



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND

OCT 21 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR 14 AF/CC *Dave*

FROM: AFSPC/CC
150 Vandenberg St, Suite 1105
Peterson AFB CO 80914-4020

SUBJECT: 45th Space Wing Support to Kennedy Space Center Federal Aviation Administration Licensed Commercial Launch Operations

1. Supporting and enabling a robust and growing schedule of commercial launches from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Kennedy Space Center (NASA-KSC) is vital to both the national economy and the national defense. To achieve this goal, we must identify, deconflict, and streamline the overlapping responsibilities and authorities from the involved federal agencies. The Secretary of Transportation has a statutory responsibility (51 USC § 50901) to protect the public health and safety, and the safety of property for commercial launch operations. That responsibility is implemented through the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) commercial launch licensing process. Additionally, the 45th Space Wing Commander (45 SW/CC) has an inherent authority and legal responsibility for safety of operations conducted on the Air Force Eastern Range.
2. It is, therefore, the position of Air Force Space Command that the FAA licensing process should be the single process used to satisfy launch obligations for commercial missions. There is no requirement for commercial launch providers to use Air Force-specific safety standards or services for commercial launches from NASA-KSC. Department of Defense consultation during the FAA's licensing process (as required by 51 USC § 50918), and day-to-day coordination at the launch site will be used to satisfy the 45 SW Commander's independent safety responsibilities and to ensure sufficiency of the FAA process.
3. The 45 SW and NASA-KSC must thoroughly coordinate and deconflict operations on NASA-KSC and Cape Canaveral AFS. A Memorandum of Agreement between the 45 SW and NASA-KSC will define the coordination and approval processes outlined in this memo to ensure the launch safety responsibilities of all parties are satisfied. Additionally, if commercial launch providers operating from NASA-KSC choose to use 45 SW services, they will engage the wing through established processes.

JOHN E. HYTEN
General, USAF
Commander