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HOMELAND DEFENSE &
GLOBAL SECURITY

May 25, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: (U) Unclassified Department of Defense International Space Cooperation
Strategy

(U) The attached unclassified version of the DoD International Space Cooperation Strategy (ISCS) is provided to facilitate discussions with current and potential international space partners to expand interoperability, sustainability, mission assurance, and assured access to critical capabilities in crisis and contingency operations. In keeping with the classified version approved by the Deputy Secretary of Defense on January 18, 2017, the unclassified version provides DoD's approach for invigorating cooperation and collaboration with trusted allies and partners across the spectrum of DoD's space-related activities and mission areas. Release of the unclassified DoD ISCS is authorized.

(U) Any questions should be addressed to my POC, DASD Space Policy, 703-692-1236.

VIA Peter F. Verga

Peter F. Verga
Performing the Duties of the Assistant
Secretary of Defense for Homeland
Defense and Global Security

Attachment:
As stated



DoD INTERNATIONAL SPACE COOPERATION STRATEGY



JANUARY 2017

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Department of Defense International Space Cooperation Strategy

January 2017

INTRODUCTION:

The sustainability, stability, and free access to and use of space are, and will remain, vital to the Department of Defense (DoD) in protecting U.S. national security interests. Over the past decade, it has become clear that potential adversaries are developing counterspace capabilities to deny the United States such access to and use of space. In this increasingly contested domain, the United States must be prepared for conflict that will either begin in or extend to space as adversaries seek to gain asymmetric advantages. These challenges were recognized in the 2010 National Space Policy (Presidential Policy Directive/PPD-4) and the 2011 National Security Space Strategy. Both documents pointed toward international cooperation as a central element of the larger U.S. space strategy.

This DoD International Space Cooperation Strategy (ISCS) establishes DoD's approach for invigorating cooperation and collaboration with trusted allies and partners across the spectrum of DoD's space-related activities and mission areas. The key purposes for this expanded international space cooperation and collaboration are expanded interoperability, sustainability, mission assurance, and assured access to critical capabilities in crisis and contingency operations. The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Missile Defense Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the Defense Technology Security Administration -- hereafter referred to collectively in this DoD ISCS as the "DoD Components" -- will incorporate the strategic goals of this ISCS as appropriate into the execution of their unique implementation plans, addressing the specific ways and means required to achieve the strategic goals.

PURPOSE:

This DoD ISCS emphasizes the importance of collaborating with trusted allies and partners to address shared security challenges by leveraging allies' and partners' capabilities to enhance space mission assurance and by improving space and multi-domain interoperability of U.S. forces with allies and partners, including space-related terrestrial activities. Implementation of the ISCS will serve three main purposes:

1. Enable the United States and its allies and partners to deter attacks on sovereign and shared space capabilities by demonstrating a combined approach to space security;

2. Assist allies and partners in developing, acquiring, and employing their own space capabilities that complement and augment U.S. capabilities and contribute to coalition space operations, thus ensuring national security-related space missions in partnership with U.S. forces; and
3. Enable the United States and its allies and partners to enhance interoperability and develop a common policy, strategy, and operational framework for the use of space in dissuading and deterring adversaries, to de-escalate crises, and to ensure coalition success should deterrence fail.

STRATEGIC GOALS:

This ISCS guides DoD's international space-related security cooperation to improve overall U.S. and allied and coalition warfighting capabilities consistent with U.S. national security interests. Through cooperative activities that diversify operational options, increase architectural resiliency, and improve collective capabilities to operate in space as a coalition, implementation of the ISCS will reduce the benefits a potential adversary might obtain by attacking U.S. and allied space capabilities. These outcomes support and align with the 2015 U.S. National Security Strategy objectives of building capacity to prevent conflict and enhancing space security by "expanding our international space cooperation activities."¹

DoD's national security space-related international engagements with allies and partners must be guided by an assessment of costs, risks, and potential benefits to the U.S. warfighter and advance at least one of the following strategic goals.

