

1st EXPEDITIONARY SPACE CONTROL SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE¹

1st Command and Control Squadron constituted, 30 Nov 1989

Activated, 1 Dec 1989

Redesignated 1st Space Control Squadron, 1 Oct 2001

Inactivated, 9 Jun 2008

Redesignated 1st Expeditionary Space Control Squadron and converted to provisional status, 11 Feb 2009

Activated, 27 Feb 2009

STATIONS

Cheyenne Mountain AFB (later, Cheyenne Mountain AS), Colorado, 1 Dec 1989

Vandenberg AFB, California, 31 Jul 2007-9 Jun 2008

Peterson AFB, Colorado, 27 Feb 2009

ASSIGNMENTS

1st Space Wing, 1 Dec 1989

73d Space Surveillance (later, 73d Space) Group, 28 Feb 1992

721st Space Group, 24 Jun 1994

21st Operations Group, 26 Apr 1995

614th Space Operations Group, 3 May 2005

Fourteenth Air Force (Air Forces Strategic-Space), 24 May 2007-9 Jun 2008

¹ Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

ATTACHMENTS

21st Space Wing, 27 Feb 2009

COMMANDERS

David Agee, 1989

Lt Col Joseph Wysocki, 1991

Lt Col John M. Rabins, 1993

Lt Col Michael A. Muolo, 1994

Lt Col Joseph G. Baillargeon, 1996

Lt Col David A. Strand, 14 Aug 1998

Lt Col Craigen B. Anderson, 2000

Lt Col Scott F. Shepherd, 2002

Lt Col Michael Mason, 2007

Lt Col Chance Saltzman

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

[1 Dec] 1989-31 Aug 1991

1 Oct 1995-30 Sep 1997

1 Oct 1997-30 Sep 1999

1 Jan-31 Dec 1998

1 Jan-31 Dec 1999

1 Jan 2000-31 Aug 2001

EMBLEM

1 Command and Control Squadron emblem approved, 15 Nov 1994



1st Space Control Squadron patch



1st Expeditionary Space Control Squadron patches

MOTTO

VIGILANCE OVER SPACE

OPERATIONS²

In 1987, a Congressionally mandated "Blue Ribbon Committee" was tasked to evaluate the overall efficiency and operation of the space surveillance portion of the Integrated Tactical Warning and Attack Assessment mission. Because of this study, Headquarters Air Force Space Command tasked the 1 Space Wing to develop and staff a full-time orbital analysis function composed of space systems specialists to look after the quality of the Earth satellite database.

In Jun 1995, the squadron tracked the U.S. Space Shuttle Atlantis during its historic rendezvous with the Russian space station Mir.

² Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency

2006 The Space Control Center, operated by the 1 Space Control Squadron, is transferring its operations from Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colo., to the Joint Space Operations Center at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. The move is part of an effort to enhance mission effectiveness and increase Air Force Space Command's flexibility to support combatant commanders in meeting national and military space needs. Approximately 140 people will move to Vandenberg AFB, including military members, civil servants and contractors, from January through July 2007. The Space Control Center serves as the command and control hub for all U.S. space surveillance activities, while the Joint Space Operations Center, or JSPOC, integrates various joint space capabilities and focuses them for end users to improve warfighting capabilities. The consolidation of military space capabilities and expertise at the JSPOC is another step forward in AFSPC's efforts to improve the nation's ability to more effectively respond to new and emerging threats. "We have a duty to secure the entire space domain, not just for our own military but for the benefit of the free world," said Gen. Kevin P. Chilton, AFSPC commander. "Our ability to defend the asymmetric advantage we enjoy today depends on our ability to increase our situational awareness of the space domain. We need to progress from cataloging what is up there to being able to tell the capabilities and owner's intentions of any new object put into space," he said.

The 1 Space Control Squadron processes, tracks, and catalogs all new foreign and domestic space launches/associated objects. Processes and tracks missile launches that are not a threat to North America. Processes activities that threaten US/allied satellites and/or associated ground control/relay stations. Notifies Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station Combined Command Center personnel of objects entering earth's atmosphere that have at least a 5 percent chance of surviving reentry. Tasks the Space Surveillance Network to detect, track and identify manmade objects in space. Maintains and distributes a continually updated catalog of space objects. The squadron tracks objects in space ranging in size from a baseball to a basketball court. The furthest object the unit tracks, makes nearly one revolution every two weeks. The closest object makes a complete revolution around the earth in less than 90 minutes. Information from 30 sensors is forwarded to the unit for compilation and analysis. The unit receives more than 100,000 observations daily and maintains a database of more than 8,500 Earth-orbiting space objects. This information is made available to authorized customers worldwide through an electronic bulletin board.

6/9/2008 - VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. -- The 1st Space Control Squadron was inactivated and its members formally joined the 614th Air and Space Operations Center in a ceremony here June 9. This was the last step in the process of moving the 1st SPCS, which is responsible for tasking the global Space Surveillance Network and maintaining custody of all trackable man-made objects in space. The squadron has been an intricate member of the space community since 1961, with the activation of the Space Detection and Tracking System Center at Ent AFB, Colo. In August of 2007, the 1st SPCS and the Unified Space Vault was moved from Cheyenne Mountain AFS, Colo., to Vandenberg. "A visionary team here at Vandenberg recognized that the Air Force's only space-focused AOC needed to include the 1st SPCS," said Col. Steve Whiting, 614th AOC commander and Joint Space Operations Center director. "By collecting these units at Vandenberg, we put the talented team of 1st Space professionals in immediate proximity

to our other JSpOC personnel to begin achieving synergies we could not even predict at the time between the different elements of space situational awareness."

The success of that organizational realignment can be seen in operations such as the July 2006 North Korea Missile Test, the Chinese ASAT test in January 2007 and the successful destruction of an errant satellite on Feb. 20. "Today marks the end of a process that has resulted in an organization that can now truly be called the center of gravity for all joint space operations," Colonel Whiting said. With all joint space operations falling under Lt. Gen. William Shelton, the 14th Air Force and Joint Functional Component Command for Space commander, the JSpOC is able to leverage all the capabilities of the joint team to fulfill the combatant commanders' requirements. Some are pleasantly surprised by the benefits that have come from having all joint space operations united under a single commander. "Building space situational awareness is not the science of becoming omniscient about space but the art of understanding what's relevant for command and control of space forces," said Lt. Col. Chance Saltzman, the former 1st SPCS commander. "Without the daily interaction and routine exposure to the commander's intent enabled by co-location, it's much harder for the operator to determine what's relevant."

With the inactivation of the 1st SPCS and its members integrating with the 614th AOC to go forward in space operations, Colonel Saltzman challenged the space community to remember what brought them to this point. "The lesson of the 1st SPCS move should not be forgotten and it should be comprehensively applied to the broader Joint Functional Combat Command Space mission," Colonel Saltzman said. "Build a vision and have the courage and faith to pursue it, even if the detailed benefits cannot be clearly specified up front."