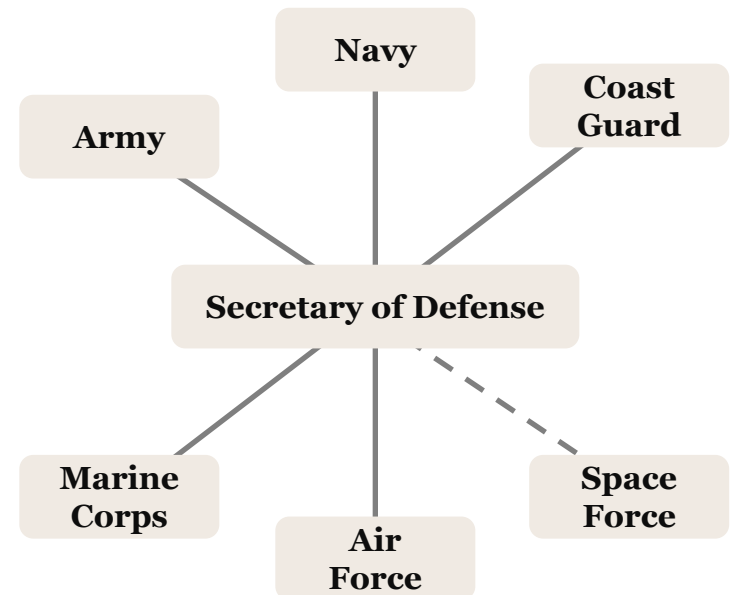


Vice President Pence announces first steps towards creating a sixth branch of the military to focus on space

An overview of the proposed “Space Force”

- Russia and China are actively pursuing military technologies that operate in space.
- Most programs involving space are currently operated through the Air Force and intelligence agencies
- The new branch will require a new assistant secretary of defense, as well as new 4-star generals and dedicated Pentagon staff
- Total funding for the program is unknown but the Trump administration will request \$8 billion
- Creation of the Space Force requires congressional approval, but the Pentagon will take independent steps towards that goal
- Members of Congress have expressed doubt about the Space Force, and Secretary Mattis argued against it as recently as last year



Sources: Christian Davenport and Dan Lamothe, “Pence details plan for creation of Space Force in what would be the sixth branch of the military,” *The Washington Post*. August 9, 2018; John T. Bennett, “3 Takeaways From the Pence ‘Space Force’ Sales Pitch,” *Roll Call*. August 9, 2018.