

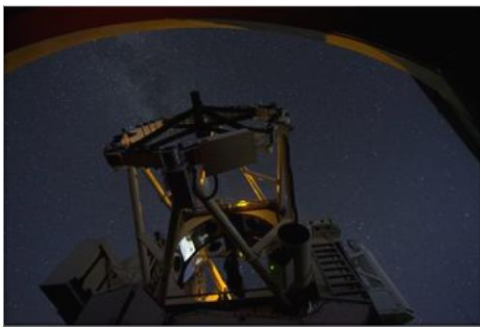
U.S. Air Force

## PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE : COLORADO

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Peterson Air Force Base (AFB) is located in central Colorado at the foot of majestic Pikes Peak, and part of the City of Colorado Springs. It was established in 1942 as Colorado Springs Army Air Field and renamed later that year after 1st Lt. Edward J. Peterson, a native Coloradoan who was killed during takeoff in an F-4 "Photo Lightning." The 21st Space Wing of Air Force Space Command is the host wing.

During subsequent years, the base hosted several missions including photo reconnaissance, heavy bomber crew training, fighter pilot training, an instructor school and an aerospace defense wing.



In 1982 Air Force officials activated Air Force Space Command, and Peterson became the Air Force hub for space activity. On May 15, 1992, the 21st Space Wing was activated as the host unit.

Today, the 21st Space Wing is the Air Force's only organization providing missile warning, missile defense and space control operations to unified commanders and combat forces worldwide.

Peterson hosts 53 tenant units including Air Force Space Command, NORAD/U.S. Northern Command, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command, and the 302nd Airlift Wing.

Peterson AFB has an annual estimated economic impact of \$1.3 billion (as of 2014).

### FAST FACTS

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- » Location: **El Paso County, CO**
  - » Land Area: **1,297 acres**
  - » Space surveillance: **Tracks more than 23,000 orbiting objects**
  - » Military Personnel: **5,832**
  - » Civilian Personnel: **4,518**
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**Above:** Personnel from Peterson's 21st Operations Support Squadron de-ice a C-17 Globemaster at the Peterson flightline. The unit includes active duty U.S. and Canadian Air Force Airmen, and Department of Defense civilians. (U.S. Air Force photo)

**Left:** The 3.67-meter, 75-ton Advanced Electro-Optical System telescope is the largest telescope in the Department of Defense used for satellite tracking. The telescope moves fast enough to track low-Earth objects such as satellites and missiles, while also tracking man-made objects in deep space and performing space object identification data collection. (U.S. Air Force photo)

### MISSION STATEMENT

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Execute global capabilities to defend the homeland and secure space for our nation and allies.

### VISION STATEMENT

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Unrivaled space superiority--Driving excellence and innovation today and tomorrow.

### CONTACT

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**21st SW Public Affairs Office**  
(719) 556-5185



# PETERSON AFB : COLORADO

## UNIT MISSIONS

- » **21st Operations Group:** The 21st OG is responsible for all of the 21st SW’s operations units and detachments. The group is Air Force Space Command’s largest, most weapon-system diverse, and most widespread organization. Its mission is to provide real-time space control, missile warning, attack assessment, missile defense and space situational awareness.
- » **21st Medical Group:** The 21st MDG operates the Peterson Clinic, Schriever Clinic, Cheyenne Mountain AFS Aid Station and their supporting services, is an outpatient clinic that provides primary care, limited specialty care, dental care and ancillary services.
- » **21st Mission Support Group:** Provides civil engineering, contracting, logistics, personnel, security, and services support for Peterson AFB, including the numerous mission partners, and for squadrons operating worldwide to execute their missile warning and space control missions.
- » **721st Mission Support Group:** The 721st MSG operates Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, the center of a worldwide network of satellites, radars and sensors that provide early warning of any missile, air or space threat to North America. CMAFS processes theater ballistic missile warning for U.S. and allied forces, and provides a continual data feed of what is in space and where it’s found to enable space situational awareness-protection.
- » **Air Force Space Command:** AFSPC provides space and cyberspace capabilities to the joint warfighter enabling our nation’s global reach and global vigilance, by providing resilient and affordable space and cyberspace capabilities for the Joint Force and the nation.
- » **NORAD/U.S. Northern Command:** NORAD and USNORTHCOM are separate commands that have complementary missions and the same commander. NORAD is a United States and Canadian bi-national organization that conducts aerospace warning, aerospace control, and maritime warning in the defense of North America. USNORTHCOM provides command and control of Department of Defense homeland defense efforts and to coordinate DoD support of civil authorities. USNORTHCOM partners conduct homeland defense, civil support, and security cooperation to defend and secure the U.S. and its interests.
- » **Army SMDC:** The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command provides command and control of the 1st Space Brigade and the 100th Missile Defense Brigade. SMDC/ARSTRAT also provides secure, space-based Blue Force Tracking and communications planning through Regional Satellite Communications Support Centers and the Measurements and Signatures Intelligence-Advanced Geospatial Intelligence node to Army forces and, upon request, to joint warfighters.
- » **302nd Airlift Wing:** The 302nd Airlift Wing is one of nine Air Force Reserve Command C-130 wings with an airdrop and airlift mission in the nation and the only Air Force Reserve wing with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System mission, or MAFFS mission. The wing is assigned 12 C-130H3 Hercules aircraft, operated by the wing’s 731st Airlift Squadron, and its associated active-duty squadron, the 52nd Airlift Squadron.



**Above:** Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, located on the west side of Colorado Springs, is owned and operated by the 21st Space Wing at Peterson AFB. (U.S. Air Force photo)

## COMMANDER RANK

Colonel

## UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

- » Most geographically dispersed wing in the Air Force by units, with 21 locations located in nine states, seven countries and 13 time zones.
- » Tracks space objects ranging in size from satellites weighing several tons to pieces of spent rocket bodies the size of a softball.
- » Maintains a network of ground-based radars and optics around the world, a vital component of the nation’s defense.
- » Operates five other installations, including Thule AB, Greenland; Cavalier AFS, N.D.; Cape Cod AFS, Mass.; Clear AFS, Alaska; and Cheyenne Mountain AFS, Colo.
- » The 21st SW maintains the Department of Defense’s northernmost installation, located 750 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

For more information, please see: <<http://www.peterson.af.mil>>