

The U.S. Army and the U.S. Space Force

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The U.S. Space Force (USSF) was established on 20 December 2019 as a military service within the Department of the Air Force. According to the *National Defense Authorization Act*, it is to be organized to provide freedom of operation for the United States in, from and to space and to provide prompt and sustained space operations.* This is a vital mission and must remain its focus.

Standing up the new service will not be simple. There are several important tasks that need to be accomplished:

- The service headquarters must be organized and staffed;
- its place within the Department of the Air Force and DoD must be established;
- it must be physically located and set up in the Pentagon;
- its roles and missions must be determined;
- operating procedures and systems must be put in place and integrated into the battle rhythm that is required to sustain the force; and
- it must be prepared to accept those space and space-related capabilities that need to transfer in from the other services.

Selecting General John Raymond as the first Chief of Space Operations (CSO) was an excellent decision for the new service. He brings the senior level experience, expertise, intellect, leadership and strength of character that is required for the position.

■ Army Equities in Space

As the establishment of the USSF moves forward, the temptation for overreach must be avoided. It is critical to identify specific space and space-related capabilities to be transferred to the USSF; it is equally important to determine which capabilities should remain with their respective

ISSUE

It is critical to determine both the specific space-related service capabilities to be transferred to the U.S. Space Force (USSF) as well as those capabilities that should remain with their respective services. Just because a capability currently has “Space” in its title does not mean that it should necessarily transfer to the USSF.

SPOTLIGHT SCOPE

- Describes U.S. Army equities in space.
- Proposes principles to guide the way forward in identifying specific service capabilities to be transferred to the USSF and which should remain with their respective service.

IMPLICATIONS

- The starting point of the analysis is how the USSF provides capabilities and how U.S. Space Command (USSPACECOM) will employ those capabilities through its functional and service component commands.
- Army retention of the right mix of experienced, space-qualified Soldiers to perform essential space-related functions is as important to the Army as it is to the USSF.

* U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, *FY2020 NDAA Summary*, 17 December 2019, 14, https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/FY20%20NDAA%20Conference%20Summary%20_%20FINAL.pdf.

service—in this case, with the U.S. Army. This must be the result of a disciplined and thorough process to ensure that it is done correctly. **The purpose of this paper is to suggest three principles to guide the way forward in identifying these capabilities.**

The Army has a vested interest in the substantial decisions at stake. To be sure, operations conducted primarily on the ground will be multi-domain in scope. General John Hyten, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has often said that “There’s no such thing as war in space, just war.” He is correct; war is fought in all domains, and all services are heavily dependent on space and space capabilities. **The Army is the largest user of space capabilities in DoD.** Major weapon systems; communications; command and control (C2); intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR); missile warning and missile defense; geospatial analysis; positioning, navigation and timing (PNT); and friendly force tracking are among the most prevalent capabilities that are dependent upon space. In the average brigade combat team (BCT), there are nearly 3,000 items that are space-enabled.

To implement the 2018 *National Defense Strategy*, the Army has shifted its focus back to large-scale ground combat operations. These operations will employ ground combat formations commanded at the division and corps levels with an increasing demand for space and space-related capabilities. The multi-domain concept places an ever-growing demand for these capabilities at the theater level with formations like the Multi-Domain Task Force. All require direct access to space and space-related capabilities to be employed by ground commanders.

Moreover, because space and space-related capabilities are now integral to how the Army fights, considerations for how to access and employ them must be fully integrated into its doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leader development and education, personnel and facilities (DOTMLPF). All of this requires that the Army retain the right mix of experienced, space-qualified Soldiers to perform these essential and ongoing functions. Consequently, getting this right is as important to the Army as it is to the USSF.

Principles to Identify the Capabilities to be Transferred to the USSF

Principle 1 – Roles and Missions: *The identification of those space capabilities to be transferred to the USSF, and those space-related capabilities to be retained in the Army and other services, must follow a thorough and careful analysis of USSF roles and missions.*

Congress must require and the DoD must determine and clearly articulate the roles and missions of the USSF with respect to all of the armed services. This determination should establish how the USSF, as a Title 10 service provider, would support the emerging joint warfighting construct and provide capabilities to USSPACECOM and to each of the other combatant



Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTAGS) D Detachment Soldiers assigned to Misawa Air Base in Northern Japan undergo certification to remain current on their early warning, theater ballistic missile defense mission. JTAGS receives infrared data directly from satellites, and the Soldiers process that data from the sensors to alert U.S. and allied commanders in their assigned theaters (U.S. Army photo by Robert S. Segin).

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commands (COCOMs)—all of which depend on space and space-related capabilities. This would clarify the role and mission of USSPACECOM and identify gaps and redundancies between the space service and the COCOMs. How the USSF provides capabilities and how USSPACECOM will employ those capabilities through its functional and service component commands becomes the starting point of the analysis. Once this is established, the decisions on which capabilities should be transferred to the USSF and which should be retained by Army and other services can best be made.

