



National Reconnaissance Office
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Office of Public Affairs
703-808-1198, media@nro.mil

Release #5-26
June 19, 2026

NRO Launches Fourteenth Proliferated Architecture Mission with NROL-179
Third proliferated launch of 2026

CHANTILLY, Va. — The National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), in partnership with U.S. Space Force Space Launch Delta 30 and SpaceX, successfully launched the NROL-179 mission aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 4 East at Vandenberg Space Force Base in California on June 19, 2026, at 4:50 a.m. EDT. The Falcon 9 first stage booster safely returned to Landing Zone 4 after delivering the national security payload to orbit.

Today's mission is the fourteenth overall launch of the NRO's multi-phenomenology proliferated architecture and third proliferated launch of 2026. Having hundreds of NRO satellites on orbit is critical to supporting our nation and its partners. This growing constellation enhances mission resilience and capability through reduced revisit times, improved persistent coverage, and accelerated processing and delivery of critical data.

The NRO's proliferated architecture, in addition to our other ISR systems, supports multiple missions across the intelligence and Department of War (DoW) communities, including the ground moving target indicator mission as part of the DoW's space-based sensing and targeting architecture.

Through sustained launch activity and accelerated deployment of next-generation systems, NRO fields the most advanced and capable government constellation our nation has ever delivered with hundreds of satellites now on orbit. Building on this momentum, 2026 is poised to be another dynamic year with a robust launch schedule for the remainder of the year. Many of these missions will advance the NRO's proliferated architecture, with additional proliferated launches planned through 2029 to ensure sustained growth and innovation.

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 available at [NRO.gov/launch/](https://nro.gov/launch/).

###

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).