August 2016 IN BRIEF

National Security Space Defense and Protection: Public Report

The national security of the United States is inextricably linked to our access to space and the capabilities provided by satellites that range from global positioning systems to communications to orbital reconnaissance. However, the rapidly growing global reliance on space systems to facilitate vital societal functions such as commerce, food production, electricity distribution, transportation, and weather assessment has out-paced the creation of national strategies and policies to protect this critical infrastructure. At the request of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine produced two classified reports that assess currently available options for addressing threats to space systems and recommend strategies for increasing resiliency. National Security Space Defense and Protection: Public Report is an unclassified summary that discusses key background and policy issues featured in the reports.

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