A Three-Pronged Analysis of the Proposal for a United States Space Force

Abstract

On June 18, 2018, at a meeting of the newly revived National Space Council, President Trump announced that he had directed the Department of Defense and the Pentagon “to immediately begin the process necessary to establish a space force as the sixth branch of the armed forces.” This paper will discuss a three-pronged analysis of the proposal for the United States Space Force. This paper is divided into six sections including an introduction. The second section is an analysis of the international legality of a U.S. Space Force, along with a comparison to the U.S. current policy in space. The next section covers the history of the Air Force Space Command, and a discussion over the process of creating a new branch of the military. The political section explains the legislative history and gives support and opposition to the proposal. Finally, there is a recommendations section and conclusion to advise the U.S government. The paper has been broken up into four teams consisting of two partners, which comes to a total of nine with one lead overseeing all the teams. The four teams coincide with each section of the paper. The paper will be published through the university and hopefully be used in consideration for the creation of the Space Force.

Outline

• Introduction
  • Background
  • Summary of analysis
  • Paper outline

• Legal Analysis
  • State issue
  • Describe law
  • Apply the law
  • Outline policy issues

• Military Analysis
  • AFSPC
  • Space capabilities
  • Transfer of resources from AF to SF
  • Will all space capabilities be moved over the SF?
  • History and origin of AFSPC
  • Pros and Cons of weaponizing space.

• Legislative Analysis
  • 2018 Midterm Elections
  • Congressional response to the budget
  • Congressional Support for a new branch of the military
  • Presidential Role in the Process
  • Recommendations
  • Conclusion
  • Summary of analysis and recommendations
  • Future outlook

Sources


“Remarks by President Trump at a Meeting with the National Space Council and Signing of Space Policy Directive-3,” the White House, accessed October 9, 2018.


“About Explorer 1,” Jet Propulsion Laboratory (NASA), accessed October 9, 2018.
https://explorer1.jpl.nasa.gov/about/#the_launch.


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