

10 June 08/1500 hrs EST

**SUBJECT: UPDATED QASD PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE ON SATELLITE ENGAGEMENT
(DATE)**

1. The following message updates PA guidance related to the Presidential Directed Satellite Engagement operation of USG 193 conducted on 21 February 2008 and follow on venues discussing the event details.

1.2. The US Government-wide Team worked together and performed well to address the hazard. The USG earned high marks from national and international governments and publics for unprecedented transparency and timely communication of the event and its results.

1.3. Public Affairs posture for this event is PASSIVE. DoD members should not seek opportunities to discuss this event. Respond to query about this event with the talking points provided below. DoD components will coordinate potential speaking engagements, handout material and briefings with Office of Secretary of Defense Public Affairs prior to any public fora.

2. The following talking points that can be used when discussing this event:

- This was not an anti-satellite test. The USG announced our intentions, and we conducted the engagement of the satellite to prevent hazardous satellite fuel from causing potential harm on the ground.
- A network of land-, air-, sea- and spaced-based sensors confirmed that the U.S. military had successfully intercepted a non-functioning National Reconnaissance Office satellite on February 21 in its final orbits before entering the earth's atmosphere.
- The objective was to rupture the fuel tank to dissipate the approximately 1,000 pounds (453 kg) of hydrazine, a hazardous fuel which could pose a danger to people on earth, before it entered into earth's atmosphere. Confirmation that the fuel tank has been fragmented was available 24 hours after the event.
- Due to the relatively low altitude of the satellite at the time of the engagement, debris began re-entering the earth's atmosphere immediately following the engagement. Most of the debris is expected to burn up on reentry within 24-48 hours and the remaining debris should re-enter within the following 40 days.
- The success of this unprecedented mission is due to the talents, hard work and tireless efforts of people from all branches of the U.S. government, Armed Forces, industry and academia who worked together to mitigate the hydrazine hazard from the satellite to human life.
- Reinforce key message that the USG is committed to safe, responsible space operations, and is concerned about public safety.
- USG maintained transparency with allies, foreign public and governments and relay timely, accurate information pre, post engagement and final results of the engagement.

- Reinforce confidence that USG was prepared, equipped, trained and ready to respond around the globe for consequence management as result of the engagement or natural re-entry.

- USG accurately, completely, and expediently answered queries from the media and the public regarding U.S. efforts to address reentry of this U.S. satellite.

3. Any questions outside the scope of this Public Affairs Guidance should be forwarded to OSD Public Affairs without comment at 703-697-5131.