



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL MATTHEW S. CANTORE

Colonel Cantore is currently assigned as the Commander, Space Delta 2, Headquarters United States Space Force, Peterson-Schriever Garrison, Colorado. He commands the newly activated Space Domain Awareness Delta spanning the globe with personnel at 10 locations supporting missions in four countries. Space Delta 2 is responsible for preparing and presenting assigned and attached forces for the purpose of executing combat-ready Space Domain Awareness operations to deter aggression, and, if necessary, fight to protect and defend the U.S. and our allies from attack in, through and from space.

Colonel Cantore entered the Air Force in 1998 after graduating from the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado. He has commanded America's Airmen at the squadron and group levels, and held a range of leadership positions in Space and Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) operations. His career began as a Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) operator at Clear Air Force Station, Alaska and followed with ICBM operations and test duties at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, and Vandenberg Air Force Base, California respectively. Col Cantore served as the Chief of Space Operations at 9th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Central Command, Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina. During this time, he deployed in support of Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM. Col Cantore transitioned to the Directorate of Operations, The Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington, District of Columbia, where he was responsible as the Chief of Operations and Plans for Integrated Joint Special Technical Operations supporting world-wide DoD and interagency activities. He returned from staff duty to lead at the squadron level as the Deputy Director of Combat Operations in the Joint Space Operations Center, Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, and then as the Commander of the 3d Space Experimentation Squadron, Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado. He later served at Headquarters U.S. Air Force as the Chief, Eurasia-America Operations Division in CHECKMATE where his team developed Air Force and U.S. European Command strategies to respond to a revanchist Russia, providing war-time options to blunt aggression in air, space and cyberspace. Additionally, he was the Chief of the Programs Division, Directorate of Plans, Programs and Financial Management, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, overseeing the major command's operations and investment resourcing strategy for all space weapon systems, harnessing a budget of \$55B.



Prior to assuming his current position, Colonel Cantore was the Commander, 21st Operations Group, 21st Space Wing, Peterson AFB, Colorado. In this role, he commanded the Air Force Space Command's largest operations group with 18 operations locations in five countries around the globe executing real-time space superiority, space surveillance, missile warning, missile defense, airfield and weather operations, and worldwide intelligence support.

EDUCATION

- 1998 Bachelor of Science, Space Operations, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado
- 1999 Undergraduate Space and Missile Training and BMEWS Initial Qualification Training, Vandenberg AFB, California
- 2000 Minuteman III Initial Qualification Training, Vandenberg AFB, California
- 2003 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama
- 2005 Space Weapons Instructor Course, USAF Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nevada
- 2007 Master of Science, International Relations, Troy University, Troy, Alabama
- 2010 Master of Science, Leadership and Joint Campaign Planning Joint Advanced Warfighting School, Norfolk, Virginia
- 2017 Master of Arts, National Security and Strategic Studies, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1998–January 1999, Ast. Executive Officer, Directorate of Operations, 14th Air Force, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
2. January 1999–May 1999, Student, Undergraduate Space/Missile Training, 381st Training Group, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
3. May 1999–May 2000, Crew Commander and Instructor, 13th Space Warning Squadron, Clear AFS, Alaska
4. May 2000–August 2000, Student, ICBM Initial Qualification Training, 381st Training Group, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
5. August 2000–August 2003, Flight Commander and Evaluator, 741st Missile Squadron, Minot AFB, North Dakota
6. September 2003–January 2006, ICBM Test Operations Officer, 576th Flight Test Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
7. July 2005–December 2005, Student, Space Weapons Instructor Course, USAF Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nevada
8. February 2006–June 2009, Chief of Space Operations, Executive Officer, and Chief of Forces, 609th Air Operations Group, 9th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Central Command, Shaw AFB, South Carolina (January 2008–May 2008, Weapons Officer, Director of Space Forces, Air Forces Central Command, Al Udeid AB, Qatar)
9. July 2009–July 2010, Student, Joint Advanced Warfighting School, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia
10. July 2010–July 2012, Chief, Ops & Plans Branch, Deputy Directorate for Global Operations, Joint Staff, Pentagon, Virginia
11. July 2012–June 2013, Deputy Chief, Combat Operations Division, Joint Space Operations Center and 614th Air Operations Center, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
12. June 2013–February 2015, Commander, 3d Space Experimentation Squadron, Schriever AFB, Colorado
13. February 2015–May 2016, Executive Officer to the Commander, Joint Functional Component Command-Space and 14th Air Force (Air Forces Strategic), Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
14. June 2016–June 2017, Student, College of Naval Warfare, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island
15. June 2017–June 2018, Chief, Eurasia-America Operations Division, Checkmate, Headquarters USAF, Pentagon, Virginia
16. July 2018–April 2019, Chief, Programs Division, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colorado
17. May 2019–July 2020, Commander, 21st Operations Group, 21st Space Wing, Peterson AFB, Colorado
18. July 2020–Present, Commander, Space Delta 2, Space Operations Command, Peterson-Schriever Garrison, Colorado

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Achievement Medal

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

1999 Distinguished Graduate, Undergraduate Space and Missile Training, Vandenberg AFB, California
2005 Distinguished Graduate, Space Weapons Instructor Course, USAF Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nevada
2010 Association of the U.S. Army Writing Award for Best Thesis on Land Warfare in a Joint Environment, Norfolk, Virginia
2015 Air Force Space Command nominee for the Colonel James Jabara Award for Airmanship
2017 Distinguished Graduate, College of Naval Warfare, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island
2017 General George C. Kenney Award for Writing on the Topic of Air Power, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant	May 27, 1998
First Lieutenant	May 27, 2000
Captain	May 27, 2002
Major	November 1, 2007
Lieutenant Colonel	October 1, 2012
Colonel	January 1, 2019

(Current as of July 2020)