



PRESS RELEASE

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Statement of Chairman Terry Everett
The Development of a Space Cadre

The Strategic Forces Subcommittee meets today to receive testimony on the development of a space cadre—a group of space professionals from all areas: military, industry, and academia. I want to welcome all the witnesses who have agreed to share their expertise with us today on this important topic to the subcommittee.

The development of a Space Cadre was a major thrust in the findings of the Space Commission's 2001 report. The report emphasized the need to create and maintain a highly trained and experienced cadre of space professionals who could master highly complex technology, as well as develop new tactics and doctrines for space operations in the future. Slowly, the development of a space cadre has evolved.

In an effort to encourage the process, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 directed the Department to develop a strategic plan to coordinate and facilitate the development of space personnel career fields and integrate them into the larger personnel systems of each service. It also directed each service to develop and take a more proactive stance in the development of its individual space cadre.

The committee is concerned about the breadth and depth of the current Department of Defense plan. It seems to lack sufficient detail and structure for implementation.

Additionally, in the area of education and training as well as in addressing the role of academia and industry in the space cadre, the committee has concerns. The committee believes the accumulation of skills and the competencies of government, academia and industry represent a comprehensive view of the military space community for the United States. Each has valuable tools and expertise to contribute, and we all look forward to hearing the witnesses' suggestions on how this talent and culture can best be cultivated and incorporated into the development of a space cadre in the military and of space professionals at large.

Today, I look forward to exploring the status of each of your efforts and sharing ideas on potential solutions to developing today's space cadre and tomorrow's space professionals.

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