

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** CS/HM 443 United States Space Command and United States Space Force

**SPONSOR(S):** Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee, Sirois, Gregory and others

**TIED BILLS:** **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee	10 Y, 0 N, As CS	Renner	Miller
2) State Affairs Committee	21 Y, 0 N	Renner	Williamson

### 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 U.S. 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 U.S. 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 in 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.

On August 29, 2019, President Trump activated United States Space Command and the USSF was established on December 20, 2019, as part of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.

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 the President to support the establishment of the USSF and the U.S. 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 three<sup>1</sup> of the 10 current unified combatant commands,<sup>2</sup> hosts two of only four Navy deep water ports in the United States 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

##### History of NASA and Florida<sup>5</sup>

NASA was established in 1958.<sup>6</sup> 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 Command

On December 18, 2018, President Trump announced the establishment of the U.S. Space Command as a Unified Combatant Command.<sup>7</sup> President Trump assigned responsibilities to the U.S. 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 U.S. Strategic Command; and
- Responsibilities of the Joint Force Provider and Joint Force Trainer for Space Operations Forces.

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Command based in Doral; Central Command based in Tampa; and Special Operations Command based in Tampa.

<sup>2</sup> 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*, <https://www.defense.gov/Know-Your-Military/Combatant-Commands/> (last visited Nov. 5, 2019).

<sup>3</sup> Florida Defense Factbook, p. 1 (December 2017), <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Florida-Defense-Factbook-2017-1.pdf> (last visited Nov. 5, 2019).

<sup>4</sup> 45th Space Wing, available at <https://www.patrick.af.mil/Units/45th-Operations-Group/> (last visited Nov. 5, 2019).

<sup>5</sup> NASA, *History of the John F. Kennedy Space Center*, [https://www.nasa.gov/offices/history/center\\_history/kennedy\\_space\\_center](https://www.nasa.gov/offices/history/center_history/kennedy_space_center) (last visited Nov. 5, 2019).

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

<sup>7</sup> 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, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/text-memorandum-president-secretary-defense-regarding-establishment-united-states-space-command/> (last visited Nov. 5, 2019).

On August 29, 2019, President Trump activated United States Space Command.<sup>8</sup> The United States Space Command is temporarily headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado, with additional personnel and functions at Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado, Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, and Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.<sup>9</sup>

### Creation of Space Force

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 (USSF) as the sixth branch of the U.S. Armed Forces<sup>10</sup> within the Department of the Air Force.<sup>11</sup>

On March 1, 2019, the DoD sent proposed USSF legislation to Congress. 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.”<sup>12</sup> Additionally, the proposal outlines a five-year phase-in-plan of the USSF, beginning in 2020, to allow USSF leaders to prepare for mission transfers beginning in fiscal year 2021.<sup>13</sup>

DoD also established a planning task force to conduct the planning of the new military service and 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.”<sup>14</sup>

The USSF was established on December 20, 2019, as part of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.<sup>15</sup> Congress approved \$40 million for USSF operations and maintenance.<sup>16</sup>

### **Effect of the Memorial**

The memorial requests the President to support the establishment of the USSF and the U.S. 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 U.S. Congress.

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.

### **B. SECTION DIRECTORY:**

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<sup>8</sup> Department of Defense United States Space Command, *United States Space Command Fact Sheet*, <https://www.spacecom.mil/About/Fact-Sheets-Editor/Article/1948216/united-states-space-command-fact-sheet/> (last visited Nov. 5, 2019).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> The other military forces include the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy.

<sup>11</sup> White House Statements & Releases, *Text of Space Policy Directive-4: Establishment of the United States Space Force*, Feb. 19, 2019, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/text-space-policy-directive-4-establishment-united-states-space-force/> (last visited Nov. 5, 2019).

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Department of Defense, *DoD Sends Space Force Legislation to Congress*, March 1, 2019, <https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1771782/dod-sends-space-force-legislation-to-congress/> (last visited Nov. 5, 2019).

<sup>13</sup> Department of Defense, United States Space Force Fact Sheet, <https://media.defense.gov/2019/Mar/01/2002095013/-1/-1/1/SPACE-FORCE-FACT-SHEET.PDF> (last visited Jan. 3, 2020).

<sup>14</sup> *Supra* at 12.

<sup>15</sup> National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, Pub. L. 116-92, S. 1790, 116<sup>th</sup> Cong. (Dec. 20, 2019).

<sup>16</sup> Sandra Erwin, *Trump signs defense bill establishing U.S. Space Force: What comes next*, SpaceNews (Dec. 20, 2019), <https://spacenews.com/trump-signs-defense-bill-establishing-u-s-space-force-what-comes-next/> (last visited Jan. 3, 2020).

Not applicable.

## **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. This memorial does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

#### **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**

On December 11, 2019, the Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee adopted one amendment and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendment corrected a scrivener error.

This analysis is drafted to the committee substitute as approved by the Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee.