



UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE

CHRONOLOGY

2019 – 2024

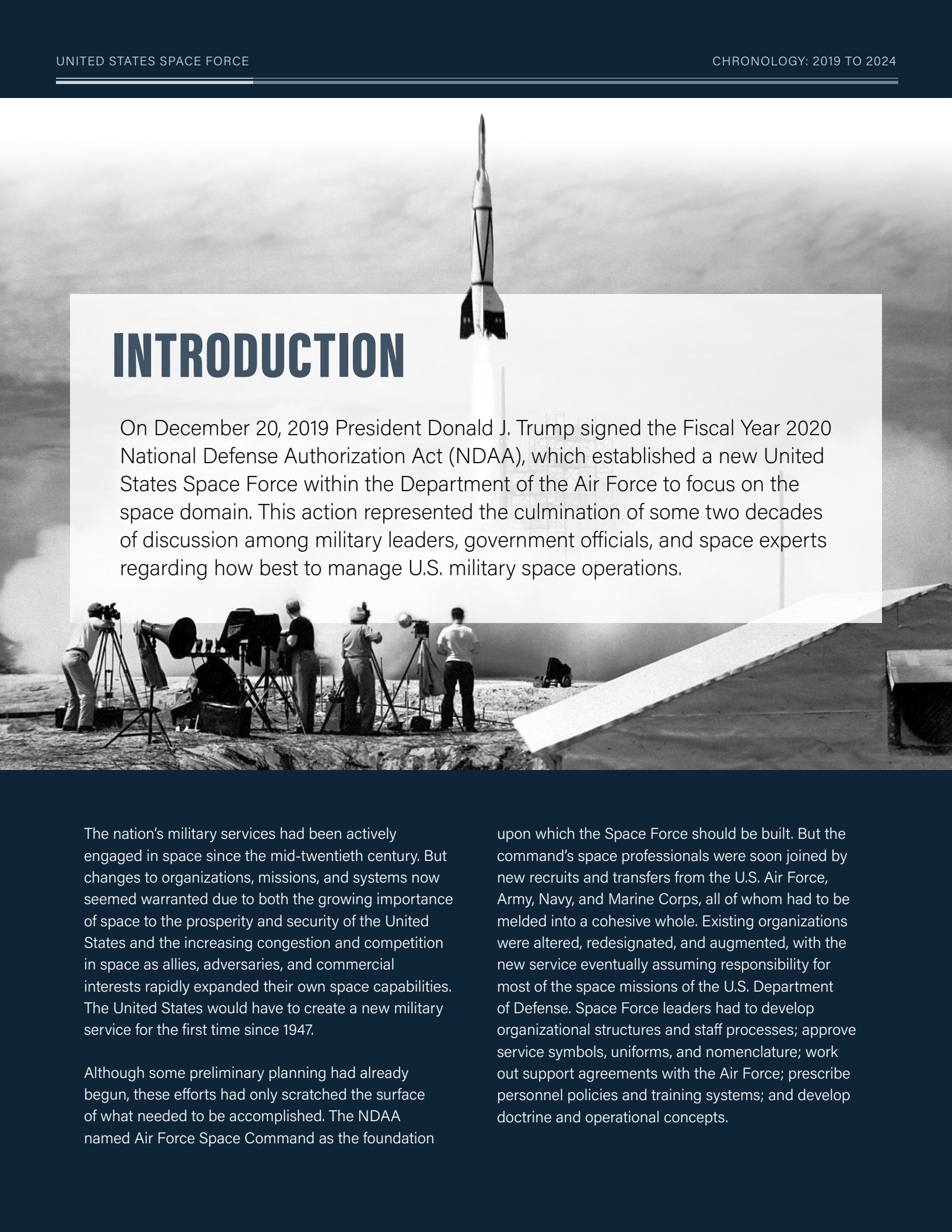


The United States Space Force was established on December 20, 2019 when the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act was signed into law, creating the first new branch of the armed services in 73 years. The establishment of the Space Force resulted from widespread recognition that Space was a national security imperative.



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INTRODUCTION

On December 20, 2019 President Donald J. Trump signed the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which established a new United States Space Force within the Department of the Air Force to focus on the space domain. This action represented the culmination of some two decades of discussion among military leaders, government officials, and space experts regarding how best to manage U.S. military space operations.

The nation's military services had been actively engaged in space since the mid-twentieth century. But changes to organizations, missions, and systems now seemed warranted due to both the growing importance of space to the prosperity and security of the United States and the increasing congestion and competition in space as allies, adversaries, and commercial interests rapidly expanded their own space capabilities. The United States would have to create a new military service for the first time since 1947.

Although some preliminary planning had already begun, these efforts had only scratched the surface of what needed to be accomplished. The NDAA named Air Force Space Command as the foundation

upon which the Space Force should be built. But the command's space professionals were soon joined by new recruits and transfers from the U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, all of whom had to be melded into a cohesive whole. Existing organizations were altered, redesignated, and augmented, with the new service eventually assuming responsibility for most of the space missions of the U.S. Department of Defense. Space Force leaders had to develop organizational structures and staff processes; approve service symbols, uniforms, and nomenclature; work out support agreements with the Air Force; prescribe personnel policies and training systems; and develop doctrine and operational concepts.

With ample input from service members, who were soon known as Guardians, Space Force leaders had to determine what was required for the service to live up to its new mission statement: "to secure our nation's interests in, from and to space." The service, moreover, had to do all of this while tackling a congressional imperative to reform acquisition processes for fielding technologically advanced space systems and not missing a beat executing the many operational tasks the Joint Force and the nation expected it to complete successfully.

As the United States Space Force approaches its fifth birthday, it is clear there have been challenges along the way, and there is still much work yet to be done. But the Space Force also has a record of achievement to inspire confidence as that work proceeds. This chronology helps to tell the story of its first five years. Documenting dozens of key decisions, initiatives, events, and milestones in the administrative, organizational, cultural, and operational history of the young service, it is designed to serve as both a compact history for today and a reference source for the future. While the early years of the Space Force may fade into hazy memory, the events and decisions captured here should help future Guardians to better understand the monumental undertaking the service's founding members faced, as well as the sense of excitement and purpose that often drove them as they laid the groundwork for the United States Space Force.





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2019

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This is an historic moment for our nation. The Department of Defense’s legislative proposal to establish the United States Space Force as the sixth branch of the Armed Forces is **a strategic step towards securing America’s vital national interests in space.** Our approach follows President Trump’s bold vision for space and commits resources to deliver more capability faster, **ensuring the United States can compete, deter, and, if needed, win** in a complex domain.

— *Patrick M. Shanahan, Acting Secretary of Defense*

FEB 19, 2019

President Donald J. Trump issued Space Policy Directive-4 (SPD-4), Establishment of the United States Space Force. This directed the Department of Defense (DOD) to "take actions under existing authority to marshal its space resources to deter and counter threats in space, and to develop a legislative proposal to establish a United States Space Force as a sixth branch of the United States Armed Forces within the Department of the Air Force."

FEB 21, 2019

Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick M. Shanahan directed Secretary of the Air Force Heather A. Wilson to "organize and lead a team of civilian and military subject matter experts from across the DOD to conduct the detailed planning necessary to



Major General Clint Crosier served as the director of the Space Force Planning Task Force.

establish the U.S. Space Force." His memorandum required a plan to be submitted within 30 days.

FEB 22, 2019

In response to Acting Secretary Shanahan's memorandum on space force planning, Secretary Wilson created the Space Force Planning Task Force (SFPTF). She appointed

United States Air Force (USAF) Maj Gen Clinton E. Crosier as the task force director and charged him with devising an Initial Work Plan that outlined the key phases of transition from "Pre-Establishment" to "Full Operational Capability" no later than 22 March 2019. On 1 March, Air Force Space Command established a team to support General Crosier's SFPTF. Known as Task Force Tango, the team was initially led by 50th Space Wing Vice Commander and former NASA astronaut Col Jack D. Fischer.

MAR 1, 2019

The Department of Defense submitted its legislative proposal for the establishment of the U.S. Space Force (USSF) to the U.S. Congress. At the same time, the Department released a strategic overview of the U.S. Space Force.



President Trump speaks during the signing ceremony for the FY2020 NDAA, which established the US Space Force.

APR 11, 2019

The U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing on the proposed creation of the Space Force. Those providing testimony included Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan, Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen Joseph F. Dunford, and Commander, United States Strategic Command, Gen John E. Hyten.

APR 22, 2019

Secretary Wilson signed the U.S. Space Force Planning Task Force Initial Work Plan (IWP). The IWP outlined a “conditions-based plan to establish a USSF over an objective five-year period.” During the months that followed, both the SFPTF and Task Force Tango continued their planning efforts.

MAY 5, 2019

Forty-three former senior Department of Defense leaders released an open letter in support of establishing a Space Force. The distinguished group wrote in their letter, “We strongly encourage action to establish the U.S. Space Force, to realize the full potential of space power and space capabilities in order to protect and advance U.S. vital national interests.”

JUN 21, 2019

Acting Secretary of the Air Force Matthew P. Donovan penned an editorial supporting the creation of a separate space service, writing, “Today the Department of the Air Force has a historic opportunity to continue our leadership in space and secure the final frontier for our citizens, friends, and allies. The best way to do so is through a new

military service, the Space Force. We need this change because it's the best way to protect America and dominate future warfare.” Acting Secretary Donovan continued to advocate for the establishment of a space force throughout 2019, including during a 3 July interview in which he urged, “Let's unleash the space professional so they can grow and become the equivalent of the Air Force after separating from the Army.”

DEC 9, 2019

The leaders of the U.S. House and Senate Armed Services Committees released their Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Conference Report, which included specific language to establish a United States Space Force. The House of Representatives voted to approve the FY2020 NDAA on 11 December and the Senate followed suit on 17 December.

DEC 20, 2019

President Donald Trump signed the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act into law at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, thereby establishing the U.S. Space Force.

14th Air Force commander Maj Gen John E. Shaw, 30th Space Wing Commander Col Anthony J. Mastalir, and 14th Air Force Command Chief CMSgt John F. Bentivegna celebrate the signing of the FY2020 NDAA at Vandenberg AFB, California.



The mission of the new service was to “provide resilient and affordable space capabilities for the Joint Force and the nation.” The president’s remarks on the occasion included an announcement. “With today’s signing, I will proudly appoint General Jay Raymond the first Chief of Space Operations,” Trump said. “And he will become the very first member of the Space Force.” At the time, General Raymond was serving as the commander of both Air Force Space Command and United States Space Command.

Along with the signing of the NDAA, a flurry of additional activities took place on 20 December 2019:

- ◆ Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper signed a memo directing the Department of Defense to fully support the implementation of “this historic reorganization of DOD space forces.”



General Raymond at his swearing in ceremony.



General Raymond arrives at Peterson AFB, Colorado, after the signing of the FY2020 NDAA.

- ◆ Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett, USAF Chief of Staff Gen David L. Goldfein, and Gen John W. “Jay” Raymond, the new Chief of Space Operations, issued a joint letter in which they wrote, “Forging a new service is an historic opportunity to deliver world-class capabilities to the American people. As of today, the law re-designates Air Force Space Command as the U.S. Space Force.”
- ◆ Secretary Barrett signed a memorandum directing the Headquarters Air Staff to take the necessary actions to establish the U.S. Space Force, writing that the Office of the Chief of Space Operations was established in “the executive part of the Department of the Air Force” and would include positions previously identified as part of the initial staff.
- ◆ Secretary Barrett issued a memorandum directing the redesignation of Air Force Space Command as the United States Space Force and the Fourteenth Air Force as Space Operations Command. The memo also included redesignations of the Air Force Element of the National Reconnaissance Office and the Air Force Commercial Satellite Communications Office as the Space Force Element of the National Reconnaissance Office and the Space Force Commercial Satellite Communications Office, respectively.
- ◆ Secretary Barrett directed the redesignation of the Office of the Principal Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force for Space to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration, in accordance with the FY2020 NDAA.



2020

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The strategic environment of space is evolving. It's no longer a benign domain, it's a **warfighting domain**.

—Gen John W. “Jay” Raymond,
Chief of Space Operations



JAN 6, 2020

Space Force leadership hosted an Organizational Design Workshop from 6-10 January. The purpose of the conference was to develop a "description of the initial USSF Field Command and O-6 Task Force organization to support a 1 Feb 20 report to Congress."

The Space Force executed its first launch as a separate service when a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (AFS), Florida, sending 60 Starlink broadband internet satellites into orbit.

JAN 7, 2020

Space Force missile warning crews at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), Colorado, detected incoming missiles aimed at two bases in Iraq that hosted U.S. service members. Thanks to the work of the quick-thinking space professionals, troops were able to take shelter in time and there were no American deaths.

JAN 9, 2020

The Space Force announced that Ms. Patricia Mulcahy would be its first Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Personnel and Logistics Services on the Space Staff at the Pentagon. She became the first civilian member of the U.S. Space Force.

JAN 14, 2020

Vice President Michael R. Pence presided over the swearing in of Gen John "Jay" Raymond as the first Chief of Space Operations (CSO). In his remarks, General Raymond underscored the significance of the event. "On 20 December . . . the president established the United States Space Force as the sixth branch of the armed services. Not only is this historical, but it's critical. This establishment is absolutely critical to our national security and that of our allies, and it's not lost on

me, and it's not lost on the Airmen I am privileged to serve with."

JAN 15, 2020

President Donald Trump hosted General Raymond and other senior national security officials to discuss progress on the Space Force. At this meeting, the President also approved the official seal of the new service.

JAN 16, 2020

During his first media interview as CSO, General Raymond discussed ongoing developments in military space operations. "We are evolving because the strategic environment of space is evolving. It's no longer a benign domain, it's a warfighting domain. And that requires significant changes across the board in how we train, how we develop people, what architectures we have. All this is being laid out."



JAN 17, 2020

The Space Force released its first uniform items. These included blue name tapes and a full color U.S. flag to be worn by members of the service on their Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) uniforms.

JAN 24, 2020

The president released the official U.S. Space Force seal via the social media platform Twitter.

FEB 3, 2020

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper signed a memorandum that declared the Chief of Space Operations would become a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) "one year after the date of the enactment of the United States Space Act, which will be 20 December 2020." Until that date, the Chief of Space Operations would participate in "all JCS activities, as appropriate."

The Space and Missile Systems Center transferred Satellite Control Authority of the fifth Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF-

5) communications satellite over to Space Operations Command after completing on-orbit testing. The AEHF-5 was then put under the control of military operators at Schriever AFB, Colorado. This AEHF-5 milestone was the first transition of a satellite to the warfighter under the Space Force.

FEB 13, 2020

General Raymond selected Chief Master Sergeant Roger A. Towberman as the first Senior Enlisted Advisor of the Space Force. Chief Towberman had been serving as the Command Chief for Air Force Space Command and U.S. Space Command.

