



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

FEB - 9 2023

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: Tenet Derived Responsible Behaviors in Space

I am in receipt of Commander, U.S. Space Command (CDRUSSPACECOM)'s response dated May 16, 2022 to my July 7, 2021 memorandum regarding the Tenets of Responsible Behavior in Space. My memorandum established five tenets of responsible behavior, and directed CDRUSSPACECOM to collaborate with Department of Defense (DoD) stakeholders to develop and coordinate guidance regarding these tenets and associated tenet derived specific behaviors for DoD operations in the space area of responsibility.

The CDRUSSPACECOM recommended responsible behaviors (TAB A) are an important addition to non-legally binding guidelines and best practices that the U.S. Government voluntarily follows, including the United States Government Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard Practices, the United Nations Long-Term Sustainability Guidelines, and the United States' commitment not to conduct destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile testing. I direct the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy to leverage the CDRUSSPACECOM recommended responsible behaviors for engagements with interagency and international counterparts, as appropriate.

All DoD Components will, unless otherwise directed, conduct space operations consistent with the CDRUSSPACECOM recommended responsible behaviors. The ongoing demonstration and acknowledgment of responsible behaviors in space will support the Department's continued space leadership. The DoD may develop additional guidance for responsible behaviors in space as the Department works with interagency partners to advance norms of behavior internationally.

Attachment:  
As stated



OSD070983-22/CMD013449-22

**ATTACHMENT**

# TAB A

Tenets of Responsible  
Behavior in Space and  
associated specific behaviors

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

Behavior 1.1 When conducting a rendezvous or operating in proximity to the space objects owned or operated by non-U.S. Government entities, avoid actions (1) that may harmfully interfere with the function of the other space object, or (2) where the effect will cause or significantly increase the risk of a potential collision.

## Tenet #2: Limit the generation of long-lived debris

Behavior 2.1 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

Behavior 3.1 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.

Behavior 3.2 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

Behavior 4.1 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

Behavior 5.1 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.

Behavior 5.2 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.

Behavior 5.3 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.