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UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SUBJECT: FY27 NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE PROGRAMS

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Introduction

Chairman DesJarlais, Ranking Member Moulton, and distinguished members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on how the Space Force secures our nation's interests in, from, and to space.

Guardians are a vital component of the modern Joint Force, seamlessly integrating space operations into every global military mission to secure victory and safeguard the homeland. Guardians provided critical intelligence, precision navigation support, and missile warning to the Joint Force in support of Operation Midnight Hammer and satellite communications (SATCOM), positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT), and electromagnetic spectrum support for Operation Absolute Resolve. Guardians are also supporting Operation Epic Fury with both employed-in-place and forward-deployed capabilities. Space Force operations are foundational to our national security and to the ability of the Joint Force to deter, and if necessary, defeat our adversaries.

Space as a Warfighting Domain

The increasingly contested nature of space has transformed it into a warfighting domain. The Space Force must have the ability to provide full-spectrum military options to the President and Secretary of War that guard against a diverse set of threats with a range of possible responses. To that end, the Space Force is fielding combat-credible forces prepared to defend U.S. interests in space and deny, degrade, disrupt, or destroy a potential adversary's space capabilities.

The Space Warfighting framework, published 17 April 2025, establishes a common lexicon for counterspace operations, detailing a range of responsible offensive and defensive actions Guardians may employ. Space superiority is a joint force priority and is an indispensable prerequisite to the success of the Joint Force.

The U.S. Space Force achieves space superiority through space control. Space control encompasses offensive and defensive counterspace operations across multiple domains to protect the Joint Force from space-enabled attack and ensure freedom of action in space while denying the same to potential adversaries.

Counterspace operations, which include both offensive and defensive actions, ensure space superiority across three mission areas: orbital warfare, electromagnetic warfare, and cyberspace warfare. Offensive actions in space missions are vital to disrupt, degrade, deny, or destroy enemy counterspace capabilities, ensuring greater freedom from attack, increased freedom of action, and overall military objectives, through ground-based strikes, orbital strikes, and space link interdictions. Defensive actions safeguard friendly space capabilities from threats and interference, preserving military advantage by using active and passive defense measures, while ensuring access to space capabilities for all elements of the Joint Force.

Space Threats

Both China and Russia have developed and fielded counterspace capabilities designed to hold U.S. satellites at risk. Despite what they may say in international fora, their counterspace development is only accelerating. China is not only developing systems to destroy our satellites,

but it is also developing the space architecture to allow the PLA to better track, target, and strike our Joint Force. Russia continues to violate international norms and proves itself to be an irresponsible actor across the board, including in space. All nations should be concerned that Russia may intend to put a nuclear weapon on orbit. Such capability could pose a threat to all satellites operated by countries and companies around the globe, as well as to the vital communications, scientific, meteorological, agricultural, commercial, and national security services upon which our nation depends.

Achieving Space Superiority: Space Force Readiness

The United States Space Force (USSF) must view readiness through the lens of how ready we are to gain and maintain space superiority, whether it be now, two weeks from now, a year from now, or ten years from now. The work we have done in previous years led to our ability to be ready to effectively integrate and provide critical support to operations like MIDNIGHT HAMMER, Absolute Resolve, and Epic Fury. The efforts we are undertaking today will allow us to not only sustain our readiness for similar operations, but to be ready to enable and support the Joint Force through a truly contested space domain.

The Space Force Generation (SPAFORGEN) model exemplifies how we ensure Guardians are ready for combat operations. SPAFORGEN is a rotational construct that meets institutional service requirements and assigns combat mission ready forces in accordance with Joint Staff guidance. SPAFORGEN is designed to provide a predictable combat training cycle to improve readiness, warfighting capabilities, and capacity to generate combat-ready forces.

Space Force Weapons System Sustainment (WSS) is a readiness preservation portfolio that impacts operations by performing maintenance activities like software maintenance and sustaining engineering that are integral for continued space superiority. The fiscal year (FY) 2026 WSS portfolio prioritizes mission critical sustainment activities to address deferred maintenance requirements for legacy systems across Navigation, Communications, Sensing, Satellite Control, and Electronic Warfare mission sets. The FY26 WSS requirements and funding include planned addition of Joint Tactical Ground Stations (JTAGS) and continued support for legacy programs like NORAD Cheyenne Mountain Complex (NCCMC) and Upgraded Early Warning Radar (UEWR) which have a backlog of obsolescence challenges.

