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Fw: Pentagon keen to recruit fresh acquisition workforce talent; Space Force "launched with vision but without narrative": Gianchandani; House to take up Senate bill to re-open govt at 1600
1 message

Scott Sadler <sadler@newspacenexus.org> — Wed, Nov 12, 2025 at 10:01 AM
To: "Angeligian@gmail.com" <Angeligian@gmail.com>

From: NewSpace Sadler Report <report@newspacenexus.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 6:21 AM
To: Scott Sadler <sadler@newspacenexus.org>
Subject: Pentagon keen to recruit fresh acquisition workforce talent; Space Force "launched with vision but without narrative": Gianchandani; House to take up Senate bill to re-open govt at 1600

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Good morning!

The Senate passed the amended CR package on Monday evening and **the House will take up the measure today as soon as 1600 with final passage after 1900 tonight**. "By midnight tonight, the federal government should be open for the first time since Oct. 1," declares *Punchbowl News*. Late last night, the House Rules Committee passed the rule to begin debate on the amended bill. **The Senate will return on 18 Nov at 1500**. All this as both chambers are staring down a new CR date of **30 Jan** that could provoke a another shutdown unless the health care subsidies issue is dealt with. More on the ongoing government shutdown below.

According to Col. Brian Chatman, Commander, Space Launch Delta 45, in an email on Tuesday, "Last night's Starlink launch marked the 94th launch off Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, breaking last year's record and truly highlighting the outstanding work and partnerships between our launch service providers and our collective Space Launch Delta 45 team. This historic milestone drives home the fact that we are not slowing down. Our next planned launch is Blue Origin's New Glen Launch Vehicle launching NASA's Escapade satellite with a launch window: **12 Nov [today].** We're going to quickly follow it with ULA's Atlas V launching a ViaSat-3 satellite, launch window **13 Nov [tomorrow].**"

Angeli Gianchandani, professional brand strategist and adjunct instructor of marketing and communications at New York University, told *Forbes* that Space Force "was launched with vision but without narrative." More on this below.

On 4 Dec, NewSpace Nexus will host their third Showspace Summit at the NewSpace Launchpad (2420 Alamo Ave SE #104, Albuquerque, NM 87106). The purpose of this **Free Summit** is to introduce space companies to government partners, investors, and other space corporations. For more information and to register, please visit this link.

On 27 Feb 2026, the inaugural SpaceCities conference will take place at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington, DC. A new initiative from CityAge, this will bring together the leaders, investors and visionaries who are building the space future. We'll look at where and how cities can take part in the wide spectrum of opportunities that are being developed in the trillion-dollar space economy. For more information, please visit this link.

Reaction to SecWar's Weapons Acquisition Policy speech:

Michael Duffey, undersecretary of defense for acquisition and sustainment, told reporters Monday the Pentagon is not "mandating speed. We're continually going to be dependent on the judgment of program leaders who are executing these programs to understand where does the need for speed balance with the risk that we would undertake to cost and/or performance of the system." Duffey also said, "I'm excited about what [Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's] speech will do to attract the interest of high talent — folks who might want to come in and help us do this job. We're certainly always looking for good people to come in and help. We do have some need for additional personnel, at least in my office, and I suspect across the acquisition workforce." Duffey acknowledged, "**We all know the current acquisition system is too slow, too bureaucratic, and too focused on compliance rather than results. We are facing rapidly evolving threats, and we must be able to adapt, innovate and deliver at the speed of relevance.**"

Of note, Gen. Chance Saltzman, Chief of Space Operations, announced in September that Space Force is launching a 10-week initial qualification training course for new acquisition officers. "Space acquisition is one of the most intricate professions on or off the planet, and it can take years to master. At the pace the joint force is demanding our capabilities, we will need an expert workforce to deliver. So, it's imperative that we invest in developing our workforce so that our Guardians can effectively play their role in system delivery," he said. On 17 Dec 2024, Reps. Mike Rogers (R-AL), chairman, HASC, and Adam Smith (D-WA), ranking member, HASC, sent a letter to Saltzman, and one of these areas in the letter both wanted address was to "Please describe your specific recruiting, training, and retention efforts, as well as the career path for space acquisition professionals."

In addition, Duffey said, "From my perspective, the performance card is really just an attempt to illuminate what's working and what's not. My preference is to focus right now on who's delivering successfully, and how do we help correct circumstances where it may not be delivering correctly — and that's probably because we're in a learning phase here. I think that is us figuring out what about the process we're focused on that is working, and what do we need to improve?"

