



Mission Statement

The Space Development & Test Directorate develops, tests, and evaluates national security space systems, executes advanced space development and demonstration projects, develops and launches small launch vehicles and missile defense targets, and rapidly transitions capabilities to the warfighter.

“One Team...Delivering Innovative, Responsive Space Capabilities”

Personnel

360 Person Government Organization
(240 military/civilians/FFRDC, 120 contractors)

Director: Col Michael J. Moran (currently deployed)

Acting Director: Col Carol P. Welsch



Col Welsch – Acting Director

History

In July 1992, the Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) consolidated four separate reporting units and stood up the Space Experimentation Program Office. The newly aligned programs included the Rocket Systems Launch Program (RSLP), the DoD Space Test Program (STP), the Research and Development Space and Missile Operations (RDSMO) program, and T&E functions located at Vandenberg AFB, CA. Beginning in June of 1993, RDT&E activities at Los Angeles Air Force Base (STP), Onizuka Air Station (RDSMO), and San Bernardino (RSLP) were collocated at Kirtland Air Force Base alongside the Air Force Research Laboratory Phillips Research Site. In July 1995, the organization was renamed the Space and Missile Test and Evaluation Directorate.

On 29 June 2001 the unit became SMC Detachment 12 in preparation for the 1 October 2001 alignment of SMC to AFSPC. The mission of SMC Detachment 12 was "to serve as the primary provider of launch capability, space flight, and on-orbit operations for the entire DoD space research, development, test, and evaluation community," this continues to be the primary mission today. SMC Detachment 12 became the Space Development & Test Wing, which was activated on 1 August 2006. On 10 November 2010 the Space Development & Test Wing was redesignated the Space Development & Test Directorate (SMC/SD) as part of SMC's realignment from a wing structure to directorate structure.

Organizational Structure

The Space Development & Test Directorate is composed of three divisions. The capabilities of these three divisions provide SMC/SD with the unique ability to support any phase of development or operations for small space systems, to include complete cradle to grave support, making SMC/SD the nation's premier resource for small, responsive space operations. SMC/SD prides itself on its innovation and history of trail blazing in space.

Launch Systems Division (SDL)

Since 1963 the Launch Systems Division has executed 695 missions over its 49 year history. SDL is responsible for the Air Force's inventory of decommissioned ICBM motors and provides small launch vehicles and threat representative target vehicles for Missile Defense Agency missions.

Space Development Division (SDD)

The DoD Space Test Program (STP) was chartered in 1965 and is the core of SDD's mission, which is to serve as a gateway to space for experiments. SDD has flown 500+ experiments on 200+ missions, including Space Shuttle, International Space Station and Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle missions. Both STP and the Space Experiments Review Board are run by SDD. This division also offers mission design and planning capabilities.

Space Test & Operations Division (SDT)

Originally located at Onizuka Air Station, SDT provides expertise in satellite testing and operations. SDT deploys testing equipment to manufacturing and launch sites to test satellites before flight. SDT owns and operates worldwide deployable telemetry assets as well as operating a 24/7 satellite control station (RSC) at Kirtland AFB. SDT is on the cutting edge of satellite operations, demonstrating improved responsiveness and cost-effectiveness.