



RSSC

Regional Satellite Communications Support Centers



RSSCs provide premier SATCOM planning, engineering, and satellite payload management for all SATCOM systems

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command serves as the Army Service Component Command to U.S. Strategic Command. USASMD/ARSTRAT is charged by USSTRATCOM to operate four Regional Satellite Communications Support Centers providing premier satellite communication, or SATCOM, planning, engineering, and satellite payload management for all SATCOM systems to all combatant commands, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Department of Defense and non-DoD agencies, departments, and coalition or international partners. The RSSCs are geographically dispersed multi-service organizations with USASMD/ARSTRAT leadership combining the efforts of personnel assigned from all of USSTRATCOM's service components commands (Army, Navy, Air Force) and the Defense Information Systems Agency.

- Combine SATCOM experts from Army, Navy, Air Force, and DISA
- Provide 24/7 SATCOM resource planning, management and monitoring
- Provide systems engineering, modeling, and coordination of SATCOM asset sharing
- Provide direct support for:
 - Deliberate and crisis planning
 - Theater and global SATCOM
 - Restoration planning/support
- Ensure impartial SATCOM use based upon operational priority

Satellite communications, or SATCOM, provide critically required connectivity to the Department of Defense, coalition partners, and other U.S. government activities (diplomatic, humanitarian, etc.) in zones where the communications infrastructure can be destroyed, degraded, or is simply not present.

Every military operational function – mission command, fire support, logistics, maneuver, intelligence and more – relies on SATCOM to provide beyond-line-of-sight communications capability.

In the early years of military SATCOM, or MILSATCOM, highly stove-piped organizations and systems made up the SATCOM enterprise across the various DoD services and agencies, which resulted in users having to work with as many as 42 different sites to receive SATCOM services. In the early 1990s under Title X, the U.S. Space Command, or USSPACECOM, created the Regional Space Support Centers to consolidate MILSATCOM Services.

USSPACECOM combined the expertise from all its service components commands and DISA together into four geographically dispersed 'multi-service' centers to provide 24/7 optimized SATCOM support to combatant commands and other users. USSPACECOM's Army Service Component Command (U.S. Army Space Command) was assigned the mission to manage these multi-service centers to provide priority-based MILSATCOM Support. The USSPACECOM and U.S. Strategic Command merger continued this highly successful initiative with the newly merged U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command retaining management responsibility of the RSSCs, now renamed Regional SATCOM Support Centers. Currently the RSSCs are RSSC East at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida; RSSC West at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado; RSSC Europe at Patch Barracks, Germany; and RSSC Pacific at Wheeler Army Air Field, Hawaii.

Support to the Warfighter

Currently, every DoD SATCOM system is undergoing significant changes as legacy SATCOM systems are in varying phases of retirement and replacement. These new systems incorporate significant technology advancements providing dramatic improvement in capacity and flexibility, but at the cost of increases in planning, management, access and control. The RSSCs make these transitions to and operation of the next generation SATCOM systems as transparent as possible to the Warfighters. The RSSCs are the 'face-to-the-user' planning and managing their SATCOM missions while providing straight-forward answers for the highly complex SATCOM arena.

RSSC Team and SATCOM Systems Managed

The U.S. Air Force Space Command provides experts for the RSSCs Extremely High Frequency, or EHF, cells or protected band. They provide support to users requiring assured communications in almost any environment for military EHF systems that include Milstar; Advance EHF, or AEHF; Ultra High Frequency Follow-on EHF, or UFO/E; Ultra High Frequency Follow-on Enhanced EHF, or UFO/EE; Interim Polar System, and the future Enhanced Polar System. RSSCs support the United Kingdom,

Canada, and the Netherlands, who are full international partners on AEHF.

The U.S. Naval Network Warfare Command provides experts for the RSSCs Legacy UHF cells, part of narrowband SATCOM. They provide support to users for military Ultra High Frequency systems, which include the legacy 5kHz and 25kHz channels on the UFO and fleet SATCOM satellites. These systems provide SATCOM capability primarily to highly mobile, low data rate tactical users. RSSC support includes Great Britain and Australia as international partners sharing resources on their Skynet and Optus satellite for legacy UHF.

USASMD/ARSTRAT staffs the RSSCs UHF cells with experts for the next generation of Narrowband SATCOM currently being deployed called Mobile User Objective System, or MUOS. This next generation capability transforms the very straightforward legacy UHF SATCOM by using Wideband Code Division Multiple Access techniques to create a capability very similar to today's highly mobile and fully networked cell phones with a global reach.

USASMD/ARSTRAT also provides experts for Wideband SATCOM SHF cells. Wideband SATCOM provides higher data rate satellite communications to deployed and fixed forces globally. Wideband satellite systems are the aging Defense Satellite Communications System, or DSCS, and the newer more robust Wideband Global SATCOM, or WGS, satellites. International partnerships in the wideband arena include Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Denmark and Luxembourg.

DISA staffs the commercial SATCOM cells with commercial SATCOM system experts. They are the face to the military customer helping them procure, configure, and allocate commercial SATCOM bandwidth and services in any SATCOM spectrum commercially available. This includes fixed satellite services, mobile satellite services (primarily iridium landing at the DoD gateway), and Inmarsat.



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