

U.S. SPACE COMMAND PREPARES TWO MAJOR SPACE DOCUMENTS

Armed Forces Newswire Service

The U.S. Space Command, the agency that oversees all U.S. military space operations, by year's end is expected to unveil at least two major documents that are expected to have a major impact on the U.S. space operations in the decades ahead, according to the head of the command.

The documents will focus on space-power theory that could lead to a joint operating doctrine for all space forces and on a long-range plan that will stress the importance of preparing for **a future in space that might include attacks on satellites and even space conflicts.**

"These are important times [for space forces], and these will be crucial documents," Gen. Howell Estes said in a recent interview. As the military's top space official, Estes oversees NORAD [North American Air Defense Command], the U.S. Space Command, and the Air Force Space Command.

He provided these details:

- * **Space Power Theory:** This document would pave the way for a joint doctrine that would address warfighting and peacetime strategies for all space forces, and,
- * **Long-Range Plan:** This document will look at all the short-and long-term aspects of space, including the expanding importance of the U.S. commercial space industry and future space scenarios that include potential attacks on satellites and the possibility of a space war.

In addition to the two documents, Estes is also looking at a plan that would broaden the authority of future space command chiefs, giving them the scope and power of regional commanders in chief. This would mean that future space operations would be integrated into all aspects of air, land and sea operations-not just space.

Since becoming the military's top space official in 1996, Estes repeatedly has said that his main goal is to make space an integral part of military operations and not a "stovepipe that is ignored by large segments of the military."

"Space is not a stovepipe and needs to be an integrated part of U.S. military operations so that we [space forces] can do what we need to do in terms of supporting the things that our national leaders ask us to do," Estes said.

Defense Daily reports that both documents should be completed by the end of 1998.



[Emphasis added. Remember Linda Moulton Howe's concern about the potential for a war in space? Seems there was some justification for her concern. Ed.]



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