

Department of the Air Force Posture Statement

Fiscal Year 2027

Department of the Air Force
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U.S. AIR FORCE



UNITED STATES
SPACE FORCE

Statement of:
The Honorable Troy Meink
Secretary of the Air Force

General Kenneth S. Wilsbach
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

General B. Chance Saltzman
Chief of Space Operations, United States Space Force

OVERVIEW

The President’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget request for The Department of the Air Force (DAF) reflects its commitment to defending the U.S. Homeland, deterring aggression, and, if challenged, defeating our adversaries. The nation faces many threats across the globe, which the Air Force (USAF) and Space Force (USSF) must be ready to meet at any time. We do not have the luxury of focusing on a single adversary, and our services must remain ready for any threat across the spectrum of conflict in every domain. With operations like MIDNIGHT HAMMER, ABSOLUTE RESOLVE, and EPIC FURY, the world has seen the dominance of American Airpower and Spacepower time and time again. Our readiness to fight tonight is unquestionable. However, we must also remain ready to fight next week, next month, next year, and next decade. To do that, we must maintain peak operational readiness, while also adequately balancing and investing in sustainment, production, modernization, and our workforce. That central task underpins our objectives for FY27.

The total DAF budget request for FY27 is \$338.8B, an increase of 38% over the FY26 enacted amount of \$246.3B. The USAF’s request is \$267.7B, an increase of 25% over the FY26 President’s Budget (PB) Request. The USSF’s request is \$71.1B, a 124% increase over the FY26 request. We have also focused our investments on programs and activities that are executable, many with flexible contract vehicles ready to add funds quickly, and with industrial capacity and personnel already in place. These large increases represent transformative investments in readiness across all time horizons, ensuring that America will never cede the high ground.

MEETING NATIONAL DEFENSE PRIORITIES

The DAF’s budget request for FY 2027 balances national defense priorities given under Presidential direction and Department of War (DoW) policy and guidance, especially focusing on the 2026 National Defense Strategy (NDS). This budget request also urgently capitalizes on the opportunities and addresses the shortfalls that EPIC FURY has revealed, including infusions of resources needed to rapidly bolster stocks and advance programs to meet warfighter needs.

Defending the U.S. Homeland

Defending the Homeland is the DAF’s top priority. We do this every day by providing forces for nuclear readiness, aerospace control alert, global Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR), southern border operations, and space control missions, among many others. Airmen and Guardians are on constant alert against threats to our nation.

The DAF’s nuclear and cyber readiness are pillars of our country’s overall deterrence posture, with the ultimate goal of securing our Homeland. Our nuclear enterprise faces the unique challenge of simultaneously deterring two near-peer nuclear-armed adversaries. Both China and Russia’s nuclear forces continue to expand and modernize. In the face of these threats, the Sentinel, B-21, and Long Range Standoff Weapon (LRSO) programs—as well as an evolution of the Nuclear Command, Control and Communications (NC3) that supports these systems—are essential to maintain a credible U.S. nuclear deterrent in the future. Dominance of the cyber domain remains

a central task for both the USAF and USSF. Both services provide forces for both offensive and defensive cyber operations that protect our Homeland and our deployed forces in harm's way.

The DAF is also committed to strengthening our Homeland's air defenses. One of the core missions of the Space Force is to conduct missile warning and tracking. We will expand this mission over the coming years in close collaboration with the Golden Dome for America Direct Reporting Program Manager (DRPM), to include the development and fielding of a more robust moving target indication capability and space-based interceptors. We are also strengthening our defenses against small Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) threats in close collaboration with Joint Interagency Task Force 401, moving beyond traditional airspace control alerts to focus more heavily on the proliferating threats to our Homeland.

Deterring China in the Indo-Pacific

From a conventional deterrence perspective, the DAF remains focused on China and the challenge its historic military buildup represents. In particular, the DAF is keenly aware of the rapid pace of innovation within China's military and industry. If we are to retain our military overmatch over the long term, we must not only innovate, we must innovate faster than would-be adversaries. Technology is a key area in which we must accelerate innovation, but it is not the only one. We must also innovate in how we acquire new capabilities, how we test, sustain, and protect the capabilities we have, how we set requirements, and how we formulate the policy which we use to govern ourselves. We must innovate faster in every area.

Deterrence is why we are boosting the training of our people and mission capable rates of our weapons systems to secure our ability to fight tonight. Deterrence is why we are driving to boost our sustainment capabilities to guarantee our ability to fight next month. Deterrence is why we are investing heavily in production and infrastructure to build magazine depth and resilience over the next year. Deterrence drives our modernization, ensuring that we remain dominant into the next decade despite the continued expansion of the Chinese military in both quantity and quality.

Burden-Sharing with Allies

Allies and partners are essential to the success of the DAF. We prioritize interoperability and enabling coalitions with enhanced capabilities, new operating concepts, and collaborative force planning. Our allies and partners must also prioritize their own defense and take the lead in maintaining air, space, and cyber superiority in their own regions. To this end, the DAF is making major reforms to the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) process in collaboration with the Department of State and other agencies across the DoW. These reforms include streamlined processing, improved metrics and tracking, and when possible, a focus on exportability earlier in development.

