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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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SUBJECT: Department of Defense Space Policy

Introduction

For over forty years, the United States has led the world in the national security uses of outer space. The last major revision of DoD Space Policy, however, was in 1987 during the Cold War. Major changes have taken place since that time which warrant a significant update to reflect new priorities and the nation's evolving space policies and guidance. The increasing importance of space activities to the security and defense of the United States requires a comprehensive and coherent space policy. Such a policy is necessary to maintain the nation's leadership role in space into the next century and achieve U.S. national security objectives. Accordingly, DoD Space Policy is updated by this memorandum and the issuance of DoD Directive 3100.aa, "Space Policy."

Objectives of this Update

This update accomplishes several important objectives. Specifically, it does the following:

1. Incorporates new policies and guidance promulgated since the last update. This includes the National Space Policy issued by the President in 1996.
2. Addresses the major changes that have taken place since the last update. This includes: the transformation of the international security environment; the promulgation of new national security and national military strategies; changes in the resources allocated to national defense; changes in force structure; lessons learned from the operational employment of space forces; the global spread of space systems, technology, and information; advances in military and information technologies; the growth of commercial space activities; enhanced intersector cooperation; and increased international cooperation.



3. Establishes a comprehensive policy framework for the conduct of space and space-related activities. This framework will help to articulate the need for capabilities, guide the allocation of resources, and direct programmatic activities.

Themes of this Update

National Interest. Space is a medium like the land, sea, and air within which military activities will be conducted to achieve U.S. national security objectives. The ability to access and utilize space is a vital national interest because many of the activities conducted in the medium are critical to U.S. national security and economic well-being. The globally interdependent information- and knowledge-based economy as well as information-based military operations make the information lines of communication to, in, through, and from space essential to the exercise of U.S. power.

Strategic Enabler. Space power is as important to the nation as land, sea, and air power. It is a strategic enabler of the National Military Strategy and Joint Vision 2010. Space forces support the execution of strategy and the realization of doctrine by enabling information superiority through domination of the collection, generation, and dissemination of information. The command, control, communications, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C3ISR) capabilities provided by space forces are necessary to maintain military readiness, enable implementation of the operational concepts of dominant maneuver, precision engagement, focused logistics, and full dimensional protection, and support the planning and conduct of military operations.

Information Superiority. Space forces provide significant capabilities to help integrate and deliver C3ISR support to U.S. military forces and, if directed, deny such support to an adversary. They help enable Combatant Commanders and operational forces to synthesize information and dictate the timing and tempo of operations. Achieving space and information superiority will help to counter an adversary's ability to command and control its forces. Access to and use of space will help enable the United States to establish and sustain the battlespace dominance and information superiority necessary to achieve success in military operations.

Deterrence. Space forces are integral to the deterrent posture of the U.S. armed forces. They help to ensure that preparations for and initiation of hostile actions will be discovered in a timely manner. Effective use of space forces will support the credible threat of force and its application in response to aggression. Space forces thus may introduce an element of uncertainty into the minds of potential adversaries about whether they can achieve their aims. Space forces are critical to the ability of the United States to ensure the costs of the threat or use of force against our interests are unacceptable to potential aggressors. The deterrence of aggression and the defense of the United States and its allies will be strengthened by ensuring that an adversary can not obtain an asymmetric advantage by countering our space capabilities or using space systems or services for hostile purposes.

Defense. Space forces contribute to the overall effectiveness of U.S. military forces in the event deterrence fails. The high technology force multipliers provided by space systems

enhance the combat power of military forces. The capability to control space, if directed, will contribute to achieving the full dimensional protection, battlespace dominance, and information superiority necessary for success in military operations. Similarly, the ability to perform space force application in the future could add a new dimension to U.S. military power. Space forces thus will enable the United States to compel an adversary to cease and desist from the pursuit of its aims through the use of necessary and proportional force.

Freedom of Space. Ensuring the freedom of space and protecting U.S. national security interests in the medium are priorities for space and space-related activities. U.S. space systems are national property afforded the right of passage through and operations in space without interference. In this regard, space is much like the high seas and international airspace. The political, military, and economic value of the nation's activities in space, however, may provide a motive for an adversary to counter U.S. space assets. Purposeful interference with U.S. space systems will be viewed as an infringement on our sovereign rights. The U.S. may take all appropriate self-defense measures, including, if directed by the National Command Authorities, the use of force, to respond to such an infringement on our rights.

Integration. Space capabilities and applications will be integrated into the strategy, doctrines, concepts of operations, education, training, exercises, and operations and contingency plans of U.S. military forces. Space force structure, missions, capabilities, and applications will be incorporated into Professional Military Education as well as Joint and Service training and exercises to ensure appropriately educated and trained personnel are provided to all levels of military staffs and forces. A space-literate military with the necessary understanding of space operations and the ability to exploit fully space applications is critical to achieve national security objectives.

Defense-Intelligence Cooperation. Management of national security space activities will focus on improving the coordination and, as appropriate, integration of defense and Intelligence Community space activities. An integrated national security space architecture will minimize unnecessary duplication, achieve efficiencies in acquisition and future operations, and thereby improve support to military operations.

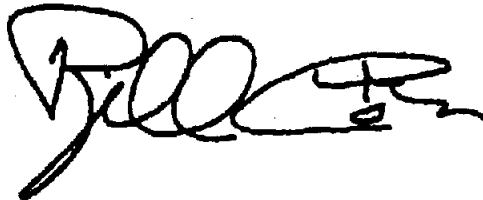
Intersector Cooperation. The establishment of partnerships between the defense space sector and the intelligence, civil, and commercial space sectors will enable the leveraging of scarce resources and reduce the cost of acquiring, operating, and supporting operational space force capabilities. Such partnerships will help to free scarce resources to focus defense investments on areas where there are limited incentives for the U.S. intelligence, civil, or commercial space sectors to pursue as well as sustain a robust U.S. space industrial base.

International Cooperation. Space forces provide a national advantage to the United States and are an important element within coalition strategy where America can contribute unique capabilities for international security. Although the U.S. will maintain the ability to act independently, coalition military operations are increasingly the norm. Deploying forces in cooperation with those of other countries increases the importance of interoperability. Space systems are capable of performing missions that place a premium on interoperability by providing access to common user systems, processes, and information. They enable military

forces to operate in a combined environment in a more efficient and effective manner. Space forces enhance forward presence by providing the means to support commitments while minimizing risk to U.S. personnel. Integrating space capabilities into combined operations through cooperative activities will strengthen the defense relationships and alliance structures that help to underpin U.S. national security.

Purposes of the Document

DoD Directive 3100.aa, "Space Policy," establishes policy and assigns responsibilities for space and space-related activities. It implements PDD-NSC-49/NSTC-8, "National Space Policy" and supersedes the February 4, 1987, Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Department of Defense Space Policy," and DoD Directive 3500.1, "Defense Space Council."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Bill Clinton", written in a cursive style.

Attachments:

a/s

cc: Director of Central Intelligence