

17 TEST AND EVALUATION SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

1017 Test and Evaluation Squadron designated and activated, 6 April 1990

Inactivated, 15 Oct 1992

Redesignated 17 Test Squadron, 30 Jun 1995

Activated, 21 Jul 1995

Changed status from a unit of United States Air Force to a unit of United States Space Force, 21 Oct 2020

Redesignated 17 Test and Evaluation Squadron, 23 Aug 2021

STATIONS

Peterson AFB, CO, 6 Apr 1990-15 Oct 1992

Falcon AFB (later, Schriever SFB), CO, 21 Jul 1995

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Force Space Command, 6 Apr 1990-15 Oct 1992

Space Warfare Center, 21 Jul 1995

595 Test and Evaluation Group (later, 595 Space), 7 Apr 2000

53 Test and Evaluation Group, 1 Apr 2013

53 Test Management Group, 12 Sep 2013

United States Space Force (later, Space Operations Command), 7 Aug 2020 (attached to Space

Training and Readiness Delta [Provisional], 7 Aug 2020-23 Aug 2021)
Space Delta 12, 23 Aug 2021

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

6 Apr 1990-5 Apr 1992

31 Jul 1996-30 Jul 1998

31 Jul 1998-30 Aug 1999

1 Jan 2000-30 Sep 2001

1 Sep 2002-1 Sep 2003

2 Sep 2003-31 Aug 2004

1 Sep 2004-31 Aug 2005

1 Sep 2005-31 Aug 2006

1 Sep 2006-31 Aug 2007

1 Sep 2007-31 Aug 2008

1 Sep 2008-31 Aug 2009

1 Sep 2009-31 Aug 2010

EMBLEM



On a disc Azure, a globe Celeste gridlined Argent, surmounted by a scale Or, trays Silver Gray fimbriated of the third, overall a flight symbol ascending palewise of the fifth; all within a narrow Yellow border. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "EX SCIENTIA VERA" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "17TH TEST SQUADRON" in Yellow letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** 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 globe suggests the worldwide scope of the unit's test results. The balance scale symbolizes the impartial and independent assessments of systems performance when weighed against the parent command's mission. The flight symbol represents the systems tested. (Approved, 9 Mar 2010)

Space Force emblem approved on 2 Mar 2022.

MOTTO

EX SCIENTIA VERA-- From Knowledge Truth

OPERATIONS

The 17 Test Squadron validates and enhances warfighter capabilities through testing and evaluation of space systems. The 17 TS is responsible for planning, executing and reporting on all force development evaluation, tactics and concepts testing and command-directed testing of AFSPC's space assets.

17 Test Squadron and its Reserve counterpart, the 14 TS, were created at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo. Together, these squadrons work to provide independent assessments of new systems and present AFSPC senior leaders with fielding recommendations. The partnership between the two test squadrons is unique in that unlike many other Reserve units, which provide backup or surge capabilities for the regular Air Force, the 14th is a fully integrated partner in the testing process. Since the acquisition of highly complex systems can take several years, regular Air Force Airmen working on a project may make a permanent change of station move before the project is complete. On the other hand, Reservists provide critical continuity throughout the testing process, bringing extensive experience and expertise to test and evaluation. This year has been particularly busy for the testing community. It has completed upgrades to the Nuclear Detonation Detection System, worked with Combat SkySat, a rapidly deployable system designed to provide extended-range ultrahigh frequency and extremely high frequency communications to unit's in-theater, and tested a new command and control system for Global Positioning System ground stations. The community also supported strategic and theater missile warning system upgrades in Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colo. Test results on these systems have validated new capabilities while also uncovering operational concerns. For example, the Nuclear Detonation Detection System now utilizes data from the Defense Support Program to provide better resolution of nuclear detonations. For Combat SkySat, deficiencies uncovered during testing drove extensive engineering upgrades to the payload and platform. These upgrades have made the system more valuable to the war-fighter through increased

range and improved system life expectancy during operations. Members of both test squadrons have deployed to several locations in support of these tests. "Their efforts ensure war-fighters receive systems that meet their requirements," said Lt. Col. Scott Jokerst, 14th TS commander. "In fact, one test had to be halted when testers identified several serious deficiencies that needed to be fixed." Colonel Jokerst said if that particular system had not been tested, it could have had a significant impact on the war-fighters' ability to accomplish their mission. "Rigorous operational testing ensured system capabilities matched the warfighters' expectations," he said. "Critical systems must work the first time, and the teamwork from the men and women of the 17th and 14th Test Squadrons provide commanders with the confidence to use those systems on a daily basis." 2008

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 29 Nov 2010

Updated: 3 Nov 2023

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.