FEB 24, 2020

This was the final day for military personnel to submit ideas to an online portal for organizational names, rank names, and what members of the Space Force should be called. Lt Gen David D. Thompson, Space Force Vice Commander, explained, "As we continue to forge the Space Force into a lean, agile, and forward looking 21st Century warfighting branch, we want to provide space professionals the opportunity to influence what the members of our new service will be called. The decisions we make today will shape the Space Force for decades to come, so we want to ensure those who will serve in the Space Force have a say when it comes



General Raymond speaks during a House Armed Services Committee hearing on 4 March 2020, alongside Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett and Air Force Chief of Staff General Goldfein.



CMSgt Towberman speaks at the Pentagon after being announced as the first Senior Enlisted Advisor of the Space Force.

to important organizational and cultural identity considerations."

FEB 28, 2020

The Department of Defense established a COVID Task Force to coordinate on the Department's response to the rapidly spreading Coronavirus. The virus quickly reached pandemic stage and became a public health emergency, changing the character of society by requiring an overwhelming number of Americans to isolate at home until the pandemic began to subside. The U.S. Public Health Emergency declaration for the

COVID-19 pandemic finally ended on 11 May 2023.

MAR 23, 2020

Air Force Secretary Barrett approved the transfer of 25 USAF units or partial units outside of the former Air Force Space Command into the USSF. The majority of the units came from Air Combat Command, Air Force Materiel Command, and Air Education and Training Command.

MAR 26, 2020

The 45th Space Wing supported the launch of the United Launch Alliance AEHF-6 mission from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station's Space Launch Complex 41. The

Atlas V's payload consisted of an AEHF-6 Protected Communications Satellite. This marked the first mission payload for the United States Space Force and was the first National Security Space Launch (NSSL) mission for the new service.

APR 3, 2020

CMSgt Roger Towberman was sworn in as the Space Force's first Senior Enlisted Advisor and first enlisted member of the Space Force. At the ceremony, Secretary Barrett observed, "On this monumental day, Chief Master Sergeant Towberman joins the Space Force as employee number two. But he is also number one in many ways. He is the first Space



Graduation ceremonies for the first group of U.S. Air Force Academy cadets to be commissioned into the Space Force.

Force enlisted member and the first Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Space Force. He will represent and guide the enlisted corps while designing the future of the nation's newest service—the only force dedicated to protecting America's way of life that depends on space."

APR 7, 2020

Following Secretary Barrett's unit transfer memo of 23 March, General Raymond and Air Force Chief of Staff General Goldfein issued a dual-signature memo in which they stated, "Over the next three to six months, we will work to determine the specific conditions and timelines for official transfer of

each identified mission. Transfer may occur individually or in groups, and will not include the physical movement of units, billets, or personnel assigned to these units to a different geographic location. Our goal is to complete all transfers within 180 days, but they will be executed when both of us jointly agree we have met the necessary planning conditions. There can be no mission degradation as we execute this transfer."

APR 18, 2020

The Space Force received its first group of new officers when the U.S. Air Force Academy graduated 967 cadets, 86 of whom received commissions in the new service. In remarks to the graduates, General Raymond stressed their importance to the Space Force. "You are our



General Raymond administers the oath of office to CMSgt Towberman, the Space Force's first Senior Enlisted Advisor, with Secretary Barrett looking on.

future, and I need you to be bold as you will build this service from the ground up. You will help define our warfighting culture, build the Space Force as the first digital service, and lay the foundation of a service that is innovative and can go fast in order to stay ahead of a significant and growing threat.”

MAY 1, 2020

Active-duty USAF officers and enlisted personnel could begin submitting their applications to transfer into the Space Force. Observing that this was “an historic time to be in the space business,” General Raymond added, “I could not be more excited to extend the opportunity to our active-duty Air Force members to officially transfer into the Space Force. We have the unique opportunity to create a new service; your energy, passion and expertise will be critical to our success.”

MAY 15, 2020

DOD leaders, including Secretary Barrett, General Raymond, and Chief Towberman, presented President Trump with the first Space Force flag. General Raymond told the President, “We’re proud of this flag. We’re proud to have an opportunity to present it to you here for display in the White House.”



MAY 17, 2020

Department of the Air Force leaders present the first Space Force flag to President Trump in the Oval Office.

The Space and Missile System Center’s Launch Enterprise Team successfully launched the Space Force’s USSF-7 mission from Cape Canaveral AFS using an Atlas V booster with an inscription reading “In memory of COVID-19 victims and tribute to all first responders and front-line workers. America Strong.” The mission lofted into orbit the X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle, an unmanned, reusable space plane.

MAY 30, 2020

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket sent two astronauts into orbit in a SpaceX Dragon capsule, subsequently dubbed “Endeavor,” to rendezvous and dock with the International

Space Station. The launch marked several firsts. It was the first time in nine years American astronauts lifted into space from U.S. soil aboard an American-produced rocket, and it was the first time that a privately developed spacecraft launched humans into Earth’s orbit. The Space Force provided launch and in orbit support for this mission.

MAY 31, 2020

The 31-day application window for eligible Air Force personnel to volunteer for transfer to the Space Force closed. On 9 June, the service announced that more



The first commanders of the Space Force's Mission Deltas at Peterson AFB, Colorado.

than 8,500 USAF active-duty officer and enlisted personnel had volunteered to transfer.

JUN 30, 2020

The Space Force launched GPS III SV-03 from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral AFS using a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. This was the 81st National Security Space Launch and the first NSSL where the launch booster was recovered for re-use.

Secretary Barrett and General Raymond formally announced the new organizational structure of field units for the Space Force: Field

Commands, Deltas, and Squadrons. Secretary Barrett called the plan "the most significant restructuring of space units undertaken by the United States since the establishment of Air Force Space Command in 1982."

JUL 16, 2020

The Space Force announced it had selected 2,400 space operators from among the Airmen who had volunteered for the new service. They would transfer to its ranks starting on 1 September 2020. Space Force Vice Commander General Thompson commented that this was "an exciting and historic time for these space operators who will be some of the first members to join the Space Force."

JUL 20, 2020

Secretary Barrett approved multiple Space Force organizational changes. Among others, these included the establishment of Garrison support organizations, the creation of Space Operations Command and Space Operations Command West, and the activation of Space Mission Deltas and Space Training and Readiness Delta (Provisional).

JUL 22, 2020

In a memo addressed to "Air and Space Professionals," Secretary Barrett, General Raymond, and Chief Towberman revealed the Space Force Logo and Motto. The logo, they wrote, was a delta symbol with an embedded North

SPACE FORCE SUPPORTS HOSPITALS + AT SEA



MISSION

USNS COMFORT & USNS MERCY

The United States Naval Ship Comfort and the USNS Mercy are prime assets in the Navy's efforts to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The ships will treat patients as part of the whole of government relief effort/medical response.

4th SPACE OPERATIONS SQUADRON SATELLITE SYSTEMS

The 4th Space Operations Squadron operates both the Wideband Global SATCOM satellite system and the Advanced Extremely High Frequency satellite communications system. WGS provides worldwide flexible, high data rate and long haul communications for the Department of Defense, governmental organizations and international partners. AEHF provides survivable, global, secure, protected, and jam-resistant communications for high-priority military ground, sea and air assets.

CAPABILITIES ► BOTH SHIPS



Maintain up to
**5000
UNITS OF
BLOOD**

Both ships can staff up to



**1200
MEDICAL PERSONNEL**

Both ships have capabilities and equipment comparable to a



**MODERN HOSPITAL
A SHORE**

CAPABILITIES ► 4th SOPS



As the backbone of the U.S. military's global satellite communications, WGS provides flexible, high-capacity communications for the

**NATION'S
WARFIGHTERS**



WGS and AEHF provide
**CONTINUOUS
24-HOUR
GLOBAL SATCOM
COVERAGE**
between the North
and South poles.

AEHF provides global, secure, protected, and jam-resistant communications for high-priority military
**GROUND,
AIR and
SEA ASSETS.**

— VITAL SUPPORT TO COVID-19 RELIEF EFFORT —

In response to an urgent request from the USNS Mercy for additional bandwidth, a new mission on the WGS satellite system was allocated, which

**DOUBLED the
DATA RATE for
the USNS Mercy.**



The doubled data rate enabled
**telemedicine
and online
capabilities**
aboard the ship, providing
**vital support
to the COVID-19
relief effort.**

Star to "serve as our guiding light as we build a new service to secure the space domain." The motto, Semper Supra (Always Above), was a reminder "of the strategic imperative to ensure that our space capabilities and the advantages they provide the nation and our Joint and Coalition partners are always there."

JUL 23, 2020

Eight women of the 2d Space Operations Squadron at Schriever AFB, Colorado, made history as the first all-female space operations crew to gain satellite control acceptance of a satellite. Their acceptance of SVN-76 officially added another satellite to the GPS III fleet.

JUL 24, 2020

The Space Force implemented the first wave of major organizational changes Secretary Barrett had approved on 20 July. The event was marked by virtual inactivation ceremonies for wings and groups, followed by activation ceremonies for the Space Mission Deltas and Garrisons. Space Mission Deltas 2 through 9 activated on this day, along with the Space Training and Readiness Delta (Provisional).

The Space Force provided support to the whole of government response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Maj Gen Nina Armagno is promoted to lieutenant general and becomes the first female general officer in the Space Force in August 2020.

AUG 5, 2020

General Raymond presented Mr. Ed Dwight, former USAF test pilot and America's first African American astronaut candidate, with the Commander's Public Service Award and a certificate making him the first honorary member of the Space Force.

AUG 7, 2020

President Trump nominated Lt Gen David D. Thompson for promotion to general and the position of Vice Chief of Space Operations, U.S.

Space Force. On the same date, the Senate confirmed the appointments of Maj Gen Nina M. Armagno, Maj Gen William J. Liquori, Maj Gen B. Chance Saltzman, and Maj Gen Stephen N. Whiting to the grade of lieutenant general and leadership positions within the Space Force.

AUG 10, 2020

The Space Force rolled out its first doctrine document, titled *Spacepower: Doctrine for Space Forces*. In a memo describing the new doctrine, General Raymond noted, "This publication is, in itself, an example of the agility, innovation, and boldness that will define our service. Recognizing the significant role space plays in our national prosperity and security, twenty-two young space professionals, on their own initiative, drafted the first version of this doctrine well before the service was established in law. Creating, coordinating, and publishing a document of this scope often takes years to accomplish. These professionals, with the help of a small editing team in Colorado, did it in eight months and demonstrated the agility, innovation, and boldness that are benchmarks of our service."



Vice Chief of Space Operations General Thompson swears in the first four Space Force recruits.

AUG 14, 2020

Lt Gen B. Chance Saltzman became the Space Force's first three-star general when General Raymond promoted him during a Pentagon ceremony. General Saltzman became the Chief Operations Officer of the Space Force and would later serve as the second Chief of Space Operations.

AUG 17, 2020

In a Pentagon ceremony, Lt Gen Nina Armagno became the first female officer to promote to three-star general and transfer into the Space Force. She became the Space Force Director of Staff.

AUG 20, 2020

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper presided over the United States Space Command change of command ceremony in which Gen John "Jay" Raymond relinquished command to GEN James H. Dickinson. This made General Dickinson the first U.S. Army officer to lead the unified command for space and allowed General Raymond to focus exclusively on his duties as Chief of Space Operations. Speaking of that role, General Raymond noted, "We have an opportunity to start with a clean sheet of paper and build something that's purpose-built for this domain.



General Whiting receives his first salute as Space Operations Command commander during a ceremony at Peterson AFB, Colorado.

As I tell my team, we have two risks. The first risk is that we don't think bold enough; that we miss the opportunity with incremental advancements. The other risk is, we have to get that bold agenda through and implemented. And that's going to require people to think differently."

AUG 24, 2020

The Space Force published its first uniform guidance for members of the new service. The document dealt with wear of the Operational Camouflage Pattern uniform and all associated accoutrements.

SEP 1, 2020

The first induction ceremonies for approximately 2,400 U.S. Air Force personnel transferring into the Space Force took place at multiple installations worldwide. Members of the space operations (13S) and space systems operations (1C6) career fields participated in the initial round of transfer events.

SEP 30, 2020

The Senate confirmed Lt Gen David Thompson as the first Vice Chief of Space Operations (VCSO) of the Space Force. At the time of his confirmation, General Thompson was serving as Vice Commander of Headquarters Space Force. General

Raymond administered the oath of office to General Thompson in a ceremony at the Pentagon on 1 October. Several weeks later, during General Thompson's promotion ceremony at the USAF Academy, Raymond told the audience, "I've known this officer for most of my adult life. DT is an exceptional leader with a dedicated work ethic who truly lives our core value of service before self. He is absolutely

the right person to be the Space Force's first vice chief."

The Secretary of the Air Force and the Secretary of the Navy signed an agreement to transfer the U.S. Navy's Narrowband Satellite Communications (SATCOM) program to the United States Space Force. While the intent to transfer to the Department of the Air Force had been agreed upon in May 2019, the

two secretaries cited three recent developments that now spurred the transfer: the establishment of the Space Force, a DOD decision to extend the service life of the Mobile User Objective System (MUOS) and acquire two new MUOS satellites, and a decision to transfer all Narrowband SATCOM acquisition and sustainment funding from the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Air Force.



Colonel Mike Hopkins aboard the International Space Station. Colonel Hopkins transferred into the Space Force while aboard the ISS.

OCT 1, 2020

The first promotions of Space Force personnel to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant occurred. The two new Chiefs were CMSgt Taryn Stys of the 4th Space Control Squadron and CMSgt Karmann-Monique Pogue of the 4th Space Operations Squadron, both of Schriever AFB.

OCT 14, 2020

A ceremony at Peterson AFB recognized the transfer of the Peterson Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Academy from the Air Force to the Space Force. Secretary Barrett had approved the transfer on 10 September, noting that the Academy was “integral to the USSF’s ability to organize, train, and equip space professionals” and stating that the goal was to “have this mission and associated resources transferred to USSF as soon as possible.” On 21 October, the NCO Academy was formally reassigned from Air Education and Training Command to Space Operations Command and to Space Training and Readiness Delta (Provisional) for administrative control.

OCT 21, 2020

In a ceremony presided over by General Raymond, the Space Force marked the redesignation

of Headquarters (HQ) United States Space Force as HQ Space Operations Command (SpOC). At the same time, HQ Space Operations Command at Vandenberg AFB, California, was inactivated and HQ Space Operations Command West was activated in its stead. During the ceremony, Lt Gen Stephen Whiting assumed command of HQ SpOC while Maj Gen John E. Shaw assumed command of HQ SpOC West.

Task Force Tango officially ended its operations. The planning group had been active since 1 March 2019 and served as the focal point for Space Force planning efforts within Air Force Space Command and in support of the Space Force Planning Task Force. A particular point of emphasis for the task force was helping to develop the macro-organizational structure of the new service. While the larger group’s mission had ended, a small group known as the Tango Transition Team continued. As the work of the task force drew to a close, General Whiting wrote, “My thanks to the entire Task Force-Tango enterprise! You have fulfilled your mission of standing up our Deltas, Garrisons, SpOC West, and SpOC. I know the Tango Transition Team and the entire HQ SpOC staff will continue to support the standup of [Space Systems Command], [Space

Training and Readiness Command], and [Space Warfighting Analysis Center], but please accept my heartfelt thanks for a job very well done by all of you!”

