



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

12/20/19

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: United States Space Force

Today, the United States took a giant leap forward in ensuring the security of our Nation with the establishment of the U.S. Space Force as the sixth branch of the Armed Forces. Located within the Department of the Air Force, the Space Force will organize, train, and equip military and civilian personnel to maintain freedom of operation in, from, and to space. This new service will provide vital capabilities to joint and coalition forces in peacetime and across the spectrum of conflict. Consistent with the National Defense Strategy, the Space Force will enable us to address current and emerging threats as we compete, deter, and if necessary, win in space.

This is a historic moment for the United States, as we continue to adapt the Department of Defense to the challenges posed during this era of great power competition. In doing so, we are taking a page from our own history. The impact of airpower during World War II demonstrated the need for a single service to exclusively focus on the air domain, so in 1947 we separated the Air Corps from the Army, creating the Air Force.

Over 70 years later, technological advancements have transformed the character of space activities. Strategic competitors such as China and Russia have made space a warfighting domain, and we are once again doing what is necessary to maintain our competitive edge.

Over the coming months and years, the Department of Defense intends to transfer the preponderance of space missions, capabilities, and associated military and civilian personnel from across the military services into the Space Force. This will include career paths such as operations, intelligence, engineering, science, acquisition, and cyber. This process will be deliberate and conducted with full transparency to our Service members and civilian workforce, as well as Congress.

In the future, we will look back on this day with the same sense of pride as we do to honor the creation of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. We must all do our part to ensure the development and success of the Space Force, preserving America's military dominance for generations to come. The security of our Nation and our people depends on it.

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