



Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Yeah. Okay. Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to our session on synchronizing space operations. It is truly an honor to host the first ever airspace and cyber conference panel with our component commanders, theater component commanders for space, as well as our one of our directors of Space Forces. It is also truly an honor to welcome some old friends to the stage here at Air, Space & Cyber.

Like other service component commands, Space Force component commands plan, coordinate, support, and employ space assets in support of their COCOMs missions. They also directly support security cooperations objectives with allies and partners within their areas of responsibility. So gentlemen, and Colonel Lantz, if I can ask you first, so each of the COCOMs where you reside have unique challenges, opportunities, and operational environments. This directly impacts the priorities of your COCOM. How would you characterize your priorities within your AOR?

Col. Max Lantz:

Yeah. So Stu, thanks. Really appreciate the opportunity to speak here today. It's an honor. I've been attending AFA events for years and never in my imagination would I've thought I would be on a panel. So sorry for those that have to suffer through this. So I'm the director of Space Forces for EUCOM and AFRICOM. The director of Space Forces construct really kind of went away as soon as we stood up the Space Force. It was a construct under the Air Force to provide a senior advisor to the JFAC or the air component commander, but we've been in this transitions period. If you may have heard the CSO announced yesterday that we're standing up the EUCOM and AFRICOM Space Force component.

That's going to be the space team that's currently there that we're transitioning into, and so challenge number one for me is just get to components standup and start functioning as that service voice, and I think that's probably the biggest challenge we're going to have is we need to be that voice for the commander. For years, decades, we probably haven't had a strong enough regional voice to advocate for space capabilities to solve regional problems, gaps, shortfalls, and to put that demand signal onto whether it's the JROC or the IPO process, but the requirements process.

And so I think learning how to be that voice both outwardly for the combatant command as well as internally, the voice that now will have somebody sitting at the seat of the table, if you will, advocating for space, educating space within the combatant command, and up channeling that information. One of the observations I've had sitting in meetings with senior leaders is they oftentimes have more exquisite knowledge of something happening 3000 miles away in the battlefield than they do 250 miles above their head, and so that's what we're going to get after is providing that awareness of what's happening in the battle space surrounding them. So we're looking forward to it.

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Awesome. Colonel Putman.

Col. Christopher Putman:

Yeah. Thanks, Stu. What a great opportunity to be here. As I reflect back, Gonzo mentioned the DS4s and we're talking earlier. In CENTCOM, we've had DS4 since 2004, and I did a count this morning. We had 30 director of Space Forces between 2004 and myself, which was the last DS4 to include folks named Raymond, Thompson, Hyten, just to name a few. So I say that, that there's a great wealth of experience, expertise, and a lot of great things we've done since 2004, but there's a little bit of uneducation, at least in CENTCOM, that the DS4 is no longer a construct. We're no longer tied to the CFACC.



So how do we gracefully extricate ourselves from the CFACC and the air component and stand up our own component to support all the components across the combatant command while not leaving the air component high and dry? We are still embedded in the CAC. That's still our battle space. The CAC's still a department into the Air Force C2 node, and we're just not going to leave our great partners from several decades because lo and behold, the Air Force no longer has space expertise, whereas the other components at least have a modicum of some expertise.

So how do we stand up the new component and not leave the Air Force high and dry and continue to support them? I think the other biggest challenge we've had at CENTCOM, I mentioned all the DS4s over the last couple of decades. We have this thing called rotational amnesia in CENTCOM. When we stood up the component, we had three permanent party people on the UMD to include myself. Everybody else, and a lot of them are out here in the audience, and thank you for your service coming out to CENTCOM and supporting us. Everybody else rotates out every six months. So how do we build the organization and maintain that momentum going forward as we build the components so that we can support CENTCOM, General Kurilla, and all the other components that are out there?

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Colonel Vosters.

Col. Nathan Vosters:

Hey, thanks, Stu, and to the two other panelists up here. Appreciate the opportunity to come here on behalf of Space Force INDOPAC. I'm the director of resources and requirements out there, and I think as we are now still working to formalize processes and procedures and all of that kind of underlying connective tissue, we have fallen right into the INDOPACOM priorities, and that's maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific, of course, as well as supporting a rules-based international order.

And I think along that, we saw from or see from our commander out there, Admiral Aquilino, a huge amount of support for the component, which is really heartening as well as from our other components, and he has an approach which he calls seize the initiative. That's the way we're getting after providing forces in support of the NDS, and I think that this is really working well for our component as small as it is, although I'm reluctant to say small. I can already see the body language from these two guys because the service has supported us really nicely in the Indo-Pacific with a big plus of folks this year, but I think that the challenges are going to remain, but there are a lot of opportunities to continue to bring space to the fight.

