

WHITE PAPER

STANDING UP U.S. SPACE FORCE COMPONENTS ACROSS COMBATANT COMMANDS: THE ROLE OF AN INITIAL MISSION ANALYSIS TEAM

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Why an Initial Mission Analysis Team Matters

As space has become indispensable to joint operations, combatant commanders increasingly rely on timely, integrated space capabilities to plan and execute missions that maintain space superiority. For the United States Space Force (USSF), ensuring those capabilities are consistently presented, resourced, and aligned across all combatant commands has become a defining challenge of service maturation.

Upon establishment in 2019, the Space Force focused much of its efforts on standing up as its own service. As the service matured, a critical operational need emerged: translating space capabilities into tailored, consistent, command specific support for the joint force. Addressing this need required deliberate mission analysis, process standardization, and trusted expertise to bridge strategic intent and operational execution.

U.S. Combatant
Commands Worldwide:

11

Challenge: Integrating USSF Resources Across the Joint Force

Each of the 11 combatant commands, whether geographically or functionally aligned, is supported by service components that provide forces, expertise, and planning support aligned to the commander's mission. As the newest military service, the USSF faced the challenge of establishing its own component presence across all commands while operating with constrained resources and rapidly evolving institutional processes.

Early in the process, the Chief of Staff Officer (CSO) and Chief Operations Officer (COO) recognized the need for a standardized yet tailororable approach to component activation and stand-up to support effective planning and deliver predictable, integrated capabilities at the pace required by the joint force.

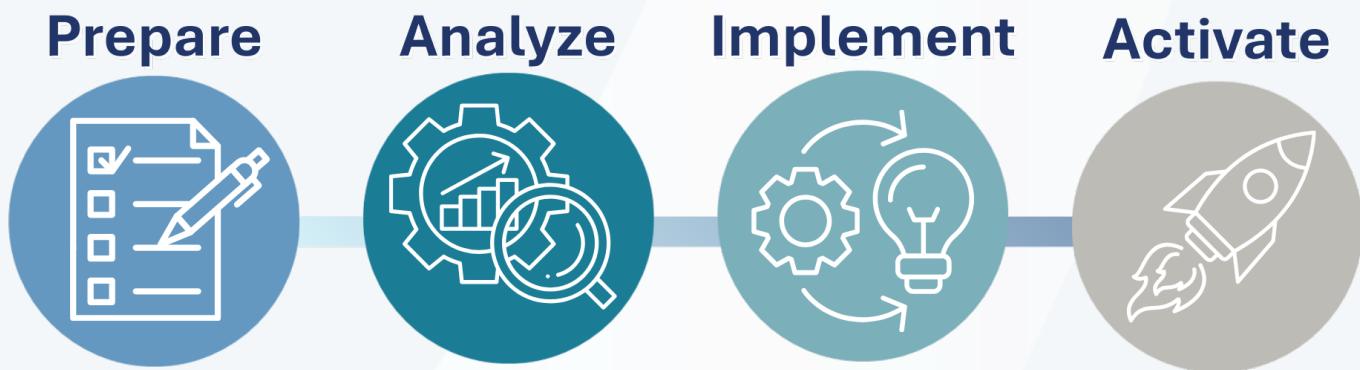
A subsequent mission analysis identified the need for the USSF to standardize its approach to standing up components across all combatant commands while preserving flexibility to address each command's unique operational requirements. As the effort expanded in scope and urgency, the USSF augmented support to establish a scalable execution model. Enter Team SABG.

Solution: A Disciplined, Trusted-Advisor Led Mission Analysis Approach

To close this gap, the USSF established the Initial Mission Analysis Team (IMAT), led by SABG. To meet an aggressive activation timeline, SABG distributed responsibility across all 11 combatant commands, with team members managing multiple efforts in parallel.

The IMAT team applies a disciplined, repeatable process that integrates higher headquarters guidance, task analysis, and resource needs into actionable documentation and recommendations. Phase 1 focuses on conducting mission analysis to identify the personnel and capabilities required to establish each component. Phase 2 guides the commands through Headquarters USSF processes, culminating in the development of programming plans, staff estimates, mission directives, and other required products presented to the Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Operations.

What made the team effective? SABG provided veteran space operations professionals with extensive familiarity in combatant command environments, command and control requirements, and joint planning processes. Their operational credibility enabled them to function as trusted advisors, not simply analysts, throughout the component activation process.



Results and Benefits: Accelerated Progress

To date, with the help of IMAT, the USSF has activated the following components:

- SPACEFOR-INDOPAC
- SPACEFOR-CENT
- SPACEFOR-EURAF
- SPACEFOR-SOUTH
- SPACEFOR-NORTH
- SPACEFOR-JPN
- SPACEFOR-KOR

Assignment of the IMAT within the Space Force Operations and Planning Division (S35) further accelerated progress by enabling access to established relationships and institutional knowledge. Beyond accelerating stand-up timelines, IMAT enabled the USSF leadership to make informed decisions earlier, with greater confidence in how space capabilities were aligned to combatant command priorities.

Why It Matters

Space superiority depends on more than advanced systems. It depends on how effectively space capabilities are understood, integrated, and employed by the joint force. Creating the USSF components at each combatant command was an operational imperative.

The USSF's experience illustrates a broader lesson for emerging mission areas. Effective integration into the joint force requires more than organizational alignment, it demands disciplined mission analysis, scalable processes, and trusted experts who understand both operations and enterprise decision making.

SABG supports this mission as a team of trusted advisors focused on enabling warfighting success across the space and missile defense enterprise.