

4th SPACE OPERATIONS SQUADRON



LINEAGE

4th Photographic Squadron constituted, 15 May 1941
Activated, 10 Jun 1941
Redesignated 4th Mapping Squadron, 13 Jan 1942
Redesignated 4th Photographic Mapping Squadron, 9 Jun 1942
Redesignated 4th Photographic Charting Squadron, 11 Aug 1943
Redesignated 4th Reconnaissance Squadron, Long Range, Photographic, 15 Jun 1945
Redesignated 4th Reconnaissance Squadron, Very Long Range, Photographic, 20 Nov 1945
Inactivated, 14 Apr 1946
Redesignated 4th Reconnaissance Squadron, Photographic, 5 Sep 1947
Activated in the Reserve, 20 Sep 1947
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949
Redesignated 4th Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, Medium, 9 May 1952
Activated, 28 May 1952
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1958
Redesignated 4th Space Operations Squadron, 1 Apr 1992
Activated, 30 Apr 1992

STATIONS

Moffet Field, CA, 10 Jun 1941
March Field, CA, 10 Dec 1941 (detachments operated from various bases in Alaska, Canada, Central America, Caribbean, and South America, 1942–1944)
Peterson Field, CO, 4 Jan 1944
Buckley Field, CO, 1 Jul–14 Oct 1944
Hollandia, New Guinea, 7 Nov 1944 (detachments operated from Morotai, Dec 1944–Jan 1945; Australia, Jan–May 1945; Zamboanga, Mindanao, Apr–Jun 1945; and Clark Field, Luzon,

Jun–Aug 1945)
Tacloban, Leyte, 11 Jul 1945 (detachment operated from Okinawa, Aug–Oct 1945)
Seoul, South Korea, 25 Oct 1945–14 Apr 1946
Niagara Falls Muni Aprt, NY, 20 Sep 1947
Buffalo, NY, 3 May 1948–27 Jun 1949
Lockbourne AFB, OH, 28 May 1952–1 Jul 1958
Falcon AFB, CO, 30 Apr 1992

ASSIGNMENTS

1st Photographic (later, 1st Mapping; 1st Photographic Charting) Group, 10 Jun 1941
311th Photographic (later, 311th Reconnaissance) Wing, 5 Oct 1944–14 Apr 1946
First Air Force, 20 Sep 1947
26th Reconnaissance Group, 23 Oct 1947–27 Jun 1949
26th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 28 May 1952–1 Jul 1958
50th Operations Group, 30 Apr 1992

ATTACHMENTS

Thirteenth Air Force, c. 7 Nov 1944
4th Photographic Group, Dec 1944
6th Reconnaissance Group, 3 May 1945
308th Bombardment Wing, 22 Oct 1945–14 Apr 1946

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-2, 1941–1942
A-29, 1942
B-34, 1943–1944
B-24/F-7, 1943–1946
YRB-47, 1953
RB-47
B-47
Satellites, 1992

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

A-29
41-23448

A-29B
41-23419
41-23116

RA-29
41-23416
41-23435

RB-34
AL357

AJ346

R-37

AJ442

AJ631

AJ354

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

Cpt Elvin F. Maughan, 10 Jun 1941
1Lt Karl L. Polifka, Nov 1941
Cpt John B. Stewart,
Maj Frank N. Graves, 29 May 1942
LTC Eakes, May 1943
LTC Roland A. Campbell
LTC Theodore W. Beck,
Unkn, 20 Sep 1947-27 Jun 1949
Cpt Edward J. Majeskie, May 1952
1Lt William R. Ward, Jun 1953
Maj William E. Beaty Jr., 17 Jul 1953
Cpt James R. Tucker, Aug 1953
LTC Lawson C. Horner, Oct 1953
LTC William H. Edwards, Jul 1954
LTC Robert C. Bachtell, Nov 1956
Maj Cornelius E. Buckley, Dec 1956
LTC Charles H. McConnell, 16 Sep 1957-1 Jul 1958
LTC Charles L. Thompson Jr., 30 Apr 1992
LTC Kimber L. McKenzie, 15 Jun 1993
LTC Michael R. Mantz, 10 Jan 1995
LTC Philip B. Fitzjarrell, 15 Aug 1996
LTC Allen Kirkman Jr., 18 Mar 1999
LTC Roger W. Teague, 26 Feb 2001
LTC Ronald L. Huntley, 5 May 2003
LTC John E. Shaw, 14 Jun 2005
LTC Tommy A. Roberts, 14 Jun 2007

