



**21ST SPACE WING**

**HERITAGE OF HONOR**





Colonel John W. Raymond  
Commander, 21st Space Wing  
28 June 2007 - Present

## **AFSPC / 21SW**

### **Air Force Mission**

Fly, fight and win ... in air, space and cyberspace.

### **AFSPC Mission**

“Deliver space and missile capabilities to America  
and its warfighting commands”

### **21SW Vision**

“America’s Space Superiority Wing –  
Globally Postured to Ensure Space Dominance”

### **21SW Mission**

“Conduct flawless missile warning and space control  
operations, provide unsurpassed installation support and  
protection, while developing and deploying Warrior  
Airmen to defend America and our Allies”

## **AIRMAN’S CREED**

I am an American Airman.

I am a Warrior.

I have answered my Nation’s call.

I am an American Airman.

My mission is to Fly, Fight, and Win.

I am faithful to a Proud Heritage,

A Tradition of Honor,

And a Legacy of Valor.

I am an American Airman.

Guardian of Freedom and Justice,

My Nation’s Sword and Shield,

Its Sentry and Avenger.

I defend my Country with my Life.

I am an American Airman.

Wingman, Leader, Warrior.

I will never leave an Airman behind,

I will never falter,

And I will not fail.

The 21st Space Wing activated on 15 May 1992 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. However, the lineage and honors of the 21st date back to the epic events of World War Two. The wing and group which flew under the numerical designation “21st” achieved a distinguished operational record while deployed to such exotic locales as Hawaii, Iwo Jima, Saipan, Guam, France, Japan, Greenland, and Alaska. Moreover, flights and detachments of the old “21st” conducted exercises in Libya, Germany, Korea, the Caribbean, and South America. Clearly, the history of the “21st” is international in scope.

Today, the mission of the 21st Space Wing remains international. With forty three units, spread over twenty locations in five countries, the 21st Space Wing remains the most geographically diverse wing in the United States Air Force. The wing is also one of the very largest organizationally. Our wing has emerged as a forefront global leader in space and our responsibility increases as missions are added or expanded.

I offer this edition of our heritage pamphlet out of respect for the past, current, and future members of the 21st in the hope that the brief material presented herein may in some way illuminate or inspire them to ever greater endeavor. Truly, ours is a heritage of honor.

DR. DAVID L. BULLOCK  
 21st Space Wing/History Office  
 775 Loring Avenue Suite 205  
 Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado 80914-1290

(January 2009 EDITION)

Foreword .....i  
 Table of Contents.....ii  
 Map 21st SW Unit Locations .....v  
 21st Space Wing Organization Chart .....vi  
 Introduction .....vii

**Heritage of Honor**

The 21st Bombardment Group ..... 2  
 The 21st Fighter Group ..... 4  
 The 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing ..... 9  
 The 21st Tactical Fighter Wing (Misawa) ..... 15  
 The 21st Composite Wing ..... 20  
 The 21st Tactical Fighter Wing (Alaska) ..... 25  
 The 21st Space Wing ..... 30

**Appendices**

A. The 21st Space Wing Emblem .....42  
 B. The Legend of Iron Mike .....43  
 C. List of Commanders .....45  
 D. List of Duty Stations .....47  
 E. List of Campaign Streamers and Decorations ..... 48  
 F. List of Weapon Systems .....50  
 G. History of Peterson AFB .....54

## Illustrations and Maps

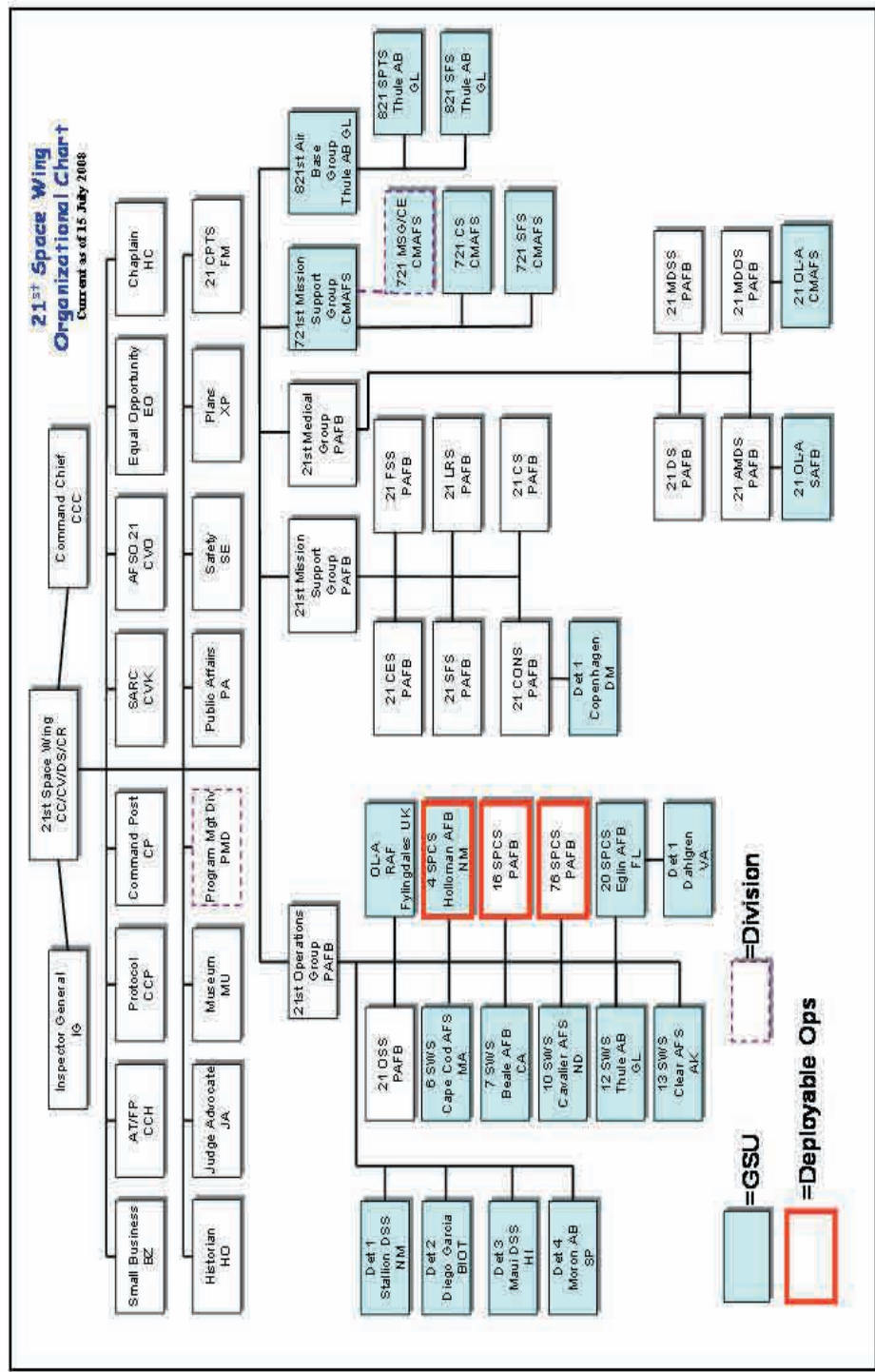
21 SW Emblem .....	Cover
Photo –Colonel Jay G. Santee, 21 SW/C .....	Inside Cover
Organizational Chart .....	vi
21 BG B-25 hunting U-Boats in the Gulf of Mexico .....	1
Map of 21 BG bases and U-Boat patrol area .....	2
21 FG P-51 dog fighting Japanese Zero fighter .....	3
Map of 21 FG combat operations area in Pacific .....	5
Photo - Col Charles E. Taylor, 21 FG/CC .....	6
Photo - 21 FG at Iwo Jima, (Mount Suribachi in background) .....	7
Photo - Flight line, Iwo Jima, Field No. 2, Spring 1945 .....	7
21 FBW F-86Fs .....	8
Map of France with Chambley AB, France marked .....	10
Photo - Brig Gen Robert R. Rowland, 21 FBW/CC Chambley .....	11
Photo - Sergeant loads .50 caliber ammunition and a 500 general purpose bomb for training mission .....	12
Wing Commander’s F-86F at Chambley AB, France.....	12
Original emblem of the 416th Fighter-Bomber Squadron .....	13
F-100s intercepting Soviet bombers .....	14
Map of Far East Air Defense Perimeter .....	16
Photo - Col Dean Davenport, 21 TFW/CC, Misawa .....	17
Photo - F-100D, 416 TFS, Misawa AB, Japan .....	18
Photo - F-100F, transpolar flight, August 1959 .....	18
F-4s intercepting Soviet bomber .....	19
Map of Alaska Air Operations Area .....	22

## 21st Space Wing

Photo - F-102s, 317th Fighter Interceptor Squadron over Mt McKinley .....	23
Photo - F-4E, 43d Tactical Fighter Squadron over Alaska .....	23
F-15s escorting MiG-29 “Fulcrum” to Eielson AFB .....	24
Map of major 21st stations in the United States .....	26
Photo - Col Stuart L. Alton, 21 TFW/CC .....	27
Photo - Two-seat F-15 lands at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska .....	28
Photo - F-15 intercepts Tu-95 “Bear” bomber, 29 Nov 82 .....	28
DSP “Skywatching” .....	29
21st Space Wing activation ceremony.....	30
Photo - Brig Gen Gerald F. Perryman, 21 SW/CC .....	37
Photo – Colorado Springs, Home of The 21st SW/Headquarters.....	38
Photo – 19 SPSS, Pirinlik AS, Turkey .....	38
Photo – 9 SWS, Robins AFB, Georgia .....	39
Photo – 12 SWS, Thule AB, Greenland .....	39
Photo - 721st MSG Cheyenne Mountain AF..S. ....	40
Photo - MGS vans, 4 SWS, Holloman AFB, New Mexico .....	40
Photo – 20th SpaceSurveillance Squadron.....	41
Photo –7th Space Warning Squadron Beale AFB, California.....	41
21st Space Wing emblem .....	42
“Iron Mike” .....	44
Peterson Field Gate 1942.....	56



# 21 SW Unit Locations



## Introduction

21st Bombardment Group  
1 February 1942 - 10 Oct 1943

Throughout history military formations have looked upon their heritage with pride and with the certain conviction that a record of distinction can contribute to the esprit de corps of an operational unit. The 21st Space Wing activated on 15 May 1992; however, the wing's actual lineage and honors date back to 1942. The 21st Space Wing's lengthy heritage is due to Air Force policy established in the 1950s. Expressed simply, the Air Force began attaching the lineage and honors of distinguished World War Two Army air groups to active Air Force wings which bore the same numerical designations. Through this policy the Air Force sought to recognize and preserve the traditions of the valiant air groups which had paved the way for the birth of the United States Air Force in 1947. This explains why the 21st Bombardment Group and the 21st Fighter Group are part of the heritage of the 21st Space Wing.

The numerical designation "21st" became attached to our newly activating space wing as a result of the dramatic Air Force re-structuring which began in 1991 shortly after the victorious conclusion of Operation DESERT STORM. The Air Force Chief of Staff attempted to preserve the heritage of distinguished fighter units, which were inactivating, by attaching their numerical designations to any activating units. The 21st Tactical Fighter Wing inactivated on 2 February 1992; consequently, when our new space wing activated on 15 May 1992, we received "21st" as our numerical designation. Additionally, we inherited the proud lineage and honors borne previously by the 21st Tactical Fighter Wing.

During our sixty-six years of tradition, the 21st has assumed several different missions and has employed multiple weapon systems in its effort to hold the "high ground." Today we hold the high ground space, the infinite frontier.



A B-25 of the 21st Bombardment Group  
hunts for German U-Boats in the Gulf of Mexico,  
summer of 1942

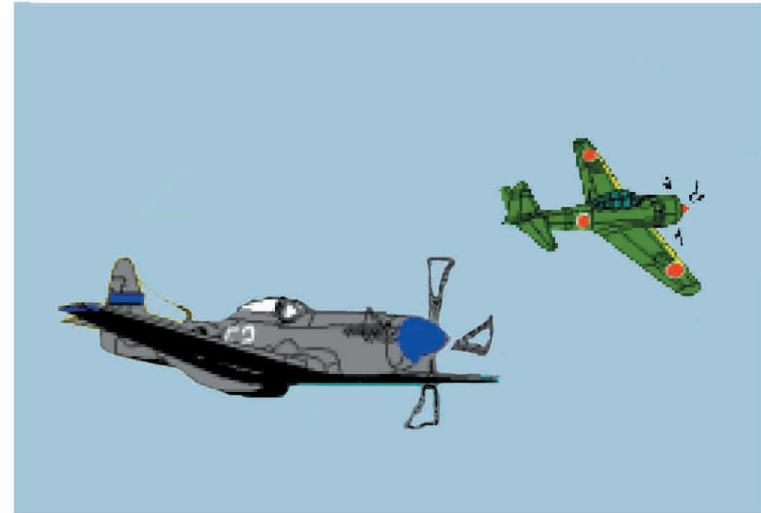
## The 21st Bombardment Group

The history of the 21st began with the activation of the 21st Bombardment Group (Medium) at Bowman Field, Kentucky, on 1 February 1942. Thereafter, from February 1942 until October 1943, the group relocated successively to Jackson Army Air Base (AAB), Mississippi, Columbia AAB, South Carolina, Key Field, Mississippi, and MacDill Field, Florida.

The 21st initially trained on B-25 bombers then converted to B-26s. The group largely served as an operational training unit assigned to Third Air Force; however, while at MacDill Field, from June 1942 to October 1943, the 21st additionally carried out anti-submarine patrols over the Caribbean Sea. For this action the group received the Anti-Submarine 1941-1945 campaign streamer. The 21st inactivated on 10 October 1943.



## 21st Fighter Group 21 April 1944 - 10 October 1946



**7 April 1945,  
the 21st Fighter Group flies its first bomber escort  
mission and claims eight enemy fighters destroyed.**



## The 21st Fighter Group

The 21st did not have to wait long to write a further chapter in the history of warfare. Another unit in the lineage of the 21st Space Wing, the 21st Fighter Group (FG), activated on 21 April 1944 at Wheeler Air Field in what was then the territory of Hawaii. Assigned to VII Fighter Command, the group consisted of the 46th, 72d, and 531st Fighter Squadrons.

Over the next two months, the group trained on its first aircraft type, the P-39Q Airacobra. The 21st provided air defense over the Hawaiian Islands from July 1944, then began upgrading into the P-38J/L Lightning in September. By the end of October, rumors filled the air that the group soon would upgrade airframes again, this time to the P-51 Mustang. This change in aircraft heralded a new mission for the 21 FG.

True to rumor, leading echelons began deploying by ship to the island of Iwo Jima in the western Pacific in February 1945. Before the end of the month, the 21st began flying patrols over the critical island base in support of ground operations.

The final group echelon arrived at Iwo Jima on March 25. Early the next morning, elements of the 21st were attacked in their encampment by Japanese soldiers. Assisted by a patrol of American Marines, 21st personnel counter-attacked and in the tent-by-tent fighting killed 250 of the enemy. Fourteen group personnel were killed and 50, including 21 FG commander Colonel Kenneth Powell, were wounded.

The first long-range aerial mission of the 21st Fighter Group against the mainland of Japan began on 7 April 1945, when the group's Mustangs escorted a formation of B-29 bombers against the fortified and well-defended Nakajima aircraft factory near Tokyo. This mission marked the first time fighters had escorted bombers over Japan. Moreover, this mission has been credited as having been the longest over-water fighter escort sortie to date. Over the following weeks, the 21st escorted American B-29s over enemy airfields and industrial targets and engaged rival Japanese fighter aircraft.

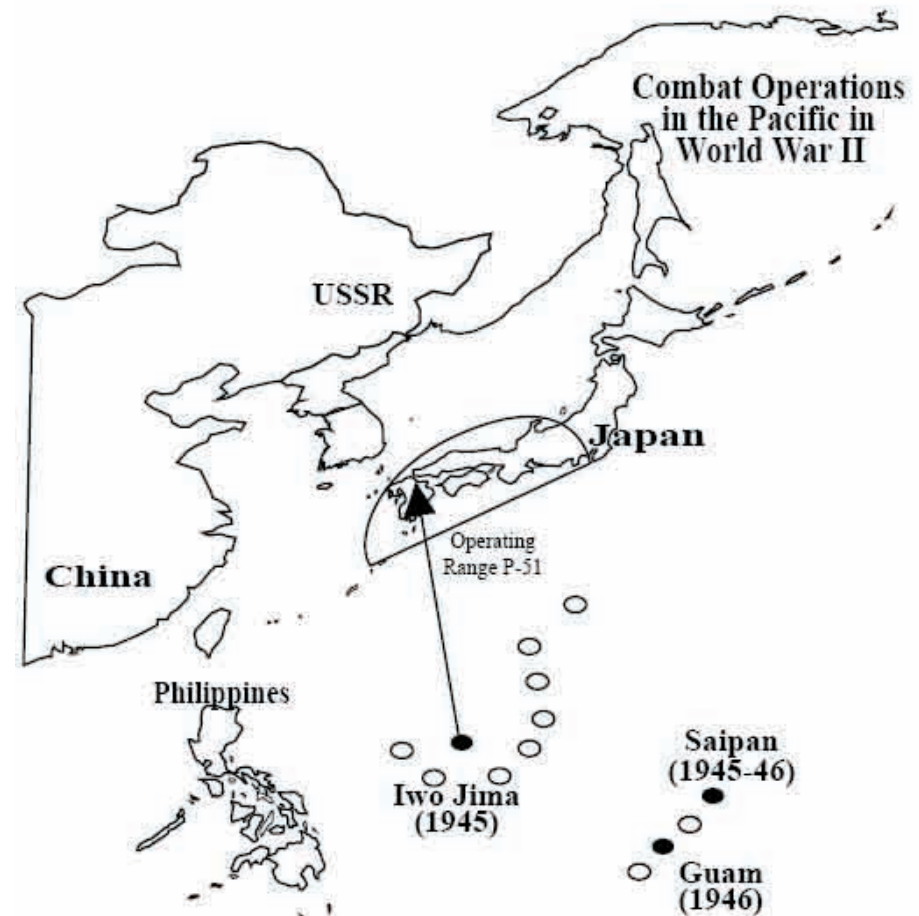
The 531st Squadron achieved another first for the 21 FG in June 1945 by initiating aerial rocket strike sorties against select enemy targets which included ships and a radio station.

