

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER  
SPACE OPERATIONS COMMAND**

**SPACE OPERATIONS COMMAND  
MISSION DIRECTIVE 180**



**21 FEBRUARY 2024**

**Mission Directive**

**SPACE DELTA 18 – NATIONAL SPACE  
INTELLIGENCE CENTER (NSIC)**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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This mission directive implements guidance in AFI 38-101, *Manpower and Organization*. Its purpose is to define the mission, organization, and responsibilities of Space Delta 18. This MD applies Space Delta 18 and subordinate units and personnel. This MD does not apply to Air National Guard (ANG), Air Force Reserve (AFRC), or United States Air Force units and members. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the OPR using DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route DAF Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command. Submit requests for waivers through the chain of command to the Publication OPR for non-tiered compliance items. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained IAW AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, and disposed of IAW the Air Force Records Information Management System Records Disposition Schedule. This publication may not be supplemented or further implemented/extended.

**1. Mission.** Deliver game-changing intelligence and unmatched technical expertise to empower national leaders, joint and coalition warfighters, and acquisition professionals to dominate in and through space. Generate, present and sustain assigned/attached forces for the purpose of conducting Space Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) operations, via collaboration with Headquarters, Space Operations Command (HQ SpOC) and/or other stakeholders. Space Delta 18 will support HQ SpOC to generate and sustain new intelligence capabilities and accompanying forces according to SpOC guidance which includes processes and contracts. Space Delta 18 will also manage select processes and contracts, as coordinated with HQ SpOC to ensure continuity of operations, and presentation and sustainment of forces. Space Delta 18 and its units will provide intelligence support to national and military space missions and to evaluate the capabilities, performance, limitations, and vulnerabilities of space and counter-space systems and services. Space intelligence support includes: enhancing space domain awareness, supporting full-spectrum superiority, and achieving the supported commander's intelligence and battlespace awareness requirements using multi-domain intelligence capabilities; providing intelligence planning and direction, collection, processing and exploitation, analysis and production, and dissemination and integration (PCPAD); informing capability research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) for global and theater operations; and providing analytic support to special programs.

**1.1. Space Delta 18 Organized/Designed Mission.** As the Service Intelligence Center for the United States Space Force (USSF), Space Delta 18 units will conduct foundational intelligence analysis and production as directed by HQ SpOC and USSF Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Intelligence (DCSO/I). Intelligence analysis and production conducted by Space Delta 18 units will provide threat-integrated support to policy makers, warfighters, and the acquisition community.

**1.1.1. Space Delta 18 Equipment.** Space Delta 18 operates, maintains, and manages multiple analytic and production tools at various classification levels to fulfill requirements for service, joint, and national consumers. Equipment includes analysis hardware and software. Space Delta 18 also utilizes NSANet, JWICS, ISS, SGN, SIPRNet, and NIPRNet.

**1.1.2. Space Delta 18 Applicable Threat Environments.** Space Delta 18 is organized/designed to operate in fixed or continuity of operations environments in all phases of peace and conflict. Space Delta 18 is organized/designed to operate in Threat Level 1 through Threat Level 5.

**1.1.3. Space Delta 18 Future Requirements.** Known future systems include modernized analytical tools, databases, and digital environments capable of automating analytical functions and advanced machine learning. Advanced threat modeling and simulation supporting the spectrum of customers will be required as the proliferated threats to space superiority continue to grow.

**1.1.4. Space Delta 18 Air Reserve Component Total Force Integration (TFI) Relationship.** Space Delta 18 currently has no formal Reserve Component TFI relationships.

**2. Command.** The SpOC Commander delegates command authority directly to the Delta Commander, who further delegates to Squadron Commanders. The Commander, Space Delta 18, is authorized to communicate, coordinate, and work with other units or agencies on matters relating to mission accomplishment or regarding administrative or logistical support under applicable

agreements and memorandums of understanding. The Squadron represents the heart of the USSF, its culture, and mission execution. The USSF aggregates Squadrons into mission-focused Space Deltas that represent the leading edge of our operational capability.

