

PREDECISIONAL - DELIBERATIVE

Space Policy Directive-4

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE  
THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
THE SECRETARY OF LABOR  
THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE  
THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT  
AND BUDGET  
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS  
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS  
AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY POLICY  
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR HOMELAND  
SECURITY AND COUNTERTERRORISM  
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Establishment of the U.S. Space Force

Section 1. Introduction.

Space is integral to the U.S. way of life, our national security, and modern warfare. Although U.S. space systems have historically maintained a technological advantage over those of our potential adversaries, those potential adversaries are now advancing their space capabilities and actively developing ways to deny our use of space in a crisis or conflict. It is imperative that the United States adapts its national security organizations, policies, doctrine, and capabilities to deter aggression and protect our interests. Towards that end, the Department of Defense will take actions under existing authority to marshal its space resources to deter and counter threats in space, culminating in a legislative proposal to establish a U.S. Space Force as a sixth branch of the U.S. Armed Forces within the Department of the Air Force. This is the first step toward a future military department for national security space. Under this proposal, the U.S. Space Force will organize, train, and equip military space forces of the United States to ensure unfettered access to and freedom to operate in space, and to

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provide vital capabilities to joint and coalition forces in peacetime and across the spectrum of conflict.

Section 2. Definitions. For the purposes of this directive and the legislative proposal directed by section 3, the following definitions shall apply.

- The term "U.S. Space Force" refers to a new branch of the U.S. Armed Forces to be initially organized within the Department of the Air Force. There will be a Chief of Staff of the Space Force who will be a senior military officer in the grade of General or Admiral, and who will be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- The term "Department of the Space Force" refers to a future military department within the Department of Defense that will be responsible for organizing, training, and equipping of the U.S. Space Force.
- The term "U.S. Space Command" refers to a Unified Combatant Command to be established that will be responsible for Joint Force space operations as will be assigned in the Unified Command Plan.

Section 3. Legislative Proposal and Purpose.

The Secretary of Defense shall submit a legislative proposal to the President through the Office of Management and Budget that establishes the U.S. Space Force as a new armed force within the Department of the Air Force.

The legislative proposal would, if enacted, establish the U.S. Space Force to organize, train, and equip forces to provide for U.S. and allied freedom of operation in, from, and to the space domain; to provide independent military options for joint and national leadership; and to enable the lethality and effectiveness of the joint force. The U.S. Space Force should include both combat and combat support functions to enable prompt and sustained offensive and defensive space operations, and joint operations in all domains. The U.S. Space Force shall be organized, trained and equipped to meet the following priorities:

- Protecting the nation's interests in space and the peaceful use of space for all responsible actors;

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- Ensuring unfettered use of space for U.S. national security purposes, the U.S. economy, U.S. persons and partners, and U.S. allies and partners;
- Deterring aggression and defending the nation, U.S. allies, and U.S. interests from hostile acts in and from space;
- Ensuring needed space capabilities are integrated and available to all U.S. Combatant Commands;
- Projecting military power in, from, and to space in support of the nation's interests; and
- Developing, maintaining, and improving a community of professionals focused on the national security demands of the space domain.

Section 4. Scope.

The legislative proposal required by section 3 shall, in addition to the provisions required under section 3, include provisions that would, if enacted:

- Consolidate existing forces and authorities for military space activities, as appropriate and in consultation with Service Secretaries, in order to minimize duplication of effort and eliminate bureaucratic inefficiencies; and
- Not include the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or other non-national security space organizations or missions of the U.S. Government.

The proposed U.S. Space Force should:

- Include the uniformed and civilian personnel conducting and directly supporting space operations from all DoD Armed Forces as determined by the Secretary of Defense;
- Assume responsibilities for all major military space acquisition programs; and
- Create the appropriate career tracks for military and civilian space personnel across all relevant specialties including operations, intelligence, engineering, science, acquisition, and cyber.

Section 5. U.S. Space Force Budget.

In accordance with the Department of Defense budget process, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Director

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of the Office of Management and Budget a proposed budget for the U.S. Space Force to be included in the Fiscal Year 2020 President's Budget Request.

Section 6. U.S. Space Force Organization and Leadership.

The legislative proposal required by Section 3 shall create a civilian Under Secretary for the Space Force appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The legislative proposal shall establish that the senior military leader of the U.S. Space Force shall serve as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Section 7. Associated Elements.

U.S. Space Command. A Unified Combatant Command for space, to be known as the United States Space Command, will be established as directed on December 18, 2018. This command will have all of the responsibilities of a Unified Combatant Command in addition to the space-related responsibilities previously assigned to U.S. Strategic Command. It will also have the responsibilities of the Joint Force Provider and Joint Force training for space operations forces. Moving expeditiously towards a Unified Combatant Command reflects the importance of warfighting in space to the Joint Force. The commander of this command will lead space warfighting through global space operations that may occur in the space domain, the terrestrial domains, or through the electromagnetic spectrum.

With forces provided by the U.S. Space Force and other U.S. Armed Forces, the U.S. Space Command shall ensure unfettered access to and freedom to operate in space and provide vital space effects to joint and coalition forces during peacetime and across the spectrum of conflict.

Section 8. Relationship with National Intelligence.

The Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense shall create and enhance mechanisms for collaboration between the Department of Defense and the Intelligence Community in order to increase unity of effort and the effectiveness of space operations. The Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense shall provide a report to the President within 180 days on steps they have taken and are planning to

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take, including legislative proposals as necessary and appropriate.

Section 9. Operational Authorities.

In order to ensure that the U.S. Space Force and U.S. Space Command have the necessary operational authorities, the National Space Council and the National Security Council shall enable an accelerated review of proposed space operational authorities. The Secretary of Defense shall present proposed relevant authority changes for the President's approval within 90 days. The interagency review shall be completed no later than 60 days from the time the Secretary of Defense presents his proposal.

Section 10. Periodic Review.

As the U.S. Space Force develops and as required for U.S. national security, it will become necessary to create a separate Department of the Space Force in the future. This Department will take over some or all responsibilities for the U.S. Space Force from the Department of the Air Force. The Secretary of Defense will conduct periodic reviews to determine when to recommend that the President seek legislation to establish such a Department.

Section 11. General Provisions.

Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) The authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or
- (ii) The functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law, United States national and homeland security requirements, and subject to the availability of appropriations.

This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

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The Secretary of Defense is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

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