



## Iran's Passive Defense Organization Establishes Space Policy

**OE Watch Commentary:** Within the greater bureaucracy of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the Passive Defense Organization has increasingly taken a high profile. In the accompanying excerpted article, General Gholam-Reza Jalali, commander of the Passive Defense Organization, seeks to lay claim to setting the Islamic Republic's and IRGC's space policy. Given the Passive Defense Organization's historic focus on cyberwarfare, greater involvement in Iranian space policy suggests both that the Passive Defense Organization increasingly seeks to become a signals-intelligence outfit and also that IRGC plans a greater focus on expansion into space and satellites.

The Iranian press is far from free and not every organization that holds a seminar will find itself the recipient of nationwide coverage. That the state-controlled press covered the Iranian Space Research Institute conference indicates that within the Islamic Republic's broader and overlapping bureaucracies, the Passive Defense Organization has effectively consolidated control over space policy and has shouldered out other competitors. Regardless, the fact that Jalali featured so prominently at a Space Research Institute event highlights the militarization of space research and, indeed, more broadly the IRGC's involvement in any potentially dual-use field. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rubin)**

*“The Passive Defense Organization must develop a framework and approach for space.”*

**Source:** “Pish Navis Sanad Rahbardi Pedafand Gher‘amal Hawzeh Feza’e Keshavar Nehayi Shod (Draft Strategy Document for the Passive Defense of the Country’s Space Domain Finalized),” *Fars News Agency*, 21 May 2018. <https://goo.gl/khofnw>

*A draft strategic document for passive defense in the space field was finalized at the Iran Space Research Institute in the presence of General [Gholam-Reza] Jalali, commander of the Passive Defense Organization, several of his deputies and experts in the field. At the beginning of the seminar, General Jalali offered congratulations on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, and said, “We hope that we can discuss this topic in this space and in this meeting of experts, and sum it up so that it can become the basis for communication in the field of passive defense of the space domain.” Jalali said, “The Passive Defense Organization must develop a framework and approach for space on the basis of the principles and policies communicated by the Supreme Leader of the Revolution, and it acts alongside them, so that the different domains of passive defense are matched, and defines a framework and concept and forms a strategic document.” He added, “We must identify and evaluate the [country’s] space-related fields and categorize them at vital, sensitive, and important and identify threats to them effectively in order to address threats, and present solutions.”*



Gholam Reza Jalali, head of the Passive Defense Organization.

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