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Cool. So Colonel Putman and Colonel Vosters, so although your components have just stood up, obviously, your mission continues. Can you share what accomplishments you and your teams have made to better integrate Space Forces within your COCOM into the planning and other activities?

Col. Christopher Putman:

Yeah. I'll start with partner nation engagement. A lot of folks, when they think of partner nation engagement, they go to the Pacific or Europe, but in CENTCOM, we have a lot of nations that want to become space fairing nations, and lo and behold, they also got deep pockets. So how do we have those engagements with these non-traditional space partners so that we can work together to further the mission? So I think one of the notable things we did in the last year is working with Saudi Arabia and the NSSI. We went up to Saudi Arabia and we taught two iterations of Space 100 to the first cadre of space operators in the Royal Saudi.



Soon to be Royal Saudi Air and Space Force maybe in the next year or two, and we went through the course and we gave them their certificates at the end, and now we have 100 credentialed Space 100 graduates in Saudi Arabia, and of course, they want more. They want Space 200 and they want all those other things and word got out and now how do we do that with all the other nations? So it was one of the things I was not expecting when we stood up the component is partner nation engagement in the AOR and it's become a boom business to us. So I think that's the one thing I would highlight as a major accomplishment over the last whatever it is, 8, 9, 10 months.

Col. Nathan Vosters:

So along those lines, one of the things that we had the opportunity to do just in the earlier part of this summer was participate in the first tier one exercise as an established component. This was PAC Century 23, and what that really highlighted was the value that the component brings to the command, but also in the interactions that we have with the other components as well as US Space Command, our compatriots at the NRO, as well as our partners in Australia.

So along what Colonel Putman was saying, the value in working with our partner nations can't be overstated as we're continuing to move into a time of increased global interconnectedness, the value our partners and allies bring is huge, and then in a huge AOR such as Indo-Pacific, strengthening those ties is really key if we're going to be effective throughout the range of competition, crisis, and conflict. So I think that is just one maybe small accomplishment, but it's part of many and I think many still to come.

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Outstanding. And just one quick follow up. So Max, you have the advantage, you've got to watch two other components stand up and now you... I'm sorry, Colonel Lantz. We go back a little ways. Colonel Lantz, you've had the advantage of being able to watch two other components stand up. Have you gotten lessons learned from them and what the challenges they face and how they overcame them?

Col. Max Lantz:

Yeah, we absolutely have. It's been extremely helpful both from a development of products, mission analysis, those kinds of things, but back in the day when Toole and I were both assigned to AOCs, there used to be a saying, I don't know if they still say it or not, but if you've been to one AOC, you've been to one AOC, implying that every AOC is unique and that's really because every COCOM is different, and so when you look at the issues that CENTCOM has versus PACOM versus EUCOM and AFRICOM, they're all very unique and so we're going to all have to be individually tailored to ensure that we're supporting what that commander needs from us from a space perspective.

And so obviously, in EUCOM, a whole lot of support with Ukraine right now, a lot of partner engagements, a lot of nations in the continent like Toole's talking about are very interested in space, and so there's no shortage of engagement opportunities from that perspective, and then AFRICOM as well, whether it's a counter-terrorism fight that's being supported or partner engagements with countries that really have no military space, but civil space interest and how do we support them. So I guess the point being each combatant command is different, and even though we're able to support each other, there is a lot of uniqueness as one-offs that we just have to be very good at tailoring to what that combatant command needs from a space component perspective.

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):



Awesome. Outstanding. So I believe most audience are familiar with the difference between a director of Space Forces and the component commander. So they do have different roles. We understand how they work together, and Colonel Putman, I think you made a great point. We don't want to break something that's worked so well for so long. However, as you've established, we've also stood up a new Space Force component to US Space Command, and we also have our US space command joint integrated space teams. How do you guys work together, all of those disparate activities, how do you work together to meet your COCOM objectives? Colonel Vosters.

Col. Nathan Vosters:

I'll jump in there.

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Sure.

Col. Nathan Vosters:

I feel as though there's body language coming from these two that they can't wait to jump on, but what I'd say is from our perspective as the component, the JIST, or the joint integrated space team that's out in Hawaii, we really look at ourselves as one team even though we have two different bosses, we understand that, but when it comes to taking a look at the actions that are coming in, the taskers that are coming in from both of our chains of command, it's how can we be mutually supportive?

