

Citizen Group Card #6

Vocabulary

The Military's Opinion on Proposed Space Colony

military: (n.) of or about the armed forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, etc.)

service personnel: (n.) a member of the national armed forces

foreign: (adj.) of, from, in or characteristic of a country or language other than one's own

technology: (n.) machinery and equipment developed from such scientific knowledge

satellite: (n.) a natural or artificial body that orbits the Earth or another planet

The *military* has long taken a role in space exploration. Military leaders understand that a space colony would increase job opportunities for members of the military. A space colony would require a new means of transportation to move people and supplies to and from the site. In the past, most spacecraft pilots have been trained by the military. The new space colony would provide increased opportunities for military pilots to continue this role. A space colony would also require protection and a force to keep order. The military trains its *service personnel* to operate in *foreign* lands far from home so they would be most likely to fill this role.

The military already has experience developing *technology* for use in space. A space colony would allow them to continue developing new technology. The military has many *satellites* deployed in orbit around the Earth that are used to communicate and gather information. These satellites can provide pictures of any specific spot on Earth at any time. This type of technology would be really helpful for choosing a location for the future space colony and for monitoring the colony once it is built. It is likely that the research

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and development of satellites to orbit the space colony would lead scientists to discover new ways to monitor the Earth, thereby increasing the safety of U.S. citizens who remain here.

The U.S. will need to provide transportation to the colony. The Air Force has already developed a mini-Space Shuttle that can be used to orbit the Earth. The space colony would provide a reason to expand research and development of this vehicle to transport passengers.

missile: (n.) a rocket capable of delivering a load

Americans currently support the idea of a space-based *missile* defense system if it would keep us safer on Earth. A space-based missile defense system would be able to hit our enemies more quickly than an Earth-based missile system. There is a possibility that other countries might *interfere* with our construction of a space colony or might wish to take over the colony. The missile defense system the military develops for the space colony can be used to keep us safe both in space and here on Earth.

interfere: (v.) prevent from being carried out properly

Some military leaders caution it might be too expensive to build a space colony.

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budget: (n.) amount of income or expenses over a set period of time

In recent years the military *budgets* have been cut severely due to a poor economy. Military experts agree that a space colony would be fragile and hard to protect. In addition, fuel for transportation of military supplies and personnel would be extremely expensive. Protecting and policing the space colony would use up a large portion of the military's budget leaving less money in the budget to be used back on Earth.