NOV 3-4, 2020

For the first time, the Space Force led the Schriever Wargames, a critical, two-day, in-depth space training event with more than 200 attendees from eight countries—Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States—which focused on strategic messaging in the space domain.

NOV 9, 2020

General Raymond released his *Chief of Space Operations’ Planning Guidance*. The document offered “foundational direction for the Space Force to advance National and Department of Defense strategic objectives” and highlighted his five priorities. These included: Empower a Lean and Agile Service, Develop Joint Warfighters in World Class Teams, Deliver New Capabilities at Operationally Relevant Speeds, Expand Cooperation to Enhance Prosperity and Security, and Create A Digital Service to Accelerate Innovation.

NOV 15, 2020

SpaceX launched four astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS) on a Falcon 9 rocket. Air Force Col Michael S. Hopkins commanded the mission. On 18 December 2020, as part of the one-year birthday celebration of the Space Force, Colonel Hopkins officially transferred from the Air Force to the new service while aboard the ISS. The event was overseen by NASA Administrator James F. Bridenstine and General Raymond, who noted, "The military sends its best people to the NASA astronaut program. And Hopkins, you are one of the nation's best. We are beyond excited to make you the first astronaut in our Space Force."

NOV 18, 2020

Space Delta 8, in collaboration with Space and Missile Systems Center and SpOC, operationally accepted the M-Code Early Use (MCEU) capability. MCEU enabled active development of M-Code capabilities, such as greater protection against GPS jamming and spoofing and M-Code Special Messaging capabilities. A key step forward in the development

and certification of new M-Code capable receivers, MCEU allowed more robust development and testing of Army, Navy, and Marine Corps M-Code receivers. Because the receivers were not yet widely available, the full benefits of MCEU were not available.

DEC 9, 2020

Vice President Mike Pence presided over a formal ceremony in Florida that renamed Cape Canaveral Air Force Station as Cape Canaveral Space Force Station and Patrick Air Force Base as Patrick Space Force Base.

DEC 10, 2020

Secretary Barrett, General Raymond, and Chief Towberman attended a Basic Military Training (BMT) graduation ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. The graduating class included the first seven direct enlistees of the Space Force to complete BMT. After remarks from Secretary Barrett, General Raymond administered the Oath of Enlistment to the seven graduates and presented each of them one of the Space Force's new challenge coins.

DEC 11, 2020

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, GEN Mark A. Milley of the U.S. Army, formally inducted General Raymond as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). The ceremony included the presentation of a JCS identification badge to General Raymond.

DEC 18, 2020

General Raymond and Chief Towberman announced that members of the Space Force would be called "Guardians." In a memo to the men and women of the Space Force, they wrote, "The opportunity to name our new force is a momentous responsibility. Guardians is a name with a long history in space operations, tracing back to the motto of Air Force Space Command, 'Guardians of the High Frontier.' The name Guardians connects our proud heritage and culture to the important mission you execute 24/7, protecting the people and interests of the United States and its allies." The Vice President had publicly announced the name earlier in the day during the celebrations of the new service's first birthday.



2021

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The **establishment of the U.S. Space Force** is a significant step forward in recognizing the importance of space as a **contested domain**.

—John P. Roth, Acting Secretary
of the Air Force



Delta IV Heavy boosters await their next mission at Vandenberg AFB, California.

JAN 8, 2021

Director of National Intelligence John L. Ratcliffe welcomed the Space Force as the 18th member of the U.S. Intelligence Community during an afternoon ceremony at the Intelligence Community Campus in Bethesda, Maryland. The Chief of Space Operations joined Mr. Ratcliffe for the announcement.

FEB 1, 2021

The Space Force began allowing transfers to the service of personnel

in “common” Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSC). These were individuals who held specialty codes that were needed by both the Space Force and Air Force but were not specifically Space Operations personnel. Some of the AFSCs included Engineering, Intelligence, and Cyberspace Operations.

FEB 24, 2021

Space Delta 9’s 1st Space Operations Squadron employed the first all-African American team of space operators to carry out the

squadron’s orbital warfare mission. Under the leadership of Capt Stephen Johnson, the team of hand-picked operators came together to recognize Black history month and to inspire young minority people who might be interested in joining the Space Force. “All of them have proven their high orbital warfare acumen that they have to perform on crew,” Captain Johnson said of his team. He added, “I’m just trying to pay it forward. It’s important that we embrace all types of people who are supporting Space Delta 9 and the U.S. Space Force mission.”

MAR 1, 2021

The Space Force opened the transfer application window for members of U.S. military services other than the Air Force. When the application window closed on 31 March, it had received more than 3,700 transfer applications.

MAR 2, 2021

In a message to the force, General Raymond declared, "Although we still have building left to do, our primary weight of effort for year two is now focused on integrating this force: across the department, with our interagency partners, with

our Reserve forces, with our allies and international partners, and with academia and commercial industry. We now need to drive the car we built and we must keep our foot firmly planted on the accelerator to go fast, because our national security demands we do so."

APR 5, 2021

The Space Force activated the Space Warfighting Analysis Center (SWAC) at Peterson AFB, Colorado, placing it under HQ Space Operations Command. This order followed on the heels of General Raymond officially approving the creation of SWAC on 8 March 2021.

APR 6, 2021

Fifteen individuals successfully completed the initial offering of the Space Test Fundamentals course hosted by the United States Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB, California.

APR 21, 2021

Acting Air Force Secretary John P. Roth approved the redesignation of multiple Air Force bases and stations, writing, "The establishment of the U.S. Space Force is a significant step forward in recognizing the importance of space as a



A Falcon 9 rocket carrying a GPS III-5 satellite into orbit launches from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida, on 17 June 2021.



U.S. SPACE FORCE
Cape Canaveral Space Force Station





Lt Gen Michael Guetlein, right, accepts the Space Systems Command flag from Chief of Space Operations General Raymond during the SSC redesignation ceremony at Los Angeles AFB, California, on 13 August 2021.

contested domain. Redesignating Air Force installations as Space Force installations is critical to establishing a distinct culture and identity for the Space Force."

APR 22, 2021

The Space and Missile Systems Center was officially changed from a subordinate unit of Space Operations Command to a Field Command of the U.S. Space Force and transferred to the Space Force along with the Space Force Commercial Satellite Communications Office.

MAY 6, 2021

The Space Force Chief Technology and Innovation Office released the service's *Vision for a Digital Service*. Noting that the Space Force was the "only U.S. military service to be established during the Information Age," General Raymond aimed to seize the opportunity to create a service that would be an "interconnected, innovative, digitally dominant force."

The first flight comprised entirely of Space Force Guardians—31 men and 4 women—graduated from Air Force Basic Military Training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. The flight had started BMT on 16 March.

MAY 11, 2021

The 45th Space Wing was redesignated as Space Launch Delta 45.

MAY 14, 2021

The 30th Space Wing was redesignated as Space Launch Delta 30.

The Space Force redesignated Vandenberg Air Force Base as Vandenberg Space Force Base.

JUN 2021

The Defense Department's Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC) formally designated the Space Force as the integrator for DOD space requirements.

JUN 4, 2021

The Space Force redesignated Buckley Air Force Base as Buckley Space Force Base.

JUN 13, 2021

The successful completion of the Tactically Responsive Launch-2 (TacRL-2) mission on a Northrop Grumman Pegasus XL rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base (SFB) marked the first Space Force tactically responsive space launch. "Today's successful launch

is a clear signal to our strategic competitors that we will not cede access to space,” said General Raymond. “The space domain is defined by speed,” he added. “And with this effort, we demonstrated the kind of speed it will take to win. We executed a ‘21-day call-up’ to get a satellite on orbit – pulling the payload, mating it with the rocket and integrating the combined package onto the aircraft.”

JUN 17, 2021

In the first National Security Space Launch to employ a previously used booster, a SpaceX Falcon SLV—previously used in a November 2020 GPS launch—successfully sent GPS III SV-05 into orbit from Cape Canaveral Space

Force Station (SFS), Florida. Since GPS III SV-05 was the 24th Military Code (M-Code) satellite to join the existing constellation, it became the last on-orbit asset needed for M-Code Full Operational Capability.

JUN 30, 2021

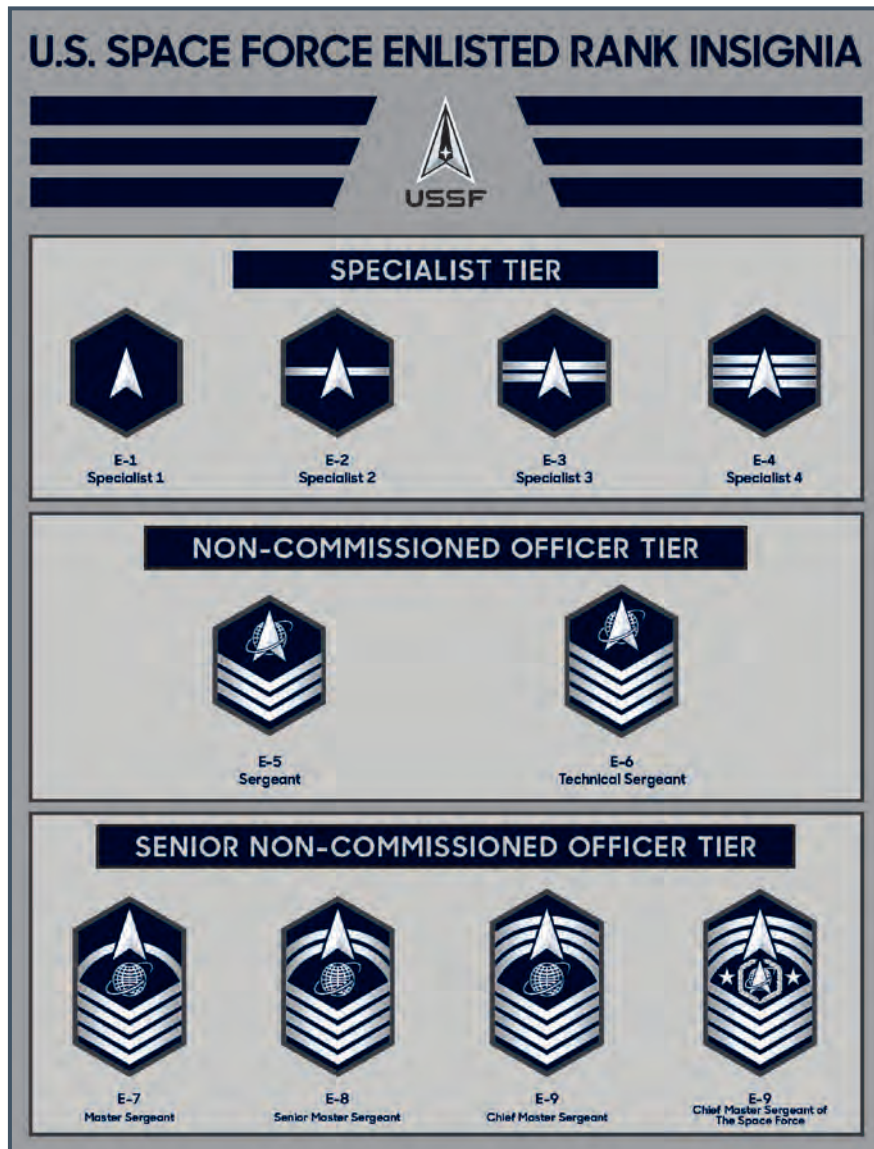
The Space Force announced the names of the first 50 members of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps to transfer into the Space Force. Vice Chief of Space Operations General Thompson said of the transfers, “We are overwhelmed by the number of applicants, and the outpouring of support our sister services have provided as we’ve partnered together to design the Space Force. We are excited to have Guardians from these services join

more than 5,200 Air Force transfers, and look forward to the new experience, perspective and culture they will bring as we continue to build the Space Force.” A second transfer board would soon select approximately 650 additional personnel for transfer.

Space Launch Delta 45 supported the successful launch of the SpaceX Transporter-2 mission from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station’s Space Launch Complex 40. The Falcon 9’s rideshare payload included Mandrake II and Laser Interconnect Networking Communications System (LINCS) satellites and the Prototype On-orbit Experimental Testbed (POET). These marked the first satellite missions for the Space Development Agency.



Schriever AFB, Peterson AFB, and Cheyenne Mountain AFS receive new names during a ceremony at Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado.



the second Space Force Field Command. As part of that action, the Space Force also reassigned both Space Launch Delta 30 and Space Launch Delta 45 from HQ Space Operations Command to HQ Space Systems Command. Secretary Barrett had initially approved the redesignation of SMC on 19 January 2021.

AUG 23, 2021

The Space Force activated its third Field Command, Space Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM) at a ceremony at Peterson SFB, Colorado. Brig Gen Shawn N. Bratton took command. "As space capabilities have evolved over the decades from novelty to nicety to necessity, so has the need to have a military service focused on the space domain that is supported by a command dedicated to developing space professionals," Bratton explained. "The bottom line is that STARCOM will prepare every Guardian to prevail in conflict through innovative warfighting capabilities and tactics that keep USSF ahead of any emerging threat." Although ceremonies were held later, the Space Force also activated Space Deltas 1 and 10 through 13 on this day to carry out various aspects of STARCOM's mission.

JUL 26, 2021

The Space Force held a ceremony in Colorado to redesignate Peterson Air Force Base as Peterson Space Force Base, Schriever Air Force Base as Schriever Space Force Base, and Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station as Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station.

AUG 13, 2021

The Space Force redesignated Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) as Space Systems Command (SSC) under the leadership of Lt Gen Michael A. Guetlein. General Raymond presided over the ceremony at Los Angeles AFB, California, as SSC became



Secretary of the Air Force the Honorable Frank Kendall speaks at the 36th Space Symposium on 24 August 2021 in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

AUG 31, 2021

The last U.S. troops departed Kabul International Airport, bringing the war in Afghanistan to a close after twenty years. The Space Force ensured space capabilities were available without pause during Operation Allies Refuge.

SEP 20, 2021

General Raymond and Chief Towberman released the long-awaited enlisted rank insignia for Guardians.

SEP 21, 2021

The Space Force published *The Guardian Ideal*, the service's first human resources strategy. The document identified five

objectives that would implement its new approach: Connect in a Collaborative Environment, Lead Digital Enablement, Generate and Engage Talent, Develop and Deploy Talent, and Integrate Resiliency. In an email to Guardians introducing the strategy, Chief Human Capital Officer Ms. Patricia Mulcahy also cited the Space Force's new values. "Undergirding the *Guardian Ideal* is a set of values that every member of the Space Force will not only espouse but embody: Character, Connection, Commitment and Courage," she wrote. "These values are known as the Guardian Commitment and are the bedrock for our approach to people and culture."

