

## 21<sup>st</sup> SPACE WING



### **MISSION**

The 21st Space Wing, is the Air Force's only organization providing missile warning and space control to unified commanders and combat forces worldwide.

Mission is to conduct world class space superiority operations and provide unsurpassed installation support and protection while deploying airmen. The 21 SW provides missile warning and space control to North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Strategic Command through a network of command and control units and ground based sensors operated by geographically separated units around the world. Provides early warning of strategic and theater ballistic missile attacks and foreign space launches. More than 9,000 government and contractor personnel detect, track and catalog more than 16,000 cataloged man-made objects in space, from those in near-Earth orbit to objects up to 22,300 miles above the earth's surface

Operates and supports Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station; Thule Air Base, Greenland; and Clear AFS, Alaska, and Cape Cod AFS, Mass.

The 21st Space Wing's operations center is responsible for 16 space weapons systems in 42 units at 27 locations in 5 countries. As the Installation Control Center, it is the single, integrated command and control node for Peterson Air Force Base. The center houses the Emergency Communications Center and is responsible for emergency dispatch of fire and security forces. The center also provides resources and training for the Crisis Action Team, and manages the Status of Resources and Training System for the entire wing. Additionally, the center responds to higher headquarter taskings and assumes tactical control of forces when directed.

## **LINEAGE**

21<sup>st</sup> Fighter-Bomber Wing established, 15 Nov 1952  
Activated, 1 Jan 1953  
Inactivated, 8 Feb 1958  
Redesignated 21<sup>st</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing, 19 May 1958  
Activated, 1 Jul 1958  
Discontinued and inactivated, 18 Jun 1960  
Redesignated 21<sup>st</sup> Composite Wing and activated, 6 May 1966  
Organized, 8 Jul 1966  
Redesignated 21<sup>st</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1979  
Redesignated 21<sup>st</sup> Wing, 26 Sep 1991  
Inactivated, 19 Dec 1991  
Redesignated 21<sup>st</sup> Space Wing, 1 May 1992  
Activated, 15 May 1992

## **STATIONS**

George AFB, CA, 1 Jan 1953-28 Nov 1954  
Chambley AB, France, 12 Dec 1954-8 Feb 1958  
Misawa AB, Japan, 1 Jul 1958-18 Jun 1960  
Elmendorf AFB, AK, 8 Jul 1966-19 Dec 1991  
Peterson AFB, CO, 15 May 1992

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Ninth Air Force, 1 Jan 1953  
Twelfth Air Force, 12 Dec 1954  
United States Air Forces in Europe, 1 Jan-8 Feb 1958  
Fifth Air Force, 1 Jul 1958  
39<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 10 Nov 1958-18 Jun 1960  
Alaskan Air Command (later, Eleventh Air Force), 6 May 1966-19 Dec 1991  
Air Force Space Command, 15 May 1992  
Fourteenth Air Force, 20 Sep 1993

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

F-51, 1953  
F-86, 1953-1958  
F-84, 1958-1959  
F-100, 1958-1960  
F/TF-102, 1966-1969  
C-130, 1966-1975  
C-124, 1969-1971, 1971-1974  
H-21, 1969-1970  
F-4, 1970-1982  
HH-3, 1970-1975

B-57, 1971-1975  
C-118, 1971-1975  
T-33, 1971-1988  
T-39, 1971-1977  
VC-118, 1972-1975  
EC-118, 1973-1975  
CH-3, 1974-1975  
EB-57, 1974-1976  
C-12, 1977-1984  
F-15, 1982-1991  
C-21, 1993-1997  
Satellites, 1993

### **COMMANDERS**

Col James B. Buck, 1 Jan 1953  
Col Robert R. Rowland, 27 Apr 1953  
Col Robert N. Baker, 29 Jun 1956-8 Feb 1958  
Col Frank J. Collins, 1 Jul 1958  
Col William W. Ingenhutt, 21 Aug 1958  
Col Dean Davenport, 28 Sep 1959-18 Jun 1960  
None (not manned), 6 May-7 Jul 1966  
Col Donald H. Lynch, 8 Jul 1966  
Col Charles W. Johnson Jr., Jun 1968  
Col Kennieth D. Dunaway, 23 Sep 1969  
Col John A. Nelson, 15 Jan 1970  
Col Kennieth D. Dunaway, 1 Sep 1970  
Col James R. Larkins, 23 Jul 1971  
Col James R. Brickel, 9 Aug 1971  
Col David T. Stockman, 12 Jul 1972  
Col Charles F. Loyd, 4 Jun 1973  
Col Frederick C. Eaton, 1 Jul 1974  
Col Edward L. Tixier, 1 Jul 1975  
Col John T. Wotring, 29 Apr 1977  
Col Michael A. Nelson, 16 Apr 1979  
Col Jerry D. Cobb, 20 Feb 1981  
Col Evan J. Griffith Jr., 22 Apr 1982  
Col Wilfred K. Abbott, 16 Apr 1984  
Col Pat R. Paxton, 10 Jul 1984  
Col William R. Povilus, 19 Mar 1985  
Col Stuart L. Alton, 17 Oct 1986  
Col Harold S. Storer Jr., 23 Aug 1988  
Col Donald J. Creighton, 20 Mar 1990  
Col Rodney P. Kelly, 26 Sep-19 Dec 1991  
BG Ronald D. Gray, 15 May 1992

