

# Trump's 'Space Force' to be built in stages by 2020

October 23 2018

---



US Vice President Mike Pence envisions a US "Space Force" by 2020, but not initially as a separate branch of the military

A new US "Space Force" will soon take shape but will at least initially be a step below the proposed sixth branch of the military envisioned by

President Donald Trump, his vice president said Tuesday.

The White House does not foresee the creation of an independent [space force](#) before 2020, said US Vice President Mike Pence, who heads the National Space Council, a government body that was revived last year after a decades-long hiatus.

Pence said the president will soon ask Congress to gather military and civilians working on space security into a unified command, similar to the military's special forces.

"The National Space Council is making recommendations to the [president](#) to essentially begin with establishing a unified Space Command, much in the way that we established a Special Forces command," Pence said at a space conference organized by the Washington Post.

"Let's begin by bringing everyone under a unified command," he said, adding that he'd also like to see a Space Development Agency tasked with new technologies.

According to Pence, about 60,000 people are currently working on space security in the United States, across various branches of the military and intelligence services.

"It will not in the first instance look like other branches of the service that were stood up. It will be a consolidation, we believe, and from there future Congresses and future administrations can grow and expand and nurture ... the Space Force as they see fit," Pence added.

Congress must approve the proposed plans. Previously, the notion of immediately creating a Space Force on par with the US Army or Air Force sparked controversy among lawmakers, some of whom want space

to remain under the guise of the Air Force.

Pence also said the administration would work with Congress, starting next year, to vote on a law creating an independent Space Force by 2020.

The head of the US Air Force said in September that creating a Space Force would cost about \$13 billion for a [force](#) of 13,000 people in the first five years.

The US military is made up of five branches: the Army, Air Force (which currently oversees space operations), the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.

Speaking at a meeting of the National Space Council on Tuesday, Pence said, "Space is a war-fighting domain, just like the land, air and sea, and America will be as dominant there as we are here on Earth."

He named US adversaries as Russia and China, and said potential [space](#) threats include anti-satellite weapons, airborne lasers, "highly threatening on-orbit activities and evasive hypersonic missiles."

© 2018 AFP

Citation: Trump's 'Space Force' to be built in stages by 2020 (2018, October 23) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-10-trump-space-built-stages.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.