

# HEADQUARTERS SPACE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION



## LINEAGE

### STATIONS

*Colorado Springs, CO*  
*PETERSON AFB, COLORADO*

### ASSIGNMENTS

#### COMMANDERS

Maj Gen Winston D. Powers, Jan 1983  
Brig Gen John P. Hyde, 19 Aug 1983  
Col Phillip K. Heacock, Jun 1985  
Brig Gen James S. Cassity, Jr., 1 Jul 1985  
Col Phillip K. Heacock, 1 Oct 1985  
Col Karl V. Price, 10 Jun 1986  
Col William R. Taylor, 22 Apr 1987  
Col Vincent Majkowski, 13 Jul 1987  
Col Michael J. Ondrasek, 7 Jul 1989

#### HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The stars and globe in the dark blue background represent the space environment. The picture section of the globe represents the earth as viewed from some point in space. The latitude and longitude lines on the earth emphasize the global nature of Air Force communications. The satellite, depicted as a four-pointed star, symbolizes the worldwide coverage of Air Force surveillance and communications satellites. The triangular shape in space represents the upward thrust into space. It also symbolizes the Air Force's historic efforts to develop reusable winged vehicles and the commitment to use the space transportation system shuttle for future space operations. The dish represents the focal point of the Space Communications Division. The lightning bolts, spanning the globe and space, represent the Air Force's continuous effort to provide vital communications links wherever the need for communications exists.

The Space Communications Division established 9 September 1982, activated at Colorado Springs, Colorado, 1 January 1963, and assigned to HQ Air Force Communications Command. On 15 August 1986, Space Communications Division was redesignated Space Information Systems Division, and on 1 November 1986, redesignated back to Space Communications Division. The location of HQ Space Communications Division changed from Colorado Springs to Peterson AFB on 1 June 1988.

Consequently, after the Air Force activated the Space Command in September 1982, AFCC created a Space Communications Division on 1 January 1983 to provide the new command dedicated support. This division quickly became involved in all levels of planning for the communications necessary to support the work of the Air Force's newly created Space Command. AFCC's involvement was not limited solely to the planning and writing of operational concepts, but also included connectivity and base communications support to strategic, tactical, and shuttle systems. From wartime preparedness to peacetime telecommunications, AFCC provided the communications support necessary to use equipment operating in space.

During reentry, the shuttle's friction with the outer atmosphere blocked all radio and radar transmissions. After this blackout, part of AFCC's responsibility was to assist the crew in locating Edwards AFB quickly and correcting any inertial guidance system errors. This would assure a successful landing by providing the space shuttle a reliable navigational aid to update the onboard computer guidance system during the critical reentry phase. The control system would then guide the spacecraft through the critical last 15 minutes prior to touchdown. Personnel from AFCC's 2179th Communications Group, 1925th Communications Squadron,

1877th Communications Squadron, and the 3d Combat Communications Group furnished this key support at Patrick AFB, Florida; Edwards AFB, California; and Northrup Strip\*, an alternate landing site on the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. Aircrews and ground technicians from the 1866th Facility Checking Squadron at Scott AFB, Illinois, verified critical mobile tactical air navigation (TACAN) equipment parameters at all three locations.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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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.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Major Command history. A Salute to Air Force Communications Command Leaders and Lineage. Office of Air Force Communications Command History. Scott AFB, IL. 1 Oct 1990.