

23 MARCH 2006



PERSONNEL

SPACE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NOTICE: This publication is available digitally on the AFDPO WWW site at:
<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil>

OPR: HQ AFSPC/A1FX
(Col Edward A. Fienga)

Certified by: HQ USAF/A3SP
(Col Wayne P. Hudson)

Pages: 5
Distribution: F

1. This policy directive implements DoDD 5101.2, "DoD Executive Agent for Space," 3 Jun 03, paragraph 6.3.5: "(Heads of the DoD Components shall) develop and maintain a sufficient cadre of space-qualified personnel to support their Component in space planning, programming, acquisition, and operations. Support the DoD Executive Agent for Space with space cadre personnel to represent their Component in DoD-wide planning, programming and acquisition activities." The purpose of this Directive is to delineate key leadership responsibilities and authorities for managing the Air Force Space Professional Development Program (SPDP). The SPDP is derived from the USAF Space Professional Strategy (16 Apr 2003), developed in response to a report by the Congressionally-appointed "Commission to Assess United States National Security Space Management and Organization" (Jan 2001), and a subsequent SECDEF implementation memorandum (18 Oct 2001) on "National Security Space Management and Organization." This AFDPO does not supersede any existing AFDPO. It applies to the Total Force Credentialed Space Professional Community (CSPC), which includes officers, civilians, enlisted, Guard and Reserve who design, acquire, employ, operate, and integrate our nation's military space capabilities. Refer recommended changes and conflicts between this and other publications to HQ AFSPC/A1FX, 150 Vandenberg Street, Suite 150, Peterson AFB CO 80914-4450, on Air Force (AF) Form 847, **Recommendation for Change to Publication**.

2. SPDP is designed to expand knowledge, increase understanding and raise the overall qualifications of Air Force Credentialed Space Professionals (CSP) to serve as equal partners with other warfighting components in the joint warfare environment. This directive establishes policies to ensure appropriate space education, training and experience programs are available to all eligible Air Force and DoD personnel.

3. The Air Force provides general professional development to Space Professionals along with specialized training and education to fill requirements established by the Space Professional Functional Authority (AFSPC/CC), as well as applicable Force Development teams and career field functional managers (AFPD 36-23). A comprehensive SPDP will produce highly qualified experts to build, operate and inte-

grate military space capabilities; master complex technology; and develop new doctrine and concepts of operations to achieve national security space objectives.

4. The cornerstone of SPDP is a space education continuum—Space 100, 200 and 300—that reinforces USAF space cultural awareness throughout a CSP’s career. These courses are intended to advance the space knowledge of all officer, enlisted and civilian CSPs. The Air Force will endeavor to eliminate redundancies and overlaps with other DoD and government agencies and will pursue multi-Service training and education programs to the maximum extent possible.

5. Credentialed Space Professional members are expected to attain appropriate education, training and experience commensurate with their rank, responsibilities and career progression, as mandated by approved Space Professional certification standards. At a minimum, SPDP is designed to improve joint warfighting knowledge and skills, and prepare individuals in space-related duties to assume progressively higher levels of responsibility.

6. This directive establishes the following responsibilities and authorities:

6.1. The Under Secretary of the Air Force, as DoD Executive Agent for Space, facilitates the development and maintenance of a cadre of space professionals who possess the depth and breadth of training, education, and experience required to advance the use of space power in future military operations.

6.2. The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Acquisition (SAF/AQ) serves as the Functional Authority for the 61XX, 62XX, 63XX, and 64XX career fields and is responsible for Force Development procedures and policies unique to these career fields in accordance with doctrine and HQ USAF/A1 program direction.

6.3. The Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel (HQ USAF/A1) develops, coordinates, and executes personnel policies and essential procedural guidance for managing the Space Professional Development programs.

6.4. The Deputy Chief of Staff, Air and Space Operations (HQ USAF/A3/5) is the Functional Authority for the 13SXX and 1C6XX career fields and is responsible for Force Development procedures and policies unique to these career fields in accordance with doctrine and HQ USAF/A1 program direction.

