

Space Assets enable Multi-Domain Operations

By Robert Martin 21 May 2019



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Gen. John Raymond started his presentation asking to know about the class experts in space business; one hand went up. Raymond made the point that, in fact, all of the Joint Force needs to understand that space is a war fighting domain and, in the future, there will be a fight for space superiority.

“There is nothing that isn’t enabled by space, whether RPAs being flown through commercial SATCOM, ISR being collected from there, GPS weapons -- and I would suggest to you there is nothing, absolutely nothing, that isn’t enabled by space,” said Raymond.

Raymond discussed the integration of space and cyber in multi-domain operations, and the challenge related to adversaries who are virtually in a 'front row seat,' watching our systems at work. Adversaries are developing capabilities from low-end reversible jamming to the high-end direct kill ASAT.

The discussion was informative and influential.

"Integrating space into the multi-domain conversation is critical here where we are developing our senior strategic leaders," said Air Force Col. Jeffrey Greenwood, USAWC instructor and director of Joint Functions. "As the top Air Force officer for space, Gen. Raymond highlighted the importance that space plays in our multi-domain world. We now have 380 senior leaders who are more prepared for their follow-on jobs and who are walking away with a better appreciation for what space can bring to the fight."

"I really appreciate how General Raymond explained how our competitors have changed the character of war by extending warfare into the space domain," said resident student Lt. Col. Marc Brock. "He provided the strategic context for these evolving threats and the U.S. policy and posture to protect and defend our space capabilities, which are critical to multi-domain operations."

"Based on his insight, we learned that Joint Force Space Command Component Command and Air Force Space Command are ready to defend our national interests in space while continuing to support air, land, sea and cyber operations around the globe," said Brock.

Raymond reviewed the early history of space starting with the race between the Soviet Union and the U.S. for space dominance, from strategic communication and early warning satellites -- moving forward to 1982 when the Space Command was formed in response to threats in space from the Soviet Union.

As Commander, AFSPC, Raymond is responsible for organizing, training, equipping and maintaining mission-ready space forces and capabilities for North American Aerospace Defense Command, U.S. Strategic Command and other combatant commands around the world. Prior to assuming command of AFSPC, General Raymond was the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. He was commissioned through the ROTC program at Clemson University in 1984.