The DAF historically accounts for roughly half of all FMS cases, and we expect that share to increase in the coming years, particularly in the space domain. Since the establishment of the Space Force, we have seen the dollar value of our space FMS caseload more than double and anticipate a five-fold increase in the next three years. In 2027, we will increase international collaboration on key space activities, including co-developing some of our proliferated constellations, increasing data-sharing, and lowering classification barriers. In the air domain, the F-35 is an outstanding example of the force multiplying effect that FMS can have, with over 700

ally-operated F-35s in Europe by the 2030s. Getting these FMS process reforms right will ensure that we can scale to meet that increased demand.

Supercharging the Industrial Base

Our success now and into the future relies heavily on the strength and commitment of the defense industrial base. As such, the DAF is taking urgent action to mobilize, renew, and secure our aerospace defense industrial base to ensure it is ready to deliver the systems we need today and to innovate faster to stay ahead of our adversaries into the future. This involves policy reforms and specific infusions of resources to attract talent, capital, and innovation. We recognize that there is an unprecedented amount of private capital presently flowing into the defense industrial base. We intend to leverage that private capital as effectively and responsibly as possible.

In FY26, we made significant investments in production and supply chain resiliency via the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. We appreciate recent legislative support for multi-year procurement on select munitions and have begun to implement where possible. In FY27, we seek to capitalize on these gains and further supercharge the industrial base, including expanding resources for procurement and facilitization and reducing barriers to entry for new producers. Our FMS reforms will further boost the industrial base by increasing predictability and sustaining production lines. Creating a strong defense industrial ecosystem capable of responding to the DAF's demand signals at speed and scale will require a partnership between the DAF and industry along with clear, sustained demand signals.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE STRATEGIC VISION

The Department of the Air Force's strategic vision is to defend the Homeland, deter all adversaries, and—if called upon—win the fight tonight, tomorrow, next week, next year, or next decade. To achieve this vision, the DAF is focused on three lines of effort. First, we will boost near-term readiness to enable our Airmen and Guardians to fight and win tonight. Second, we will aggressively pursue modernization, including both the near-term production and long-term development that enable us to fight and win into the future. Third, we will invest in our people, who are ultimately our competitive advantage. Underpinning each of these is our acquisition transformation effort, which is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reshape capability delivery.

Acquisition Transformation

To meet these national defense priorities, the DAF must first and foremost accelerate capability development across the board. We are undertaking major changes to streamline our acquisition system. This includes moving from the Program Executive Officer (PEO) to the Portfolio Acquisition Executive (PAE) model, delegating authorities and right-sizing portfolios. We are empowering our entire acquisition workforce to take appropriate risks. Notably, we will cultivate a greater appreciation for operational risk largely caused by schedule slippage. Where required to streamline decision-making, improve execution of programs, and expedite delivery of capability, we also plan to make organizational realignments within our acquisition system.

This transformation recognizes that acquisition, requirements, and resourcing are a three-legged stool; for the system to work, all three must be stable, aligned, and integrated from the start. We

have clarified our force design process in both services so that each prioritizes requirements with a single, unified voice. More importantly, we are enabling active tradeoffs between acquisition risk and operational risk. Reforms to the resourcing process, including a realignment of and reduction in budget line items, will be critical to enable those tradeoffs. The DAF also recognizes its responsibility and need to pass our financial statement audit by 2028. We will further accelerate our audit readiness efforts, committing both people and resources to this urgent priority.

We are also working closely with the DRPMs that the DoW has established. The DAF is providing extensive support to the DRPM for Golden Dome for America, particularly its unique capabilities of space-based missile warning and intercept, sensing, sensor fusion, Command, Control and Communications (C3), and battle management. Likewise, we are closely collaborating with the DRPM for Critical Major Weapon Systems as the programs within that portfolio will shape the future of the Air Force. Both DRPMs are outstanding partners that have already accelerated key national programs that could not wait for our broader reform efforts.

Today's Readiness Challenge

The FY27 budget request makes game-changing investments in our ability to fight tonight and next month with heavy investment in foundational readiness accounts. Across both services, the FY27 budget request increases Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding by 23%. This increase comes with careful consideration of the critical enablers and existing contract vehicles that will allow us to execute those additional resources. We are also relentless in our search for the most cost-effective ways to maintain readiness of both people and platforms without sacrificing safety or organizational effectiveness. Our acquisition transformation efforts will also yield efficiency gains in sustainment as we accelerate decision-making, reduce barriers to entry for new companies, and leverage innovative contract structures.

Air Force and Space Force installations are operational power projection platforms from which we generate airpower and spacepower. However, our infrastructure readiness continues to decline due to years-long shortfalls in Facility Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM) funding, with our backlog reaching nearly \$50B. That changes in FY27. The FY27 request includes an increase to FSRM investment by over 110% to \$13.6B, representing 2.5% of the DAF's plant replacement value. For the USSF, the increase in FSRM is over 200%, including generational investments in our space launch infrastructure on both coasts. The FY27 request also includes a 105% increase to Military Construction (MILCON). This is a down payment on the future, including major new mission bed-downs for F-47, Sentinel, B-21, and the Spaceport of the Future. We are taking advantage of new authorities granted in FY26, such as other transaction authority, progressive-design-build, and new procedures to streamline environmental reviews. to execute this increased funding effectively, The DAF is focused on leveraging these authorities and applying industry proven means and methods on construction supporting our critical requirements.

The Modernization Imperative

After decades of deferral, the DAF is undergoing the largest program of modernization in its history. The FY27 budget both boosts the production of materiel to ensure our ability to fight and win next year, as well as the research and development of new systems to lock in our superiority for the next decade or more. We are modernizing nearly every mission area, including some that

did not exist five years ago. Today's modernization is not optional if we are to remain an effective fighting force able to deter adversaries across the spectrum of conflict. Continuing to rely on systems that are years or decades out-of-date will result in a force that is simultaneously too expensive to operate against low-end threats and ineffective against high-end threats.