In the meantime, the groups' aircraft continued to duel in the air and two "aces" soon emerged: Major Harry Crim and Captain Willis Matthews, both of the 531st Fighter Squadron. Aircrews of the 21st also strafed the airfields which the Japanese used for their increasingly dangerous kamikaze attacks.

The 21 FG flew its last combat mission 14 August 1945, about two weeks before the official Japanese capitulation on 2 September. The group received the Distinguished Unit Citation on 13 November 1945 specifically for its outstanding conduct during the earlier raid on Nakajima.

However, the 21st had played a laudable part throughout the final stages of the war in the Pacific.

After the war, the group transferred from Iwo Jima, first to Saipan, then finally to Guam. The original 21 FG inactivated on 10 October 1946.



**Colonel Charles E. Taylor**  
**Commander, 21st Fighter Group**  
**10 June 1945 - 14 October 1945**



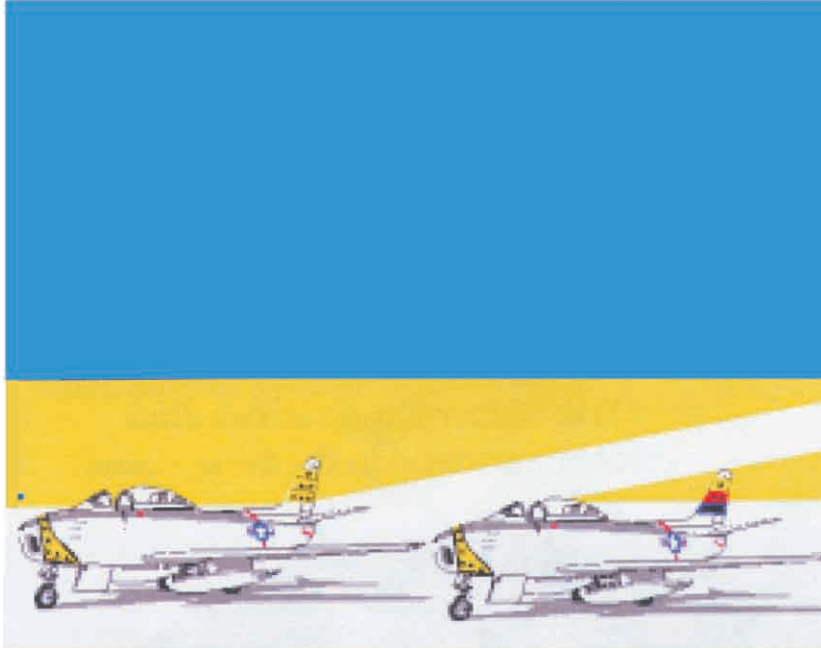
**21st Fighter Group at Iwo Jima**  
**(Mount Suribachi in the background)**



**Flight Line, Iwo Jima, Field No. 2,**  
**Spring 1945**

## The 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing

### 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing 1 January 1953 - 8 February 1958



### Operation BOXKITE 10 April - 17 May 1955 proved the 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing's readiness

The United States Air Force was established in 1947, the year following the inactivation of the old 21st Fighter Group. The new standard organizational unit became the “wing” instead of the previous organizational standard, the “group.” As a matter of official policy, the Air Force began preserving the lineage and honors of the distinguished air groups of World War Two by granting their numerical designations to wings activating in the post-war period. Thus, when the 21st took to the air again to defend the high ground the wing assumed the lineage and honors of the 21st Fighter Group which had earned signal fame in the Pacific. The new unit, the 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing, activated on 1 January 1953 as a component of Ninth Air Force, Tactical Air Command, at George AFB, California. The wing comprised three fighter-bomber squadrons: the 72d, 416th, and 531st. The 72d and 531st previously had been components of the 21st Fighter Group.

During its first six months, the 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing upgraded from the F-51 to the F-86F “Sabrejet,” which had become famous for its prowess in the Korean War. Throughout 1953 and into the first months of 1954, the 21st participated in a series of tactical exercises through which the unit obtained operational readiness.

The wing conducted the first of these exercises in Alaska in September and October of 1953 when the flying squadrons, in tandem, rotated through a special two-week arctic indoctrination program at Eielson AFB. Next, the 21st sent six of its F-86s to participate in Project Willtour, an 11,000 mile goodwill and training tour of twelve Central, Caribbean, and South American countries. The wing continued its exercises in Operation BOXKITE, held throughout April and into May of 1954 at North Field, South Carolina. BOXKITE tested a new operational concept: the ability of a tactical wing to deploy to a forward base and sustain combat operations over a thirty-day period. In response, the 21st flew 3,000 sorties.

BOXKITE was the last significant stateside exercise, for on 22 June 1954, the Secretary of the Air Force announced that the 21st would be relocating to Chambley, France, as part of Twelfth Air Force and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) which had taken a defensive stance against the Warsaw Pact headed by the Soviet Union. Chambley Air Base was located about ten miles west of the French city of Metz, and just south of the road leading to Verdun near France’s strategic northeastern border with Luxembourg, Belgium, and Germany.

The wing’s deployment from George AFB, California, to France had to be carried out in stages. Four echelons of wing personnel variously traveled by train, ship, and air to reach their destination between November 1954 and January 1955. The air squadrons stopped to refuel across the United States and in Labrador, Greenland, Iceland, and Scotland in route. Unfortunately, the new base could not be opened officially until June 1956 because engineers had to upgrade the modest facilities at Chambley.

During the interim period, the three flying components of the 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing, the 72d, 416th and 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadrons, staged out of alternate airfields in the French countryside. The squadrons carried out close air support training missions with the Army, then took first place at the United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) “Gunnery Meet” at Wheelus Field in Libya, North Africa. The fighter-bombers next participated in the atomic warfare exercise “Carte Blanche,” and went on to take an overall second place in the Nellis AFB, Nevada “Gunnery Meet” in 1956. Moreover, they won the USAFE “Award for Tactical Proficiency” for the January-June period of 1957.

While at Chambley, the 21st received approval for its unit emblem which the 21st Space Wing wears today. Our motto, “Strength and Preparedness,” originally was in Latin - “Fortitudo et Preparatio.” Sadly, the unit received news in October 1957 that the wing would be inactivated on 8 February 1958, and that its assets would be dispersed among existing USAFE units.

Colonel Robert N. Baker, commander, praised the hardworking enlisted force in his farewell address, and lamented the passing of his cherished unit: “I hope that some day I may once again see the flag of the 21st unfurled to take its rightful place among the Air Force units.”

Air Operations  
with NATO  
(1954 - 1958)



**Brigadier General Robert R. Rowland**  
**Commander, 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing**  
**27 April 1953 - 28 June 1956**







**Loading .50 caliber ammunition and a 500 pound general purpose bomb for training mission.**



**F-86F-30,  
21st Fighter-Bomber Wing Commander's Aircraft,  
Tail Number 52-5222 in 1957.**

**Original Emblem of  
the 416th Fighter-Bomber Squadron,  
21st Fighter-Bomber Wing**

**The Wing's First Knight of the Sky**



## The 21st Tactical Fighter Wing

**21st Tactical Fighter Wing  
1 July 1958 - 18 June 1960**



**1 October 1959, two F-100Ds from the 21 TFW  
intercept a Soviet Bison bomber,  
first Soviet bomber intercepted anywhere in the world**

Team 21 activated once more as the 21st Tactical Fighter Wing on 1 July 1958, assigned to Fifth Air Force in the Far East. Colonel Frank J. Collins commanded for the first few weeks while the 21st set up at Misawa Air Base, Japan. The 21st mission included defending the the air space of northern Japan against Soviet intruders and planning for strategic bombardment in the event a new war broke out with North Korea (known as contingency plan “Quick Strike”).

