



Defense Orientation Conference Association

Live: Virtual Conference

CONFERENCE READ AHEAD

Friday, October 9th, 2020

8:00AM to Noon PDT via Microsoft TEAMS

U.S. Space Force: An Update on Our Newest Service

The Air Force established the Air Force Space Command (AFSPC), in 1982. Space operations were AFSPC's primary mission. During this Cold War-era, space operations focused on missile warning, launch operations, satellite control, space surveillance and command and control for national leadership. Nine years later, Operation *Desert Storm* validated the command's support of the warfighter using GPS to enable the flanking attack against Iraqi forces. This win showcased the value of space-based capabilities.

In the aftermath of the 9/11 attack, President Bush directed military action in Afghanistan and surrounding areas, and the AFSPC provided extensive space-based support to the U.S. Central Command commander in areas of communications; positioning, navigation, and timing; meteorology; and warning. In 2005, the Air Force Space Command expanded its mission areas to include cyberspace, but in 2018, the Air Force cyber mission transferred to Air Combat Command (ACC). This generated a more unified integrated Information Warfare capability for ACC and allowed the AFSPC to focus on gaining and maintaining space superiority and outpacing our adversaries in the space domain.

Today, space-based capabilities have become essential to our security and prosperity. Just like we have branches of the military dedicated to protecting and securing the air, land, and sea, it became apparent that the United States needed a branch to focus on space operations. Unfettered access to space is vital to national defense, for space-based systems are woven into the fabric of everyday life. For this reason, President Trump supported the establishment of the United States Space Force (USSF), the newest branch of the Armed Forces. It was established on December 20, 2019 with enactment of the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.

The mission of the USSF is to organize, train, and equip space forces in order to protect U.S. and allied interests in space and to provide space capabilities to the joint force. USSF responsibilities include developing military space professionals, acquiring military space systems, maturing the military doctrine for space power, and organizing space forces to present to our Combatant Commands." Gen. John W. "Jay" Raymond is the Chief of Space Operations, and as Chief, he serves as the senior uniformed Space Force officer responsible for all organic and assigned space forces serving in the United States and overseas to accomplish the USSF mission. His Senior Enlisted Advisor is Chief Master Sergeant Roger A. Towberman who serves at the highest enlisted level of leadership, and as such, provides direction for the enlisted force and represents their interests, as appropriate, to the American public and to those in all levels of government.

USSF leaders stated they are moving deliberately as they stand up the new service. They are leading their new service members while ensuring the success of ongoing space missions. The staff is focused on establishing a fully functioning headquarters while continuing to execute all assigned responsibilities.

DOCA members will be introduced to the organizational structure of USSF, space operations around the world, and unclassified operations in space. There will be discussion of the multiple challenges (budget needs, headquarters relocation, uniforms, etc.) facing the USSF in 2020. Additionally, DOCA members will learn more about the Department of Defense (DoD) Space Policy that drives all aspects of space management.



Fighting for Space

SPACECOM Calls Out Apparent Russian Space Weapon Test

Rachel S. Cohen, Airforce Magazine (July 23rd, 2020)

Russia continues to test anti-satellite weapons. Such events validate the decision to separate the Space Force from the Air Force, so space-focused service members can better fend off potential orbital threats.

A Sitting Target in Space for Russia's Anti-Satellite Weapons?

Gen. David A. Deptula (Ret), The Hill (August 4th, 2020)

Other countries continue to move to weaponize space. Space is now a warfighting domain.

U.S. Military Eyes a Role in the Great Power Competition for Lunar Resources

Sandra Erwin, Space News (August 20th, 2020)

There is a possibility that China establishes a presence on the moon before the United States and tries to set the international rules of behavior in space.

BREAKING: Space Command Hints at New Capabilities to Counter China, Russia

Jon Harper, National Defense Magazine (August 21st, 2020)

Adversaries can use jammers, ground-based lasers, ground- and space-based kinetic weapons. USSF assures that they have new capabilities to counter.

Challenges Facing Space Force

Space Force Doctrine Raises Questions About Nuclear Missiles

Rachel S. Cohen, Airforce Magazine (August 14th, 2020)

What happens if a missile passes through space on its way to earth? Does USSF own it?

JUST IN: Continuing Resolution Could Hit Space Force Hard

Yasmin Tadjeh, National Defense Magazine (August 20th, 2020)

Fiscal year 2021 resolution could possible freeze funding appropriated for USSF.

Transitioning to Space Force

Born of a Troubled Air Force, Can Space Force Set a New Standard for Diversity and Inclusion?

Dan Boyce, CPR News (August 31st, 2020)

USSF hopes to begin their military branch right, with diversity.

Pentagon Nears Decision on Transferring Army, Navy Systems to Space Force

Rachel S. Cohen, Airforce Magazine (August 20th, 2020)

Army and Navy work to decide which technologies and organizations they will transfer to USSF.

Let the Space Force Define its Own Ranks

Gen. David A. Deptula (Ret), The Hill (August 16th, 2020)

Outsiders work to influence how USSF should move forward.

Air Force Research Laboratory Will Realign, Not Split

Shaun Waterman, Airforce Magazine (August 3rd, 2020)

The Air Force Research Lab chooses to support USSF and its traditional Air Force customers.