Additionally, we are in the midst of one of the most transformative periods of technological advancement in military history. Advancements in space launch, microelectronics, manufacturing techniques, capital markets, autonomy, artificial intelligence and more give the DAF a unique opportunity to drive down costs and drive-up effectiveness against the entire range of threats. Proliferated moving target indication from space, space control capabilities and Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) are examples of these disruptive innovations. The 50% increase in our FY27 Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) budget request demonstrates our resolve to rapidly capitalize on these transformative advancements and incentivize industry to scale to meet our requirements.

We also seek to improve the performance of the defense industrial base with a focus on scalability and affordability. To this end, the DAF views any program that fails to achieve cost or production targets as a failed program, even if it meets technical performance standards. We also seek to increase the production rate for key systems in or entering procurement, including major acceleration in production of B-21, F-47, CCA, and classified space control capabilities.

People – Our Competitive Advantage

Our people are one of our nation's key competitive advantages, and we are making significant investments in our personnel. That investment starts with an increase to military end strength by 12,700 across the DAF. Our FY27 request also includes significant pay raises ranging from 5-7%. We are also committed to renovating dormitories in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary of War-led Barracks Task Force. We are increasing the availability of childcare, constructing numerous Child Development Centers (CDC) across the force and increasing flexibility for off-base childcare options. Our Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) mitigation funding mitigation request has increased by 93% in FY27, reflecting our urgent work to bring on-base drinking water systems up to standard by 2029, as required by law. Finally, we are working with the Defense Health Agency to improve healthcare access across the Department, increasing civilian medical staff in primary and specialty capacity care as well as expanding virtual options and traveling medical teams to improve access at remote and overseas installations.

Our focus on quality of service includes removing bureaucratic obstacles and red tape, unleashing our professionals to focus on the tasks they have trained for. This has the dual benefit of increasing retention and productivity. We are rolling out initiatives to allow our people to focus on their primary area of expertise to increase their quality of service. We are increasing our civilian bonus pool from 2.5% of base pay to 4% to incentivize superior performance. Our acquisition transformation effort will empower program managers, contracting officers, finance professionals, and engineers to stay connected with the operational mission, take ownership, and solve problems.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

The U.S. Air Force remains unmatched in its ability to project power globally. Over the past year, we have proven time and time again the value and effectiveness of American airpower. We were integral to the success of joint operations across the world, including Operations MIDNIGHT HAMMER, ABSOLUTE RESOLVE, and EPIC FURY. Maintaining this dominance requires a relentless focus on increasing readiness while driving towards modernization. We stand ready to respond to situations across the entire spectrum of conflict, from surgical strikes to full-scale war.

The agility and adaptability of the USAF are achieved by ensuring our Airmen remain focused on their core purpose of flying and fixing aircraft. We fly and fix to deter our adversaries, and if deterrence fails, to fight and win. We will achieve this objective through a disciplined focus on three priorities of bolstering readiness, modernization, and taking care of our Airmen and their families. These pillars are the bedrock upon which we build a lethal, resilient force, capable of defending the Homeland, deterring aggression, and projecting airpower globally.

The FY27 USAF budget request represents a unique opportunity to both transform readiness and modernize the force to keep our competitive advantage. Ultimately, this will allow the Air Force to accomplish the priorities outlined in the NDS and build an Air Force that embodies Peace through Strength, providing precise and overwhelming combat power anywhere, anytime.

AIR FORCE READINESS

A force is ineffective if it cannot fight tonight. The “fix” in our fly and fix mantra is the foundation of our combat credibility. It represents our unwavering commitment to sustainment and maintenance, as well as the way we present and prepare our forces.

For several years, the Air Force has seen declining mission capable rates across its aircraft fleet. The FY27 request takes a major step towards reversing that trend. It focuses on fixing the fleet by funding 93.2% of **Weapons Systems Sustainment** (WSS) requirements across 147 programs for a total of \$22.6B. This includes depot maintenance, sustaining engineering, software updates, and engine overhauls essential to keep aircraft flying. To reverse this trend and buy down operational risk, we require stable, consistent, and enduring funding. The FY27 budget request also increases our investment in readiness through the working capital fund, allocating \$4.4B to address supply shortfalls and replenish inventories across the fleet. This significant investment is a crucial first step in a multi-year strategy to rebuild our military's supply chain and industrial base. This funding will buy down operational risk, reduce production timelines, and deliver high-end capabilities. Sending this demand signal to our defense industrial base partners will grow capacity, manpower, and the supply chain.

Readiness is ultimately about the proficiency of our warfighters. The **Flying Hour Program** (FHP) ensures American pilots are the best trained in the world. This budget funds the flying hour program to its maximum executable level of 1.1M hours, or \$9.9B, a 22% increase. We are committed to addressing the pilot shortage from both ends, improving retention while increasing production to 1,500 pilots per year, putting us on a path to stabilize the shortage in FY27. We recognize the intrinsic link between aircraft availability and pilot training, which is why we are

making simultaneous investments in WSS to increase aircraft readiness rates. These investments will ensure we are consistently generating combat airpower at scale.

