

## Chapter 10

# US Military Space Organizations

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The military's space functions are spread among the Air Force, Navy, and Army, each with its own space-related organizations. This chapter provides an overview of the relevant organizations and their functions.

### Air Force Space Command



Most Air Force space organizations fall under the Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) at Peterson AFB, Colorado. As of this writing, AFSPC has two numbered air forces and two centers (fig. 10-1). AFSPC's mission is to deliver space and missile capabilities to America and its war-fighting commands.<sup>1</sup>



Figure 10-1. AFSPC organizations. (Adapted from AFSPC Web site, <http://www.afspc.af.mil/units/>.)

### Fourteenth Air Force



Fourteenth Air Force at Vandenberg AFB, California, manages the generation and employment of space forces to support US Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) and North American Aerospace Defense Command operational plans and missions. Fourteenth Air Force is the Air Force space task force to USSTRATCOM. The mission of the Fourteenth Air Force is to control and exploit space for global and theater operations. The organization is comprised of a headquarters, a space operations command and control center, and five subordinate wings that conduct a full range of space operations. As the day-to-day operators of AFSPC's space forces, the Fourteenth Air Force provides space capabilities that ensure global presence, vigilance, and reach for the nation. Fourteenth Air Force has five key missions:

1. *Command and control (C2) of space forces*—Plan, task, direct, and synchronize space operations to support global and theater missions.
2. *Space superiority*—Provide surveillance, tracking, and intelligence of more than 9,000 man-made objects, ranging from active and inactive satellites to vehicle fragments, using a variety of sensors such as phased-array radars and optical surveillance systems. Conduct defensive and offensive counterspace operations and space environment assessments.
3. *Surveillance, warning, and battlefield characterization*—Provide global and theater ballistic-missile warning (strategic and tactical) and tracking capabilities to the United States and allied nations through the employment of satellite sensors and phased-array radars.
4. *Satellite and network operations*—C2 of over 100 satellites that provide weather, communications, navigation, and surveillance-warning capabilities and operate a global network of satellite control centers and stations supporting a variety of defense and civil users.
5. *Space launch and range*—Provide assured access to space and conduct launch operations from western and eastern US launch sites to support military, civil, and commercial users. Operate ranges to include testing and evaluating space, air, and missile systems.<sup>2</sup>

### Twentieth Air Force



Twentieth Air Force at F. E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, operates and maintains the nation's nuclear intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) weapon systems in support of USSTRATCOM war plans. Designated as USSTRATCOM's Task Force 214, Twentieth Air Force provides on-alert, combat-ready ICBMs to the president. Combined with bombers and submarines, USSTRATCOM forces protect the United States with a formidable nuclear deterrent umbrella.<sup>3</sup> As of this writing, Twentieth Air Force has been designated one of the two numbered air forces of Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC), the new command entrusted with the US

nuclear ICBM and bomber missions. The exact date of Twentieth Air Force's transition from AFSPC to AFGSC is unknown at this time.



### **Space Innovation and Development Center**

The third numbered-air-force-equivalent unit under AFSPC is the Space Innovation and Development Center (SIDC) at Schriever AFB, Colorado. The SIDC is chartered with “unlocking the potential” as premier innovators, integrators, and operational testers of air, space, and cyberspace power for the war fighter. The center’s mission is to advance full-spectrum warfare through rapid innovation, integration, training, testing, and experimentation.<sup>4</sup>



### **Space and Missile Systems Center**

The mission of the Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) at Los Angeles AFB, California, is to develop, acquire, field, and sustain the world’s best space and missile systems for the joint war fighter and the nation.<sup>5</sup> SMC designs and acquires all Air Force and most Department of Defense space systems. It oversees launches and completes on-orbit checkouts prior to turning systems over to user agencies. It supports the Program Executive Office for Space on the global positioning, Defense Satellite Communications, and military strategic and tactical relay (Milstar) systems. SMC also supports the evolved expendable launch vehicle, Defense Meteorological Satellite, the Defense Support Program, Air Force Satellite Control Network/launch range modernization programs, and the space-based infrared system. In addition, it supports development and acquisition of land-based ICBMs for the Air Force Program Executive Office for Strategic Systems.<sup>6</sup>

### **Twenty-fourth Air Force**

The Air Force recently established a new numbered air force, Twenty-fourth Air Force, under AFSPC. Twenty-fourth Air Force has command of the Air Force’s cyberspace mission. Its permanent headquarters and subordinate units have yet to be finalized at the time of this writing.

### **Air Force Global Strike Command**

As previously mentioned, the USAF established AFGSC to execute its nuclear ICBM and bomber missions. The command will consist of Twentieth Air Force at F. E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, and Eighth Air Force at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. Barksdale AFB has been chosen as the permanent headquarters for AFGSC.

## Naval Network Warfare Command



The Naval Network Warfare Command (NETWARCOM) in Norfolk, Virginia, is the Navy space type commander and a functional component for space to USSTRATCOM (fig. 10-2). In close coordination with Fleet Forces Command (FLTFORCOM), Second Fleet, and carrier and expeditionary strike commanders, NETWARCOM works to improve fleet combat effectiveness with smarter, more aggressive use of space effects and a better understanding of how space effects support maritime operations. FLTFORCOM designated NETWARCOM as the Naval Space Campaign lead as directed in Chief of Naval Operations Guidance 2005. NETWARCOM is also the functional authority for the Navy Space Cadre, ensuring operational space expertise is increased throughout the Fleet Readiness Training Program and deployments. The Naval Satellite Operations Center (NAVSOC) is a subordinate command that operates satellite constellations to provide military ultra-high frequency (UHF) narrow-band communications (fleet satellite), military UHF narrow-band, extremely high frequency (EHF), and Global Broadcast System communications (UHF follow-on) and support ionospheric research. NAVSOC also operates the Geodetic/Geophysical Satellite (GEOSAT) Follow-on radar altimeter that provides ocean surface height information to naval meteorological centers, and polar-orbiting host satellites that provide additional EHF communications to military users.<sup>7</sup>

