

# AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND



## LINEAGE

Space Command established and activated, 1 Sep 1982  
Redesignated Air Force Space Command, 15 Nov 1985

## STATIONS

Peterson AFB, CO

## COMMANDERS

Gen James V. Hartinger, 1 Sep 1982  
Gen Robert T. Herres, 30 Jul 1984  
MG Maurice C. Padden, 1 Oct 1986  
LTG Donald J. Kutyna, 29 Oct 1987  
LTG Thomas S. Moorman Jr., 29 Mar 1990  
Gen Donald J. Kutyna, 23 Mar 1992  
Gen Charles A. Horner, 30 Jun 1992  
Gen Joseph W. Ashy, 13 Sep 1994  
Gen Howell M. Estes III, 26 Aug 1996  
Gen Richard B. Myers, 14 Aug 1998  
Gen Ralph E. Eberhart, 22 Feb 2000  
Gen Lance W. Lord, 19 Apr 2002  
LTG Frank G. Klotz (acting), 1 Apr 2006  
Gen Kevin P. Chilton, 26 Jun 2006  
LTG Michael A. Hamel (Acting), 3 Oct 2007  
Gen C. Robert Kehler, 12 Oct 2007  
Gen William Shelton

## EMBLEM

n a shield Azure, a globe with axis palewise Light Blue, rimmed Argent, gridlined Sable,

enveloped by two eclipses saltirewise Argent, surmount in pale by a deltoid of the last garnished Sable between two mullets of four points Or delineated Sable, all within a pattern of seven mullets of five points, three in chief, three in base and one in sinister flank Argent and in dexter flank a small globe of the last, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND" in Blue letters.

### **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

The centrally dominant globe represents the earth as viewed from space, the earth being both the origin and control point for all space satellites. The lines of latitude and longitude emphasize the global nature of Air Force space operations. The emblem is provided its distinctive appearance by two symmetric ellipses representing the orbital paths traced by satellites in earth orbit; the satellites themselves being symbolically depicted as four point stars. The 30 degree orbital inclination and symmetrically opposed placement of the satellites signify the worldwide coverage provided by Air Force satellites in accomplishing the surveillance and communications missions. The slight tapering of the orbital ellipses represents the characteristic eastward motion. The centrally superimposed deltoid symbolizes both the Air Force upward thrust into space and the launch vehicles needed to place all satellites in orbit. The distinctive dark blue background shading, small globe, and stars symbolize the space environment.

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 centrally dominant globe represents the earth as viewed from space, the earth being both the origin and control point for all space satellites. The lines of latitude and longitude emphasize the global nature of Air Force space operations. Two symmetric ellipses represent the orbital paths traced by satellites in earth orbit, the satellites themselves being symbolically depicted as four-point stars. The 30-degree orbital inclination and symmetrically opposed placement of the satellites signify the surveillance and communications missions. The slight tapering of the orbital ellipses represents the characteristic eastward motion. The central deltoid symbolizes both the Air Force upward thrust into space and the launch vehicles needed to place all satellites in orbit.

### **MOTTO**

Guardians of the High Frontier

The Space Command Motto, was the product of a contest which was opened to the local Air Force community in the Colorado Springs area. The actual motto was coined from the submissions of three individuals representing Space Command and the USAF Academy. The winning motto was announced 17 Feb 1983.

### **OPERATIONS**

**Air Force Space Command is responsible for organizing, training and equipping mission-ready space and cyberspace forces and capabilities for North American Aerospace Defense Command, U.S. Strategic Command and other combatant commands world-wide. AFSPC oversees Air Force network**

**operations to provide capabilities in, through and from cyberspace; manages a global network of satellites, and is responsible for space system development and acquisition. It executes spacelift to launch satellites with a variety of expendable launch systems and operates them to provide space capabilities in support of combatant commanders around the clock. It provides positioning, navigation, timing, communications, missile warning, weather and intelligence warfighting support. AFSPC personnel operate sensors that provide direct attack warning and assessment to U.S. Strategic Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command. The command develops, acquires, fields, operates and sustains space systems and fields and sustains cyber systems.**

The primary purpose of Air Force Space Command is to enhance US military operations by ensuring access to and use of space. Space operations include tactical warning and attack assessment, space surveillance, spacelift, satellite control, counterspace, and direct support to combat forces.