The **Air Expeditionary Wing (AEW) 2.0** is the U.S. Air Force's evolved, wing-sized Unit of Action, designed to provide a more cohesive and lethal force for high-end conflict. This resource-informed approach shifts from the previous model of sourcing individual personnel to deploying fully integrated teams, enhancing warrior ethos and combat effectiveness. A key feature of AEW 2.0 is its modular structure, built around a foundational "AEW Core" that provides command and control and base operating support. This core can be scaled with additional elements to meet specific mission demands. This entire construct is aligned with NDS priorities, focusing on readiness for a peer-level fight. Units are generated through the Air Force's Force Generation (AFFORGEN) model, which provides a predictable cycle for Total Force Integration (TFI), allowing Active, Guard, and Reserve components to organize, train, and certify together well before deployment, ensuring a maximally ready force arrives in theater.

AIR FORCE MODERNIZATION

While we focus on today's readiness, we must simultaneously modernize to deter the conflicts of tomorrow, and if necessary, act decisively to win. Our modernization portfolio is a balanced mix of capabilities designed to create dilemmas for any adversary. The USAF procurement budget is focused on recapitalizing our aircraft fleets, extending production, supporting nuclear operations, and replacing our legacy systems.

Nuclear weapons deter aggression, assure allies and partners, and enable the achievement of Presidential objectives if deterrence fails. The Air Force manages 75% of our nation's Nuclear C3 enterprise and is executing a once-in-a-generation modernization of these systems. A land-based intercontinental ballistic missile is critical to our nuclear triad, providing the most responsive capability and complicating the adversary's targeting calculus. The **Sentinel program** is moving forward with purpose and momentum. We have the right strategy, the technology, and we will deliver on our promise to provide our Airmen with the modern, credible system they need to deliver the unwavering deterrence our nation requires. The Sentinel budget request includes \$4.5B RDT&E in FY27 to include Air Vehicle development, Launch Silo and Launch Center prototyping, and executing the first pad launch of the missile, planned for 2027. The Sentinel program is the largest public works project since the fielding of the original Minuteman in the 1960s. The FY27 budget request jumpstarts this MILCON program with \$1B for construction of Sentinel operations and maintenance facilities and increment three of the F.E. Warren Utility Corridor. Until the transition to the Sentinel system is complete, we will continue to sustain Minuteman III and ensure it remains a reliable and effective deterrent.

The **B-21 Raider** is the backbone of our future bomber force and is making tangible progress through its flight test campaign. With three low-rate initial production lots awarded and a recent agreement to increase production capacity by 25%, our plan to field at least one hundred B-21s is on track. We have confirmed Ellsworth, Whiteman, and Dyess Air Force Bases as the future main operating bases. Furthermore, we are extending our legacy bomber fleet, which includes the B-1, B-2, and B-52 to ensure long-range strike capabilities and heavy bombing capacity. The B-52 is undergoing a full modernization effort with new engines and radar to serve as a credible deterrent through 2050. With its bomber launch platforms, the LRSO provides the U.S. with tailorable and

overwhelming deterrence. The requested 52% funding increase is critical to transition this weapon from development into full-scale production, arming our warfighters with the tools they need. Additionally, the USAF is also responsible for recapitalizing our airborne command and control capability with the Survivable Airborne Operations Center (SAOC) and the newly assigned Looking Glass-Next mission. The total FY27 PB request for SAOC is \$2.3B and Looking Glass-Next is \$64M.

The **F-47** and **CCA** remain our top-fighter modernization priorities. The F-47 will be the world's most stealthy and lethal fighter, and its integration with autonomous CCA represents a generational leap in combat capability that will redefine the battlespace. To expedite its delivery to the warfighter, we are allocating over \$5B in FY27 for F-47 Engineering and Manufacturing Development (EMD). The USAF is investing \$1.4B for CCA testing and development, which puts us on a direct path to procure over 150 CCA by the end of the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP), rapidly scaling our combat mass. The use of open architecture and digital design allows for continuous, competitive upgrades. This breaks vendor lock and strengthens our industrial base, ensuring we can rapidly integrate new technologies to outpace our adversaries. This approach delivers more capability to the warfighter, faster and more affordably.

Our 5th generation fighters remain the cornerstone of our combat capability. The Air Force is focused on funding the **F-35A** Block 4 modernization, which includes an updated radar, advanced electromagnetic warfare capabilities, and expanded weapons integration. However, poor fleet readiness, driven by sustainment and parts shortages, remains a primary concern. To that end, the FY27 budget requests \$7.4B. The **F-22 Raptor** continues to receive critical updates to its sensors and survivability systems to maintain its edge against our adversaries.

The Air Force remains committed to the modernization of its **tanker fleet** to ensure it can support the Joint Force in a contested environment. We are working closely with Boeing to alleviate the challenges it currently faces to bring full operational capability to the warfighter. The current KC-46 Program of Record is for 188 tankers, with a planned purchase of up to 75 additional aircraft through a production extension. The USAF is investing \$1.1 billion across the FYDP to secure the availability of the KC-46. The FY27 budget request reflects a 26% increase to cover both the final 15 aircraft and to invest in depot standup for long-term sustainment. We are also modernizing communication systems on over 360 KC-135s to ensure their viability into the future. Furthermore, we are investing heavily into tanker connectivity, programming \$105M in FY27 to field 315 proliferated low-earth orbit Hybrid Satellite Communications (SATCOM) terminals and VIASAT Ku Array Kits on the KC-135 fleet. Similar Hybrid SATCOM technologies are already being installed on KC-46As.

