

## CHRONOLOGY OF THE 50TH SPACE WING

- June 1, 1949                      Headquarters United States Air Force ordered the activation of the 50th Fighter Wing and its subordinate 50th Fighter Group and tactical squadrons. These units were allocated to the Air Force Reserve and stationed at Otis Air Force Base, Mass..
- March 1, 1950                     The 50th Fighter Wing redesignated as the 50th Fighter-Interceptor Wing. Concurrently, the 50th Fighter Group also was redesignated as a fighter-interceptor group.
- June 1, 1951                      The 50th Fighter-Interceptor Wing and its subordinate units were ordered to active service. On June 2, 1951, the wing inactivated.
- June 1, 1953                      The 50th Fighter-Bomber Wing (previously 50th Fighter-Interceptor Wing) activated at Clovis Air Force Base, N. M. Originally equipped with the F-51 Mustang of World War II fame, the wing soon converted to the new F-86F Sabre.
- July 1953                          The 50th Fighter Bomber Wing began moving to Europe. The wing completed the relocation to Hahn on August 10, 1953.
- April 15, 1956                    The 50th Fighter-Bomber Wing and its subordinate units relocated to Toul-Rosieres, France.
- July 8, 1958                      The 50th Fighter-Bomber Wing became the 50th Tactical Fighter Wing.
- September 1, 1959                The 50th Tactical Fighter Wing returned to Hahn Air Base.
- April 1965                          The wing won the overall competition at the U. S. Air Forces in Europe Tactical Weapons Shoot-Off held at El Uotia Range, Libya.
- July 15, 1968                      The 417th Tactical Fighter Squadron returned to the United States. The squadron took up residence at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, assigned to the 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing.
- November 25, 1968                As part of U. S. Air Forces in Europe reorganization, the 496th Tactical Fighter Squadron was reassigned to the 50th Tactical Fighter Wing.
- July 12, 1971                      The wing's 81st Tactical Fighter Squadron moved to Zweibrucken Air Base, West Germany, to become the U. S. Air Forces in Europe's first F-4E "Wild Weasel" squadron.
- 1976-1977                         The 50th's tactical units converted from the F-4D to the improved F-4E with nose-mounted Vulcan cannon.

November 15, 1976	The 313th Tactical Fighter Squadron joined the wing.
ca. Oct-Dec 1977	During exercise Midlink 77, wing F-4 crews became the first in the USAF to be refueled by a KC-747 of the Imperial Iranian Air Force.
December 30, 1981	The wing received the first F-16A delivered to the 313th Tactical Fighter Squadron.
June 21, 1982	The wing's last F-4E Phantom II departed Hahn Air Base
ca. April 1983	Colonel Davey, 50th Tactical Fighter Wing commander, declared the wing operationally ready in the F-16.
1983	50th Tactical Fighter Wing crews won the overall competition at GUNSMOKE. One pilot earned the competition's individual "Top Gun" award. At year's end, a 50th Tactical Fighter Wing load crew earned first place among U. S. Air Forces in Europe units at an Air Force weapons load competition.
ca. February 1984	The 10th Tactical Fighter Squadron set a unit surge record, launching 80 sorties in ten hours.
November 30, 1984	The 10th Tactical Fighter Squadron deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, where in less than ten hours the unit flew 116 graduated combat capability training sorties, exceeding its record set in February, and establishing a new record for United States Air Forces Europe.
ca. December 1985	The 496th Tactical Fighter Squadron, while deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, established a new U.S. Air Forces in Europe sortie surge record, flying 144 sorties in less than 12 hours.
April 15, 1986	U. S. Air Forces in Europe announced that the 313th Tactical Fighter Squadron had earned the Commander-in-Chief's trophy as the command's most outstanding flying squadron for the second consecutive year.
1986	The wing converted from its original F-16A and F-16B aircraft to the updated F-16C and F-16D models.

