



# **AFRL Space S&T Update**

**19 November 2015**

**Colonel David Goldstein  
Air Force Research Laboratory  
Space Vehicles Directorate**

***Integrity ★ Service ★ Excellence***



# Overview



- **Who We Are**
- **Strategic Context**
- **A Subset of our Investments**
- **Challenge To You**



# Vision and Mission

## AFRL/Space Vehicles Directorate



### Our Vision

*Be indispensable to our nation in improving AF and DoD space capabilities*

### Our Mission

*Stay One Step Ahead in Space*



## Our Goals

1. Be the first call
2. S&T that makes a difference
3. Operate with agile business processes
4. Hire, develop and retain a world-class workforce

## What We Value

### ***Our Core Values***

- S&T Excellence
- Boundary Pushing
- Professional Competency & Contribution
- Mission Focus

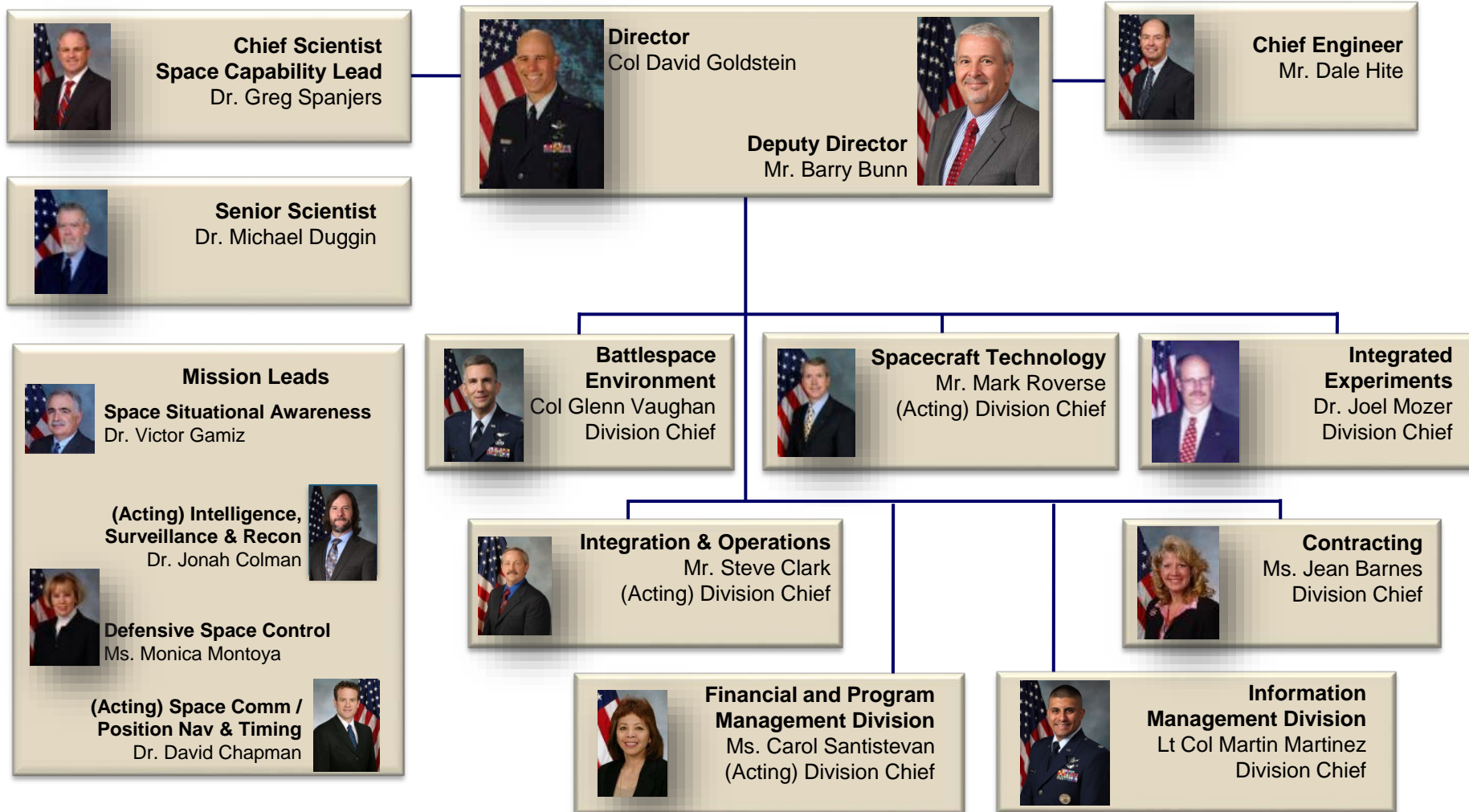
### ***External***

- Innovation
- Resiliency
- Synergistic Partnerships
- Skin in the Game



# Organization

## AFRL/Space Vehicles Directorate

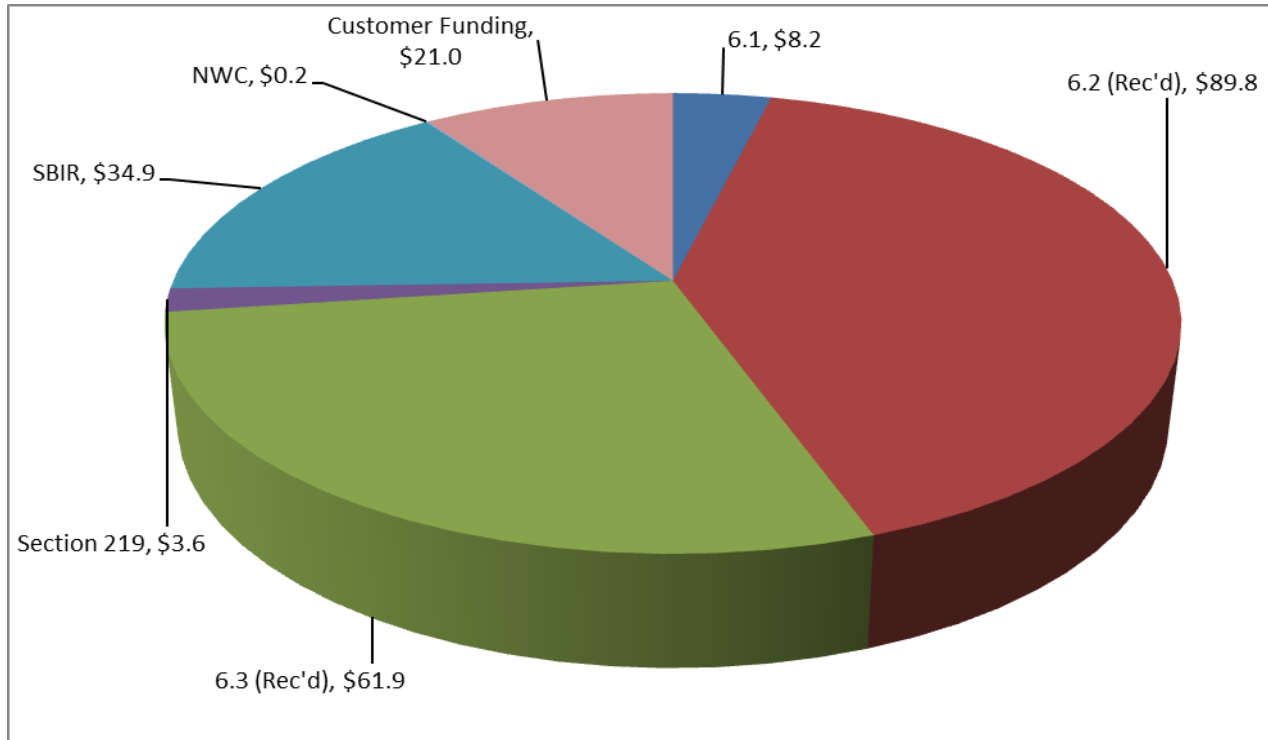




# FY15 Funding Break Out

## Received Amounts with Customer Funding

### AFRL/Space Vehicles Directorate



**\$219.6M**  
 FY15 Funding  
 20 Jul 15

**\$ in Millions**

**Science and Technology**  
**Other Funding**

**163.5M**  
**56.1M**

**Total 219.6M**

\*All funding is shown as **Received**. Direct Cite/Reimbursable figures were obtained from the CCaR Incoming Document Report. S&T Funding consists of 6.1, 6.2, & 6.3 amounts. CRI pass-thru funding is not included.







