

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HM 1281 United States Space Command and United States Space Force
SPONSOR(S): Sirois
TIED BILLS: IDEN./SIM. **BILLS:**

| REFERENCE | ACTION | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF |
|---|-----------|---------|--|
| 1) Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee | 13 Y, 0 N | Renner | Miller |
| 2) State Affairs Committee | | | |

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

To recognize how vital space is to the United States economy and national security, in December 2018, President Trump announced the establishment of the United States Space Command as a unified combatant command that would be responsible for Joint Force space operations. President Trump subsequently directed the Department of Defense (DoD) to develop a legislative proposal to establish a United States Space Force (USSF) as a sixth branch of the United States Armed Forces within the Department of the Air Force.

On March 1, 2019, the DoD submitted its proposal to Congress to establish the USSF and outlined a five-year phase-in plan beginning October 1, 2020 to allow USSF leaders to prepare for mission transfer beginning in fiscal year 2021. Under the proposal, the USSF would be authorized to organize, train and equip space forces to provide for freedom of operation in, from and to the space domain; to provide independent military options for joint and national leadership; and to enable the lethality and effectiveness of the joint force.

Florida is home to several strategic Air Force bases. Both Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station provide space launch operations support through the 45th Space Wing.

The memorial requests Congress to approve the creation of the USSF and the establishment of the USSF and the United States Space Command in Florida.

Legislative memorials are not subject to the Governor's veto power and are not presented to the Governor for review. Memorials have no force of law, as they are mechanisms for formally petitioning the federal government to act on a particular subject.

This memorial does not have a fiscal impact on the state or local governments.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Military Presence in Florida

Florida is home to 20 military installations, including three¹ of the 10 current unified combatant commands,² hosts two of only four Navy deep water ports in the U.S. with adjacent airfields, the Marine Corps' only maritime prepositioning force facility, one of only three Navy Fleet Readiness Centers, as well as several critical research, development, training and evaluation centers.³ Florida is also home to several strategic Air Force bases. Both Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station provide space launch operations support through the 45th Space Wing, which operates the Eastern Range and launches space vehicles for the Department of Defense (DoD), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and both domestic and international commercial customers.⁴

History of NASA and Florida⁵

NASA was established in 1958.⁶ In 1961, NASA requested land purchases on Merritt Island to support the Apollo Lunar Landing Program. The land eventually became the Kennedy Space Center (KSC). Over the years, the KSC expanded to include the Launch Control Center, Pads A & B, as well as the Vehicle Assembly Building. NASA headquarters, the administrative center for all spaceport activities, opened on the site in 1965. Various other buildings were subsequently built at KSC to accommodate test facilities and laboratories. NASA's KSC has been an integral part of NASA's missions. It was the departure site for the first human journey to the moon; the starting point for hundreds of scientific, commercial, and applications spacecraft; and was the base for the Space Shuttle launch and landing operations.

Creation of Space Force

On December 18, 2018, President Trump announced the establishment of the United States Space Command as a Unified Combatant Command.⁷ President Trump assigned responsibilities to the United States Space Command including, but not limited to, the following:

- All the general responsibilities of a Unified Combatant Command;
- Space-related responsibilities previously assigned to the Commander of the United States Strategic Command; and
- Responsibilities of the Joint Force Provider and Joint Force Trainer for Space Operations Forces.

¹ Southern Command based in Doral; Central Command based in Tampa; and Special Operations Command based in Tampa.

² Each combatant command has a geographic or functional mission that provides command and control of military forces in peace and war. The other combatant commands include Africa Command, Cyber Command, European Command, Indo-Pacific Command, Northern Command, Strategic Command, and Transportation Command. *See* U.S. Department of Defense, *Combatant Commands*, available at <https://www.defense.gov/Know-Your-Military/Combatant-Commands/> (last visited March 18, 2019).

³ Florida Defense Factbook, p. 1 (December 2017), available at <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Florida-Defense-Factbook-2017-1.pdf> (last visited March 18, 2019).

⁴ 45th Space Wing, available at <https://www.patrick.af.mil/Units/45th-Operations-Group/> (last visited March 18, 2019).

⁵ NASA, *History of the John F. Kennedy Space Center*, available at https://www.nasa.gov/offices/history/center_history/kennedy_space_center (last visited March 19, 2019).

⁶ National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, Pub. L. No. 85-568, H.R. 10321.

⁷ White House Statements & Releases, *Text of a Memorandum from the President to the Secretary of Defense Regarding the Establishment of the United States Space Command*, Dec. 18, 2018, available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/text-memorandum-president-secretary-defense-regarding-establishment-united-states-space-command/> (last visited March 18, 2019).

On February 19, 2019, President Trump signed Space Policy Directive-4 to direct the DoD to submit a legislative proposal to the President that would establish the United States Space Force as the sixth branch of the United States Armed Forces⁸ within the Department of the Air Force.⁹

On March 1, 2019, the DoD sent proposed USSF legislation to Congress. If approved by Congress, the USSF would become the first military service established since the Air Force was established in 1947.¹⁰

The proposal authorizes the USSF to “organize, train and equip space forces to provide for freedom of operation in, from and to the space domain; to provide independent military options for joint and national leadership; and to enable the lethality and effectiveness of the joint force.”¹¹

Additionally, the proposal outlines a five-year phase of the USSF, beginning October 1, 2020, to allow USSF leaders to prepare for mission transfers beginning in fiscal year 2021. DoD has also established a planning task force to conduct the planning of the new military service and has requested \$72.4 million for fiscal year 2020 to begin the process of establishing the headquarters of the new service. Additional resources would be dedicated to building out the USSF headquarters and “establishing and maintaining new support elements such as education, training, doctrine and personnel management centers.”¹²

Effect of the Memorial

The memorial requests Congress to approve the creation of the USSF and the establishment of the USSF and the United States Space Command in Florida.

Copies of the memorial will be sent to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

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B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Not applicable.

⁸ The other military forces include the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy.

⁹ White House Statements & Releases, *Text of Space Policy Directive-4: Establishment of the United States Space Force*, Feb. 19, 2019, available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/text-space-policy-directive-4-establishment-united-states-space-force/> (last visited March 20, 2019).

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Defense website, *DoD Sends Space Force Legislation to Congress*, March 1, 2019, available at <https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1771782/dod-sends-space-force-legislation-to-congress/> (last visited March 19, 2019).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The memorial neither authorizes nor requires executive branch rulemaking.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES