

5 COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

5 Communications Squadron, Strategic Reconnaissance constituted, 1 Jul 1949
Activated, 16 Jul 1949
Redesignated 5 Communications Squadron, 16 Mar 1950
Inactivated, 10 Feb 1951
Activated, 14 Feb 1952
Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952
Redesignated 5 Defense Space Communications Squadron, 9 Apr 1970
Activated, 1 Jul 1970
Inactivated, 15 May 1992
Redesignated 5 Communications Squadron and activated, 1 Jun 1992

STATIONS

Mountain Home AFB, ID, 16 Jul 1949
Fairfield-Suisun (later, Travis) AFB, CA, 12 Nov 1949-10 Feb 1951
Travis AFB, CA, 14 Feb-16 Jun 1952
Woomera Aprt, Australia, 1 Jul 1970-15 May 1992
Minot AFB, ND, 1 Jun 1992

ASSIGNMENTS

5 Air Base Group, 16 Jul 1949-10 Feb 1951
5 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 14 Feb-16 Jun 1952
71 Missile Warning Wing, 1 Jul 1970
Fourteenth Aerospace Force, 30 Apr 1971

26 Air Division, 1 Oct 1976
Aerospace Defense Command, 1 Oct 1979
1 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Dec 1979
1 Space Wing, 1 May 1983-15 May 1992
5 Support Group, 1 Jun 1992

COMMANDERS

Maj Laforrest Williams
Col Richard R. Prinster, 26 Jul 1982
Lt Col Terry D. Miller, 14 Dec 1983
Col Charles D. Pepper, 17 Jun 1985
Lt Col Rick J. Greff, 1 Jun 1992
Lt Col Neil Wise III, 6 Jan 1993
Maj Thomas P. Cahill, 12 Apr 1994
Maj Enrique G. De Jesus, 29 Jul 1994
Maj John G. Clarke, 8 Feb 1996
Lt Col Lorenza M. Bedgood, 20 Mar 1998
Maj Curtis V. Frost, 29 Jun 2000
Lt Col Coleen R. Murphy, 26 Jun 2002
Lt Col Keith B. Kane, 13 Jul 2004
Lt Col Robert J. Schutt, 20 Jun 2006
Lt Col Christian L. Basballe, 17 Dec 2007
Lt Col David W. McKeown, 11 Jun 2009
Lt Col Les F. Himebrook, 14 Jun 2011
Lt Col Gino Sarcomo, 20 Jun 2013
Capt Ryan W. Benson, 24 Apr 2015
Lt Col Robert M. Mammenga, 9 Jun 2015
Lt Col Steven B. Skipper, 28 Jun 2017
Lt Col Randall D. Pletzer, 23 May 2019

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with the Combat "V" Device
1 Jun 1999-31 May 2001

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

17 Nov 1971-1 May 1973
2 May 1973-1 May 1974

2 May 1974-1 May 1976
30 Jun 1976-1 Jul 1978
1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1980
1 May 1981-30 Apr 1983
1 May 1983-30 Apr 1984
1 Jun 1992-30 Jun 1993
1 Jun 1995-31 May 1996
1 Jun 2002-31 May 2004
1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006
1 Jan 2011-31 Dec 2012
1 Jan 2013-31 Dec 2013
1 Jan 2017-31 Dec 2017

EMBLEM



On a disc Celeste, in base a sphere Azure, garnished Brittany Blue within a horizontal elliptical ring and surmounted by a sun emitting fourteen rectangular rays, all Or; perched above the sphere an eagle with wings elevated Proper, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "PEACE THROUGH VIGILANCE" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "5TH COMMUNICATIONS SQ" 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 satellite in orbit around the earth signifies the unit mission in the protection of modern society in a troubled world. The eagle symbolizes freedom, superiority and power, which represent the capability and basic mission of the United States Air Force. (Approved, 27 Mar 1974)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The mission of the 5 Defense Space Communications Squadron was to detect and characterize missile and satellite launches occurring within the field of view of the satellite sensor. The squadron was also responsible for the detection of endoatmospheric (within the atmosphere) and exoatmospheric (outside the atmosphere) nuclear events.

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.