

Vice Chief of Space Operations shapes newest Defense organization, links to AWC lessons of defense management

By Elena Patton, Public Affairs Office 23 March 2022



Students at the U.S. Army War College are currently studying the management of the defense enterprise. The Vice Chief of Space Operations engaged with students about leading change in developing and operating a large organization within the defense enterprise, March 22.

Gen. David Thompson discussed the first two years of the U.S. Space Force and what this service aims to do in the next three years. The Space Force has and continues to integrate into the instruments of power and support the other services.

As a new service, fundamentals still need to be established such as rules of engagement in space. However, now that the service's foundation is set, the Space Force will focus on inventing, integrating, and delivering its capabilities to strengthen the military forces, said Thompson.

Thompson addressed the structure and four-fold mission of the Space Force, to operate space systems, field space systems, conduct intelligence

security, and perform cyber activities. The establishment of the Space Force as a service provides it with many capabilities to ensure readiness and effectiveness: an effective intelligence enterprise, an operational test and training infrastructure, professional military education and doctrine, and a personnel and management system.

He offered targeting as an example of the Space Force's relationship with other Services and other domains. Target detection, development, and coordinates are a function of space power. Weather forecasting and intelligence support, crucial to these missions, are enabled through Space.

Land, sea, and air forces rely on space-based communication, navigation, and intelligence, and the Space Force is focused on the protecting the vulnerability of space-based assets from adversary capabilities, such as launching test missiles to destroy test satellites.