

AIR FORCE SPACE BATTLELAB



MISSION

LINEAGE

Air Force Space Battlelab

STATIONS

Schriever AFB, CO

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Air Force Space Battlelab is to transform existing, commercially available space capabilities into solutions for today's warfighting problems. Through networking with industry, academia and service laboratories, the SB leverages leading edge space technology to enhance Air Force core competencies.

A new era in warfighting was born here June 30 with the activation of the Space Battlelab, an organization dedicated to innovative space operations and concepts. The flag of one of the Air Force's newest organizations was unfurled at the activation ceremony that was observed by Gen. Howell M. Estes III, Commander in Chief of North American Aerospace Defense Command, U.S. Space Command, and Commander of Air Force Space Command; and Col. Jeff Wenzel, the battlelab's commander. "The Space Battlelab will be developing and examining new ways to make space an integral part, not only of what our operational warfighters do, but our logisticians, our communicators, our intelligence agencies, and eventually the American public at large," said Estes. Citing the Global Positioning System as an example, Estes said the concepts the Space Battlelab develops may result in spin-off technologies that will have application to the everyday lives of all American citizens, long after the concepts begin to serve the military's needs. The post-Cold War environment created several new realities for the military, realities this battlelab was created to address. Foremost among those realities was the fact that Defense Department budgets and personnel numbers were significantly reduced. Combined with this was the rapid advancement of technology development and the challenges this advancement poses for upgrading military capabilities. And finally, commercial business ventures have now replaced the military as drivers of many high-technology markets. "The Space Battlelab facilitates ideas and innovation, the kind of innovation that led to many of the Air Force's historical successes. Wenzel said the battlelab is not a "laboratory," in the classic sense. There are no test tubes, beakers or Bunsen burners. "I'd call us an innovation cell," he said.

The Space Battlelab will be small and will focus on innovation for space-related Air Force Operations. It will employ field ingenuity, modeling and simulation, and existing capabilities in an operational environment in order to accomplish the Air Force mission. "The Space Battlelab offers our command and the air and space forces at large the opportunity to consider concepts that will not only further integrate space into our land, sea and air forces, but go beyond traditional methods of power protection, and most importantly, further develop space itself," Estes said. The Space Battlelab will report directly to the Space Warfare Center here, another cutting-edge organization dedicated to marrying space-based capabilities with warfighter needs. The battlelab will develop concepts and rapidly evaluate their potential. "We're going to take ideas from all over the Air Force and Space Command," said Wenzel. He adds that when the battlelab gets an idea that will help the Air Force execute a combat mission more efficiently, the concept will be tested and evaluated. "And then we'll run with it." To illustrate the importance of these battlelabs, successfully demonstrated battlelab initiatives may result in changes to Air Force doctrine, new statements of combat mission needs, new Air Force requirements, reprogramming of funds, demonstrations of advanced technology concepts, or changes to ongoing or future acquisitions.

Air Force Space Command inactivated the Air Force Space Battlelab at Schriever AFB, Colo., after 10 years of operation. 2008

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 26 Mar 2022
Updated:

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