### **3. Responsibilities.** The Commander, Space Delta 18:

#### 3.1. Generate the Delta.

3.1.1. Ensure compliance with applicable law, policy, and guidance. Comply with requirements identified in all HHQ publications (e.g. instructions, manuals, memorandums, Intelligence Community Directives (ICDs), etc.), including: AFI 1-2, *Commander's Responsibilities*, AFSPCI 10-1204, *Satellite Operations*, and SPFI 13-604, *System Acceptance*.

3.1.2. Establish and enforce standards for assigned/attached personnel, to include Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) actions, when merited.

3.1.3. Lead the Space Delta to master assigned USSF mission areas and equipment.

3.1.4. Manage force readiness programs, including establishing and managing combat rotations, training, evaluation, certification, and scheduling policies and programs.

3.1.5. Pursue continuous intelligence and weapon system improvement through applicable SpOC processes, in collaboration with HQ SpOC staff and other applicable stakeholders.

3.1.6. Pursue continuous improvements of tactics, techniques, and procedures.

3.1.7. Provide mission-area expertise to USSF requirements development.

3.1.8. Partner with the supporting base command to ensure responsive and accountable base support.

3.1.9. Manage assigned and required resources, budget, and mission contracts.

3.1.10. Prepare and present assigned and attached forces to the Commander of Space Forces (COMSPACEFOR) or designated commander.

3.1.11. Exercise administrative control over assigned and attached service forces.

3.1.12. Provide recommendations for the mobilization of ANG and AFRC assets to COMSPACEFOR for any established formal relationships.

3.1.13. Manage personnel, information, physical, and industrial security controls for processing, handling, discussion, and storage of classified data IAW appropriate directives.

#### 3.2. Present the Delta.

3.2.1. Support Combatant Command plan development.

3.2.2. Support or lead Operations Planning Teams concerning the optimization of the assigned mission area.

3.2.3. Support Higher Headquarters (HHQ) requirements to provide space experts to supported commands.

3.2.4. Deliver timely and accurate readiness reporting.

3.2.5. Manage officer, enlisted, and civilian human capital.

3.2.6. Operationally-integrate intelligence professionals and provide threat-informed defensive cyber vulnerability assessments to protect and defend all space weapons systems and mission systems in a support role.

3.2.7. Manage mission equipment sustainment, including Level 1 Maintenance and declaring Emergency Depot Level Maintenance/Urgent Depot Level Maintenance as required.

### 3.3. Sustain the Delta.

3.3.1. Execute authorities and utilize assigned/attached resources to conduct assigned mission tasks.

3.3.2. Execute USSF cryptologic and other Intelligence Community-delegated authorities and missions IAW service missions.

3.3.3. Execute command and control of service-retained forces IAW SpOC Commander guidance and intent.

3.3.4. Execute cross-functional mission planning.

3.3.5. Provide timely, relevant, and unbiased military advice to HHQ regarding the most effective employment and integration of capabilities to achieve military goals.

3.3.6. Execute direct liaison authority and support relationships, as authorized.

STEPHEN N. WHITING, Lieutenant General, USSF  
Commander

**Attachment 1****GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFI 1-2, *Commander's Responsibilities*, 8 May 2014

AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, 23 March 2020

AFI 38-101, *Manpower and Organization*, 29 August 2019

AFSPCI 10-1204, *Satellite Operations*, 15 May 2014

SPFI 13-604, *System Acceptance*, 30 August 2023

***Prescribed Forms***

None

***Adopted Forms***

DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

***Abbreviations and Acronyms***

**AFRC**—Air Force Reserve Command

**ANG**—Air National Guard

**COMSPACEFOR**—Commander of Space Forces

**HHQ**—Higher Headquarter

**ICD**—Intelligence Community Directive

**ISR**—Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance

**ISS**—Information Systems Security

**JWICS**—Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System

**NIPR**—Non-Classified Internet Protocol Router

**NSANet**—National Security Agency Network

**PCPAD**—Planning and direction, collection, processing and exploitation, analysis and production, and dissemination

**RDT&E**—Research, development, test, and evaluation

**SGN**—Secure Global Network

**SIPR**—Secure Internet Protocol Router

**SpOC**—Space Operations Command

**TFI**—Total Force Integration

**UCMJ**—Uniform Code of Military Justice

**USSF**—United States Space Force

*Office Symbols*

**DCSO/I**—Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Intelligence