Each of us have different roles and responsibilities and I think respecting what the other has to do is really important, and right now, we've got that nice mutual respect and a very collaborative relationship. I think you could go down a route that would say, maybe that's not needed, but from a perspective of US Space Command being an astrographic command, boy, they've got quite a challenge in front of them and so there's a real nice synergy that comes with having a JIST co-located with a geographic combatant command. So I think our relationship, I would characterize as excellent and really a positive and self strengthening relationship.

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Gentlemen.

Col. Max Lantz:

Yeah. If I can pile onto that, what Nate said. I think first and foremost, there's more work than that could be done by anybody. So we absolutely are looking to partner with US Space Command, and I think that's the source of some of the confusion is the average American, let alone the average military member, don't really fully understand the difference between the Space Force and the Space Command as the combatant command for the JIST, what the joint integrated space team member that Nate was referring to are LNOs from one combatant command to another combatant command.

The Space Force component is the service component, the building block to that combatant command and is supporting the theater effects for that combatant commander. One of the ways that I've discussed it with Air Force members that seems to resonate well is when you think about TRANSCOM with C17s providing capabilities to another combatant commander, that's a strategic perspective. You could think of Space Command as that kind of a role where C130s can be assigned to the EUCOM, for example, providing those theater effects, if you will, and we've been able to split up that air mission specifically between strategic and regional.



We're also developing that doctrine and thought process from a space perspective in that there are certainly things that are global in nature, GPS, SATCOM, missile warning, those capabilities are absolutely within US Space Command's job jar, if you will, and the folks at Vandenberg and the team there do amazing work to support us in the theaters with that, but there are also regional capabilities. There's things that are creating effects within that commander's area of operations, if you will, terrestrial effects that need to be based on the timing and tempo of that regional commander.

And so whether it's a counter communication system affecting terrestrial comms, whether it's a bounty hunter system that is helping to identify and potentially geolocate SATCOM interference that's affecting the soldiers and sailors and Marines, airmen on the ground within that JOA, that regional global divide is helping us to understand roles and responsibilities between the combatant command of US Space Command and their very important job of winning the on orbit fight, but the integration to that regional commander and synchronizing, coordinating the effects between the two domains.

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Colonel Putman.

Col. Christopher Putman:

Yeah, thank you. So a couple comments here. So a few years back, I had the opportunity, I was a director of Space Forces for General Brown when he was the PACAF commander and the predecessor to the JIST was called the IPE, and that started back then. So I think there's a little bit of a legacy of the IPE construct that we're still trying to push behind this because I think the JIST, the way they're set up is right. Just there's some folks that are around that's still stuck in their mind because the original construct for the IPE out at INDOPACOM was going to be, I think, 50 packs and that's more than just planning, and the Space Force didn't exist back then as well.

So as we move past that, so the decision to move to a JIST, and like Colonel Lantz said, it's an LNO and folks understand what an LNO is. So as soon as you have those conversations on what the JIST is, most folks get that. We're fortunate in Tampa that I'm co-located by about 100 yards from my JIST. So we're essentially in the same location, that I know Gonzo's got a couple hour drive and Camp Smith to Hickum depending on the traffic, might as well be on a different island. So anytime we get a new [inaudible 00:17:33], there's a key meeting. Myself and Colonel McConnell will go together and we'll sit down with the new leadership and explain what the difference is.

And it's pretty apparent once we sit down and have that conversation, and the other part we explain to them is, like Gonzo said, there's more than enough work going around and we've got a really good relationship. So if there's something that I really should be doing and I just can't cover it, we'll backstop each other and just ensure the mission gets done on behalf of General Kurilla and CENTCOM, and the last point I'll make there is as SPACECOM reorganizes their components and that gets finalized.

I think that'll help clear up some lanes when you describe what the JIST is and what the components are because we'll have a component within SPACECOM that we, as components, will do the component to component interaction, and that'll make more sense, and then the JIST will handle the COCOM to COCOM interaction. So we got rid of the IPEs, we're standing up a component in SPACECOM, we're formalizing that. So we're getting there. It just takes time and we just got to make sure everyone understands the lanes in the road.

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Understand, and obviously, it's all about meeting the COCOM's missions. So gentlemen, in keeping with the secretary and the CSO's challenge to buy what we can and only purchase what we must, there's an



increasing emphasis on incorporating allied commercial capabilities. Can you provide some examples of how you were leveraging and strengthening partnerships and leveraging those capabilities? And Colonel Vosters, I'll start with you based on what you do day to day.