- 1. Advancement of the development, coordination, and incorporation of legal, policy, diplomatic, strategic, doctrinal, and operational principles related to coalition space operations into national or defense level strategies, campaign and contingency plans, and exercises.**
- 2. Expanded collaboration on space-related science and technology research, experimentation, prototyping, testing, and evaluation.**
- 3. Increased and deeper bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the analysis, development, deployment, and fielding of assured space mission related capabilities.**
- 4. Facilitate increased allied and partner access to and sharing of national security-related space technologies, information, and equipment required to support cooperative activities when advantageous to U.S. national security interests.**

¹ U.S. National Security Strategy, February 2015

5. Expanded collaborative operational training, war gaming, experimentation, and tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) development required to defend freedom of action in space.

6. Increased opportunity for education, training, and personnel interchange -- including liaison, exchange, and combined manning -- in space-related operational, developmental, and research positions.

GUIDANCE:

DoD's strategic approach to addressing increased space security threats must include a robust and forward-leaning set of coalition and international partner activities. The Department must leverage allies' and partners' national security-related space capabilities, especially in the face of DoD's constrained resources. DoD must secure the advantages of space through the vigorous pursuit of cooperative space research, development, acquisition, exercises, training, and operations. Space partnering must be elevated to a central element of joint planning and operations. Cooperation cannot be left as an afterthought in planning U.S. national security space activities, but must instead be integrated from the beginning into every aspect of space planning. Each scenario must be assessed on its own merits and not assumed to be "U.S. only;" allied and partner capabilities must be considered and integrated where and when feasible and beneficial.

International space partnering, to the maximum extent practicable, will enhance mutual and collective defense capabilities. It will also strengthen alliance structures, improve interoperability between U.S. and partner forces, strengthen resilience of space capabilities, and enable U.S. forces to operate in a partnership or coalition environment in a more efficient and effective manner. Such cooperation shall be pursued in a manner that protects both U.S. national and economic security, is in collaboration with the Intelligence Community (IC), and is consistent with U.S. nonproliferation, export control, and foreign policies.

National security space architectures will be structured to incorporate allied and partner space capabilities as early as possible in DoD planning. This ensures that space-related cooperation drives the development of architectures to achieve efficiencies in acquisition and future space operations, as well as improve space capabilities and enhance military operations.

DIRECTION:

Achieving the strategic goals of this strategy will require Department-wide efforts toward specific, measurable ends. DoD Components, as appropriate, will craft specific plans outlining both short-term and long-term actions to attain the ISCS goals. In addition to other opportunities they may identify, the following specific actions are directed.

1. Combatant Commands:
 - a. In coordination with U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM), integrate space security cooperation and capabilities, including those of allies and partners, into all theater campaign plans.
 - b. Advocate for necessary resources to integrate and develop plans and exercise allies' and partner's space capabilities.
 - c. In close coordination with USSTRATCOM, ensure Combatant Commands' regional exercise programs fully integrate appropriate allies' and partners' space operations.
 - d. In close coordination with USSTRATCOM, develop strategies and plans that ensure appropriate capabilities are protected to the maximum extent practicable and available whenever necessary to meet the warfighter's requirements.

2. USSTRATCOM (in addition to the responsibilities in paragraph 1.a. - 1.d. above, and in coordination with the Combatant Commands):
 - a. Lead the establishment and exercise of effective space command, and control (C2) among appropriate allies and partners to enhance space operations resiliency.
 - b. Integrate allies and partners into plans as appropriate.

3. Military Departments:
 - a. Work with allies and partners to develop basic operational capabilities through advanced and integrated training programs to grow a sophisticated coalition space cadre.
 - b. Work with allies and partners to develop, acquire, integrate, leverage, or host space assets and payloads, including collaborating on technological advances, that increase resilience and mission assurance across the space domain.
 - c. Develop Military Service-specific plans and exercises that incorporate allies' and partners' space capabilities.
 - d. Support allies and partners in building space capabilities, fostering interoperability, protecting advanced technologies and critical information, assessing the risks of transferring advanced technologies to allies and partners, as well as identifying the means to mitigate or eliminate the risks.
 - e. Revise current and new program security classification guides to the extent practicable to achieve the DoD ISCS goals.

4. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency:
 - a. As functional manager for Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT), develop common approaches to integrate allied and international partners' GEOINT that enable coalition space operations.

5. Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA):
 - a. Facilitate increased collaboration with industry, allies, and partners in space-related national security activities.
 - b. Expand the sale of space-related technology, through Foreign Military Sales, to build allied and partner space and warfighting capabilities.

6. Defense Technology Security Administration (DTSA):
 - a. In cooperation with the Departments of State and Commerce, review export controls to facilitate sharing national security-related space technologies and equipment with allies and partners.
 - b. Provide technology security, export control, and disclosure policy guidance to the Military Departments, Combatant Commands, allies, and partners in building space capabilities, fostering interoperability, and protecting advanced technologies and critical information, in accordance with applicable DoD guidance.
 - c. Coordinate with DoD stakeholders in assessing the risks of transferring advanced technologies as well as identifying the means to mitigate or manage the risks.

7. DoD Components: Optimize use of existing technology transfer and disclosure processes to facilitate cooperation with allies and partners.

Limited DoD resources necessitate prioritizing international space cooperation activities to maximize mutually beneficial national security return on investments while recognizing the potential political-military benefits and risks.

DoD must be flexible and vigilant to capitalize on appropriate opportunities whenever they emerge and to integrate them over time into normal processes as practicable. Such flexibility is particularly important because cooperative opportunities may be identified at any time and generally do not coincide with DoD's internal processes, e.g., generating requirements or for planning, programming, and budgeting.

DoD Components, as they consider and act on new cooperative activities, must protect classified information and share with allies or partners only that classified information which will result in clear benefit to the United States. Integrated systems, units, and forces shall be able to share appropriate data and services, thereby ensuring interoperability to the maximum extent practicable and beneficial to the warfighter. Space cooperation, material standardization, and interoperability with NATO will follow prescribed procedures and processes.

IMPLEMENTATION PLANS:

As part of DoD Components' established security cooperation and international engagement processes, appropriate DoD Components will develop international engagement programs and implementation plans that outline the ways and means required to meet the ISCS strategic goals. The Component implementation plans will be consistent with established U.S. and DoD policy, procedures and international commitments, and will address the benefits, costs, and risks in the context of their contribution(s) to mission assurance and resiliency of U.S. and allied warfighting capabilities. Protection of sources and methods, potential effects on the U.S. and allied space industrial base, and political-military benefits are also key factors for consideration. Resources and level of effort should be prioritized based on the assessed and potential benefits, costs, and risks associated with the cooperative activities. Further, the plans should identify how the cooperative activities could best achieve the effective incorporation of allies' and partners' space-related assets, capabilities, information, and data to improve operational effectiveness in a day-to-day, crisis, or conflict environment. DoD will pursue opportunities to train and exercise, to the maximum extent practicable, through bilateral, multilateral, or coalition operations with key allies and partners to ensure DoD trains as it plans to fight in space.

CONCLUSION:

U.S. policy recognizes the growing threats to U.S. national security space capabilities and the need for greater international engagement and cooperation. In light of increasing threats, the United States must be prepared for the possibility that conflict will either begin in or extend into space as states seek to gain a decisive military advantage. Given the growing benefits that adversaries perceive they can gain through counterspace actions, the United States must increase and mature cooperative engagements with select, trusted allies and partners to enhance mission assurance, interoperability, resiliency, deterrence, and warfighting capabilities. To achieve these strategic goals, DoD will engage with select, trusted allies and partners to: develop and exercise campaign and contingency plans; collaborate in research, development, test, and evaluation activities; develop and field assured space mission-related capabilities; ensure access to and sharing of space technologies, information, and equipment; work collaboratively to develop activities needed for defense of freedom of action in space; and increase personnel interchanges among coalition partners.

DoD must be flexible enough to take advantage of and respond appropriately to changes in the space environment, adjust priority of international engagements, and take advantage of unique cooperative opportunities and new technologies in order to mitigate increasing threats.

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