



NATIONAL
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Honorable Lloyd Austin
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

April 2, 2022

Honorable Avril Haines
Director of National Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20511

Dear Secretary Austin and Director Haines:

The National Security Space Association (NSSA) commends the Biden administration's decision to conduct a "Space Strategic Review". The prestige, influence, prosperity, security, and defense of the United States depend upon the conduct of activities in outer space. Unimpeded access to and use of the space domain is a vital national interest because of its overriding importance to America's vitality, integrity, and survival.

China and Russia are aggressively working to undermine U.S. strategic advantages in space. They are developing, testing, and fielding an array of space and counterspace weapons systems that threaten freedom of access to, passage through, and operations in space. China's recent test of a hypersonic fractional orbital bombardment weapon and Russia's recent anti-satellite weapons test that generated significant long-lived debris on-orbit are just the latest provocative demonstrations of their leaders' risk-taking propensity and strategic intentions.

NSSA has prepared a list of key topics and questions that should be addressed as part of the on-going Review (see attachment). In addition, we strongly recommend that the Biden administration solicit a wide range of inputs both from within and outside the Federal government during the conduct of the Review.

Thank you for your service to our great nation. We would strongly welcome an opportunity to discuss our perspective on ways to enhance the U.S. national security space posture with you and other key administration officials in the coming weeks.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Dodd".

Joe Dodd
Chairman of the Board
National Security Space Association

Attachment:
Recommended Space Strategic Review Topics



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cc:

Honorable Antony Blinken, Secretary of State

Admiral Christopher Grady, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Honorable Frank Kendall III, Secretary of the Air Force

General John Raymond, Chief of Space Operations, U.S. Space Force

General James Dickinson, Commander, U.S. Space Command

Honorable Christopher Scolese, Director, National Reconnaissance Office

Mr. Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Mr. Chirag Parikh, Executive Secretary, National Space Council



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Recommended Space Strategic Review Topics

Without bold and decisive action, the United States' ability to effectively leverage space power to protect and advance our national interests will continue to erode. Consequently, we recommend that the Biden administration address the following issues and questions as part of a comprehensive examination of U.S. national security space posture, programs, and activities:

1. Preparedness – Is the United States prepared to deter or defeat the threat or use of armed force in outer space?
2. Direction – What actions are required to sustain U.S. strategic advantages in space and counter current and emerging threats to our national interests in the domain?
3. Deterrence – How can the U.S. shape the domain and deter conflict from beginning in or extending to space?
4. Protection – Are the space systems and supporting infrastructure the U.S. employs for national security adequately protected to evade or withstand attack?
5. Defense – What U.S. policies and programs are needed for national or collective self-defense in space?
6. Culture – Have the U.S. Space Force and U.S. Space Command created the warfighting culture and ethos required to deter, fight, and prevail in the event of space conflict?
7. Forces – Does the U.S. have the force structure, force posture, and operating practices necessary to deter, fight, and prevail in a space conflict involving one or more great power adversaries?
8. Resources – Are the defense and intelligence space programs and organizations properly resourced? Are there capability gaps or shortfalls in any space mission areas? What programs should be initiated, accelerated, stretched out, or terminated?
9. Acquisition – How should the defense acquisition system be modified to enable the delivery of space capabilities with agility and discipline at the speed of relevance?
10. Use of Force – What are U.S. policy guidelines and rules of engagement for the use of force in space?
11. Command and Control – Are proper command and control arrangements in place for the range of plausible contingencies involving U.S. defense, intelligence, civil, or commercial space assets?
12. War Plans – Do U.S. war plans properly address the prospect of conflict involving space?



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13. Operational Agility – Are the planning and execution decision-making processes for joint and combined military operations sufficiently agile for the exigencies of space warfare?
14. Training and Exercises – Do U.S. space forces and supporting intelligence capabilities train and exercise like they would fight in the event of hostilities in space?
15. Security – Do security policies and classification practices enable deterrence, efficient resource and acquisition management, and effective military training and operations planning, while protecting intelligence sources and methods, deployed forces, and operations security?
16. Intelligence – Does the U.S. have the strategic, foundational, scientific and technical, and operational intelligence on foreign space intentions and capabilities required to inform national security space policy, resource allocation, acquisition, and operational decision-making?
17. Title 10/50 Integration – How can U.S. defense and intelligence space programs and activities be better coordinated and integrated to increase their efficiency and effectiveness?
18. Multi-Domain Integration – Are U.S. national security space capabilities effectively integrated into the plans and operations of terrestrial and cyber forces?
19. Diplomacy – What is the diplomatic strategy for establishing new or enhancing existing relationships with allies, partners, and friends for collective or mutual defense in space?
20. Inter-Sector Cooperation – How can DoD and the Intelligence Community enhance collaboration with the civil and commercial space sectors to enhance U.S. national security?
21. International Cooperation – How can the U.S. improve collaboration with allies and partners to strengthen deterrence and collective defense against the threat or use of force in space?

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