

Defense, intelligence communities partner for space defense

The National Space Defense Center (NSDC) at Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado, is now operating 24 hours a day with a staff of 230. The NSDC began as a concept in late 2015 with the establishment of the Joint Interagency Combined Space Operations Center (JICSpOC).

The NSDC focuses on threats to military and spy satellites. These satellites provide communications, navigation, and missile warning for troops around the globe, as well as intercept communications and photograph enemy military and civilian sites. “Space used to be a benign environment and that’s what’s changed,” said Colonel Todd Brost, director of the NSDC.

The NSDC joins U.S. Air Force and intelligence community personnel. “That partnership with the intelligence community is crucial,” said Brost. “[The NSDC] is not an Air Force unit. It’s not really even a Department of Defense unit,” he explained. Brost went on to remark on the level of cooperation among the defense and intelligence personnel, saying “They all share the same vision and goals,” and that conflict between the agencies has not been a problem.

- The Gazette

DoD releases FY 2019 Budget Proposal

On February 12, President Trump submitted to Congress his proposed Department of Defense (DoD) budget for Fiscal Year 2019. The FY 2019 budget focuses on restoring and rebuilding America’s military, requesting \$716 billion for national security, of which \$686 billion is designated for DoD.

The FY 2019 budget was developed to implement the 2018 National Defense and National Security Strategies. “Failure to implement or fund the 2018 National Defense Strategy will leave us with a force that could dominate the last war, yet be irrelevant to tomorrow’s security,” said DoD Secretary James Mattis while addressing White House reporters last week.

The FY 2019 budget increases end strength by 24,100 in the active components and 1,800 in the reserve components over the FY 2018 budget, and calls for increased warfighting investments in aircraft, shipbuilding, and ground systems. Among other increases, the FY 2019 also boasts “a competitive compensation package” for service members that “reflects the unique demands and sacrifices of military service” and includes a 2.6% military pay raise.

- Department of Defense