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## Summer Space Seminar

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## Summer Space Seminar

The Eisenhower Center for Space and Defense Studies organized the Summer Space Seminar since 2007 to advance two principal goals: (1) to foster an education and interest in the interdisciplinary areas of space with the intent to develop space professionals; and (2) to develop a network of relations across civil, commercial, and military space professionals that will likely emerge from the participants.

The Summer Space Seminar exposes participants to the breadth and depth of space activities in the civil, commercial, and military areas. The relationships among these areas are explored across a number of perspectives – participants are exposed to the technology and science of space activities, followed by discussions on the political, legal, economic, and social aspects that influence the development and application of the various civil, commercial, and military space activities. The emphasis is on exchanges among the participants.

The 2009 Seminar combined site visits with moderated roundtable discussions that covered a number of topics.

- Security space, including space situational awareness, space launch, and space acquisition operations, satellite development, and science and technology research with site visits to: Vandenberg Air Force Base, Space and Missile Systems Center, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, and the Naval Research Laboratory.
- New space companies with a site visit to Space X facilities where the Falcon launch vehicles are developed.

- Military space doctrine and mission areas with a briefing at Air Force Space Command.
- Small satellite development program at the U.S. Air Force Academy.
- Commercial space sector programs in space launch and remote sensing with site visits to United Launch Alliance and Digital Globe facilities.
- Civil space science programs with site visits to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, and the Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory.
- Space policy roundtable discussions on space weaponization, NATO space cooperation, the notion of space as a contested or a cooperative environment, export controls, international space cooperation, interagency processes, and national space policy formulation and implementation.

The Summer Space Seminar is directed toward bringing together a broad group of future space professionals to lay a foundation for a future space policy community in the military, civilian government, and private sectors. Participants in the program include students from the U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Military Academy, George Washington University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

For some in the group, the Seminar was their first exposure to the role and importance of space. For others in the group, it exposed them

to areas that affect space beyond technology and science, like policy, law, and economics.

The Seminar served as useful forum for further professional development given that several of the participants worked, or are currently employed, as space professionals. During the Seminar, a great deal of learning and socialization took place among the participants that will serve to meet the goal to inform, and to build connections between future space professionals.