

**BY ORDER OF THE  
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**



**HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE  
MISSION DIRECTIVE 2-1**

**8 NOVEMBER 2023**

**Special Management**

**CHIEF OF SPACE OPERATIONS**

---

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

---

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Publications and forms are available on the e-Publishing website at:  
<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil> for downloading or ordering.

**RELEASABILITY:** There are no releasability restrictions on this publication.

---

OPR: SF/SIG

Certified by: SF/CSO,  
(General B. Chance Saltzman)

Pages: 5

---

This directive states the mission, command structure, and responsibilities of the Chief of Space Operations (CSO).

**1. Mission.** The Chief of Space Operations (CSO), pursuant to Title 10 United States Code (USC) §§ 9013 and 9081-9084, and as documented by this Headquarters Air Force Mission Directive (HAFMD), assists the Secretary of the Air Force (SecAF) in conducting the affairs of the Department of the Air Force (DAF) as set forth in Title 10 of the USC and relevant Department of Defense (DoD) issuances. The SecAF retains ultimate responsibility for all policies related to the DAF. The CSO also has a role, pursuant to 10 USC §§ 151 and 9082, as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS).

**2. Organizational Relationships.** The SecAF is responsible for, and has all legal authority necessary to conduct, the affairs of the DAF. The Secretariat, the CSO, and the Office of the Chief of Space Operations (OCSO) perform their DAF functions subject to the authority, direction, and control of the SecAF. The OCSO is informally referred to as the Space Staff or S-Staff.

2.1. The CSO serves at the pleasure of the President, is the principal military advisor to the SecAF for space domain related matters and acts as the agent of the SecAF in executing assigned responsibilities under 10 USC § 9082. The CSO further performs the duties as a member of the DoD Armed Forces Policy Council prescribed by 10 USC § 171 and duties prescribed by other provisions of law; the CSO performs such other military duties, not otherwise assigned by law, as are assigned by the President, the Secretary of Defense (SecDef), or SecAF.

2.1.1. Pursuant to 10 USC § 9082, to the extent that it does not impair the CSO's independence in the performance of duties as a member of the JCS, the CSO shall inform the SecAF regarding military advice rendered by members of the JCS on matters affecting the DAF. Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the SecDef, the CSO shall keep the SecAF fully informed of significant military operations affecting the duties and responsibilities of the SecAF.

2.2. The function, composition, and general duties of the OCSO (Space Staff) are established in 10 USC §§ 9083 and 9084. The Space Staff includes the CSO, the Vice Chief of Space Operations (VCSO), the Deputy Chiefs of Space Operations, and other such staff offices as the SecAF may establish or designate, members of the Space Force and Air Force assigned or detailed to the Space Staff, and civilian employees in the DAF assigned or detailed to the Space Staff.

2.3. Separate subsequent directives or orders may establish additional direct reporting units to the CSO.

**3. Responsibilities.** The CSO, subject to the authority, direction, and control of the SecAF, is responsible for the following:

3.1. Presiding over the Space Staff;

3.1.1. Transmitting Space Staff plans and recommendations to the SecAF and advising the SecAF with regard to such plans and recommendations;

3.1.2. Acting as the SecAF's agents in carrying out the approved plans and recommendations of the Space Staff;

3.1.3. Exercising supervision, consistent with the authority assigned to the combatant commanders, over members of the Space Force as the SecAF determines;

3.1.4. Performing the duties prescribed for the CSO under 10 USC § 171 as a member of the Armed Forces Policy Council, as well as other duties prescribed by law; and,

3.1.5. Performing other military duties as assigned to the CSO by the President, the SecDef, or the SecAF.

3.2. The CSO also perform duties as a member of the JCS as prescribed by 10 USC § 151.

3.2.1. The CSO shall inform the SecAF regarding military advice rendered by members of the JCS on matters affecting the DAF, to the extent that such action does not impair the independence of the CSO in the CSO's role as a member of the JCS.

**4. Delegations of Authority/Assignment of Responsibility:** There are no specific delegations or assignments of responsibilities to SF/CSO. USSF SecAF delegated authorities and assignment of responsibilities are re-delegated in L2 HAFMD's.

**5. Continuation of Prior Re-Delegations of Authority/Assignments of Responsibility:** Re-delegations of authority/assignments of responsibility made prior to the date of issuance of this HAFMD remain effective insofar as such re-delegations are not inconsistent with the terms of this HAFMD, unless superseded by new issuances.