Component units of the 21st included the 416th and 531st Fighter Squadrons, the 21st Armament and Electronics Squadron, the 21st Field Maintenance Squadron, and the 21st Tactical Hospital. Initially, the 416th carried out the war-fighting missions in the F-84G Thunderjet, a single-seat fighter-bomber. The Thunderjet was the first fighter equipped to deliver non-conventional ordinance as well as the first capable of refueling-in-flight.

Meanwhile, the 531st prepared to upgrade to the F-100D Supersabre, the world’s first supersonic aircraft. Once combat ready in April 1959, the 531st assumed the wing’s war-fighting missions while the 416th converted to the Supersabre in turn. Remarkably, the 416th achieved full operational status in August 1959. Cooperation between the wing’s units paid off in Fifth Air Force’s Tactical Evaluation and Operational Readiness Inspection held in August and September of 1959. The 21st garnered an “Excellent” rating and carried off the best bomb score average in the history of Fifth Air Force.

Operational readiness and high marks in training translated directly into the field. 21st aircraft intercepted Soviet Badger and Bison bombers on a regular basis, taking home, in the words of Intelligence analysts, “some of the best photographs ever taken of the Badger.” In October 1959, First Lieutenant Charles L. Ferguson of the 531st received credit for making the first M-4 Bison intercept in the Far East and probably the world.

The 21st Tactical Fighter Wing also flew beyond the base at Misawa. In addition to routine alert commitments and deployments to Korea, two F-100s from the 531st made the first American jet aircraft transpolar flight, flying from Weathersfield, England, to Eielson AB, Alaska, on 7 August 1959.

Once more, however, the accomplishments of the 21st came to a temporary halt, this time for six years. The U.S. government placed a ceiling on the number of fighter wings allowed in the Air Force inventory. Consequently, Fifth Air Force undertook an extensive reorganization. The 21st Tactical Fighter Wing inactivated on 18 June 1960 and its assets were transferred to the 39th Air Division at Misawa.

**Colonel Dean Davenport**  
**Commander, 21st Tactical Fighter Wing**  
**28 September 1958 - 18 June 1960**





**21st Composite Wing  
8 July 1966 - 1 October 1979**



**F-100D, Tail Number 56-3345,  
416th Tactical Fighter Squadron,  
21st Tactical Fighter Wing,  
Misawa AB, Japan, 1960**



**F-100F, Tail Number 58-1227,  
416th Tactical Fighter Squadron,  
21st Tactical Fighter Wing,  
North Pole Flight, August 1959**



**During the Cold War,  
the 21st intercepted Soviet aircraft  
and escorted them away from North America**



## The 21st Composite Wing

The 21st activated again as the 21st Composite Wing (CW) on 8 July 1966 at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, and was assigned to Alaskan Air Command (AAC). AAC itself was a component of the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD), which had been formed in 1954, and the Alaska Region Command of the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) which had been formed in 1957. The 21st activated as an intermediate headquarters that could tie together and manage several missions critical to Alaskan Air Command.

Components of the 21 CW carried out the wing's three primary missions: air defense (317th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron), airlift (17th Troop Carrier Squadron, known from 1967 as the 17th Tactical Airlift Squadron), and search and rescue (21st Operations Squadron). The 21st Operations Squadron (OSS), utilized H-21 helicopters for search and rescue work and employed C-47, C-54, and C-118 aircraft to assist with the mission of airlift. The 17th Troop Carrier/Tactical Airlift Squadron provided logistical airlift (with its C-130 Hercules aircraft). The 17th supported the various U.S. Army and AAC aircraft control and warning sites, and permanently stationed two C-130s on skis at Sondrestrom AFB, Greenland, in support of the Distant Early Warning Line sites (DEW).

The 317th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron (FIS) carried out the mission of air defense for the wing. The 317th kept two of its F-102A Delta Dagger aircraft on alert at each of the following locations: Elmendorf and Eielson Air Force Bases, and King Salmon and Galena Airports. The 317th was one of the premier squadrons of its day, being the only unit to have won the prestigious Hughes Achievement Trophy (given for the best fighter unit with an active air defense mission) three times during its operational service.

The F-102s, unfortunately, were technologically outdated, a fact that made long-range interception of Soviet intruders into Alaskan airspace by 317th crews increasingly difficult. AAC recognized the limitations of this aerial platform and repeatedly tried to secure the more advanced F-4 for air defense. The war in Viet Nam, however, had first call for the F-4. For a few years, therefore, Air Defense Command (ADC) dispatched F-106s from other states on a rotational basis to Alaska to help correct this mission limitation.

The situation came to a head late in 1969 when the Air Force announced the inactivation of the 317th due to the squadron's aging F-102s and the need to respond to budget cuts imposed by the cost of the war in Southeast Asia. Nevertheless, the Air Force compensated the 21st by assigning the 43d Tactical Fighter Squadron, which flew F-4Es, to the wing on 13 March 1970. The 43d departed MacDill AFB, Florida and arrived at Elmendorf on 23 June 1970. Consequently, the rotational F-106 deployments from the lower continental states ceased soon after the 43d assumed mission responsibilities at Elmendorf, Eielson, Galena and King Salmon on 1 August.

Unfortunately, the winter of 1970-1971 was severe in Alaska, causing numerous mechanical failures in the F-4s which had been accustomed to Florida's warm climate. At times, the wing's operational air defense assets dwindled from eighteen aircraft to only one or two. Moreover, the 43d assumed close air support as well as air defense responsibilities, two missions which stretched the squadron's capabilities. In response, Air Staff sent the 43d an additional six aircraft in May 1971.

Despite these initial handicaps, the 21 CW quickly proved itself a leader in the fighter community, conducting alerts, intercepts and exercises throughout the 1970s. In July 1972 the wing dispatched a detachment to Operation COOL SHOOT, a live missile firing exercise, held at Tyndall AFB, Florida. Air Force Headquarters awarded the 43d the coveted Hughes Achievement Trophy in December. Meanwhile, the 21 CW continued to intercept Soviet intruders into Alaskan airspace.

Exercises in 1976 included JACK FROST (later known as BRIMFROST), and a Tactical Air Command (TAC) Weapons System Evaluation Program at Eglin AFB, Florida. At the William Tell fighter weapons competition held in October-November 1976 at Tyndall, the wing won "Best F-4 Crew", "Best Maintenance Crew," the Apple Splitter Award for the most drones destroyed, the Top Gun Award, and only narrowly missed overall first place due to a sudden mission abort. The 43d again won the Hughes Achievement Trophy in 1977. Training deployments included the Canadian Maple Flag in September 1978 and Red Flag in April 1979.

Organizational changes also underscored the 1970s. Due to a realignment of airlift and rescue forces under the Military Airlift Command (MAC), the wing divested its helicopters and C-130s in 1975. Overall, however, the wing expanded, gaining two air base squadrons and several other responsibilities. The 21 CW picked up a new fighter unit on 1 October 1977 when the 18th Tactical Fighter Squadron (F-4Es) activated. Subsequently, the 43d maintained its air defense mission while the 18th adopted the role of close air support. Both units shared air defense alert duties in Alaska. Additionally, from November 1977 to April 1979, the 21 CW controlled all thirteen of Alaska's air control and warning sites. Then, in May 1979, Colonel Michael A. Nelson, 21st Composite Wing commander, initiated a study that concluded that his unit should be streamlined into a normal tactical fighter wing. AAC accepted his study and subsequently redesignated the 21st as the 21st Tactical Fighter Wing on 1 October 1979.



**F-102s fly near Mt McKinley, Alaska,  
317th Fighter Interceptor Squadron,  
21st Composite Wing**



**F-4s flying patrol over Alaska,  
43d Tactical Fighter Squadron, 21st Composite Wing**

## The 21st Tactical Fighter Wing

**21st Tactical Fighter Wing  
1 October 1979 - 2 February 1992**



**As the Cold War thawed, the Soviet threat decreased.  
21 TFW F-15s escorted the first Soviet MiG-29s  
to visit North America in 1989**

Colonel Nelson continued as commander, helping to transition the wing into its new fighter role. The mixed bag of aircraft from the old Composite Wing dispersed, leaving 40 F-4Es, 12 T-33s, and a C-12 at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. The F-4s were distributed between the wing's two flying components, the 18th and 43d Tactical Fighter Squadrons, while the T-33 trainers and the C-12 merged into the 5021st Tactical Operations Squadron.

