

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



What's Best for America: Integrated or Segregated Aerospace Power?

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OVERVIEW

- Administration Proposal
- Rationale For and Against
- Historical Conditions for Standing up a Service
- AFA Position
- Discussion



Administration Position

1. Create a new unified combatant command, the **U.S. Space Command** “to lead the use of space assets in warfighting and accelerate integration of space capabilities into other warfighting forces.”
2. Create a **Space Development Agency** (SDA) “to develop and field space capabilities at speed and scale.”
3. Establish a **Space Operations Force** to “support the Combatant Commands.”
4. Ask Congress in the 2020 Budget to create the **U.S. Space Force** as the sixth armed service
5. Establish an **assistant secretary of defense for space**...“key to the critical transition to a fully independent Secretary of the Space Force...”



Rationale For and

Against the Proposal



FOR:

- The major argument for a separate Space Armed Service is that the Air Force has not stepped up effectively to its responsibility in space
- Needed efforts in the realm of military space exploitation “are not being pursued with the vision and attention needed”
- Warfighting advances by Russia and China call for more attention to space

AGAINST:

- The historical conditions for standing up a separate service for Space are not met
- Space as a mission fares as well or better than other mission areas in the Air Force: The multi-billion dollar overhead cost of standing up a new Service would be better spent on combat capability
- Air and space have been integrated to such a degree that segregating these functions would risk providing the US with dominant combat power



Historical Conditions for Standing up The U.S. Air Force

1. Unique, actionable airpower theory regarding air warfare to ensure the appropriate linkage between ends, ways, and means
2. Demonstrated direct combat effects in and from the air in a useful fashion at a scale equivalent to the other services (World War II)
3. Aviation as a critical element of national power
4. Ability of airpower to fulfill peacetime roles
5. Congressional support for the idea of a separate military service



Historical Conditions for Standing up a Space Armed Force

1. Unique, actionable spacepower theory regarding warfare in space to ensure the appropriate linkage between ends, ways, and means
2. Demonstrated, direct combat effects in and from space in a useful fashion at a scale equivalent to the other services
3. Space as a critical element of national power
4. Ability of spacepower to fulfill peacetime roles
5. Congressional support for the idea of a separate military service

http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a2dd91_2ff8dfe95e694f80b4139d05650843ed.pdf



A “Billy Mitchell Moment” or Too Soon?

- Mitchell saw the potential of airpower in ways that were prescient.
 - However, he and his fellow airmen lacked the strategy and technology to transform their theory into reality.
 - The air strategy of the time was woefully underdeveloped to allow airmen to make a concerted difference in war.
 - In looking at America’s present space functions, it’s important to make an honest, pragmatic assessment.
 - Relative to a “Space Force” does the situation look too much like like America’s air arm in in World War I?

Independence does not ensure military preparedness



What Are the Risks of a Premature Space Force?

- Risk one: lack of cohesive spacepower theory will see space assets sub-optimized
- Risk two: more energy and money spent on organization than operations
- Risk three: segregation of air and space will undermine the synergy of the integrated effects of the third dimension



What is the problem we are trying to solve?



- Not enough **money** or resources going to space efforts?
 - Congress needs to appropriate more \$\$: a separate Space Force is not the answer
- The space **acquisition** system is too slow?
 - Drive down decision-making; empower program managers; use the authorities Congress has already provided: a separate Space Force is not the answer
- Not enough focus on the **people** of the space enterprise?
 - Change AF staff requirements to integrate more space personnel; change SECAF instructions to promotion boards: If people are your concern, a separate Space Force is not your solution
- Not sufficient **warfighting** focus?
 - Space Force is not the answer as a service is responsible to organize, train, and equip—a combatant command is the solution



