



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

12/20/19

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE

SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR OF COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM
EVALUATION
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE
AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC
AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR OF NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

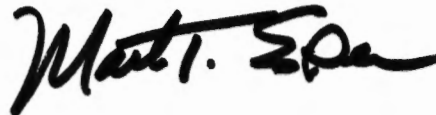
SUBJECT: Establishment of the United States Space Force

The Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act establishes the United States Space Force as a new Armed Force within the Department of the Air Force. The creation of the U.S. Space Force is the most significant reorganization of the Department of Defense (DoD) since the Goldwater-Nichols DoD Reorganization Act of 1986, and the first new Armed Force since the United States Air Force was authorized by the National Security Act of 1947. Establishing the U.S. Space Force will elevate the role of space in our national defense and transform how DoD organizes, trains, and equips in order to prepare for new security challenges in an era of great power competition.

Standing up the U.S. Space Force as a new Armed Force will require commitment, time, and focus across the entire DoD. Under my guidance, direction, and oversight, the Secretary of the Air Force will lead implementation of this legislation with the support of all DoD Components. The long-term vision of DoD remains to consolidate the space forces of all Armed Forces into the U.S. Space Force, as appropriate and authorized. The Secretary of the Air Force will build upon planning efforts to date in order to rapidly and effectively stand up the U.S. Space Force, subject to law.

The Department has the opportunity to build a new Armed Force guided by joint principles but with a mission and culture unique to space operations. First, the U.S. Space Force will cultivate space domain-specific expertise and serve as the DoD proponent of and advocate for spacepower. The U.S. Space Force will develop and integrate into the Joint Force the space doctrine, capabilities, and personnel our Nation needs to outpace future threats. Second, the U.S. Space Force must be effective and efficient. It will remain mission-focused by leveraging infrastructure of the U.S. Air Force, except in performing those functions that are unique to space or central to the independence of the new Armed Force. Third, the U.S. Space Force will not be limited to existing organizational models. It will be built from the ground up with a focus on speed, agility, and partnerships within DoD, within the U.S. Government, with allies and international partners, and with the private sector. Finally, the space acquisition enterprise should be rationalized as the U.S. Space Force is established.

I expect the full support of all DoD Components in implementing this historic reorganization of DoD space forces. The Secretary of the Air Force shall provide me with regular progress reports on the stand-up of the U.S. Space Force and the Deputy Secretary of Defense will lead regular Space Governance Committee meetings. The success of the U.S. Space Force is vital to our Nation's ability to compete, deter, and win.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark T. Spa". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.