

## Re: In space, where will we be in 30 years?

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simberg.interglobal@org.trash (Rand Simberg) wrote

> > *There is no "Bush's Mars plan." Where do people get this idea? It is a  
> > plan for establishing a presence on the Moon.*

> *No, it's a plan for moving out into the solar system. The moon is  
> just a first step. Having "plans" for anything beyond that would be  
> foolish and hubristic, like Stalinist/Maoist "five-year plans."*

This reminds me of my days in the bureaucracy, when various management fads came and went with depressing and predictable regularity. "Strategic planning" always seemed futile on time scales beyond a few years, because the decorrelation time of events is not more than a decade, give or take.

However, there was an associated concept called "strategic directions" that seemed to me to be somewhat better. Basically the idea was to develop a touchstone that would tell you in which way to make decisions to achieve desired long-term results when the inevitable surprises came along.

In the present context, I think Rand is right: the direction is to move out into the solar system. The immediate plan is to go to the moon as a way to develop methods to move in the direction.