

SPACE LAUNCH DELTA 30



MISSION

LINEAGE

Air Force Western Test Range established and activated, 5 May 1964

Organized, 15 May 1964

Inactivated, 1 Apr 1970

Redesignated Western Space and Missile Center and activated, 1 Oct 1979

Redesignated 30 Space Wing, 19 Nov 1991

Redesignated Space Launch Delta 30, Status changed from unit of the United States Air Force to unit of the United States Space Force 9 May 2021

STATIONS

Vandenberg AFB, CA, 15 May 1964-1 Apr 1970

Vandenberg AFB, CA, 1 Oct 1979

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Force Systems Command, 5 May 1964

National Range Division, 15 May 1964-1 Apr 1970

Space and Missile Test Organization, 1 Oct 1979

Space Systems Division, 1 Oct 1989

9 Space Division, 1 Oct 1990

Air Force Space Command, 1 Oct 1991

Fourteenth Air Force, 20 Sep 1993

United States Space Force (later, Space Operations Command), 20 Dec 2019

Space Systems Command, 13 Aug 2021

WEAPON SYSTEMS

UH-1, 1993

Atlas, 1990-1995

UH-1, 1993-2007

Titan II, 1997-1999, 2002-2003

Titan IV, 1995-1997, 1999-2005

Atlas II, 2000-2003

Minotaur I, 2000

Delta II, 2000

Delta IV, 2003

Pegasus, 2000

Minuteman III, 2000

Atlas V, 2003

COMMANDERS

Brig Gen Jewell C. Maxwell, 15 May 1964

Maj Gen Joseph S. Blaymaier, 2 Oct 1965

Maj Gen Clifford J. Kronauer Jr., 26 Jul 1967-1 Apr 1970

Col William M. Burkett, 1 Oct 1979

Col William J. Murphy, 15 May 1981

Col Lawrence L. Gooch, 27 Jul 1983

Col Orlando C. Severo Jr., 21 Apr 1986

Brig Gen Sebastian F. Coglitore, 10 Sep 1991

Brig Gen Lance W. Lord, 13 Aug 1993

Col Franklin J. Blaisdell, 7 Aug 1995

Col C. Robert Kehler, 5 Jun 1996

Col Roosevelt Mercer Jr., 15 Jun 1998

Col Stephen L. Lanning, 11 Jun 1999

Col Robert M. Worley II, 30 May 2001

Col Frank Gallegos, 16 Jun 2003

Col Jack Weinstein, 30 Jun 2005

Col Stephen M. Tanous, 5 Mar 2007

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Nov 1991-30 Sep 1993

1 Oct 1994-30 Sep 1996

1 Oct 1996-30 Sep 1997

1 Jan 1998-30 Sep 1999

1 Jan-31 Dec 2000

1 Oct 2000-30 Sep 2001

1 Oct 2001-30 Sep 2002

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

1 Jun 1989-31 May 1991

EMBLEM



Western Space and Missile Center emblem: Azure, issuing from sinister base a demi-sphere argent gridlined azure with land mass brown and celeste supporting a satellite dish or emitting three flashes gules, in middle chief a satellite or emitting two flashes gules and in dexter an aerospace vehicle or, both with arcing orbital trails gules; all within a diminished bordure or. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The aerospace vehicle, satellite, and antenna dish symbolize the instruments utilized by the Range to carry out its mission. The trails and flashes represent the importance of constant communications among all parts of the Range to ensure a successful mission. The land mass refers to the land portion of the Western Test Range and the blue section emphasizes that the range extends westward from the United States into the Pacific Ocean. The white section of the globe indicates the unquestionable character and pride associated with the Western Test Range personnel. (Approved, 1987)



Western Space and Missile Center emblem: Celeste, a band arced from sinister fess to dexter base azure surmounted in fess point by a sphere with axis palewise per pale argent and of the second gridlined sable, surmounted by two lightning flashes originating in sinister base palewise in bend flanking a missile ascending in bend all or, the missile trailing an exhaust gules and three speed lines of the fourth, the missile surmounted in dexter chief by an arced band originating in sinister chief of the second and surmounted in middle chief by a satellite of the fifth garnished of the fourth, all within a diminished bordure of the third. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The function of the WSMC is threefold: missile launches, satellite launches, and communications. The light and dark globe signifies the day and night operation of the Center with the light half emphasizing the Western area. The light blue background represents the sky and the gold highlights the three functions of the Center. (Approved, 14 July 1980)

