 4th SLS provide over-the-shoulder support to United Launch Alliance launch contractors on Delta and Atlas flight vehicles. "On the day of launch we make sure all the preparations are completed on the pad," said Tech. Sgt. Jessie Carter, 4th SLS mission assurance technician. "We roll the building back, clear the site and then they fuel the rocket up while we stay back at a safe distance."



Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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