



## Promote national policies and programs that enable the United States to protect U.S. national security and commercial space assets

**The Aerospace Industries Association of America represents 300 aerospace manufacturing companies and a U.S. workforce of more than 635,000.**

**Our nation's space industry generates over \$41 billion dollars a year.**

**U.S. aerospace and aviation industries represent approximately 10 percent of the GDP.**

### BACKGROUND

**It is imperative that the United States rapidly develop and deploy space protection and space situational awareness (SSA) systems to protect vital national security and commercial space assets.**

National reliance upon space assets has increased exponentially, and space support has become a critical enabler for all national security efforts – from diplomacy to military operations, strategic to tactical. In addition, U.S. combat forces depend on commercial space to provide as much as 80% of its space support needs in some areas (e.g., Satellite Communications).

As U.S. security and the economy become more dependent upon space, vulnerability increases. The January 2007 Chinese anti-satellite (ASAT) test demonstrated that potential competitors are developing the ability to attack space assets and are willing to execute attacks without consideration for the safety of humans and assets on orbit. Others may follow China's lead.

Multiple studies and technology demonstrations have been conducted during the past 40 years; the National Security Space Office (NSSO), for example, has attempted to establish a roadmap for space protection/SSA. Several studies recommended establishing opportunities for government/industry cooperation on space protection and SSA. These efforts have not enjoyed a high priority and, consequently, progress has been minimal.

### ISSUES

- The U.S. must develop and maintain the ability to monitor space activities, identify and classify potential threats to space assets, and to protect

U.S. space assets from threats ranging from debris collision to severe radiation environments to anti-satellite weapons.

- SSA/space protection standards have not been established or enforced. Consequently, the fielding of space systems that incorporate features to reduce their vulnerability has been minimal and inconsistent.
- Coordination with Defense, Intelligence and other agencies, in cooperation with industry, is needed to develop and execute a comprehensive space protection strategy as called for by Congress.
- A comprehensive space protection and SSA program must include industry/commercial providers and should address explicit processes to provide for current information protection, security clearance, policy, and government-industry interface issues.

### RECOMMENDATION

**National security and economic needs dictate that space protection and space situational awareness programs become a funded national priority.**

**Promptly establish a comprehensive space protection strategy to ensure unimpeded and continued space operations.**

**Defense and Intelligence agencies should establish a National Space Protection Lead responsible to the Secretary for national space protection/SSA.**

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