



# BIOGRAPHY

**UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE**

## **WILLIAM P. THOMPSON**

William P. “Pell” Thompson is the Chief of Staff, U.S. Space Forces—Space, U.S. Space Force. He is responsible for ensuring effective and efficient staff operations across all levels of the command. This includes Headquarters Staff, Task Forces, and operational control of five Joint Centers, and approximately 50 subordinate units from the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Space Force. The command’s mission is to deliver combat-relevant space capabilities to Combatant Commanders, Coalition partners, the Joint Force, and the nation.

Thompson is from Pahokee, Fla., and received his commission after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., in 1990. He has served in a variety of disciplines including missile and space operations, as well as headquarters staff and leadership positions. His operational experience includes commanding Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and controlling Milstar satellites during launch, early orbit checkout, and anomaly resolution. Thompson is a graduate and former instructor of the U.S. Air Force Weapons School. His civilian service experience includes support to the operational planning team that established the Combined Force Space Component Command when U.S. Space Command stood up. He also led the establishment of S4S, the component field command whose standup was directed by the Chief of Space Operations.



## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

- 1990 Undergraduate Degree, Bachelor of Science (Biology), U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.
- 1990 Undergraduate Missile Training (ILCS-108), AETC, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
- 1993 Missile Academic Instructor Course, AETC, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
- 1995 Master’s Degree (Aeronautical Science), Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Mont.
- 1995 Missile-to-Space Transition Course, AETC, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
- 1995 Milstar SGLS Initial Qualification Training, AETC, Falcon AFS, Colo.
- 1997 Squadron Officer School (Distinguished Graduate), AETC, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1999 Weapons Instructor Course, Space Division, USAF Weapons School, ACC, Nellis AFB, Nev.
- 2004 Master’s Degree, Military Operational Arts & Science, ACSC, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2008 Air War College (correspondence), AETC

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. December 1990 – May 1995, Missile Combat Crew Commander, Senior Instructor, 12th Missile Squadron and 341st Operations Support Squadron, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.
2. May 1995 – June 1995, Student, Missile to Space Transition Course, 392nd Training Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
3. June 1995 – January 1997, Flight Commander, Milstar Satellite Operations, 3rd Space Operations Squadron, Falcon AFB, Colo.
4. January 1997 – January 1998, Flight Commander, Milstar Satellite Operations, 4th Space Operations Squadron, Schriever AFB, Colo.
5. January 1998 – December 1998, Executive Officer, 50th Space Wing, Schriever AFB, Colo.
6. June 1999 – August 2001, Weapons & Tactics Instructor, Assistant Operations Officer, Space Division, USAF Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nev.
7. August 2001 – July 2003, Space Weapons Officer, Advanced Programs Division, Requirements Directorate, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va.
8. July 2003 – June 2004, Student, Air Command & Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
9. June 2004 – June 2005, Division Chief, Air Force Doctrine Center, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
10. June 2005 – December 2005, Operations Officer, 2nd Range Ops Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
11. December 2005 – December 2006, Operations Officer, 30th Ops Support Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
12. January 2007 – July 2008, Command Post Chief, 30th Space Wing, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
13. July 2008 – July 2009, Chief, Stan/Eval Division, 14th Air Force, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
14. August 2009 – July 2011, Commander, Detachment 1, Space Warfare Center, Nellis AFB, Nev.
15. August 2011 – Nov 2013, Chief, Exercises & Training Division, Joint Functional Component Command for Space, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
16. December 2013 – Nov 2017, Analyst, Deputy Division Chief, Future Operations Directorate, Joint Functional Component Command for Space, USSTRATCOM, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
17. December 2017 – October 2019, Analyst, Deputy Division Chief, Future Operations Directorate, Joint Force Space Component Command, USSTRATCOM, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
18. October 2019 – June 2020, Analyst, Deputy Division Chief, Future Operations Directorate, Combined Force Space Component Command, USSPACECOM, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.
19. June 2020 – August 2024, Deputy Chief of Staff, Combined Force Space Component Command, USSPACECOM, Vandenberg SFB, Calif.
20. December 2023 – August 2024, Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Space Forces—Space, Vandenberg SFB, Calif.
21. August 2024 – present, Chief of Staff, U.S. Space Forces—Space, Vandenberg SFB, Calif.

## **MILITARY AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters

Joint Civilian Service Commendation Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

Combat Readiness Medal

National Defense Service Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Master Space Operations Badge

Senior Missile Operations Badge

Current as of 08/18/2025