



Army Space Narrative

Key Points

- 1) **Inflection Point in the Space Domain**
- 2) **The U.S. Army in Space**
- 3) **Army Space Capability Requirements**
- 4) **Risks of Army Divesting Space**

Inflection Point in the Space Domain. The Department of Defense (DOD) is approaching an inflection point in the space domain. Through targeted investments and modernization, our adversaries, enabled by decreased cost of access, are contesting our space dominance and ability to provide space capabilities to the joint force. Our competitors are using space for tactical functions and increasingly incorporate space operations into their conduct of war, thus requiring our Army to focus its space investments on the close fight through its design, development, and employment of space capabilities inside of multi-domain formations.

The U.S. Army in Space. Over the past several decades, the Army has emerged as the largest user of space capabilities in the DOD, and currently leverages space capabilities to increase combat power from the strategic to the tactical level. In support of the joint force's principal task of deterring and defeating adversary aggression in both competition and conflict, these space forces and capabilities enable the application of strategic land power and execution of Multi-Domain Operations (MDO). Additionally, space capabilities anchor the Army's ability to penetrate and disintegrate enemy anti-access and area denial (A2AD) systems and exploit the resultant freedom of maneuver to achieve strategic objectives and force a return to competition on favorable terms.

Army Space Capability Requirements—*Close Space Support*

Expeditionary, Mobile, and Responsive. To support MDO and forward-presence forces in contested spaces, Army space forces must be expeditionary, mobile, and responsive. Land component commanders rely on the ability to rapidly and seamlessly integrate space capabilities into their operations, enabling convergence and cross-domain synergy to create multiple dilemmas for an adversary. The Army's ability to employ cross-domain fires provides lethal and non-lethal options for commanders and overcomes enemy attempts at degrading or denying space effects.

Land-centric. Army tactical space operations provide the direct-to-user space capabilities and applications required for the Army to successfully execute MDO. These tactical operations include 1) assured positioning, navigation, and timing (APNT); 2) organic sensors for Army weapons systems (i.e., Long-Range Precision Fires); 3) close-in reconnaissance of the electromagnetic (EM) environment; 4) maneuver across the EM spectrum to create temporary windows of advantage across multiple



U.S. ARMY SPACE AND MISSILE DEFENSE COMMAND

domains; 5) protection of land forces from space-based observation; 6) defense of space data lines of communication that enable Army weapons; and 7) denial and deceit of enemy space-based ISR, communication, and navigation.

Integrated. Space experts and operators, along with their capabilities, must remain integrated into Army warfighting formations. Army operations at all levels rely on space domain capabilities—the majority of the Army’s equipment and weapon systems leverage space-based services and capabilities.

These capabilities are critical to Army operations now. As we move toward 2028 and a force capable of MDO, the Army will require continued investment in counter-communication, space control and electronic warfare, and navigation warfare, among other capabilities. As new multi-domain formations are developed and employed over the next several years, the space requirements for these units will continue to grow.

Risks of Army Divesting Organic Army Space. The Army requirements for space-based capabilities and services, including protection, tailored to the Army and its unique land force requirements in MDO cannot be met solely by reliance on another Service providing support. The necessity for speed and the high level of synchronicity demanded by Army forces penetrating A2AD defenses and conducting MDO requires unity of command within the Army and full-spectrum Soldiers with space expertise, skills, and capabilities. The Army’s increasing integration of space capabilities and applications to compete and win the land fight requires that the Army continues to design and develop space concepts and capabilities for integration into Army formations. Today, all of the Services retain aviation assets suited to their operating needs from the air domain. Likewise, the Services must retain capabilities in the space domain to enable their respective operations. The Army knows this lesson firsthand, as it worked to address gaps in lift and attack aviation and the resulting 40-year struggle to build an aviation branch post-WWII.

Conclusions. Army space capabilities remain critical to successful ground combat operations today, and their importance will only grow as the MDO concept is fully implemented over the next several years. The Army’s forward-presence forces, now and in the future, rely on expeditionary, responsive, and mobile Army space capabilities to achieve overmatch against our adversaries.

Through the establishment of the United States Space Force (USSF), DOD now has a Service that will be able to focus on those new and emerging roles to protect and defend global space operations. As the USSF matures, so will the balance of space capabilities across all Services. That balance requires the Services retain necessary organic space-related capabilities while the Space Force focuses on global space capabilities and support to those operations. The 2020 NDAA supports the “start small and leave legacy capabilities in place” approach. Rather than isolate a domain into a



U.S. ARMY SPACE AND MISSILE DEFENSE COMMAND

single Service, Service capabilities within that domain should complement each other across the full spectrum of operations. These complementary capabilities, organic and tailored to each Service, limit operational risk and contribute to a more capable joint force. Leadership from DOD down through the military departments all recognize the Services have space experts who understand space's relationship to their respective domains, and aspects of that functional expertise must remain in the Services.

Moving forward, the conversation should focus on how to transition between new and legacy architectures, not missions and functions between Services; this will require a deliberate and conditions-based approach that clearly identifies Service-retained space roles and missions, and resultant forces and funding.

Prior to designating which specific personnel, facilities, and other resources should be considered for potential transfer to the USSF, the DOD should define USSPACECOM's concept of operations. The CONOPs should result from a thorough mission analysis, approved by the Joint Staff, to inform development of appropriate Service components, including USSF, prior to directing any transfers. Additionally, before any of the Services provide Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, or Marines, the Space Force must show policies and demonstrate the capability and capacity to recruit, commission, enlist/reenlist, promote, develop, compensate, and professionally develop its people to ensure a high-quality force.