April 1987	The 50th Tactical Fighter Wing was named as winner of the USAF Daedalian Award for 1986.
May 1987	The wing's maintenance community received notice of its selection for the Department of Defense Phoenix Award.
December 29, 1990	The wing began its participation in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm when pilots, jets, and support personnel left Hahn for Zaragoza, Spain, en route to a forward location. The 10th Tactical Fighter Squadron joined the 17th and 33d Tactical Fighter Squadrons from Shaw AFB, S.C., which were already in place.
January 17, 1991	Crews of the 10th Tactical Fighter Squadron flew their first combat sorties of Operation Desert Storm attacking Al Taqaddum Airfield near Baghdad, Iraq.
February 27, 1991	Captain Bill "Psycho" Anderson became the wing's first, and only, Operation Desert Storm prisoner of war when his aircraft was shot down over Iraq by a surface-to-air missile. Iraq released Captain Anderson to the International Red Cross on March 5.
September 30, 1991	The 50th Tactical Fighter Wing inactivated at Hahn Air Base, Germany.
January 30, 1992	The 50th Tactical Fighter Wing activated as the 50th Space Wing at Falcon Air Force Base, Colo. The 50th assumed the personnel, equipment, and functions of the 2d Space Wing, which inactivated at Falcon on that date.
July 1, 1993	Headquarters Air Force Space Command ordered the reassignment of the 50th Space Wing to the newly activated Fourteenth Air Force.
June 5, 1998	Falcon Air Force Base renamed Schriever Air Force Base in honor of Gen. Bernard A. Schriever, the former commander of Air Force Systems Command, and a pioneer in developing USAF missile and space systems.

January 1, 2000 Operating Location B of the 3d Space Operations Squadron inactivated at Wahiawa, Hawaii. The squadron turned over the facility, one of five Ultra-High Frequency Follow-On satellite communications centers, to the 614th Space Operations Squadron, a Fourteenth Air Force unit based at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif..

February 4, 2000 Onizuka and New Boston Air Force Bases were redesignated Air Force Stations.

February 5, 2000 A crew at the New Boston Remote Tracking Station achieved a new record of error-free supports, logging 20,000 satellite supports with no errors. The crew, Bill Hickerson, Bob Curren, Paul McCay, Bill Cheshire, Vern Townsend, Jim Veach, Matt Curry, Gary Collins and Mike Williams, began working toward the record on July 28, 1997.

February 10, 2000 3d Space Operations Squadron crewmembers performed the last support of an Ultra High Frequency Follow-On satellite, Flight 10. The U.S. Navy assumed satellite control authority for the constellation the next day, ending a two-year transfer of responsibility for the system from the 3d Space Operations Squadron at Schriever to the Naval Satellite Operations Center at Point Mugu, Calif. The inactivation of Operating Location C, 3d Space Operations Squadron on April 1, 2000 marked the end of the wing's involvement with the ultra-high frequency satellite system.

June 13, 2000 The 5th Space Operations Squadron inactivated at Onizuka Air Force Station, Calif. Other 50th Space Wing squadrons assumed most 5th Space Operations Squadron missions and the 21st Space Operations Squadron assimilated most of the inactivated squadron's people.

August 28, 2000 El Paso County Sheriff John W. Anderson presented Master Sgt. Ken Merritt of the wing's Inspector General office with the Sheriff's Office Lifesaving Medal. The award recognized Sergeant Merritt's actions at the scene of a rollover accident on June 8, 2000.

September 1, 2000 In an unusual organizational move, the 50th Support Group assumed control of the Services Division, formerly assigned to 50th MSS as the Services Flight. The division oversaw the operations of the Satellite Dish Dining Facility; the Information, Tickets and Tours Office; the Fitness Center, and Outdoor Recreation

October 1, 2000 The wing assumed control of the Midcourse Space Experiment satellite from the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization.

October 11, 2000	Space Shuttle Discovery (STS-92), on a mission to deliver equipment and supplies to the International Space Station, suffered a Ku-band antenna failure. 21st Space Operations Squadron operators used the Air Force Satellite Control Network to receive data from the shuttle and relay it to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration mission controllers, conducting 201 support events for the mission.
June 28, 2001	After a lengthy study of potential sites that began in 1997, Air Force Space Command announced that Schriever Air Force Base would be home to the Space Based Infrared System mission control station backup facility.
October 1, 2002	Air Force Space Command ordered the activation of the 50th Logistics Group, redesignating it 50th Maintenance Group and reassigning the 50th Space Communications Squadron and 850th Space Communications Squadron (redesignated from 50th and 850th Communications Squadrons) to the organization. Concurrently, the command inactivated the 50th Communications Group.
October 1, 2002	Air Force Space Command ordered the redesignation of the 50th Support Group as 50th Mission Support Group
December 8-9, 2002	A major typhoon struck Guam and the Guam Tracking Station (Detachment 5, 22d Space Operations Squadron). The site sustained damage to radomes, facilities, vehicles, and loss of commercial power, though the unit reported no injuries to assigned personnel.
December 31, 2002	Operating Location-AE, 22d Space Operations Squadron reported a record setting 27,993 satellite supports for the year.
March 20, 2003	United States forces launched Operation Iraqi Freedom. In the first 20 days of combat, crews of the 50th Operations Group flew hundreds of satellite missions, while the 50th Communications Group (later 50th Network Operations Group) completed thousands of satellite contacts, assisted with anomalies, and helped put additional satellites on orbit.
March 21, 2003	The 2nd Space Operations Squadron opened the Global Positioning System Operations Center.
April 8, 2003	The last Military Strategic, Tactical and Relay (MILSTAR) satellite was launched into a 22,500-mile geosynchronous orbit. Once on orbit Flight 6 completed the Milstar constellation.
June 1, 2003	Headquarters Air Force Space Command ordered the activation of the 50th Communications Group to replace the 50th Maintenance Group, inactivated concurrent with the

