Space Watch

2026-W46 · 09 Nov – 15 Nov 2026
Makani Lab · Space Watch
Orbital Warfare · SATCOM · SDA · PNT · Satellite Control · Missile Warning · ISR · EW

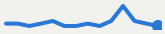
BLUF — Ukraine reported Starshield speed limits for the second time in a month; SpaceX denies any change (Via Satellite, TWZ). SSC awarded three SEWOL prototypes to unify Space EW C2, USSF activated SPACEFOR-SOC, and OSC lent Rocket Lab $150M amid a launch crunch. No PRC/Russian RPO, DPRK launch or GNSS event was reported. Attention: theater reliance on commercial pLEO SATCOM the joint force does not control.

LAST 7 DAYS BY MISSION AREA · 212 ITEMS



Orbital Warfare 5 · SATCOM 36
Space Domain Awareness 18 · PNT / Navwar 4
Satellite Control 4 · Missile Warning 9 · ISR 12
Electronic Warfare 3 · Space Enterprise 121

RISING TERMS · 7D VS PRIOR

Rocket Lab		10 (+7)
Cape Canaveral		9 (+4.4)
Starship		12 (+4.1)
Starshield		14 (+4)

BY THE NUMBERS · 7D

Orbital launches 5 (1 PRC, 2 US, 0 failed) · max Kp 3.33
GPS NANUs 2 (0 unusable) · reentries 17 (16 payloads)
Conjunctions < 1 km, next 7 d: 11,469 (9239 active pairs)
Space-Track emergency-reportable CDMs 27, TIP reentries 16 (0 high-interest)

COUNTERSPACE SPOTLIGHT — PRC CISLUNAR PROGRAMME (CHANG'E, QUEQIAO, DRO, ILRS) · PRC (CNSA/CAS/CASC; PLA role undisclosed) · Chang'e lunar missions, Queqiao relays, DRO-A/B, ILRS with Russia

WHY NOW

China is recruiting international partners for a 34-satellite constellation in nine-day orbits reaching lunar distance by 2030 (SpaceNews), as USSF seeks its own cislunar constellation.

MENTIONS, 30D · PACOM RELEVANCE



1 this week. Objects transiting GEO and cislunar space pass over the Pacific GEO belt that carries theater SATCOM and OPIR.

CAPABILITIES / TTPS

- Queqiao-2 relay in lunar orbit since 2024; supported the Chang'e-6 far-side sample return
- DRO-A/B in distant retrograde lunar orbit (2024), testing Earth-Moon links and navigation
- Crewed landing plan by 2030 with two launches and lunar-orbit rendezvous (SpacePolicyOnline)

IMPLICATIONS

- Persistent PRC presence beyond GEO, where U.S. SDA sensors give little custody today.
- Partner recruitment builds PRC-led cislunar norms and ground networks before U.S. systems fly.

Missile Warning

Missile warning and tracking from space and ground: SBIRS and Next-Gen OPIR, res

SDA explores integration of SpaceX laser communication terminals with missile tracking sats

Breaking Defense (Space) · 2026-11-12

SDA is studying integration of SpaceX laser communication terminals with its missile tracking satellites; a spokesperson called the study a first step with several hardware and software paths (Breaking Defense).

So what: Ties the tracking layer's data path to a commercial network, with resilience trade-offs.

Consider: Consider following how tracking data would reach INDOPACOM if commercial laser links are used.

Missile defense · Commercial integration · PWSA (SDA Transport/Tracking)

SATCOM

Military and commercial satellite communications: WGS, MUOS, AEHF/ESS, protected

Ukraine Reports More Restrictions to Starshield Access

Via Satellite · 2026-11-12

Zelenskyy said Starshield terminals in motion are capped at 100 mph, hampering Shahed intercepts; second time in a month (Via Satellite). SpaceX told TWZ "there has been no change." U.S. lawmakers seek a probe.

So what: Shows how a single-vendor pLEO SATCOM path can be throttled outside the user's control.

Consider: Consider reviewing which theater PACE plans rely on Starshield or Starlink alone.

EUCOM · NORTHCOM · Proliferated LEO · Commercial integration · Starlink / Starshield

Space Force leaders advance shared commitments for allied space power at Global MILSATCOM

U.S. Space Force · 2026-11-09

At Global MILSATCOM, USSF leaders discussed expanding partnerships, co-investing in resilient SATCOM architectures and setting pre-crisis agreements for deterrence and spectrum dominance (USSF).

So what: Pre-crisis SATCOM agreements with allies shape what theater users can draw on in a fight.

Consider: Be aware of allied co-investment offers; consider flagging Japan/Australia SATCOM needs to HQ.

STRATCOM · Allies & partners

Space Domain Awareness

Knowing what is on orbit and what the environment is doing: space surveillance a

First Anduril Satellite On Orbit is for Space Domain Awareness

Via Satellite · 2026-11-10

Anduril said its first satellite, ANDURIL-216 (launched July), carries an LWIR sensor that keeps custody of objects through eclipse and near the sun, plus an AI compute module; it is company-funded (Via Satellite).

So what: Commercial LWIR SDA could close eclipse custody gaps the theater sees in adversary tracking.

Consider: Consider asking S4S whether commercial LWIR SDA data will reach theater products.

SPACECOM · Commercial integration

China recruits international partners for 34-satellite cislunar constellation

SpaceNews · 2026-11-11

China is recruiting partners for 34 small spacecraft in nine-day orbits reaching lunar distance, targeted for 2030 (SpaceNews). USSF has an RFI out for a proliferated cislunar constellation (Ars Technica).

So what: Cislunar traffic is coming faster than U.S. custody beyond GEO.

Consider: Be aware; consider tracking how cislunar SDA tasking will be shared with components.

PACOM · SPACECOM · Lunar & cislunar · Allies & partners · PRC cislunar programme (Chang'e, Queqiao, DRO, ILRS)

ISR

Space-based intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance: tactical ISR from spa

Synspective Secures Up to 10 Firefly Alpha Launches to Ramp Up Deployment of its StriX Constellation

SpaceWatch.Global · 2026-11-10

Japan's Synspective booked up to 10 Firefly Alpha launches for as many as 20 StriX SAR satellites through 2030 (SpaceWatch.Global); Electron's 100th launch put up an iQPS SAR satellite on 14 Nov (SpaceNews).

So what: More Japanese commercial SAR means more allied revisit over the theater.

Consider: Be aware of growing Japanese SAR capacity for TacSRT and partner sharing.

PACOM · Commercial integration · Launch

Electronic Warfare

Space electromagnetic warfare: Counter Communications System and Meadowlands, Bo

Space Force to Tackle Electromagnetic Threats with New Unified Cloud C2 Initiative

Space Systems Command · 2026-11-10

SSC awarded three SEWOL prototype agreements for one cloud-native C2 application and common operating picture to run hundreds of remote Space EW systems (SSC). Awardees: Anduril, Booz Allen, Peerless (ExecutiveGov).

So what: One EW C2 picture could let theater planners see and request counter-communications effects.

Consider: Consider asking how SEWOL will expose theater EW systems to SPACEPAC planners.

Acquisition & contracts · Space C2 software (Kobayashi Maru, UDL)

Space Enterprise

The service and the enterprise behind the mission areas: force design and organi

Pentagon Gives $150M Loan to Rocket Lab to Boost New Vehicle’s Launch Cadence

Air & Space Forces Magazine · 2026-11-12

OSC agreed a conditional $150M loan to raise Neutron cadence after a 2027 debut, its third $150M space loan in three weeks after Stoke and LeoLabs (A&SF); officials see Falcon's wind-down as a launch risk (Ars).

So what: Launch capacity sets how fast theater-relevant constellations can be replaced.

Consider: Be aware launch supply may constrain reconstitution timelines through 2027.

SPACECOM · PACOM · Launch · Industrial base & supply chain · NSSL / launch programs

SpaceX Catches a Starship

SpacePolicyOnline · 2026-11-14

SpaceX caught the IFT-15 Starship upper stage at the launch tower on 14 Nov after 14 orbits, the first recovery of the stage from orbit; the booster catch was called off on 13 Nov (SpacePolicyOnline, SpaceNews).

So what: Full reuse would cut cost and time for heavy national-security lift.

Consider: Be aware; no immediate theater effect.

PACOM · SPACECOM · Launch · Starlink / Starshield

Nothing significant this week: Orbital Warfare · PNT / Navwar · Satellite Control

WATCH LIST

- USSF-317 (F9, Vandenberg) 18 Nov 0314Z; NROL-136 21 Nov 1230Z; LM-2D unknown payload, Taiyuan, 18 Nov (LL2).
- SWPC G1 storm watch 17-18 Nov; minor satellite-ops impact possible poleward of 60° geomagnetic latitude.
- CelesTrak SOCRATES: YAOGAN-43 03B and BRO-18 at 16 m, Pc 9.8e-3, TCA 17 Nov 1855Z; confirm with 18 SDS.

RECOMMENDATIONS (FOR AWARENESS)

- Consider reviewing PACE plans for theater users of commercial pLEO SATCOM given Ukraine's reported Starshield limits.
- Recommend tracking the SEWOL down-select and how theater EW requests will flow through it.
- Be aware of PRC cislunar plans; consider asking S4S what custody beyond GEO the theater can expect by 2030.