

# Space National Guard

Fiscal Year 2021 Fact Sheet



# NGAUS



## The Issue

Space is critical to national security and military space missions cannot be executed without the National Guard and Reserve. As Congress and the Department of Defense consider new options for enhancing operations in the space domain, the National Guard must be included within the operational structure of the Space Force.

◀ A geospatial engineer with the Army Space Support Team 30, 117th Space Support Battalion, Colorado National Guard, uses mapping software, during exercise Vigilant Guard.

## Background

The space domain is now a contested operational environment. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 National Defense Authorization Act created the U.S. Space Force as the sixth armed service to further develop United States combat capabilities within the space domain. As with all other warfighting domains, the Space Force must have a surge-to-war capability in the form of a Reserve Component.

The Air National Guard has performed space missions since 1996. Today, there are nearly 2,000 National Guard soldiers and airmen performing space domain operations across 16 space/space support units in 8 states. These Guardsmen are highly experienced and many work as leaders in the space industry.

National Guard space unit locations provide a robust aerospace industrial base that creates a positive synergy by recruiting employees from industry. National Guard space servicemembers are also highly sought-after civilian employees due to their expertise developed via military service. The Space Force cannot continue without Reserve Component capacity because it creates a critical gap and removes a significant knowledge base that resides in existing National Guard space units.

It is integral to the Total Force mission that National Guard servicemembers continue to bring their unique subject matter expertise to the space mission and the Space Force as members of a Space National Guard. Creating a Space National Guard would provide the Space Force with combat surge capabilities in the space domain.

Additionally, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Joseph Lengyel, testified in March 2020 that alignment of Reserve Component forces under the proper military service achieves readiness. "I believe that one of the things that is best about [the National Guard] is we mirror the culture of our parent service. So, there is only one standard to be a soldier in the Army. There is only one standard to be an airman in the Air Force. There will be a standard to be a space warrior in the...Space Force and I believe that it is important that the space capability currently in the National Guard should move into the Space Force."

## Recommendation

### Space National Guard

- Ensure the National Guard is fully resourced to support all facets of space operations and is fully incorporated as an operational reserve component of the Space Force

# States Impacted

- Alaska
- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Florida
- New York
- Ohio
- Wyoming