# World Class Facilities

## AFRL/Space Vehicles Directorate



### Spacecraft Technology Laboratory



### Existing Facilities – 55 Bldgs

- 420,000 Sq Ft – Kirtland AFB, NM
- 36,000 Sq Ft - Holloman AFB, NM
- 31,000 Sq Ft - HAARP, Alaska

### Battlespace Environment Laboratory



Fabrication and Testing Capabilities



Unique Test Equipment

### EO/IR Facilities



IRREL characterizes Focal Plane Arrays

### Space Electronics Facilities



Nuclear Radiation Simulation Lab



Imaging Spectroscopy Calibration Lab



Cold Atom Lab

### Aerospace Engineering Facility



### Spacecraft Integration Facility



Ionospheric research  
\*\* Now operated by UAF

### Holloman



Balloon operations

### ISOON



Solar observations

Comprehensive integration & test facilities for small, experimental satellites or spacecraft components at different security levels

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# Space Vehicles Directorate



## Mission: Stay One Step Ahead in Space

### Technical Mission Areas



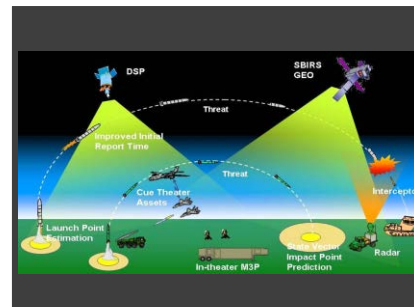
Space Situational Awareness

- Search, discover, track, and maintain custody of space objects
- Provide unique object ID and discrimination
- Understand and predict space domain behavior
