

Statement of
General B. Chance Saltzman
Chief of Space Operations
Before the
Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives

September 28, 2023

Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Smith, distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

As the Chief of Space Operations (CSO), I am the service chief responsible for the U.S. Space Force, the military service that secures our nation's interests in, to, and from space. Along with the service chiefs from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, I am also a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Space Force is a separate and distinct organization from U.S. Space Command, which is the combatant command tasked with planning, coordinating, integrating, synchronizing, assessing, and when directed by the President, executing global offensive and defense space operations.

As the CSO, I am the senior uniformed officer responsible for the organization, training, and equipping of all organic and assigned Space Force forces serving in the United States and overseas. I am responsible for the generation of ready forces, which are presented to combatant commanders in order to execute missions on behalf of the Joint Force. At this time, the overwhelming majority of U.S. Space Force operational units are presented to U.S. Space Command through the Space Force service component, Space Operations Command (SpOC). SpOC consists of a headquarters element at Peterson Space Force Base in Colorado Springs, and subordinate organizations at a number of locations, which generate ready forces for missions in space domain awareness; electromagnetic warfare; missile warning; command and control; cyberspace operations; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; satellite communications; position, navigation, and timing; and orbital warfare.

As the Space Force service chief, I am typically only involved in the Department of the Air Force strategic basing process when U.S. Space Force units are under consideration. Because this basing action related to a joint headquarters for U.S. Space Command, I had only peripheral engagement in this matter, as described in my September 13, 2023 letter to the committee.

I thank the Congress for their continued support of the U.S. Space Force, the Space Force mission, our Guardians, and their families.