



SPACE SUPERIORITY / SUPREMACY

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Achieving space superiority is of primary concern to Airmen as it enables the continuous provision and advantages of space-enabled capabilities to joint warfighting operations. Space superiority is, “the degree of control in space of one force over any ~~other~~ ^{other} ~~the~~ conduct of its operations at a given time and place without **prohibitive** interference from terrestrial or space-based threats” (Joint Publication 3-14, [Space Operations](#); emphasis added).

Space supremacy is the degree of control in space by one force over another that permits the conduct of operations at a given time and place without effective interference from opposing forces. The concept of space superiority / supremacy is similar to air superiority / supremacy; however, the desired control may not always be achievable, particularly against a peer or near-peer adversary. Additionally, “place” does not refer to controlling physical space. It refers to specific terrestrial areas that may be impacted by space operations. Space superiority / supremacy may be localized in time and space, or it may be broad and enduring.

The concept of space superiority hinges on the idea of preventing **prohibitive** interference to space capabilities from adversary forces. Prohibitive interference would prevent space capabilities from creating desired effects. Space supremacy prevents **effective** interference, which does not mean that no interference exists, but that any attempted interference can be countered or will have little or no effect on operations. Space superiority provides sufficient freedom of action to create desired effects. Additionally, when achieving either space superiority or supremacy, the operational objectives may require the negation of adversary space capabilities to achieve the desired control. Therefore, commanders should determine the appropriate control of space required to accomplish their mission and assign an appropriate level of effort to achieve it.

The Commander, United States Space Command (CDRUSSPACECOM) establishes the desired global level of control of space on a day-to-day basis. Supported Joint Force Commanders (JFCs) will coordinate with CDRUSSPACECOM at the commencement of joint operations and space superiority will typically be an initial priority objective.

The ability to achieve space superiority or supremacy is impacted by the laws of physics, international law, and existing policy. Additionally, it may not be in the US’ best interest to fully deny space capabilities to adversaries. Finally, capabilities such as [satellite communications](#) may be provided by commercial entities or through multinational partnerships. Negating these capabilities may cause collateral effects to friendly forces or third party users.