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REVISITING THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE PRINCIPLE IN THE LIGHT OF THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF SPACE FORCES PHENOMENON AMONG THE SPACE-FARING STATES

Abstract

The promotion and the support of commercial space activities by States reveal that the peaceful uses of outer space are also being promoted. In this case, it would not be wrong to say that the increasing number of peaceful activities in space would let us not worry about non-peaceful activities in space as before. However, that might not be the case in reality. So far, there is an uncontrollable arms race in space, space is defined as a new operational domain, and more and more states have started to allocate some money from their budget for the establishment and development of their national space forces/commands as part of their national space security policies. The main reason advocated by states for the establishment of a space force is to protect their commercial space assets against the threats of some other space-faring states.

From the picture above, it can be interpreted that the increase in the number of commercial activities in space has a direct proportion to the increase in the number of military activities in space. We know that non-aggressive military activities are considered to be in line with peaceful uses of outer space principle. However, the question here is if the establishment of space forces/commands by States is considered to be non-aggressive and legal under the scope of the principle. Furthermore, if the establishment of space forces is not contrary to the principle, what would be the restrictions on the operations of space forces according to it. In the light of these questions, this study aims to revisit the peaceful uses of outer space principle and examine its content and meaning in the face of the increasing number of space forces in today's world.