

# Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space

## Space Week 2018: NO SPACE FORCE

### *Keep Space for Peace!*



- **Space Force** On June 18, 2018, President Donald Trump directed the Department of Defense and the Pentagon to immediately begin the process of creating a Space Force as the sixth branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, stating “We must have American dominance in space.” Congress must make the final decision and the Trump administration is hoping that will happen by 2020 but the process is problematic. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/IF10950.pdf>
- **Militarization of Space.** Space is already militarized. Militaries all over the world rely on space satellites for command, control, communication, monitoring, early warning, GPS navigation. For decades, the Air Force has provided space mission capabilities for the Pentagon primarily through the Air Force Space Command with a 2019 budget of \$8.5 billion. The annual US space-security unclassified budget for all branches of the military is over \$12 billion –“chump change” for the Pentagon whose annual budget is over \$700 billion. Creating a new branch of the military would add an estimated annual cost of nearly \$200 billion dollars, nudging the overall Pentagon budget to a trillion dollars. <https://www.taxpayer.net/national-security/space-force-spending-at-warp-speed/>
- **Weaponizing Space** Although there are currently no weapons in space, it is in the works with or without a Space Force. In the 2019 Defense Authorization Act, congress ordered the Pentagon to develop a space-based “Star Wars” missile defense system which is estimated to cost over \$350 billion by the National Academy of Sciences. Space-based missile defenses would cause a new arms race with Russia and China and motivate U.S. adversaries to increase their nuclear arsenals and expand their anti-satellite capabilities to neutralize the new US space infrastructure. <https://www.theverge.com/2018/9/22/17877192/space-force-wilson-13-billion-budget-defense-department>
- **Threats to Space Assets** The Trump administration claims that outer space has become "a warfighting domain" because Russia and China are developing counter measures to US missile defense systems that Obama deployed after the US withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in 2002, igniting a new arms race with ground based missile defense systems at a US cost of \$200 Billion since 1985. <https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2018/09/congress-wants-space-based-missile-defense-system-its-colossally-bad-idea/151180/?oref=d-river>
- **The United Nation’s Outer Space Treaty** declared in 1967 that space must be preserved for peace for all of humanity and that weapons of mass destruction could not be placed in space. All space faring nations are signatories of the Treaty but the treaty needs updating to include new high-tech space weapons such as nuclear powered directed energy laser systems that can attack targets in space and on Earth as well as provide legal means to enforce the Treaty. [https://www.realclearscience.com/articles/2017/07/10/the\\_outer\\_space\\_treaty\\_needs\\_a\\_huge\\_update\\_110335.html](https://www.realclearscience.com/articles/2017/07/10/the_outer_space_treaty_needs_a_huge_update_110335.html)
- **The Moon Treaty** Introduced at the UN in 1979, The Moon Treaty could help prevent a war in space over corporate interests by providing that the Moon and its natural resources are the common heritage of mankind and the harvesting of those resources is forbidden except through an international regime established to govern the exploitation of such resources when it becomes feasible to do so. Russia, China and the US have not signed on but need to. <http://www.thespacereview.com/article/1954/1>
- **PAROS TREATY** Every year since 1985, member states in the UN General Assembly have adopted a resolution to negotiate a multilateral treaty on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS), all except the US and a few allies that effectively kill the treaty. A PAROS treaty would complement the 1967 Outer Space Treaty by preventing space weaponization programs. Both China and Russia are in support of PAROS. [https://fas.org/programs/ssp/nukes/ArmsControl\\_NEW/nonproliferation/NFZ/NP-NFZ-PAROS.html](https://fas.org/programs/ssp/nukes/ArmsControl_NEW/nonproliferation/NFZ/NP-NFZ-PAROS.html)
- **Corporate War Profiteering** Aerospace Military corporations like Lockheed Martin, Boeing and Northrup Grumman will be the main profiteers of moving war into space. US tax payers will fund the venture while congress cuts spending on social programs, health care, education, climate change and other urgent needs. We can not afford an unnecessary expansion of war into space. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2018/08/14/here-are-companies-that-could-profit-trumps-space-force/?utm\\_term=.c7dd8867b720](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2018/08/14/here-are-companies-that-could-profit-trumps-space-force/?utm_term=.c7dd8867b720)
- **Costly Risks:** Debris produced by testing weapons systems and blowing up targets in space pollutes the orbital environment, threatening commercial and scientific satellites that are in orbit as well as risking the future use of space for generations to come. Can we afford to spend our limited planetary resources on expanding warfare into space and risk the future use of space when we are already struggling with many other political, economic and environmental crises on Earth? <https://phys.org/news/2018-08-space-escalating-arms.html>

**Now is our brief chance in history to prevent a great wrong from occurring. Now is the time that we must organize a global call to resist the nuclearization and weaponization of space. We must make space for peace. Join us!**