



National Guard Association of the United States

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June 7, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the nearly 45,000 members of the National Guard Association of the United States, I respectfully ask you to please reconsider the opposition of your administration's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to creating a Space National Guard within the Space Force.

The OMB incorrectly presumed that every state would stand up Space National Guard units, which greatly inflated its cost projections. It also ignored Air Force studies concluding the most efficient reserve-component solution for the Space Force is a Space National Guard.

In fact, a Space National Guard at its inception would include only 1,000 space professionals in 14 units across eight states and territories. The start-up cost, according to the Pentagon, would be approximately \$250,000 — the price to change signs and uniform name tapes. The personnel are already on the payroll and the equipment and facilities are in place. A Space National Guard could grow in the future, but only to meet requirements specified by the Space Force.

The more damaging costs are those our Nation will incur if, as the OMB directed, space missions currently performed by the Air National Guard are transferred to a single component Space Force. Some of these units have unique missions, such as the Nation's only survivable and enduring missile warning and nuclear detection system. These units will have to be rebuilt completely from scratch, which will take several years and could cost hundreds of millions of dollars. In the interim, the Nation will go without some critical capabilities.

The OMB plan will also severely limit the Space Force's ability to tap expertise from the aerospace industry and reduce the resources available to our Nation's governors. As a member of a National Guard family, you know better than most that the National Guard is a vehicle enabling professionals outside the active-component military to serve their country in uniform part time and when our Nation needs them most. And as you also know, the National Guard connects America to its military like no other component of the Armed Forces.

There are those who say the Space Force should be able to explore novel approaches to personnel management. It need not follow in lockstep the models of the other services. We agree, but not at the expense of abandoning 1,000 of our Nation's most experienced space professionals today and a timeless vehicle to cost-effectively acquire talent tomorrow. This is why members of the House and Senate from across the aisle support creating a Space National Guard.

You know the importance of the National Guard to our Nation. In 2008, you were the first candidate for national office to call for elevating the chief of the National Guard Bureau to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. You helped make history: The fiscal 2012 National Defense Authorization Act provided the National Guard with a seat and a voice at the table.

I ask you to make some more history. Reconsider the OMB's opposition to a Space National Guard — not just for the good of the National Guard, but for what it would provide our Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Roy Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

J. Roy Robinson
Brigadier General (Ret.), USA
President