

# Space National Guard

Fiscal Year 2023 Fact Sheet



# NGAUS



## The Issue

The Air National Guard currently comprises over 10% of Space Force manpower. The creation of the U.S. Space Force (USSF) in the FY2020 NDAA failed to establish a Space National Guard as the primary combat reserve of the USSF. This orphaned space professionals and operational missions that exist in the Air National Guard, disconnecting them from their parent service, the USSF, making their future unclear and undefined.

Upgraded Early Missile Warning RADAR system operated by the 213 Space Warning Squadron at Clear Space Force Station, Alaska.

## Background

The Air National Guard has performed space missions since 1996. Today, there are nearly 1,000 National Guard soldiers and airmen performing space domain operations across 16 space/space support units in 7 states and 1 territory. These Guardsmen are highly experienced with many working as leaders in space and technology industries.

The space domain is now a contested, degraded operational environment. U.S. Space Force was created to further develop combat capabilities to protect and defend this domain. As with all other warfighting domains, the Space Force must have a surge-to-war capability Reserve Component to meet the challenges posed by near-peer adversaries.

Creating a Space National Guard provides the Space Force with combat surge capabilities in the space domain, while delivering space trained personnel and capabilities to support domestic operations and natural disasters.

National Guard space unit locations provide access to a robust aerospace industrial base delivering synergy through recruiting from industry while providing highly sought-after employees with significant military

## Recommendation

### Space National Guard



- Create the Space National Guard as the primary combat reserve component to the U.S. Space Force
- Resourced the National Guard to support current and emerging space warfighting requirements

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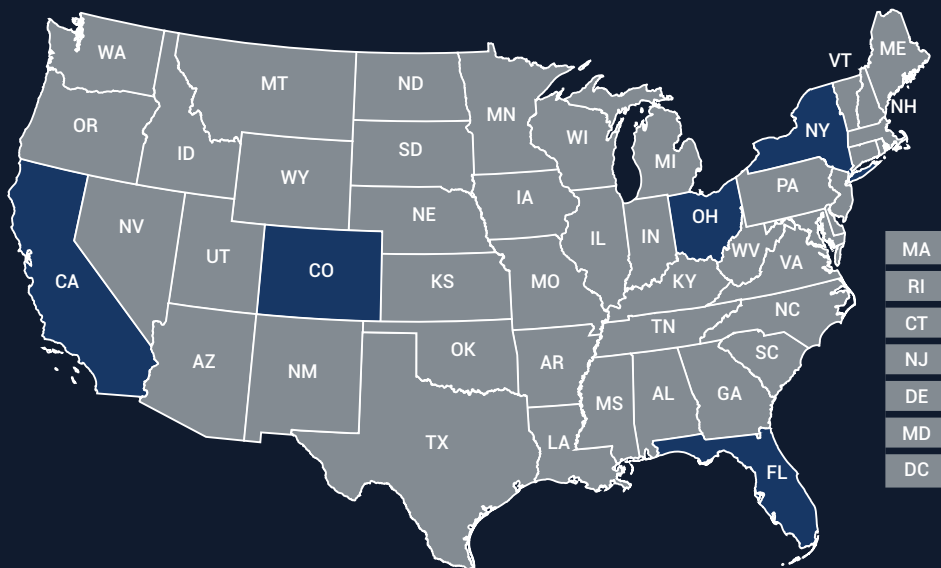
service. Most unit members have an average of 8-10 years of space and technology experience, and an estimated 64% work full-time in engineering, aerospace, and cyber industries. Allowing the Space Force to continue without this capacity creates a critical gap in capability and capacity and eliminates expertise that resides in Air National Guard space units.

It is essential to the Total Force mission that Guardsmen continue to bring their unique expertise to the space mission and the Space Force as members of a Space National Guard. Unlike the active duty and reserve, most Guardsmen spend a majority of their careers in one unit developing deep expertise, and warfighting experience that can uniquely be brought to bear for state and federal requirements.

The cost of establishing a Space National Guard is substantially less than previously reported. Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Daniel Hokanson, testified in May 2021, "The actual cost is about \$200,000 and that's just to change the name tapes on their uniforms, the sign outside their buildings and the flags of the units. The units already exist, they're already performing the mission today. We don't need any additional MILCON or infrastructure. We're basically just taking the folks doing the mission today and instead of Air Force it'll say Space Force on their name tag."

## Space National Guard States

AK: 213 SWS, Clear AFS  
 CA: 148 SOPS, Vandenberg AFB  
     216 SPCS, Vandenberg AFB  
     234 IS OL-A, Beale AFB  
 CO: 137 SWS, Greeley  
     138 SPCS, Peterson AFB  
     233 SCS, Greeley  
     233 SG/Det 1, Peterson AFB  
 FL: 114 SPCS, Patrick SFB  
 GU: OPS 5  
 HI: OPS 4  
 NY: 222 CACs, Rome  
 OH: 126 IS, Springfield ANGB



States Impacted



Learn more at  
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