

SPACE DELTA 3



MISSION

The 73 Space Group, headquartered at Falcon Air Force Base, operates space surveillance sites that detect, track and report on manmade objects in space. The sites instantly transfer surveillance data to the group's 1st Command and Control Squadron at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Base. Members of the command and control squadron use the data to maintain a catalog that lists all manmade objects in orbit. North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Space Command centers at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Base also receive tracking data from the sites. Members of the 73 Space Group operate sensors that include electro-optical surveillance systems, mechanical and phased array radars, and passive radio frequency surveillance systems.

LINEAGE

73 Aerospace Surveillance Wing established, 1 Nov 1966

Organized, 1 Jan 1967

Inactivated, 30 Apr 1971

Redesignated 73 Space Surveillance Group, 10 Feb 1989

Activated, 1 Mar 1989

Redesignated 73 Space Wing, 1 Jun 1991

Redesignated 73 Space Group, 1 May 1992

Inactivated, 26 Apr 1995

Redesignated as Space Delta 3, and activated, 24 Jul 2020

Changed status from unit of the United States Air Force unit of the United States Space Force

21 Oct 2020

STATIONS

Ent AFB, CO, 1 Jan 1967
Tyndall AFB, FL, 17 Jul 1967–30 Apr 1971
Falcon AFB, CO, 1 Jun 1991–26 Apr 1995
Falcon AFB, 1 Mar 1989-26 Apr 1995
Peterson AFB (later, SFB), CO, 24 Jul 2020-.

ASSIGNMENTS

9 Aerospace Defense Division, 1 Jan 1967
14 Aerospace Force, 1 Jul 1968–30 Apr 1971
Air Force Space Command, 1 Mar 1989
1 Space Wing, 1 Jun 1991
Fourteenth Air Force, 20 Sep 1993-26 Apr 1995
United States Space Force (later, Space Operations Command), 24 Jul 2020

COMMANDERS

Col Adolph J. Bregar, 1 Jan 1967
Col William B. Gartrtz Jr., 1967
Col Richard R. Thomas, 1968
Col Hugh D. Dow, 29 Jun 1968
Col John W. Emig, 20 Jun 1970-30 Apr 1971

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



Per chevron reversed celeste and azure a plate bearting a torteau radiating seven fillets throughout argent and over-all a fillet forming a nuclear rose of the last seeded of seven electrons gules and leaved of seven flight symbols or, all within a diminished bordure of the like. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the organization. The field of light and deep blue depicts the sky; the primary theater of Air Force operations with the light blue referring to the area beyond the earth's atmosphere; segmented light and dark, the shield indicates day and night operation. The sphere forming the center of the nuclear rose denotes the global aspect of the wing's operations while indicating the wing as the center or hub of all assigned space track sensors. The seeds of the nuclear rose represent the assigned sensors which utilize electromagnetic energy to obtain data on earth orbiting deep space satellites. The gold leaves or flight symbols represent the assigned sensors which use optical means of obtaining data with the gold depicting reflected sunlight. The wing's numerical designation is referred to by 7 charges in 3 groupings. (7 sensory electrons, 7 flight symbols and 7 segments of the field) The emblem bears national colors and the Air Force colors; golden yellow and ultramarine blue.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Detachment 1, 73 Space Group – San Vito dei Normanni AS, Italy (1 Oct 1989 – 1 Oct 1990)

Detachment 2, 73 Space Group – RAF Feltwell, England (1 Oct 1989 – 1 Oct 1990)

Detachment 3, 73 Space Group – Misawa AB, Japan (1 Jan 1991 – 1 Oct 1992)

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.