

23 SPACE OPERATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

23 Airways Detachment constituted, 21 Jul 1942

Activated, 25 Jul 1942

Disbanded, 1 Dec 1943

Reconstituted and redesignated 23 Space Operations Squadron, 8 Oct 1991

Activated, 1 Nov 1991

Changed status from a unit of United States Air Force to a unit of United States Space Force, 21 Oct 2021

STATIONS

Mitchel Fld, NY, 25 Jul 1942

Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, PA, 29 Sep-6 Oct 1942

Karachi, India, 12 Nov 1942

Chabua, India, Mar 1943

Kunming, China, May-1 Dec 1943

New Boston AFS (later, AS) NH, 1 Nov 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

Tenth Air Force, 25 Jul 1942

Air Transport Command, 21 Dec 1942

India-China Wing, ATC, Mar 1943-1 Dec 1943

2 Satellite Tracking (later, 750 Space) Group, 1 Nov 1991

50 Operations Group, 3 Jun 1999

50 Network Operations Group (later, Space Delta 6), 10 Mar 2004

ATTACHMENTS

Air Service Command, 25 Jul-Sep 1942

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Kevin P. Reigstad, 2 Jul 2007

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

India-Burma

China Defensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Sep 1993-31 Aug 1995

[3 Jun 1999]-30 Sep 2000

1 Oct 2000-1 Oct 2001

[2] Oct 2001-1 Oct 2002

2 Oct 2002-2 Oct 2003

1 Oct 2007-30 Sep 2009

1 Jan 2015-31 Dec 2016

EMBLEM





23 Space Operations Squadron emblem: On a disc Sable, a demi-globe issuant from base Azure, land masses Or, and therefrom issuant a specter of the first, eyed of the third, habited Gris, flanked by a flight symbol ascending palewise in dexter and a mullet of four in sinister chief Argent, all within a narrow border Blue. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "SEMPER VIGILANS" in Blue letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "23D SPACE OPERATIONS SQ" in Blue 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 globe on a black disc suggests the earth in space and reflects the Squadron's theater of operations. The flight symbol represents a satellite in earth orbit and signifies the unit's functions of telemetry, tracking and command of satellites. The spectral figure embodies the ever watchful effort of unit personnel in the performance of their duties. The polestar symbolizes true north and implies the Squadron's dedication to its mission. (Approved, 5 Jun 1995)

Space Force emblem approved, 2 Mar 2022

MOTTO

SEMPER VIGILANS-Ever Watchful

OPERATION

Combat communications, CBI Theater, Nov 1942-Dec 1943.

The squadron is one of eight Air Force Satellite Control Network Remote Tracking Stations providing U.S. Strategic Command with critical satellite command and control capability to more than 170 Department of Defense, national and civilian satellites performing intelligence, weather, navigation, early-warning and communications operations.

23 SOPS is the largest AFSCN Remote Tracking Station, providing on-orbit tracking, telemetry, command and mission data retrieval services to support DoD, NASA's space shuttle and allied spacecraft. The squadron operates and maintains a Defense Satellite Communications System earth terminal, Data Link Terminal and Defense Meteorological Satellite Program Enhancement for the National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration.

The squadron operates and maintains a 2,826-acre installation and infrastructure worth more than \$106 million for the largest geographically separated unit in the 50 SW. The squadron performs all base operations for the installation including security, civil engineering, communications, services, natural resources and safety.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 16 Dec 2010

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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.