Col. Nathan Vosters:

For sure, and I appreciate the question. I think, well, first coming into the aerospace and cyber conference, it provides a great opportunity to, in a very efficient way, meet with many members from our industry team, and the partnership that they offer, I think, can't be highlighted enough. Today, I was talking, we had a chance to have lunch together, which was really nice, but leading up to it and then in between that and this panel has been nonstop meetings, and I'll tell you the work that industry is doing to bring capabilities at the speed that only industry can, and that's not a knock on our own acquisition system.

It's just the pressures on the government side versus the commercial side are a little different, but where we can leverage what industry is doing, there's flexibility, there's scalability, there's resilience that mean a lot to a component commander and a combatant commander. Across the spectrum of conflict, providing that those options are really important. So I would really highlight that from the conference today and we do have ongoing dialogue. Also, we really like to work with our partners and allies throughout the geographic area to understand what they are bringing to the fight and how our capabilities can be synchronized and complimentary.

This provides, I was going to say defense in depth, but I don't think that's the exact word. It's capabilities in depth and resilience in depth and geographic dispersion of forces. So that's really been a priority for us at the component is working with our Australian counterparts, our Japanese and South Korean counterparts as well. Then throughout the AOR, as has been highlighted across the panel here, you have nations that have varying degrees of a footprint in space. So part of that is highlighting how we share that global commons and what benefits those have and the benefits to maintaining a rule space order in space. We have to be respectful of each other and how we operate collaboratively where we can.

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Outstanding. Colonel Putman, you mentioned a little bit about obviously, you have a very interesting AOR. You have some non-traditional partners out there, some that we've worked with for several decades and have some deep pockets and interests. Can you maybe highlight some discussions you've had there?

Col. Christopher Putman:

Yeah. So I think for a lot of our nations, commercial is the only way we're going to be able to move the mission forward. I mentioned the Space 100 class we brought up to Saudi Arabia. That was unclassified [inaudible] Saudi. So the best answer for us is a lot of times is to work with our commercial partners and get a product or a capability that's not unclassified, not classified, and that gives us a lot of latitude to work with our mission partners because I know we've claimed a lot of success in recent years about getting a lot of our space systems, secret rail Five Eyes, but-

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

It doesn't really work in your AOR.

Col. Christopher Putman:





It definitely does not. So we'll get there someday, but it's a long ways down the road. So I see commercial is a great opportunity for not only operations, but exercises and partnerships.

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

And Colonel Lantz, you're in probably the most mature space AOR we have when I look at our partners. So you have a perspective on this as well.

Col. Max Lantz:

Yeah, and I'm really glad you asked about the commercial component to this. So if you take Ukraine January 22 and you look at the space order battle between Ukraine and Russia, I don't think there'd be that many people wagering that Russia could not have achieved space purity within the first week of the conflict. That would've been a bad bet to take, but what they completely underestimated was the just enormous growth in commercial space and the ability to rapidly support that conflict, and unlike air or maritime or land, if there's a conflict, planes don't land, planes will land, ships will leave the sea lines of communications.

Satellites do not land and wait for the conflict to finish. So the commercials is in the domain all the time and they're there to support, and so then when you look at what happened in Ukraine and what has been happening in Ukraine and whether they can use a credit card and go out and buy capability or whether allies and partners are contributing or providing support from a space perspective, I think there's a number of lessons learned that we could pull from Ukraine. The first is just that commercial provided them a state of the world space capability in the blink of an eye. When you think from the sensing capability of the companies, whether it's electro-optical, synthetic aperture radar.

Even signals sensing as well as SATCOM, jamming detection, geolocation capabilities, Ukraine has acquired a very robust space capability in the very short order of magnitude in a short order of time. I don't think Russia was expecting that by any means, and we're seeing the benefit of that is the Ukraine is still in the fight and so that's phenomenal. The other piece of the commercial space and what it's providing that I think is very important, and I think it's difficult from us, from a US perspective, for those that are here that are from the US, from our perspective, we've always had really exquisite intelligence derived from space products, but they typically are highly classified.

And so when we've worked with our partners and allies in previous conflicts, we've had to play a trust me card. Hey, we know that this country's about to do this. Trust us, this is what's about to happen. That didn't happen during Ukraine to the lead up of Ukraine. There are a number of companies and a lot of them are represented downstairs on the floor where they were providing sensing products, open source, releasing it to media, those things where nations were able to make independent assessments and know for themselves that what Russia was up to and where they were going.

