

## 6 SPACE WARNING SQUADRON



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

6 Missile Warning Squadron constituted, 8 Mar 1978

Activated, 1 Oct 1978

Redesignated 6 Space Warning Squadron, 15 May 1992

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

### STATIONS

Otis AFB, MA, 1 Oct 1978

Cape Cod AFS (later, AS; SFS), MA, 1 May 1983

### ASSIGNMENTS

21 Air Division, 1 Oct 1978

Aerospace Defense Command, 1 Oct 1979

45 Air Division, 1 Dec 1979

1 Space Wing, 1 Oct 1983

21 Operations Group, 15 May 1992

Space Delta 4, 24 Jul 2020

### COMMANDERS

Lt Col Paul Hamilton

Lt Col Max E. Lantz II

Lt Col Christopher R. Gentry  
Lt Col J. Arnett  
Lt Col C. Lowery

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

Global War on Terrorism – Service (GWOT-S).

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1979-30 Jun 1980

1 May 1983- 30 Apr 1984

1 Sep 1989-31 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**





Azure, on a base Celeste three barrulets wavy of the first, issuant from base a lighthouse Argent emitting two light rays fesswise Or surmounted in dexter by a flight symbol palewise and in sinister by a mullet of four of the second; all within a diminished bordure Yellow. (Approved, 31 Mar 1995; replaced emblem approved, 17 Jun 1980)



6 Space Warning Squadron patch

**MOTTO**

EVER AWARE

**OPERATIONS**

The 6 Space Warning Squadron guards the U.S. East Coast against sea-launched and intercontinental ballistic missiles. The unit then determines how many missiles were launched and their probable destination, and reports that to the North American Aerospace Defense Command's Missile Warning Center, Cheyenne Mountain AS; U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB; and National Command Authorities. This unit helps form a two-layered, worldwide network of missile warning systems. The system also detects intercontinental ballistic missiles launched toward North America.

Its secondary mission is tracking Earth-orbiting objects such as the International Space Station, the Space Shuttle, any object that deviates from its known orbit, or any new orbiting objects.

Typically, the 6 SWS performs approximately 2,600 satellite tracks totaling about 9,100 observations daily. This critical tracking information is electronically transmitted to the Joint Space Operations Center Space Situational Awareness Operations Cell at Vandenberg AFB, CA, where it's used to maintain a space catalog including more than 13,000 currently orbiting objects.

The United Nations Registry Report, using this space catalog, helps national and international agencies make sure satellites will safely launch and orbit, avoiding collisions.

The Air Force is installing two giant wind turbines at Cape Cod AFS, MA, a part of the Joint Base Cape Cod complex, to power the Pave PAWs early warning radar system that the 6th Space Warning Squadron operates there. "This is a great opportunity to demonstrate how renewable energy can be used in line with mission operations," said Steve Mellin, the squadron's support

officer. The Air Force anticipates that the turbines will be ready to go by January, after which they will be capable of producing a combined 3.2 megawatts of power. When the winds are active, the turbines will produce more electricity than the station needs, so the Air Force has an arrangement to sell the excess energy to the local electric company. Air Force officials expect to save more than \$600,000 annually by using the wind turbines, recouping more than 50 percent of the station's annual electricity bill. The renewable energy project is expected to pay for itself within 12 years. 2013

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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.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.