According to *National Defense Magazine*, "**The Pentagon wants to increase competition, and part of that is "inviting new entrants into the defense industrial base,"** he said. "That's part of our priority is to seek as much competition as we can where there are new entrants or privately funded startups that are showing interest in doing business with the department. We want to do what we can to ensure that we give them every opportunity to prove their ability to compete and then seek to leverage that competition to achieve our goals.""

Within 30 days after the directives' release, Duffey's team will produce implementation guidance to carry out the strategy.

In a tweet on X at 1422 on Tuesday, SecWar wrote, "On Friday, we announced the most ambitious, comprehensive — and overdue — transformation of how the @DeptofWar buys weapons, platforms & capabilities. Thank you @USDASDuffey — great work."

Space-related nuggets

Forbes asked in a Tuesday headline, "**Haven't Heard Of The United States Space Force? You're Not Alone**". According to their piece, "The vast majority of Americans likely have never heard of the Space Force, or simply believe it is the 2020 Netflix original series Space Force rather than the actual service. **Part of it is the relatively small size of the U.S. Space Force.**" The story cites a 2024 report from the *Air and Spaces Forces Magazine* where "fewer than 8% of the American public are aware that a real Space Force exists, and even among those who do, they are aren't entirely sure what it does." The story quotes Katharine Kelley, deputy chief of Space Operations for Human Capital, said during a conference in December 2024 hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, **"If you look at that data, less than 8 percent [of the public] even know we exist, and a smaller subset of the national population can describe what we do.**"

A few more nuggets from the story:

Angeli Gianchandani, professional brand strategist and adjunct instructor of marketing and communications at New York University, on the Space Force branding issue: "**The Space Force was launched with vision but without narrative**. Most Americans still do not understand what it does or why it matters, and that gap has allowed perception to drift. The Navy is recognized for its integral role in our national story of exploration, protection, and pride. **Space Force has yet to build that kind of emotional and cultural connection** … Every branch of the military connects its mission to human impact, sailors protect trade routes, pilots defend airspace, and soldiers secure borders. The Space Force needs that same translation. When people understand how it safeguards communication, navigation, and security, awareness becomes purpose. **Space Force launched without clear communication or a visual identity that explained why it exists and what value it brings.** Awareness requires more than visibility; it requires a narrative, a voice, and a logo that people remember for the right reasons." – *Forbes* 11 Nov 2025

Angeli Gianchandani, professional brand strategist and adjunct instructor of marketing and communications at New York University, on the Space Force service uniform when it was introduced: "**When your uniform becomes a meme, you have a perception problem, but also an opportunity.** Space defined a generation under President Kennedy and positioned America as a leader in innovation and imagination. Everything communicates, and a uniform is not just attire; it is the packaging of purpose. Ralph Lauren owns this vision for Team USA, designing Olympic uniforms that symbolize confidence, pride, and the pursuit of excellence. Each detail tells a story about who we are and what we represent. **The Space Force has that same opportunity, which is to create a visual identity that conveys confidence, unity, and the aspiration to reach the stars**." – Forbes 11 Nov 2025

Forbes does reference the Space Professional Society, "**a program for college students that offers developmental opportunities, including workshops and scholarships. It is also offering new programs for even younger students to build renewed interest in space.**"

Of note, Hannah Dennis, a former Research Associate for the Defense Program at the Center for a New American Security, released a report in May 2024, "Space to Grow: Foundational Opportunities and Challenges for the U.S. Space Force."

Dennis wrote, "If the Space Force is to prevail in the already-fierce interservice competition for resources, relevance, and missions and achieve its founding objectives, it needs three things:

- "First, it needs a well-articulated and communicated strategic concept—that is, an explanation of its purpose and unique contribution to national security.
- "Second, it needs an organizational plan that follows logically from and institutionalizes that strategic concept.
- "Third, it needs a vision for a distinct and cohesive service culture, initially dictated from the top down through the strategic concept and institutionalized as the organizational plan is executed."

In November 2023, Todd Harrison, senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, wrote, "The Space Force needs both a Legislative Affairs Office and a Public Affairs Office run by and for Guardians."

On educating the next generation of Space Force officers, in a LinkedIn Post two months ago, i5 Space shared, "Announcing i5's latest publication: "**Our True North: The 5 "i"s of i5 Space**🇺🇸 **Proud to share the release of our guiding vision for i5 Space Headquarters. This document outlines the i5 Commander's intent, as well as the 5 "i"s" that define who we are: Innovate · Inform · Influence · Impact · Inspire. i5 Space is now over 1,000 members strong, with squadrons at 100+ universities worldwide**. We will continue to push boundaries, prepare the next generation of space-minded warfighters, and set the standard as the premier undergraduate, student-led space defense education organization."

