

## ■ The War on Terrorism

As of Nov. 13, a total of 46 Americans had died in Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan, and 48 Americans had died in Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq, Syria, and elsewhere.

The total includes 94 troops and four Department of Defense civilians. Of these deaths, 45 were killed in action with the enemy while 49 died in non-combat incidents.

There have been 239 troops wounded in action during OFS and 58 troops in OIR.



An HH-60 Pave Hawk takes off from Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Oct. 27.



Maintainers inspect *Spirit of Missouri* prior to its mission to the Pacific region.

## ■ B-2 Flies 37-Hour Mission

A B-2 Spirit recently flew a "long-range" mission from Whiteman AFB, Mo., nonstop to an undisclosed area of the Pacific in a show of force in the region. Video posted by US Strategic Command shows a B-2, No. 88-0329 *Spirit of Missouri*, taking off in the dark on Oct. 28 "to conduct a long-range mission to the Pacific Command area of responsibility."

STRATCOM declined to provide any specifics about the B-2's route, other than it landed at Andersen AFB, Guam, for an engine-running crew change. The aircraft then flew back to Whiteman, with the entire mission lasting 37 hours.

"This B-2 mission was part of regular USSTRATCOM bomber operations to maintain a high state of readiness and proficiency and not part of any exercise

events," STRATCOM spokesman Maj. Brian Maguire said in a statement.

The B-2 flight occurred the same day Defense Secretary James N. Mattis and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. Joseph F. Dunford met with senior South Korean military officials on ways to strengthen the military alliance between the two countries and deter North Korean provocation.



**F-35s:** Deploying on a rotation to the Pacific as part of a command theater security package.

### ■ Hill F-35As to Deploy to Japan

Twelve F-35As and about 300 airmen from the 34th Fighter Squadron at Hill AFB, Utah, deployed to Kadena AB, Japan, in the first F-35A rotation to the Pacific.

The deployment follows the F-35A's appearance at the Seoul International Aerospace & Defense Exhibition, and the deployment of US Marine Corps F-35Bs to MCAS Iwakuni in Japan earlier in 2017.

The six-month deployment is part of a US Pacific Command theater security package, which have been in operation since 2004. It is a "long-planned" deployment, according to the Air Force.

### ■ NSC Developing Rules of Engagement for Space

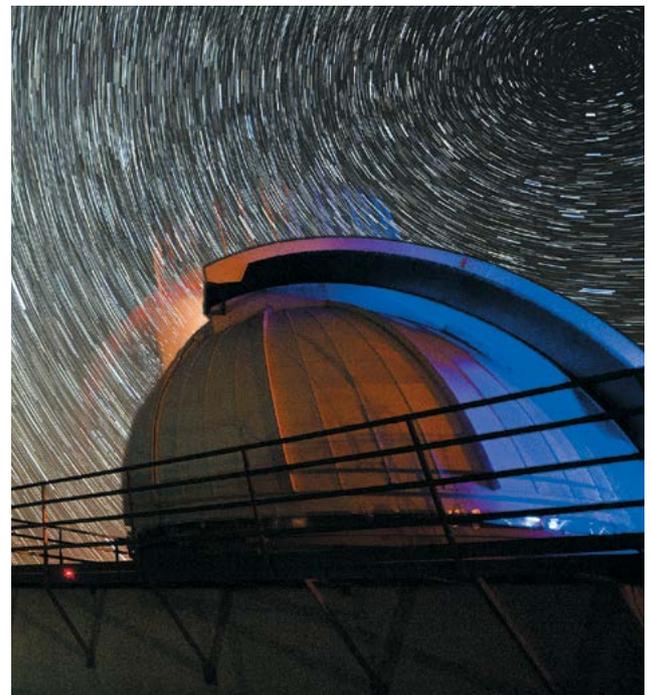
The National Security Council is coordinating a Trump Administration effort to produce a "space strategic framework," National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster said at the first meeting of the reconstituted National Space Council.

The framework will provide "an integrated strategy" to ensure the United States' "vital interests are advanced," and it will "identify specific tasks, the resources, and authorities required" for various operations in the space domain, McMaster said.

