



National Reconnaissance Office Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NROL- 42 Lifts Off on September 23, 2017

A National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) payload was successfully launched aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Space Launch Complex-3E, Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB), California, at 10:49 p.m. PDT, on September 23, 2017.

“Congratulations to the government and industry team who made this launch a success. It’s always a good day when our nation launches an NRO payload that provides vital information to help keep our nation strong and protect us from enemies who wish to do us harm,” said Colonel Matthew Skeen, USAF, Director, NRO Office of Space Launch. “With the anniversary of 9/11 over a week ago, we remember the horror of the terrorist attacks in 2001. NRO systems such as this one launched today help prevent that from happening again, and I am proud of the team that put this critical asset on orbit.”

NROL-42 is the third of five 2017 NRO launches. The next NRO launch is on schedule for early next month from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (CCAFS), Florida.

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The NRO is a joint Department of Defense–Intelligence Community organization responsible for developing, launching, and operating America’s intelligence satellites to meet the national security needs of our nation.