



## Launch Systems Division

### Mission Statement

*Responsively develop, deliver, and launch reliable orbital and sub-orbital rocket systems.*

### Mission Partners / Contractor Support

- Aerojet
- Aero Thermo Technology
- Alaska Aerospace Development Corp
- ATK
- Boeing
- Coleman Aerospace
- DARPA
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport
- MDA
- NASA
- NRO
- Orbital Sciences Corp
- Space Vector
- Spaceport Florida
- Spaceport Systems Intl
- TASC



Col Nickle – SDL Chief

In 1963, the Advanced Ballistic Missile Reentry Systems (ABRES) program was established to manage reentry vehicle research and the reutilization of deactivated Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) assets. Since 1963, the program has evolved into the Rocket Systems Launch Program (RSLP) and provides a wide breadth of expertise in both ballistic missile testing and space launch initiatives. The Launch Systems Division (SDL) is the executing agent for RSLP.

SDL has launched 695 missions since 1963, with a success rate of 97%. SDL currently utilizes retired Minuteman and Peacekeeper rocket motors, to provide cost-effective spacelift options for small spacecraft to a variety of orbits. To date, RSLP has successfully launched 27 space missions using Minuteman and Peacekeeper motors as part of the current Minotaur family of launch vehicles. SDL can support an agency's space launch requirements within a 12 to 18 month timeframe. SDL is also one of the main providers of threat representative target vehicles for live fire tests by the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and other organizations. The use of retired rocket motor assets is another example of SDL's ability to innovatively meet customers' launch needs in a cost-effective fashion.

Currently, SDL has over 1100 deactivated rocket motors in storage to meet customer requirements. A complete spectrum of SDL launch services are available including: program management, mission planning, mission assurance, engineering support, payload integration, and post-test evaluation. The program's primary objective is to remain the government's premier small launch provider by offering highly reliable and cost effective launch services in support of the DoD and other government agencies.

### Launch Operations Branch (SDLO)

The Launch Operations Branch integrates retired ICBM motors and uses them to design space launch vehicles for the DoD and government agencies and target vehicles for MDA intercept missions.

### Logistics Branch (SDLL)

The Logistics Branch stores and maintains existing ICBM motor infrastructure and inventory, tests to validate that motors are safe for storage and meet original specifications. SDLL processes and ships motors for reuse in spacelift and target missions.

### Engineering & Development Branch (SDLE)

The Engineering & Development branch is responsible for developing engineering processes and procedures as well as developing launch capabilities.