And that coalition formed very organically without the US having to play that trust me card, and to me, that's a change now that we're going to see forever in conflicts is this open distribution of information and let nations be able to determine on their own independently whether it's crossing one of their national interests or not. So some significant changes in the commercial environment, and I think we're going to see it in spades from a space perspective.

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Awesome.

Col. Christopher Putman:



Stu, if I could follow up on that. So our commander now at CENTCOM was in EUCOM 18th Airborne Corps when the conflict kicked off. So he saw that commercial space integration firsthand when that first started. Nowadays at CENTCOM, he's pushing us harder than I can barely keep up with him of how do we integrate commercial space across the spectrum to not just the partner piece, but actually enable US war fighting capabilities, task force 99 with NavSense, a perfect example, that they have unmanned surface vessels all across the AOR patrolling the waters, that's all enabled by commercial space. So it's a two-pronged thing. It enables our partners, but it also is an inherent part of our combat capability as we go forward.

Col. Nathan Vosters:

I'd like to jump on. I think you must've hit the real topic here. Numerous briefings have gone on with Admiral Aquilino where he or others on his staff have asked, when a chart gets put up and it says no foreign or [inaudible 00:27:40] to Five Eyes, they'll ask the question, why is that no foreign? Why can't we share that, and I think whether it's internal, of course, there's some stuff that you want to keep highly classified and that's certainly all right, but where we can go into a more collaborative information sharing environment, that's a lot of benefit for us and for our partners and allies. So I think having that ability from the commercial side is second to none and that's something that our industry brings to the fight that can really serve as a force multiplier for us and for our allies and partners.

Col. Max Lantz:

Can I double down?

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Always.

Col. Max Lantz:

Double down. It's important because-

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

I've lost control of the panel, but sure, Go ahead. You're good.

Col. Max Lantz:

It is completely changing where commercials out in front of the military from a requiring standpoint, and so when you have companies that are imaging the earth every square mile of the earth every day and then keeping those images for years and are able to basically play back the tape on the earth and discover in vast areas like Africa where a convoy had gotten through a certain area and you're able to take a signature and research that database with a very fast process, it changes everything and that's being led by the commercial industry. It wasn't us from a military perspective that realized that, but it is certainly enabling COCOMs, especially COCOMs like AFRICOM to have capability that they could have never imagined if it was just relying on the military presentation of forces.

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Awesome. So we talked a little bit about, and it's easy at a aerospace and cyber conference, you see the big displays of rockets and drones. We talked a little bit about the material solutions. What have you guys done with non-material solutions to work with partners and allies? Nate.





Col. Nathan Vosters:

I'll jump in there. Again, I hate to go back to it, but it was a really great example. In recent at PAC Century 23, we were having calls daily with our Australian counterparts and so where we could do planning together, information sharing together, this was something that is just the way that we would engage in ops in the future, and so we want to continue to double down on that effort and expand it to other partner nations in the AOR. So I think it's a very good point, Stu, is outside of material solutions, there's a lot more to it, and even looking to industry for how they are employing their systems, I think there's a mutual learning that can occur there. So the limits are not there. We just have to continue looking for new ways to expound on those capabilities.

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Awesome. Colonel Putman, you talked about Space 100 to the Saudis. Have you done any other non-material work?

Col. Christopher Putman:

Yeah, I'll circle back on one thing on the Space 100 before I get to the second part, and just because the chief's staring at me and I got to bring up this point. One of the great things about Space 100 is we brought NCOs from the [inaudible 00:31:01] and the units up to Saudi Arabia to be instructors at that class. That is something, I wouldn't call it foreign to a lot of our countries in our AOR, but it's just not the norm in the integration of our NCO core, a lot of things, what Chief Toberman talked about yesterday, paying huge dividends as we make the inroads in these countries, and I think Fleet Walters is a perfect example of that.

The amount of inroads he's made on behalf of the command, he's our SEL for CENTCOM, just traveling around the country and talking to the is countless so huge force multiplier at their NCO core going forward, but just opportunities just by virtue of being in cutter, they'll have a class and we'll just get a phone call and like, hey, do you got somebody that can drive over this afternoon to give a quick 101? So it's just not the Saudi Arabia piece there. The other thing I'll add on the non-material solutions is we have partners that just aren't sent combinations.

