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NRO welcomes new deputy director in a change of command ceremony

CHANTILLY, Va. – National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) Director Chris Scolese welcomed Maj. Gen. Donna D. Shipton as the new NRO deputy director and commander of the Space Force Element. Shipton replaced Maj. Gen. Michael Guetlein in a change of command ceremony today at the NRO's Westfields headquarters.

"We are honored to have Major General Shipton join the NRO team, bringing her nearly 30 years of outstanding Air Force leadership and career experience," said Dr. Scolese. "Her skills gained in previous NRO operational assignments—and across years of space and aircraft acquisition—will be essential as we continue to focus on future NRO innovations and missions."

Shipton's most recent assignment was director of strategic plans, programs, requirements and analyses at Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

Guetlein was recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate for promotion to Lt. Gen., and assigned as the first commander U.S. Space Force, Space Systems Command, Los Angeles Air Base, California.

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For sixty years, the NRO has developed, acquired, launched, and operated the architecture that is the foundation for America's advantage and strength in space. Using a diversified architecture of spacecraft—different sizes and orbits—NRO collects and delivers the best space-based intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance content on the planet. Its customers include every member of the Intelligence Community, Department of Defense, two dozen domestic agencies, warfighters, decision-makers, and policymakers. Learn more at nro.gov.