Space surveillance operations support the counterspace, spacelift, and satellite control missions by detecting, identifying, tracking, and collecting technical data for intelligence purposes on manmade space objects. Space surveillance data also supports terrestrial operations by providing over flight warning of foreign and hostile space vehicles. Active and passive ground-based radar and electro-optical sensors make up the Space Surveillance Network.

Spacelift (launch and range) operations ensure the US has continued access to space. The Air Force provides the spacelift and launch recovery infrastructure required to support Department of Defense (DoD), national, civil, and commercial satellite systems. The Air Force spacelift infrastructure also supports launch tests of strategic and tactical ballistic missiles. Air Force spacelift operations are conducted at Eastern and Western Ranges and are controlled by AFSPC organizations at Patrick AFB, Florida and Vandenberg AFB, California.

Satellite control operations oversee the health and well-being of orbiting satellites and their mission payloads. Space Operations Squadrons (SOPS) use the global Air Force Satellite Control Network (AFSCN) to downlink vital statistics and mission data from satellites. The SOPS also use the AFSCN to send tasking commands to mission payloads, initiate relocation maneuvers, and perform station keeping maintenance functions. Satellite control operations ensure satellite mission payloads can perform their combat support functions for theater forces.

Counterspace operations prevent an enemy from gaining an advantage through the use of their space systems and protect our ability to conduct effective space, air, ground, and naval operations. Counterspace operations are conducted in concert with the theater Commander in Chief's (CINC) campaign plans and employs terrestrial and space-based systems to gain control of space. Counterspace operations are categorized as either offensive or defensive. Offensive counterspace operations are lethal and non-lethal actions taken by terrestrial and space-based

forces to neutralize an enemy's ability to exploit space capabilities. At present, offensive counterspace capabilities are limited to attacks against the ground and link segments of a space system. Defensive counterspace operations reduce the vulnerability and increase the survivability of all segments of US space systems.

Space-based assets provide direct support to combat forces worldwide by providing tactical warning/attack assessment, global command, control, and communications, early warning of tactical and strategic ballistic missile launches, navigation support, environmental data, and data for intelligence purposes. Integration of space-derived data into theater command and control systems, mission planning systems, and weapon delivery systems, is a continuing process. The Space Warfare Center and its Air Force Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities program spearhead Air Force initiatives to increase the effectiveness of space-based combat support operations.

By 1980 the Air Force had split its air defense and space-based missile warning and attack assessment functions, and disestablished Aerospace Defense Command (ADCOM) as a major Air Force command. Tactical Air Command had taken over resource management of Air Force air defense aircraft, while operational control of these aircraft rested with North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) (of which ADCOM composed the American portion). The space systems resource management had been absorbed into the Strategic Air Command, with their operational control resting with ADCOM. Many of these space systems were managed in conjunction with Air Force Systems Command, based on their determination that these systems were unique research and development systems. The fragmentation in control of its space system assets prompted the Air Force to look towards the formation of an Air Force space command to control and operate these systems.

Effective 1 Sep 1982, the Air Force formed Space Command (SPACECOM) to manage its space systems, while ADCOM remained a JCS-specified command, though many positions were dual and triple-hatted as SPACECOM, ADCOM, and NORAD. The incumbent commander of ADCOM and NORAD headed SPACECOM, while the commander of AFSC's Space Division took on the additional role of vice commander of SPACECOM. According to Air Force Chief of Staff Gen Lew Allen, the new command's function was to "provide a focus initially for operational planning, coordination and consolidation of activities relating to space mission areas." This organizational change set the stage for formation of a unified space command. Under the reorganization attending the command's formation, some systems would remain temporarily under AFSC direction until construction of new control facilities allowed SPACECOM to take over.

Shortly after the Space Command was established on 1 Sep 1982, Headquarters USAF decided that the new command would be assigned the Missile Warning and Space Surveillance Systems that SAC acquired from the Air Defense Command in 1979. Accordingly, approximately 3600 personnel, 31 units, and four Air Force installations were transferred from SAC to the Space Command on 1 Apr and 1 May 1983.

Air Force Space Command assumed command and control over the intercontinental ballistic missiles formerly assigned to the Air Combat Command on 1 Jul 1993. The Air Force Space

Command serves as the USAF component of the United States Space Command and also of the United States Strategic Command.

On 19 Apr 2002, AFSPC became a separate four-star Air Force command with the designation of the AFSPC commander as a four-star position distinct from the commanders of US Space Command and NORAD.



Sources  
AFHRA

*Air Force Magazine Almanacs*. Air Force Association. Arlington, VA. Various years.