General Raymond unveiled the U.S. Space Force service dress uniforms during the Air Force Association's

annual Air, Space, and Cyber Conference at National Harbor, Maryland.

SEP 24, 2021

The Air Force and Space Force Directors of Intelligence signed a Memorandum of Agreement that established the Space Force Intelligence Activity (SFIA). Located within the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, the SFIA served as an interim operational construct to facilitate the establishment of a National Space Intelligence Center (NSIC) and to posture the USAF's Space Analysis Squadron and Counterspace Analysis Squadron for their eventual transfer to the United States Space Force.



TSgt Michelle Holt poses for a photo with two fellow Space Force military training instructors on 6 August 2021 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Holt was the first Guardian to complete the MTI schoolhouse start to finish and garnered the Commandant's Award for Leadership.

SEP 27, 2021

Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall approved the establishment of four Component Field Commands for, respectively, U.S. European Command-U.S. Africa Command, U.S. Central Command, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, and U.S. Forces Korea. The purpose of the new component commands was to ensure space assets and Guardians were available to support combatant command plans, operations, training, and exercises.

SEP 28, 2021

The Space Force partnered with NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey on the Landsat 9 Observatory satellite mission, with the satellite launched on an Atlas V rocket from Space Launch Complex 3 at Vandenberg SFB, California. The successful launch marked the 300th Atlas and 2,000th launch from Vandenberg since the base became active in the late 1950s.

OCT 14, 2021

Secretary Kendall signed a memorandum providing guidance and direction on establishing the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration (SAF/SQ).

NOV 5, 2021

The Space Force established a detachment at the Air Force Academy. Aligned under Space

Delta 13, Detachment 1's purpose was to "motivate, inform, influence and inspire every cadet about space so they graduate with an understanding of the important role the Space Force plays in future conflict." Cadets were to "understand the reliance our nation places on space systems and how we fight in this domain."

NOV 15, 2021

Russia conducted a direct-ascent anti-satellite test that destroyed its target and created a debris field of more than 1,000 pieces. U.S. Secretary of State Anthony J. Blinken issued a statement in response in which he asserted that these events "clearly demonstrate that Russia, despite its claims of opposing the weaponization of outer space, is willing to jeopardize the long-term sustainability of outer space and imperil the exploration and use of outer space by all nations through its reckless and irresponsible behavior." The debris from the test caused the International Space Station crew to enter their emergency pods out of concern that some of it might strike the station. Fortunately, that did not happen. In a *Washington Post* editorial published less than two weeks later, General Raymond discussed the importance of developing norms and rules in

the space domain, writing, "In the months and years ahead, we will look to collaborate with like-minded spacefaring nations to promote standards and norms of responsible behavior to maintain the benefits of space for all. The cost of inaction is too high, and if the past is prologue, then the United States and its allies must lead the way."

NOV 23, 2021

Guardians, Airmen, civilians and contractors assigned to Space Launch Delta 30 provided launch, range, and host installation services to the world's first planetary defense mission test. The NASA Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART), which would test the ability of the U.S. to deflect an asteroid with kinetic force, was conducted using a SpaceX Falcon 9 booster, in what was perhaps the most unique mission ever launched from Vandenberg SFB.

DEC 20, 2021

Brig Gen Shawn Bratton, STARCOM commander, signed Space Doctrine Publication (SDP) 5-0, *Planning*, marking an initial step in transitioning service space doctrine from Air Force Doctrine Publication (AFDP) 3-14, *Counterspace Operations*, into USSF doctrine.

SDP 5-0 highlighted planning considerations unique to space operations and articulated current Guardians' extant best practices and lessons learned for space power planning.

In a letter to Guardians, Secretary Kendall, Under Secretary of the Air Force Gina Ortiz Jones, General Raymond, and Chief Towberman celebrated the second birthday of the U.S. Space Force, writing, in part, "In our second year, you integrated the Space Force more fully across the Department of Defense, the United States government, and with our international partners. You redesigned our missile warning and tracking architecture to be more resilient and developed groundbreaking digital models to share that architecture with industry. You created a new human capital strategy in *The Guardian Ideal* that recognizes everything we do relies upon well-trained and fully empowered individuals that reflect the diverse American society they protect. You successfully launched 47 missions in support of the national security, civil, and commercial space sectors. You achieved this all while delivering the spacepower that our nation relies on."



Our terrestrial forces cannot **survive and perform their missions** if our adversary's space-based operational support systems, especially targeting systems, are allowed to operate with impunity.

2022

—Frank Kendall, Secretary of
the Air Force

JAN 21, 2022

The USSF launched the fifth and sixth Geosynchronous Space Situational Awareness Program (GSSAP) satellites from Cape Canaveral SFS using an Atlas V launch vehicle. The last previous GSSAP launch had occurred in 2016. Chief of Space Operations General Raymond described the GSSAP capability as “a neighborhood watch capability. It allows us to better understand what’s going on in the domain, especially in a really critical orbit like geosynchronous orbit.”

FEB 24, 2022

Russia invaded Ukraine, a partner of the United States. Russia’s launching of a full-scale war dramatically escalated a conflict between the two countries that had simmered on a small scale since Russia forcibly took over Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula in 2014. The U.S. and its NATO allies not only immediately backed Ukraine and started supplying it with weapons and equipment, they also began harvesting lessons on the nature of twenty-first-century conventional warfare.

MAR 3, 2022

In his remarks at the Air Force Association’s Warfare Symposium,

Secretary Kendall stressed the need for the Space Force and Air Force to modernize to meet new and emerging threats and challenges. He outlined a set of seven Operational Imperatives he had identified on 7 February to serve as a roadmap for the Department of the Air Force to reach this goal. The first was “Defining Resilient and Effective Space Order of Battle and Architectures.” “Of all the imperatives, this is perhaps the broadest and the one with the most potential impact,” Kendall argued. “The simple fact is that the U.S. cannot project power successfully unless our space-based services are resilient enough to endure while under attack.

Equally true, our terrestrial forces, Joint and Combined, cannot survive and perform their missions if our adversary’s space-based operational support systems, especially targeting systems, are allowed to operate with impunity.”

MAR 10, 2022

Members of Space Delta 4 surged forces and capability to report missile warning, battle space awareness, and technical intelligence to U.S. European Command and U.S. Space Command during the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Their space-based infrared platforms provided intelligence and minute-by-minute

timelines and updates to the intelligence community, national decision makers, and NATO allies. The timely reporting allowed U.S. leaders to share intelligence vital to Ukraine’s survival.

MAR 15, 2022

The Mobile User Objective System (MUOS) communications satellite program transferred from the U.S. Navy to the Space Force when President Joseph R. Biden Jr. signed the 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act into law. MUOS became the first space program to transfer from another armed service to the USSF.

APR 18, 2022

In a speech to Guardians during a visit to Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, Vice President Kamala D. Harris announced a new U.S. unilateral commitment to not conduct destructive, direct-ascent anti-satellite (ASAT) missile testing. The United States was the first country to make such a commitment. The Vice President explained that the U.S. wanted to establish this as a new international norm for responsible behavior in space. She called on other countries to make similar commitments and to work together in establishing this as a norm for the benefit of all nations.

MAY 4, 2022

In his monthly message to the Space Force, General Raymond highlighted the importance of space to the United States by arguing that the Russian invasion of Ukraine had “showcased the role of space in all our instruments of national power.” He wrote, “Information derived from space has been instrumental in dominating the information environment, communicating with our forces, detecting missile threats, and sharing intelligence amongst allies and partners. It is clear that the character of war has changed, and space is foundational to that change.”

MAY 5, 2022

Mr. Frank Calvelli was sworn in as Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration during a ceremony at the Pentagon. The Senate had confirmed him on 28 April.

MAY 10, 2022

The Space Force publicly released its *Space Test Enterprise Vision*. In order to stay ahead of potential adversaries, the document stated, the Space Test Enterprise would need to “evolve to address the very real threat environment and the emergence of new technologies and capabilities, while maximizing

the efficiency of an extremely small service, if [it was] to deliver credible warfighting capabilities on operationally relevant timelines.”

MAY 16, 2022

The Space Force and the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center’s Agile Combat Support Directorate formally established a partnership for the Space Force uniform production process that outlined responsibilities related to the design, development, procurement, and sustainment of Space Force uniform items. The agreement was renewed on 11 July 2023.

MAY 20, 2022

Space Operations Command directed the redesignation of the Peterson-Schriever Garrison as Space Base Delta 1 and Buckley Garrison as Space Base Delta 2, effective 23 May. At the same time, both organizations would change status from units of the USAF armed force to units of the USSF armed force.

MAY 23, 2022

The Space Force published SPFGM2022-36-01, its long-awaited “Space Force Guidance Memorandum Establishing U.S. Space Force (USSF) Dress and Appearance Standards.” The result

of the service’s first uniform board, held in 2021, the policy identified new uniform items Guardians were allowed to wear on their interim service dress uniform and also updated current grooming and uniform policies. New uniform items included enlisted rank insignia, a hexagonal nametag, hexagonal U.S. lapel insignia for enlisted Guardians, distinctive service hat badges for officers and enlisted Guardians, and Space Force “Delta, Globe, and Orbit” buttons. The policy also provided wear guidance for the new enlisted Guardian insignia.

JUN 1, 2022

Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) reached Full Operational Capability as the Servicing Major Command (MAJCOM) for USAF personnel assigned to support Space Force missions. Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett had assigned AFMC this role on 26 October 2020, and the command had declared Initial Operational Capability on 1 October 2021.

JUN 6, 2022

Space Operations Command directed the activation of the 10th Space Operations Squadron at Naval Base Ventura, California, and the 53d Space Operations Squadron at Schriever SFB, Colorado. These units would carry



LTG Daniel L. Karbler, commander of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, presents the 53rd Signal Battalion colors to Lt Gen Stephen Whiting, commander of Space Operations Command, during a ceremony at Peterson SFB, Colorado.

out the satellite communication (SATCOM) missions transferred from the Navy and the Army to the Space Force. The official transfer ceremony for the Navy's portion of the mission transfer also took place on this day. The 53d Space Operations Squadron was activated on 29 June and, during a ceremony on 15 August, the Army's SATCOM mission officially

transferred to the Space Force. This marked the first time all DOD military satellite communication functions were consolidated under a single military service.

JUN 23, 2022

General Raymond and Chief Towberman attended the Department of the Air Force's Basic Military Training graduation at San Antonio – Lackland AFB, Texas. Included among the graduates were 71 Guardians who comprised the first cohort to be taught by Guardian instructors with a new

space-centric curriculum. During his remarks, the CSO observed, "It's critical to the service that you build your own people, and you develop your force. Every domain is unique, whether it's the ground domain, air domain, sea domain or the space domain. Having an opportunity to grow these young Guardians from day one with the core values and with the skill sets needed to be successful in this domain called space is really important to the service." This graduation also introduced the Space Force-unique "patching ceremony."

JUL 13, 2022

Secretary Kendall approved the display of 41 campaign and service streamers on the Space Force flag to honor the legacy of space support to the warfighter since the creation of Air Force Space Command in 1982.

JUL 14, 2022

Space Systems Command Commander Lt Gen Michael Guetlein presided over a ceremony redesignating the Los Angeles Garrison as Space Base Delta 3.

JUN 24, 2022

Space Operations Command

activated Space Delta 18 (National Space Intelligence Center).

JUL 26, 2022

Secretary Kendall approved the redesignation of Thule Air Base, Greenland, as Pituffik Space Base and delegated the timing of the redesignation to the Chief of Space Operations. The name "Pituffik" was an acknowledgement of the traditional indigenous name of the region where the base was located.

JUL 27, 2022

President Biden nominated Gen B. Chance Saltzman to become the Space Force's Chief of Space Operations and replace General Raymond as the service's top

officer. Of Saltzman's nomination, General Raymond said, "It has been the honor of a lifetime to lead Guardians and Airmen and to serve as the Space Force's first Chief of Space Operations. I couldn't be more excited about the next chapter for the world's greatest Space Force and the nomination of Chance Saltzman to serve as our next CSO. His extensive space experience and deep understanding of how to integrate space into the defense of our nation have made him indispensable to the establishment of this service and Guardians the world over will not find a more loyal teammate." The Senate held General Saltzman's nomination hearing on 13 September and confirmed him as the next Chief of Space Operations on 29 September.



Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration Frank Calvelli, far right, visits the Space Development Agency and its director, Dr. Derek M. Tournear, second from right, on 30 September 2022.

AUG 4, 2022

The Space Force launched the Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS) GEO-6 satellite from Cape Canaveral SFS, Florida, aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket. This was the sixth and final satellite for the SBIRS constellation. The first had been launched in 2011. The Space Force used SBIRS satellites to detect ballistic missile launches anywhere on the globe.

AUG 17, 2022

The Secretary of Defense designated the Chief of Space Operations as the force design architect for space systems of the Armed Forces, in accordance with the FY2022 NDAA. According to a memo from the secretary, the CSO, "under the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of the Air Force" would "be responsible for presenting coordinated recommendations to the Secretary of Defense regarding space-mission force design options to satisfy the requirements of the Joint Force and the Armed Forces needed to achieve objectives of the 2022 National Defense Strategy or future iterations of the National Defense Strategy."

Chief of Space Operations Gen Chance Saltzman renders a salute during the CSO transition ceremony at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

SEP 7, 2022

The Space Force issued Space Doctrine Publication 1-0, *Personnel*. SDP 1-0 outlined the structure of the Space Force, the contributions of external agencies to the service, and best practices for force development and sustainment.

SEP 19, 2022

The Space Force's Space Training and Readiness Command kicked off Black Skies 22, the first iteration of a new series of "skies" exercises that involved Guardians employing real terrestrial and orbital systems to refine tactics, techniques, and procedures for offensive and defensive operations. The exercise

ended on 23 September. STARCOM commander Maj Gen Shawn Bratton noted, "BLACK SKIES 22 increased our readiness by practicing offensive and defensive operations in the electromagnetic spectrum. By rehearsing functions such as joint fires and joint command and control, BLACK SKIES helps to prepare space forces to compete and prevail in conflict when our nation calls upon us to do so."

SEP 20, 2022

During his keynote speech at the Air & Space Forces Association's annual conference, CSO General Raymond officially released the Space Force Song, "Semper Supra."



SEP 26, 2022

NASA's Double Asteroid Re-Direction Test (DART) successfully collided with an asteroid and provided a possible example of planetary defense should an asteroid ever be on track to hit Earth. The Space Force had supported this mission by providing launch services in November 2021.

SEP 30, 2022

The Space Force and Australia's Department of Defence declared the Space Surveillance Telescope (SST) at Naval Communication Station Harold E. Holt, Australia, to be at Initial Operational Capability. The process to transfer the telescope from the United States to Australia had begun in 2013, and the telescope itself was moved from New Mexico in 2017. The United States still owned the telescope, which would contribute to the U.S. Space Surveillance Network, but Australia was responsible for the facilities, infrastructure, operators, and training.

OCT 1, 2022

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin approved the transfer of the Space Development Agency (SDA) to the Space Force, after the Secretary of the Air Force had approved the transfer on 9 September. The

transfer itself also occurred on 1 October, making the SDA a Direct Reporting Unit to the CSO.

The Space Force declared its new Space Force Generation (SPAFORGEN) construct to be at Initial Operational Capability.

OCT 26, 2022

STARCOM Deputy Commander Brig Gen Todd R. Moore officiated at the first Space Force patching ceremony at the Air Force Academy. Nearly 100 seniors who would be commissioning into the Space Force during the spring of 2023 received a patch and a personal note from a current Guardian.

The Space Force announced that it would partner with the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) for its service-specific, in-residence Intermediate and Senior Developmental Education programs. The new initiative supported General Raymond's vision to take an innovative approach to talent management. "We are capitalizing on a once-in-a-century opportunity to build and integrate structures, institutions, and processes that prepare our Guardians to take on the unique challenges and opportunities of space operations," he said. The partnership would enable the Space Force to tailor curriculum by

drawing on SAIS courses and on the STEM electives and laboratory research opportunities offered by the university.

OCT 31, 2022

As part of his efforts to accelerate and improve the acquisition process for space systems, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration Frank Calvelli issued a memo to the space acquisition workforce of the Department of the Air Force that described nine tenets that should guide their work. These included: (1) Build Smaller Satellites, Smaller Ground Systems, and Minimize Non-Recurring Engineering, (2) Get the Acquisition Strategy Correct, (3) Enable Teamwork Between Contracting Officer and Program Manager, (4) Award Executable Contracts, (5) Maintain Program Stability, (6) Avoid SAPs [Special Access Programs] and Over Classifying, (7) Deliver Ground Before Launch, (8) Hold Industry Accountable for Results, and (9) Execute - Deliver Capabilities that Work, and Deliver Them on Schedule and on Cost.

NOV 1, 2022

The Space Force launched its USSF-44 mission from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The launch was the first National Security

Space Launch using a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket.

NOV 2, 2022

Secretary Kendall presided over a ceremony in which Gen B. Chance Saltzman assumed responsibility as the Chief of Space Operations, replacing Gen John "Jay" Raymond, who retired after 38 years of military service. During his remarks, General Saltzman spoke directly to Guardians. "The world is becoming increasingly dangerous and preserving U.S. national security interests in space is growing harder every day," he told them. "Without the space capabilities you are designing, building, protecting, and operating, the Joint Force will not be capable of accomplishing its missions. A resilient, ready, and combat-credible Space Force is indispensable to deterrence today, tomorrow, and every day after that. In the worst case, if deterrence fails, the Space Force will be an indispensable component of our joint force at war"

NOV 3, 2022

In his first message to the field, Chief of Space Operations General Saltzman announced that he would focus on "enhancing combat readiness of our forces, developing the Guardians that underpin our readiness, and leveraging the

partnerships, like industry and allies, required for success." He added that "at this point in the Space Force's history, we need 'builders' more than 'assessors,' and we need critical thinkers more than critics." General Saltzman's notes to Guardians were known as "C-Notes" and were based on the famous "Z-Grams" that Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt wrote in the early 1970s. The C-Notes were intended to provoke discussion and thought on ideas, concepts, and proposals important to the CSO.

NOV 12, 2022

The X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle landed at Cape Canaveral SFS at the completion of its sixth mission. This was its longest mission to date, with 908 days spent in space. General Saltzman noted, "This mission highlights the Space Force's focus on collaboration in space exploration and expanding low-cost access to space for our partners, within and outside of the Department of the Air Force."

NOV 18, 2022

General Saltzman announced the first service-level recipients of the Space Force's new Polaris Awards at the Space Force Ball at Los Angeles AFB, California. The awards included four individual

awards representing the Guardian values of Character, Connection, Commitment, and Courage and a Team award that signified all four values. "For us to operate in today's challenging security environment, we need our Guardians to be steeped in our values," he told the audience.

NOV 22, 2022

The Space Force activated U.S. Space Forces Indo-Pacific in a ceremony at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, under the leadership of Brig Gen Anthony J. Mastalir. In his remarks, General Mastalir asserted, "Today we double down on our commitment to integrate space across all components, all domains. Our task is simple: ensure that warfighters in [U.S. Indo-Pacific Command] maximize the combat effects available from space capabilities – capabilities across all services, U.S. Space Command, the intelligence community, and commercial space." This was the first Component Field Command established by the Space Force.

NOV 23, 2022

The Space Force activated the second of its Component Field Commands, U.S. Space Forces Central, under Col Christopher S. Putman. At the time, VCSO Gen David Thompson pointed



Members of U.S. Space Forces Korea at the unit's activation ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea.

out that although the other U.S. military services assigned general officers to lead their component commands for U.S. Central Command, the Space Force had too few general officers to do so. According to General Thompson, the colonels would need to “punch above their weight.”

DEC 14, 2022

The Space Force activated its third service component, U.S. Space Forces Korea, under the leadership of Lt Col Joshua M. McCullion, who cited American history in his remarks. “Today marks the next milestone in strengthening our ironclad commitment to the U.S.-Korean alliance,” he said. “Our U.S. and Republic of Korea alliance was forged more than 70 years ago,

as we stood shoulder-to-shoulder in war. With the world around us evolving, so, too, must we.”

STARCOM announced it had recently released the service’s newest keystone-level space doctrine publication, Space Doctrine Publication (SDP) 4-0, *Sustainment*. The document articulated extant best practices and lessons learned for sustainment of space forces.



Spacepower is not simply 'important' in modern competition and conflict—**it is foundational.**

2023

—*Department of the Air Force
Posture Statement*



Guardians graduating from Basic Military Training (BMT) march during a graduation ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio–Lackland, Texas, on 22 June 2023. Spc3 Dakota Desrosiers, right, was the first USSF-trained Guardian to receive both the USSF Top Performer Award and Top BMT Graduate award.

JAN 4, 2023

Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall signed Department of the Air Force Policy Directive (DAFPD) 10-13, which designated the STARCOM commander as the principal agent for doctrine and lessons learned to the CSO. The policy further specified that STARCOM's Delta 10 was the USSF single point of contact for developing, disseminating, and advocating all USSF, joint, and multinational space doctrine at the capstone, keystone operational, and tactical levels.

JAN 23, 2023

The Space Development Agency announced that it had renamed its "National Defense Space Architecture" the "Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture (PWSA)." As envisioned by the SDA, the PWSA would encompass proliferated satellite systems in low Earth orbit and ground stations to form a more resilient tactical, multi-mission network. The agency explained that "the spiral development and fielding of SDA's mesh network has matured successfully, but the constellations' original name did not accurately convey its current scope and purpose."

JAN 31, 2023

The Space Force operationally accepted GPS III Space Vehicle 06 "Amelia Earhart." The Operational Acceptance came just under a month after the satellite was launched from Cape Canaveral SFS on 18 January. This was also the first time that Satellite Control Authority and Operational Acceptance occurred on the same day, enabling faster delivery for users.

FEB 23, 2023

VCSO General Thompson and Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen David W. Allvin signed a memorandum of agreement between the two services to create a new Space Test Course at the Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB, California. On the occasion, General Thompson observed, "Ensuring our Guardians can effectively test and validate space-flight equipment is crucial to mission success and protecting the space domain for the Joint Force."

MAR 10, 2023

The Space Force activated Space Delta 15 at Schriever SFB, Colorado, and assigned it to Space Operations Command. Delta 15's mission was to protect and defend the space area of operations through the delivery of integrated

space command and control, battle management, intelligence, and cyber capabilities for assigned and attached forces. DEL 15 supported the National Space Defense Center.

The first all-Space Force flight at the Department of the Air Force Officer Training School (OTS) at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, completed the eight-week training course and graduated. During training, the flight won the Commandant's Cup, awarded to the team that best demonstrated courage, resiliency, and hardiness of spirit by leading the way in a series of physical and mental team challenges. The flight had begun their training on 17 January.

MAR 21-24, 2023

The Space Force held its first Guardian Field Forum at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. The forum brought together competitively selected company grade officers and non-commissioned officers as a professional development opportunity to provide feedback, recommendations, and innovative ideas directly to their peers and USSF Senior Leaders.

MAR 24, 2023

Space Systems Command (SSC) officially transferred operational control of the sixth Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS) GEO satellite (GEO-6) to the 2d Space Warning Squadron at Buckley SFB, Colorado. The Space Force had launched the satellite on 4 August

2022. The Program Executive Officer for SSC's Space Sensing program office highlighted the importance of this milestone. "The operational acceptance of SBIRS GEO-6 marks the completion of the SBIRS GEO [geosynchronous Earth orbit] system, representing a pivotal moment in SSC's history. SBIRS is the result of many years of hard work and collaboration with industry partners to leverage their knowledge and resources to deliver critical capabilities to the warfighter and our allies."

APR 2, 2023

The Space Development Agency launched its first batch of ten data transport and missile tracking satellites for the Tranche 0



Maj Gen Gregory J. Gagnon, Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Intelligence, poses for a photo with Guardians at Goodfellow AFB, Texas, 14 March 2023.

constellation of its Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture. SDA Director Dr. Derek Tournear underscored the significance of the launch, explaining, "This is a major accomplishment for SDA and for the whole Department of Defense. It shows that our key pillars, proliferation and spiral development, can deliver for national security space. Through this launch, we've demonstrated that SDA can keep a schedule to deliver enhanced capabilities every two years. This revolutionary approach is enabled by growth in the commercial marketplace, allowing the PWSA to move forward to deliver warfighting capabilities in each future tranche."

APR 6, 2023

The Space Force officially changed the name of Thule Air Base, Greenland, to Pituffik

Space Base. "Pituffik" was the traditional Greenlandic name for the region where Thule Air Base was located. In his remarks during the renaming ceremony, General Saltzman stressed the value of the base and described the name change as a way to acknowledge "the rich cultural heritage of Greenland and its people and how important they are to the sustainment of this installation against the harsh environment north of the Arctic Circle."

APR 18, 2023

Secretary Kendall, General Saltzman, and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen C. Q. Brown presented the Department of the Air Force posture statement to the Senate Appropriations Committee as part of a series of posture presentations on Capitol Hill. The statement pointed to important

lessons the department was deriving from the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. "Spacepower," it argued, "is not simply 'important' in modern competition and conflict—it is foundational. Russia's war against Ukraine continues to validate this assertion in several ways. First, Russian counterspace attacks since the outset of the war reinforce the reality that space is a warfighting domain. Second, proliferating constellations and disaggregating space missions are proving to be far more resilient and effective, especially with commercial augmentation. Third, equipment alone cannot win in the modern fight. Winning takes space-enabled, multi-domain operations and a joint force trained on the most current operational concepts. In this environment, we must shift to a resilient and effective space order of battle and ensure we have the tools, talent, and experience to be ready to face the challenges to our missions of providing space superiority so that we can enable and protect the joint force, our allies, and partners."

MAY 5, 2023

Space Systems Command Commander Lt Gen Michael Guetlein presided over a ceremony



Lt Gen Stephen Whiting participates in a panel discussion at the 2023 Air & Space Forces Association Warfare Symposium in Aurora, Colorado, 7 March 2023.



Space Force Chief Operations Officer Lt Gen Deanna M. Burt and fellow Guardians at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Space Force Service Watch Cell in the Pentagon, 13 March 2023.

in which Apollo 11 astronaut and retired Air Force colonel Buzz Aldrin was promoted to the honorary rank of brigadier general in the Air Force and made an Honorary Guardian in the Space Force.

JUN 1, 2023

The Air Force Academy graduation included 93 cadets who commissioned into the Space Force. Since the creation of the service in 2019, a total of 391 cadets had commissioned in the Space Force.

JUN 6, 2023

Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider, the USAF Director of Staff, announced that the Department of the Air Force COVID-19 Task Force had been officially dissolved as of 31 May.

JUN 14, 2023

The Space Development Agency announced that it had begun

receiving the first images from the Tranche 0 missile warning satellites it launched on 2 April. This “first light” was a significant achievement in the deployment of its planned low Earth orbit network.

JUN 22, 2023

The USSF supported the National Reconnaissance Office’s NROL-68 mission, lofting a classified satellite into orbit aboard a United Launch Alliance Delta IV Heavy rocket from Cape Canaveral SFS, Florida. Earlier in the day, the Space Force had launched a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg SFB, California, which carried 47 Starlink satellites into orbit. Thus, the Space Force successfully launched rockets from both coasts on the same day.

JUL 19, 2023

The Space Force released two major doctrinal publications. Space Doctrine Publication 2.0,

Intelligence, was to serve as the foundation for service intelligence operations, outlining how intelligence contributed to space operations, enhancing the body of intelligence data available to joint warfighters, and underscoring the role of Guardians in the intelligence community. Space Doctrine Publication 3.0, *Operations*, was a keystone document for the service that offered official guidance and best practices to support the joint force commander in gaining and exploiting a position of advantage within the space domain.

JUL 20, 2023

In a ceremony at Peterson Space Force Base, Brig Gen Timothy A. Sejba assumed command of Space Training and Readiness Command, succeeding Maj Gen Shawn Bratton, who awaited Senate confirmation as the service’s next Chief Strategy and Resourcing Officer.

JUL 26-28, 2023

Space Delta 10 hosted the Space Force's first Tactics Development Conference (TACDEVCON) at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

JUL 27, 2023

Along with STARCOM Commander General Sejba, General Saltzman opened the inaugural Space Force Professional Military Education (PME) courses at Johns Hopkins University. The event marked the launch of both the Schriever Space Scholars (intermediate level PME) and West Space Symposium (senior

level PME) at Johns Hopkins. During his remarks, the Chief of Staff charged the class with thinking, debating, and writing about the following topics: What will your service look like in 20 years? How should your service change over time? Is Competitive Endurance the right Theory to use for the USSF? Both the Schriever Scholars and the West Space Symposium had previously been located at Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

AUG 11, 2023

The 75th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Squadron

was activated at Schriever Space Force Base, Colorado, and assigned to Space Delta 7. The squadron was to take on the new mission of providing intelligence on adversary space capabilities by analyzing the capabilities of potential targets, locating and tracking those targets, and participating in "target engagement" activities.

AUG 30, 2023

Secretary Kendall signed a memorandum establishing the Space Force Good Conduct Medal "to recognize exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity of enlisted



General Saltzman presides over the STARCOM change of command ceremony in which Brig Gen Tim Sejba assumed command from Maj Gen Shawn Bratton.

members of the United States Space Force," effective immediately. The service officially announced the eligibility of enlisted Guardians for the medal on 25 September. Guardians would receive the medal after three years of service in the Space Force. Award of the medal was made retroactive to 20 December 2019, when the service was established.

SEP 2, 2023

The Space Development Agency launched 13 satellites from Vandenberg SFB aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. The mission was the second launch of the SDA's Tranche 0 constellation of data transport and missile tracking satellites and part of the agency's larger effort to develop a low Earth orbit network known as the Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture.

