

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC
APRIL 25 – 27, 2023**

TRANSITION NATIONAL GUARD SPACE UNITS TO A SPACE NATIONAL GUARD

ISSUE: Unfortunately, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has overridden the Department of Defense (DoD), the National Guard Bureau and State Governors by unilaterally deciding, in their “pass back” policy guidance to DoD, that the National Guard will no longer be in the space business. We urgently request you oppose this decision and respectfully request Congress establishes a Space National Guard, to avoid losing this irreplaceable human capital.

Transitioning and not eliminating a Space National Guard creates numerous significant strategic advantages for the U.S. Armed Forces, particularly retaining the tremendous professional experience of space experts in the National Guard. Partnerships are a cornerstone of the National Defense Strategy, and they are best leveraged than in space; in no other domain does the military partner with the commercial sector as frequently. The pure breadth and depth of space domain experience are at the highest level in the National Guard, which retains professionals at a greater rate than the active forces. Connecting these National Guard professionals to the U.S. Space Force will allow for collaboration and adoption of best practices from industry professionals in the National Guard, greater Active-Reserve Component synchronization, and improved mission execution to accelerate the U.S. advantage in Space. As we all know, one of the excellent value propositions of the Guard and Reserve is to attract industry professionals to serve in the military part-time, who would otherwise not choose to do so. In other words, service members performing space missions in the National Guard will choose not to serve and will return to civilian life if a Space National Guard is not established. Transitioning a Space National Guard as an optimized Combat Reserve Component to the Space Force retains crucial space warfighter expertise and ensures uninterrupted, rapid-surge-to-war operations.

Importantly, transitioning current space units to a Space National Guard would require no additional funds, instead capitalizing on lean overhead, the current level of authorized personnel. Further, no additional facility growth is necessary. In fact, DoD itself estimates that realigning the current space National Guard units into the Active Component military, as OMB has directed, will cost taxpayers \$120 million.

ACTION: Congress has authorized force structure and funding to stand up the U.S. Space Force and transition existing force structure and funding from the Air Force. We ask that you include the attached draft language in the NDAA, which simply authorizes and concurrently transitions the space units in the Air National Guard to the Space National Guard. The National Guard must continue to mirror the Active Component forces across all domains, including in Space, so it can surge-to-war when needed, and protect the homeland in times of peace. Not doing so risks retarding the development of these units and missions.

BACKGROUND: The National Guard mirrors the Active Component forces in virtually every way, from F-35 and F-22 wings, to cybersecurity and space activities. In fact, hundreds of guardsmen in California operate space missions for the Air Force and Army. These missions include secure satellite communication, space control, space operations, intelligence, ISR, ICBM and missile defense, and downrange support to the warfighter. In fact, California and Colorado are two states that utilize space assets for early wildfire detection, which pass on critical data to emergency response operators. The states have invested directly in this program to continue leading as an innovator in wildfire protection. The Cal Guard’s space headquarters is the 195th Wing at Beale AFB, which contains two squadrons with space missions at Vandenberg AFB: 148th Space Operations Squadron and the 216th Space Control Squadron.

A Space National Guard is widely supported. Both the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Space Operations (CSO) support a component (Active Duty and Space National Guard) U.S. Space Force and the 2021 and 2022 NDAA (section 913) called for the Secretary of Defense to further study a Reserve Component for U.S. Space Force. However, any further pause in the Cal Guard’s transition would be disruptive and risk the effectiveness of current National Guard space missions. As with all other functions of the Armed Forces, the National Guard

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mirrors the Active Component, as Congress has explicitly written in law numerous times. We must ensure the concurrent fielding of units as stated in U.S. Air Force doctrine.

Two primary myths that initially plagued the Space National Guard are easily remedied with facts:

- Myth #1 – We cannot have “54 separate Space National Guards.” There is no desire or plan for each state to have a Space National Guard. All growth is strictly dictated by need and directed by strict processes already in place controlled by the Department of the Air Force and Secretary of the Air Force.
- Myth #2 – Space National Guard will be expensive & create additional staffing requirements. The 14 existing space units already have operational and staff personnel in place. There will not be a need to create additional staff or officer positions, nor will any additional facilities need to be created as a result.
- Myth #3 – Space National Guard will require facilities funding. We do not require any additional facilities to execute our current mission.