The Air Force is also executing a deliberate and balanced strategy for **Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)**, **Battle Management Command and Control (BMC2)**, and **Airborne Moving Target Indicator (AMTI)** capabilities to meet the intent of the National Defense Strategy. This includes a continued investment in the DAF BATTLE NETWORK, which is a key capability to fuse sensor data and remain resilient against all adversaries. Also key is a generational shift away from legacy systems and towards next-generation capabilities in both air and space. We will fully divest the E-11A in FY2028, with the Hybrid SATCOM Terminal program providing a near-term bridge in capability. After its one-year extension granted in May 2025, the FY27 request proceeds with the divestment of the U-2 by the end of FY27 to avoid

significant costs due to airframe age and fatigue. The MQ-9 remains a cost-effective ISR and strike capability. As a result, we are restoring its funding in FY27 to maintain capacity and invest in its modernization and resiliency by modernizing its navigation systems and communication links. We will expand our electronic attack capability by increasing our EA-37B fleet from 12 to 22 aircraft.

The Air Force is modernizing its **Presidential Airlift** to ensure safe, reliable air transportation for the President and senior leaders with the equivalent level of communications capability and security available in the White House. We are continuing collaboration with Boeing on the VC-25B program, with the first aircraft now projected for delivery in mid-2028, 18 months earlier than previously anticipated. The FY27 budget request includes an 8% increase (\$55.5M) for the VC-25B to procure spares and communication system upgrades.

For **rotary-wing** modernization, the FY27 budget request will fund 4 MH-139 aircraft, bringing the total to 34 by FY27. The budget request for the MH-139 has increased by \$91.5M in FY27 to procure four aircraft and support depot standup activities. The HH-60W is in production and development, with 85 aircraft delivered to date. Some of these aircraft will replace the UH-1N fleet at Joint Base Andrews supporting the Air Force District Washington (AFDW) mission.

The **T-7A** aircraft, training, and modern simulators will enable training capabilities needed for our future 4th and 5th generation pilots. 351 T-7As will replace 422 T-38Cs at existing undergraduate pilot training bases, starting with Randolph Air Force Base. We are currently on track for initial operational capability in 2027.

The Air Force is developing organic air and missile defense capabilities, including **Counter-small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-sUAS)** to defend our air bases in all theatres. The fielding of the Air Base Air Defense Systems (ABADS) missile defense capability, including kinetic defenses, at overseas main operation bases contributes to joint layered defense but does not reduce the need for increased joint investment in air and missile defense. We will continue to work judiciously for the development and procurement of these critical defensive capabilities.

A credible deterrent requires a deep magazine of **munitions**. The FY27 budget sends a clear demand signal to industry to increase production, with a planned procurement of 39,000 additional weapons of all types by FY33. This includes leveraging non-traditional vendors to produce affordable weapons at scale. We are enhancing production capacity and rebuilding stockpiles across the entire weapons portfolio in order to strengthen critical weapons inventories. This includes the Joint Advanced Tactical Missile (JATM), Joint Air-to-Surface Stand-Off Missile (JASSM), Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRASM), the Advanced Medium-Range Air to Air Missile (AMRAAM), and the Family of Affordable Mass Munitions (FAMM). The USAF is proving that speed is achievable in acquisition. By connecting Air Force operational needs directly with industry's capability, we went from an idea to a contract for our new Extended Range Attack Munition (ERAM) cruise missile and FAMM munitions in just four months. This accelerated process means we can get critical new weapons for our aircraft tested and fielded with tangible results, faster than ever.

Furthermore, we are doubling production rates for our two developmental hypersonic weapons, the Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW) and the Hypersonic Attack Cruise Missile

(HACM), with a planned investment of \$1.8B across the FYDP to accelerate delivery of these critical strike capabilities into the hands of the warfighter.

TAKING CARE OF AIRMEN

Our most decisive advantage is our people. We are committed to providing our Airmen and their families with the quality of life they have earned and deserve. The Air Force is aggressively investigating and executing creative solutions to meet the **housing** needs of our Airmen and their families. We are investing \$1.3B in FY27 to address military family housing needs. This request includes \$240.9M for construction and \$328.8M for improvements in housing at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Yokota Air Base, and Misawa Air Base. Simultaneously, we are also accelerating oversight and accountability for our privatized housing partners to improve the overall quality and safety of privatized housing.

The Air Force is committed to taking care of Airmen by providing clean, comfortable, and safe living conditions. In FY27, we expect to invest over \$1.3B in **family housing** and nearly \$3B across facilities, sustainment, restoration, and modernization and MILCON in our **dormitories**. This is a significant increase relative to the previous five years. As part of the Barracks Task Force, we performed a 100% inspection of our dormitories and certified that all Airmen are living in clean, comfortable, and safe conditions. Finally, in FY27, we are planning three new dormitories worth \$330M to address our most urgent capacity shortfalls.