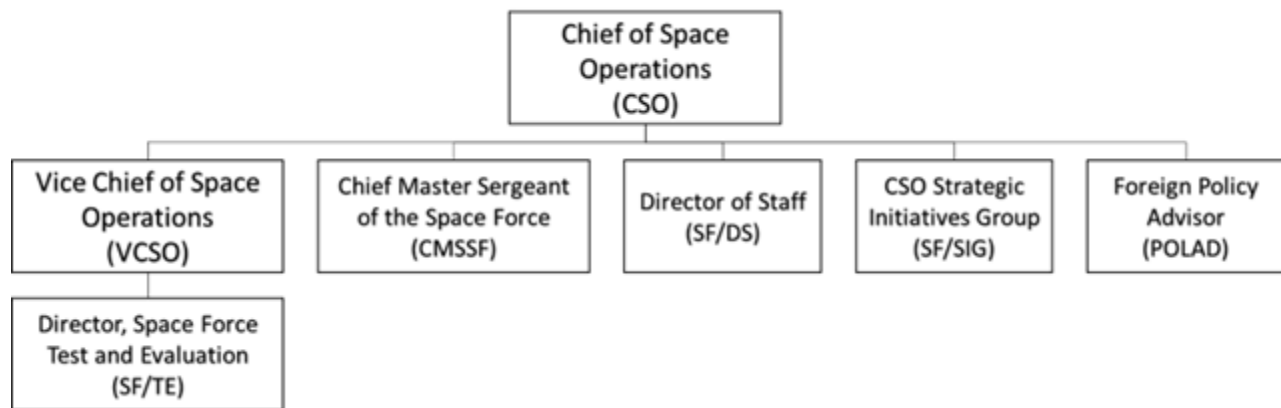
Frank Kendall  
Secretary of the Air Force

## Attachment 1

**CHIEF OF SPACE OPERATIONS (CSO)**

**A1.1. Chief of Space Operations (CSO)** . The CSO assists the SecAF in conducting the affairs of the DAF as set forth in Title 10 of the USC and relevant DoD issuances.

**Figure A1.1. Chief of Space Operations (CSO).**



**A1.2. Vice Chief of Space Operations (VCSO)** . The VCSO has such authority and duties with respect to the DAF as the CSO, with the approval of the SecAF, may delegate to or prescribe for him/her.

A1.2.1. Develops, implements, and reviews plans, programs, and policies for managing the USSF.

**A1.3. Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force (CMSSF)** . Advises and assists the CSO and the SecAF on matters concerning USSF enlisted Guardians.

**A1.4. Director of Staff (SF/DS)** . The Director of Staff has such authority and duties with respect to the DAF as the CSO, with the approval of the SecAF, may delegate to or prescribe for him/her.

A1.4.1. Specific duties and responsibilities of the Director of Staff can be found in HAFMD 2-2, *Office of the Chief of Space Operations Director of Staff*.

**A1.5. CSO Strategic Initiatives Group (SF/SIG)** . The SIG works on behalf of the CSO to assist in developing ideas, policies, and concepts spanning the full range of USSF and Joint operational issues to include assisting staff and senior leaders on USSF policies and positions to civic, military, and other professional groups.

A1.5.1. SF/SIG in coordination with appropriate OCSO and Secretariat organizations, specializes in:

A1.5.1.1. Informing CSO perspectives on USSF ideas and initiatives and promoting those ideas and initiatives by effectively communicating CSO guidance.

A1.5.1.2. Interfacing with the internal DoD offices such as the Space Staff, Secretariat, Joint Staff, Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), and various key external offices on top priority issues

A1.5.1.3. Developing strategic narratives and incorporating them into speeches, congressional testimony, statements and articles, official correspondence, pamphlets, and engagements to ensure they are clearly understood by priority audiences.

A1.5.1.4. Thinking holistically about USSF priority relationships and building an engagement plan to build and sustain those relationships to achieve CSO desired outcomes; and

A1.5.1.5. Developing and implementing SecAF and CSO long-range communication strategies.

**A1.6. Foreign Policy Advisor (POLAD).** The POLAD is a U.S. Senior Foreign Service Officer assigned from the Department of State to advise CSO on all matters of US foreign policy pertinent to the USSF and serve as the CSO's primary liaison to the U.S. Department of State.

**A1.7. Test and Evaluation Directorate (SF/TE).** SF/TE is the Service level test and evaluation representative that advises and assists the CSO on all matters concerning Space Force test and evaluation (T&E). SF/TE reports to the VCSO, who provides direction and input to all USSF T&E initiatives and priorities, as depicted in the graphic above. SF/TE also supports the Air Force Director of Test and Evaluation (AF/TE) in carrying out the space T&E programs for the Department of the Air Force (DAF) as outlined in HAFMD 1-52, *Director of Test and Evaluation*.