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## International Security in Outer Space Critical, Fragile and Rapidly Evolving *Space Security 2006* Report Released Today

"Space security is critical, fragile and rapidly evolving," said Thomas Graham Jr., a former US Ambassador for Nonproliferation and contributor to *Space Security 2006*, released today. "Our global dependence on space assets, the unique environment of outer space, and the pace of technological development demand serious attention to emerging space security challenges."

The only resource of its kind, *Space Security 2006* provides a comprehensive assessment of the state of space security based on analysis of past trends and 2005 developments. The annual report is a project of the research consortium [SpaceSecurity.org](http://SpaceSecurity.org), whose partners include the Cypress Fund for Peace and Security, the Institute of Air and Space Law of McGill University, Project Ploughshares, the Simons Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Research at the University of British Columbia, and the Space Generation Foundation.

Environmental factors are a growing concern for space security. In 2005 the population of orbital debris or "space junk", which can cause serious damage to space systems, grew by 2.1%. Some 1,374 satellite radiofrequency interference incidents, primarily a result of orbital crowding, were reported.

No space-based weapons were tested or deployed in 2005. However, the necessary building-blocks are being laid with the rapid evolution of precursor technologies. Lasers and kinetic kill vehicles are just some of the technologies being developed which could be transferred to space weapons purposes in the future. The miniaturization of satellite components to build highly capable systems that are cheaper to launch and more difficult to track, could also enable 'dual use' offensive weapons.

International policy has been unable to keep up with emerging threats to space security despite the fact that space is critical to everyday life. Dr. Ram Jakhu, Associate Professor of Law at the Institute of Air and Space Law of McGill University, noted: "It is clear that technological developments are outstripping the existing legal and policy framework in outer space. These challenges will become increasingly acute as states' dependence on space for national security grows." Indeed, the report found that 10 states have dedicated military satellites with 19 new military assets launched in 2005 alone.

*Space Security 2006* also found cause for optimism about the state of space security. International cooperation remained a hallmark of space activities; the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer space approved guidelines to mitigate space debris production; and civil space budgets are on the rise with several states renewing manned space programs.

Ambassador Graham said, "This project strives to provide a fact-based analysis of the status of space security based on research, a survey of expert opinion world-wide, and the direct input of senior space experts. This objective I believe has been achieved." Continuing, "We hope that this annual report will become the basic tool for legislators, researchers, officials, and commentators when they discuss space security."

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## Endorsements

"To stay abreast of the rapidly changing developments in space, there is nothing like the Space Security Index. Whether one's interest is in the latest technology, or in the policy implications of new developments, the Space Security Index is a vital resource. As people around the world come to appreciate the implications of space security to their daily lives, the Space Security Index provides the information they need as informed citizens."

*Honorable Philip E. Coyle*

*Senior Advisor, Center for Defense Information*

*Former Assistant Secretary of Defense and Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, US Department of Defense*

"The Space Security Index as it matures is becoming an ever more valuable resource for understanding the overall situation in space. It is something that all interested in space activities should consult."

*Professor John Logsdon*

*Director, Space Policy Institute, George Washington University*

"Space assets play an increasingly critical role in national security as well as in the economy. *Space Security 2006* is an excellent review of the developments that have happened in 2005 across military and civil space from all major space powers and how they affect space security. Decision makers should read this important work to understand this increasingly important area."

*Brigadier General Simon P. Worden*

*United States Air Force (Ret.).*

"Mankind is becoming ever more dependent on space-based systems for communications, navigation, surveying, environmental monitoring, weather prediction and also for security. The business and military demands compete for orbits and frequencies. *Space Security 2006* provides objective data for decision makers in government, industry, academia and commerce on the trends. Space has remained a global resource until now, but this report signals the increasing dangers from emerging national doctrines designed to give military control of space."

*Air Marshal Lord Garden*

*UK Liberal Democrat Defence Spokesman & Former UK Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff*

"Now in its third year, this important document provides a snapshot of military, civil, and commercial space activities, their interactions, and their impact on security in space. As with all subjective assessments, this one is sure to generate both praise and criticism, however, it is fast becoming an essential resource for legislators, researchers and commentators."

*Richard DalBello*

*Vice President Government Affairs, Intelsat General Corporation*

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