



## My Drift

**Title: The United States Space Force**

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**The U.S. Space Force (USSF)** is a new branch of the Armed Forces. It was established on December 20, 2019 with enactment of the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act that was signed by President Trump. The USSF was established within the Department of the Air Force, meaning the Secretary of the Air Force has overall responsibility for the USSF, under the guidance and direction of the Secretary of Defense. Additionally, a four-star general known as the Chief of Space Operations (CSO) serves as the senior military member of the USSF.

Since I live a sheltered life here in Mililani, Hawaii, I didn't know this until I read about it recently online.



## **Our Armed Forces**

The Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard are the armed forces of the United States. The Army National Guard and the Air National Guard are reserve components of their services and operate in part under state authority. Yes, there are now six armed services as the Space Force joins the following established armed services.



In this article, we will learn more about the Space Force and some general information about the other armed services.

**The United States Army (USA)** is the land service branch of the United States Armed Forces and part of the civilian-led Department of the Army, which is led by the Secretary of the Army. The military head of the U.S. Army is the chief of staff of the Army, who is assisted by the vice chief of staff of the United States Army and sergeant major of the Army. The Army was founded on 14 June 1775 as the Continental Army.

The U.S. Army is the largest U.S. military branch and is composed of the Regular Army (476,000 soldiers), United States Army Reserve (199,000 soldiers), and United States Army National Guard (343,000 soldiers). The combined-component strength of the U.S. Army is about 1,018,000 soldiers.





**U.S. Army Soldiers**

**The United States Navy (USN)** is the maritime service branch of the United States Armed Forces and part of the civilian-led Department of the Navy, which is led by the Secretary of the Navy. The military head of the U.S. Navy is the chief of naval operations, who is assisted by the vice chief of naval operations and master chief petty officer of the Navy. The Navy was founded on 13 October 1775 as the Continental Navy, which was disbanded on 1 August 1785 before being reestablished as the modern U.S. Navy on 20 January 1794.



The U.S. Navy is composed of the Regular Navy and United States Navy Reserve. With 337,000 personnel on active duty and 102,000 in the Ready Reserve, the Navy is the third largest of the U.S. military services. It has over 500 ships in both active service and the reserve fleet.

The five enduring functions of the Navy are:

- Sea control
- Power projection
- Deterrence
- Maritime security
- Sealift





**The United States Marine Corps (USMC)** is the maritime land force service branch of the United States Armed Forces and part of the civilian-led Department of the Navy, which is led by the Secretary of the Navy. The military head of the U.S. Marine Corps is the commandant of the Marine Corps, who is assisted by the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps and sergeant major of the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps was founded on 10 November 1775 as the Continental Marines and disbanded in 1783, before being reestablished as the United States Marine Corps on 11 July 1789.



**USMC Logo**

The Marine Corps is responsible for amphibious warfare and expeditionary warfare operations, having a close relationship with its coequal sister service, the United States Navy. The U.S. Marine Corps is composed of the Regular Marine Corps and the United States Marine Corps Reserve. The central unit of the Marine Corps is a Marine Air-Ground Task Force, which consist of a command element, ground combat element, aviation combat element, and logistics combat element. The Marine Corps is divided in the Fleet Marine Force and the Supporting Establishment.



**U.S. Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare Ship**

The USMC has around 182,000 active duty members and some 38,500 personnel in reserve.

**The United States Coast Guard (USCG)** is the maritime security, search and rescue, and law enforcement service branch of the United States Armed Forces and part of the Department of Homeland Security, which is led by the Secretary of Homeland Security. It is the only military branch outside the Department of Defense, but can be transferred to the civilian-led Department of the Navy, which is led by the Secretary of the Navy, in the case that congress stipulates that when declaring war or if the President directs it.



The military head of the Coast Guard is the commandant of the Coast Guard, who is assisted by the vice commandant of the Coast Guard and master chief petty officer of the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard was founded as a military service branch on 4 August 1790 as the United States Revenue-Marine, before being renamed on 31 July 1894 as the United States Revenue Cutter Service. On 28 January 1915 it was merged with the civilian United States Life-Saving Service to form the United States Coast Guard. It was transferred to the Department of the Navy during World War I and World War II. In 1967 it was transferred to the Department of Transportation, where it would reside until 2003 when it was permanently transferred to the Department of Homeland Security.



