



National Reconnaissance Office
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NRO Successfully Launches NROL-77 Mission Through National Security Space Launch Program

Mission marks 10th and final NRO launch of 2025

CHANTILLY, Va. — The National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), in partnership with U.S. Space Force Space Systems Command's (SSC), System Delta 80, Space Launch Delta 45, and SpaceX, successfully launched the NROL-77 mission aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station Dec. 9, 2025, at 2:16 p.m. ET. The Falcon 9 first stage booster safely returned to Landing Zone 2 after delivering the national security payload to orbit.

Today's successful mission highlights the close working relationship between NRO and SSC to ensure reliable and cost-effective access to space for national security missions.

"The partnership between NRO and SSC continues to strengthen our nation's space superiority through innovative launch solutions and shared expertise," said Col. Kathryn Cantu, director, NRO Office of Space Launch, and NROL-77 mission director. "As space becomes increasingly contested, this partnership enables us to rapidly deploy advanced intelligence capabilities while maintaining the agility and resilience needed to address emerging threats. Our collaborative approach ensures America's continued leadership in space-based national security operations well into the future."

NROL-77 is the second NRO mission launched with SpaceX from the NSSL Phase 2 contract awarded in August 2020. NSSL, a government launch acquisition partnership program between SSC and NRO aimed at ensuring continued assured access to space for national security missions, is overseen and operated by SSC's System Delta 80 headquartered at Los Angeles Air Force Base in California.

Earlier this Spring, NRO partnered with SSC to launch [NROL-69](#) and [NROL-145](#) through the NSSL program and [NROL-174](#) through the Rocket Systems Launch Program.

"A collaborative team of dedicated experts from System Delta 80, NRO, and SpaceX validated the flight hardware and integration essentials that assured successful delivery of the mission," said Col. Ryan M. Hiserote, System Delta 80 commander and NSSL program manager. "And kudos to our SSC SLD-45 teammates who operated the range systems and infrastructure as part of this launch. NROL-77 was our last NSSL mission this calendar year. Together, we look forward to another busy year in 2026."

In only two years, NRO has launched more than 200 satellites, creating the largest and most capable government constellation on orbit in our nation's history. Continuing with this

momentum, 2025 has proven to be another dynamic year, with [10 NRO missions](#) successfully delivered to orbit.

For more than 60 years, the NRO has successfully met the needs of its U.S. intelligence, military, civil, and allied partners. It remains the world's leader in unique intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems. The NRO's next-generation systems will help ensure that the right data is delivered to the right user at the right time, faster than ever before.

Additional information on upcoming launches will be made available at [NRO.gov/launch](https://nro.gov/launch).

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Ever since its inception at the dawn of the space age more than 60 years ago, the NRO has brought the farthest reaches of the planet into our grasp — to see it, hear it, and sense it. Today, the NRO is building on that legacy of innovation, harnessing the limitless potential of space to make our nation even safer and stronger. Learn more at [NRO.gov](https://nro.gov).