



# United States Space Force Doctrine Fact Sheet

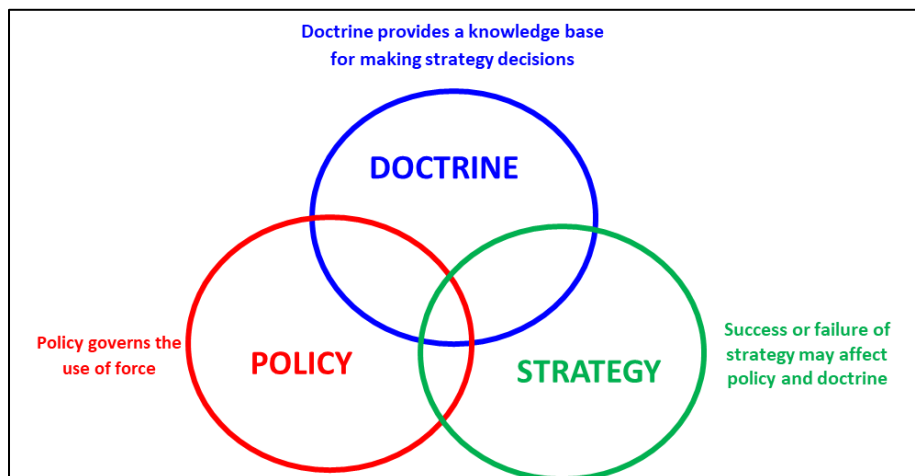
## What is Doctrine?



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)

Doctrine includes how you organize and employ forces. It is the agreed upon, operationally relevant body of best practices and principles, and is supported by history, debate, analysis, exercises and wargames. It is official advice (i.e., authoritative), but not directive (requires judgement in application), and is to be followed except when, in the judgement of the commander, exceptional circumstances dictate otherwise. Doctrine also establishes the language of the profession.

While this seems straightforward, doctrine is often confused with strategy, policy or concepts. Military operations are guided by the interplay of Policy, Strategy, and Doctrine, as the the figure to the right reflects. While interrelated, each its own purpose and audience.



Doctrine is also also confused with concepts. Concepts are ideas for a significant change based on proposed new approaches to the conduct of operations or technology. They are proposals and the basis for experiments on conducting future operations, whereas doctrine addresses how we actually operate today. In short, concepts are future looking, doctrine is current operations and approved best practices – “the fight tonight”. As concepts are exercised, wargamed and agreed upon they become valid inputs to doctrine.

CONCEPTS	DOCTRINE
Unproven ideas that should be rigorously tested; not authoritative	Authoritative, but not directive
Used to develop capabilities to meet strategic goals	Informed starting point for decision-making and strategy development
Express how something might be done	Based on extant capabilities for force employment
Developed to respond to a range of future challenges	Describe operations conducted with current capabilities
Propose a clear alternative to existing doctrine	Subject to policy, treat, and legal constraints

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