

# 1<sup>st</sup> SPACE CONTROL SQUADRON



## LINEAGE

1<sup>st</sup> Command and Control Squadron constituted, 30 Nov 1989

Activated, 1 Dec 1989

Redesignated 1<sup>st</sup> Space Control Squadron, 1 Oct 2001

## STATIONS

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

## ASSIGNMENTS

1<sup>st</sup> Space Wing, 1 Dec 1989

73<sup>rd</sup> Space Surveillance (later, 73<sup>rd</sup> Space) Group, 28 Feb 1992

721<sup>st</sup> Space Group, 24 Jun 1994

21<sup>st</sup> Operations Group, 26 Apr 1995

## COMMANDERS

Unkn, 1 Dec 1989-8 Feb 1990

LTC Alan H. Payne, 9 Feb 1990

LTC Joseph Wysocki, Dec 1991

LTC John M. Rabins, Jul 1993

LTC Michael A. Muolo, 5 Jul 1994

LTC Joseph G. Baillargeon, 17 Jun 1996

LTC David A. Strand, 14 Aug 1998

LTC Craigen B. Anderson, 23 Jun 2000

## HONORS

### Service Streamers

### Campaign Streamers

None

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **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**

Approved, 15 Nov 1994

## **MOTTO**

VIGILANCE OVER SPACE

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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 1st 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.

2006 The Space Control Center, operated by the 1st 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.



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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