



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT SUSAN E. SPARKS

Chief Master Sergeant Susan E. Sparks is the Senior Enlisted Leader for Space Launch Delta 45 at Patrick Space Force Base and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida. She advises the SLD 45 commander on matters concerning the morale, welfare, utilization and training of enlisted members for the Delta and over 70 tenant units in multiple operating sites. The Delta is responsible for the processing and launch of government and commercial satellites. Additionally, the Delta provides final approval authority for all launches on the 15-million square mile Eastern Range. The Delta also manages launch and range infrastructure supporting space launch and missile test operations assuring America's access to space.



CMSgt Sparks grew up in Durham, North Carolina and entered the Air Force in 1994. She has served within United States Strategic Command, United States Space Command, Air Force Space Command and Air Combat Command. Her background includes various duties in both the space operations and the electronic systems career field. She has been stationed at locations in District of Columbia, Colorado, California, South Carolina, Greenland and deployed in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. During her career, Chief Sparks has built extensive leadership experience by holding positions at squadron, group, wing, Delta and MAJCOM levels as well as Joint and Combatant Command assignments. Her experience spans several mission areas to include space-based and ground-based missile warning, missile defense, command and control, space control operations, acquisitions, MAJCOM functional manager and Air Operations Center positions.

EDUCATION

1999 Airman Leadership School, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado
2005 Space 200, National Security Space Institute, Air University, Colorado Springs, CO
2006 Advanced Missile Warning and Missile Defense, National Security Space Institute, Air University, Colorado Springs, CO
2007 Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado
2007 Associates Degree in Space Technology, Community College of the Air Force (CCAF)
2007 Associates Degree in Electronic Systems Technology, CCAF
2008 Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems, Colorado Christian University
2011 Professional Managers Certification, CCAF
2012 Space 300, National Security Space Institute, Air University, Colorado Springs, CO
2012 Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education Course, National Defense University
2014 Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Maxwell AFB, AL
2021 USAF Enterprise Leadership Seminar, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
2021 Senior Enlisted Legal Orientation Course, Maxwell AFB, AL

ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 1994 - August 1994, Student, Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB, TX
2. August 1994 - April 1995, Student, Technical Training School, Keesler AFB, MS
3. April 1995 - June 1998, Electronic Computer-Switching Systems Apprentice, 20th Communications Sq, Shaw AFB, SC
4. June 1998 – June 2002, Crew Chief, Training; 11th Space Warning Sq, Schriever AFB, CO

5. June 2002 - January 2004, Systems Network Analyst Admin, 527th Space Aggressor Sq, Schriever AFB, CO
6. January 2004 – January 2005, Standardization and Evaluations Specialist, 12th Space Warning Sq., Thule AB, Greenland
7. Jan 2005 – February 2006, NCOIC, Standardization and Evaluations, 21st Space Wing, Wing Operations Center, Peterson AFB, CO
8. February 2006 – June 2007, Squadron Operations Superintendent, 16th Space Control Sq, Peterson AFB, CO
9. June 2007 – June 2009, NCOIC, Space Control Programs, 21st Space Wing, Plans and Programs, Peterson AFB, CO
10. June 2009 – August 2012, Manager, Operations Center, Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense (JFCC-IMD), Schriever AFB, CO
11. August 2012 – June 2016, Superintendent, 614th Air Operations Center, Operations Support Division, Vandenberg AFB, CA
12. June 2016 – September 2018, Manager, Special Access Programs, Directorate of Financial Management, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, CO
13. September 2018 – June 2019, Squadron Superintendent, 1st Space Operations Squadron, Schriever AFB, CO
14. June 2019 – November 2019, Squadron Superintendent, 4th Space Control Squadron, Peterson AFB, CO
15. November 2019 – July 2020, Superintendent, 21st Operations Group, Peterson AFB, CO
16. July 2020 – March 2021, Senior Enlisted Leader, Space Delta 2, Space Operations Command, Peterson AFB, Colorado
17. March 2021 – May 2022, Special Advisor to the Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force, Headquarters, Space Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
18. May 2022 - Present , Senior Enlisted Leader Space Launch Delta 45, Patrick Space Force Base, Florida

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Air Force Legion of Merit
 Defense Meritorious Service Medal
 Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster
 Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters
 Joint Service Achievement Medal
 Air Force Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters
 National Defense Service Medal with small bronze star
 Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal with gold border
 Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
 Air and Space Campaign Medal
 Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2000 Air Force Space Command Crew Member Excellence Award
 2001 11 SWS Guardian Challenge Team Crew Chief
 2007 21 OG Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council Outstanding Military Representative
 2010 JFCC-IMD NCO Year/USSTRATCOM 12 OAY Nominee
 2011 JFCC-IMD SNCO Year/ USSTRATCOM 12 OAY Nominee
 2011 JFCC-IMD Mil Affairs Council Outstanding Military Representative
 2012 Joint Space Operations Center, Enlisted Space Operator of the Year
 2013 61th AOC, Senior Enlisted Space Operator of the Year
 2015 AFSPC Selection for CSAF America's Airmen Booth for the AFA Air and Space Conference
 2017 HQ AFSPC FM, Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year

EFFECTIVE DATE OF PROMOTION

Chief Master Sergeant 1 April 2019

(Current as of Jan 2023)