

Con Case:

Framework: US Space Force is not special or new.

Final Focus:

Judge, in order for the Pro side to carry the argument, they would have to prove not only the benefits of the space force could potentially outweigh the harm, but the benefits of the space force (2019) uniquely outweigh the harm. That is because the US military is already doing it prior to 2019. Since the Pro side has failed to do so, the benefits of creating the US Space Force does not weigh its harms.

Focus Questions:

- What has the space force done that isn't done before?
- Can you give me a list of agencies that previously took orders from a Space Command that is not the Air Force Space Command (predecessor for the US Space Force), but now takes orders or is under direct jurisdiction from the US Space Force, established in 2019?
- Can you tell me what is the difference between the US Space Force and the US Space Command and the Air Force Space Command?
- The United States Space Force can easily spiral into a DoD pet project that sucks up taxpayers' money and never has to confront a single foreign adversary, whether directly or indirectly. How can you prove that it is not heading in that direction?
- Do you believe that the United States Space Force is too small, shaping up to the right size, or too big? Do you think it will need more funding and if so, why?

Definition Questions:

- When talking about the United States Space Force, are you referring to the one created by the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, or another US Space Force?

Script:

We negate the resolution; On balance, the benefits of creating the United States Space Force do not outweigh the harms. To begin this debate, we will define the US Space Force as the uniformed service under the Department of the Air Force. The official mission of the Space Force is to “protect U.S. and allied interests in space and to provide space capabilities to the joint force,” Despite this ambitious undertaking, the benefits for creating the US Space Force do not outweigh the harms, principally because it promises to do nothing the US military has not previously been doing, secondarily because the US Space Force undermines international cooperation and escalates military tension, and finally because the US Space Force is unorganized and cannot achieve its preordained objectives.

Contention 1: The US Space Force is simply a rebranding of the Air Force Space Command.

According to the US Space Force, the Air Force Space Command, also known as the AFSPC, was established in 1982 and became the de-facto Space Force of the US Armed Forces from 1982 to 2016, eventually becoming the direct predecessor of the US Space Force. AFSPC’s Cold War-era space operations focused on missile warning, launch operations, satellite control, space surveillance, and command and control for national leadership. Operation Desert Storm and the War on Terror proved the effectiveness of the AFSPC through the use of GPS to coordinate maneuvers.

However, with the enactment of the Fiscal Year 20 National Defense Authorization Act, AFSPC was re-designated as the U.S. Space Force.^[1] The Space Force now does the very same things that the Air Force Space Command has been doing for almost 4 decades. In the same way that the Marine Corps falls under the Department of the Navy rather than having its own department, the Space Force falls under the Department of the Air Force as it was originally Air Force Space Command.^[3] The Space Force is a hollow effort to paint over old establishments in hopes of a popularity surge due to the novelty of the name.

Contention 2: the creation of the US Space Force undermines international cooperation and escalates military tension.

US Space Force states in its Capstone publication that the US, “desires a peaceful, secure, stable, and accessible space domain.”^[6] Yet the Space Force’s very existence contradicts that statement. Consider NASA. President Eisenhower specifically created NASA as a civilian agency in order to prevent the domination of space activities by the US military. According to NASA’s website, NASA has nearly eight hundred active international agreements, which are vital for powering research in physics, chemistry, medicine, biology, and environmental science. This cooperation is vital when addressing both space-specific problems, such as increasing

satellite traffic and dangerous orbital debris, but also in addressing close-to-home threats like climate change and natural disasters.[\[7\]](#)

The US Space Force, on the other hand, is the one and only space force in existence and will cause foreign adversaries to consolidate their own space agencies in an attempt to surpass the United States. Its existence and status is similar to that of the nuclear bomb. The Russians stole so much from the US Manhattan Project through espionage that according to one Harvard dissertation, “There was no “Russian” atomic bomb. There only was an American one, masterfully discovered by Soviet spies.”[\[8\]](#) The nuclear arms race only ended with the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, as a diplomatic measure between the United States and the Soviet Union. Had the US never used the nuclear bomb, the Soviets would never have placed so much effort on atomic bomb research so suddenly. Similarly, the creation of the US Space Force is comparable to an open declaration of aggression, producing an effect akin to when the atomic bombs were first used in public. The US already has 3800 active nuclear warheads, it does not need new types of lasers and military satellites. Nor will the Space Force lead to more cooperation between the United States and its foreign adversaries, especially in such times when international cooperation is desperately needed to maintain world peace.

Contention 3: The Space Force is costly, unorganized, and weighed down by the bureaucracy of the DoD.

According to Times.com, the Pentagon is famous for its history of waste, fraud, and abuse. According to The Balance, the US military spending doubled from 2005 to 2020, from 478.9 billion to 935.8 billion.[\[9\]](#) According to Space News.com, the Space Force budget for 2021 is 15.4 billion, with a projected increase of 2.6 billion over the next five years, most of it driven by classified programs. Given that services tend to pursue autonomy, the Space Force could pose an obstacle to future multilateral arms control in space. Services tend to resent external limits on their budget, resulting in growing “defense budgets” in preparation for wars no one would ever consider fighting. If the Space Force were to grow in the future, it could act as an interest group within the government to prevent the execution of strong multilateral arms control agreements. If not restricted by other service branches of the military, the Space Force will just become another cash cow for defense contractors.

In conclusion, the United States Space Force suffers from being a duplication of previous establishments, inability to accomplish its objectives, and a lack of organization and institutional foresight. It will take time before these issues become assimilated and resolved. It is for these reasons that, judge, we strongly urge you to pick the Con ballot.

- [1] United States Space Force, “USSF History,” Spaceforce.mil.
- [2] Christina Morales, “The Newest Guardians of the Galaxy Are Run by the US Military,” Dec. 19, 2020, New York Times.
- [3] DoD News, “What’s with All the U.S. Space-Related Agencies?” Dec. 14, 2020, US Department of Defense.
- [4] W.J. Hennigan, “America Really Does Have a Space Force. We Went Inside to See What It Does,” Jul. 23, 2020, Time.com.
- [5] Kaitlyn Johnson, “Space Force or Space Corps?” Jun. 27, 2019, Center for Strategic & International Studies.
- [6] Space Capstone Publication, “Spacepower: Doctrine for Space Forces,” Aug. 10, 2020, United States Space Force.
- [7] David Wemer, “Can International Cooperation in Space Survive Geopolitical Competition on Earth?” Nov. 20, 2018, Atlantic Council.
- [8] Michael Schwartz, “The Russian-A(merican) Bomb: The Role of Espionage in the Soviet Atomic Bomb Project,” Harvard University.
- [9] Kimberly Amadeo, “US Military Budget, Its Components, Challenges, and Growth,” Sep. 3, 2020, TheBalance.com.
- [10] W.J. Hennigan, “America Really Does Have a Space Force. We Went Inside to See What It Does,” Jul. 23, 2020, Time.com.