

Re: Is NASA a US "Defence Agency"?

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On Tue, 13 Nov 2007 20:19:29 -0500, "Jonathan" <write@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

.... It's becoming clearer every day that the Vision was created to fill the needs of our military in terms of the missile defense plans they have for the future.

How so? Unless there's a later-day Skylab involved, the Orion/Ares 1 stack is useless. The military's use of the shuttle left such a bad taste in their mouth they switched to ELVs in the late '80s and never looked back.

Major civilian and military space programs are usually announced as such. The Shuttle's predecessors -- Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, and Skylab --- were all civilian programs with nonmilitary purposes. It is true both NASA and the DoD use the same contractors. But it is a very big leap from there to say the VSE is really about missile defense. Evil Keneval wouldn't make that leap.

Bare in mind that the "military industrial complex" does more than military stuff. For instance, Boeing, a major defense contractor, also makes the commercial jets that holiday travelers will be flying on this week. But there's no way any rational person could take that fact and argue that Thanksgiving is a military operation.

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