

22nd SPACE OPERATIONS SQUADRON



LINEAGE

22nd Space Operations Squadron constituted, 10 Jul 1991
Activated, 1 Oct 1991

STATIONS

Falcon AFB CO, 1 Oct 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

2d Satellite Tracking (later, 750th Space) Group, 1 Oct 1991

COMMANDERS

June 23, 2006

Lieutenant Colonel David C. Arnold assumed command of the 22d Space Operations Squadron, replacing Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Moran.

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

None

EMBLEM

On a disc Sable, between in chief a mullet Silver Gray, shaded Gris, and in base a Mercator projection of the globe Azure, gridlined Argent, land masses of the first, the North American land mass charged with a mullet Or, an Opivicus passant of the fifth, detailed of the second, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached below the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "22D SPACE OPERATIONS SQ" in Yellow letters. Attached above the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "CONECTENS CAELI TERRAQUE" in Yellow letters.

Sable, an opivicus passant Argent between in chief a mullet of the like and in base, a mercator projection of the globe Azure gridlined of the second, land masses of the first, and charged on the "United States" with a mullet Or; all within a diminished bordure of the like. Approved on 13 Apr 1995.

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 globe signifies the worldwide operational capabilities of the unit. The star on the globe refers to the home area and the tracking station it operates. The Opivicus symbolizes the Squadron's support to its parent organization. The star represents the unit's heritage and the past and present honors earned by dedicated unit personnel. The Latin motto, "CONECTENS CAELI TERRAQUE," translates to "Linking the Heavens and the Earth," in English.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Scheduled use of satellite control network resources and operated tracking station, 1991-.

22nd Space Operations Squadron, a unit of the 50th Network Operations Group, 50th Space Wing, is located at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo. The squadron was activated Oct. 1, 1991.

The 22nd SOPS develops, publishes, executes and enforces the network operations tasking order, as well as operating and maintaining worldwide remote tracking stations and associated communications systems comprising the Air Force Satellite Control Network. It coordinates launch and on-orbit operations of more than 140 Department of Defense and national agency satellites in support of warfighters, the President, the Secretary of Defense and supports NASA's space mission.

The Network Operations Center develops, publishes, executes and enforces the network tasking for all AFSCN users. They prepare and publish a monthly summary of satellite supports, a weekly and daily operational schedule for all users and maintain the status of all AFSCN common user resources. The Orbit Analysis Flight coordinates ephemeris data, launch and early orbit analysis determination and look angles. They also provide limited predictive and investigative Radio Frequency Interference and Collision Avoidance products to all AFSCN users.

The squadron's remote tracking stations provide on-orbit tracking, telemetry, command and mission data retrieval services to support DoD, NASA's space shuttle and allied spacecraft. The

sites and their locations are Detachment 1, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.; Detachment 2, Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory; Detachment 3, Thule AB, Greenland; Detachment. 4, Kaena Point, Hawaii; Detachment 5, Andersen AFB, Guam; Colorado Tracking Station, Schriever AFB, Colo.; and OL-AE, RAF Oakhanger, United Kingdom.

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HISTORY

22nd SOPS' history dates back to the late 1950s. As the nation first established an orbiting spy program, ground antenna were required to command these satellites. Over the many decades that followed, those antennas were upgraded and expanded to locations all around the globe. Today, that legacy continues under the command and control of 22nd SOPS.

The unit began operations in March 1987 under then Air Force Systems Command and was known as the 2nd Satellite Tracking Group, Operating Location at Falcon AFB, later renamed Schriever AFB. In May 1988, the squadron received turnover of the Colorado Tracking Station, the first standalone Automated Remote Tracking Station.

Later in May 1989, the squadron was activated as Detachment 9, 2nd Satellite Tracking Group. The squadron assumed full responsibility for AFSCN operations on June 1, 1997. 22nd SOPS itself was activated in October 1991 as an operational squadron under the 750th Space Group,

Onizuka Air Force Station, Calif. 22nd SOPS was transferred to the 50th Operations Group in June 1999.

Effective June 2004, the Network Operations Group stood up, and 22nd SOPS moved from 50th OG to the new NOG. 50th NOG brought together all of the 50th Space Wing's squadrons responsible for space operations and maintenance as well as communications. 22nd SOPS consists of officers, enlisted, DOD civilians and contractor personnel performing AFSCN operations and maintenance 24/7 around the globe.

Outstanding Unit Awards:

September 90 - August 91

September 93 - August 95

October 98 - September 00

October 00 - September 01

October 01 - October 02

October 02 - October 03

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Awards:

The Aldridge Trophy 1996 (AFSPC Guardian Challenge)

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Lineage

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Assignments

2d Satellite Tracking (later, 750th Space) Group, 1 Oct 1991–.

Stations

Falcon AFB CO, 1 Oct 1991–.

Operations

Scheduled use of satellite control network resources and operated tracking station, 1991–.

Honors

Service Streamers. None.

Campaign Streamers. None.

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers. None.

Decorations. None.

Emblem.

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April 28, 2006

Crews of the 22nd Space Operations Squadron provided Air Force Satellite Control Network (AFSCN) support for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launch of CloudSat and CALIPSO aboard a Delta II rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.

The Air Force Satellite Control Network's Colorado tracking station at Schriever AFB, Colo., commonly known as "Pike," ceased frontline operations and transitioned to a backup tracking and test role. "As we go forward, Pike is going to continue to be important . . . for testing, troubleshooting, and contingency operations," said Lt. Col. Scott Angerman, 22nd Space Operations Squadron commander, at Pike's Aug. 3 cessation-of-operations ceremony. Since

beginning operations in 1988, the space telemetry radar station tracked more than 300 US military and NASA space launches, including space shuttles, and made more than 180,000 contacts with orbiting satellites, according to an Aug. 7 Schriever release. The station made its final operational contact with a satellite-a GPS spacecraft-on July 9, states the release. The Air Force is removing Pike's radar for reuse at the Thule tracking station in Greenland. 2012

June 10, 2008

Major John G. Andrade assumed command of Detachment 2, 22d Space Operations Squadron at Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory.

June 19, 2008

Major Alistair Funge assumed command of Detachment 3, 22d Space Operations Squadron at Thule Air Base, Greenland.

June 25, 2008

Major Jason I. Roberson assumed command of Detachment 4, 22d Space Operations Squadron, Keana Point, Hawaii, from Major Michael S. Deal.



Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 16 Dec 2010

Updated:

Sources