SEP 5, 2023

In a letter to all Guardians and Airmen, Secretary Kendall warned that "we must be ready for a fight unlike anything all of us serving today have ever seen, and that requires both unity of effort and change." Citing his belief that China was "intent on fielding a force that can conduct aggression in the Western Pacific and prevail even if the United States intervenes," he argued that "we cannot sustain deterrence by standing still." Recent modernization programs were a good start, but the senior leaders of the Department of the Air Force recognized that more needed to be done because "we are not optimized for great power competition." Kendall announced that during the next several months, the department would be taking a "comprehensive look at all aspects of how we organize, train, and

equip the Air Force and Space Force." An implementation phase for any changes needed would begin in 2024.

SEP 6, 2023

Chief of Space Operations General Saltzman announced a new mission statement for the United States Space Force: "Secure our nation's interests in, from, and to space." After explaining what each part of the new mission statement meant, General Saltzman wrote, "Moving forward I want to ask every Guardian to do two things. First, determine where you fit in this mission statement, internalize what our mission means to you, and take pride in the contributions you and your unit make to our nation. Second, take ownership of this mission statement, use it for follow on conversations, use it to educate and inform our sister service members, the American public, and our allies and partners on what we do as Guardians!"

SEP 10, 2023

The Space Force and National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) successfully launched a set of space observation satellites from Cape Canaveral SFS in a mission called "Silent Barker." Largely



Guardians participate in Guardian Arena 23 at Cape Canaveral SFS, Florida, 11 December 2023.

classified, the NROL-107 mission lofted the spacecraft aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket. The satellites had been jointly built by the USSF and NRO and were intended to deter adversaries and help protect U.S. satellites by surveilling objects in geostationary orbit, including adversary satellites potentially engaged in nefarious activities.

SEP 11, 2023

The Space Force announced that it had begun service dress prototype wear testing, the last phase of uniform development before the start of production. Over the next three months, more than a hundred Guardians across the globe would evaluate and give feedback on the durability, functionality, and comfort of the new uniform. The testers received lightweight jackets, service dress coats, pants, skirts, and shirts, along with a wear-test log, uniform history, feedback survey link, and handbook explaining the proper wear of the uniform. To test uniform performance in various climates, the service chose Guardians from eight installations around the world, ranging from Cavalier SFS, North Dakota, and

Lackland AFB, Texas, to Landstuhl Air Base, Germany, and Yokota Air Base, Japan.

SEP 14, 2023

Firefly Aerospace successfully launched a “Victus Nox” satellite for the Space Force from Vandenberg SFB. Victus Nox was a program aimed at developing Tactically Responsive Launch capabilities. In a release, Space Systems Command explained that the command and Firefly had “successfully encapsulated a Millennium Space Systems-built space vehicle, mated it to Firefly’s Alpha launch vehicle, and completed all final launch preparations in 24 hours.”

SEP 15, 2023

General Saltzman presided over a Change of Responsibility Ceremony in which CMSgt John F. Bentivegna became the Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force, assuming that responsibility from the first Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force, Roger Towberman, who was retiring.

SEP 18, 2023

Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force John Bentivegna sent a note to all Guardians on his first full day on the job. “Together we have accomplished much and

2d Lt Josephine Lerner stands with future Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force John Bentivegna after administering the oath of office during his reenlistment ceremony on 19 August 2023.



together we will continue to do more," he wrote. "The threat of great power conflict is real, so we must continue to focus on developing a credible, combat-ready force. Whether it's training or childcare, talent management or access to healthcare, they all have an impact on our overall readiness and must be addressed. We are a growing, operationally focused service, so purposeful change will be ever constant as our programs, policies and operational environment continue to evolve to compete against our potential adversaries. As Secretary Kendall has stated,

'Change is hard—losing is unacceptable.' So together, we will continue to develop a service and culture that will secure our nation's interests in, from and to Space."

OCT 1, 2023

The U.S. Army's Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTAGS) missile warning system mission officially transferred to the Space Force. The service intended to assign the mission to the 5th Space Warning Squadron, which was activated on 16 October.

The Department of the Air Force transferred the executive agent role for Space Weapon System Sustainment (WSS) to the Space Force.

OCT 3, 2023

Secretary Kendall released a memorandum that established the "foundational framework and Terms of Reference" to reoptimize the Department of the Air Force for Great Power Competition (GPC). The Secretary identified five Lines of Effort and ten One Team, One Fight attributes to help make the



Spc3 Kevin Capone, Guardian Arena participant, tours the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum at Cape Canaveral SFS, Florida, 11 December 2023.

reoptimization effort a success. The Secretary noted, "We must harness the power of our most creative and innovative people to ensure we are optimized for GPC and always ready to prevail in conflict should deterrence fail."

OCT 12, 2023

Space Operations Command activated the Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) Delta (Provisional) at Peterson Space Force Base and the Electronic Warfare (EW) Delta (Provisional). Their activation marked the start of a test of the Integrated Mission Delta (IMD) concept.

OCT 13, 2023

General Saltzman issued the 18th C-Note of his tenure, titled "Forging a Purpose-Built Space Service." "Everything we do—doctrine, organization, training, acquisitions and sustainment, leader development, talent management, facilities, and policy—must be purpose-built to contest and control the space domain and to integrate effectively with our joint team," the Chief of Space Operations wrote. "Old ways of doing business will not produce the results we need, and we must accelerate the development, fielding, and presentation of combat-ready forces."

OCT 20, 2023

Secretary Kendall designated Space Training and Readiness Command as the Space Force's Operational Test Agency (OTA) and established the Initial Operational Capability (IOC) conditions to be met for the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center to transfer its OTA responsibilities to HQ STARCOM. The Secretary further delegated authority to the Chief of Space Operations to determine when STARCOM had met the requirements for IOC. The CSO determined that these requirements had been met on 14 December 2023.

NOV 16, 2023

The Space Force announced the publication of its latest doctrine document. SDP 3-100 focused on Space Domain Awareness (SDA). This was the first "operational level" doctrine publication developed by Space Training and Readiness Command. In the foreword, STARCOM Commander Brig Gen Timothy Sejba observed, "Effective SDA is foundational for space forces to conduct prompt and sustained operations that fulfill the cornerstone responsibilities of the Space Force, preserving freedom of action in the space domain, enabling joint lethality and effectiveness, and providing

independent options capable of achieving national objectives. Space Force commanders and their staffs rely on timely and actionable SDA to satisfy these responsibilities."

NOV 17, 2023

General Saltzman issued the 20th C-Note of his tenure, focused on Great Power Competition. Highlighting the characteristics of GPC and the Department of the Air Force's effort to reoptimize for it, he wrote, "The establishment of the USSF was a response to the demands of great power competition in the space domain. Nevertheless, we still have organizational constructs, processes, and policies that are sub-optimized for the great power security environment. Therefore, we must implement enterprise-wide changes that can better prepare the USSF for this type of challenge." He also challenged Guardians to think on the topic: "Are there additional aspects of great power competition we should consider? How does great power competition impact your day-to-day mission? How can your unit rapidly adjust to better compete with our strategic rivals?"

NOV 21-27, 2023

The Space Development Agency demonstrated the feasibility of its Tranche 0 transport layer satellite

architecture when it successfully demonstrated space to ground data communication for the first time. Several Link 16 terminals on three satellites in orbit were able to communicate with radios on the ground. SDA Director Dr. Tournear praised the accomplishment, commenting, "I can't underscore enough the significance of this technical achievement as we demonstrate the feasibility of the Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture and its ability to deliver space-based capabilities to the warfighter over existing tactical data links."

DEC 2, 2023

The United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom announced plans to host and operate a new network of three space-tracking radars. The trilateral initiative, called the Deep Space Advanced Radar Capability (DARC) was being funded by the Space Force and developed by Northrop Grumman. The DARC was to provide 24/7 all-weather capabilities to detect, track, and characterize objects deep in space, with the three sites to be built by 2030.

DEC 6, 2023

Following the U.S. Senate's confirmation of Maj Gen Douglas A. Schiess's promotion to lieutenant general, Secretary Kendall redesignated Space Operations Command West as U.S. Space Forces – Space (USSPACEFOR-SPACE or S4S). The newly activated Component Field Command assumed service component responsibilities for U.S. Space Command (SPACECOM) previously carried out by Space Operations Command. The commander of SPACECOM, GEN



A SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket is prepared for launch prior to carrying the Space Force's X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle into orbit from NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

James Dickinson, also designated the S4S commander to dually serve as Combined Joint Force Space Component Commander, with authority over all space forces presented by the services to the combatant command. General Saltzman swore in General Schiess as commander of USSPACEFOR-SPACE.

DEC 8, 2023

U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, and the Space Force officially activated the service's newest Component Field Command, U.S. Space Forces Europe-Africa at a ceremony in Ramstein, Germany. Col Max E. Lantz took command of the new organization, which was to be staffed by approximately 30 service members.

DEC 10-11, 2023

The Space Force hosted its first Guardian Arena competition at Cape Canaveral SFS, Florida. With

one hundred total participants, teams of Guardians, Airmen, civilians, and international partners competed across 11 stations. The stations challenged participants in the skills of problem solving, knowledge, and physical strength to improve camaraderie, instill esprit de corps, and provide an opportunity to operationalize the Guardian Ideal and Guardian Spirit in a healthy competition. Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force Bentivegna urged on the teams in his opening remarks: "Today as you step onto the field of play, it's going to be difficult, it's going to be tough. Guardian Arena was meant to challenge you as a team. Understand the strengths you each have, think critically, and amplify the Guardian Spirit." The Space Delta 8 team took home the top honors.

DEC 11-15, 2023

The Space Training and Readiness Command hosted the Space Force's first RED SKIES exercise. The new exercise series focused on orbital

warfare and was designed to equip Guardians with skills to respond to possible attacks on U.S. satellites. The inaugural iteration took the form of a simulation-based exercise, but STARCOM planned to transition to live on-orbit operations via satellites in the future.

DEC 21, 2023

Lt Gen Michael Guetlein officially assumed his duties as the Space Force's new Vice Chief of Space Operations after being confirmed by the Senate on 19 December.

DEC 28, 2023

A SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center Launch Complex 39A successfully lofted the USSF's X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle into orbit on a mostly classified mission. This was the seventh mission for the spacecraft.



2024

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As we approach our **5th birthday** as a service, that concept of change... of transformation... is always on my mind. Because to some degree, the Space Force was established in recognition of the need to transform our military space capabilities for **Great Power Competition**.

—Gen B. Chance Saltzman,
Chief of Space Operations



CMSgt Karmann-Monique Pogue accepts the guidon from STARCOM Commander Maj Gen Timothy Sejba during a change of responsibility ceremony at Peterson SFB, Colorado, 19 January 2024.

JAN 8, 2024

Space Launch Delta 45 supported the first launch of the United Launch Alliance Vulcan Centaur vehicle from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station's Space Launch Complex 41. This marked the first of two certification flights required by the USSF for participation in National Security Space Launch missions. The Vulcan's payload consisted of the Peregrine commercial lunar lander. While the lander separated from the launch vehicle and began its journey to

the moon, it was unable to reach its destination due to a propellant leak. The launch was the first step in a NASA effort to return humans to the moon.

JAN 9, 2024

CSO Gen Saltzman presided over a Space Operations Command change of command ceremony in which Lt Gen David N. Miller assumed command from Lt Gen Stephen Whiting.

JAN 10, 2024

Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks presided over a change of command ceremony for

U.S. Space Command in which Gen Stephen Whiting of the Space Force assumed command from GEN James Dickinson, who was retiring.

JAN 11, 2024

General Saltzman released a "White Paper on Competitive Endurance." The multi-page document described the origins of the theory of competitive endurance and what it meant for the Space Force.

JAN 31, 2024

General Saltzman presided over the U.S. Space Forces – Space activation ceremony at Vandenberg SFB. While the command had officially been activated on 6 December 2023, the ceremony offered the command a chance to formally celebrate the activation at its home station.

FEB 1, 2024

General Saltzman presided over a change of command ceremony in which Lt Gen Philip A. Garrant assumed command of Space Systems Command from Gen Michael Guetlein.

FEB 12, 2024

At the Air & Space Forces Association Warfare Symposium, Secretary Kendall, General

Saltzman, Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen David Allvin, and Krystin E. Jones, who was Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of the Air Force, together revealed the decisions from the Department of the Air Force's recent Great Power Competition sprint. The announcement capped a months-long planning process to reoptimize the department to keep pace with China and other great powers. The 24 decisions fell within four broad categories: Develop People, Generate Readiness, Project Power, and Develop Capabilities.

FEB 13, 2024

General Saltzman outlined the Space Force's plan to optimize for Great Power Competition. In doing so he noted, "Today, the space race that started in the 1950s has

evolved into the immensely more complex Great Power Competition in space that we are engaged in now. The United States Space Force was established to meet these challenges."

FEB 14, 2024

The Space Development Agency launched the final four satellites of the 27-satellite Tranche 0 constellation of its Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture. The four spacecraft were lofted into low Earth orbit from Cape Canaveral SFS on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. Nineteen of the Tranche 0 satellites were designed to perform data transport and communications, while eight were for missile warning.

FEB 19, 2024

The Space Force announced

that the Victus Nox Tactically Responsive Space demonstration mission had concluded. Launched on 14 September 2023, the historic mission set a new standard for the service's tactically responsive space capability and was to be followed by the Victus Haze demonstration mission to further advance tactically responsive space capabilities.

MAR 1, 2024

The Space Force activated its first Combat Detachment in support of a Component Field Command. Combat Detachment 3-1 (CDET 3-1) was attached to United States Space Forces Central. The combat detachment concept was a key part of the Space Force's new force presentation construct known as SPAFORGEN.

MAR 4, 2024

The Space Force issued a planning order titled Optimizing the USSF for Great Power Competition. The planning order identified four implementation areas (IA)—Personnel, Capability Development, Readiness, and Power Projection—and tasked various USSF organizations with implementing the GPC decisions.



On 8 March 2024, Space Force trainees at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, stand at parade rest while wearing the new Space Force Physical Training Uniform.



APR 8, 2024

The Space Force released its Commercial Space Strategy, signed by Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration Frank Calvelli and CSO Gen Saltzman. The strategy directly supported U.S. National Policy and meshed with the release of the DOD Commercial Space Integration Strategy. The Space Force Commercial Space Strategy was based on four lines of effort: Collaborative Transparency, Operational and Technical Integration, Risk Management, and Securing the Future.

APR 9, 2024

Space Launch Delta 45 supported the successful launch of the United Launch Alliance Delta IV Heavy

NROL-70 mission from Cape Canaveral SFS Space Launch Complex 37. The payload consisted of a classified satellite cargo for the National Reconnaissance Office. NROL-70 marked the final flight of the Delta IV Heavy launch vehicle.