- Characterize, assess, and resolve anomalies/attacks on space systems



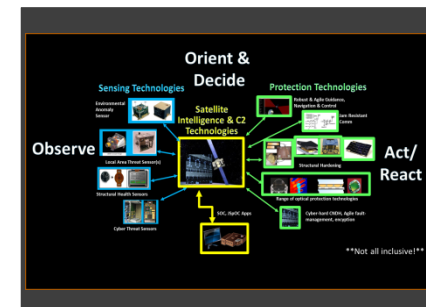
Space Communications/ Position, Navigation & Timing

- Extend frequency tradespace for space communication
- Address projected jamming threats
- Develop technology and create options for future GPS spacecraft



Intel, Surveillance, & Reconnaissance

- Support SBIRS and DoD unique terrestrial weather systems
- Provide capability to warfighters for over-the-horizon and traditional space-based ISR systems
- Provide key nuclear explosion monitoring technology



Defensive Space Control

- Evolve space resilience
- Holistic local awareness sensors
- Satellite intelligence technologies
- Passive protection and active agility
- Associated modeling, sim, assessment & testing

*Vision: Be indispensable to our nation in improving AF and DoD space capabilities*

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# Strategic Context



- Growing commercial investment in and utilization of space
- Increased competition and diversity of launch options
- Acceleration of connectedness but mounting security stove-pipes
- Lag in government business practices
- Growing threats to space and launch systems
- Realization we can't concede space
- Emerging DoD Space strategy
- Drastic increase in use of cubesats/smallsats
- Advanced manufacturing availability...additive and robotic