Access to affordable and quality **childcare** is a critical factor impacting both readiness and retention. To address capacity shortfalls, the 2023 Master Plan identified 35 CDC MILCON projects, 17 of which are already funded, to provide 1,718 new spaces. We also continue to invest in FSRM to maintain its 138 existing centers at acceptable condition levels. Staffing efforts remain a top priority, with direct-care staffing currently at 82% following successful recovery from a temporary hiring freeze. Robust workforce modernization strategies, including competitive wages and tuition assistance, have reduced the childcare waitlist to a historic low of 2,967. Incentives like the 100% childcare fee discount for staff also serve as a tool for increasing military spouse employment. A five-year phased overhaul is underway to increase compensation for management staff and establish permanent Special Needs Inclusion positions. Collectively, these investments ensure continuous, high-quality care that supports the mission and military families alike.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Air Force is moving with a sense of urgency to meet the demands of the strategic era. Our commitment to flying and fixing aircraft to deter, and if deterrence fails, to win, informs every aspect of our budget and strategy. We are balancing the imperative of near-term readiness with the necessity of long-term modernization. The Air Force is investing in platforms, weapons, and networks that will guarantee our competitive advantage for decades to come. Above all, we are investing in our Airmen and their families, the unbreakable core of our combat power. With the continued support of the American people and Congress, your Air Force will remain what our nation expects and deserves –the most dominant Air Force the world has ever seen – ready to fly, to fight, and to win.

UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE

Space is more vital than ever to our economic prosperity, our national security, and the lethality of the Joint Force. However, our adversaries are observing our military and economic dependence on space. They are working daily to take those advantages away, increasingly threatening our military forces and our citizens with space-enabled attacks. To defend our nation's interests in space, we must do more than grow. The FY27 budget's landmark investment of \$71.1B for the Space Force represents a generational opportunity to evolve to meet the rapidly expanding threats and demands we face as a nation.

Russia has continued pursuing an on-orbit nuclear antisatellite capability that could destroy thousands of satellites. This could render critical orbits unusable, and cause devastating consequences to communications, commerce, military capability, and global economies. Russia is also honing their proximity operations in space, practicing their ability to intercept and physically interfere with other satellites in orbits of their choosing.

At the same time, China is quickly accelerating its launch and on-orbit capabilities, including blended military-civil use. Just in 2025, China conducted over 70 space launches, placing over 320 payloads in orbit, contributing to over a 650% increase in its on-orbit presence. China is also pursuing proliferated satellite constellations, reusable rockets, jam-resistant quantum space communications, and a multitude of other advanced technologies to directly challenge U.S. space advantage.

America's civil dependence on space is also substantially increasing. The global space economy has grown to over \$600B, with over 40% of that growth in the United States – over a 9% yearly growth rate. The U.S. commercial sector has seen a 26% increase in demand for space-enabled technologies such as assured position, navigation, and timing, and a 37% year-over-year increase in private capital investment for the domestic space market. As America's reliance on space has increased, so too has its dependence on the Space Force.

In addition to fueling the U.S. economy and delivering America's space-enabled way of life, the U.S. Space Force has proven its combat effectiveness as credible warfighters in military operations around the world, including OPERATION MIDNIGHT HAMMER, OPERATION ABSOLUTE RESOLVE, and OPERATION EPIC FURY. These and other military operations relied heavily on Space Force Guardians and our capabilities to secure the Joint Force, execute precision military activities, and inform decision-makers on the most critical national security matters. Space Superiority is **the** critical enabler that allows the Joint Force to project power, strike with precision, and deliver combat effects with zero margin for error. However, while the USSF has proven our ability to fight tonight, we must also take steps to ensure the service maintains its combat edge over the next decade.

Over the last six years, the Space Force has become a purpose-built military service, specifically organized, trained, and equipped to exercise control over the vital space domain for America's interests, and if necessary, deny those same advantages to our adversaries. However, the Space Force we have today must evolve and grow to maintain an edge over today's threats, and ready us for the threats of the future. Recent budget increases have provided substantial gains in military

space capability, but the service also requires commensurate resource increases for supporting functions. This requires targeted growth in Space Force end strength, infrastructure, and geographic footprint over the next five years.

In 2025, USSF saw a drastic increase in its mission requirements across our three core functions: Space Access, Global Mission Operations, and Space Control. Over the last year, USSF's Eastern Range supported a record-breaking 109 space launches with plans to increase to as many as 500 annual launches by 2036. Tranche-1 of the Proliferated Space Warfighting Architecture will add 154 satellites and space-based tactical military data layers to the USSF's portfolio by 2027. Our space control requirements have similarly grown, with the USSF investing in multiple capabilities in that mission area.

This trajectory shows no sign of slowing. To inform our future needs, the Space Force has completed a detailed analysis of missions and support needs required over the next 15 years to meet the expected threat and continue to maintain America's civil and military advantages in space. This begins with the Future Operating Environment – a forward-looking depiction of what space warfighting could look like over the next 15 years. Building on that description, the service outlined its Objective Force 2040 – an architectural blueprint to meet these strategic imperatives, focusing service investments and priorities to defeat the threat. In short, our proposed USSF mission growth matches the exponentially expanding contributions of the space domain to the American economy, and the warfighting requirements of the Joint Force. Executing these missions demands corresponding increases in the Service's budget and end strength. The FY27 budget request delivers those increases, boosting the topline by 124% and end strength by 27%.

Although our domain is boundless, our ability to support new missions is not. The Space Force is lean by design – an approach that allowed us to quickly establish the service and meet Joint Force needs with agility and speed. However, the force is not sized today to meet the growing missions and the compounding threats of the future. The FY 2027 Budget's capacity growth for the USSF is a critical national security imperative. It's not a mere matter of ambition, but one of necessity. The risk to space missions will continue to expand without the substantial new investment requested in the FY 2027 President's Budget, which is key to ensuring the Space Force is ready and able.

