

NEO Mission Planning and Operations Group

Workshop

ESOC Darmstadt 27 – 29 October
2010

Overview of Policy Issues

“Protection of the Earth from undesirable impacting bodies is not just a science fiction project for some improbable future. The cost might be comparable to, even smaller than, the world’s current military expenditures. We could choose to do it now. We could choose to protect ourselves from asteroids and comets rather than from each other.”

Fred L. Whipple

“The Mystery of Comets”

1985

Overview of Policy Issues

Recommendation 9: Mitigation possibilities

We recommend that the Government, with other governments, set in hand studies to look into the practical possibilities of mitigating the results of impact and deflecting incoming objects.

Report of the UK Task Force on Near-Earth Objects

September 2000

Overview of Policy Issues

*It is not if
but when
there will be an impact*

Overview of Policy Issues

- How do you Authorise and be seen to provide oversight
- Open and transparent mission plans
 - and proven mission operations
- A proven and tested information system capable of understandable warnings

Overview of Policy Issues

- US ad-hoc Task Force on Planetary Defence
 - Report soon
- US OSTP defines responsibilities within the US government for NEO issues
 - Science advisor letter to Hds of Space Committee
 - NASA lead
 - DoD, DHS, FEMA, DOS and generally USG

Overview of Policy Issues

UN

Security Council

MAOG

IWAN

MPOG

Overview of Policy Reports - 1

- IAU WG NEO 1991
- NASA report The Spaceguard Survey 1992
- Council of Europe Res. 1080 1996
- USAF/NASA Air force 2025 1996
 - Planetary Defence: Catastrophic Health Ins for P Earth
- U III Vienna Declaration 1999
- UK Task Force Report 2000
- IAAA Space Coop NEO Detect and Respond 2001

Overview of Policy Reports - 2

- ESSC of ESF to ESA C Min 2001
- OECD GSF at ESA ESRIN 2003
- Sc. In Natural Hazard Assessment UK 2005
- Astronomical Odds – Rand, G Sommer 2005
- ASE Call for Global Response 2008
- IAA report Threat to Earth - NEO 2009
- Various US, National Space policy OST etc

Overview of Policy Issues

- Policy

- A plan or course of action, as for a government or business (guiding principles or procedure considered expedient, prudent or advantageous)
- A definite course of action adopted for the sake of expediency, facility etc
- Intended to influence and determine decisions and other matters
- Art of Governance

Overview of Policy Issues

- MPOG
 - What mandate
 - Is needed
 - Is required
 - What inputs
 - Technical
 - Policy
 - Day to day and from time to time
 - What outputs
 - and to who?

Overview of Policy Issues

- Warnings
 - How to deal with changing status
 - Scales and agreeing to the status
 - Not a technical issue? (but needs tech input)
 - Know your audience
 - Must know the outcome of issued warning
 - Understand public beliefs and values
 - Know who to call

Policy Issues

- What next
 - What are the priorities
 - What has been left out
 - Links
 - Appropriate mandate
- How adaptive will policy need to be
- National and regional as well as Global involvement required.

Overview of Policy Issues

- Changing perceptions
 - Understanding the reality
 - Special type of risk
 - Something can be done
- Impact prevention
 - A benefit only if loss of life or property?
 - Cost and benefit
 - Other effects/benefits (biodiversity)

Conclusions

- For Friday
 - ...
 - ...

Thank you for listening