6.5. The Commander, Air Force Space Command (AFSPC/CC) is responsible for the overall health and development of the Air Force’s CSPC. The SECAF, in a 15 Jul 2003 memorandum, identified the AFSPC/CC as the Space Professional Functional Authority (SPFA), which fulfilled the Space Commission recommendation for the most senior AF space leader to manage all aspects of the “space career field.” The SPFA is unique since this oversight extends across a number of space-related career fields including officer, enlisted, civilian and ARC components. AFSPC/CC executes this responsibility through the Space Professional Management Office (HQ AFSPC/A1FX) and other affiliated units as necessary.

6.6. The Air Reserve Command and Air National Guard will coordinate with AFSPC to ensure their Space Professional Development programs are compatible with personnel utilization in their component while still fulfilling AFSPC requirements.

6.7. Air Education and Training Command will develop programs to satisfy initial qualifications of Credentialed Space Professionals based on AFSPC requirements.

6.8. Air University will provide procedures for executing Developmental Education to ensure adequate representation of space capabilities and graduate education focused on appropriate space disciplines.

7. See [Attachment 1](#) for DoD and related guidance implemented by this directive, as well as publications and related guidance that interface with this directive.

MICHAEL W. WYNNE
Secretary of the Air Force

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

IMPLEMENTED POLICY AND RELATED GUIDANCE

DoD Directive 5101.2, *DoD Executive Agent for Space*, 6 March 2003

INTERFACING GUIDANCE

AFDD 1-1, *Leadership and Force Development*, 18 February 2004

AFPD 10-12, *Space Operations*, 1 February 1996

AFPD 36-4, *Air Force Civilian Training, Education and Development*, 12 February 2004

AFPD 36-22, *Air Force Military Training*, 22 March 2004

AFPD 36-23, *Military Education*, 27 September 1993

AFI 36-601, *Air Force Civilian Career Program Management*, 25 July 1994

AFI 36-2301, *Professional Military Education*, 27 June 2002

AFI 36-2302, *Professional Development (Advanced Academic Degrees and Professional Continuing Education)*, 11 July 2001

AFI 36-2611, *Officer Professional Development*, 1 April 1996

AFI 36-2640, Volume I, *Total Force Development (Active Duty Officer)*, 23 January 2004

SECDEF Memorandum, "National Security Space Management and Organization," 18 October 2001

Space Human Capital Resources Strategy, February 2004

Space Human Capital Resources Strategy Implementation Plan, December 2004

Abbreviations and Acronyms

SPDP—Space Professional Development Program

SPFA—Space Professional Functional Authority

CSP—Credentialed Space Professionals

CSPC—Credentialed Space Professional Community

Terms

Space Professional Development Program (SPDP)—An Air Force-level personnel development program designed to build a group of space experts who thoroughly understand the medium of space--from concept to sustainment--including design, acquisition, fielding, operations, maintenance. The SPDP is a multi-faceted plan to ensure deliberate, purposeful individual development highlighted by expanded space education, training, and experience-building opportunities. The elements of this program are formalized through a three-level certification program to create and manage a knowledgeable community of CSPs to meet the nation's space needs and national security objectives. SPDP is the official

Air Force response to the 2001 Space Commission's recommendation to "develop the space cadre the nation needs."

Space Professional Functional Authority (SPFA)—The SECAF identified the Commander of Air Force Space Command (AFSPC/CC) as the Space Professional Functional Authority. In this role the Commander, in concert with other space-AFSCs Functional Authorities, is responsible for the overall health and development of the Air Force Credentialed Space Professional Community. The SPFA provides strategic oversight of this group to include prioritization of functional requirements based on mission needs.

Credentialed Space Professionals (CSPs)—Personnel identified in the Space Commission Report as operators and acquirers specializing in the national security space arena. This group includes scientists, engineers, program managers and space operators who require specialized space education, experience coding and tracking to meet rigid certification requirements.

Credentialed Space Professional Community (CSPC)—Formerly known as the Space Cadre. The collective group of CSPs consists of space-experienced scientists, engineers, program managers and operators, which includes officer, civilian, and enlisted personnel.