# ***AFRL Advanced PNT Technology and Next Flight Experiment***



# Advanced GPS Technologies



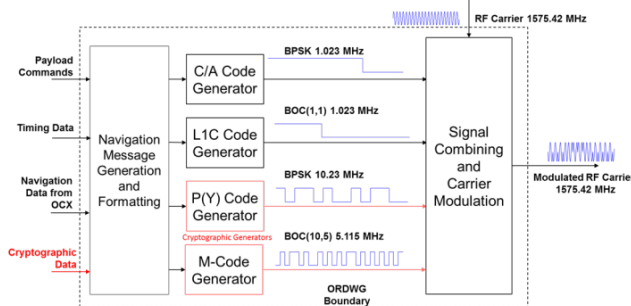
## Technologies

- High efficiency GaN amplifiers
- On-orbit Reprogrammable Digital Waveform Generators
- New antenna concepts
- Supporting electronics
- Algorithms and new signal combining methods
- Satellite bus technologies for lower SWaP/ increased resiliency
- Advanced cyber technology

## Capabilities

- Lower-SWaP spacecraft OR higher power signals
- Increased signal flexibility after launch
- Lower cost OR increased capability payload
- Increased signal strength
- Information assurance designed-in from the start

## Advanced L-Band Amplifier Technology



## Advanced Military User Equipment



## Functions of an L1 band On-Orbit Reprogrammable Digital Waveform Generator



# Navigation Technology Satellites (NTS)

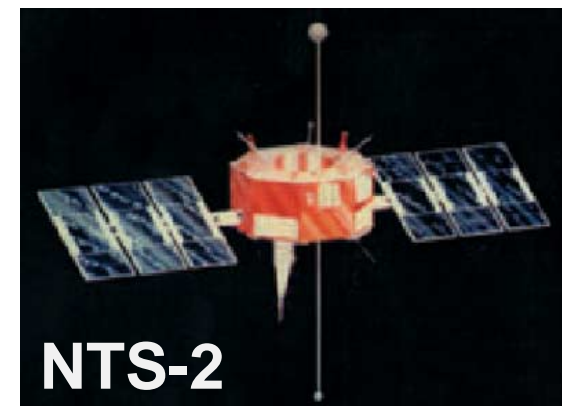
## NTS-1 (Launched: 1974)

- “Timation” and “621B” programs merged to become NAVSTAR GPS program.
- NRL'S Timation 3 satellite re-designated the NTS-1
- Two rubidium-vapor frequency standards (clocks)



## NTS-2 (Launched: 1977)

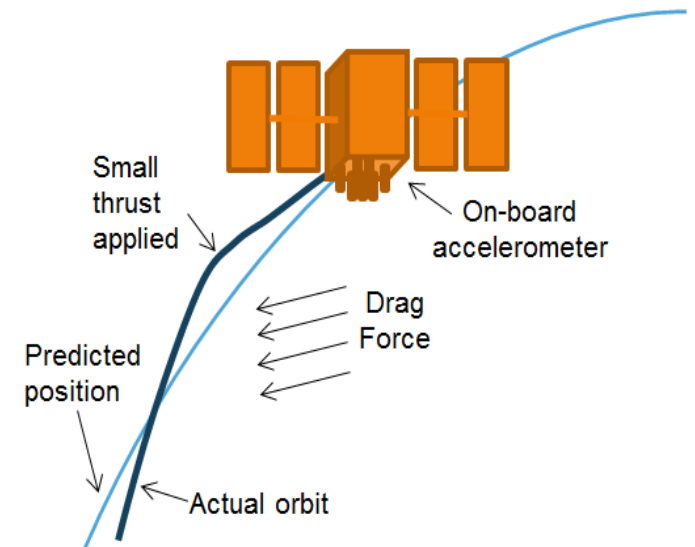
- 1st NAVSTAR GPS Phase I satellite
- Cesium frequency standards (clock)
- Nickel-hydrogen battery
- Worldwide network for data acquisition
- Verified Einstein's relativistic clock shift