The nation has long recognized the need for the Space Force to grow, but we are now seeing the demand to accelerate that growth. The proposed budget will allow the Space Force to recruit and train Guardians, build vital space capability and systems, and design the infrastructure required to secure the nation's interests in, from, and to space, now and into the future.

GUARDIANS ARE SPECIALLY TRAINED FOR SPACE SUPERIORITY

Our success in the space domain begins and ends with our Guardians. We are deliberately building a cadre of space-minded warfighters, equipped with the skills and mindset to dominate in an increasingly contested and evolving domain. This requires a fundamental culture shift to cement our Guardian DNA, which we are driving through a series of service-wide initiatives. From the initial foundations of the Officer Training Course to our new mid-career Captains Leadership Course, to world-class intermediate and senior level education, we are preparing our Guardian

officers to seamlessly integrate with the Joint Force and navigate the complexities of modern conflict extending into space.

Additionally, the Space Force is bolstering our enlisted Guardian development through USSF-specific Basic Military Training curriculum, advanced enlisted fellowships, graduate degree opportunities. We are also focused on developing our vital civilian Guardian workforce with targeted developmental opportunities across strategy, policy, acquisitions, and Space Force disciplines in which they play a critical role.

While our commitment to developing our Guardians is unwavering, we are also pioneering human resource policies and technologies to support our workforce and bring highly qualified personnel into our ranks. Under the unique authorities granted to the Space Force, transfers of Air Force Reservists and Air National Guardsmen as well as new applicants for part time positions are proceeding, with nearly all expected to be on board by the end of FY27.

While the Space Force builds our human capital, we must also make commensurate increases to the structures that support them. The FY 2027 President's Budget continues to focus on weapon system development and operations, and in addition, supports housing, childcare, ground stations, and secure facilities, all necessary to host and sustain our force.

The FY27 Request also includes a historic \$2.2 billion for Space Force MILCON. This infusion of resources will fund four new operations centers, and major modernization of spaceport infrastructure to support our growing force. Investing in our Guardians and the systems they operate is an investment in the security of the Nation and the continued dominance of the United States in the space domain.

TRANSFORMING CAPABILITY DELIVERY

To secure dominance in the space domain, the Space Force must reimagine its approach to capability delivery. The Space Force is taking advantage of a once-in-a-generation opportunity for acquisition transformation. Sweeping directives for change from the Commander-in-Chief, Secretary of War, and Secretary of the Air Force, combined with targeted adjustments to Space Force fielding practices, will ensure we deliver systems on operationally relevant timelines.

This acquisition transformation is reflected in our budget, with nearly two-thirds dedicated to RDT&E, demonstrating our commitment to harnessing a pivotal era of military technological breakthroughs. We are moving away from a one-size-fits-all model, instead tailoring our acquisition pathways—whether traditional, experimental, or commercial—to the specific needs of each mission. The empowered Portfolio Acquisition Executives further speed our ability to develop concepts, mature new technology, and deliver combat-credible capabilities on operationally relevant timelines.

The Space Force is also reimaging how we approach requirements definition, capturing only the minimum viable capability that must be fielded for combat effectiveness. This allows maximum flexibility for Program Managers to make trades and account for evolving threats and technological advances. Once a system can provide a minimum viable capability, we will put it into operations and engage in a cycle of continuous enhancements. Additionally, our approach to integrated test

and evaluation will uncover problems earlier in the development process, and more effectively characterize risk as we put systems into operations more quickly.

With a continued shift to more resilient proliferated architectures, the service is incentivizing industry to build production lines that could be further scaled in the event of a crisis. Programs such as the Commercial Augmentation Space Reserve – Space Force’s ability to quickly leverage industry production lines in the event of a crisis – reduce the financial burden on industry to prepare for a contingency and will build the contracts and partnerships well in advance, so the service can surge quickly when necessary. These approaches have enabled the service to meet increasing demands to rapidly field innovative commercial solutions.

The Space Force acknowledges that a substantial increase in budget authorization will require deliberate attention to ensure full and effective execution. Today, the service has the underlying systems, structures, and designs necessary to convert an increased appropriation into combat capability and warfighting advantage. Through our existing foundational doctrine, detailed architecture design, extensive acquisitions training and capacity, the Space Force is well-positioned to quickly meet the increased demand that an expanding budget will bring.

Additionally, the Space Force is focused on expertly balancing the demands of maintaining readiness for today's threats with the imperative to build a more capable and resilient force for the future. These challenges are compounded by the unique position of the Space Force. Unlike other services that are modernizing existing systems, we are often creating new capabilities for new missions from the ground up. The reality is stark: we cannot modernize what we do not have. This is particularly true for Space Control, where we have invested in all counterspace categories of space systems necessary to deter and defeat aggression in space.

This transformation is a shared endeavor within the DAF. We continue to rely on the steadfast support of the U.S. Air Force, and the DAF has been instrumental in orchestrating our integrated efforts. Our partnership is strong and ensures that we are building a truly unified and formidable force for the Nation.

A SPACE FORCE PURPOSE BUILT FOR SPACE SUPERIORITY

As a cornerstone of America's national security and national defense strategies, the Space Force must be purpose-built to ensure the U.S. can use space to our own benefit and ensure our adversaries cannot. However, we must be clear-eyed about the unique nature of the space domain. Unlike the air, land, or sea, any kinetic conflict in space is guaranteed to have sweeping global implications and could ruin the use of space for all nations for years to come. Therefore, **Competitive Endurance** – the Space Force’s theory of success – seeks to prevent conflict from extending into space by ensuring adversaries are never emboldened enough to pursue destructive combat in the domain. This strategy cannot succeed without the right personnel, equipment, and facilities.

