# Briefing Card

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## Space Force

*In concert with President Trump’s vision to ensure American national security is as dominant in space as it is on Earth and in cyberspace, the department is developing a proposal to Congress for the establishment of a U.S. Space Force.*

#### Key Points

**Space is a vital national interest.**

* The United States considers unfettered access to and freedom to operate in space a vital national interest.
* The United States is the best in the world at space and our adversaries know it.
* Space is fundamental to U.S. prosperity and national security, underpinning the U.S. way of life and U.S. way of war.
* The United States harnesses the benefits of space for communications, financial networks, public safety, weather monitoring, navigation, scientific exploration, and more. The use of space has also greatly expanded the capability and capacity of the U.S. military to anticipate threats, to respond rapidly to crises, and to project power globally, at substantially less cost in lives and treasure than in the past.
* Space is critical to the nation’s security, economic prosperity, and scientific knowledge. Our use of space helps keep our country safe and protects lives, and also supports our everyday way of life. Space will continue to serve as a domain of great importance, presenting untapped opportunities for our nation, our allies, and the world.

**Great power competition is the central challenge to U.S. prosperity and security.**

* The reemergence of long-term strategic competition, rapid dispersion of technologies, and new concepts of warfare and competition that span the entire spectrum of conflict require a joint force structured to match this reality.
* For decades, the United States has enjoyed uncontested and dominant superiority in every operating domain. We could generally deploy our forces when we wanted, assemble them where we wanted, and operate how we wanted. Today, every domain is contested—air, land, sea, space and cyberspace.
* We have a strategic approach going forward – through implementation of the National Defense Strategy – space is a priority domain in our approach.
* Space systems enable a more lethal, resilient, and agile joint force to deter or defeat aggression by strategic competitors.

**The character of warfare is changing and the space domain is now threatened just as the air, land, and sea.**

* The department has two broad objectives in space: 1) protect U.S. vital interests; and 2) deploy next-generation capabilities to support the warfighter.
* Our approach is peace through strength. We are focused on ensuring our military remains preeminent, deters our adversaries, and, if necessary, is able to fight and win in any domain, including space.
* Potential adversaries have recognized the joint force’s overwhelming advantage from and dependency on space for modern military operations. China and Russia are actively developing counter-space capabilities to deny the United States the advantages of space in a crisis or conflict.
* China and Russia are also rapidly developing space capabilities to enhance the lethality of their own military operations.
* There is an increased likelihood that the U.S. military will need to defeat the space capabilities of adversary forces in order to prevail in a potential conflict, protect lives, and secure U.S. interests.
* Actions in space will directly contribute to the outcome of future crises or conflicts. A Space Force is a strategic priority to strengthen our ability to compete, deter and win in an evolving security environment.
* It is imperative that the United States adapts its national security organizations, policies, doctrine and capabilities to deter aggression and protect our interests.
* Our current organization of space within the DOD has succeeded in enabling the United States to maintain its position as the most lethal force in the world – however, these structures must adapt with the changing environment.
* The establishment of the U.S. Space Force as the sixth branch of the armed forces reflects the value of space to national security and the need to develop space forces that are prepared to meet emerging security challenges.
* A new combatant command dedicated to space would employ space forces to shape the security environment and respond to crises and conflicts in concert with regional commanders.
* A reinvigorated military space research, development and acquisition enterprise focused on accelerating the delivery of space capabilities will ensure the joint force is able to maintain its strategic advantage necessary for national defense.

Coordinated with:A/SD PAO

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