Principle 2 – Readiness: *The transfer of space and space-related capabilities and personnel must optimize strategic, operational and tactical readiness of the Space Force and of the warfighting units in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.*

The USSF was established to provide a Title 10 headquarters focused on organizing, training and equipping the force needed to protect and defend U.S. interests in space and to conduct space operations. In this way, the USSF will contribute to the strategic readiness of the force. This should be its focus—and, it should be noted, this is a full-time job.

The USSF was not created to conduct operations on the ground, in the air, at sea or in cyberspace. Those operations are conducted by combatant commands with capabilities provided by service components from the Army, the Air Force, the Navy, the Marine Corps and now from the Space Force. Operational and tactical units from the services depend on space-based capabilities and space expertise. To access these space capabilities, to optimize their employment in their primary domain—ground, air, maritime, cyber—and to ensure operational and tactical mission readiness, services must retain the space-enabled capabilities and expertise that have been developed over the past two decades. Organic to the Army, this includes, among other capabilities, the cohort of Functional Area 40 space officers and space teams whose primary purpose is to enable a ground commander to access and employ those space capabilities. As experienced Soldiers, they understand Army operations and they provide the resident knowledge, expertise and experience necessary to ensure that the space capabilities provided by the USSF can be fully integrated into tactical, multi-domain operations (MDO).

As a guiding rule, if a capability operates in space, or is required to protect and defend assets in space, it is appropriate for transfer to the USSF. On the other hand, if the capability or expertise enables an operational or tactical commander to access and employ space capabilities in order to conduct operations on the ground, it should be appropriately retained in the Army.

Principle 3 – Take care of people: *The transfer of personnel and capabilities from the services outside of the Department of the Air Force should be considered once the USSF has the capability to recruit, commission, promote, manage, retain and separate its servicemembers.*

Establishing the USSF as a service within the Department of the Air Force will jumpstart the USSF as it develops policies and procedures to



U.S. Army Major Benjamin Eastep, team leader of Army Space Support Team 21, 117th Space Battalion, Colorado Army National Guard, directs team level training with U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Alexis Madrigal and U.S. Army Sergeant Bruce Conrad in preparation for their upcoming deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Army Space support teams provide essential space imagery and intelligence products, analysis and advice to division operations domestically and in support of contingency operations worldwide (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sergeant Zachary Sheeley).

ARMY CAPABILITIES DEPENDENT ON SPACE

- Major weapon systems;
 - communications;
 - C2;
 - ISR;
 - missile warning and defense;
 - geospatial analysis;
 - PNT; and
 - friendly force tracking.
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properly manage and care for its servicemembers. The USSF is taking its first steps toward commissioning, transitioning and recruiting people into the new service. It has: commissioned its first cohort of lieutenants from the U.S. Air Force Academy; is accepting inter-service transfers from the U.S. Air Force; and has recently launched its first recruiting video. This is all good. However, as stated above, Soldiers should be transferred to the USSF, voluntarily or involuntarily, after it has established the processes and systems to recruit, commission, promote, manage, retain and separate its servicemembers. Conversely, the Army and the other services must demonstrate that they remain committed to properly recognizing and managing those space Soldiers who remain in their ranks.

Taking care of Soldiers is an underlying priority for the Army. Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy and Chief of Staff of the Army General James McConville have placed managing talent and caring for Soldiers and families front and center in today's Army. General McConville has said that putting people first is a philosophy—this philosophy should guide the transfer of Soldiers to the USSF, caring for Soldiers and Families today and ensuring the long-term viability of the force for tomorrow.

■ Conclusion

There are high expectations that the establishment of the USSF will ensure the strategic readiness of the nation, protecting and defending critical assets in space to ensure that these capabilities are available to be employed in MDO on the ground, in the air and at sea. It is vitally important that we get it right. The right space capabilities must be transferred from the services to the USSF, with the expectation that the USSF will continue to fully meet the services' operational requirements that rely on those capabilities. And, the right space-related capabilities must be retained in the services: to properly align roles and missions; to optimize the strategic, operational and tactical readiness of the force; and to take care of our people. The three principles discussed here are offered to guide the way forward so that the Space Force is established with the capabilities it needs to accomplish its mission and so that the right capabilities are retained in the services, enabling them to accomplish their missions.



Lieutenant General Richard P. Formica retired from the Army in 2013 after more than 36 years of active service. His general officer assignments included Director, Force Management, Headquarters, Department of the Army; Commanding General, III (U.S.) Corps Artillery; Commanding General Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan; and Commanding General, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. Currently, he is the Vice President of Strategic Initiatives for CALIBRE Systems in Alexandria, Virginia.



Soldiers of Company C, 53rd Signal Battalion man the Wideband Satellite Communications Operations Center in Landstuhl, Germany (U.S. Army photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT).

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