# NTS-3 is AFRL's Next Flight Experiment

- **Advance state-of-the-art satellite hardware and software**
  - High gain antennas
  - High Power Amplifiers
  - Flexible digital payload
  - Atomic Clocks
- **Explore new operations concepts**
  - Know ephemeris through active control
  - Alternate TT&C and ground
  - Hosted payload
- **Conduct wide variety of science experiments**
  - Integrated space, ground and cyber
  - Examples: relativity experiments, advanced signals, active maneuver with precise OD, tactical TT&C, localized signals







# ***Near-term & Current AFRL Space Experiments***



# DSX- Mission Objectives



- Nominal orbit: 6000 x 12000 km, 42 degree inclination
- Launch Sep 2016 on STP-2 Mission
  - SpaceX Falcon Heavy launch vehicle from KSC

## • Three Main Science Experiments:

### 1) Wave-Particle Interactions (WPIx) – prime payload

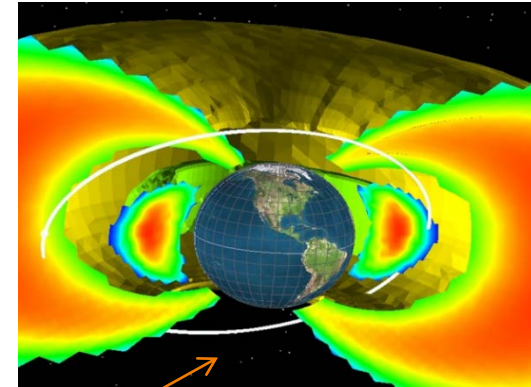
- Determine efficiency of injecting VLF waves into space plasmas *in situ*
- Determine distribution of natural & man-made ELF-VLF waves
- Characterize & quantify wave-particle interactions

### 2) Space Weather (SWx)

- Map MEO radiation & plasma environment
- Determine in-situ environment for wave generation experiments in (1)

### 3) Space Environmental Effects (SFx)

- Quantify MEO environment effects on technologies (electronics, materials, coatings)
- Determine physical mechanisms leading to materials' breakdown in MEO radiation



MEO slot region orbit

MEO = Medium Earth Orbit, ELF = Extremely Low Frequency, VLF = Very Low Frequency, KSC = Kennedy Space Center



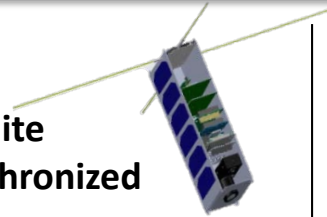
# Small Satellite Program



Small satellites provide an extension of the lower-cost, higher-risk satellite paradigm that AFRL has helped pioneer (XSS-11, Tacsat-3, ANGELS) to even lower-cost, larger mission-assurance ranges

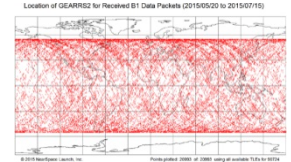
## CHOMPTT

- 3U CubeSat precision timing satellite equipped w/ an atomic clock synchronized with a ground clock
- Demonstrate technology for enhanced GPS and future disaggregated navigation systems



## GlobalStar...PNT Enabler

- Enables near-global PNT data availability
- Affordable method to gather TLM data



## ARMADILLO – FOTON GPS

- Dual-Frequency GPS receiver with Nano-Satellite SWaP & Improved precision
  - 0.5U form-factor (8.3 x 9.6 x 3.8 cm)
  - ~1.5W orbit average w/ duty cycling



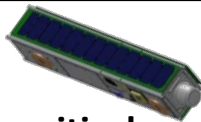
## Namaru GPS (Australian)

- Developed by AUS Defense Science and Technology Group (DSTG)
- Sub-Meter relative position accuracy when multiple units flown in formation



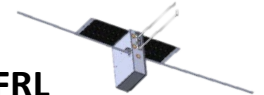
## SHARC

- Demonstrate the capability to perform critical calibration of over 120 Tri-Service C-Band radars
- Investigate the performance of Hypervisor on-orbit for DARPA
- Launch: April, 2015



## VPM

- Critical augmentation for the AFRL Demonstration and Science Experiment (DSX) satellite
- Answers key DSX physics: Can we transmit VLF across the space plasma sheath into the far-field.





