

137 SPACE WARNING SQUADRON



MISSION

The mission of the 137 is to provide immediate, worldwide missile warning, space launch, and detection in the event of an attack against the United States to North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), unified commanders, in-theater commanders, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the National Command Authorities.

The men and women of this unit will employ the Air Force's only survivable, mobile satellite communications ground system to pull early warning data from Defense Support Program (DSP) satellites, which orbit the earth at approximately 22,000 miles. The effectiveness of the DSP was highlighted during the Persian Gulf conflict.

DSP satellites detected the launch of Iraqi Scud missiles and provided timely warning data to civilian populations and allied forces. The Space Staff Officer course is taught by the 392nd Training Squadron at Vandenburg AFB. The five week curriculum includes classes in orbital mechanics, satellite subsystems, space policy doctrine and law, satellite mission operations, space warning operations, space control, command center, operations, ICBM systems. Employs the Air Force's only strategic survivable, mobile ground system (MGS) to receive early warning data.

The 137 provides survivable and endurable missile warning detection to the National Command Authority and has the ability to survive and operate through all phases of trans/post attack. In addition, the satellites provide immediate, worldwide missile warning, space launch, and nuclear detonation detection. The unit is comprised of 287 Airmen consisting of Active Guard Reserve, dual status technicians, traditional guard members and civilian employees.

LINEAGE

137 Space Warning Squadron

STATIONS

Greely ANGS, CO

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Col William Hudson, #2001

Col Gregory White

Col Loren Johnson, Sep 2005 - Jul 2011

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



On a disc Azure, a fess Argent surmounted by a decrescent couped Gules, intouring a globe of the first, gridlined of the second, overall a flight symbol rising palewise Silver Gray, highlighted to dexter White and detailed Black, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "137 SPACE WARNING SQUADRON" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "TOTAL FORCE IN SPACE" in Yellow letters.

SIGNIFICANCE: 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 Air Force Space Command emblem is the center of the design. The globe represents the earth as viewed from space, the earth being the origin and control point for all space satellites. The lines of longitude and latitude emphasize the global nature of Air Force space operations. The deltoid denotes the upward thrust into space by the Air Force and also the launch vehicles needed to place all satellites into orbit. The

letter “C” surrounds the Air Force Space Command emblem, denoting the unit’s location and affiliation with its parent unit.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In Jan 1996, the 137 Space Warning Squadron became the first National Guard unit to assume an Air Force Space Command mission.

On April 17, 1996 twelve members of the Colorado Air National Guard graduated from the first Space Staff Officers course conducted for the Air National Guard. This is the first time any member of the Air National Guard has been awarded the AFSC 13S4X.

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USAF 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.