- In this story for the U.S. Air Force Academy, Cadet 2nd Class John Stevenson, i5 Space Director of Staff said, "Today, we are a cadet-created club that is now a national organization. We focus on undergraduate space education to build better leaders aware of the space domain through our many educational programs and media content." According to the story, "The i5 Space mission is to produce educated and inspired leaders prepared to define the character of warfighting in space … Everything i5 Space does is focused around their five I's: innovating, informing, influencing, impacting and inspiring, Stevenson said." Stevenson added, "**People have a better understanding of the Space Force. We do a better job of preparing and recruiting people to join the Space Force. We will continue to raise the standard of what the Space Force can expect from i5 Space cadets.**" Stevenson is now the i5 Headquarters Commander.
- In December 2024, Cadet Nicole Crouse, National Commander, i5 Space, told the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) said, "when you are a cadet and you don't have a lot of information and you're trying to make a decision, you're trying to get materials as to what the Space Force actually does … we're creating the educational resources and sharing them with cadets all over the country and giving them an opportunity to invest in themselves to see if they want to do space." Crouse is now a 2nd Lt. with the Space Force.

Gen. Chance Saltzman, Chief of Space Operations, told The Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies on 26 Mar 2025, "Education of the Space Force is an ongoing thing."

Congress

Rep.-elect Adelita Grijalva (D-AZ), who won her seat on 23 Sep, is due to be sworn into office today. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) can then only lose two Republican votes on any piece of legislation should Democrats be united in their opposition.

The Senate released three government-funding bills Sunday, and Senators voted on Monday night to modify the original House-passed CR and combine it with the three-bill spending package and updated CR that would reopen the government until **30 Jan 2026**. **The House is expected to take up the bill with a multiple vote series starting as soon as 1600 today with final passage after 1900 tonight**. House Democratic Leadership officially announced on Monday evening they are whipping "No" on the bill and the House Democratic Caucus will meet at Noon today. "The small Republican margin of control and intense Democratic opposition could make for a close vote," according to *The New York Times*. Should it pass the House, the bill will require a POTUS signature.

On a potential government shutdown again on 30 Jan 2026, David Smith, an associate professor at the University of Sydney's United States Center, told *The Daily Express*, "The deal that they've reached means most of the government will shut down again in January if they can't come to another agreement, so this is just a stopgap arrangement. My guess will be that if there hasn't been a vote on Obamacare subsidies by the end of January or if the vote fails, then the shutdown will happen again." According to *The Washington Post*, "the closing chapter to the more than 40-day standoff, and the underlying fight over extending tax credits under the Affordable Care Act, could prove perilous for Republicans in the long term. President Donald Trump's own pollsters and allies have warned that not extending the health care subsidies would amount to a major political risk in the midterms, and the public has shown it will blame a shutdown on the party in power — making any future breakdowns risky for Republicans."

SA - Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX), chairman, House Budget Committee, announced on Tuesday he would not seek re-election next year. "I have a firm conviction, much like our founders did, that public service is a lifetime commitment, but public office is and should be a temporary stint in stewardship, not a career," he said.

Rep. Herb Conaway (D-NJ) is "in the mix" for a seat on HASC following Rep. Mikie Sherrill's election to be governor of New Jersey, according to *Politico Pro*. "Conaway, a freshman lawmaker, won the South Jersey district last held by now-Sen. Andy Kim, which includes Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Conaway is an Air Force veteran and had been in contention for a HASC seat at the start of the Congress." The story adds, "Sherrill hasn't announced when she'll step down from Congress, but she must do so before she's sworn in as governor in late January."

According to *Politico Pro*, "Lawmakers are clashing over a federal funding pipeline for small business research and development over concerns about Chinese influence, bringing the grants to a standstill and setting up a major hit to innovation hubs across the country. **Senate Small Business Chair Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) is blocking the reauthorization of the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs** — known as "America's seed fund" — until lawmakers agree to changes that would prevent funding from benefiting Chinese entities and other U.S. adversaries." The story reminds readers, "**At stake is the future of the programs**, whose funding and authority to operate expired Sept. 30 for the first time in their decades-long history. **The programs have fueled innovations ranging from the Mars rover to LASIK eye surgery and play an outsized role in supporting the development of new defense technologies.** Businesses that receive funding must be American-owned, for-profit and employ fewer than 500 people."

Before leaving town for the week, Senators teed up four spending bills for consideration, one of which is **Defense**. According to *Bloomberg*, ""I anticipate probably a four-bill package," Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins (R-Maine) said. She added that there is interest among House appropriators in the minibus and she intends to discuss this with House Appropriations Chair Tom Cole (R-Okla.)."

