



*CalsMUN 2019*  
*Future Technology*

**Research Report**

**Forum:** COPUOS

**Issue:** Militarising Outer Space

**Chairs:** Björn Overbeek and Thijs de Ruijter



## Personal Introduction

### Björn Overbeek

Hi,

My name is Björn, I'm 17 years old and live in Nieuwegein, in the Netherlands. I will be your main chair at CalsMUN 2019. I have been participating in MUNs for almost 3 years now, and in this time I have participated in 10 MUNs. I have very little experience in chairing, but since this MUN is at my own school I saw an opportunity to expand my experience.



I am currently in year 6 of VWO, and I spend a lot of time on school. When I am not doing anything related to school, and this is not very often, I like to lay back and watch some Netflix, meet up with my friends or sleep a little extra because I know days will be coming where I do not get that opportunity. I also do Judo twice a week and work at a supermarket.

I look forward to seeing you all in January at the conference!

With kind regards,

Björn

### Thijs de Ruijter

Dear delegates,

My name is Thijs de Ruijter, I am sixteen years old and I will be your co-chair at CALSMUN. Participating in MUNs is something I truly love and so far I have participated in MUNs thrice. This will be my first time as a chair and I am really looking forward to it. COPUOS sparked my interest since I am really interested in outer space, outer space warfare in particular (probably like the rest of you Star Trek and Star Wars nerds out there). I know that with Björn and myself as chairs, and you as delegates, our committee will shine like the stars!



When I am not at school or sleeping I can usually be found behind my piano. I play in a band called "*The Dame*" (check us out, we're cool) and I am really passionate about music. I am really looking forward to meeting you and we will make this CALSMUN rock!

Most sincerely,  
Thijs



### Introduction

Placing or developing military technology in outer space is known as the militarisation of outer space. The earliest explorations of space were mainly caused by military motives during the cold war. When more and more nations became aware of the danger of militarising outer space the outer space treaty was proposed. Nowadays, however, the tensions are growing and the militarisation of outer space becomes a major threat again. It is up to you to solve this problem and make sure that space will not play a role in future wars.

### Definition of Key Terms

#### Space Law

Like criminal law, space law is a body of law. Space law governs subjects such as exploration of space, environmental preservation, use of weapons, ethics and new technologies. Space law is mainly determined by the so-called outer space treaty.

#### The Outer Space Treaty

The *Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies* (usually known as the outer space treaty) forms the fundamentals of space law. It was proposed by the US, UK and USSR in 1967 and has been signed by 107 states so far.

#### Military Satellites

Artificial satellites are used for all kinds of purposes. Most satellites are used for communication and navigation among civilians and governments. Military satellites, however, have a different purpose. Many of them are used for military communication, navigation, and the gathering of intelligence.

### General Overview

Ever since WW II the militarisation of outer space has been an issue. The very moment the German V2 rocket crossed the Kármán line during the vertical launch on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 1944, the arms race for outer space began. When the Third Reich collapsed three main powers wanted to get their hands on V2 technology. The British were able to assemble a small amount of V2 missiles and launch them from a German site. After having written the



extensive *Backfire Report* the engineers involved moved to the US. The Americans had collected enough V2 hardware to make eighty rockets. The Russians were also extremely successful in collecting V2 material. They were able to take hold of many German scientists and their labs, giving them a lot of mechanical insight.

Although most of these post-war V2 rockets were used only for research purposes they opened the door to a time of major developments in long-distance warfare. In 1947 a period of extreme political tensions caused another explosion in developments. The Cold War was a conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States on many levels, including space travel. In the period from 1947 to 1991 there were many developments and the US and USSR were competing for outer space. One may speculate that the main goal for this competition was the militarisation of outer space, in order to attack or intimidate the opposing nation from an at the time nearly unreachable location. The superpowers developed ballistic missiles with huge destructive power that travel through space. Though no disastrous situations occurred it is important to note that the Cold War may be a long-term cause of future large-scale space militarisation.

With modern and future technology mankind is able to create military stations in outer space, able to wipe entire cities from the face of the earth from an incremental distance. This may seem like a science fiction dystopia scenario but in fact we are closer to this huge problem than one might think. Scientists are abundant and technology is flourishing, which is of course a good thing, but the tensions are rising and the fear of war flutters like a butterfly through our minds. However, there are also positive views to the story of space militarisation, though we may leave that as food for thought.

## Major Parties Involved

### Organisations

#### UNOOSA

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) is the secretariat UN organisation that implements decisions made in the UN general assembly and COPUOS. It is also tasked with assisting (developing) countries in using outer space technology and developing safe space programmes.



### **NASA**

The famous National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is the United States' independent organisation for aeronautics, aerospace research and civilian space programmes. NASA's main goal is to explore and research outer space in a peaceful way and to keep doing so by keeping the peace in space.

### **ESA**

The European Space Agency (ESA) is Europe's reply to NASA. Much like NASA they want to explore and research outer space in a peaceful way.

## **Countries**

### **The United States of America**

The USA has the largest space programme of all nations. They also have access to nuclear power and are in general massive in force and influence. At the moment even the USA shakes with instability and they may be a threat on the level of "claiming" outer space no matter the costs.

### **Russian Federation**

The Russian Federation has taken a more passive approach to the militarisation of outer space ever since the conclusion of the Cold War. They proposed a number of treaties to keep the peace in space, though they are still strongly opposing the USA.

### **ESA Member States**

All ESA member states are in favour of keeping space a safe place. They do not want a war and if there should be a war they definitely do not want it to spread to outer space.

## **Timeline of Key Events**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>20<sup>th</sup> of June 1944</i>    | The launch of the German V2 rocket, making this weapon the first man-made object to travel into space. When Germany lost the war the UK, USSR and the USA got their hands on V2 technology. |
| <i>1947 - 1991</i>                     | The Cold War was the beginning of an arms race in outer space that is still going on today. The main parties involved in the Cold War's outer space arms race are the USA and the USSR.     |
| <i>27<sup>th</sup> of January 1967</i> | The outer space treaty was opened for signature in the USA, UK and USSR.  |



## Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

The UN has had many meetings on the issue of space militarisation although there has not been made a definitive decision. Former UN resolutions can be found here:

[http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/documents-and-resolutions/search.jspx?view=documents&f=oosaDocument.subjects.subject\\_s:International%20Space%20Law](http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/documents-and-resolutions/search.jspx?view=documents&f=oosaDocument.subjects.subject_s:International%20Space%20Law)

## Possible Solutions

As of yet there have not been any definitive solutions to the issue, although there are some ideas. These ideas include, but not limited to:

1. Improving space law and punishing nations that defy space law.
2. Proposing more treaties concerning outer space warfare and the militarisation of outer space.

## Bibliography

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