

21st COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

The mission of the 21 Communications Squadron is to provide communication systems and services. This includes equipping, administering, training and providing personnel to operate and maintain ground communications, electronics and computer systems and facilities in support of North American Aerospace Defense Command, U.S. Northern Command, Air Force Space Command, Army Space Command, and many other Peterson Complex units.

LINEAGE¹

21st Communications Squadron constituted, 15 Nov 1952

Activated, 1 Jan 1953

Inactivated, 8 Feb 1958

2163d Communications Squadron designated and activated, 1 Oct 1979

Redesignated 2163d Information Systems Squadron, 1 Jul 1985

Redesignated 2163d Communications Squadron, 1 Nov 1986

Redesignated 2163d Communications Group, 1 Dec 1987

21st Communications Squadron and 2163d Communications Group consolidated, 1 May 1992

Redesignated 21st Communications Squadron, 15 May 1992

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

Major Command history. *A Salute to Air Force Communications Command Leaders and Lineage*. Office of Air Force Communications Command History. Scott AFB, IL. 1 Oct 1990.

Unit yearbook. *21st Fighter Bomber Wing, France 1954-1957*.

Redesignated 21st Space Communications Squadron, 30 Jun 2003
Redesignated 21st Communications Squadron, 15 May 2008
Changed status from a unit of United States Air Force to a unit of United States Space Force, 15 Jul 2021

STATIONS

George AFB, California, 1 Jan 1953-28 Nov 1954
Chambley AB, France, 12 Dec 1954-8 Feb 1958
Peterson AFB (later, SFB), Colorado, 1 Oct 1979

ASSIGNMENTS

21st Air Base Group 15 Nov 1952-8 Feb 1958
Strategic Communications Area (later, Strategic Communications Division), 1 Oct 1979
Space Communications (later, Space Information Systems; Space Communications) Division, 1 Apr 1983
3d Space Support Wing, 1 Oct 1990
21st Support Group, 15 May 1992
21st Maintenance Group, 1 Oct 2002
21st Mission Support Group, 15 May 2008
Space Base Delta 1, 23 May 2022

COMMANDERS

Maj Edward P. Egloff, #1957
Capt Stephen A. Dalrymple, 13 Jul 1979
Maj Robert T. McDonough, 7 Jul 1982
Maj Harry L. Bouris, 14 Oct 1983
Maj William A. Garrett, Jr., 25 Nov 1985
Col John W. Davies, 27 Oct 1987
Col Ronald L. Davidson, 22 May 1989
Lt Col S. Hente
Lt Col Tara Routsis
Lt Col Thomas J. Hains

HONORS

Service Streamers

Global War on Terrorism – Service (GWOT-S)

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Dec 1988-31 Aug 1990

1 Sep 1990-14 May 1992
1 Oct 1992-30 Sep 1994
1 Oct 1995-30 Sep 1997
1 Jan-31 Dec 1999
1 Jan 2000-31 Aug 2001
1 Sep 2002-1 Sep 2003
1 Oct 2005-30 Sep 2007
1 Oct 2009-30 Sep 2011
1 Oct 2011-30 Sep 2012
1 Oct 2012-30 Sep 2014

EMBLEM



2163d Communications Group emblem: The iron clad gauntlet symbolizes the squadron's major command, Air Force Communications Command. The sword to the right of the globe represents NORAD and the symbol to the left represents the Air Force Space Command which the squadron supports. The globe symbolizes the squadron's world communications mission. The two stars symbolize space; while the two lightning bolts symbolize communications electronics which extend worldwide. The satellite symbolizes the squadron's Air Force satellite communications operations and maintenance responsibility within the unit in support of the United States and Air Force Space Command.



21st Communications Squadron emblem approved, 14 Jul 1997





MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 2163d Communications Group equips, administers, trains and provides personnel to operate and maintain ground communications, electronics and computer systems and facilities in support of North American Aerospace Defense Command, U.S. Space Command, Air Force Space Command, Army Space Command, four wings and many other Peterson Complex units.

The commander of the 2163rd CG reports to the commander of the 3rd Space Support Wing and is responsible for three secure record communications centers; a consolidated ground satellite communications terminal; an administrative switchboard; a common user secure voice terminal; a cryptographic accounting operation; eight telephone systems; the base, NORAD, USSPACECOM, AFSPACECOM and USARSPACE telephone directories; 14 interbase radio networks; and a paging system.

operations is a worldwide ultrahigh frequency satellite command, control and communications [C3] system designed to provide the National Command Authority with a rapid, reliable means of communications with deployed forces worldwide.

The primary purpose of AFSATCOM is to provide emergency action message dissemination. AFSATCOM also provides force direction, force report back, and commander in chief internetting for the NCA. AFSATCOM also is used for general satellite communications for a limited number of high priority users.

In addition, the AFSATCOM terminal of the 2163rd CG has another unique mission: It provides a link between the early warning sites and the commander in chief of NORAD and USSPACECOM in case of an enemy attack.

The three Peterson telecommunications satellites circling the Earth that watch for ballistic missiles and aircraft.

Computers automatically translate the information into symbols on background maps of North America or the world and provide the command center staff an up-to-the-minute picture of the situation.

Sharing the mountain complex with the men and women of the NORAD command center are

the highly trained technicians of the missile warning and space defense operations centers, the space surveillance center, an air defense operations center that maintains status of air defense forces and high-interest air traffic, a U.S. civil defense national warning center, weather support unit, and communications and intelligence centers.

Members of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, as well as the Air Force, Canadian forces and civilians keep the complex functioning on a 24-hour-a-day basis year-round. During a normal day, there are about 800 people in the complex, with approximately 300 on each of the two night shifts.

21st Space Communications Squadron is responsible for operations, maintenance, programming and implementation of command, control, communications, computer and visual information systems in support of the Peterson Complex. In addition, they provide electronic–meteorological services to Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, the U.S. Air Force Academy and Fort Carson.