



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE**

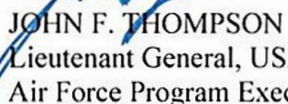
20 March 2020


MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: SMC Program Executive Officers  
483 N Aviation Blvd  
El Segundo, CA 90245


SUBJECT: Determination of Mission Essential Status Pursuant to Presidential Policy Directive (PPD-21)  
Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience

1. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) considers our Defense Industrial Base (DIB) one of the nation's 16 critical infrastructure sectors. In the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, he states, "If you work in a Critical Infrastructure Industry, as defined by DHS...you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule." Continuation of designated essential DIB contractor services is vital to our critical national security, notwithstanding the unprecedented public health crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. As the Air Force's Program Executive Officers (PEOs) for Space, we attest that the activities that are within scope of your existing Space and Missile Systems Center contracts, to include your subcontractors and suppliers, are essential to our mission and critical to the national security of the United States. These activities include mission-critical travel necessary to support fulfillment of your contract. Therefore, it is imperative that you maintain all necessary operations to support the missions under your contracts and subcontracts.
3. We appreciate your continued partnership in the defense of our nation and are available if you have any questions.

  
JOHN F. THOMPSON  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Air Force Program Executive Officer for  
Space

  
DONNA D. SHIPTON  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Air Force Program Executive Officer for  
Space Enterprise

CORDELL A. DELAPENA, SES, DAF  
Air Force Program Executive Officer for  
Space Production

  
DENNIS O. BYTHEWOOD, Colonel, USAF  
Air Force Program Executive Officer for  
Space Development