



# CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



## ANNEX 3-14 SPACE OPERATIONS

### SPACE SUPERIORITY

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Achieving [space superiority](#) is of primary concern to the Airman as it enables the continuous provision and advantages of space-enabled capabilities to joint warfighting operations. The Air Force describes [space](#) superiority as “the ability to maintain freedom of action in, from, and to space, sufficient to sustain mission assurance.” Space superiority may be localized in time and space, or it may be broad and enduring.

The above Air Force description of space superiority clarifies the definition presented in Joint Publication (JP) 3-14, [Space Operations](#): “the degree of dominance in space of one force over another that permits the conduct of operations by the former and its related land, maritime, air, space, and special operations forces at a given time and place without prohibitive interference by the opposing force.” This clarification acknowledges the physics of space [orbital mechanics](#) and [treaties](#) on international use of space prevent the Air Force from exerting “dominance” over all or portions of space. For example, it may not be practical or in our best interest to assume we can fully deny [space capabilities](#) to our adversary. Capabilities such as [satellite communications](#) may be provided by commercial entities or through multi-national partnerships. Denying these capabilities to others may equally impact friendly forces.