NASA

According to *SpaceNews*, "The top Democrat on the House Science Committee is demanding that NASA halt efforts to close facilities at the Goddard Space Flight Center, arguing that the moves jeopardize the center's ability to support agency missions. In a strongly worded letter to Acting Administrator Sean Duffy on Nov. 10, Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., ranking member of the House Science Committee, said efforts to close offices and labs at the Maryland center have accelerated since the start of the government shutdown and are putting missions at risk."

Snippets

According to the *El Paso Inc.*, "**The University of Texas at El Paso has hired Joseph Roth as associate vice president for national security programs and classified research.** Roth recently retired from the U.S. Space Force as a colonel after 28 years of service. Roth led innovation and prototyping acquisition delta for the Space Systems Command at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico, managing a $3.8 billion portfolio and more than 740 personnel."

At a Veteran's Day Observance in Arlington National Cemetery on Tuesday, POTUS said, "Under the Trump administration, we are restoring the pride and the winning spirit of the United States military. That's why we have officially renamed the Department of Defense back to the original name, Department of War."

Opinion

In reaction to SecWar's Weapons Acquisition Policy speech last Friday, Clayton Swope, deputy director of the Aerospace Security Project and a senior fellow in the Defense and Security Department at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), and Kari A. Bingen, director of the Aerospace Security Project, wrote, "With its new guidance, the Pentagon is signaling it wants greater industrial capacity, agility, and speed to meet military requirements. In the face of new threats from China and Russia, these are all necessary goals. But dollars-and-cents business dynamics will ultimately shape investor and corporate decisionmaking around capital expenditures and product development—business leaders will need to know the military will stick to its expansive plans to see the long-term benefits for their companies. As American economist Milton Friedman said, "The most important single central fact about a free market is that no exchange takes place unless both parties benefit." **For industry partners to see the benefits of the administration's proposed reforms, there will need to be more trust in sustained increases for defense budgets, and trust that the military actually buys what it says it wants.**"

In an Op-Ed for *Aviation Week*, Dan Hart, senior fellow with the Atlantic Council, writes, "There is almost no detectable civil space dialog between the U.S. and China, the two largest space powers. Both Washington and Beijing appear satisfied with space as a point of competition and conflict threatened by military escalation. In fact, U.S. law, in the form of the Wolf Amendment, precludes NASA from entering into even minor agreements with China without special certifications to Congress, and Beijing's space programs remain largely opaque." Hart argues, "**This unhealthy status quo must change. With the number of satellites growing exponentially and the risk of miscalculations and collisions rising, there is growing urgency for the two nations to come to agreement, along with others, on the management of space traffic.** Lunar and planetary exploration abound with opportunities for collaboration, such as operationalizing mutual astronaut rescue, establishing science agreements and exchanging services in deep space. **A bilateral initiative to explore these possibilities, sponsored at the presidential level, should be started without delay.**" *Of note, see an event tomorrow at 9 on "Should the Wolf Amendment be Repealed?"*

Additional Upcoming Events

Tomorrow at 0900, The Space Policy Institute, in partnership with The Aerospace Corporation Center for Space Policy and Strategy, will host a live debate, "Should the Wolf Amendment be Repealed?" at the Elliott School of International Affairs, Room 602, 1957 E St. NW, Washington, DC, and virtually via Zoom (link will be provided to registrants). According to an email invitation, "In 2011, a relatively small addition was made to the annual appropriations bill for NASA and other civil space agencies that restricted their ability to engage in bilateral discussions or projects with China. Nearly 15 years later, the Wolf Amendment remains in place and has become a hotly debated issue affecting the space relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China (PRC). This public hybrid event will examine the evolution of the U.S.-China relationship and debate whether the Wolf Amendment is still useful or a hindrance in the U.S.-China space relationship." For more information and to register, please visit this link.

Tomorrow at 1100, New America will hold a LEO (Low Earth Orbit) Satellite Policy Symposium at 740 15th St. NW, Suite 900, Washington, D.C. At 1105, Jay Schwarz, chief of the FCC's Space Bureau, will deliver keynote remarks. For more information and to register, please visit this link.

On 17-20 Nov, CyberSat 2025 will be held. The unclassified Program will be 17-18 November at the Hyatt Regency Reston in Reston, VA, and the classified program will be held 19-20 November at The Aerospace Corporation in Chantilly, VA. Seth Whitworth, Acting Associate Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Cyber & Data, U.S. Space Force, will provide the keynote address. Capt. David Vermillion, Commercial Consolidated Satellite Systems Expert, Deputy Division Chief, U.S. Space Force, and Col Craig Frank, Director of SSC S6 Communications, Space Systems Command, are also among the speakers. For more information and to register, please visit this link.