The Space Force needs to field a world class test and training ranges to meet combat effectiveness needs. We continue to develop this critical capacity as we execute our Operational Test and Training Infrastructure (OTTI) plans. We stood up the Program Executive Office (PEO) for OTTI in October 2023, and the program is on track with key investments proving critical to supporting the service's integrated assessment of the combat effectiveness of multiple classified weapon systems and advancements in distributed training capabilities.

OTTI primarily fields systems Space Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM) needs to operate the National Space Test and Training Complex (NSTTC), including live/physical space and ground assets, simulators for exercises and Combat Forces Command (CFC) training, and the infrastructure to tie them together.

OTTI underpins the Space Forces Generation (SPAFORGEN) cycle and STARCOM's test, training, exercise, and wargaming efforts by enabling Guardians with live, virtual, and constructive (LVC) training environments that closely replicate real-world conditions. OTTI also supports High-End Advanced Test, Training, and Tactics (HEAT3) development and experimentation for a high-end fight against current and emerging threats.

OTTI delivered the Space Warfighting Operational Readiness Domain (SWORD), the simulation engine behind the SPACE FLAG exercises putting 300+ guardians through red/blue paces.

2026 and 2027 are pivotal years for OTTI as we connect crew mission trainers into SWORD, grow the red threat model inventory with the intel community, upgrade the system to operate at the Special Access Program (SAP) level and migrate into the cloud to enable distributed and force package training.

Achieving Space Superiority: Space Force Operations

We are aligning resources, institutions, mission areas, and Guardians to pursue domain control to achieve space superiority as the formative purpose of the service.

National Security Space Launch

National Security Space Launch (NSSL) provides assured access to space to launch critical National Security Space assets for our nation's warfighters, in addition to supporting the growing commercial space launch industry. NSSL capitalizes on the U.S. commercial launch industry to achieve the lowest overall costs to the government across the full spectrum of mission needs, including assured access to space, demanding orbits, and complex satellites. The USSF's strategic plan continues to enable and encourage a competitive launch market, servicing both the government and commercial customers.

Space Force spaceports are indispensable national assets critical to the United States' ability to maintain space superiority and expand the space economy. The majority of U.S. space launches are conducted from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station (SFS) and Vandenberg Space Force Base (SFB).

Advancing national security interests through globally competitive ranges with capacity to support launch and test operations on demand is enabled by treating infrastructure as an essential element of assured access to space.

Our space launch ranges require greater modernization investment to meet the demands of an ever-increasing operations tempo. Cape Canaveral SFS is the world's busiest spaceport. Launch rates have drastically increased at our ranges in recent years and are expected to continue to rise, emphasizing the need to plan, fund, and execute requirements to sustain and improve the ranges and their supporting infrastructure.

There is more work to do to keep pace and improve NSSL resiliency. We thank Congress for providing initial authorities in the FY24 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to recoup indirect costs from commercial launch providers and reinvest those funds back into launch infrastructure. We look forward to the expiration at the end of FY26 of the \$5 million annual

limit on indirect cost capture, so that we can right-size industry contributions to infrastructure modernization.

Missile Warning/Missile Tracking

Missile warning/missile tracking is one of the most critical missions for the Space Force. Guardians are on watch 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide critical warning and tracking of adversary missile launches. Space Force Guardians and weapons systems are essential components of the nation's Integrated Tactical Warning/Attack Assessment System (ITW/AA).

Guardians provided vital missile warning information of the 23 June 2025 Iranian missile attack against Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar. This missile warning and tracking information gave our service personnel crucial time to prepare and seek shelter.

The USSF is investing significant resources in modernizing and upgrading our missile warning/missile tracking architecture to respond to evolving adversary threats and capabilities. Next-Generation Overhead Persistent Infrared (Next-Gen OPIR) will replace the current Space-Based Infrared System and continue to provide missile warning, battlespace awareness, and technical intelligence capabilities that are more survivable against emerging adversary threats.

Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT)

The Global Positioning System (GPS), operated by the Space Force, is a network of U.S. satellites that provides PNT for military and civilian users worldwide. PNT capabilities provided by the Space Force enable many aspects of modern life, from ordering a rideshare to credit card transactions.

The U.S. Space Force understands the critical utility GPS provides military and civil users worldwide and that GPS is an attractive target for adversaries. Jamming (denial of signal) and spoofing (false signals) are a current and growing threat to GPS.

We are modernizing GPS to mitigate these threats. Foundational to GPS modernization is our military code signal, or "M-Code", a more powerful encrypted, military signal designed to help overcome jamming. Advanced encryption also protects against spoofing.

GPS III satellites offer advanced PNT capabilities to the U.S. and allied military forces; doubling the average spacecraft life expectancy compared to previous GPS spacecraft to 15 years, performing with three times increased accuracy over legacy satellites and offering up to eight times enhanced anti-jamming capabilities.

The Space Warfighting Analysis Center (SWAC) is developing resilient-by-design PNT architecture recommendations focused on servicing all domain users and counter threats. This effort supports the development of the Objective Force, which will define how the Space Force must evolve over the next fifteen years to achieve mission success.

Finally, the Space Force and our sister services are pursuing PNT resiliency through non-GPS PNT sources to augment and complement GPS.

Space Domain Awareness

Space Domain Awareness allows the Space Force to observe, attribute, and respond to adversary actions in space, helping ensure the responsible use of space by all parties and enabling US freedom of action in all orbital regimes.

As space becomes increasingly congested, space situational awareness requirements for commercial, civil, and national security missions are evolving and expanding. At the same time, space has become more contested, increasing the demand for the Space Force as a military service to focus on protecting and defending U.S. space assets and interests.

The Space Domain Awareness architecture consists of new and legacy ground and space-based capabilities. Key programs include Deep Space Advanced Radar Capability, Ground-based Optical Sensor System, and SILENTBARKER. Investments are also being made into sustaining and modernizing legacy sensors and processing and communications links. Work with the Joint Commercial Operations Cell leverages commercial capabilities to augment and support organic analysis, operations, and integration functions.

Satellite Communications (SATCOM)

SATCOM enables Command, Control, Communications and Computer systems and Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications support across all echelons throughout the entire spectrum of conflict. The Department of War (DoW) relies on military, commercial, and international partner SATCOM systems to support global military operations.

Space Force Deltas operate the country's military satellite communications (MILSATCOM) system and ensure protected and assured communications for the President, Secretary of War, national decision makers, theater commanders, and strategic and tactical forces worldwide. Developmental USSF SATCOM investments are evolving toward modernizing and disaggregating strategic and tactical satellite systems and hybrid military/commercial, multi-orbit architectures to counter emerging threats.

Space-Based Moving Target Indicator

Partnering with the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), the USSF is delivering a Space-Based Ground Moving Target Indicator (SB-GMTI) constellation, with launch expected as soon as 2028. SB-GMTI is the next-generation MTI for the warfighter, bringing most of that capability to space. Data products from SB-GMTI will be in the same formats and classification level as those utilized by warfighters from legacy systems such as the now-retired U.S. Air Force E-8 Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) aircraft.

Space Weather/Space-Based Environmental Monitoring

The ability to develop and provide Space-Based Environmental Monitoring (SBEM) capabilities is a national security imperative for the United States. SBEM is a core mission of the Space Force and provides important information to support the Joint Force. Accurate and timely weather data cannot be taken for granted. Losing access to weather data can lead to costly decisions and high risk for military operations, equipment, and personnel.

We are deploying the Electro-Optical/Infrared Weather System (EWS) and Weather System Follow-On-Microwave (WSF-M) space-based systems to support the SBEM mission. We are also partnering with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to provide critical weather data over the Indian Ocean and polar regions, ensuring our forces have the environmental intelligence they need.

Tactical Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Tracking (TacSRT)

The Space Force must take full advantage of the speed, innovation, and capabilities offered by the commercial space sector to create strategic advantage and support combatant commander objectives. Commercial space must be the option of first resort, with government-specific systems acquired only if necessary.

