
Colonel Todd J. Benson

United States Space Force



Colonel Todd J. Benson is the Director of Strategy, Futures, and Requirements [S5] at Headquarters United States Space Force. As the Director, Colonel Benson is responsible for the creation and coordination of all United States Space Force strategy, policy, international partnerships, requirements, and future concepts. Additionally, he is responsible for the integration of joint space requirements across the entire Department of Defense to include all branches of the Armed Forces and Combatant Commands.

Prior to this assignment, Colonel Benson was the Group Commander and inaugural Delta 21 Commander, Aerospace Data Facility East for the National Reconnaissance Office. He directed the operations of an 1800+ member Joint Department of Defense and inter-agency satellite ground station, responsible for 24/7 global mission operations in support of the National Command Authorities, CJCS, and Combatant Commands with time sensitive intelligence data.

Col Benson deployed forward as the Director of Space Forces (DIRSPACEFOR) for Air Forces Central (AFCENT) during OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE and FREEDOM'S SENTINAL where he led the first-ever deployed Space Force Guardians in the employment of all space capabilities across the entire United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) area of responsibility. Col Benson also deployed during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM with US Forces-Iraq (USF-I) supporting the Combined Intelligence Operations Center (CIOC).

Previously, Colonel Benson commanded the 2d Space Operations Squadron at Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado. As the commander, he was responsible for more than 120 military and civilian personnel operating the Global Positioning System (GPS), the DoD's largest military satellite constellation valued at nearly \$3.6 billion.

Col Benson's previous staff experience includes assignments to the Joint Staff [J-5], Air Force Space Command [A5], and time as an instructor and coach at the USAF Academy. During his assignment to the Joint Staff, Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate [J-5], Col Benson was the Division Chief for Space and Missile Defense, where he developed Interagency and Department of Defense-level guidance, strategies, and policy. In 2019, Col Benson led the Department of Defense's efforts to create United States Space Command and was the Joint Staff lead for establishing the United States Space Force.

Colonel Benson was commissioned through the United States Air Force Academy and has operational experience in both space and ICBM systems.

EDUCATION:

- 1999 Bachelor of Science degree w/minor in the Arabic Language, United States Air Force Academy
- 2003 Masters of Science in Aeronautical Science w/honors, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
- 2004 Squadron Officers School, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2013 Distinguished Graduate, Air Command & Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2013 Masters of Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command & Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2013 Air War College, by correspondence
- 2017 National Security Fellow, JFK School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- 2019 Joint Professional Military Education II Course, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA



ASSIGNMENTS:

Aug 99 – Jul 00 Assistant Coach (Rifle Tm) & Physical Education Instructor (Boxing/SCUBA), AF Academy, CO
Jul 00 – Apr 01 Student, ICBM Initial Qualification Training, Vandenberg AFB, California
Apr 01 – May 05 Multiple positions culminating as ICBM Senior Instructor Crew Commander, 90th Space Wing, FE Warren AFB, Wyoming
May 05 – Mar 07 SBIRS Flight Commander, 2d Space Warning Squadron, Buckley AFB, Colorado
Mar 07 – Jun 08 Executive Officer, 460th Space Wing, Buckley AFB, Colorado
Jun 08 – Jun 10 Multiple positions culminating as Chief Mission Ops Branch, Buckley AFB, Colorado
Jul 10 – Feb 11 Chief Missile Warning Space Section, Directorate of Requirements, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colorado
Mar 11 – Jun 12 Executive Officer to the Director of Requirements, HQ AFSPC
Jul 12 – Jun 13 Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
Jul 13 – Jun 14 Director of Operations, Space Operations Squadron, Aerospace Data Facility Southwest
Jul 14 – Jun 16 Commander, 2d Space Operations Squadron, Schriever AFB, CO
Jul 16 – Jul 17 National Security Fellow, JFK School of Government, Harvard University
Jul 17 – Jul 19 Division Chief for Space and Missile Defense Policy, Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate [J-5], The Joint Staff, The Pentagon, Washington D.C.
Jun 20 – Dec 20 Director of Space Forces, AFCENT, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar
Jul 19 – Jul 21 Commander, Delta 21, Aerospace Data Facility East, Fort Belvoir, VA
Jul 21 – Mar 24 Director of Requirements, United States Space Force, The Pentagon, Washington D.C.
Mar 24 – Present Director of Strategy, Futures, and Requirements [S5], United States Space Force, The Pentagon

SUMMARY OF JOINT/COALITION ASSIGNMENTS

Jul 17 – Jul 19 Chief of the Space and Missile Defense Policy Division, Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate (J5), The Joint Staff, The Pentagon, Washington D.C.
Jun 20 – Dec 20 Director of Space Forces, AFCENT, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Defense Superior Service Medal
Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal
Combat Readiness Medal
National Defense Service Medal
Iraq Campaign Medal with bronze star device
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal
Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal
Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant 2 June 1999
First Lieutenant 2 June 2001
Captain 2 June 2003
Major 1 January 2009
Lieutenant Colonel 1 November 2013
Colonel 1 March 2019