BG Donald G. Cook, 1 Sep 1993  
BG Gerald F. Perryman Jr., 10 Jan 1995  
BG Franklin J. Blaisdell, 7 Jun 1996  
BG Jerry M. Drennan, 19 Jun 1998  
BG Claude R. Kehler, 22 Aug 2000  
BG Duane W. Deal, 15 May 2002  
BG Richard E. Webber, 11 Mar 2004  
Col Jay G. Santee, 10 Nov 2005-28 Jun 2007  
BG John W. Raymond, 28 Jun 2007-20 Aug 2009  
Col Stephen N. Whiting, 20 Aug 2009

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

None

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decorations**

### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

8 Jul 1966-1 May 1967  
2 May 1967- 1 Jan 1968  
2 Jan-31 Dec 1968  
1 Jan-31 Dec 1969  
1 Jan-31 Dec 1970  
1 Jan-31 Dec 1971  
1 Jan-31 Dec 1972  
1 Jan-31 Dec 1974  
1 Jan-31 Dec 1975  
1 Jan-31 Dec 1978  
1 Jan-31 Dec 1980  
1 Jul 1982-30 Jun 1983  
1 Oct 1985-31 Dec 1986  
1 Jan 1987-31 Dec 1988  
1 Oct 1992-30 Sep 1994  
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  
1 Oct 2005-30 Sep 2007

### **Bestowed Honors**

Authorized to display honors earned by the 21<sup>st</sup> Operations Group prior to 1 Jan 1953

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Antisubmarine, American Theater

Air Offensive, Japan

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation

Japan, 7 Apr 1945

### **EMBLEM**





On a shield of azure, a broad sword argent, shaded silver, hilt and pommel or, shaded yellow, outlined of the field, between four red lightning streaks proper, two and two, bendwise. The blue shield represents the vast blue sky--the 21st's area of operations. The upraised sword indicates the strength and readiness of the wing to perform its mission, whether in peace or war. The lightning is symbolic of the heavens beyond, our stormy power and protective Lord. The Air Force blue, red and yellow signify the three fighter squadrons of the 21st Fighter Bomber Wing. The blue shield represents the vast blue sky--the 21st's area of operations. The upraised sword indicates the strength and readiness of our wing to perform its mission, whether in peace or war. The lightning is symbolic of the heavens beyond, our stormy power and protective Lord. The Air Force blue, red and yellow signify the three fighter squadrons of the 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing. (Approved, 23 Jul 1957)

#### **MOTTO**

FORTITUDO ET PREPARATION-- Strength and Preparedness

#### **NICKNAME**

#### **OPERATIONS**

Maintained tactical proficiency and provided air defense augmentation in the United States, Jan 1953-Nov 1954.

Became part of the NATO defense forces in Europe, performing special weapons tactical operations, Dec 1954-Jan 1958.

Participated in numerous actual and simulated tactical air operations and provided air defense augmentation in Japan and Korea, Jul 1958-Jun 1960.

In 1966, assumed air defense responsibility for Alaska and contiguous areas in support of North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) and Aerospace Defense Command (ADCOM) through

the Alaskan NORAD Region and ADCOM Region. Provided support for multi-service special operations in arctic regions and participated in numerous search and rescue efforts, 1966-1991.

Maintained air defense and alert forces at forward operating bases in Galena and King Salmon, AK, 1977-1991.

In 1978-1979 lent humanitarian support and assistance to Vietnamese refugees relocating to Canada. From 1992, provided command management of Air Force Space Command's worldwide network of assigned missile warning, space surveillance, and communications units.

In 1991, the 21st Tactical Fighter Wing was reorganized as an objective wing and all the major tenant units on Elmendorf were placed under it. The 21st Wing inactivated on 19 December 1991 when the 3rd Wing was reassigned from Clark Air Base to Elmendorf Air Force Base.

The Air Force activated the 21st Space Wing at Peterson AFB on 15 May 1992. Since activation, the 21st Space Wing has become the largest military space wing in the world. Three Air Force units contributed to the activation of the 21st Space Wing: the 1st Space Wing, the 3d Space Support Wing and the 21st Tactical Fighter Wing.

---

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 1 Dec 2010

Updated: 22 Nov 2015

#### 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.

Unit yearbook. *21<sup>st</sup> Fighter Bomber Wing, France 1954-1957*.