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson praised the development.

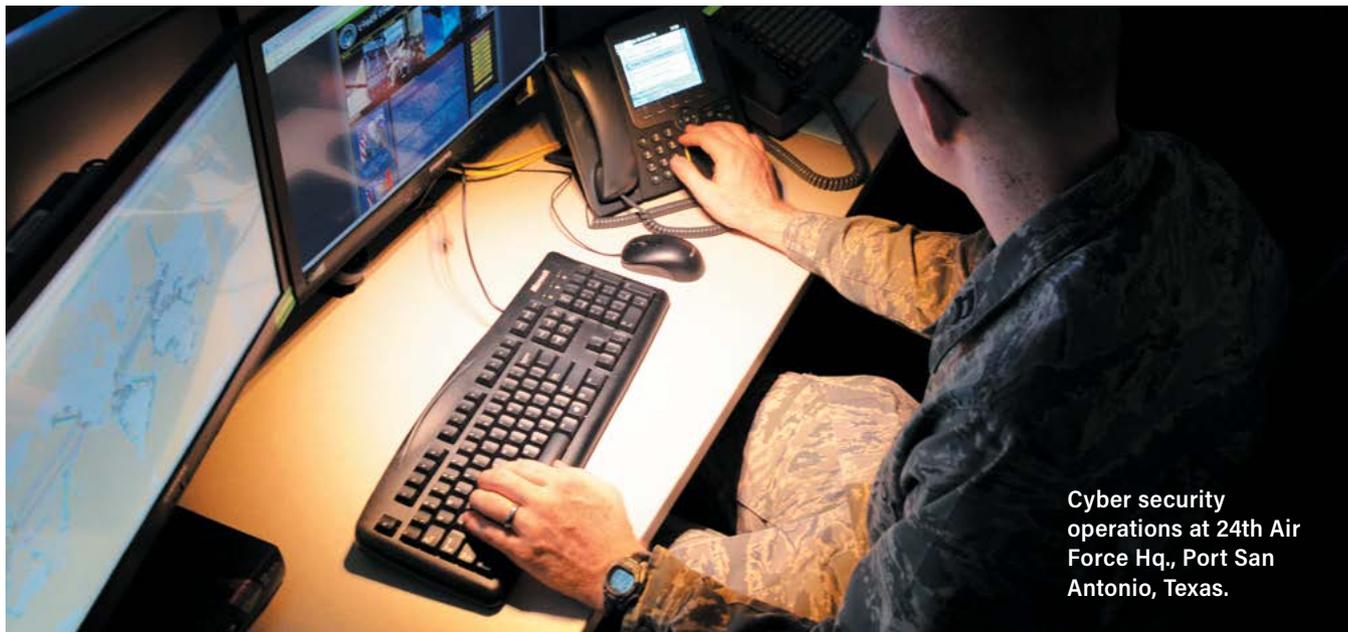
"What we're seeing in space tells me it's time for America to develop some of these policies more fully," Wilson said. Among other matters, the strategic framework will clarify "our rules of engagement in space," she added, including what kinds of adversary behavior should trigger a US response and what the nature of that response should be.

The National Space Council is chaired by Vice President Mike Pence.



A time lapse photograph of star trails above the Ground-Based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance System at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

Photos: SSgt. Benjamin Gonsier; Taylor Phifer/USAF; SrA. Omar Bernard; TSgt. David Salantri/illustration



Cyber security operations at 24th Air Force Hq., Port San Antonio, Texas.

## ■ Cyber, ISR NAFs Combining, USAF '99 Percent Decided'

The Air Force will almost certainly push together its cyber-focused 24th Air Force with its ISR-focused 25th Air Force, according to the commander of 24th AF.

Twenty-fourth Air Force—also called Air Forces Cyber—fulfills the Air Force's component of US Cyber Command. It stood up in 2009 under Air Force Space Command and is focused mainly on creating cyber warriors and cyber capabilities, as well as maintaining and operating them in blue

and red space, offensively and defensively. It often relies on information gleaned by 25th Air Force, whose operation mainly focuses on electronic warfare and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance.

