



Executive Summary

Strategic Studies Institute and U.S. Army War College Press



EVOLVING ARMY NEEDS FOR SPACE-BASED SUPPORT

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The U.S. Army has been involved with space-based military operations for well over a half-century. During this time, space operations have changed from a realm exclusive to scientists and engineers; to highly classified activities largely unknown to the general population; to the unveiling of space-based communication, imagery, surveillance, and environmental capabilities that have become a foundation for all modern warfare. Today, such support is so ingrained into daily operations that most soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines assume it has been, and always will be, available for their use. But with such reliance comes vulnerability, which potential adversaries may try to exploit.

Is the Army properly postured to meet current and future space-based support needs to conduct unified land operations? This monograph addresses this fundamental question in two main sections:

- **Current Army Space Operations.** Considering the mandate by the National Command Authority in January 2012 to operate effectively in space, this section examines space capabilities as they are currently organized for the soldier and other joint warfighters. First, this section identifies the five joint space mission areas as they compare to the Army's six warfighting functions. Next, it presents an overview of current Army space forces, then builds the context of joint space forces and offers examples of international partnerships.
- **Envisioned Future Army Space Operations.** This section assesses current Army activities

oriented to meet the evolving needs of the future space environment. These include not only the continued integration and exploitation of existing space capabilities, but also the development and deployment of Army space support operations that provide responsive theater-focused assistance to operational and tactical commanders in theater. Rather than delve into all joint space mission areas, this section focuses on the three areas of current Army emphasis: future space force enhancement, future space force application, and the connection between space and cyberspace operations. It then compares the direction of Army space endeavors with national policy and guidance to identify any critical deficiencies or incongruities.

This monograph is limited to unrestricted and unclassified open source information, therefore any classified discussion must occur in other appropriate venues. The evolution of Army space operations is well-documented in many sources, consequently this monograph does not serve as a comprehensive history or detailed critique of the myriad accomplishments. Rather, it serves as a primer for current and future space-based operations to provide senior policymakers, decisionmakers, military leaders, and their respective staffs an overall appreciation for existing Army space capabilities and the challenges, opportunities, and risks associated with their use in joint operations.

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