On 18 Nov at 1300EST, BMNT Ventures presents "Space Investment 2025: Navigating Market Shifts and New Frontiers." According to their website, "This panel portends to bring together leading investors, analysts, and entrepreneurs to discuss major trends driving space investment in 2025 and beyond. The discussion will cover market shifts and address a surge in late-stage VC deals and a return of the IPO to global consolidation among larger firms and the growing influence of defense spending." For more information and to register, please visit this link.

On 19 Nov, Charleen "Char" Laughlin, Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Cyber and Data (SF/S6), U.S. Space Force, will speak at Defense Talks presented by DefenseScoop at the Waldorf Astoria, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC. For more information and to register, please visit this link.

On 20 Nov starting at 1030, The RAND Space Enterprise Initiative will host the next iteration RAND Space Days. According to an email, "RAND Space Days is an opportunity for the U.S. government space community to receive briefings at no cost on recent space-related research. The briefings on November 20 will be unclassified and entirely virtual. Topics include Overview of the RAND Space Enterprise Initiative, Blind Spot Indicators for Space: Forecasting Future U.S. and PRC Space Capabilities, Charting the Cosmos: A New Astrographic Framework Overview of the RAND School of Public Policy, Duality in Space: An Exploration of Dual-use Systems, International Space Traffic Management, In Emergency, Break Glass: Reconstituting Space Capabilities During Protracted War, Planetary Defense, and Civilian Needs for Alternatives to GPS: A Retrospective RAND Analysis. Space Days is open to all U.S. government, military, FFRDC, & UARC personnel. Contractors working directly in support of the U.S. government may also attend with approval from their government sponsor. A subsequent, classified event is planned for February 2026." For more information and to register, please visit this link.

On 20 Nov starting at 0830, The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) will hold a half-day summit discussion on "Delivering Space Capabilities for Warfighting Advantage." At 0840, Gen. Chance Saltzman, Chief of Space Operations, will participate in a fireside chat. Three panels will consist of "Drivers of Change: Understanding the Changing Needs of Military Space Operations", "Converging Agendas: Defense Acquisition Reform", and "The Solution Space: How Industry is Evolving to Deliver Space Capabilities." For more information and to register, please visit this link.

On 3 Dec at 1000, Maj Gen Christopher Povak, Deputy Director, National Reconnaissance Office, will appear before the Schriever Spacepower Series. For more information and to register, please visit this link.

On 16 Dec, National Security Space Association (NSSA) will hold a classified TS/SI-TK//NOFORN Space Deterrence Forum "dedicated to advancing dialogue and collaboration across the national security space enterprise" at Peraton in Chantilly, VA. Maj Gen (sel) Brian Sidari, Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Intelligence, U.S. Space Force, is among the speakers. For more information and to register, please visit this link.

On 22-23 Jan, AFCEA Space Industry Days 2026 will take place in Los Angeles. For more information and to register, please visit this link. According to an email on 14 Oct, "All registered attendees, exhibitors and sponsors will be automatically transitioned to the new dates. We will take cancellations for registered attendees and exhibitors up to 9 Jan 2026. Please note, we plan to have the same agenda with the same organizations speaking, and most of them have already confirmed their availability for January. For awareness, the Space Enterprise Consortium General Membership Meeting is now scheduled for 20-21 Jan 2026, and the NDIA Peter B. Teets Awards Dinner is scheduled for the evening of 22 Jan 2026."

If you have information you wish to be considered as part of these emails, please send it over. In addition, if you or someone else is starting a new role and you would like that highlighted, please let me know.

For those of you who are new to this distro, here's a link if you have trouble downloading images and you may also have to "trust the sender." Thank you! - https://www.newspacenexus.org/auto-download-sadler-images/.

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NewSpace Nexus is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity that is accelerating the pace of space innovation by uniting and igniting the industry. NewSpace Nexus was established to bring together space stakeholders, promote a universal voice for space leadership, and grow the commercial space innovation base for the benefit of the nation. NewSpace Nexus uses its knowledge, vast network of stakeholder relationships, resources and programs like its flagship NewSpace Ignitor, incubator-like program and the national State of the Space Industry Base Conference and Workshops series to ensure national security and U.S. sustained leadership in space. For more information, visit newspacenexus.org. The NewSpace Sadler Report is brought to you by NewSpace Nexus and Scott Sadler.

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