APR 11, 2024

The Space Force launched the USSF-62 mission atop a Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg SFB, California, carrying the first Weather System Follow-On Microwave (WSF-M) spacecraft. The WSF-M satellite was a “strategic solution tailored to address three high-priority Department of Defense [Space-Based Environmental Monitoring (SBEM)] gaps—specifically, ocean surface vector winds, tropical cyclone intensity, and energetic charged particles in low Earth orbit.”

APR 19, 2024

After a six-month strategic pause to reshape its Enlisted Professional Military Education (EPME) curriculum, the Vosler Academy at Peterson SFB, Colorado, honored the first graduates from Fellowship II, a newly designed, five-week course “developed by Guardians for Guardians” and specially tailored for mid-tier noncommissioned officers.

MAY 7, 2024

The Secretary of the Air Force released a report to Congress on the feasibility of transferring space functions of the Air National Guard (ANG) into the Space Force. The Department of the Air Force recommended the one-time transfer of certain space-focused units to the U.S. Space Force but awaited legislative authority on a way ahead. The Secretary wrote, “Based on this study and in consultation with the Chief of Space Operations, I recommend transferring nine of the 11 analyzed units with covered space functions from the ANG to the Space Force. These units include a total of 578 space billets, 224 of which are full-time and 354 are part-time.” The proposed transfer focused on nine units in six states.



General Saltzman and General Burt with U.S. Air Force Weapons School Guardians at Nellis AFB, Nevada, 16 May 2024.

MAY 16, 2024

Secretary Kendall gave final approval for Patrick SFB, Florida, to be the permanent location of Headquarters Space Training and Readiness Command.

MAY 21, 2024

The first cohorts of the service's new officer Intermediate Level Education program (Shriever Space Scholars) and Senior Level Education program (West Space Scholars) at Johns Hopkins University graduated.

JUN 1, 2024

The Space Force opened an application window from 1 June–30 November 2024 for Air Force Reservists in certain space-related career fields to transfer into the Space Force in a full-time capacity as part of the Space Force Personnel Management Act (SFPMA) outlined in the FY2024 NDAA. Full implementation would allow reserve personnel to transfer into the Space Force into either a full- or part-time position under a single component. Part-time positions were expected to become available as soon as policies, processes, and procedures were in place to manage both full- or part-time positions.

JUN 3, 2024

Secretary Frank Kendall approved the redesignation of Space Delta 18 (National Space Intelligence Center) as the National Space Intelligence Center (NSIC) and a change of its status to a field operating agency of the Space Force. The unit was to remain at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, co-located with the National Air and Space Intelligence Center. The change occurred on 28 June.

JUN 5, 2024

The Space Force supported the launch of the Atlas V Starliner Crew Flight Test mission from Space Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral SFS. This was the first time astronauts had been launched from the Cape since the Apollo 7 mission in 1968 and was the first time that astronauts launched from a Space Force installation.

JUN 10, 2024

Air Marshal Paul Godfrey became the first Assistant Chief of Space Operations for Future Concepts and Partnerships. This was the culmination of a formal military personnel exchange program (MPEP) process between the United Kingdom and the Space Force that had begun in December 2023. Prior to assuming this

position, AM Godfrey had served as the first commander of the United Kingdom's Space Command.

JULY 1, 2024

The Space Force announced that it had begun its first synchronized Commit phase of the SPAFORGEN (Space Force Generation) force presentation model. During the commit phase, Guardians would be allocated or assigned to an operational mission in support of a combatant commander.

JULY 17, 2024

Along with Air Chief Marshal Sir Rich Knighton, Royal Air Force (RAF) Chief of the Air Staff, and USAF Chief of Staff Gen David Allvin, General Saltzman signed a "Shared Vision Statement on Combined Air and Space Power

in the 21st Century" during the RAF's Global Air and Space Chiefs' Conference in London. General Saltzman noted, "Among great powers, space is the linchpin. We're part of a growing group of allies and partners that enhance our collective security through resiliency, redundancy and interoperability. Collaboration between the U.S. and the U.K. is essential to maintaining our combined force's competitive advantage across all domains."

JUL 31, 2024

The Space Force announced the release of the U.S. Space Force emblem. The emblem was part of an iconic trio of designs that also included the Official Seal and the Space Force Logo. The CSO had formally approved the emblem in early April 2024.

AUG 7, 2024

Secretary Kendall granted interim approval for the CSO to "take all reasonable and necessary actions to effectuate the interim standup of the Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Cyber and Data (SF/S6)."

AUG 11, 2024

The Space Force successfully launched two communications satellites for Space Norway's Arctic Satellite Broadband Mission (ASBM) from Vandenberg SFB. Each satellite also included a U.S. military Enhanced Polar System-Recapitalization secure communications payload, for secure communications over the extreme northern and southern regions of the globe. This mission marked the first time the Space Force entrusted an operational payload to a foreign ally, symbolizing and strengthening the partnership between the U.S. and Norway's space programs.

SEP 3, 2024

The Space Force's inaugural Officer Training Course (OTC) began at Peterson SFB, Colorado. The new course merged the service's three initial skills training courses



Guardians set up antennas and equipment during a readiness exercise at Peterson SFB, Colorado, 8 May 2024.



General Saltzman receives a briefing from Lt Gen David Miller, commander of Space Operations Command, in the Pentagon, 18 June 2024.

of cyber, intelligence, and space operations and brought together all of the new officer accessions from the Reserve Officer Training Corps, United States Air Force Academy, and Officer Training School. CSO General Saltzman spoke about the year-long course, observing, "In order to lead effectively, our officers must have a comprehensive understanding of all elements of space power. The establishment of OTC gives every officer the baseline knowledge necessary to successfully lead operations in our technically demanding and highly contested environment." The creation of the OTC was a key step in the Space Force's GPC optimization efforts.

SEP 6, 2024

The CSO signed a memorandum titled "Nomenclatures and Numbering of Permanent United States Space Force Deltas, Squadrons, and Provisional Combat Units." This memo identified new naming and numbering constructs for force generation units, institutional service development units, and for deployable or employed in place SPAFORGEN units.

SEP 17, 2024

Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force John Bentivegna announced a new initiative known as The Guardian Experience. It included three key parts: Elevate the Journey, Cultivate the Warfighter, and Create the Future. As the Chief

observed in his speech, "To create an environment and experience where Guardians, regardless of when they take off the uniform and go to do other things, that they stay connected to the Space Force, is an environment I aspire to create. I'm going to work with the senior leaders across the Department of the Air Force to make this vision a reality, to deliver for every single Guardian this experience that makes them become Guardians for Life."

SEP 23, 2024

Using the Department's Quick Start authority, the Space Force awarded agreements to four companies to produce design concepts in support of the Resilient Global Positioning System Program (R-GPS). Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall noted, "Thanks to the Quick-Start authority that was approved by Congress, we were able to field and award contracts for these low-cost satellites in less than six months. This authority allows us to move faster and start new Space Force and Air Force programs, and we appreciate Congress providing us this authority."

SEP 29, 2024

Colonel Nick Hague and Roscosmos cosmonaut Alexander Gorbunov reached the International

Space Station following their launch from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida. The mission made Hague the first Guardian to launch into space. He and Gorbunov were expected to return to Earth in February.

OCT 3-5, 2024

The Tactical Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Tracking (TacSRT) team assigned to U.S. Space Forces Space Joint Commercial Operations Cell supplied satellite imagery and data analytics to U.S. Northern Command to support emergency operations following Hurricane Helene, which had made landfall in Florida on 26 September and caused catastrophic damage in the Carolinas and Tennessee due especially to flooding. The service provided detailed analyses of road closures, road conditions, and bridges on ground routes between Knoxville, Tennessee, and Asheville, North Carolina. Information it supplied helped the U.S. Air Force's 563d Personnel Recovery Task Force rescue four injured civilians in North Carolina.

OCT 15, 2024

Space Operations Command activated Mission Delta 31 during a ceremony at Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado. The new



Space Systems Command Commander Lt Gen Philip A. Garrant speaks on 26 September 2024.

delta was the Space Force's first integrated mission delta. The new delta merged operational activities with sustainment capabilities and integrated intelligence support directly into the unit. The new unit replaced the Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) Delta (Provisional), which had been activated on 12 October 2023 to test the integrated mission delta concept. "The men and women of Mission Delta 31 are focused on mission readiness in a way that was not possible just a few years ago," MD 31 commander Col Andrew Menschner said. "I think our delta motto, 'we know the way,' says it best."

NOV 19, 2024

Secretary Kendall approved the redesignation of the Space Force Chief Technology and Innovation

Officer (SF/CTIO) as the Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Cyber and Data (SF/S6) and the realignment of cyber-related functions and responsibilities from the Deputy Chief of Space Operations, Cyber, and Nuclear to the SF/S6.

DEC 4, 2024

The Space Force activated United States Space Forces Japan at Yokota Air Base, Japan, and assigned it to United States Space Forces Indo-Pacific. The first commander of the new organization was Col Ryan Laughton.

DEC 20, 2024

The United States Space Force celebrated its first five years as an independent service. ✨



HISTORY OF SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND

Space Systems Command History Office

The original organizational ancestor of Space Systems Command (SSC) was the Western Development Division (WDD) of the Air Force's Air Research and Development Command. During the Cold War, the Air Force activated the WDD in the Los Angeles, California, area on 1 July 1954, just a year after the Korean War ended. Under its first commander, Brig Gen Bernard Schriever, the division had the crucial mission to develop the first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), known as Atlas, as quickly as possible, since the Soviet Union was developing its own ICBM at the same time. In 1955, the WDD also became responsible for developing the Titan ICBM and the Thor intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM). In addition, the Air Force tasked the division with developing the first military satellite program, thus beginning SSC's space mission. General Schriever would later be considered the father of the Department of the Air Force's space and missile programs and would have a base in Colorado dedicated to him.

The Western Development Division was redesignated the Air Force Ballistic Missile Division (AFBMD) in 1957. The WDD/AFBMD made incredible progress on the Air Force's space and missile programs. They developed and attained an operational status for all three of the first-generation ballistic missile programs by 1962. These predecessors of SSC also constructed the Air Force's space launch facilities in Florida and California. In 1958, the Air Force conducted its first space missions, lofting NASA's Pioneer lunar probes and the world's first communications satellite, called SCORE. In 1960, the Air Force's Discoverer program launched the first successful reconnaissance satellites. The service soon launched military weather satellites and early missile warning satellites, among others. The Air Force also constructed its first facilities to track, operate, and control its satellites.



SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND HELPED ACHIEVE MILITARY SPACE SUPREMACY FOR THE UNITED STATES THAT CONTINUES TO THIS DAY.

In the 1960s, the command fielded military satellite systems for communications, surveillance, and weather reporting, plus expendable launch vehicles to transport the satellites into orbit. The Titan II and Atlas launch vehicles flew manned flights for NASA's Mercury and Gemini programs. Air Force satellites provided space support for U.S. military forces during the Vietnam War. In the 1970s, SSC supported the development of the Global Positioning System (GPS) that changed navigation and timing services across the world. The space systems acquired by SSC in the 1980s played a significant role in the success of Operation Desert Storm in 1991, a war that is often called the first space war. The space and missile systems developed and fielded by SSC also played a critical role during the Cold War in preventing the Soviet Union from attaining military dominance over the free world. SSC helped achieve military space supremacy for the U.S. that continues to this day.

Since the Cold War ended, SSC has continually developed, acquired, fielded, and sustained military space systems. These space assets were vital to the warfighter during campaigns such as Operation Allied Force (1999) in Yugoslavia and the War on Terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, SSC developed and fielded military space systems such as: the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle (EELV), Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS), Advanced Exceptionally High Frequency (AEHF) system, Wideband Global SATCOM (WGS) system, and GPS IIR and IIF.

On 22 April 2021, the Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC), the immediate predecessor organization of SSC, became a Field Command of the United States Space Force (USSF). SMC was redesignated as Space Systems Command on 13 August 2021. SSC includes Space Launch Delta 30 (SLD 30) at Vandenberg Space Force Base (SFB) and Space Launch Delta 45 (SLD 45) at Patrick SFB. Since its origins, SSC has continually upgraded and modernized its space systems to meet threats to the national defense of the United States. In the 2020s, SSC has a significant role to play in the great power competition for dominance in space with nations such as China and Russia. This is the biggest challenge for space power that SSC has faced since the Cold War.



HISTORY OF SPACE TRAINING AND READINESS COMMAND

Space Training and Readiness Command History Office

The organizational roots of Space Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM) trace back to the USAF Space Warfare Center, constituted on 13 October 1993 and activated on 1 November 1993. Established to draw from the lessons of the First Gulf War by educating warfighters from all military services on what space could do for them, it managed Air Force Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities (TENCAP) program funds to develop additional space capabilities for warfighters and was redesignated as the Space Warfare Center (SWC) on 1 July 1994.

After the terrorist events of 11 September 2001, which initiated a global war on terrorism, the SWC's responsibilities expanded. It developed hundreds of innovative space-related system capabilities, conducted hundreds of weapon system tests, and managed many training programs to earn redesignation as the Space Innovation and Development Center (SIDC) on 1 March 2006. Before its inactivation on 1 April 2013, the SIDC had created space aggressor squadrons, the Air Force Space Battlelab, the Advanced Space Operations School, and other space warfighting legacies.

SIDC's resurrection like a phoenix commenced with Task Force Tango (TFT), a planning group formed at Air Force Space Command headquarters in February-March 2019 to support the Pentagon's Space Force Planning Task Force. The term "STARCOM" appeared as early as 8 March 2019 in a TFT briefing. Plans to create STARCOM became public on 30 June 2020, and a STAR Delta (Provisional) was activated under Space Operations Command (SpOC) on 24 July 2020 to manage temporarily the various training, education, testing, and other USAF units realigning to the USSF. Not until December 2020, however, did SpOC create a team specifically for establishing Headquarters STARCOM.





THE ORGANIZATIONAL ROOTS OF SPACE TRAINING AND READINESS COMMAND (STARCOM) TRACE BACK TO THE USAF SPACE WARFARE CENTER.

Redesignation of SIDC as STARCOM finally occurred on 16 August 2021, with its activation at Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado, following on 23 August 2021. The new command's responsibilities spanned five broad areas handled by five subordinate deltas: Delta 1, training; Delta 10, doctrine and wargaming; Delta 11, range and aggressors; Delta 12, test and evaluation; and Delta 13, education. Although Delta 1 would remain at Vandenberg SFB, California, the rest of STARCOM only had temporary basing in the Colorado Springs area, which meant the quest for permanent basing became one of the new command's highest priorities. Finally, on 7 March 2024, the Secretary of the Air Force approved Patrick SFB, Florida, as the permanent location for Delta 10. He made a similar decision on 21 March 2024, approving Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, and Schriever SFB, Colorado, as the permanent locations for Delta 11 and 12, respectively. Not until 16 May 2024, did he finally approve Patrick SFB as the permanent location for HQ STARCOM. With those announcements, transition to STARCOM's permanent bases commenced in earnest, but it would take several years and approval of military construction projects for completion of the process.

