

Chilton chosen to head STRATCOM

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This is kind of interesting. Gen. Chilton has some respectable space credentials and has recently been saying significant things about milspace.

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<http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=2923156&C=america>

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Bush Will Tap Chilton as Next U.S. STRATCOM Chief

By JOHN T. BENNETT

The White House has tapped U.S. Air Force Space Command chief Gen. Kevin Chilton to replace Marine Corps Gen. James Cartwright as the top officer at U.S. Strategic Command, according to a Pentagon statement.

The move, announced late on July 24, comes several weeks after Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced the Bush administration planned to install Cartwright as the next vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, replacing the soon-to-rotate Adm. Edmund Giambastiani, and two days before Cartwright is slated to appear for his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

In the same notice, the Pentagon announced the administration also has nominated Air Force Lt. Gen. Claude Kehler, now deputy STRATCOM chief, to get a fourth star and take over the top spot at Air Force Space Command.

Both must be confirmed by the Senate.

After flying operational and weapon-testing missions in F-4 and F-15 fighter jets, Chilton moved into the space track, joining NASA in 1987. As a part of the world's most renowned space organization, Chilton flew on three space shuttle flights, according to his Air Force biography. He also has completed stints on the Air Staff and Joint Staff.

Prior to his current post, he was the chief of the 8th Air Force and

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STRATCOM's then-Joint Functional Component Commander for Space and Global Strike. The latter has since been split into two component commands.

Kehler, if confirmed, would take charge of Space Command with a long list of space- and missile-related experience already under his belt.

During his career, he has been deputy director of operations at Air Force Space Command, commanded the 30th Space Wing and the 21st Space Wing, and chaired a Pentagon panel on space superiority and nuclear deterrence, according to his STRATCOM biography.