



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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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.

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