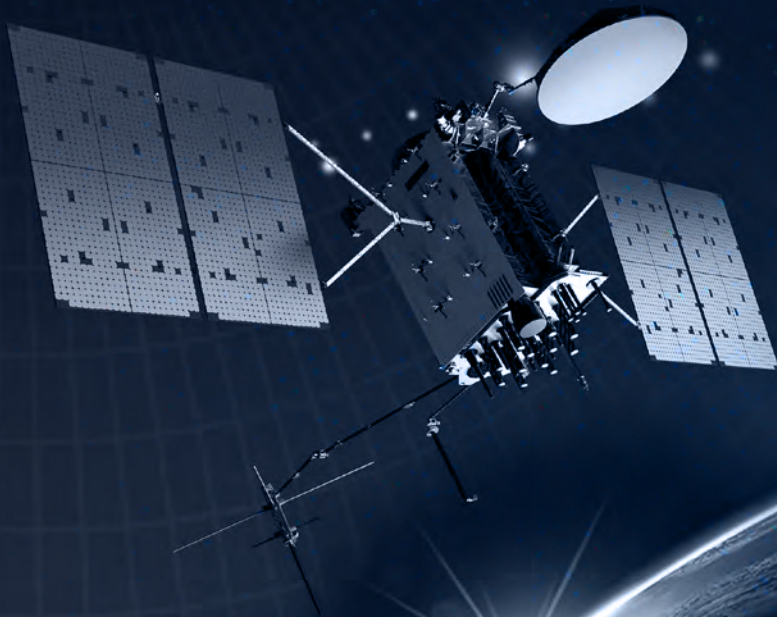
Meanwhile, with only Delta 13 awaiting approval of its permanent basing location, STARCOM reflected on its many recent achievements. It had introduced the USSF-unique "patching ceremony" at the first all-USSF Basic Military Training (BMT) graduation, thereby establishing a USSF-wide means of welcoming new Guardians. STARCOM created the "Skies" exercise series to refine tactics, techniques, and procedures. The National Space Test and Training Complex (NSTTC) began providing live, on-orbit capabilities. STARCOM's commander became principal agent to the Chief of Space Operations for doctrine and lessons learned, with Delta 10 as the service's single point of contact for space doctrine at all levels. The command became the service's independent Operational Test Agency for space systems, and it partnered with the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies to introduce an innovative combination of military leadership curricula within a civilian university.



HISTORY OF SPACE OPERATIONS COMMAND

Space Operations Command History Office

Space Operations Command (SpOC) is headquartered at Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado, and assigned the mission to protect America and our Allies in, from, and to space... now and into the future. HQ SpOC generates, presents, and sustains combat-ready intelligence, cyber, space, and combat support forces. SpOC provides Space Domain Awareness; Space Electronic Warfare; Missile Warning; Command and Control; Cyber Operations; Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance; Position, Navigation and Timing; and Orbital Warfare capabilities to Space Force and to US Space Command (USSPACECOM) and other Combatant Commands. SpOC is responsible for operating installations at Buckley, Peterson, and Schriever Space Force Bases and at Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station in Colorado as well as a number of geographically-separated units across the U.S. and overseas. SpOC units are made up of Space Force Guardians and Air Force Airmen, civilians and government contractor personnel.





THE SPACE OPERATIONS COMMAND (SPOC) MISSION IS TO PROTECT AMERICA AND OUR ALLIES IN, FROM, AND TO SPACE... NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE.

Effective 21 October 2020, the Secretary of the Air Force (SECAF) directed the redesignation of the former Air Force Space Command staff organization at Peterson AFB as HQ SpOC. This redesignation aligned the Field Command responsibility for the presentation, generation, and sustainment of combat-ready intelligence, cyber, space and combat support forces to the staff and assigned the commander responsibilities for executing this mission.

Also effective 21 October 2020, the SECAF redesignated SpOC at Vandenberg AFB (formerly the 14th Air Force) as Space Operations Command West (SpOC West). SpOC West was responsible for executing space warfighting operations in support of Combatant Commanders, Coalition partners, the Joint Force, and the nation. SpOC West also served as the headquarters and staff of USSPACECOM's Combined Force Space Component Command (CFSCC). Leaders redesignated SpOC West to United States Space Forces – Space (USSPACEFORCES-SPACE) on 6 December 2023 and reassigned the organization from Space Operations Command to Headquarters, United States Space Forces as a Component Field Command (C-FLDCOM).

Since its redesignation, SpOC has conducted non-stop space operations, while developing Operations Plans (OPLANs), Concept of Operations (CONOPS) and Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs), all while experiencing constant organizational and mission growth. SpOC Guardians and Airmen helped stand up two new Field Commands; operationally accepted new space capabilities; supported U.S. European Command during the Russian invasion of Ukraine, supported U.S. Central Command during the Israel-Hamas war; provided space domain awareness for NASA Artemis deep space exploration missions; consolidated U.S. Army wideband and U.S. Navy narrow band SATCOM missions, equipment, and personnel within Space Delta 8; consolidated missile warning by transferring the U.S. Army Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTAGS) mission to Space Delta 4; integrated intelligence and cyber within the Space Deltas, activated the first satellite targeting squadron; planned and established the first Integrated Mission Delta (IMD); and began implementing the new Space Force Generation (SPAFORGEN) model to prepare and present ready combat forces and capabilities to USSPACECOM.

SPACE FORCE LEADERS: 2019 – 2024



GEN B. CHANCE SALTZMAN
Chief of Space Operations
Nov 2022 – Present



GEN MICHAEL A. GUETLEIN
Vice Chief of Space Operations
Dec 2023 – Present



CMSGT JOHN F. BENTIVEGNA
Chief Master Sergeant
of the Space Force
Sep 2023 – Present



GEN JOHN W. "JAY" RAYMOND
Chief of Space Operations
Dec 2019 – Nov 2022



GEN DAVID D. THOMPSON
Vice Chief of Space Operations
Oct 2020 – Dec 2023



CMSGT ROGER A. TOWBERMAN
Chief Master Sergeant
of the Space Force
Apr 2020 – Sep 2023

SPACE FORCE LEADERS: 2019 – 2024

CHIEF OF SPACE OPERATIONS (CSO)

Gen B. Chance Saltzman	Nov 2022-Present
Gen John W. "Jay" Raymond	Dec 2019-Nov 2022

VICE CHIEF OF SPACE OPERATIONS (VCSO)

Gen Michael A. Guetlein	Dec 2023-Present
Gen David D. Thompson	Oct 2020-Dec 2023

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF THE SPACE FORCE (CMSSF)

CMSgt John F. Bentivegna	Sep 2023-Present
CMSgt Roger A. Towberman	Apr 2020-Sep 2023

DIRECTOR OF STAFF (DS)

Maj Gen Steven P. Whitney	Jul 2023-Present
Lt Gen Nina M. Armagno	Aug 2020-Jul 2023

DS SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISORS

CMSgt Eric Kensel	Sep 2023-Present
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CHIEF HUMAN CAPITAL OFFICER (CHCO)

Ms. Katharine Kelley	Jul 2022-Present
Ms. Patricia Mulcahy	Jan 2020-Jun 2022

CHCO SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISORS

CMSgt Abifarin Scott	Jun 2024-Present
CMSgt Jason D. Childers	Jun 2023-Jun 2024
CMSgt Jeffrey Grela	Apr 2022-Jun 2023
CMSgt Amber Mitchell	Feb 2020-Apr 2022

CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER (COO)

Lt Gen Deanna M. Burt	Nov 2022-Present
Lt Gen B. Chance Saltzman	Aug 2020-Nov 2022

COO SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISORS

CMSgt Amber Abramowski	Sep 2024-Present
CMSgt Tina Timmerman	Sep 2023-Sep 2024
CMSgt John F. Bentivegna	Jun 2022-Sep 2023
CMSgt Rodney F. Bryant	Dec 2019-Jun 2022

CHIEF STRATEGY AND RESOURCING OFFICER (CSRO)

Lt Gen Shawn N. Bratton	Dec 2023-Present
Lt Gen Phillip A. Garrant	Aug 2022-Dec 2023
Lt Gen William J. Liquori	Sep 2020-Aug 2022

CSRO SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISORS

CMSgt Steve Ha	Jun 2023-Present
CMSgt Kyle T. Mullen	Jun 2022-Jun 2023

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION OFFICER (CTIO/S6)

Col Nathan Iven (Acting)	Jun 2024-Present
Dr. Lisa A. Costa	Sep 2021-Jun 2024
Maj Gen Kimberly A. Crider (Acting)	Aug 2020-May 2021

CTIO SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISORS

CMSgt John L. Bolton, Jr.	Jul 2024-Present
CMSgt Christopher S. Cole	Oct 2023-Jul 2024
CMSgt Wendee A. Roberson	Jul 2021-Sep 2023

DEPUTY CSO FOR INTELLIGENCE (S2)

Prior to 12 Apr 2023, S2 was within COO

Maj Gen Gregory J. Gagnon	Jul 2022-Present
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S2 SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISORS

CMSgt Ronald E. Lerch, Jr.	Jul 2024-Present
CMSgt Cassandra M. Buthorne	Apr 2023-Jul 2024

SPACE FORCE LEADERS: 2019 – 2024

ASSISTANT CSO FOR FUTURE CONCEPTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Air Marshal Paul Godfrey (UK) Jul 2024-Present

FIELD COMMANDS

SPACE OPERATIONS COMMAND (SPOC)

Lt Gen David N. Miller Jan 2024-Present

Lt Gen Stephen N. Whiting Oct 2020-Jan 2024

SPOC SENIOR ENLISTED LEADERS

CMSgt Caleb Lloyd Aug 2023-Present

CMSgt Jacob Simmons Apr 2022-Aug 2023

CMSgt John F. Bentivegna Oct 2020-Apr 2022

SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND (SSC)

Lt Gen Philip A. Garrant Feb 2024-Present

Lt Gen Michael A. Guetlein Aug 2021-Dec 2023

SSC SENIOR ENLISTED LEADERS

CMSgt Jacqueline Sauve Dec 2023-Present

CMSgt Willie H. Frazier II Jul 2021-Dec 2023

CMSgt Lisa A. Arnold Feb 2019-Jul 2021

SPACE TRAINING AND READINESS COMMAND (STARCOM)

Maj Gen Timothy Sejba Jul 2023-Present

Maj Gen Shawn Bratton Aug 2021-Jul 2023

STARCOM SENIOR ENLISTED LEADERS

CMSgt Karmann-Monique Pogue Jan 2024-Present

CMSgt James Seballes Aug 2021-Jan 2024

COMPONENT FIELD COMMANDS

U.S. SPACE FORCES CENTRAL (SPACECENT)

Col Christopher S. Putman Dec 2022-Present

U.S. SPACE FORCES EUROPE AND AFRICA (SPACEFOREUR-AF)

Brig Gen Jacob Middleton Aug 2024-Present

Col Max E. Lantz Dec 2023-Aug 2024

U.S. SPACE FORCES INDO-PACIFIC (SPACEFOR-INDOPAC)

Brig Gen Anthony J. Mastalir Nov 2022-Present

U.S. SPACE FORCES – SPACE (SPACEFOR-SPACE OR S4S)

Lt Gen Douglas A. Schiess Dec 2023-Present

DIRECT REPORTING UNITS

SPACE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (SDA)

Transferred to USSF 1 Oct 2022

Dr. Derek Tournear Jun 2019-Present

SPACE RAPID CAPABILITIES OFFICE (SPRCO)

Transferred to USSF 21 Oct 2020

Dr. Kelly D. Hammett Jun 2022-Present

Michael W. Roberts Feb 2019-Jun 2022

NATIONAL SPACE INTELLIGENCE CENTER (NSIC)

Previously Delta 18

Col Marqus D. Randall Jun 2022-Present

SPACE FORCE INSTALLATION REDESIGNATIONS

INSTALLATION	NEW DESIGNATION	SECAF APPROVAL	RENAMING CEREMONY
Patrick Air Force Base, FL	PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE	MAR 16, 2020	DEC 9, 2020
Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, FL	CAPE CANAVERAL SPACE FORCE STATION	APR 21, 2021	DEC 9, 2020
Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA	VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE	APR 21, 2021	MAY 14, 2021
Buckley Air Force Base, CO	BUCKLEY SPACE FORCE BASE	APR 21, 2021	JUN 4, 2021
Cape Cod Air Force Station, MA	CAPE COD SPACE FORCE STATION	APR 21, 2021	JUN 11, 2021
Clear Air Force Station, AK	CLEAR SPACE FORCE STATION	APR 21, 2021	JUN 15, 2021
Kaena Point Satellite Tracking Station, HI	KAENA POINT SPACE FORCE STATION	APR 21, 2021	JUN 16, 2021
New Boston Air Force Station, NH	NEW BOSTON SPACE FORCE STATION	APR 21, 2021	JUL 12, 2021
Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, CO	CHEYENNE SPACE FORCE STATION	APR 21, 2021	JUL 26, 2021
Peterson Air Force Base, CO	PETERSON SPACE FORCE BASE	APR 21, 2021	JUL 26, 2021
Schriever Air Force Base, CO	SCHRIEVER SPACE FORCE BASE	APR 21, 2021	JUL 26, 2021
Cavalier Air Force Station, ND	CAVALIER SPACE FORCE STATION	APR 21, 2021	JUL 30, 2021
Thule Air Base, Greenland	PITUFFIK SPACE BASE	JUL 26, 2022	APR 6, 2023



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Soon after the establishment of the Air Force History and Museums Program's (AF/HO) Space History Division in 2021, we recognized that the first major milestone in the history of the United States Space Force would be at the five-year point, and we began thinking of ways to mark that anniversary with a product that could provide Guardians with a sense of the countless historical events that have occurred during the service's first five years.

In completing this project, we are grateful to many individuals who have helped move this effort from idea to reality, and we wanted to thank several specifically. First, thanks to Mr. Matt Guinan from the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force for Public Affairs for his support and for assigning Ms. Billee Hennington as the lead graphic designer for this project. Her work has been phenomenal, and we appreciate everything she has done to get this over the finish line!

In addition, we are grateful to our field command history offices for providing historical overviews of their commands and for their inputs to the chronology, particularly Dr. Rick Sturdevant at Space Training and Readiness Command, Mr. Chris Rumley at Space Operations Command, Mr. Robert Mulcahy of the Space Systems Command History Office, as well as the field historians who do the daily work of capturing and preserving the history of the Space Force.

Thanks also to Space Launch Delta 45 historian Mr. Wade Scrogam for his contributions to this product while he was a member of the Space History Division and to the newest member of the team, Mr. John DeShetler, for his recent work. Finally, we want to express our appreciation to Mr. James Frank, Deputy Director of Air Force History and Museums, for his support as we developed this project.

All photos courtesy of Department of the Air Force.

DR. GREGORY W. BALL, USSF Senior Historian

DR. KATHLEEN J. NAWYN, Space Staff Historian



UNITED STATES
SPACE FORCE