MUOS, the Space Force's Space Network that Secures Communications for Special Forces and Paratroopers

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Washington — **Boeing** has prevailed over Lockheed Martin in a strategic competition, securing a contract worth up to **2 billion dollars** for the design and production of two next-generation satellites for the **Mobile User Objective System (MUOS)**. The program, managed by the U.S. Space Force, is crucial for ensuring the operational continuity of one of the most critical narrowband communication networks for the Department of Defense, with launches expected no earlier than 2031 and 2032.

A “Cellular Network” for Tactical Superiority

The MUOS system operates like a true cellular network in space, connecting troops, naval units, aircraft, and, in particular, **special operations forces**. Thanks to its architecture, the system allows operators to maintain secure and reliable communications using small-sized terminals,

overcoming the limitations imposed by terrestrial infrastructures.

This capability is vitally important for **paratroopers** and operational units operating in highly dynamic contexts, where immediate connectivity is often decisive for mission success. Signals transmitted through MUOS satellites are routed via ground stations, enabling global coordination among dispersed assets in the field.

Operational Effectiveness in Complex Environments

The strategic value of MUOS lies in its operation within the **ultra-high frequency (UHF)** spectrum. This particular segment of the spectrum is preferred by military forces for its unique characteristics, essential for supporting special operations:

- **Obstacle penetration:** The UHF signal can effectively penetrate dense vegetation and complex urban scenarios, ensuring radio contact even in prohibitive environmental conditions.
- **Weather resilience:** The UHF frequency maintains high reliability even in adverse weather conditions, an essential requirement for paratrooper units during airdrops or tactical infiltrations.

Towards the Future of Military Communications

Despite the rapid expansion of commercial satellite services, military leaders reiterate that narrowband requires dedicated infrastructure under strict government control. The transition to the new satellites produced by Boeing will ensure that special forces and frontline units, such as paratroopers, continue to have a secure, advanced communication setup capable of responding to threats of the next decade.

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