

## SPACE DELTA 2



### **MISSION**

Space Delta 2 (DEL 2) leads the operational Space Domain Awareness mission on behalf of the United States Space Force and uses the Space Battle Management warfighting discipline to identify, characterize, and exploit opportunities and mitigate vulnerabilities in the national security space terrain. DEL 2 operates and supports 14 weapons systems, including coalition and Interagency systems in partnership with the Australian Defense Space Command and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

DEL 2 is headquartered at Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado, and is one of the most geographically dispersed deltas in the U.S. Space Force. Major units are located at Vandenberg Space Force Base, California; Schriever Space Force Base, Colorado; the Maui Space Surveillance Complex, Hawaii; Eglin Air Force Base, Florida; Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico; Naval Support Facility Dahlgren, Virginia; and RAAF Base Edinburgh, Australia. Additional supporting locations include Stallion Army Airfield, New Mexico; Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia; U.S. Army Garrison Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands; and the NOAA Satellite Operations Facility in Suitland, Maryland.

DEL 2 tracks 44,700 man-made space objectives, including 8,900 active payloads, 16,600 analyst objects, and 19,200 pieces of orbital debris.

The 21 OG provides space based missile warning data, serving as a focal point for transition to the Space Based Infrared Satellite system, and providing space communication data and relay. The group's ground-based radars are comprised of a sea-launched ballistic missile, or SLBM, warning system—PAVE PAWS; a Ballistic Missile Early Warning System, or BMEWS; and a Perimeter Attack Radar Characterization System, or PARCS.

The 21's operations center is the Air Force's only Missile Warning Sensor Management/Command and Control organizations responsible for 14 space weapons systems in 31 subordinate units at 22 locations in eight countries. The center provides immediate global and theater missile warning sensor management to NORAD, the Joints Chiefs of Staff, unified commanders and combat forces worldwide. The center also provides the wing commander command and control of assigned missile warning units and space assets, as well as real-time configurations and contingencies to maintain operational and system capabilities and required peacetime and wartime taskings. Additionally, the center responds to higher headquarter taskings and assumes tactical control of forces when directed.

#### **LINEAGE**

21 Bombardment Group (Medium) established, 13 Jan 1942  
Activated, 1 Feb 1942  
Disestablished, 10 Oct 1943

21 Fighter Group established, 31 Mar 1944  
Activated, 21 Apr 1944  
Inactivated, 10 Oct 1946  
Redesignated 21 Fighter-Bomber Group, 15 Nov 1952  
Activated, 1 Jan 1953  
Inactivated, 8 Feb 1958

21 Bombardment Group (Medium) and 21 Fighter Group, reestablished and consolidated and redesignated 21 Tactical Fighter Group, 31 Jul 1985

Redesignated 21 Operations Group, 25 Sep 1991  
Activated, 26 Sep 1991  
Inactivated, 19 Dec 1991  
Activated, 15 May 1992

Redesignated Space Delta 2

#### **STATIONS**

Bowman Field, KY, 1 Feb 1942  
Jackson AAB, MS, 6 Feb 1942  
Columbia AAB, SC, 21 Apr 1942  
Key Field, MS, 24 May 1942

MacDill Field, FL, 24 Jun 1942-10 Oct 1943  
Wheeler Field, TH, 21 Apr 1944  
Mokuleia Field, TH, 13 Oct 1944-9 Feb 1945  
Central Field, Iwo Jima, 26 Mar 1945  
South Field, Iwo Jima, 16 Jul 1945  
Isley Field, Saipan, 4 Dec 1945  
Northwest Field, Guam, 17 Apr-10 Oct 1946  
George AFB, CA, 1 Jan 1953-26 Nov 1954  
Chambley AB, France, 12 Dec 1954-8 Feb 1958  
Elmendorf AFB, AK, 26 Sep-19 Dec 1991  
Peterson AFB, CO, 15 May 1992

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Air Force Combat Command, 1 Feb 1942  
III Bomber Command, 11 Mar 1942  
XII Bomber Command, 2 May 1942  
III Bomber Command, 8 May 1942-10 Oct 1943  
US Army Air Forces, Central Pacific Area, 21 Apr 1944  
VII Fighter Command, 24 Apr 1944  
7 Fighter Wing, 3 Jul 1944  
VII Fighter Command, 10 Nov 1944  
US Army Strategic Air Forces, 16 Jul 1945  
20 Fighter Wing, 5 Aug 1945-10 Oct 1946  
21 Fighter Bomber Wing, 1 Jan 1953-8 Feb 1958  
21 Wing, 26 Sep-19 Dec 1991  
21 Space Wing, 15 May 1992

