

Commander, SpOC
Space Information Sharing and Analysis Center Keynote
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Good afternoon and thank you all for being here today as we witness the Space Information Sharing and Analysis' Center's long awaited Watch Center Initial Operations Capability Launch. I want to also thank Erin Miller and the entire Space ISAC team for inviting me to speak today. Erin, thank you as well for your work in establishing AFCyberWorx at the United States Air Force Academy and the first space accelerator at Catalyst Campus—both partnerships and programs which have proven beneficial for us in the United States Space Force.

As I was preparing for today's speech, I started to think about information sharing and its evolution over time. Early accounts of communication suggest that people would relay information by signs or gestures such as smoke and fire, whistles, and drumbeats. This form of communication was limited by space, time, and the prevailing weather conditions, and was only beneficial to those close to each other.

Other accounts of information sharing can be documented back to cave drawings dating earlier than 30,000B.C.

Stone age humans were known for visually sharing concepts and ideas to tell stories as well as relate information to their communities. Around 3,000 B.C., the Ancient Egyptians used hieroglyphics to communicate—which we still use today actually, we just call them by a different name...emojis. I think the fact the Egyptians invented the emoji may be a bigger deal than building the pyramids! As we continued to evolve and our environments changed, we learned even more the value of information sharing. Information sharing is even more essential now as it was then. The data that we receive today is more complex, requiring a more advanced way of communicating. Today, we talk about "information overload" given all the streams of disparate data that bombard us each day and overload our brains which were probably optimized for the communications speed of our ancestors in the deep past.

And the threats that we face now are more sophisticated and act at quicker speeds affecting us all around the globe near simultaneously, requiring an expedited way to communicate among stakeholders.

To overcome threats and challenges now and into the future, we must innovate and modernize the way we share information, communicate that information clearly and quickly, and respond to that information at the speed of need.

That is why the establishment of Information Sharing and Analysis Centers are key. ISACs have been designed to protect critical U.S. infrastructure, and with the establishment of the Space ISAC in 2019, it is recognized that Space is vital to our critical infrastructure as space systems are used by all 16 critical infrastructure sectors and there is a reliance on space systems with 55 of the National Critical Functions. Space is profoundly ingrained in our modern way of life for sure.

I do not have to convince this crowd how integral Space is to our American Way of Life and National Security—you are not only fully aware of that fact, but are leading the space community in information sharing and analysis to preserve the ultimate high ground.

But, it's worth reminding ourselves why the work of this Space ISAC Watch Center is so vital. Because we all benefit daily from space capabilities. From GPS applications on our phones, weather reports, digital banking, point of sale systems, automated farming, satellite communications, all of these are powered by space effects and critical to every American.

Increasingly, space tourism is becoming a popular subject and a means of travel and recreation, at least for those who can afford it today. But the trends indicate more and more of us will take to the heavens for tourism in the next few decades. Space-based capabilities facilitate the flow of people and goods worldwide, while guiding military forces to their positions and weapons to their targets. It is Space superiority that enables the Joint Force to rapidly transition from competition to conflict and prevail in a global, all-domain fight.

That said, the space domain is drastically different than it was years ago, and it is becoming qualitatively and quantitatively more competitive, congested, and contested. Our competitors are watching, taking notes, and they are advancing their capabilities. There are bad actors who seek to hinder the U.S. from advancing in space, and to supplant us as the leading global space power.

Countries like Russia and China continue to develop threats to the space domain, and China is moving breathtakingly fast, improving the breadth and depth of their space capabilities. We must be able to keep up with the pace of these countries. The increase of these risks in space is why the United States Space Force exists today. We must be able to protect our Nation's interests in space and we must be able to establish space superiority. We know, however, that we cannot go about this alone; like-minded services, commercial and industry partners, allied nations, and other government agencies are essential to building our enduring advantage.

The establishment of the Space ISAC creates a forum in which commercial companies and other institutions can share information about threats to the space enterprise. Having identified information-sharing gaps within cybersecurity and the space community, the Space ISAC has a goal to enhance the community's ability to prepare for and respond to vulnerabilities, incidents, and threats, through the timely dissemination of information.

This vision is precisely what is needed if we are going to stay ahead of pacing threats as well as strengthen the cyber resilience of systems in space and their supporting infrastructure on the ground. Through the information sharing of the Space ISAC, the space enterprise will be able to move faster, smarter, and more safely.

And what better place than Colorado Springs to be headquartered? Colorado being the nation's second-largest aerospace economy and home to numerous Space Force units on bases such as Peterson Space Force Base, Schriever Space Force Base, Buckley Space Force Base, and Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station. With more than 400 companies at the forefront of cutting-edge space exploration programs and groundbreaking space missions and innovations—Colorado is the perfect place to host the Space ISAC.

We depend on innovation and skill to continue to evolve, just as our space mission continues to evolve. I must mention NASA and our partners from Europe, Canada, and Japan as they work to take us back to the moon with the Artemis program. And not only will Artemis take us back to the moon, but it is laying the foundation to take us to Mars as well.

Just last month the Space ISAC announced the standup of its Cislunar Affinity Group responsible for providing a collaborative platform with cislunar stakeholders to identify challenges and recommend solutions. This sort of coordination and collaboration is what is required to outpace our potential adversaries and push past the challenges that face us today.

So, I want to congratulate the Space ISAC on your continued growth and I thank you for developing innovative ways to advance the U.S. in the space domain and protect our collective interests in space. Space is a complex domain, still we must be able to avoid operational surprise. This requires us to be able to detect and anticipate any disruptions to the space environment that could interfere with the ability of the Joint Force to maintain freedom of action in space.

To do this, we will need partnerships to expand our decision-making abilities based on timely information and data. This is how we will deter potential adversaries, and this is how we win when called upon.

Thank you, Via Vincimus, and Semper Supra