



# Enhance Space Organization and Leadership at the National Level

## AIA RECOMMENDATIONS

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- **Establish and execute a National Space Strategy.** Include military and intelligence and other federal space efforts as well as critical commercial space systems and infrastructure. Industry can and should provide input in the development and coordination of such a strategy.
- **Establish a national space management and coordination body reporting to the president with the authority to coordinate cross departmental and agency space efforts.** Such an organization should include input and participation from industry.

## BACKGROUND

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Today's national security space assets have become critical components of both the U.S. military and intelligence community. These assets showcase the U.S. military's technical superiority, provide services that save lives on the battlefield, and support humanitarian assistance missions. Other federal and commercial space efforts have had a revolutionary impact upon the U.S. economy and our global competitiveness. However, as our position as the world space leader is increasingly challenged, we have no strong centralized space leader.

The lack of strong, centralized space leadership poses to degrade U.S. space preeminence at a time when space is relied upon more than ever. Space systems deliver intelligence on America's most dangerous enemies and are vital to missile warning, treaty verification, non-proliferation, and other security missions. They provide needed global communications, weather monitoring, and global positioning to U.S. forces deployed around the world in support of all missions.

As other nations make rapid advancements in acquiring or exploiting space capabilities, America's leadership in space is no longer guaranteed and the security of its space assets is no longer assured. Given the growing U.S. dependence on these systems and their contribution to the global economy, the nation cannot afford to lose its preeminence in space and should take steps to restore the vitality of its space programs.

## KEY POINTS

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- **No National Space Strategy.** President Bush authorized a new National Space Policy on August 31, 2006, however a National Space Strategy to integrate national security space – and broader space efforts – across the government and national security community has not yet been established. Establishment of a National Space Strategy has been recommended by several independent studies.
- **Enhance Space Leadership.** The National Space Council that existed under previous presidential administrations was designed to coordinate space across competing agencies. Such an organization no longer exists. With the cost of programs increasing and claims that “no one is in charge” of national space, it is essential to establish a national space management and coordination body and fulfill the critical need for strong, centralized space leadership.
- **Engage Industry.** The U.S. aerospace industry contributes to thousands of high-paying American jobs, key capabilities that support national security, and vital economic activity. As such, decision makers should involve industry in organizational change efforts to ensure changes benefit U.S. security, our economy and industrial base.