



FACT SHEET: Space in the National Military Strategy



The National Military Strategy of the United States of America (NMS) echoes the new direction for space outlined in the National Security Space Strategy (NSSS). The NMS describes how the military will advance the national interests as articulated in the President's National Security Strategy and the defense objectives in the Department of Defense's Quadrennial Defense Review. As part of describing how the Joint Force will redefine America's military leadership to adapt to a challenging new area, the NMS describes the Joint Force's approach to assure access to space.

The NMS approach to space reflects how the NSSS will maintain the advantages we derive from space while addressing the challenges of a domain that is increasingly congested, contested, and competitive. In describing the Department's objectives for national security space, the NSSS builds on the President's National Security Strategy and National Space Policy, the Department's Quadrennial Defense Review, and the Intelligence Community's National Intelligence Strategy.

Strategic Environment

Like the NSSS, the NMS describes the space environment as becoming more congested, contested, and competitive. Assured access to and freedom of maneuver within the global commons – shared areas of sea, air, and space – are being increasingly challenged by both state and non-state actors. Space – both an enabling and war-fighting domain – is simultaneously more critical for our operations, yet more vulnerable to malicious actors.

National Military Objectives

The NMS describes National Military Objectives that span military activities in all domains. In several instances, the NMS describes how those objectives relate to national security space.

The NMS describes how we will enhance deterrence in space by possessing the capability to fight through a degraded environment and improving our ability to attribute and defeat attacks on our systems or supporting infrastructure. We will support whole-of-nation approaches to establishing and promoting norms, enhancing space situational awareness, and fostering greater transparency and information sharing. We will work with allies and partners to enhance space capabilities enabling coalitions and improving space architecture resiliency. We will also train for power projection operations in space-degraded environments that minimize the incentives to attack space capabilities, and will maintain a range of options to deter or punish such activities.

To do so, the NMS outlines how the Joint Force must ensure access, freedom of maneuver, and the ability to project power globally through all domains. Joint Forces will pursue resilient architectures, space situational awareness, provide options for self-defense and reconstitution, maintain symmetric and asymmetric capabilities to deter adversaries, and train for operations in space-degraded environments.

Finally, the NMS includes space as an element of strengthening international and regional security in many parts of the world, including North America, Europe, Russia, and China.