### **ATTACHMENTS**

7 Fighter Wing, 10 Nov 1944-Feb 1945

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

A-20, 1942  
B-18, 1942  
B-25, 1942  
B-26, 1942-1943  
P-39, 1944  
P-38, 1944-1945  
P-51, 1944-1946  
P-47, 1946  
F-51, 1953  
F-86, 1953-1958  
T-33, 1957-1958  
C-21, 1993-1997  
Satellites, 1993

## **COMMANDERS**

Unkn, 1-8 Feb 1942  
Col Robert D. Knapp, 9 Feb 1942  
Col William L. Lee, 26 Apr 1942  
Lt Col John F. Batjer, 13 Aug 1942  
Col Carl R. Storrie, 5 Oct 1942  
Col Guy L. McNeil, 7 Nov 1942  
Col Don Z. Zimmerman, 19 Apr 1943  
Lt Col L. F. Brownfield, 6 Jun 1943  
Col Richard T. Coiner Jr., 6 Jul-10 Oct 1943  
Col Kenneth R. Powell, 21 Apr 1944  
Col Charles E. Taylor, 14 Jun 1945  
Lt Col Charles E. Parsons, 15 Oct 1945  
Col William Eades, 25 Nov 1945  
Col Lester S. Harris, Feb-10 Oct 1946  
Col Paul P. Douglas Jr., 1 Jan 1953  
Col Verl D. Luehring, 26 Apr 1954  
Col R. C. Franklin Jr., 27 Apr 1955  
Lt Col Charles J. Bowers, 5 Mar 1956  
Col Donavon F. Smith, 14 Aug 1956-14 Apr 1957  
None (not manned), 15 Apr 1957-8 Feb 1958  
Unkn, 26 Sep-19 Dec 1991  
Unkn, 15 May 1992-13 Jun 1994  
Col Russell J. Anarde, 14 Jun 1994  
Col Steven J. Bruger, 9 Jun 1995  
Col John B. Perroni Jr., 11 Jan 1996  
Col William H. Rohlman, 27 May 1997  
Col Thomas D. Shearer, 8 Jul 1999  
Col Michael A. Rampino, 21 Jun 2001  
Col Nina Armagno

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Antisubmarine, American Theater

Air Offensive, Japan

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
Japan, 7 Apr 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

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

## EMBLEM



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. (Approved, 23 Jul 1957)



### **MOTTO**

FORTITUDO ET PREPARATIO--Strength and Preparedness

### **OPERATIONS**

Upon activation in 1942, trained medium bombardment crews; flew some antisubmarine patrols over Gulf of Mexico. Following activation in 1944, group conducted day and night interception missions in defense of Hawaiian Islands. In Mar 1945, group moved to Iwo Jima to escort B-29s bombing Japanese mainland from the Marianas. Suffered Japanese guerilla attack the night after its arrival but next day flew its first combat mission against targets in enemy-occupied Bonin Islands. On group's first mission to Japan on 7 Apr 1945, earned Distinguished Unit Citation for escorting B-29s that bombed the heavily-defended Nakajima aircraft factory near Tokyo. On 19 Apr 1945, participated in the first strafing mission to Japan. During May 1945, struck airfields near Tokyo and Nagoya and air installations on southern Kyushu; and escorted B-29s hitting Japanese port of Yokohama. During summer of 1945, group struck enemy installations and shipping in vicinity of Bonin Islands, especially enemy airfield at Suzuka. From V-J Day to 1946, performed occupation duty in Pacific area and assisted in defense of Iwo Jima and Marianas Islands.

Upon activation in 1953, provided air defense for US.

Equipped for a few months with F-51s, later with F-86s. Moved to France, Nov-Dec 1954, and assigned to United States Air Forces in Europe. Provided air defense for US. Between 1954 and 1958, served in France as part of North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces. From 1992, operated worldwide network of missile warning, space surveillance, communications, and space support units.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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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.