The F-4s of the streamlined wing soon deployed to Chong Ju Air Base, Republic of Korea for Exercise "TEAM SPIRIT." During March 1980 the wing participated in dissimilar air combat training (DACT) and conducted combat air patrol, air interdiction and composite force tactics. TEAM SPIRIT proved to be the last exercise for the 21st's F-4s. Later that year the Air Force released plans to replace the F-4Es stationed in Alaska with F-15A fighters, which were slated to go to the 43d Tactical Fighter Squadron, and A-10 close air support aircraft, which were earmarked for the 18th Tactical Fighter Squadron. In fact, the arrival of the A-10s heralded the reassignment of the 18th from the 21st to the 343d Composite Wing at Eielson AFB, Alaska.

The first F-15 arrived at Elmendorf in March, and the last of the new aircraft were in place by October. Thanks to special bomb-delivery air-to-surface training carried out in the T-33s, the 21st Tactical Fighter Wing became the first flying unit to reach initial operating capability (IOC) in the F-15 without the assistance of the aircraft manufacturer or a sister flying unit. The 21st made its first intercept of a Soviet intruder, a Tu-95 Bear C, when a pair of F-15s sortied from alert at King Salmon Airport on 24 November 1982.

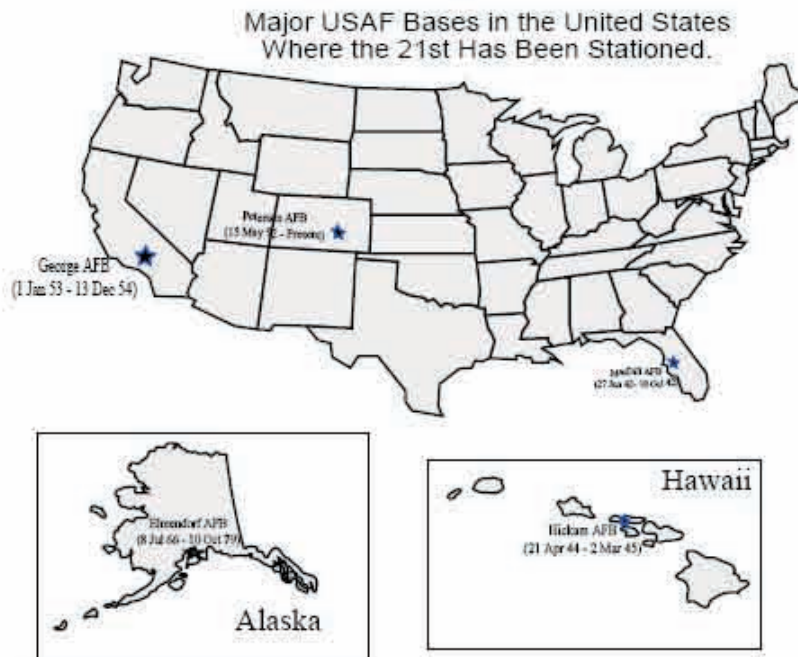
Over the next four years, the F-15s undertook several deployments and exercises such as "BRIM FROST," a U.S. Readiness Command biennial Arctic exercise, and "TEAM SPIRIT" held in Japan and the Republic of Korea in 1985. The 21st conducted joint training exercises along the northern continental frontier with the Canadians. All the while, the wing intercepted Soviet bomber, transport, and maritime reconnaissance aircraft flying over the Arctic Ocean and Bering Sea.

This creditable service continued throughout the late 1980s from the William Tell Air-to-Air Weapons meets to COMBAT ARCHER to DACT training to the Air Force's "live-fire" Weapon System Evaluation Programs. During one exercise at the remote site known as Deadhorse, Alaska, three F-15s became the first Alaskan-based single-seat fighters to circle the North Pole. The 21st received newer aircraft, its first F-15Cs and Ds, in May 1987.

The wing hosted multiple distinguished visitors in 1989. President George Bush stopped at Elmendorf in route to Japan for the state funeral of Japanese Emperor Hirohito and addressed a crowd of over 7,000 in Hangar Five. Ironically, this was the same hangar in which President Richard Nixon had greeted Hirohito eighteen years previously when the emperor had made his first official state visit outside his native land.

Later that year, the wing expanded into the escort rather than only the intercept business. Two Soviet MiG-29 “Fulcrum” aircraft, which were traveling to their first air show in North America, officially visited the 21st at Elmendorf, not only to refuel, but as a gesture of goodwill. This event marked the first time the MiG-29 fighters landed on the continent, and the 21st’s aircraft were there to escort them in, help them refuel, and play host.

The final upgrade of the 21st fighter inventory came with the addition of the 90th Tactical Fighter Squadron and the famous F-15E “Strike Eagle” in May 1991. The wing scarcely had completed pilot training on the new fighter-bomber when word of the Air Force Restructuring Program hit the Alaskan theater. The Air Force directed each base to have one wing and one commander; consequently, the wings of Alaskan Air Command consolidated aircraft, personnel and resources under one wing, the 3rd at Elmendorf. Although out of the business of flying, the 21st soon transitioned into the cutting edge of military operations - space.



**Colonel Stuart L. Alton**  
**Commander, 21st Tactical Fighter Wing**  
**17 October 1986 - 22 August 1988**







**Two-seat F-15 lands at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska**



**Intercept of Soviet Tu-95 Bear  
by F-15As of the 43d Tactical Fighter Squadron  
south of Shemya Island, 29 November 1982**

**21st Space Wing  
15 May 1992 - 19 August 2004**



**DSP kept watch over our nation and allies  
since the early 1970s.**

## Activation of the 21st Space Wing



Gen Donald J. Kutyna (left), commander, Air Force Space Command, inactivated the 1st Space Wing and 3d Space Support Wing on 15 May 1992. In attendance: 1st Space Wing commander Col Thomas J. Scanlan, Jr. (right foreground), and 3d Space Support Wing commander Col Gerald M. Bergeman (right background). General Kutyna presented both wings with Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards. Brig Gen Ronald D. Gray (center background) prepared to take command of the 21st Space Wing during the subsequent activation ceremony.

The Air Force activated the 21st Space Wing at Peterson AFB on 15 May 1992. Since activation, the 21st SW has become the largest military space wing in the world. Three Air Force units contributed to the activation of the 21st Space Wing: the 1st Space Wing, the 3d Space Support Wing and the 21st Tactical Fighter Wing. The 1st Space Wing (Air Force Space Command), which operated and managed ground and space-based sensors, was activated on 1 January 1983. The 3d Space Support Wing (Air Force Space Command), which acted as host base for Peterson and Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Bases (now Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station), had been activated on 15 October 1986.

The 21st Tactical Fighter Wing, from which the 21 SW derived its actual heritage, had been inactivated on 19 December 1991 at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. Upon activation, the 21 SW absorbed the personnel and equipment of the inactivated 1 SW and 3 SSW. In accordance with Air Force policy, the 21 SW received the lineage and honors of the 21st Tactical Fighter Wing (1979-1992), the 21st Composite Wing (1966-1979), the 21st Tactical Fighter Wing (1958-1960), and the 21st Fighter Bomber Wing (1953-1958).

In addition, Air Staff permitted the 21 SW to display honors bestowed on the 21st Fighter Group (1944-1946) and the 21st Bombardment Group (1942-1943). HQ USAF decided to grant the new space wing the lineage and honors of these distinguished flying units in order to preserve essential Air Force heritage. For example, during a four-month period over Japan in 1945, the 21st Fighter Group scored over 60 confirmed aerial victories and had two aces, Major Harry Crimm and Captain Willis Matthews.

Air Staff merged the operational units of the 1 SW and the support components of the 3 SSW to create the 21 SW in accordance with the “objective wing” concept established in the Department of the Air Force “White Paper” of September 1991. Stated simply, Air Staff directed the merger of wings at selected multi-wing bases in order to streamline and create one wing whose commander had control of both operational and support functions; in other words, “one base, one boss.”

At the 21st SW activation ceremony on 15 May 1992, presiding official and Air Force Space Command commander, General Donald J. Kutyna, commented on the immediate results of restructuring at Peterson Air Force Base: “Our new organization reflects the way the Air Force will look in the 90s – self-contained wings which include their own organic support groups and focus on the operational employment of air and space power.” General Kutyna further commented that “a larger wing and a larger history” had been achieved with the merger and that “The 21st will carry that heritage forward into, very appropriately, the 21st Century.”