"Right now we've got stovepiped capabilities, which should be integrated to be more effective," said Maj. Gen. Christopher P. Weggeman, the commander of 24th AF. "I think we're 99 percent decided, according to [AFSPC Commander Gen. John W. "Jay" Raymond]."

Weggeman said that bringing the

disparate capabilities under one commander is the "the right thing to do."

"That will give the Air Force some special sauce and increased capability," he said, adding his "moniker" for the new group would be "Information Warfare NAF."

Calling the integration a "powerful construct" for the service, Weggeman said it'd be a "long slog" starting in FY18 and it would take "a couple years to conclude." (For more on the cyber force, see "The Cyber Warriors," p. 38.)

## ■ First Deputy Chief of Staff for Space Confirmed by Senate

The Senate voted to confirm Maj. Gen. David D. Thompson as the first Air Force deputy chief of staff for space and to promote him to the rank of lieutenant general. Thompson is currently the deputy commander of Air Force Space Command at Peterson AFB, Colo., a position he has held since 2015.

AFSPC boss Gen. John W. "Jay" Raymond announced the new A11 position in April, saying it would give the Air Force someone in the Pentagon who would "come to work every day focused on" space power.

In August, Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein said the new A11 "will be key to ensuring we link combatant commander and service space requirements with our capabilities."



Maj. Gen. David Thompson will pin on a third star and take command as Air Force deputy chief of staff for space.

**■ Combat Photographer Awarded Bronze Star With Valor**

A combat photographer from JB Andrews, Md., recently received the Bronze Star with Valor Device for his actions during a 2011 battle in Afghanistan. SMSgt. Kevin Wallace, currently the public affairs chief for the 89th Airlift Wing, was deployed as a 4th Infantry Division combat photographer in 2011 when his team was performing a night patrol through villages in the Badghis Province.

The team was detected by enemy forces and ambushed, sparking a firefight that lasted several hours. During the fight, Wallace alternated between engaging the enemy and taking pictures of his teammates. He took more than 400 photographs during the battle, which were then used for operational analysis, battle assessment, intelligence, informational operations, historical records, and public affairs needs.

"Eleven men were out there and 11 men were heroes," Wallace said in a release. "There were men on the outpost providing overwatch who were the heroes. Men on the quick-reaction force providing cover fire during our exfiltration were heroes. I don't think anyone out there was less than a hero that day."



SMSgt. Kevin Wallace, a photojournalist, helps secure a sector in Badghis Province, Afghanistan, during a reconnaissance mission with the Army's 4th Infantry Division in 2011.



Maintainers prep an F-15E before a sortie for Operation Inherent Resolve.

**■ US-Backed Fighters Declare Victory Over ISIS in Raqqa**

US-backed fighters have taken the city of Raqqa from ISIS, routing the group from its self-proclaimed capital after about four months of operations. The US-led coalition, however, warned that ISIS has not been completely defeated and fighting is likely to continue.

"We see the terrorist group on the verge of a devastating defeat at the hands of our Syrian Democratic Forces partners," said Army Col. Ryan Dillon, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve spokesman.

The Syrian Democratic Forces are in control of the city of Raqqa, combing it for landmines and sleeper cells, SDF Brig. Gen. Talal Sillo told *The Associated Press*.

The declaration came after heavy fighting and continued US airstrikes on the city, which at its peak, was completely run by ISIS and was the so-called capital of its international operations.

"As far as what happens in Raqqa after ISIS has been cleared and Raqqa is liberated, the Raqqa Civil Council is already established, and they're eager to begin work to restore essential services," Dillon said. "But also very important to note is we must clear the remnants of all the explosives that have been left in Raqqa throughout this battle."

Overall, the coalition estimates about 6,500 ISIS forces remain in Iraq and Syria. The group is "losing its grip" in the region and is effectively isolated, Dillon said.

**Numbers**

**\$3.6 Billion**

The average amount of money the Department of Defense currently spends in one month on global war operations.

(Source: DOD REPORT, <https://fas.org/man/eprint/cow/201706.pdf>)

Photos: USAF (1,2); AIC Valentina Lopez; SRA Joshua Kleinhof; Andrew Magli/illustrator, USN