I have a UK officer and a Canadian officer on my staff. They're there because they want to see how we do operations in a combat environment, and then they take that back to their nations, and then we also have the Multinational Coordination Center across the street from our headquarters in Tampa that has, I forget the exact number, but a couple dozen nations that are all interested in CENTCOM and we'll get requests from a nation in EUCOM, the Netherlands, that they have a senior officer visiting like, hey, can you come give a brief on space and reinforcing fires across COCOMs just because we happen to have the MNCC across the street.

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Nice. Colonel Lantz.

Col. Max Lantz:

Yeah, it's interesting because I look around in this audience and I see a lot of folks that I've served with for 20 plus years. You won't see the same thing with our partner nations from a space perspective. It's very nascent new capabilities that they're bringing on. They've seen what the US has done and they understand the importance of it, but they have very few actual professionals that have been doing it for their entire career, let alone consecutive assignments, and so education is absolutely at the forefront of



our engagements right now. They're just now designing their structures and building their cadre, if you will, and it starts with education.

And so we're having huge benefits from that. The other epiphany for me is oftentimes as a space person, we think of SSA sharing agreements, on orbit capabilities, and a lot of these nations just aren't going to get there anytime soon and they really shouldn't. That's not where they should be putting limited dollars, and what we've seen from Ukraine is there's a very strong interest from an electromagnetic spectrum awareness perspective, and as we all know from those that are space professionals, that's critical to our mission, but when we look at the nations that are coming to us asking for training, in fact, at the end of this month, we'll be in a Baltic nation providing training.

We call it JEMSO training, joint electromagnetic spectrum operations training, but when you start to think about SATCOM jamming and affecting terrestrial comms, that's where a lot of the nations that are close in proximity to Ukraine, that's the lessons they're learning out of that and why it's important for them to be part of space, and so it's been an unexpected demand signal that we weren't really expecting, but more than happy to support and that's where we're building those initial bonds with some nations that I would say are not your typical nations that we would engage with in a EUCOM perspective.

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Outstanding. So gentlemen, this has been a great panel this afternoon. We can always go short, but they never forgive me if I go long, so why don't we just wrap up real quick? Colonel Vosters, you have any closing comments or thoughts?

Col. Nathan Vosters:

Yeah. I would second that, really great discussion, and one of the things I would highlight is even though we represent different AORs, there's definitely collaboration happening between the three organizations. Right now, the Space Force is just too small not to collaborate and share where we can. Ideally, we would do that more. There's also a tyranny of distance, but it's great that the conference was able to get three of us here at one time on one stage together to do some sharing, and I think that whether we do that over distance or physically in the same place, that's a huge benefit to all of us in the smallest of services. So thanks for this opportunity as well.

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Pleasure. Colonel Putman.

Col. Christopher Putman:

I guess two parting comments. One, we've talked a lot about cross command interaction here, but that also goes to us providing supporting fires, if you will, to US SPACECOM because just because we have kid or people or whatever that's assigned to CENTCOM or EUCOM or whatever doesn't mean we're still not on the hook to provide supporting fires. So that's just as important, if not more so depending on the day and the time in the adversaries.

So I already mentioned the new components standing up and I think that'll just get better as we go forward, and then second parting comment. As we go forward, I mentioned the rotational amnesia. That's never going to go away and we're always looking for great folks that want to spend time in CENTCOM. So I'll do the advertisement here. If you're wanting to volunteer for a great time in the desert, please let me or the chief know and we'll get you set up for an all expense paid vacation.



Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

I'm good. Thank you though. I've been to Iraq, that was enough for this lifetime. Colonel Lantz?

Col. Max Lantz:

Yeah, I would tell you I'm excited. 8 December is when we're going to activate as a Space Force component to EUCOM and AFRICOM. We're calling it Space Euro-Af. So that's going to be big days. I'm not necessarily looking forward to 9 December when we actually have to start performing that function, but it's going to be really, really exciting times and I would be remiss if I don't throw out a plug for if our great teammates with USAFE.

They've been supporting the space team, allowing us to organize and structure and operate as a component without the authorities of a component, and their support's been just, it's hard to capture exactly the amount of support that they've provided to us, as well as our partners within Space Command and the staff here at Headquarters Space Force and supporting the components and as we stand up under-resourced, undermanned, but with more than enough mission to get after. So it's exciting times for Space Force and definitely thanks for everybody for wanting to come out and listen about the components.

Col. Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret.):

Outstanding, gentlemen. Well, thank you so much on behalf of our audience. Safe travels home and we'll see you again next time.