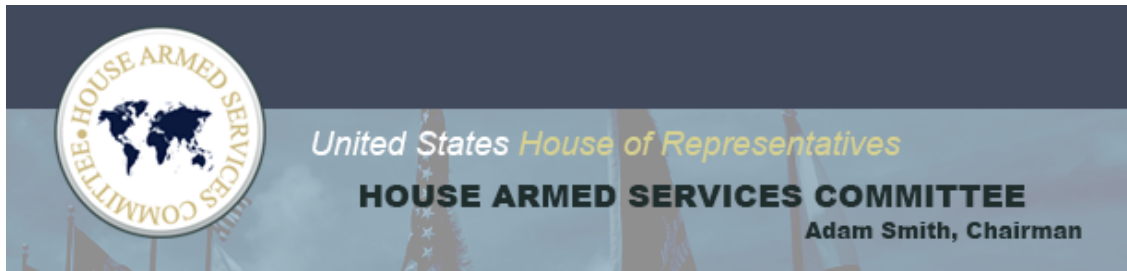


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Opening Statement (As Prepared)
Chairman Jim Cooper
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces Hearing:
*“Fiscal Year 2023 Strategic Forces National Security
Space Programs”*
April 6, 2022

Click [here](#) to stream the hearing.

This hearing will come to order. First, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome our panel of esteemed witnesses; Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy, Dr. John Plumb, Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, Dr. Christopher Scolese, Commander of Space Systems Command, Lt Gen Michael Guetlein, Deputy Director of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, Ms. Tanya Wilkerson and GAO Director of Contracting and National Security Acquisitions, Mr. Jon Ludwigson. We are honored to have this level of expertise within the Department and Intelligence Community testifying today on one of the most important topics we will cover in this Congress.

Both Dr. Plumb and Lt Gen Guetlein are joining us today in new positions which highlight the shift within the Department to focus on space policy and acquisition. We look forward to the Senate moving forward with the nomination of Mr. Frank Calvelli to fill the critical role of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration to further this emphasis.

Given what we have witnessed in space by our adversaries this year, including a destructive and irresponsible anti-satellite test conducted by Russia and China’s demonstration of the ability to “grapple” another satellite and pull it out of its orbit, we cannot be too bold or aggressive in demonstrating our intent and ability to defend our assets in space.

This President’s budget is the first time we have seen a shift toward a more resilient and robust space architecture. Further, the request for development and procurement for space capabilities in Fiscal Year 2023 is \$27.6 billion, the largest for these types of programs we have seen and a more than 25% increase from last year’s request. I am encouraged by these indicators that perhaps the Department of Defense has finally come to see what we have been trying to highlight for the past several years – that space is no longer a benign domain, and we must be prepared to defend our assets on orbit and maintain the ability to use space in support of global Combatant Commanders.

While I do have optimism that the tides, or perhaps orbits in this case, are shifting toward greater recognition of the critical role space plays in our daily lives, I also am faced with the reality that there still seem to be far more offices within the Pentagon that can say no in space procurement than can say yes, and across the space acquisition community there is

continued reticence to change.

We have come a long way, but there is still much work to do. We have the opportunity to make real change to an acquisition culture that has been mired in cost overruns, schedule delays, and delivery of capabilities that are not adequately survivable against increasingly significant threats.

Now I turn to the ranking member, Mr. Lamborn for any opening remarks he may have.

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