### **WELCOME TO THE 21st SPACE WING**

The 21st Space Wing, commanded by Col. Jay W. Raymond and headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, is the Air Force’s only organization providing missile warning and space control to unified commanders and combat forces worldwide.

Our Mission: Conduct flawless missile warning and space control operations, provide unsurpassed installation support and protection, while developing and deploying Warrior Airmen to defend America and our Allies

Our Vision: America’s Space Superiority Wing - Globally Postured to Ensure Space Dominance

We are located in 5 countries, crossing 9 time zones, consisting of 6 groups, a director of staff, 39 units at 27 locations. We literally cover the world with our operations.

The 21 SW provides missile warning and space control to North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Strategic Command through a network of command and control units and ground based sensors operated by geographically separated units around the world.

### **THE WING ...**

Provides early warning of strategic and theater ballistic missile attacks and foreign space launches. More than 9,000 government and contractor personnel detect, track and catalog more than 16,000 cataloged man-made objects in space, from those in near-Earth orbit to objects up to 22,300 miles above the earth’s surface. Explores counter-space warfighting technologies in the field. Hosts HQ NORAD, HQ NORTHCOM, HQ Air Force Space Command and the 302nd Airlift Wing. Operates and supports Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station; Thule Air Base, Greenland; and Clear AFS, Alaska, and Cape Cod AFS, Mass. Provides community support to the 50th Space Wing, Schriever AFB, Colo. Provides community support to the Colorado Springs and the Denver areas.

### **MISSILE WARNING**

Members of the 21 SW operate and maintain a complex system of U.S. and foreign-based radars that detect and track ballistic missile launches, launches of new space systems, and provide data on foreign ballistic missile events.

Today, ballistic missile warning is critically important to U.S. military forces. At least 20 nations currently have nuclear, biological or chemical weapons, and the technology to deliver them over long distances. According to intelligence estimates, during the next 10 years, several Third World countries will develop the technology and capability to launch intercontinental ballistic missiles at the United States.

The 21st Operations Group manages all operation units in the 21st Space Wing.

### **MISSILE WARNING (ground based)**

The wing’s ground-based radars are comprised of a sea-launched ballistic missile, or SLBM, warning system--PAVE PAWS; a Ballistic Missile Early Warning System, or BMEWS; and a Perimeter Attack Radar Characterization System, or PARCS.

SLBM warning units are the 6th SWS, Cape Cod AFS, Mass., and the 7th SWS, Beale AFB, Calif. Their mission is mainly to watch America's coasts for incoming sea-launched or intercontinental ballistic missiles, and warn NORAD/NORTHCOM and the POTOS. The wing's two BMEWS radar units are the 12th SWS, Thule AB, and the 13th SWS at Clear AFS. The 21st SW also has a detachment at RAF Fylingdales, U.K., to coordinate cooperative missile warning and space surveillance with RAF counterparts. The wing's PARCS unit is the 10th SWS, Cavalier AFS, N.D.

### **SPACE CONTROL**

Space surveillance is a critical element of the space control mission and will be vitally important to support future theater missile operations and assured availability of U.S. space forces. DESERT STORM proved once again that whoever controls the high ground has definite military advantage.

In addition to its wartime missions, space surveillance is important during peacetime. As part of the space surveillance mission, the wing operates surveillance units. More than 9,500 manmade objects in orbit around the earth, ranging in size from a baseball to the Mir Space Station, are regularly tracked. Knowing the orbits of those objects is essential to prevent collisions when a new satellite is launched.

The 20th Space Control Squadron, Eglin AFB, Fla., provides dedicated active radar space surveillance. In addition, other collateral and contributing missile warning and research radars are used to support the surveillance mission.

The 4th SPCS, at Holloman AFB, N.M., responsible for delivering defensive and offensive counterspace and space situational awareness, as appropriate, to rapidly achieve flexible and versatile effects in support of global and theater campaigns.

The wing also controls and operates optical space tracking telescope systems under the 21st Operations Group. The Ground-Based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance system, or GEODSS, is operated by

Detachment 1, Socorro, N.M.; Detachment 2, Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territories; and Detachment 3, Maui, Hawaii. The Moron Optical Surveillance System is operated by Detachment 4, Moron, Spain.

### **WING OPERATIONS CENTER**

The 21st Space Wing's operations center is responsible for 16 space weapons systems in 42 units at 27 locations in 5 countries. As the Installation Control Center, it is the single, integrated command and control node for Peterson Air Force Base. The center houses the Emergency Communications Center and is responsible for emergency dispatch of fire and security forces. The center also provides resources and training for the Crisis Action Team, and manages the Status of Resources and Training System for (round the entire wing. Additionally, the center responds to higher headquarter taskings and assumes tactical control of forces when directed.

### **FLYING UNIT**

Peterson's 311th Airlift Squadron, a tenant Air Mobility Command unit, flies the C-21A aircraft in support of the worldwide operational support airlift missions.

### **MISSION SUPPORT**

As host wing for the Peterson Complex, the 21 SW's 21st Maintenance Group and the 21st Mission Support Group provide complete logistical and base support services for Peterson AFB and Cheyenne Mountain AFS, and certain logistics and support functions for Schriever AFB, Colo.

Through these units and the 21st Medical Group, the wing also helps meet the medical, housing, educational, recreational and family support needs of assigned people, local retirees and their families. It also provides such services as personnel, security, civil engineering, communications and computer support, finance, contracting, transportation, flightline services, supply and maintenance.



In addition, the wing provides mission and personnel support to all geographically separated units and host base support at Thule Air Base, Greenland and Clear Air Force Station, Alaska.

The wing's 721st Mission Support Group is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of facilities and equipment in Cheyenne Mountain AS. This responsibility requires civil engineering, computer and communications and security support. It makes sure the space operators are able to continue with their mission.

The wing's 821st Air Base Group operates and maintains Thule Air Base, Greenland in support of missile warning, space surveillance and satellite command and control operations missions. The group provides security, communications, civil engineering, personnel, service, logistic and medical support to remote active duty units in a combined U.S. , Canadian, Danish and Greenlandic environment of approximately 800 military, civilian and contractor personnel.

The more than 6,000 military members, 1,000 Air Force civilians and 2,600 contractor employees of the 21 SW around the world are proud of their role in performing these vitally important missile warning and space control missions, and in supporting the military people and families assigned to its units and bases.

**Brigadier General Gerald F. Perryman**  
**Commander, 21st Space Wing**  
**10 January 1995 - 6 January 1996**



**The 21st Space Wing grew significantly under General Perryman. Subsequently promoted to Major General and assumed command of 14th Air Force.**



**Colorado Springs. Home of Headquarters  
21st Space Wing**



**9th Space Warning Squadron  
PAVE PAWS, Robins AFB, Georgia  
Unit inactivated in 1995**



**19th Space Surveillance Squadron  
Pirinlik Air Force Station, Turkey  
Unit inactivated in 1997**



**12th Space Warning Squadron  
Thule AB, Greenland  
SSPAR**



**721st Mission Support Group,  
Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station**



**20th Space Surveillance Squadron  
Eglin AFB, Florida  
AN/FPS-85**



**Mobile Ground System Vans of the 4 SWS  
Transferred to 137 SWS (Colorado ANG unit) in 1997**



**7th Space Warning Squadron,  
Beale Air Force Base, California**



## Appendix A



**The 21st Space Wing Emblem**

**Description:** On a shield of azure, a broad sword argent, shaded silver, hilt and pommel or, shaded yellow, outlined of the field, between four red lightning streaks proper, two and two, bendwise.

**Significance:** The blue shield represents the vast blue sky—the 21st’s area of operations. The upraised sword indicates the strength and readiness of our wing to perform its mission, whether in peace or war. The lightning is symbolic of the heavens beyond, our stormy power and protective Lord. The Air Force blue, red and yellow signify the three fighter squadrons of the 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing. Approved by HQ USAF 23 July 1957. (The words on the scroll, “Strength and Preparedness,” are derived from the original Latin scroll of “Fortitudo et Preparatio” from the 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing).

## Appendix B

### The Legend of Iron Mike

Traditionally, military formations have chosen mascots as symbols of corporate pride. A mascot personifies the collective values of a unit and serves as a focus of morale. In 1996, the 21st Space Wing selected a mascot called “Iron Mike,” and promoted him to Captain of the Team 21 “Guards.” “Iron Mike” leads the wing charge during the annual Guardian Challenge Competition held at Vandenberg AFB, California, where Team 21 goes head-to-head with other Air Force Space Command units from around the world.

The legend of “Iron Mike” began in 1966 when the 317th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, adopted a five-foot, five-inch, 45 pound suit of armor complete with helmet, sword, and shield as its mascot. The 317th was assigned to the 21st Composite Wing (CW), a lineal forerunner of the 21st Space Wing. Almost immediately, the 21 CW accepted “Iron Mike” as a symbol of the wing’s fighting spirit.

