



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND

8 Mar 16

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

FROM: AFSPC/CC

150 Vandenberg Street, Suite 1105

Peterson AFB CO 80914-4020

SUBJECT: Commander's Intent on Range Support to Commercial Space Launch

1. The U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act provides the "Sense of Congress... [that] eliminating duplicative requirements and approvals for commercial launch and reentry operations will promote and encourage the development of the commercial space sector." Consistent with the President's *National Space Transportation Policy*, we believe in this principle and must work with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to eliminate government duplication of requirements and approvals. The current relationships between federal agencies and the commercial launch providers are extremely complex. National security and commercial activity are inextricably intertwined in the U.S. industrial base. Our ranges serve at varying times as landlord, customer, requirements holder, approval authority, regulator, service provider and/or interested neighbor. Introducing a more stable, predictable and efficient interaction with commercial space activities facilitates a robust and competitive space transportation industry, strengthening our assured access to space.

2. **Mission:** The Air Force Space Command mission, "Provide Resilient and Affordable Space and Cyberspace Capabilities for the Joint Force and the Nation," is underpinned by assured space access enabled by our ranges. Delivering range services to enhance commercial launch activity increases our resiliency and will ensure the critical path to space remains open.

3. **Operational Intent:** To effectively accomplish this mission, ranges must partner with commercial and government agencies to enable commercial space launch operators in their endeavors. We must:

a. Expand existing and explore additional partnerships with commercial and government agencies to strengthen range capability to meet demand.

b. Actively seek opportunities to adapt range operations, processes and policy to flexibly accommodate all users.

c. Protect critical range resources by planning for and mitigating unacceptable risks of hazardous activity.

d. Recognize FAA public safety authorities for licensing commercial launch and continue to eliminate all duplicative requirements and approvals.

4. **Priorities:** Recognizing the value of fostering commercial space launch, we must take actions to prepare for the future. Air Force Space Command must establish a set of priorities to foster a robust commercial launch industry. We will:

a. Identify and eliminate duplicative and outmoded U.S. Government requirements and approvals.

b. Adopt an enterprise-wide approach to promote efficiencies and reduce cost.

c. Minimize government unique requirements and facilitate commercial providers' innovative solutions to meet their operational demands. Leverage commercial services to maximum extent possible to meet government needs.

d. Facilitate national security, civil and commercial activity through consistent and predictable access to range services; provide prompt feedback and options when capacity is not available to facilitate user needs.

e. Protect range resources by assessing risks of launch and neighboring hazardous activity to people, facilities and assets, and provide mitigation if risks exceed established criteria.

f. Structure flexible range processes, organization and services to accommodate commercial demand on AFSPC ranges, to include responsive real property processes.

g. Adopt enterprise-wide charging policies that enable range access, provide maximum transparency, drive down cost and equitably share costs across all range users.

5. Our intent is to be a flexible and predictable range provider for commercial launch operators. Commanders will develop near-term processes to support our commercial intent and the headquarters staff will examine longer-term organize, train and equip strategies to encourage commercial launch operations on our ranges. The entrepreneurial approach to space launch creates opportunity to strengthen the nation's space access capability. It is in our interest and the interest of national security to encourage commercial launch strategies on the ranges.

JOHN E. HYTEN
General, USAF
Commander

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