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# NATIONAL SPACE POLICY

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At the 2010 Space Cadre Symposium, Peter Marquez agreed to sit down with the Army Space Journal and discuss the new Space Policy for the White House's National Security Council. Here are some highlights from the interview.

**My first question has to do with transparency and partnership. Those are two key words in the new Space Policy. What impacts do you see those bringing to the military Space community?**

**MARQUEZ** From the first standpoint, there won't be much of a change because the military knows how to do coalition type activities and knows how to work internationally. They do it far better than anybody else, better than any other agency with probably the exception of NASA. So there's already the awareness there in the Department of Defense amongst the Army, the Air Force, the Navy and the Marines as to how you conduct things in an international way.

What we'll probably be seeing as new things, though, is a sharing of capability. We'll be transitioning to trying to provide greater capability and information to our allies who are in the foxhole with us and, at the same time, developing measures to leverage the capabilities that our allies have – and to bring those to bear in the fight as well. At some points, we have a one-way mirror where we provide data – and sometimes not all the data we possibly could be providing – but we don't get anything in return. We have allies and partners who are very willing to bring capability to bear in the fight, so part of the real struggle in the midterm is going to be finding how to integrate those capabilities into our current architecture.

**There's also an emphasis on mission assurance and resilience. Does this call for the United States to do anything differently than we've been doing in the past?**

**MARQUEZ** Absolutely – it's a broadening of the responsibility. What we have been doing previously is trying to protect our Space systems. What mission assurance and resilience is talking about is in addition to protecting those critical Space systems, developing relationships, techniques, tactics, procedures, other capabilities so that if those critical Space enabled missions are disrupted or degraded through either a natural event or hostile event – or just by an accident – we have the capacity in place to continue those mission essential or critical functions either in a complete way or in some sort of a degraded fashion, so we don't lose capability wholesale.

We haven't really taken that holistic look of backing up Space capabilities through other medium, whether it's undersea cables or high-altitude airships, or cyber, or whatever. That's what we're looking at now is from a more holistic standpoint.

**How does this link to the importance and the policy placed upon the commercial industrial base?**

**MARQUEZ** That's a very obvious linkage. The industrial base provides a lot of Space capability, but a lot of our commercial companies are also providers of capability in other areas. They may have very good ideas as to how we can assure missions using capabilities that they provide, and they also have a good reach into international communities and international commercial companies as to the other capabilities that are available. So, I think we will be leveraging the commercial community quite a bit with resilience and mission assurance.

**Is that somewhat because of technological developments that have happened so rapidly in the last few years?**

**MARQUEZ** That's one of the reasons why. The ubiquity of capability that Space provides, whether you've got GPS on your smart phone or whether you're pulling down data in some remote location, all those things are enabled by Space and everybody now is critically dependent on those capabilities. So we're going to have to work with other people to maintain those capabilities. People 50 years ago knew nothing about Space. Fifty years later, the entire world is using Space capability.

**The new policy emphasizes international cooperation. What does the administration envision in terms of international cooperation in the military use of Space?**

**MARQUEZ** For the military use of Space, what we're trying to do is create a stable, standardized view of Space and a standard set of understandings as to how a responsible nation is suppose to act in Space. How that applies to the military is if we know how people are suppose to operate in Space it makes it somewhat easier for us to develop capabilities to know when there's a hostile act going on in Space. It makes it easier for us to respond to those hostile acts. So we're trying to set up the environment that allows us to strengthen our national security but also create a stable regime for the rest of the international community to utilize.

**Is there any concern that the emphasis on the cooperation will renew the debate on de-weaponizing Space?**

**MARQUEZ** It will. It already has. We've heard from several people asking, "Does this new policy mean that we're signing up to an arms control treaty?" The short answer is "no." There is nothing on the table now that we see is a viable arms control treaty about preventing weapons or whatever else , but the policy very clearly states with regard to those types of activities two very specific things. What it says the U.S. will actively pursue transparency and confidence building measures, but we will consider arms control agreements as long as those arms control agreements are equitable, verifiable and – equally important – enhancing to the national security of the U.S. and its allies.

There's one arms control treaty that's on the table right now from the Russians and the Chinese, and we maintain our position which is the same position before this policy was put out, that their arms control treaty is a non-starter for the U.S. because it fails the verification standard.

**Can you provide a little more detail as to the areas we might be looking at for cooperating in national security Space?**

**MARQUEZ** There are things we're doing on ISR now. So growing that capability is one of the first areas – making sure that we have good data transfer is an important thing so solidifying an already nascent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capacity and growing that capacity is probably one of the key low hanging fruit. Another one is Space situational awareness. You know we have a tremendous amount of capability on the ground and we also have allies that are developing a Space situational awareness capability.

We're going to need additional sensors and additional data to create a more robust complete picture of what's in the Space environment. Heretofore, we've given that data away for free to other nations so we want to work with other nations to put their data in with ours to push it back out again as a free public service, so we'll be looking at other nations to help us with that. Those are the first probably two we'll focus on. There are many others. There's an entire paragraph dedicated to international Space policy to areas for potential international cooperation. It's almost literally a laundry list of things for international cooperation, so we have a lot to do.