

148 SPACE OPERATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

148 Space Operations Squadron operates the Milstar satellite communications system. The multi-satellite constellation links ships, submarines, aircraft, land vehicles and manned portable systems to provide reliable global communication and information to the armed forces 24 hours a day.

LINEAGE

Redesignated 148 Combat Communications Squadron
Redesignated 148 Combat Information Systems Squadron, 1 Jul 1985
Redesignated 148 Combat Communications Squadron
Redesignated 148 Space Operations Squadron, **1 Jan 2001**

STATIONS

Ontario, CA
Vandenberg AFB, CA, **1 Jan 2001**

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Steven Beck, Jan 01 - Jun 03

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

On a disc Sable, issuant from base a demi-globe Azure landmasses Vert surmounted in dexter with a Minuteman Soldier traversed Bronze detailed Sable, in sinister chief eighteen mullets Argent forming Ursa, the Bear constellation, all within a diminished border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "148TH SPACE OPERATIONS SQ" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "WE HOLD THE KEYS" 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 Minuteman, symbol of the Air National Guard, represents honor, majesty and wisdom. Ursa the Bear constellation refers to the State of California, as well as perfection, purity and truth. The globe signifies the ultimate target of communications for the Squadron.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Since 23 Mar 2001, the 148th Space Operations Squadron's decade of successful round-the-clock operation marks a momentous accomplishment for the first Air National Guard squadron to assume a command and control space operations mission. The 148th operations crews have worked tirelessly to provide secure, protected communications to the warfighter and the commander in chief, with 82,059 total satellite sorties thus far. The Lockheed Martin-built Milstar Flight 1 was launched in 1994 and followed by five successful additions to the cross-linked constellation, including the most recent Advanced Extremely High Frequency payload last year. The original ground control system was the Mission Control Element (MCE), shortly followed by the highly advanced follow-on dubbed the Satellite Mission Control Subsystem, or SMCS. The "smucks," as it is known, was a dramatic technological and system design improvement over the MCE. It has the ability to command one satellite while monitoring the health of the entire constellation and simultaneously allow throughput of secured communications. Fulfilling its operational life expectancy with complete success, the SMCS was replaced last year by the Advanced SMCS, though the SMCS still served as the backup until April 18. The new Unix-based Advanced SMCS allows high-tech features such as the capability to command two satellites at once in efforts to support the new Advanced Extremely High Frequency satellites as they assume position in orbit in the near future. The 148th continues 24-hour-a-day operations with a force of four full-time crews, including 10 traditional officer and enlisted operators.

USAF Unit Histories
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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.