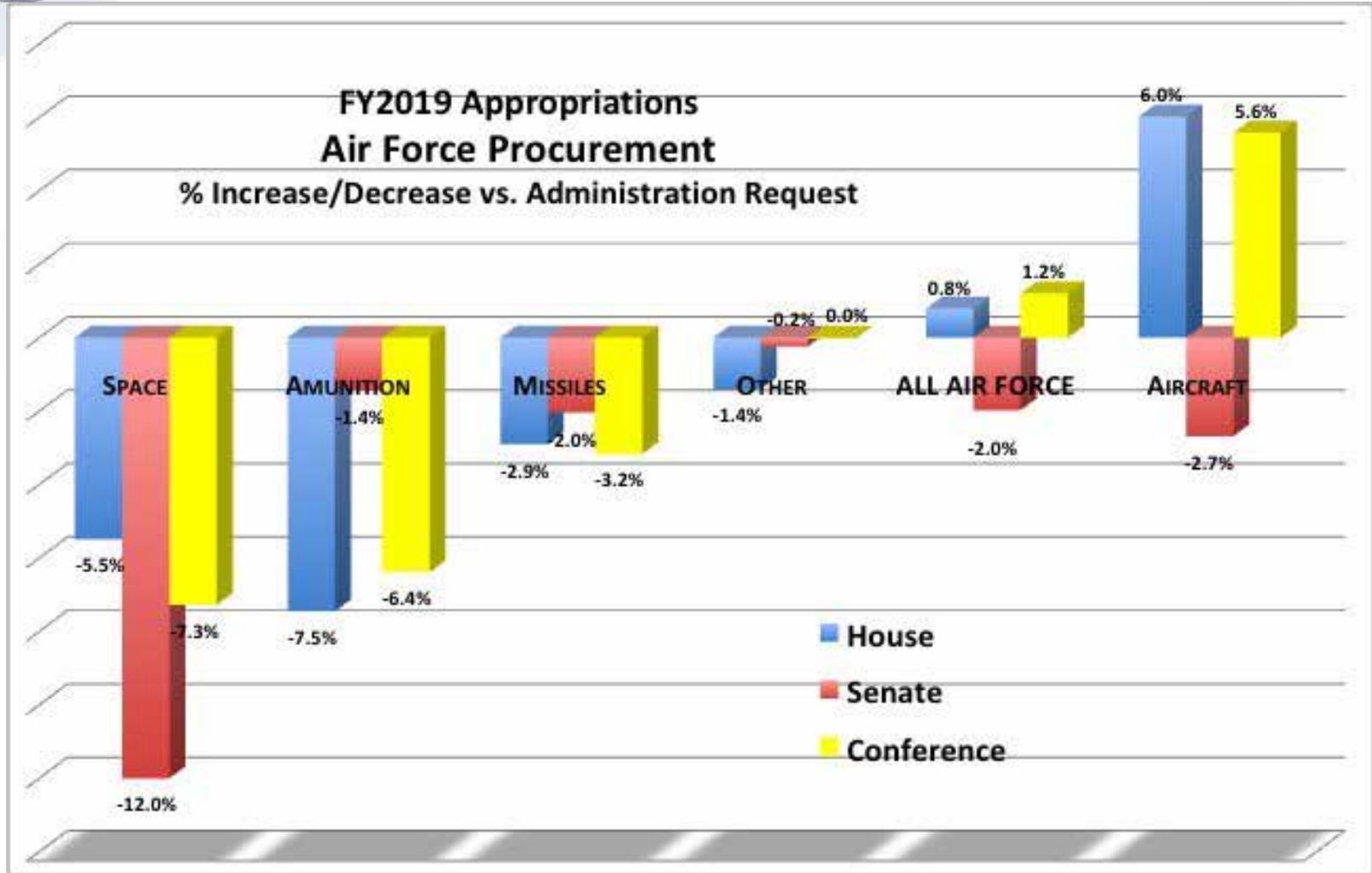
AFA Position



1. The question of standing up an armed service for space is **not “if,” but “when.”** The “when” is the time all the conditions for creating a separate space armed force are met.
2. The standup of a combatant command (US Space Command) to focus on warfare in space is appropriate. Rapidly reducing US space capability gaps, while **re-establishing US Space Command, is the best way to address advancing threats to space.**
3. From an employment perspective **effects from air and space have been integrated and are indivisible.** The USAF may want to reflect this reality so it is better understood by Americans by considering renaming the US Air Force to the US Aerospace Force.
4. The Space Force proposal is a resource question writ large: **Too much mission, too few dollars.** Standing up a separate space bureaucracy amplifies the problem by driving more money to a headquarters function, not space operations. Congress has constrained space capabilities, not the Air Force, by underfunding the service.
5. Currently **there are no space arms which are fundamental to setting up an armed service.** Constraints to fully-weaponized space capability must be debated and changed by Congress to allow the Air Force to mature space warfare theory and concepts of operation for war in, from, and through space—these are prerequisites for establishing a new *Armed Service*. Realistic concepts of operation to hold an enemy at risk from space must be considered and debated before establishing a separate space armed force.



CONGRESSIONAL ACTION FY 19



Congressional FY 19 “Marks” on USAF Procurement



What's Best for America?

- A fully integrated aerospace force that is fully resourced to meet the challenges of the 21st century...
- The US Air Force has led the Armed Forces in establishing America's space capability such that it is unrivaled in the world.
- Today, to split up and segregate the well-integrated set of air and space capabilities that have been organized to seamlessly contribute to America's military capabilities would result in more harm than good.

A Fully Integrated Aerospace Armed Force

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Way Ahead on DOD

Space Proposals



- On the Space Development Agency:
 - Assign this function to the AF Space Rapid Capabilities Office
 - Already has authorities/exemptions from Congress to rapidly develop space capabilities and the people and expertise to do so
- Incorporating Other Key Space Organizations
 - Dual-hat director of the National Reconnaissance Office as head of AF Space Rapid Capabilities Office/SDA
 - Establishes unity of command/reintegrates Defense Space and NRO
- Establish SDA as a direct report to USSPACECOM, not OSD
 - Tying the developers of capability to the warfighters is an imperative
- On the position of Assistant SECDEF for Space
 - Increases complexity & cost of space bureaucracy
 - Counterproductive of President's intent to focus on space defense