The U.S. Coast Guard is composed of the Regular Coast Guard and United States Coast Guard Reserve. The U.S. Coast Guard is organized into two area commands: Coast Guard Atlantic Area and Coast Guard Pacific Area

**The eleven missions of the Coast Guard are:**

- Port and waterway security
- Drug interdiction
- Aids to navigation
- Search and rescue
- Living marine resources
- Marine safety
- Defense readiness
- Migrant interdiction
- Marine environmental protection
- Ice operations
- Law enforcement

**The Coast Guard has about 41,000 active duty personnel, 7,000 reservists, and 8,600 full-time civilian employees, and 31,000 auxiliary members for a total workforce of 87,600. The Coast Guard maintains an extensive fleet of 243 coastal and ocean-going patrol ships, tenders, tugs, icebreakers, and 1,650 smaller boats, as well as an aviation division consisting of 201 helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft.**

**The United States Air Force (USAF)** is the air service branch of the United States Armed Forces and part of the civilian-led Department of the Air Force, which is led by the Secretary of the Air Force. The military head of the U.S. Air Force is the chief of staff of the Air Force, who is assisted by the vice chief of staff of the United States Air Force and chief master sergeant of the Air Force. It achieved independence on 18 September 1947 from the U.S. Army, but directly traces its history through the United States Army Air Forces, United States Army Air Corps, United States Army Air Service, the Division of Military Aeronautics, Aviation Section, U.S. Signal Corps, to the birth of Aeronautical Division, U.S. Signal Corps on 1 August 1907.



**Air Force F-22A Raptors in Flight**

**The five core missions of the Air Force are:**

- **Air superiority**
- **Global integrated intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance**
- **Rapid global mobility**
- **Global strike**
- **Command and control**

**The U.S. Air Force is the second largest service branch, with 320,820 active duty airmen, 145,790 civilian personnel, 69,200 reserve airmen, and 105,700 Air National Guard airmen.**

**The United States Space Force (USSF)** is the space service branch of the United States Armed Forces and part of the civilian-led Department of the Air Force, which is led by the Secretary of the Air Force. The military head of the U.S. Space Force is the chief of space operations, who is assisted by the vice chief of space operations and senior enlisted advisor of the Space Force. It achieved independence on 20 December 2019 from the U.S. Air Force, but directly traces its history through Air Force Space Command to 1 September 1982, with even earlier history traced to the Western Development Division established on 1 July 1954.



**The five core competencies of the Space Force are:**

- **Space security**
- **Combat power projection**
- **Space mobility and logistics**
- **Information mobility**
- **Space domain awareness**

**The U.S. Space Force is composed of the Regular Space Force, not yet having organized a reserve component outside of the Air Force. The Space Force is organized into one field command and one center, with the intent to fully organize into three field commands, activating Space Systems Command to replace the Space and Missile Systems Center and Space Training and Readiness Command to institutionalize its training, education, and doctrine development.**

**The Space Force currently has about 16,000 active duty personnel.**



**That is some general information about the Space Force. Now, let's see if we can learn a little more about our newest branch of the military.**

### **Why was the Space Force created?**

**The Space Force was created because of the increasing space ambitions and capabilities of multiple countries, especially China and Russia. The Space Force is designed to help protect the interests of the United States in space, deter aggression in the final frontier and conduct prompt and sustained space operations.**

**As U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper noted recently, nations have been in space for many, many years. "It's just been recently that the actions of both China and Russia have made space a warfighting domain." As a result, Esper said, the United States has established the Space Force, "to make sure that we can preserve space as a Global Commons," he stressed. "It's important not just to our security, but to our commerce, our way of life, our understanding of the planet, weather, you name it. So, it's very important that we now treat it that way and make sure that we're prepared to defend ourselves and preserve space."**

