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HOUSE ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE**

**STATEMENT OF
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BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES
OF THE
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
ON
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CONCERNING
SPACE BUDGET ACTIVITIES**

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Chairman Everett, Congressman Reyes, distinguished members of the Subcommittee; it is my honor to present you with the Marine Corps' perspective on the Department of Defense's space programs and ongoing efforts in national security space. The Marine Corps recognizes the significant contribution space capabilities make to our warfighting mission and our national security and is pleased with the progress that DoD has made in integrating all the Services into space plans, programs, and operations. We also appreciate the sustained interest and commitment of this Committee to the continued development of our space forces and respective space cadres.

I. INTRODUCTION

From its inception, the Marine Corps has modeled itself as an expeditionary force. Marines have maintained this expeditionary ethos by focusing on the individual Marine and by acquiring systems that can function in an expeditionary environment, allowing us to maintain a high "tooth to tail" ratio. As such, we have and will continue to leverage the capabilities provided by national security space (NSS) systems, relying on their unique attributes to support our forces globally. Accordingly, the Marine Corps has stayed actively engaged in space issues by participating as a full partner with the DoD Executive Agent (EA) for Space and by participating in the Joint Capability Integration and Development System (JCIDS). Further, the Marine Corps has developed a space cadre comprised of Marines who are first and foremost professionals in their military occupational specialty, but are also well versed in the capabilities provided by national security space.

II. BACKGROUND

Title 10 of the United States Code dictates that the Marine Corps "*shall be organized, trained, and equipped to provide Fleet Marine Forces of combined arms, together with supporting air components, for service with the fleet in the seizure or defense of advanced naval bases and for the conduct of such land operations as may be essential to the prosecution of a naval campaign*". Further, DoD Directive tasks the Navy and Marine Corps "*to organize, train, equip, and provide Navy and Marine Corps forces for the conduct of prompt and sustained combat incident to operations at sea, including operations of sea-based aircraft and land-based naval*

air components... and to conduct such land, air, and space operations as may be essential to the prosecution of a naval campaign”.

Accordingly, the Marine Corps organizes to fight as a Marine Air-Ground Task Force, or MAGTF. The MAGTF is a combined arms force that brings together aviation, ground forces, combat service support, and a command element to execute the nation’s missions. Increasing the combat effectiveness and combat power of our MAGTFs requires us to continually evolve our capabilities. In doing so, we need to look toward the future and focus our effort on enablers that will ensure that the Marine Corps maintains its expeditionary edge and culture. As a user of space systems, the Marine Corps continues to integrate space-based capabilities into Marine Corps concepts of operation.

III. STRATEGY AND POLICY

The Marine Corps has taken many steps to support the DoD EA for Space’s efforts, to include active involvement in the development of the National Security Space Strategy, the National Security Space Plan, and the DoD Space Human Capital Resources Strategy and Implementation Plans. Further, we have worked with our sister service, the U. S. Navy, to develop a Department of the Navy Space Policy that supports *Naval Strategy 21* by focusing our use of space capabilities in support of the Navy-Marine Corps warfighting team and its expeditionary mission.

Additionally, the USMC has been proactive in placing Marines in positions throughout national security space, to include the National Reconnaissance Office, the National Security Space Office, and U. S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM). Further, with the addition of previously unassigned missions to Commander, USSTRATCOM, the Marine Corps recognized the need to establish U. S. Marine Corps Forces, U. S. Strategic Command (MARFORSTRAT) as our Service Component to USSTRATCOM. This allows us to leverage warfighting capabilities in Space and Global Strike, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR), Integrated Missile Defense (IMD), and Information Operations.

Since the establishment of the DoD EA for Space, the Marine Corps has actively participated in

EA for Space activities to aid in shaping the future of national security space. We have welcomed the opportunity to take part in the development of the annual National Security Space Plan over the last 3 years and commend the efforts to synchronize the NSS Plan with other DoD processes. We are also pleased with the continued growth of the NSS Program Assessment process, and we have dedicated USMC personnel to each of the process teams tasked with evaluating the state of the space portfolio.

The Marine Corps will continue to embrace a cooperative, mutually beneficial partnership with the DoD Executive Agent for Space, and we believe the managerial changes made by the Secretary of Defense and implemented by the Under Secretary of the Air Force are proving to be a success.

