



FACT SHEET: DoD Space Policy

The Department of Defense Space Policy addresses a space environment that is increasingly congested, contested, and competitive. This directive, issued October 2012, implements the 2010 National Space Policy (NSP) and 2011 National Security Space Strategy (NSSS) within the formal DoD system of directives, regulations, and guidance, and reflects the Department of Defense's 2012 Strategic Guidance. Together with the June 2012 National Military Strategy for Space Operations, this update institutionalizes the changes that DoD is making in a constrained budget environment to address the complex set of space-related challenges and opportunities it faces. This policy was last issued in 1999.

The updated Space Policy Directive reiterates the three objectives established by the NSSS to respond to these challenges:

- Strengthen safety, sustainability, stability, and security in space;
- Maintain and enhance the national security advantages afforded by the use of space; and
- Energize the space industrial base that supports U.S. national security.

The DoD Space Policy sets the Department on a path to achieve these three overarching objectives in a changing strategic environment. Some of the key elements in the new Space Policy Directive include:

- Shaping the environment:
 - Declaring that purposeful interference with U.S. space systems and other space systems upon which the U.S. relies is irresponsible in peacetime and may be escalatory in a crisis.
 - Outlining DoD's multilayered approach to deterrence in the space domain.
 - Directing DoD to define and promote safe and responsible space operations as well as transparency and confidence-building measures, in cooperation with interagency, international, and commercial partners.
- Promoting international cooperation and commercial partnerships
 - Emphasizing operations as part of space coalitions.
 - Emphasizing expanded international and commercial partnerships for building and sharing space capabilities.
 - Directing the sharing of SSA information to enhance spaceflight safety.
- Driving changes in DoD space architectures and acquisition
 - Defining resilience and requiring that it be considered in all phases of architecture design and evaluation.
 - Renewing DoD's emphasis on utilizing commercial space systems and technologies to the maximum practical extent, consistent with national security requirements.
 - Recognizing space situational awareness (SSA) as a foundation for safe and effective space operations of all types.