### **What will the new military branch actually do?**

**The primary mission of the U.S. Space Force as directed by Congress is to maintain, protect, and expand the U.S. fleet of advanced military satellites that form the backbone of U.S. global military operations.**



**U.S. Military Satellite**



**Some background info:** Improved satellite technology contributed to the decisive coalition victory in the Gulf War by providing instantaneous surveillance of enemy forces as well as enabling precision missile and air strikes. The Space Command further aided U.S. military efforts in the Balkans as well as the War on Terror, aiding in locating enemy leaders and fugitives. Space gained even more attention as a potential conflict domain as states like China and Russia developed weapons capable of destroying American satellites and began deploying more of their own space assets.

### **How many satellites orbit Earth?**

As of this date (November 2020) there are a total of 2,787 satellites in Space.

United States: 1,425

Civil: 33

Commercial: 1,011

Government: 173

Military: 208

Russia: 172

China: 382

Other: 808



A “Junk Yard” of working and non-working satellites are up there in space  
Space Traffic Management is crucial – However, right now we don’t have it!

### **U.S. Space Force launches the mysterious X-37B Space Plane**

The enigmatic X-37B space plane is back in orbit after a Sunday morning launch aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V Rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.



**Alliance Atlas V Rocket Launch**



**Boeing X-37B Space Plane**

The Boeing-made X-37B is an unmanned, reusable spacecraft that takes off vertically and lands horizontally on a runway. The U.S. Air Force, which owns two X-37B vehicles, has historically been reticent to comment on the capabilities of the X-37B and what it does during its extended time in space, aside from hosting scientific experiments.

The U.S. Space Force regularly launches GPS and missile-defense tracking satellites, plus operating two classified X-37B robotic space planes.

### **SpaceX launches next-gen GPS satellite for U.S. Space Force**

SpaceX successfully launched an advanced GPS satellite for the U.S. Space Force on Thursday (5 Nov 2020), marking the first launch in nearly two weeks here on the Space Coast.



**SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket carrying the U.S. Space Force's GPS III-SV04 Navigation Satellite lifts off**

One of the company's two-stage Falcon 9 rockets blasted off from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station here at 6:24 p.m. EST (2324 GMT), carrying the GPS III-SV04 satellite to orbit.

## Space Force Budget

The proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget for the Space Force would transfer over \$15 billion from the Air Force.

United States Space Force Budget	2020	2021 (proposed)
Operation & Maintenance	\$40,000,000	\$2,608,400,000
Procurement	\$0	\$2,446,100,000
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation	\$0	\$10,327,600,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40,000,000</b>	<b>\$15,382,100,000</b>

The 2021 Department of Defense Budget requests \$1.6 billion for three National Security Space Launch vehicles. \$1.05 billion of this budget will fund three launches: AFSPC-36, AFSPC-87 and AFSPC-112. The United States Space Force is reported to be working closely with commercial leaders in the space domain such as Elon Musk (SpaceX) and Jeff Bezos (Blue Origin) to determine their capability in serving the mission.

## Space Force Uniforms



**4-Star General Space Force Uniform**



**86 Space Force Cadets Graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy on 18 Apr 2020**



**Space Force Battle Uniform**



**I agree 100% that the new Space Force is needed to protect the United States and our interests in Space.**

**What are Top 5 countries with the most powerful and largest military?**

**Powerful: #1 U.S. - #2 Russia - #3 China - #4 Germany - #5 United Kingdom**

**Military Personnel: #1 China - #2 India - #3 U.S. - #4 North Korea - #5 Russia**

### **Some Closing Remarks**

**I started researching and writing this article on Veterans Day, 11 Nov 2020.**

**Veteran's Day means freedom, sacrifice, and honor for those who served in the military. It also means to give thanks to those people who served. Without Veterans Day, many Americans would forget our veterans and the sacrifices they made.**



**As a proud U.S. Navy Veteran and Army Department of Defense retiree, I want to give my thanks to all veterans, all active duty military, and all DoD civilians for their service to this great country.**

*Thank you!*

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