

1st SPACE OPERATIONS SQUADRON



LINEAGE

1st Aerospace Surveillance and Control Squadron constituted and activated, 6 Feb 1961
Organized, 14 Feb 1961
Redesignated 1st Aerospace Control Squadron, 1 Jul 1962
Inactivated, 21 Apr 1976
Redesignated 1st Satellite Control Squadron, 25 Sep 1987
Activated, 5 Oct 1987
Redesignated 1st Space Operations Squadron, 30 Jan 1992

STATIONS

Ent AFB, CO, 14 Feb 1961
Cheyenne Mountain Complex, CO, Apr 1966-21 Apr 1976
Falcon AFS (later, AFB), CO, 5 Oct 1987

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Defense Command, 6 Feb 1961
9th Aerospace Defense Division, 1 Oct 1961
Fourteenth Aerospace Force, 1 Jul 1968-21 Apr 1976
2nd Space Wing, 5 Oct 1987
50th Operations Group, 30 Jan 1992

COMMANDERS

Col Robert Miller, 27 Mar 1961
Col William C. Watts, 1 Jan 1968
Col Stanton G. Daries, 1 Jul 1970
Col Bernard J. Szczutkowski Jr., 18 Sep 1972
Col Thomas C. Brandt
LTC Donna L. Burk, 5 Oct 1987
Maj Louis H. Schweichler, 10 Jun 1988 (acting)

Maj Thomas Baugh, 14 Jun 1988
LTC Alan H. Payne, 9 Feb 1990
LTC Robert L. Hooten, 20 Feb 1992
LTC Evan J. Hoapili, 4 Aug 1994
LTC John F. Anthony Jr., 24 Jun 1996
LTC Barry J. Bennett, 10 Jul 1998
LTC Michael K. Chesonis, 30 May 2000
LTC Burke E. Wilson, 3 Jul 2002
LTC Steven L. Lootens, 3 Jul 2003
LTC Craig L. Bomberg, 6 Jul 2005
LTC Erik J. Eliassen, 28 Jun 2007

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jun 1961-15 Sep 1963
1 Jun 1973-30 Jun 1974
1 Dec 1987-30 Nov 1989
1 Sep 1990-31 Aug 1991
1 Oct 2000-1 Oct 2001
1 Oct 2001-1 Oct 2002
2 Oct 2002-2 Oct 2003

EMBLEM

On an Air Force blue rectangular area a stylized computer above a semicircular geometrical pattern all surmounted by a stylized satellite, its four antennae saltirewise, all Air Force golden yellow; the satellite charged with an Air Force blue star; issuing from dexter chief a portion of the sun in splendor, and in sinister chief a formation of stars, Air Force golden yellow. On an Air Force golden yellow scroll, edged and inscribed Air Force blue, PRIMARII AETHERIS DEFENSORES, Space Defenders of the First Rank. The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. Against a background resembling in shape the fan-like radar of the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System, deep blue in color to represent the sky, and supplemented with the sun and stars to indicate day and night operations, a stylized satellite of the Vanguard class symbolizes the squadron as the Vanguard of Aerospace Defense. The satellite surmounts two symbols representing a computer for analyses and computations and a detection system with the capability of the MIDAS system and world-wide sensors. The solitary star on the satellite indicates that this is the first organization of this type.

On a disc Azure, between a polestar in dexter, a delta point up in chief, a polestar in sinister all Argent, and three bars enarched in base Or, two bars in saltire of the last, surmounted by a bezant, charged with a mullet of the field, all within a narrow border Blue. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "1ST SPACE OPERATIONS SQ" in Blue letters. 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 stylized satellite represents the heritage behind the mission of satellite operations. The star denotes the squadron and its function within the wing. The semi-circular enarching bars symbolize an antenna dish of a remote tracking station essential for satellite command and control functions of the unit. The flight symbol indicates the launch/early orbit stage of satellite life. The polestars represent the two states of satellite function, on-orbit and end of life phase. (Approved, 12 Nov 1993; replaced emblems approved, 30 Jun 1988 and 6 Feb 1962)

MOTTO

ALWAYS IN CONTROL

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The squadron operates and maintains 24-hour Air Force Satellite Control Network command and control capability for Global Positioning System (GPS), Defense Support Program (DSP) and Midcourse Space Experiment (MSX), constellations. 1st SOPS also operates and maintains a research and development space system providing vital space weather data.

Mission control crew shifts conduct 24-hour operations supporting the three major functions of satellite control; telemetry, tracking and commanding. Orbital analysts and program engineers provide program specific knowledge and support to the crews. The operators perform pre-contact planning, real time contact and post-contact evaluation. The squadron conducts more than 2,000 contacts a month.

The Multi-Mission Space Operations Center (MMSOC) is a revolutionary approach to space operations -- an operations center focused on forging a one-of-a-kind operations/acquisition team to demonstrate and field emerging space missions and satellite C2 technologies in a rapid, decisive manner. The MMSOC is structured to operate a variety of satellite missions, including satellite initiatives without a program office, satellite missions of small scale (small constellations), new missions transitioning from concept toward full-scale operations, and all research, development, test and evaluation satellites with operational utility remaining after test and evaluation are complete.

The 1st Space Operations Squadron at Schriever AFB, Colo., will assume control of the Air Force's two new Geosynchronous Space Situational Awareness Program satellites, according to an Air Force Space Command release. The Air Force plans to launch the two space-surveillance

satellites into orbit on July 23 from Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla. Airmen from the squadron will take control of them following initial orbital checkout and will then oversee the satellites' day-to-day operations. "This marks a great milestone for the 1st SOPS and AFSPC," said Gen. William Shelton, AFSPC commander. "With the alignment of the GSSAP mission to the 1st SOPS, we will achieve new synergies within the space situational awareness mission area," he said. The squadron already oversees the Air Force's Space Based Space Surveillance satellite and Advanced Technology Risk Reduction spacecraft, both of which operate in lower altitude orbits.

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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