



Homeland  
Security

April 14, 2022

Policy Statement 063-01, Revision 01

MEMORANDUM FOR COMPONENT LEADERS

FROM: Alejandro N. Mayorkas  
Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alejandro N. Mayorkas", written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **DHS Space Policy**

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**Purpose:** This memorandum updates the policy of the Department of Homeland Security with respect to space and our homeland security mission. This DHS Space Policy guides component efforts internally and across the homeland security enterprise.

**Background:** Recent space activity, including the historic May 30, 2020 joint mission with the private sector to launch the first American astronauts on American rockets from American soil since 2011, represents a technological and cultural shift in American space activity. No longer the exclusive domain of the government, the new American space economy is driving technological advancement, scientific discovery, and economic opportunity across our homeland. Within the homeland security enterprise, space-based systems play a critical role in securing the homeland as DHS components and partners rely heavily on space systems to provide information and communications necessary for mission success. Innovations driven by the commercial space sector also offer exciting opportunities for the Department and the homeland.

While America continues to grow its commercial space opportunities, our adversaries will also seek to disrupt the advantages the space economy will bring. A strong and mutually beneficial relationship between the Department and commercial space service providers, paired with a robust and diverse science, technology, engineering, and mathematics workforce, are keys to continued mission success. The Department must therefore support America's expanding space ecosystem by recognizing its importance to the security of the homeland and through a DHS Space Policy that defines and updates DHS's role in this important domain.

This updated DHS Space Policy will support America's space goals by utilizing the authorities and capabilities of the Department to protect the homeland and our space innovators from emerging risks. DHS must be increasingly prepared for space-related contingencies across the homeland security enterprise. Space-based and terrestrial assets that support space capabilities, for example, contribute to the delivery of key National Essential Functions (NEF) and National Critical Functions (NCF), including infrastructure that spans multiple critical infrastructure sectors.

The commercial space industry increasingly relies on the maritime domain for cost-effective launch and recovery of commercial rockets to support its business model in ways that impact traditional maritime stakeholders and requires DHS to develop new maritime safety and security priorities. Space-based assets are used to monitor the effects of climate change and to support a host of other border security, intelligence, law enforcement, and emergency management activities across DHS components.

Recognizing the new era of American space activities and the critical role space systems play in the homeland security enterprise, this DHS Space Policy reaffirms the Department's role in associated interagency efforts. DHS will assume a leading role in three primary areas: promotion of cybersecurity of space systems, homeland security mission assurance planning and execution, and contingency planning to respond to and recover from potential impacts to the homeland resulting from a denied or degraded space environment. In accordance with this policy, DHS will safeguard the American people, our values, and our homeland in the modern space era.

**Policy:**

It is the policy of the Department to:

- A) Support the security, integrity, and resilience of government and private sector space-based systems and their associated supply chains during their design, development, acquisition, deployment, and operation. Space systems enable key functions such as global communications; positioning, navigation, and timing; scientific observation; exploration; climate monitoring; and multiple vital national security applications. Therefore, it is essential to assess and communicate risks to space systems to enable protection from cyber or other threats, including manipulation and unauthorized access to prevent disruptions to delivery of critical services and data. DHS will advocate for the incorporation of cybersecurity principles for all phases of space systems design, development, acquisition, deployment, and operation across the industry. DHS will maintain close relationships with its diverse government and industry partners to focus on cybersecurity measures for space systems and will develop best practices, education materials, and standards consistent with Space Policy Directive-5 (SPD-5), *Cybersecurity Principles for Space Systems*.
- B) Build resilience into the use of critical space assets to minimize the impact of any natural or human-made disruptions on the homeland and to DHS mission execution. Therefore, DHS will prioritize engagement with federal interagency partners and the private sector to increase assurance and fortify the resilience of space-enabled components of NEFs and NCFs against natural or purposeful interference and harmful manipulation, through encouraging the fielding, exercising, and employment of secure and resilient materiel, and non-materiel, space, and non-space capabilities. In addition, DHS will hold periodic operationally focused exercises to test the continuity of NCFs and Primary Mission Essential Functions and associated systems in a degraded or denied space environment as a result of natural or human-made disruptions. Components will develop procedures and continuity plans for the loss of critical space systems and conduct internal exercises focusing on such an event. Components will develop continuity plans that consider alternatives to their space-based systems to increase the Department's resilience to the loss of space systems.

- C) Develop contingency plans for a degraded space environment, regardless of cause. In addition to impacts of space weather and other natural causes, DHS must prepare for the potential that heightened tensions or adversarial activities in space may lead to impacts upon domestic space assets. Accordingly, DHS will develop contingency plans consistent with its mission to plan for potential impacts to the homeland and manage associated national response and recovery efforts consistent with DHS authorities. Components will incorporate into contingency plans any potential vulnerabilities, likely targets, and mitigation measures that may be unique to adversarial military actions in the space domain. DHS will participate in and otherwise support interagency and international discussions around norms and responsible state behaviors for space and in response to activities in space.

This memorandum supersedes the previous DHS Space Policy signed on February 3, 2011.