

## 13 SPACE WARNING SQUADRON



### MISSION

The primary mission of the 13 Space Warning Squadron is to provide Early Warning of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and Sea-Launched Ballistic Missiles. Its secondary mission is to provide Space Surveillance data on orbiting objects to the Space Control Center also located in the Cheyenne Mountain Complex.

The 13 SWS accomplishes these missions using the Solid State Phased Array Radar System radar, which is housed in a triangular-shaped 11 story building on site. The radar was originally located at El Dorado Air Station, Texas as part of the PAVE PAWS program and was only recently transplanted to Alaska to replace the United States' last mechanical missile warning radar site. The radar system has two faces which together form a coverage area 240 degrees wide and 3,000 miles deep into space. The coverage extends from the Arctic Ocean all the way to the West Coast of the lower 48 states. The remarkable capabilities of this weapon system are also useful to track near-earth satellites. The data generated ensures the United States is able to accurately catalog more than 16,000 objects in orbit. This allows manned orbital vehicles, like the Space Shuttle and International Space Station, to avoid harm and to closely monitor objects re-entering the atmosphere, which could impact populated areas.

### LINEAGE

13 Missile Warning Squadron constituted and activated, 1 Nov 1966

Organized, 1 Jan 1967

Redesignated 13 Space Warning Squadron, 15 May 1992

Changed status from a unit of United States Air Force to a unit of United States Space Force, 21 Oct 2020.

## **STATIONS**

Clear Missile Early Warning Station (later, Clear AFS; Clear AS), AK, 1 Jan 1967

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Air Defense Command, 1 Nov 1966  
71 Missile Warning Wing, 1 Jan 1967  
Fourteenth Aerospace Force, 30 Apr 1971  
Alaskan ADCOM Region, 1 Oct 1976  
47 Air Division, 1 Dec 1979  
1 Space Wing, 1 May 1983  
21 Operations Group, 15 May 1992  
Space Delta 4, 24 Jul 2020

## **COMMANDERS**

Lt Col Tyler M. Evans  
Lt Col Stephen N. Whiting  
Lt Col John L. Armantrout  
Lt Col D. Shiller  
Lt Col D. Riester

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

Global War on Terrorism – Service (GWOT-S)

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

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

1 Jun 1968-31 May 1970  
1 Jul 1971- 30 Jun 1973  
1 May 1983-30 Apr 1984  
1 Sep 1988-31 Aug 1990  
1 Sep 1990-31 Aug 1991  
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  
1 Oct 2009-30 Sep 2011

1 Oct 2011-30 Sep 2012

1 Oct 2012-30 Sep 2014

## EMBLEM



On a disc, per fess indented Azure and Or, issuant in base a demi-globe of the first gridlines Argent, and in chief a bugle horn of the second suspended by a strap Gules edged in Gold, all within a diminished bordure of the like. (Approved, 11 Aug 1967)

Space Force emblem approved, 16 Mar 2023

## MOTTO

SENTINEL OF SPACE

## OPERATIONS

BMEWS operations began at Clear Air Force Station in 1961 as the 2nd Detachment of the 71st Missile Warning Wing. On Jan. 1, 1967, Det 2 inactivated and the 13th Missile Warning Squadron was activated. In 1992, the squadron was renamed to the 13th Space Warning Squadron.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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## Sources

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