communications group activation. The 50th Communications Group absorbed the 50th and 850th Space Communications Squadrons. The command also ordered the activation of the 50th Supply Squadron as the 50th Logistics Readiness Flight and assigned it to the 50th Mission Support Group

August 29, 2003 The last Defense Satellite Communications System satellite, B6, launched from Space Launch Complex 37 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., aboard a Boeing Delta IV launch vehicle. Lockheed Martin built the satellite, which weighed approximately 2,500 pounds and cost \$200 million.

October 1, 2003 Headquarters Air Force Space Command ordered the activation of the 50th Comptroller Squadron, renaming it the 50th Comptroller Flight.

December 19, 2003 The crews of the Air Force Satellite Control Network set a one-day contact record, logging 514 satellite supports.

December 29, 2003 Air Force Space Command declared initial operational capability for MILSTAR.

December 31, 2003 22d Space Operations Squadron crews set a monthly satellite contact record at 14,710 supports. Additional records set during the year included site contact records at Diego Garcia (REEF) with 15,858; Vandenberg (COOK) with 19,226; Guam (GUAM) with 20,586; and Telemetry and Commanding Station Oakhanger (LION) with 27,966.

March 10, 2004 Air Force Space Command redesignated the 50th Communications Group as the 50th Network Operations Group. Special Order G-009 also transferred command of the 21st, 22d, and 23d Space Operations Squadrons from the 50th Operations Group to the 50th Network Operations Group. The wing sought to consolidate all Air Force Satellite Control Network units under one organization, thereby improving command and control, operations, and maintenance.

March 20, 2004 A Boeing Delta II carried Global Positioning System satellite IIR-11, the 50th GPS satellite, into orbit from Space Launch Complex (SLC) 17B at Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla. The Block II-R satellite was named in honor of Dr. Ivan Getting, considered the "father of GPS."

July 1, 2004 Headquarters Air Force Space Command ordered the redesignation of the 50th Comptroller Flight to 50th Comptroller Squadron, reversing an action taken in September 2003, when the command ordered the activation of the squadron.

- August 27, 2004 The 50th Space Wing dedicated its new administration facility, Building 210, in honor of Lt. Gen. Roger DeKok. General DeKok had served as the last commander of the 2nd Space Wing and commanded the 50th Space Wing upon its activation in 1992.
- September 3, 2004 1st Lt. Jen Phifer, satellite vehicle operator, and Airman First Class Jose Bernal, satellite system operator, conducted the last support of the NATO IV communications satellite, marking the 3d Space Operations Squadron's end to "hot back-up" support of NATO IV and Skynet systems. "Hawk is out for the final time," commanded Lt. Col. Keith Hinson, 3d Space Operations Squadron commander.
- June 20, 2005 Gen. Bernard Schriever (USAF, Ret), for whom Schriever Air Force Base is named, died at his home in Washington, D.C. General Schriever had previously visited the wing in 1998 when the installation was renamed in his honor, and in 2002.
- September 8, 2005 The Base Realignment and Closure Commission submitted its completed recommendations to the President. The recommendations included the closure of Onizuka Air Station and the transfer of its remaining missions to Vandenberg.
- September 17, 2005 Guam Tracking Station celebrated its 40th anniversary.
- November 4, 2005 The 21st Space Operations Squadron put Satellite Operations Center 52 in "cold" status. The SOC had been the primary Air Force center supporting U.S. space shuttle activities until 2004.
- December 2005 The 50th Space Communications Squadron's "Standard Desktop," under development since about October 2003 was selected for testing and eventual implementation as the AF Standard Desktop personal computer configuration with possible deployment throughout the federal government. The standard desktop configuration prevented the installation of unapproved software, and provided increased network security, while improving the ability of network managers to respond to vulnerabilities.