The New Frontier of Security: The Militarization of Space and the US Space Force

Published on 24/07/2025

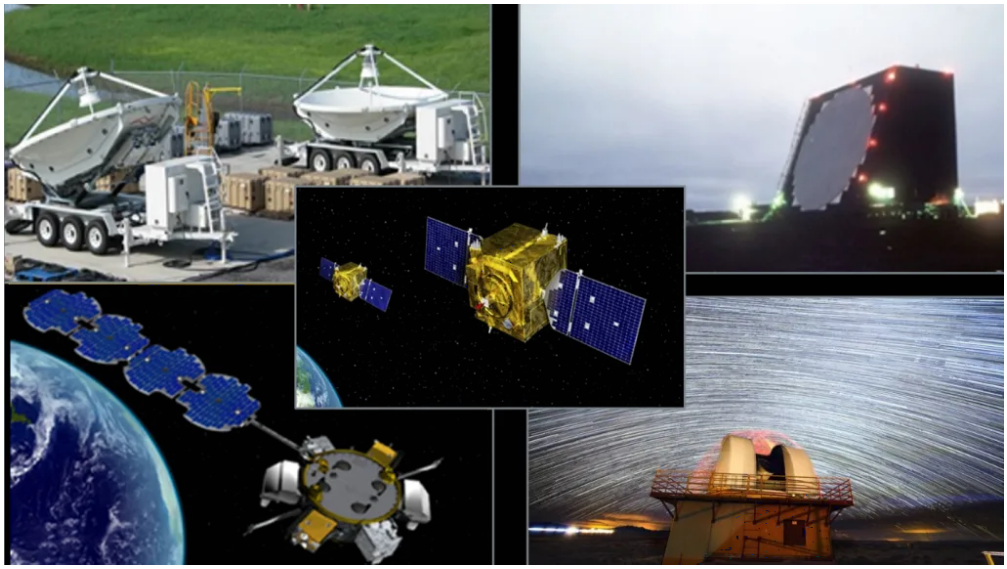
The militarization of space is no longer a theoretical concept, but a concrete reality that is rapidly evolving. Already in 1983, the proposal of the **Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)** during Ronald Reagan's presidency envisioned the installation of armaments in space, an idea that was ironically dubbed "Star Wars" at the time. Today, however, the landscape is completely different: the militarization of space has become a crucial aspect of modern geopolitics, and the space domain is transforming into a true "warfighting domain," as explained by **General B. Chance Saltzman**, head of the **US Space Force** in the interview given to formiche.net.

The New Frontier of Security: The Militarization of Space and the US Space Force - brigatafolgore.net

Since 2019, the United States has established the Space Force to protect freedom of action in space, a goal that involves not only the protection of American space assets but also the strengthening of global space security. In a context where space technologies are fundamental for military operations and daily life, Saltzman emphasizes that the space domain must be safeguarded with the same intensity as other traditional domains such as land, sea, air, and cyberspace. In this scenario, the Space Force is not limited to defending access to space but also works to prevent and counter potential threats from global rivals.

The Key Capabilities of the Space Force and Emerging Threats

To address the growing threats in the space domain, the Space Force is focusing its efforts on a series of key capabilities. One of the priorities is achieving space superiority, that is, the ability to control space and neutralize any attempts to disrupt or destroy vital space systems for military operations. Among the main threats the United States faces are the ongoing developments by actors like China and Russia, who are testing and deploying anti-space weapons, such as direct-launch missiles, jammers, and cyber tools. These capabilities are no longer theoretical but are already operational and represent a serious threat to space security.



The Space Force is also developing advanced Space Domain Awareness (SDA) systems, a concept that refers to the ability to monitor activities in space and identify potential threats before they become real dangers. The protection of satellites and other space assets is essential to ensure the continuity of military and civilian operations. Additionally, the Space Force is investing in secure navigation technologies, interference-resistant communications, and missile warning systems, to ensure that the United States and its allies can operate unhindered in space.

International Alliances and Space Cooperation

In an increasingly contested space environment, international alliances and cooperation between countries have become a fundamental element for space security and stability. The Space Force cannot operate alone; its strategy is based on a strong partnership with global allies and partners. As highlighted by Saltzman, significant progress has been made in recent years in integrating the United States' space capabilities with those of its allies. The Combined Space Operations (CSO) initiative, which includes countries like Italy and other nations, is a key example of how space cooperation can strengthen collective defense and global stability.

To build trust among allies, the Space Force has also implemented reforms in security classifications, allowing for the timely and secure sharing of sensitive information. This type of integration is crucial for creating a unified space coalition and staying one step ahead of emerging threats. Another key element of this cooperation is the appointment of British Air Marshal Paul Godfrey as Assistant Chief of Space Operations, a move that underscores the importance of strong alliances and shared management of space operations.

Looking to the future, the main goal of the Space Force for 2030 is to ensure that space remains a safe, stable, and sustainable domain, benefiting not only the United States but also the international community. With the increasing congestion and contestation in space, protecting this domain becomes a shared priority for all countries that depend on space technologies for their security and prosperity.

News link: https://formiche.net/2025/07/vi-spiego-le-guerre-stellari-di-oggi-e-di-domani-parla-il-capo-della-space-force-usa-saltzman/#content