# ***AFRL Test Bed for Space Situational Awareness Algorithms***



# JSpOC Mission System

## Background



### AFRL & AF Space Missile Command Delivered Joint Space Operations Center (JSpOC) Mission System (JMS) Inc. 1

- Net Centric Service Oriented Architecture (SOA)
- User Defined Operating Picture (UDOP)

2013

### Space Missile Command JMS Inc. 2 Program

- Message Processing (C2)
- Observation Association
- Special & General Perturbations Catalog
- Conjunction Analysis & Break-up
- Reentry & Launch Assessment

2014

Final Delivery:  
2016

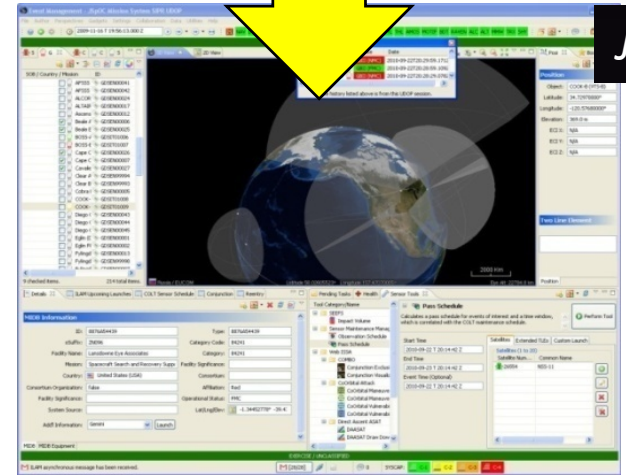
### JMS Inc. 3 – Draft Requirements

- **Threat Indications and Warning**
- Spectrum Common Operating Picture
- Modeling and Simulation/COA Development

Inc.3 Program:  
2016-2021

ASSET	CONJUNCTING SATELLITE	TIME OF CLOSEST APPROACH
POSITION	ASSET COVARIANCE	SAT. COVARIANCE
24839-TRIDIUM 10	35051-TRIDIUM 33 DEB	269 (26 SEP) 21:49Z
25273-TRIDIUM 57	33779-COSMOS 2251 DEB	268 (25 SEP) 21:59Z
25276-TRIDIUM 60	81365-UNKNOWN	267 (24 SEP) 11:16Z
25288-TRIDIUM 65	34560-COSMOS 2251 DEB	267 (24 SEP) 11:16Z
25342-TRIDIUM 70	31036-FENIXION 1C DEB	267 (24 SEP) 11:16Z

Legacy Systems



JMS

Air Force is delivering JMS to space operators – How do we keep adding capability?

