



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE  
SPACE LAUNCH DELTA 30**

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL VANDENBERG SFB PERSONNEL

FROM: SLD 30/CC

SUBJECT: Vandenberg Space Force Base Photography Policy

1. To obtain guidance regarding general photography/video publication, reproduction, or sale of imagery taken on Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB), contact the Space Launch Delta 30 (SLD 30) Public Affairs Office by phone at 805-606-5933 or by email at [SLD30.PA.Workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:SLD30.PA.Workflow@us.af.mil). All photography taken on or created of VSFB that is intended for public release must be sent to the SLD 30 Public Affairs Office for a security and policy review before public release is permitted.
2. The term “photography” throughout this memorandum refers to, but is not limited to, still photography, remote and remotely activated image and video recording, video acquisition, digital imaging, sketching, modeling, electronic spectrum information gathering, standard or aftermarket vehicle video recording technology, handheld action camera, and any other equipment able to store, reproduce in whole or part, any portion of VSFB.
3. The use of any type of photography device (to include cell phones, dash cams, and/or drones acting as cameras) is prohibited within USAF and USSF restricted or controlled areas, as well as commercially restricted or controlled areas within military installations unless prior approval is received. The Public Affairs Office should be contacted at [SLD30.PA.Workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:SLD30.PA.Workflow@us.af.mil) prior to photography being taken. The proper approval must be given by the owning authority or, if there is a shared interest between USSF and commercial entities, by all parties with the shared interest.
4. Any personnel granted permission to take photography on VSFB are reminded that capturing images of the following without coordination through the SLD 30 Public Affairs Office is prohibited:
  - a. Areas marked “controlled” or “restricted.”
  - b. Within the airfield environment or flightline area. Flightline photography requests will be coordinated by SLD 30 Public Affairs in conjunction with 30 OSS.
  - c. Base security measures, including, but not limited to, fence lines, entry-controlled point procedures, surveillance equipment, and restricted area badges.

5. The following guidelines apply to restricted and/or controlled areas:

- a. It is a crime under 18 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 795 to photograph restricted or controlled areas without first obtaining the permission of the commanding officer. 18 U.S.C § 1382 makes it a crime to enter a military installation for any purpose prohibited by law or lawful regulation.
- b. Security is everyone's responsibility, and compliance with this order is mandatory. Violations of this order are punishable under Title 18 U.S.C, Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice, and AFI 36-704, Civilian Personnel Discipline and Adverse Actions. In addition, certain violations may be punishable under 18 U.S.C. §§ 793-794. Violations could result in removal of base access, administrative action, non-judicial punishment, court-martial, and criminal conviction in federal court.
- c. When operating a motor vehicle with standard or aftermarket video recording technology, use of video recording storage via (e.g. USB Flash Drive, Micro SD Card, etc.) is unauthorized in restricted and controlled areas. All aftermarket vehicle video recording devices will be removed from power sources and/or turned off if running on battery.
- d. Video Cameras to include but not limited to, back-up camera, rearview mirror camera, lane assist/lane departure camera are authorized on Vandenberg SFB, as long as they do not have any video storage capabilities actively storing video footage. If such capabilities are present, they must be turned off while in restricted or controlled areas.
- e. Active utilization of handheld action cameras (e.g. GoPro, etc.) to include any and all attachments and accessories for helmets, vehicles, bicycles is unauthorized in restricted or controlled areas.
- f. Any photography acquired by non-governmental personnel in restricted or controlled areas may be seized by SLD 30 IP, 30 SFS, OSI, or other law enforcement authority and then reviewed by SLD 30 Public Affairs. Any photography seized is subject to destruction by appropriate authority. If it is determined a criminal offense has occurred, the images should not be destroyed, and the property will be appropriately seized for evidence.
- g. If it appears there was intent to deliberately obtain coverage of classified or unauthorized information or areas for purposes of profit, espionage or to have any other significant adverse impact on national security, or Vandenberg SFB, officials should immediately report the actions to the appropriate law enforcement agency through command channels as well as to SLD 30 Public Affairs.

6. These guidelines include all restricted or controlled areas of Vandenberg SFB and its annexes, including areas with an established temporary use lease by other organizations, such as Delta 1, Delta 5, Space Forces-Space, 18th Space Defense Squadron, 377th Test and Evaluation Group, United Launch Alliance, Firefly Aerospace, SpaceX, the National Reconnaissance Office, Missile Defense Agency, and NASA. (Official photography in these areas may be permitted with prior coordination.)

- a. Photography of areas and activities controlled by these other agencies requires permission from the agency's releasing authority.
  - b. Photography of S4S spaces and personnel will require additional coordination with S4S/PA. Please contact the S4S/PA Workflow ([S4S.PA.Workflow@spaceforce.mil](mailto:S4S.PA.Workflow@spaceforce.mil)) for information.
  - c. In addition to approving requests to photograph NRO resources, activities and areas, NRO reviews all photographs for classification. NRO Vandenberg Photography 01, 02-02, lists coordination requirements and includes coordination with SLD 30 Public Affairs.
  - d. Aerial photography of base property will be coordinated by SLD 30 Public Affairs in coordination with 2 ROPS/DOWN, 30 OSS/OSK, 30 SW/ IP, 30 CES/ CENM (GIS) and any temporary use lease agencies associated with the area.
7. Engagement with news media of any type, to include newspapers, magazines, bloggers, social media representatives and television stations must be coordinated with SLD 30 Public Affairs and media personnel must be accompanied by a PA professional. If the requested location to conduct photography is controlled by another entity, a PA professional will escort the media personnel on and off VSFB.
  8. SLD 30 Public Affairs will notify media or visitors of any restrictions with regard to what can and cannot be filmed within federal laws in a given area or activity. If media requests imagery from a restricted/sensitive area, SLD 30 Public Affairs may use PA personnel to acquire imagery and request approval for release.
  9. Any questions regarding this memorandum can be directed to Ms. Jennifer Green-Lanchoney, Chief of Public Affairs, at 606-3595.
  10. This memorandum supersedes all previous guidance on the same subject.

JAMES T. HORNE III, Colonel, USSF  
Commander

*References: (a) Space Launch Delta 30 (SLD 30) Integrated Defense Plan (IDP) 31-101 (b) Air Force Instruction (AFI) 35-101, Public Affairs Operations (c) DAFI 31-101, 6.15, Circulation Controls.*