30 Space Wing emblem: Celeste, a band arced from sinister fess to dexter base azure, surmounted in fess point by a sphere with axis palewise per pale argent and of the second grid-lined sable, surmounted by two lightning flashes originating in sinister base palewise in bend flanking a missile ascending in bend all or, the missile trailing an exhaust gules and three speed lines of the like, the missile surmounted in dexter chief of the second and surmounted in middle chief by a satellite of the fifth garnished of the fourth, all within a diminished bordure of the third. **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 light and dark globe signifies the day and night operations of the 30 Space Wing; the light half emphasizes the western area. The threefold function of the unit is represented by three yellow elements in the design: missile launches, satellite launches, and lightning flashes which stand for communications. (Approved, 4 Sep 1992)



30 Space Wing emblem: A white globe outlined and gridlined black, on a navy blue field, edged golden yellow. Two white flight vehicles, outlined and detailed black, are zooming from right base of globe to dexter chief and sinister chief, each leaving a red contrail. A white scroll, edged golden yellow and inscribed blue, is beneath the emblem. **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 two launch vehicles emanating from behind the globe represent the 30 Space Wing's ICBM and space mission. The red, white, and blue elements are used to incorporate the national colors. (Approved, 13 Mar 1995)

Space Launch Delta 30 emblem approved, 8 Nov 2023.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

3 May 1964 Pacific Missile Range became the AF Western Test Range.

On 1 October 1979, Air Force Systems Command (AFSC) established the Western Space and Missile Center (WSMC) at Vandenberg. As the launch arm of a research and development (R&D) command, WSMC conducted R&D missile launches and various space launches. It also managed the Western Test Range.

30 Space Wing mission hasn't changed, but the structure it uses to get the mission accomplished has. On Dec. 1, the wing stood up a new group, two new squadrons and realigned a space launch squadron in a move to streamline space operations by blending operations and acquisitions together. The new organizational structure was designed to remove "artificial seams" between the two fields, said Lt. Col. Richard Lamb, 30 Operations Group vice commander, 14th Air Force project officer for the reorganization. "The space business is unique in the Air Force in that, unlike the aircraft business, there is no clear defining line between operations and acquisitions." Lamb said. Because the people at the Space and Missile Systems

Center who acquire space assets are responsible for the mission until it is successfully placed into orbit and it's an operational launch wing that gets the satellite where it needs to be, it was often difficult to determine who "owned" the mission once it became launch capable. The merger of SMC and Space Command makes it easy to combine the engineering expertise from the SMC detachments and operational savvy of the space wing into a single group focused on Mission success," said Col. Randy Turner, 30th Launch Group commander.

This new launch wing 4 structure, which was implemented here and at Patrick AFB, Fla., alleviates the confusion by providing better unity of command, Lamb said. Before the launch wing transformation, there were SMC detachments at Vandenberg and Patrick AFB. "You had people reporting up two separate chains of command at the same-base - the SMC guys reporting up the chain to the SMC commander in Los Angeles and the ops guys reporting to the wing commander and the 14th Air Force commander," Lamb explained. The SMC detachments were merged with the wing and now report to the wing commander. It is the wing commander who is responsible for reporting up the two separate chains of command. "I fully expect this reorganization to sharpen our focus on mission success," Lord said. Under the new structure, the 30 SW activated the 30 Launch Group and stood down the 30 Maintenance Group. The new launch group gains the newly activated 4th Space Launch Squadron, which will head up the evolved expendable launch vehicle program; the 1st Air and Space Test Squadron, which is focused on space developmental testing; and the 2nd Space Launch Squadron. The 2nd SLS, which was realigned from the 30 Operations Group, will launch the last Titan IV in 2004. The 30 Operations Group gains the 30 Space Communications Squadron, the 30 Range Management Squadron and the newly renamed 2nd Range Operations Squadron. The 30 Range Squadron was renamed the 2nd ROS to better describe its operational mission. "What we're doing with the organizational change is laying - the foundation for the future of operational spacelift," Lamb said.

The 30 Space Wing manages Department of Defense space and missile testing and placing satellites into polar orbit from the West Coast, using expendable boosters (Delta II, Pegasus, Taurus, Minotaur, and Titan IV.) Wing personnel also support the Service's Minuteman III and Peacekeeper Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Force Development Evaluation programs. Future activities include operational missiles to provide missile defense for the western United States. The 30 Space Wing is also home to the Western Launch and Test Range (WLTR). The WLTR begins at the coastal boundaries of Vandenberg and extends westward to the Marshall Islands, including sites in Hawaii on Oahu and Molokai. Operations involve dozens of federal and commercial interests.

The 30 Space Wing at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., manages testing of space and missile systems for the DOD and is responsible for launching expendable boosters for placing satellites into near-polar orbit from the west coast of the United States. The wing launches Delta II, Atlas E, Titan II and IV, and a variety of other expendable boosters. The wing also operates the Western Range

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.