



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

JUL - 7 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
CHIEFS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Tenets of Responsible Behavior in Space

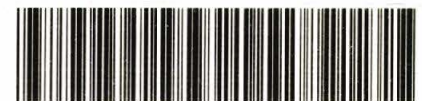
The Department of Defense has been a leader in space operations since the dawn of the space age. Throughout its history, the Department has pursued its space mission while ensuring and maintaining the safety, security, stability, and sustainability of the domain. As more actors come to space, the domain is changing, with an increased risk of collisions, as well as of miscalculations or misunderstandings. It is incumbent on the Department to continue space leadership through demonstrating and acknowledging responsible behavior in space.

Unless otherwise directed, DoD Components will conduct space operations consistent with the following Tenets of Responsible Behavior:

- Operate in, from, to, and through space with due regard to others and in a professional manner.
- Limit the generation of long-lived debris.
- Avoid the creation of harmful interference.
- Maintain safe separation and safe trajectory.
- Communicate and make notifications to enhance the safety and stability of the domain.

Commander, U.S. Space Command, will collaborate with DoD stakeholders to develop and coordinate guidance regarding these tenets and associated specific behaviors for DoD operations in the space area of responsibility, and recommend them to the Secretary of Defense for approval. The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy will lead DoD activities to advance these tenets, as appropriate, within the U.S. Government and in international relations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert P. O'Rourke", is located in the bottom right area of the page.



OSD071107-21/CMD007603-21

Tenet 1: Operate in, from, to, and through space with due regard to others and in a professional manner.

When conducting a rendezvous or operating in proximity to the space objects owned or operated by non-U.S. government entities, avoid actions that may harmfully interfere with the function of the other space object, or where the effect will cause or significantly increase the risk of a potential collision.

Tenet 2: Limit the generation of long-lived debris

Design, operate, and maintain space objects through end-of-life disposal in ways that limit the generation of long-lived debris.

Tenet 3: Avoid the creation of harmful interference

Take all practicable steps to prevent affecting the command and control of space objects in a manner that increases the risk of loss, damage, or destruction of a space object.

Take all practicable steps to prevent interference with capabilities that contribute to strategic stability, including but not limited to: national technical means of verification; strategic missile warning space systems; and nuclear command, control, and communications (NC3) space systems.

Tenet 4: Maintain safe separation and safe trajectory

Ensure space objects designed to conduct rendezvous or proximity operations have appropriate collision avoidance systems and follow trajectories that allow other space objects to maneuver in a safe manner.

Tenet 5: Communicate and make notifications to enhance the safety and stability of the domain

Provide notifications to affected parties if a potential collision is predicted, and, provide public notification as soon as practicable in the event of an uncontrolled or anomalous reentry.

Share space situational awareness data, including space objects and debris locations, as necessary to facilitate spaceflight safety, avoid collisions, and minimize launch and reentry risks.

As soon as practicable, provide notifications to affected parties of the loss of control of a space object, if that loss of control may result in a collision, cause interference with other space objects, or cause an uncontrolled reentry.