

601st AIR AND SPACE OPERATIONS CENTER



MISSION

The 601st Air and Space Operations Center (AOC) plans, directs, and assesses air and space operations for the North American Aerospace Defense (NORAD) Command and the United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM). The AOC provides aerospace warning and control for NORAD defensive counterair (DCA) activities, and directs joint air and space capabilities in support of NORTHCOM homeland security and civil support missions. The AOC operates 24/7, 365 and consists of a Combined Air and Space Operations Center, two air defense sectors, and more than 54 gained wings--including fighter, tanker, and reconnaissance assets.

The 601st AOC utilizes the strengths and efforts of 412 officers, enlisted, DoD civilians, contractors and Joint personnel, including members of Title 10 Air Guard Reserve and Title 32 Florida Air National Guardsmen.

LINEAGE

601st Air and Space Operations Center

STATIONS

Tyndall AFB, FL

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Col Randall A. Spear, Jr.

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

First Air Force celebrated the opening of the 601st Air and Space Operations Center here June 1 with a ceremony and tour of the 37,000-square-foot, \$30 million combat center. First Air Force, which also serves under the North American Aerospace Defense Command as the continental U.S. NORAD Region, provides air security and air sovereignty defense for the continental United States. Airmen at the new AOC plan, direct and assess air and space operations for NORAD and the United States Northern Command.

Conceived in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, the state-of-the-art AOC further enables 1st Air Force Airmen to protect America's airspace from attack as well as coordinate life-saving relief during natural and man-made disasters. Debra Burlingame, co-founder of 9/11 Families for a Safe and Strong America, and director of the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation, served as the

ceremony's keynote speaker. Her brother, Charles Burlingame III, a retired military aviator, was the pilot of American Airlines Flight 77 that was hijacked by terrorists and flown into the Pentagon. Ms. Burlingame said when times are difficult, Americans pull together as a nation toward a common goal.

As the newest combat center in the war on terrorism, the AOC operations floor employs a high-tech, two-story, 16-screen data wall in a media-based theater reminiscent of a space-age control center. America's AOC employs the Theater Battle Management Core Systems that the joint forces air component commander uses to task and re-task theater assets by providing real-time feeds to pilots, navigators and air battle managers, allowing them to make better-informed decisions.

It also employs, through its Western and Northeastern Defense Sectors, the Battle Control System-Fixed program, to collect input from a network of radars to alert operators of airborne activity in continental U.S. air space. BCS-F provides key technology for the protection of the sovereign airspace over the continental U.S., Canada and surrounding waters. Gen. Ronald Keys, the Air Combat Command commander, spoke of the many sorties, evacuations, rescues, firefighting missions and other missions that the command had completed since the 2001 terrorist attack. 2007

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.