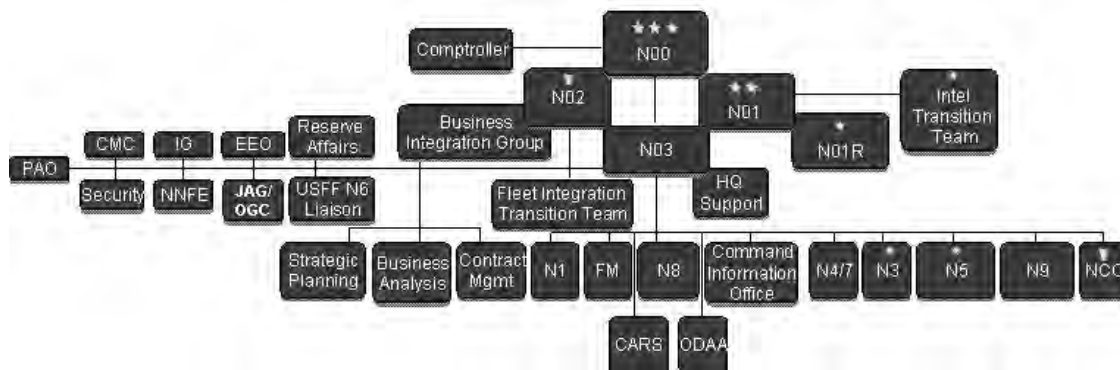


Figure 10-2. Naval NETWARCOM. (Reprinted from Naval NETWARCOM, <http://www.netwarcom.navy.mil/about-us/org-chart.htm> [accessed 20 May 2009].)

## US Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Strategic Command



The Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC)/Army Strategic Command (AR-STRAT) at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, conducts space and missile defense operations and provides planning, integration, control, and coordination of Army forces and capabilities in support of USSTRATCOM missions; serves as proponent for space- and ground-based midcourse defense; is the Army operational integrator for global missile defense; conducts mission-related research, development, and acquisition in support of Army Title 10 responsibilities; and serves as the focal point for desired characteristics and capabilities in support of USSTRATCOM missions (fig. 10-3).<sup>8</sup>

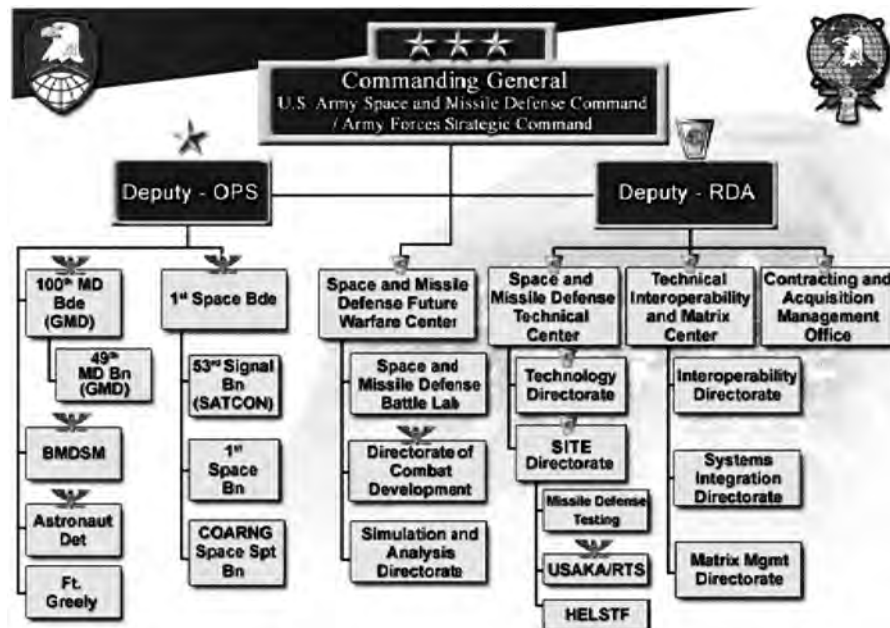


Figure 10-3. SMDC/ARSTRAT organization. (Reprinted from Army SMDC, "SMDC Organizations," [http://www.smdc.army.mil/SMDC/org\\_poc.html](http://www.smdc.army.mil/SMDC/org_poc.html) [accessed 1 March 2008].)

**Notes**

1. AFSPC, "AFSPC Fact Sheet," <http://www.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=155> (accessed 1 March 2008).
2. Ibid.
3. Air Force, "20th Air Force," Fact Sheet, <http://www.warren.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=4697> (accessed 1 March 2008).
4. AFSPC, "Space Innovation and Development Center," Fact Sheet, <http://www.afspc.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=3651> (accessed 1 March 2008).
5. SMC, *The SMC Story*, 2, <http://www.losangeles.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-080606-04pdf.2> (accessed 20 May 2009).
6. SMC, Web site, <http://www.losangelesafb.com/smc/smc.html> (accessed 20 May 2009).
7. Naval NETWARCOM, "Space," <http://www.netwarcom.navy.mil/space.htm> (accessed 1 March 2008).
8. Army SMDC, "About USASMDC," <http://www.smdc.army.mil/SMDC/About.html> (accessed 1 March 2008).