The prized suit of armor traveled between the squadrons of the 21st from 1966 through 1969. Sometimes squadrons lent “Mike” voluntarily, while at other times intrepid bands of wing personnel “liberated” the armored warrior from a sister unit. In between these tongue-in-cheek misadventures, “Iron Mike,” like a true knight errant, guarded against Cold War aggression over the far reaches of North America, and quested as far east as Greenland, and as far south as California. “Mike” even followed the forces of freedom to Viet Nam for his baptism under fire.

“Iron Mike” remained associated with the 21 CW until 31 December 1969, when the 317th inactivated. Unfortunately, the squadron dispatched the mascot to the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, without clearance from the headquarters of the 21st Composite Wing. Despite appeals from the wing to have “Mike” returned, the cherished mascot remained at the museum where it stands to the present day.



## Iron Mike



Staff Sgt. Barton Bosarge, mascot for the 21st SW Knights of Peterson AFB, CO, arrives at Vandenberg AFB, CA amidst a cordon of honor guard on 6 May 01 for Guardian Challenge 2001.

## Appendix C

### The Commanders

#### *21st Bombardment Group*

Colonel Robert D. Knapp	9 Feb 42 - 26 Apr 42
Colonel William L. Lee	26 Apr 42 - 13 Aug 42
Lieutenant Colonel John F. Batjer	13 Aug 42 - 5 Oct 42
Colonel Carl R. Storrie	5 Oct 42 - 7 Nov 42
Colonel Guy L. McNeil	7 Nov 42 - 19 Apr 42
Colonel Don Z. Zimmerman	19 Apr 42 - 6 Jun 43
Lieutenant Colonel L. F. Brownfield	6 Jun 43 - 6 Jul 43
Colonel Richard T. Coiner, Jr.	6 Jul 43 - 10 Oct 43

#### *21st Fighter Group*

Colonel Kenneth R. Powell	21 Apr 44 - 10 Jun 45
Colonel Charles E. Taylor	10 Jun 45 - 15 Oct 45
Lieutenant Colonel Charles E. Parsons	15 Oct 45 - 25 Nov 45
Colonel William Eades	25 Nov 45 - 21 Feb 46
Colonel Lester S. Harris	21 Feb 46 - 10 Oct 46

#### *21st Fighter-Bomber Wing*

Colonel James B. Buck	1 Jan 53 - 27 Apr 53
Colonel Robert R. Rowland	27 Apr 53 - 29 Jun 56
Colonel Robert N. Baker	29 Jun 56 - 8 Feb 58

#### *21st Tactical Fighter Wing*

Colonel Frank J. Collins	1 Jul 58 - 21 Apr 59
Colonel William W. Ingenhutt	21 Apr 59 - 28 Sep 59
Colonel Dean Davenport	28 Sep 59 - 18 Jun 60

#### *21st Composite Wing*

Colonel Donald H. Lynch	8 Jul 66 - 30 Jun 68
Colonel Charles W. Johnson, Jr.	30 Jun 68 - 23 Sep 69
Colonel Kenneth D. Dunaway	23 Sep 69 - 15 Jan 70
Colonel John A. Nelson	15 Jan 70 - 1 Sep 70
Colonel Kenneth D. Dunaway	1 Sep 70 - 23 Jul 71
Colonel James R. Larkins	23 Jul 71 - 9 Aug 71
Colonel James R. Brickel	9 Aug 71 - 12 Jul 72

**Appendix D  
Duty Stations**

***21st Composite Wing***

Colonel David T. Stockman	12 Jul 72 - 4 Jun 73
Colonel Charles F. Loyd	4 Jun 73 - 1 Jul 74
Colonel Fredrick C. Eaton	1 Jul 74 - 1 Jul 75
Colonel Edward L. Tixier	1 Jul 75 - 29 Apr 77
Colonel John T. Wotring	29 Apr 77 - 16 Apr 79
Colonel Michael A. Nelson	16 Apr 79 - 1 Oct 79

***21st Tactical Fighter Wing***

Colonel Michael A. Nelson	1 Oct 79 - 20 Feb 81
Colonel Jerry D. Cobb	20 Feb 81 - 15 Apr 82
Colonel Robert W. Hibarger (Interim)	15 Apr 82 - 22 Apr 82
Colonel Evan J. Griffith, Jr.	22 Apr 82 - 16 Apr 84
Colonel Wilfred K. Abbott	16 Apr 84 - 10 Jul 84
Colonel Pat R. Paxton	10 Jul 84 - 19 Mar 85
Colonel William R. Povilus	19 Mar 85 - 17 Oct 86
Colonel Stuart L. Alton	17 Oct 86 - 23 Aug 88
Colonel Harold S. Storer, Jr.	23 Aug 88 - 20 Mar 90
Colonel Donald J. Creighton	20 Mar 89 - 26 Sep 91
Colonel Rodney P. Kelly (Interim)	26 Sep 91 - 20 Dec 91
Colonel Donald J. Creighton	20 Dec 91 - 2 Feb 92

**21st Space Wing**

Brigadier General Ronald D. Gray	15 May 92 - 31 Aug 93
Brigadier General Donald G. Cook	31 Aug 93 - 10 Jan 95
Brigadier General Gerald F. Perryman	10 Jan 95 - 7 Jun 96
Brigadier General Franklin J. Blaisdell	7 Jun 96 - 19 Jun 98
Brigadier General Jerry M. Drennan	19 Jun 98 - 28 Aug 00
Brigadier General C. Robert Kehler	28 Aug 00 - 15 May 02
Brigadier General Duane W. Deal	15 May 02 - 11 Mar 04
Brigadier General Richard E. Webber	11 Mar 04 - 10 Nov 0
Colonel Jay G. Santee	10 Nov 05 - 28 Jun 07
Colonel John W. Raymond	28 Jun 07- present

**21st Bombardment Group**

Bowman Field, Kentucky 1 Feb 42 - 8 Feb 42  
 Jackson Army Air Base, Mississippi 8 Feb 42 - 21 Apr 42  
 Columbia Army Air Base, S. Carolina 21 Apr 42 - 24 May 42  
 Key Field, Mississippi 24 May 42 - 27 Jun 42  
 MacDill Field, Florida 27 Jun 42 - 10 Oct 43

**21st Fighter Group**

Wheeler Field, Hawaii 21 Apr 44 - 13 Oct 44  
 Mokuleia, Field, Hawaii 13 Oct 44 - 2 Mar 45  
 Central Field (Airfield No. 2), Iwo Jima 26 Mar 45 - 16 Jul 45  
 South Field, Iwo Jima 16 Jul 45 - 1 Dec 45  
 Isley Field, Saipan 1 Dec 45 - 15 Apr 46  
 Northwest Field, Guam 15 Apr 46 - 10 Oct 46

**21st Fighter-Bomber Wing**

George AFB, California 1 Jan 53 - 13 Dec 54  
 Chambley AB, France 13 Dec 54 - 8 Feb 58

**21st Tactical Fighter Wing**

Misawa AB, Japan 1 July 58 - 18 Jun 60

**21st Composite Wing**

Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 8 Jul 66 - 1 Oct 79

**21st Tactical Fighter Wing**

Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 1 Oct 79 - 2 Feb 92

**21st Space Wing**

Peterson AFB, Colorado 15 May 92 - Present

**Appendix E**  
**Campaign Streamers and Decorations**

<b><i>21st Bombardment Group</i></b>	
Campaign Streamer	
Antisubmarine, American Theater	7 Dec 41 - 2 Sep 45
<b><i>21st Fighter Group</i></b>	
Campaign Streamer	
Air Offensive, Japan	17 Apr 42 - 2 Sep 45
Decorations	
Distinguished Unit Citation, Japan	7 Apr 45
21st Fighter-Bomber Wing	None
21st Tactical Fighter Wing	None
<b><i>21st Composite Wing Decorations</i></b>	
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	8 Jul 66 - 1 May 67
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	2 May 67 - 1 Jan 68
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	2 Jan 68 - 31 Dec 68
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Jan 69 - 31 Dec 69
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Jan 70 - 31 Dec 70
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Jan 71 - 31 Dec 71
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Jan 72 - 31 Dec 72
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Jan 74 - 31 Dec 74
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Jan 75 - 31 Dec 75
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Jan 78 - 31 Dec 78
<b><i>21st Tactical Fighter Wing Decorations</i></b>	
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Jan 80 - 31 Dec 80
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Jul 82 - 30 Jun 83
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Oct 85 - 31 Dec 86
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Jan 87 - 31 Dec 88
<b><i>21st Space Wing Decorations</i></b>	
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Oct 92 - 30 Sep 94
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Oct 95 - 30 Sep 97
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Oct 97 - 30 Sep 99
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Jan 98 - 31 Dec 98*

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Jan 99 - 31 Dec 99
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Jan 00 - 31 Aug 01
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 Oct 05 - 30 Sep 07

\* The wing won the General Thomas S. Moorman, Jr. Trophy, an award which automatically confers an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award as well; hence, the overlap in Air Force Outstanding Unit dates.