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Air Offensive, Japan

New Guinea
Leyte
Luzon
Southern Philippines
China Offensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

21 Mar–9 May 1956

1 Oct 2000–1 Oct 2001

1 Oct 2001–1 Oct 2002

2 Oct 2002–2 Oct 2003

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

EMBLEM

On a light blue shield, a golden winged gray aerial camera, focused on a sphere, in base, royal blue, with white grid lines, the sphere encircled with a white cloud formation, a red stream spiraling from the globe to the camera. (Approved, 20 Jan 1956)

On a disc Sable a winged Or star Argent detailed of the first, issuing four lightning flashes Gules, in base a terrestrial globe Azure gridlined of the third, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed “4TH SPACE OPERATIONS SQ” in Yellow letters. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed “LINKING THE FORCES” 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 background symbolizes space and suggests the link between ground-based operations and satellites. The star represents the satellites of the Milstar System which the Squadron operates. The lines of the star denote the unique cross-link capabilities of Milstar. The wings of the star allude to the unit’s historical reconnaissance lineage. The lightning flashes represent instant electronic communication provided by Milstar and the Squadron and also indicated the unit’s numerical designation. The globe signifies the ability of the unit to operate Milstar as a constant communication network worldwide in any theater. (Approved, 20 Aug 1992)

MOTTO

LINKING THE FORCES

OPERATIONS

The 4th Space Operations Squadron is responsible for command and control of the Milstar satellite constellation through the Milstar Satellite Operations Center, Mobile Constellation Control Stations, and the Milstar Support Facility.

The Milstar system is composed of three distinct segments: The Space Segment (satellites), the Terminal Segment (users), and Mission Control Segment (ground control stations). Milstar is the most advanced military communications satellite system to date. The multi-satellite constellation links command authorities to high priority U.S. forces via Milstar terminals on aircraft, ships, submarines, trucks, and ground sites with encrypted voice, data, teletype, or facsimile communications. The Mission Control Segment provides satellite command and control and mission support to the Milstar constellation. The fifth and final operational Milstar satellite was launched in April 2003. The 4th Space Operations Squadron operates the \$31 billion Milstar system executing communications management, satellite command and control, and ground segment maintenance for the Milstar constellation.

The Squadron performs satellite command and control, communications resource management, systems engineering support, mission planning, and anomaly resolution for the Milstar system. The Squadron has three fixed Constellation Control Stations (CCS), which interface with the geographically distributed Mobile CCSs, executing satellite command and control. The Milstar Support Facility personnel, also located in the Operations Building perform ground control maintenance and testing, and hardware and software configuration control.

Mapped areas of Alaska, Canada, Central and South America, 1942–1944; Southwest and Western Pacific, Dec 1944–1946.

The 4th Photo Mapping Squadron was detached for duty in small increments to the Caribbean, Central and South America repeatedly between 1942 and 1944.

Operated a number of Lockheed A-29 and B-34 aircraft (including 41-38219, which operated out of Waller Field, Trinidad, circa February 1943) configured for aerial mapping.

November 15, 1994 The 4th Space Operations Squadron assumed satellite control authority (SCA) for the first Milstar satellite.

November 25, 2008 The 4th Space Operations Squadron opened its new Protected Satellite Operations Center in Building 400. The ribbon-cutting ceremony included the unveiling of a memorial to America's combat forces outside the Protected Satellite Operations Center door. Squadron personnel, place a hand on the memorial as they pass to remember those combat forces Milstar directly supports.

The 4th Space Operations Squadron at Schriever AFB, Colo., received satellite control authority of the third Advanced Extremely High Frequency communications satellite during a recent transfer ceremony, said base officials. The MILSATCOM Program Office, a division of the Space and Missile Systems Center in Los Angeles, has had satellite control authority over AEHF-3 since its launch in September, states a March 27 release. The satellite reached geosynchronous orbit in January. "The operational position of the satellite, and hence its coverage area, is up to US Strategic Command. We are prepared to support users and the combatant commands' needs wherever the satellite is finally positioned," said Lt. Col. Alistair

Funge, 4th SOPS operations officer, in the release. The transfer ceremony took place March 21. The fourth AEHF vehicle is tentatively slated to launch into space in 2015, states the release. 2014



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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.