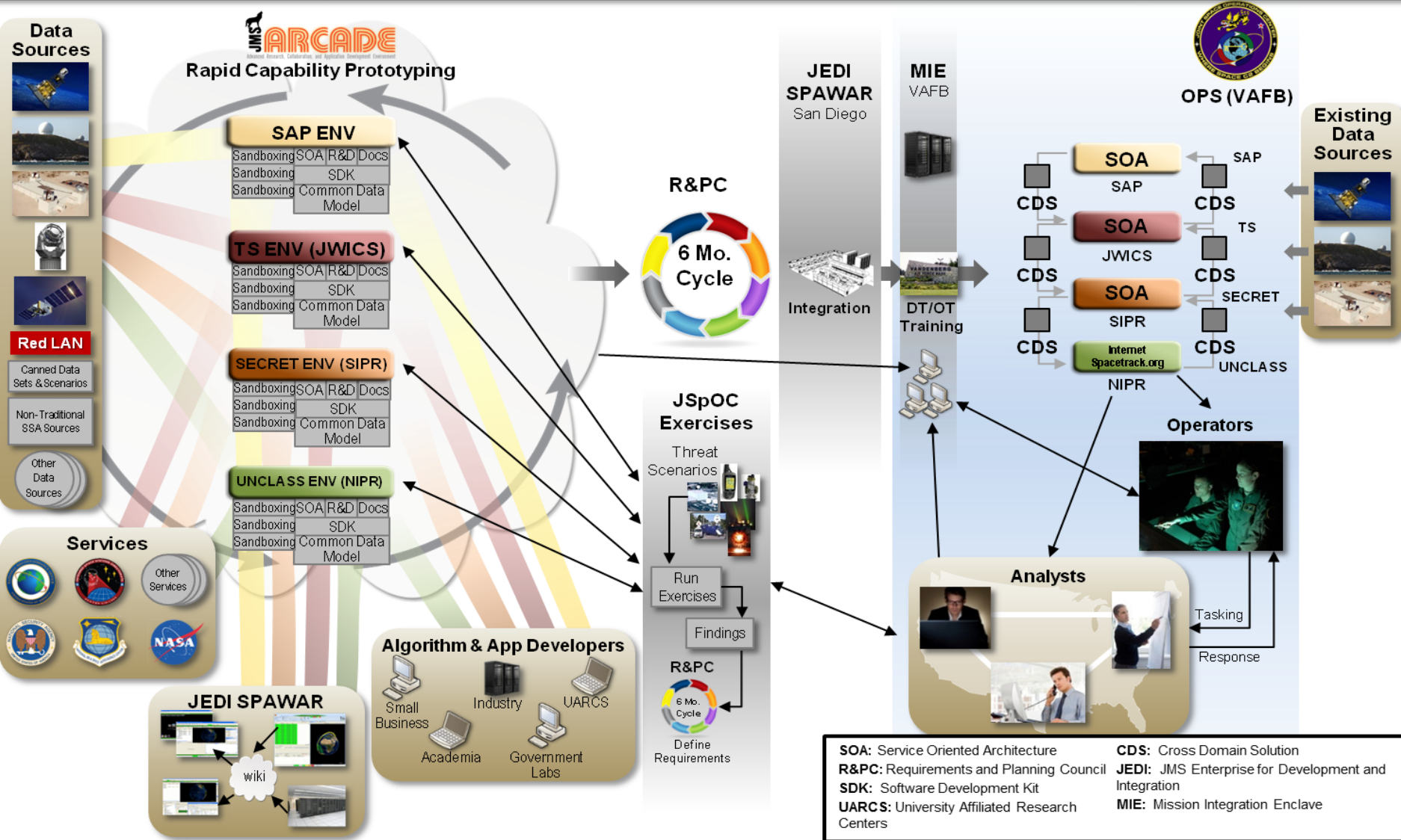




# Vision for ARCADE



An incubator for Joint Space Operations Center (JSpOC) Mission System (JMS) related applications



**SOA:** Service Oriented Architecture  
**R&PC:** Requirements and Planning Council  
**SDK:** Software Development Kit  
**UARCS:** University Affiliated Research Centers

**CDS:** Cross Domain Solution  
**JEDI:** JMS Enterprise for Development and Integration  
**MIE:** Mission Integration Enclave Centers



# Challenge and Conclusion



- **“Space”scape is changing therefor we must:**
  - Reorient to Resiliency
  - Induce Innovation
  - Seek Strategic Strengths
  - Prioritize Synergistic Partnerships
  - Greatly Grow GPS 😊
- **AFRL is committed to a strong space S&T investments consistent with National priorities**
  - SSA, Propulsive ESPA, space cyber, PNT, resilient pervasives, continued community experimentation