The TacSRT program is a notable example of how the Space Force incorporates commercial products and services into our operations. TacSRT is a commercial space service that provides combatant commands with rapid (less than 72 hours), on-demand unclassified Operational Planning Products (OPPs) derived entirely from commercially sourced, releasable data utilizing a Global Data Marketplace.

Through our critical partnerships with the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) and NRO, we are continuing to ensure tax-payer dollars are invested responsibly in products that are timely and effective with confidence that we, the U.S. Government, are avoiding duplication and only paying once.

Achieving Space Superiority: USSF Installations and Service Components

Our Installations are Power Projection Platforms

Space Force installations serve as home to our Guardians, Airmen, mission partners, and their families who live and work there. Most of our combat-ready Guardians are employed-in-place at their home stations, executing their missions from our installations which serve as power projection platforms.

The vital importance of our facilities and infrastructure as weapons platforms cannot be overstated. Our infrastructure is foundational to the launch and operational missions we conduct across the entire spectrum of conflict to provide essential capabilities to the Joint Force.

We maintain resilient energy and water through a comprehensive approach to security, multi-source system redundancy, and risk management to ensure our systems remain operationally capable across the entire spectrum of conflict.

Our Military Construction (MILCON) priorities focus on increasing capacity and reducing risk to mission and force. These MILCON priorities include energy resilience, assured access to space, security improvements, and combatant command requirements within the Indo-Pacific. We are also prioritizing Facilities, Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM) investments for improving readiness and quality of life for Guardians, Airmen, and their families, weapons systems infrastructure (i.e. electrical, water, and heating and cooling), roofs, and dormitories.

The Space Force must leverage Other Transaction Authority and other alternative MILCON authorities as we look to grow the force and modernize our space launch and weapons system infrastructure. We are grateful to Congress for expanding MILCON authorities in the FY26 NDAA and we are exploring how to best utilize those authorities to support Space Force MILCON needs.

USSF Service Components

Since 2022, USSF has activated eight service components in support of combatant commanders. The Space Force recently activated the service components at U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) and U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM). U.S. Space Forces Northern supports the homeland defense mission through providing essential operations planning and support for missile warning/missile tracking, PNT, SATCOM, and orbital and electromagnetic warfare capabilities to NORTHCOM. U.S. Space Forces Southern provides planning and support for PNT, SATCOM, and space-enabled awareness to support SOUTHCOM's counter-illicit trafficking operations, multinational exercises, partner-nation capacity building, and crisis response.

The Space Force will continue to stand up service components to combatant commands to meet Joint Force requirements outlined in the U.S. military's Joint Publication 1. Standing up service components is a critical step in normalizing the presentation of space forces to combatant commanders.

Achieving Space Superiority: The Space Force Must Grow

The Space Force must grow to secure our nation's interests in a contested space domain. Growth is needed to turn the advanced systems we are buying into credible combat power. Advanced systems are only as effective as the trained Guardians who operate them and the resilient infrastructure that supports them.

The Space Force has enjoyed recruiting success and has grown each year since our activation in 2019. Space superiority mission requirements will necessitate growing our force size and infrastructure over the next decade, whether it is new missions and systems that require new units, resiliency efforts for our current units, or right-sizing of our Space Force service support to the combatant commands.

Supporting our Guardians and their families is a readiness imperative. The Space Force is committed to providing Guardians and their families access to affordable, high-quality childcare and family housing. We continue to invest in Child Development Centers (CDCs) through FSRM funding to execute repairs and maintenance and through MILCON funding to increase capacity. We are adding 16-20 spaces at the CDC at Peterson SFB and 24 spaces at the Vandenberg SFB CDC, with both projects expected to be completed in June 2026.

The Commanders' Key Support Program and Key Support Liaisons at our installations assist Guardians and their families and help build a sense of community. These programs aid and connect Guardians and their families with resources to help navigate the challenges of military

life. Programs like these are force multipliers and provide important assistance to enable Guardians to be employed-in-place at our installations.

Conclusion

Thank you for your support for the Space Force mission, and most importantly, for your support for the truly dedicated and talented Guardians who stand ready to deter, and if necessary, defeat our adversaries.

I look forward to your questions.