Today, we continue to pursue the right end strength and the specialized infrastructure required to operate the new missions and systems coming online for sustained campaigning. Fulfilling our purpose—to secure our Nation’s interests in, from, and to space—requires a sustained investment

in the people, platforms and support structures that will ensure our space superiority for decades to come.

To that end, we are aggressively pursuing more robust architectures, exemplified by the \$8.5B included in this request to further expand our Resilient Missile Warning and Tracking initiative, which will complicate enemy targeting and ensure continuity of a critical national security mission. The FY27 request also includes an investment of \$9.8B—an 81% increase—for Satellite Communications, ensuring secure communications for wideband, narrowband, tactical, and strategic satellite communications, including significant investments in ground architecture. Our ongoing efforts to modernize critical constellations, like the continued advancements of our GPS-III satellites and expanding the reach of our proliferated constellations, further underscore our commitment to delivering resilient capabilities to the Joint Force and the world.

At the same time, deterrence requires that we build the capacity to impose unacceptable costs on any aggressor. Therefore, the Space Force is developing new capabilities to close Joint Force kill chains and hold adversary systems at risk. For the first time, we have formalized Ground Moving Target Indicator (GMTI) as a Space Force mission and are now standing up the units to conduct this critical task. We are also moving forward with development of an AMTI capability at speed and scale. To field our total Space Based Sensing and Targeting architecture, which includes both GMTI and AMTI, as well as other capabilities, we request \$10.8B in FY27, nearly a 500% increase from FY26. This investment will greatly enhance our production capacity for these systems, ensuring we can field them at scale and on operationally relevant timelines. These capabilities will not only enhance the efficacy of the entire Joint Force but also prevent our adversaries from using their capabilities for harm.

Should those deterrent efforts fail, the Space Force must be prepared to take swift and decisive action. Therefore, we request \$21.6B—a 158% increase from FY26—to field a combat-credible space control architecture to counter the threats being developed by our adversaries. This investment will deliver the tactics, training and weapon systems required to impose the necessary costs on an aggressor and ensure the space domain remains available to the Joint Force and the Nation.

As the U.S. deepens its commitment to defending the Homeland, we must continue to stay ahead of these threats to guarantee the space-enabled way of life upon which we have built our nation. Over the last three years, the Space Force has established Service Components – Space Force units embedded directly with, and employing space warfighting capabilities for, Combatant Commanders across every Area of Responsibility around the globe. These skilled teams of Guardians provide space-specific expertise, planning, and employment of space forces to meet the Combatant Commander’s priorities, building concepts for space-enabled warfighting, formalizing exercises and wargames to meet regional objectives. The capabilities that Guardians provide have become the backbone of the Joint Force, in no small part, because of our Service Components. Expanding our Service Component footprint to additional Combatant Commanders such as U.S. Special Operations Command and U.S. Cyber Command would further enhance our nation’s capabilities across these vital mission areas.

Of course, the Space Force is not undertaking this mission alone. No single nation or entity can fully contest and control the infinite reaches of this domain. The vastness of the space domain

necessitates a teaming approach to guarantee our nation's interests are met. The Space Force is strengthening our alliances and partnerships to share the burden of collective security. We are collaborating on resilient, integrated architectures; deepening integration in training, exercises, and operations; and forging a common understanding of shared threats through initiatives like the Combined Space Operations Initiative of like-minded nations. In just the last two years, the Space Force has also secured non-binding bilateral statements of intent regarding future collaboration to advance national security interests in the space domain with Norway, Germany, Italy, and Canada, with several more pending. This strategic alignment of interests for mutual space security objectives strengthens our collective warfighting edge against adversaries that are building space warfighting coalitions of their own.

Our close partnerships with industry are equally vital to this transformation. We are moving beyond a traditional vendor-customer relationship and engaging our nation's commercial space sector as a strategic national security asset. To harness their innovation and agility, we are partnering more closely with industry leaders to ensure mutual understanding of system requirements, more closely tying Guardians into key industry-engagement roles and building collaborative relationships over transactional approaches to more rapidly field cutting-edge commercial solutions.

Collectively, these teaming approaches enhance our ability to control the domain, improve interoperability, and build a more formidable space warfighting enterprise.

CONCLUSION

The U.S. Space Force has reached a critical inflection point. We have laid the organizational foundation, defined the compounding threat, and delivered the architectural blueprint required to defeat it. Now, we must continue to build the structures and systems needed to ensure domain superiority for years to come. These increases in mission and resources are a strategic imperative, scaling our combat-credible forces to secure the domain for the Joint Force and the Nation. With the continued partnership of Congress, our Guardians stand ready to deter aggression, protect our space-enabled way of life, and, if called upon, fight and win.

CONCLUSION

The DAF is engaged in a fast-paced race for technological superiority against a well-resourced strategic opponent who challenges our ability to fight tonight, next month, next year, and next decade. We must do all this while maintaining our ability to develop people and retain those who possess a warrior spirit and can win a high-end conflict. The FY27 budget request represents a transformative investment in our Air and Space superiority. We are committed to defending the U.S. Homeland, deterring China in the Indo-Pacific, burden sharing with our allies, and supercharging the industrial base. We urge timely approval of the FY27 budget request to allow us to execute these missions and keep pace with the challenges facing the United States.