

Technologies being tested in the OTV program include advanced guidance, navigation and control, thermal protection systems, avionics, high temperature structures and seals, conformal reusable insulation, light weight electro-mechanical flight systems, advanced propulsion systems, advanced materials and autonomous orbital flight, reentry, and landing. Previous missions the OTV have launched on both Atlas V and Falcon 9 booster rockets. The robot spaceplane has been known to spend more than two years in space before returning to a runway landing on Earth. As a military mission, details of experimental results and length of mission are usually kept secret. The X-37B remains an Air Force asset, but the U.S. Space Force is responsible for the launch, on-orbit operations and landing. The mission will launch from Space Launch Complex 41 at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

The USSF-7 launch of the United States Space Force (formerly the Air Force Space Command) will utilize the heavy-lift Atlas V booster rocket in the 501 configuration with a five foot diameter no Solid Rocket Boosters on the vehicle's first stage, and a single engine Centaur upper stage to propel the OTV (Orbital Test Vehicle) spacecraft into it's assigned orbit. The X-37B OTV, is an experimental test program to demonstrate technologies for a reliable, re-usable, unmanned space test platform. The primary objectives of the X-37B are twofold; reusable spacecraft technologies for America's future in space and operating experiments which can be returned to, and examined on, Earth. USSF-7 will launch the OTV-6 mission of the X7B spacecraft, carrying a number of secondary payloads led by the Air Force Research Lab. One payload going up in the OTV is FalconSat 8 which was designed and built by cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy, and will be operated by the Academy's Cadet Space Operations Squadron.

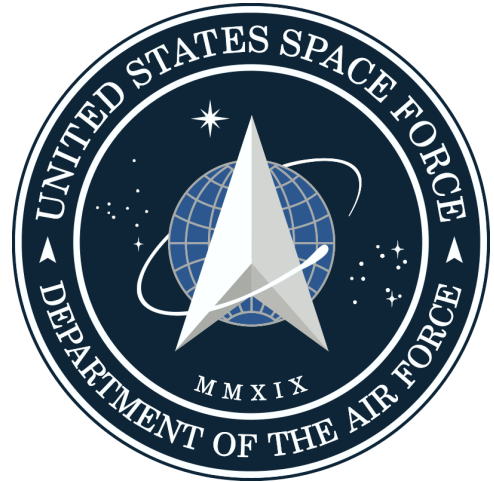
USSF-7/OTV-6



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USSF-7

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