

23rd SPACE OPERATIONS SQUADRON



LINEAGE

Constituted 23d Airways Detachment on 21 Jul 1942

Activated on 25 Jul 1942

Disbanded on 1 Dec 1943

Reconstituted and redesignated 23d Space Operations Squadron, on 8 Oct 1991

Activated on 1 Nov 1991

STATIONS

Mitchel Fld, NY, 25 Jul 1942

Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, PA, 29 Sep-6 Oct 1942

Karachi, India, c. 12 Nov 1942

Chabua, India, by Mar 1943

Kunming, China, by c. May-1 Dec 1943

New Boston AFS (later, AS) NH, 1 Nov 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

Tenth Air Force, 25 Jul 1942 (attached to Air Service Command, 25 Jul-Sep 1942)

Air Transport Command, 21 Dec 1942

India-China Wing, ATC, by Mar 1943-1 Dec 1943

2d Satellite Tracking (later, 750th Space) Group, 1 Nov 1991

COMMANDERS

June 29, 2006

Air Force Space Command announced the results of the Vigilant Eagle operations squadron commander selection board. The board selected Lieutenant Colonel Samuel L. McNeil to move from the 50th Operations Group staff to command the 21st Space Operations Squadron. Lieutenant

Colonel Kevin P. Reigstad, 50 SW Chief of Safety, was chosen to command the 23d Space Operations Squadron.

July 2, 2007

Lieutenant Colonel Kevin P. Reigstad, formerly the wing's Chief of Safety, assumed command of the 23d Space Operations Squadron at New Boston Air Force Station, New Hampshire. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas E. Meyer replaced Colonel Reigstad as the Chief of Safety on 16 July.

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

India-Burma

China Defensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

EMBLEM

Sable a demi-globe issuant from base Azure land masses Or and therefrom issuant a spectre of the first eyed Yellow and habited Gray between in dexter a flight symbol ascending palewise and in sinister chief a mullet of four Argent, all within a diminished bordure of the second. Approved on 5 Jun 1995.

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

On a disc Sable, a demi-globe issuant from base Azure, land masses Or, and therefrom issuant a specter of the first, eyed of the third, habited Gris, flanked by a flight symbol ascending palewise in dexter and a mullet of four in sinister chief Argent, all within a narrow border Blue.

Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "SEMPER VIGILANS" in Blue letters.

Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "23D SPACE OPERATIONS SQ" in Blue letters.

Symbolism

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 on a black disc suggests the earth in space and reflects the Squadron's theater of operations. The flight symbol represents a satellite in earth orbit and signifies the unit's functions of telemetry, tracking and command of satellites. The spectral figure embodies the ever watchful effort of unit personnel in the performance of their duties. The polestar symbolizes true north and implies the Squadron's dedication to its mission. The Latin motto, "SEMPER VIGILANS," translates to "Ever Watchful" in English

MOTTO

SEMPER VIGILANS-Ever Watchful.

OPERATION

Combat communications, CBI Theater, Nov 1942-Dec 1943. Operated remote satellite tracking station, 1991-

The 23rd Space Operations Squadron, a unit of the 50th Network Operations Group, 50th Space Wing, is located at New Boston Air Force Station, N.H., and was activated Nov. 1, 1991.

The squadron is one of eight Air Force Satellite Control Network Remote Tracking Stations providing U.S. Strategic Command with critical satellite command and control capability to more than 170 Department of Defense, national and civilian satellites performing intelligence, weather, navigation, early-warning and communications operations.

23rd SOPS is the largest AFSCN Remote Tracking Station, providing on-orbit tracking, telemetry, command and mission data retrieval services to support DoD, NASA's space shuttle and allied spacecraft. The squadron operates and maintains a Defense Satellite Communications System earth terminal, Data Link Terminal and Defense Meteorological Satellite Program Enhancement for the National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration.

The squadron operates and maintains a 2,826-acre installation and infrastructure worth more than \$106 million for the largest geographically separated unit in the 50th SW. The squadron performs all base operations for the installation including security, civil engineering, communications, services, natural resources and safety.

Satellite support operations at New Boston Satellite Tracking Station began Apr. 1, 1960, using van-mounted equipment. Simultaneous with van operations, the installation of equipment in permanent facilities began under the Weapons Systems 117L program. Van operations were gradually phased out and by June 1964, the entire station was operating in permanent facilities.

By the summer of 1964, the station had dual satellite tracking, telemetry and commanding capabilities. The squadron was transferred to Air Force Space Command and the station moved from a research and development environment into the operational Air Force on Oct. 1, 1987. 23rd SOPS was realigned under the 50th NOG March 10, 2004, and the station celebrated its 45th

anniversary in 2005.

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HISTORY

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources