



United State Space Force Doctrine Fact Sheet

Doctrine Misconceptions



Like other services, the United States Space Force (USSF) must develop and publish its own service and domain-unique doctrine. Doctrine is defined as the fundamental principles that guide the employment of United States military forces in coordinated action toward a common objective and may include terms, tactics, techniques, and procedures. (CJCSI 5120.02) So what are some common misconceptions about doctrine?

- 1.) You have to get something approved in doctrine before you can do it operationally. This is false. Doctrine is not the path to validate a concept. Doctrine captures current or approved organizational structure and fundamental principles for the employment of joint or services forces. Concepts must be approved before they become doctrine. A Space Doctrine Note (SDN) may help socialize a concept for approval and eventual incorporation in a Space Doctrine Publication (SDP).
- 2.) Doctrine is directive and must be followed. This is false. Doctrine is neither dogma nor policy. Language in policy uses terms like must, will and shall. Doctrine is authoritative and commanders should follow it except when, in their judgment, exceptional circumstances dictate otherwise.
- 3.) Doctrine can only include processes, procedures, or tactics that are in use today. This is also false. Whilst the vast majority of what is included in doctrine publications is indeed current, operational best practices, there are instances where doctrine includes what we will do if certain events occur. For example the USSF will capture the art of the possible for orbital warfare in doctrine. Fortunately to date we have not had to conduct warfighting operations in the space domain. However, it is essential to have these processes, procedures and tactics worked out now so that Guardians are trained and prepared in the event they are needed.
- 4.) Service doctrine is written not only for its members, but also for the other services, the joint community, and our allies, partners and even our adversaries. True. Whilst the primary audience for USSF doctrine is Guardians, it is also intended to inform the Air Force Reserve Component and Air National Guard members assigned to USSF organizations. USSF doctrine also informs the joint community, other services, allies, partners and our adversaries about what Guardians bring to the fight and how we intend to support the joint force commander. It also provides a common language to improve communications among the aforementioned groups.

For more information, contact Delta 10 – your [USSF doctrine team](#)