IV. SPACE FORCE ENHANCEMENT

Unlike other DoD entities, the Marine Corps has limited programmatic and fiscal equities in space. Yet our operational equities in space exploitation for military advantage are at least equal to those of other users. We are therefore determined to remain engaged and contribute constructively to this challenging process. This was our guiding premise when we addressed the Space Commission in 2000, and it remains the common foundation of our positions on national security space issues today.

Marine Corps equities lie primarily in the Space Force Enhancement mission area, in particular Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR), Integrated Tactical Warning (ITW), Satellite Communications (SATCOM), and Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT). We have become increasingly reliant on these capabilities and have used them as combat multipliers in ongoing operations and recognize that they will be cornerstones of our future warfighting concepts. Capabilities such as beyond line of sight satellite communications have been key enablers, allowing Marines to conduct combat operations inland, far from our sea base. Further, satellite communication links have allowed a degree of command and control, situational awareness, and coordination heretofore unprecedented. Additionally, our GPS constellation, with its precise position, velocity, time, and navigation has further enabled a greater lethality in fires and increased situational awareness, allowing the Marine Corps to conduct precision

synchronized, combined arms operations across an air, land, and sea battlespace that comprises hundreds of nautical miles. Finally, our nation's ISR systems, to include commercial, civil, and national systems, have continued to provide Marine commanders with an unprecedented view of the battlefield and a significant asymmetric advantage over our adversaries.

These distinct advantages being realized in today's uncertain world are the direct result of our past investments; as such, we need to continue to sustain and improve our space-based capabilities to protect our nation's interests in the future. Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have shown the need for increased military satellite communications capacity, continued improvements in our ability to track friendly forces, sustained capability to operate through electronic attack on our SATCOM and GPS systems, and have demanded new and innovative ways to find and track an elusive and fleeting adversary. Further, the world situation dictates that we must maintain the flexibility and adaptability to address today's insurgent threat at the tactical level, while continuing to maintain our ability to address threats from near peer competitors at the strategic level. As such, our continued commitment to programs such as the Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) satellite communications system, the Transformational Satellite Communications System (TSAT), the Space Radar (SR) system, national systems, as well as our space science and technology base, which are the keys to the future of DoD as well as the nation as a whole.

The Marine Corps recognizes the importance of national security space to our core competencies, and we will continue to actively participate in the development of these critical capabilities – we are pleased to be an active participant in these programs during the JCIDS process, the National Security Space Acquisition process, and during system concept of operations development. We feel that the Marine Corps, due to our limited programmatic equities and our combined arms doctrine, offers a unique perspective in the development of space capabilities. The EA for Space has been very receptive to our ideas and needs and has made every effort to include these issues in his planning and development process.

V. MARINE CORPS' SPACE CADRE

The Marine Corps' ability to fully leverage space-based capabilities and to integrate space operations in support of our core missions has required the creation of a Marine Corps cadre of space professionals capable of supporting MAGTF operations. We are pleased with the significant progress we have made thus far in the development of our space cadre, and we firmly believe that the development of operationally relevant, space smart MAGTF officers will make a significant contribution to the national security space community, the Joint Force, and our operating forces. We have established the following goals and strategic objectives for our cadre of space professionals:

Goals for the USMC Space Cadre

The Marine Corps' goal for its space cadre is to produce and maintain a cadre of Marines with a diverse set of primary military occupational specialties (including Ground, Aviation, Combat Support, and Command and Control) who are:

- Trained in joint space operations planning;
- Educated in national security space activities; and
- Experienced in space requirements generation, concept development, planning, programming, acquisition, and/or operations.

This combination of space-related experience, when coupled with a firm grounding in Marine Corps doctrine and operational experience, ensures we will have "space smart MAGTF officers" capable of blending the unique attributes of space with the needs of our operational units.

Strategic Objectives for the USMC Space Cadre

Additionally, the Marine Corps' strategic objectives for its space cadre are:

- To support the vision and goals of *Marine Corps Strategy 21* by creating a cadre of Marines who understand both the capabilities of the MAGTF and the unique advantages to be gained by fully exploiting current and future space-based systems.
- To increase the integration of current and future space-based capabilities into Marine Corps systems to support the Marine Corps' Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare capstone concept

and to enable FORCEnet and the transformational naval operational concepts of Sea Strike, Sea Basing, and Sea Shield.