## Appendix F

### Weapon Systems

Designation	Common Name	Manufacturer	Type
<b>21st Fighter Group</b>			
P-39Q	Aircobra	Bell	Fighter
P-38J/L	Lightning	Lockheed	Fighter
C-47A	Skytrain	Douglas	Cargo Transport
AT-6	Texan	North American	Trainer
RA-24A	Dauntless	Douglas	Scout Bomber
P-51D	Mustang	North American	Fighter
P-47N	Thunderbolt	Republic	Fighter
<b>21st Fighter-Bomber Wing</b>			
AT-6A	Texan	North American	Trainer
C-47A	Skytrain	Douglas	Cargo Transport
P-51D	Mustang	North American	Fighter
A-26C	Invader	Douglas	Attack Bomber
T-33A	Shooting Star	Lockheed	Jet Trainer
F-86E	Sabrejet	North American	Fighter
<b>21st Tactical Fighter Wing</b>			
F-84G	Thunderjet	Republic	Tactical Fighter
T-33A	Shooting Star	Lockheed	Jet Trainer
F-100D/F	Supersabre	North American	Fighter

### Weapons (Cont)

Designation	Common Name	Manufacturer	Type
<b>21st Composite Wing</b>			
F-102A/TF-102A	Delta Dagger	Convair	Jet Fighter
T-33A	Shooting Star	Lockheed	Jet Trainer
T-39	Sabreliner	Lockheed	Transport
EB-57E	Intruder	Martin	Electronic Warfare
C-12	King Air	Beechcraft	Liaison
C-130D/C-130D-6	Hercules	Lockheed	Transport Aircraft
C-118A/EC-118/VC-118	Liftmaster	Douglas	Cargo Transport, Electronic Counter- measures, VIP
C-123B	Provider	Fairchild Hiller	Cargo Transport
C-124A	Globemaster	Douglas	Cargo Transport
EC-54D	Skymaster	Douglas	Electronic Warfare
HH-3/CH-3	Jolly Green Giant	Sikorsky	Air Rescue Helicopter
CH-21B	Workhorse	Boeing Vertol	Helicopter
<b>21st Tactical Fighter Wing</b>			
T-33A	Shooting Star	Lockheed	Jet Trainer
F-4E	Phantom II	McDonnell-Douglas	Fighter
F-15A/C/D/E	Eagle	McDonnell-Douglas	Fighter
A-10A	Thunderbolt II	Republic	Close Air Support



### Weapon Systems (cont)

Designation	System Type	Location	Mission
21st Space Wing			
AN/FPS-123	Solid-State Phased Array Radar (SSPAR)	Thule AB,	Missile Warning/ Space Surveillance
AN/FPS-50	Detection Radar	Clear AFS, AK*	Missile Warning/ Space Surveillance
AN/FPS-92	Tracking Radar	Clear AFS, AK	Missile Warning/ Space Surveillance
AN/FPQ-16	Perimeter Acquisition Radar	Cavalier AFS, ND	Missile Warning/ Space Surveillance
AN/FPS-115	Characterization System (PARCS) PAVE Phased Array Warning System (PAVE PAWS)	Cape Cod AFS, MA Cape Cod AFB, MA Beale AFB, CA Robins AFB, GA* Eldorado AFS, TX* Eglin AFB, FL	Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile Warning/Space Surveillance Space Surveillance
AN/FPS-85	Phased Array Radar		Space Surveillance
AN/FPS-17	Detection Radar	Pirincilik AB, Turkey*	Space Surveillance
AN/FPS-79	Tracking Radar	Pirincelik AB, Turkey*	Space Surveillance
Ground-based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance (GEODSS)	Electro-Optical Imaging	Socorro, NM Diego Garcia, BIOT Maui, HI	Deep Space Surveillance/Space Object Identification

### Weapon Systems (cont)

Transportable Optical System	Electro-Optical Imaging	Moron AB, Spain	Deep Space Surveillance/Space Object Identification ICBM/Space Launch Early Warning/ Nuclear Detonation Detection
Defense Support Program Satellites	Geosynchronous satellite with infrared detector	Various Ground Stations Worldwide	ICBM/Space Launch Early Warning/ Nuclear Detonation
AN/MSQ-118 & AN/MSQ-120	Mobile Processing Capability for DSP	137 SWS Colorado Air National Guard, Greeley, CO	ICBM/Space Launch Early Warning/ Nuclear Detonation
C-21A	Learjet	Gates-Lear	Detection Liaison/Transport Aircraft**

\* Unit/Equipment Inactivated

\*\* 84th Airlift Flight transferred from 21st Space Wing to Air Mobility Command (AMC) in 1997

## Appendix G History of Peterson AFB

Peterson AFB traces its roots to the Colorado Springs Army Air Base, established on 6 May 1942 at the Colorado Springs Municipal Airport, which has been in operation since 1926. The base carried out photo reconnaissance training under the auspices of the Photo Reconnaissance Operational Training Unit (PROTU). On 22 June 1942, Colorado Springs Army Air Base was assigned to the 2d Air Force, headquartered at Fort George Wright, Washington.

Then, after only a few weeks, a tragedy occurred that would indelibly affect the base. On 8 August 1942, First Lieutenant Edward J. Peterson, Operations Officer for the 14th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron and a native of Colorado, crashed while attempting to take off from the airfield when the left engine of his twin engine F4 (a reconnaissance variant of the P-38 Lightning) failed. A base fire department crew rescued Lt Peterson from the burning wreckage. Unfortunately, Lt Peterson sustained significant burns and died at Penrose hospital that afternoon, thereby becoming the first Coloradan killed in a flying accident at the airfield. Consequently, on 13 December 1942, officials changed the name of the Colorado Springs Army Air Base to Peterson Army Air Base in honor of the fallen airman.

The base assumed a new mission in the spring of 1943, that of heavy bomber combat crew training. The 214th Combat Crew Training School conducted the training, utilizing the B-24 Liberator. From 5 March to 1 October 1943, "Peterson Field," as the base was commonly called, was assigned to the 3d Air Force, headquartered at Greenville Army Air Base, South Carolina. Control of Peterson Field later reverted to the 2d Air Force. In June 1944, the mission at the base once again changed, this time to fighter pilot training. The 72d Fighter Wing, assigned to the base, employed P-40 Warhawks to carry out this mission.

In April 1945, Peterson Field was assigned to Continental Air Forces. The location of the Army Air Forces Instructors School at the base signaled another mission change. A short time later, on 31 December 1945, the Army inactivated the base, turning the property over to the City of Colorado Springs.

The legacy of Peterson Field and the military presence in Colorado Springs took a significant turn in September 1947, following the birth of the United States Air Force. Soon after its inception, the fledgling service twice reactivated the base from 29 September 1947 to 15 January 1948 and again from 22 September 1948 into 1949. During the latter period, the base served as an airfield for Headquarters, 15th Air Force which had been temporarily located in Colorado Springs. Peterson Field inactivated again when the 15th Air Force moved to March Air Force Base in 1949.

The Air Force activated Peterson Field once more following the January 1951 establishment of Air Defense Command at Ent AFB, located in downtown Colorado Springs. The 4600th Air Base Group activated simultaneously on 1 January 1951 and provided support for the newly established command. In 1958, the 4600th achieved wing status and was designated as the 4600th Air Base Wing. Subsequently, on 1 April 1975, the Air Force redesignated the wing as the 46th Aerospace Defense Wing. One year later, on 1 March 1976, Peterson Field was renamed Peterson Air Force Base.

Strategic Air Command assumed control of the base on 1 October 1979. Then, on 1 September 1982, USAF officials activated Air Force Space Command at Peterson, followed by the activation of the 1st Space Wing on 1 January 1983. Peterson Air Force Base became the hub of Air Force space activity when the 1st Space Wing assumed host unit responsibility following the inactivation of the 46th Aerospace Defense Wing on 1 April 1983. The 1st Space Wing then transferred host unit responsibility to the 3d Space Support Wing, which activated on 15 October 1986. Finally, on 15 May 1992, these two wings inactivated and their personnel and equipment transferred to the 21st Space Wing, which activated on 15 May 1992.



**Main Gate, Peterson Field, 1942**