

vehicle using residual Minuteman II first and second stages in combination with the upper two stages shared with Orbital's Pegasus XL and Taurus XL commercial space launch vehicles.

Besides the Air Force's SDTW and AFRL, other mission participants include NASA and the Hawk Institute in Pocomoke City, Maryland.

"The TacSat Program is a stepping stone for delivering operationally relevant space capabilities to the Joint Force Commander, not to mention inserting mature technology that supports national security interests," said Dr. Peter Wegner, Director, Operationally Responsive Space Office. The ORS end state of delivering capabilities in days to weeks, will rely on the continued innovation of the national labs, industry, and other government entities."

"The combined efforts of all agencies involved ensure we're able to provide assured access to space for the Department of Defense research, development, testing and evaluation community with the cutting-edge design, acquisition, launch and operation of one-of-a-kind space and missile missions like this one," said Col. Handy.

Information about the TacSat-3/Minotaur 1 mission is available from the following sources:

NASA Wallops web site - <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/events/index.html>

(Note: Media representatives attending the launch at Wallops Island will have WiFi access at the launch viewing site and the NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor's Center.)

AFRL web site – www.afri.af.mil

Orbital Sciences Corporation web site - www.orbital.com

Space and Missile Systems Center web site - www.losangeles.af.mil

Air Force Space Command web site – www.afspc.af.mil