- To shape the development of future space systems to meet Marine Corps warfighting needs through increased collaboration with all NSS partners.
- To increase the effectiveness of our operating forces through effective planning, integration, and coordination of space-based capabilities and assigned space forces.
- To increase the distribution of Marines with space training and experience not only throughout the NSS community, but also more importantly, throughout the operating forces to inject space-knowledge at the individual unit level.

Over the last 18 months, we have made many strides in the development of our space cadre and have continued to capitalize on our accomplishments to date. We have actively engaged with the joint community in the development of the National Security Space Institute (NSSI) and its core curricula, have undertaken efforts to include space familiarization in our Service Professional Military Education (PME), and have taken the first early steps toward developing a Marine Corps Space Training and Readiness Manual. Our space cadre is the Marine Corps' principle investment in space, and it is this group of personnel who will make space capabilities operationally relevant to the Marine Corps.

VI. FUTURE

Marine Corps Strategy 21 provides the vision, goals, and aims to support the development of the Marine Corps' future combat capabilities. It also provides strategic guidance to the active and reserve Marines, sailors, and civilian personnel who will make America's Marines, win our nation's battles and create quality citizens. To realize this strategy, the Marine Corps recognizes that it must be an active participant in the continued development of national security space. We intend to leverage ongoing science and technology developments to enhance our warfighting capabilities and increase our interoperability with joint and multi-national forces. To meet these aims, the Marine Corps is actively participating in national security space efforts to include

developing concept of operations, supporting excellence in acquisition and operations, and developing innovative applications for space systems.

- As a consumer of space capabilities, the Marine Corps recognizes that the development of sound Concepts of Operation (CONOPs) will enhance our ability to integrate space capabilities with the organic capabilities of the MAGTF. Through our Service component to USSTRATCOM, MARFORSTRAT, the Marine Corps has actively participated in CONOPs development for key space systems, to include Space Radar and TSAT. The continued development of these and other system CONOPs will integrate space into the joint force and simultaneously improve the ability of Marine forces to operate globally across the spectrum of conflict.
- The Marine Corps has continued to support the EA for Space in its efforts to achieve excellence in acquisition. We have participated in the continuing development of the National Security Space Acquisition Policy 03-01 (NSS 03-01) as well as supporting the EA for space in his role as the Milestone Decision Authority (MDA) for space programs. Marines have been members of Independent Program Assessment Teams and the Defense Space Acquisition Board (DSAB), providing the EA for space a user's perspective in the assessment of key space programs.
- Additionally, the Marine Corps has actively engaged in the development of innovative solutions to provide effective space support to the operational user. Ongoing initiatives such as the Tactical Satellite (TacSat) project represent pioneering new methods for leveraging the advantages offered by space systems in support of the tactical warfighter. The Marine Corps is looking forward to the launch of TacSats 1 and 2, and is appreciative of the inclusive manner in which user capability needs were considered in developing the payload for TacSat 3. This groundbreaking process is an impressive step toward the continued integration of space capabilities in the joint force.
- Finally, the Marine Corps is continuing to invest in our Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities Program (TENCAP) in order to develop innovative solutions to meet the current

and emerging operational requirements of Marine forces. USMC TENCAP has deployed and continues to deploy advanced applied research and development systems, many of which have transitioned to the Marine Corps operating forces as well as the larger joint force/interagency community.

VII. CONCLUSION

Looking to the future, the Marine Corps will continue to ensure that all levels of command understand the benefits and relevance of space-based capabilities, and will continue to increase the number of space trained personnel in our ranks. We will continue to work to ensure that the Navy-Marine Corps team is an active participant in national security space, and that our unique naval needs are represented in the joint and interagency community. Finally, we will continue to foster our robust relationship with the DoD EA for Space and support his efforts to exploit space capabilities in support of national intelligence and warfighting. Your Marine Corps stands ready to meet the challenges of the 21st Century on land, sea, air, and space – now and in the future.