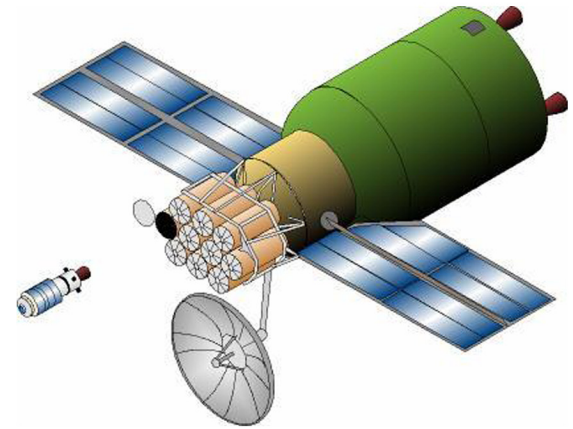


Space Weaponization

A Current Issue





The US Military is critically dependent on satellites for communication and precision guidance. Defending these assets is a clear priority. Separately, the Missile Defense Agency is interested in deploying weapons in space that could be used for ballistic missile defense, or to destroy other satellites. It has recently been revealed that an armed satellite will be placed in space as part of a missile defense test in 2005. Should the US cross this threshold now? Should space be weaponized for other reasons? The decisions that are made now could very well determine how space is used for years to come.

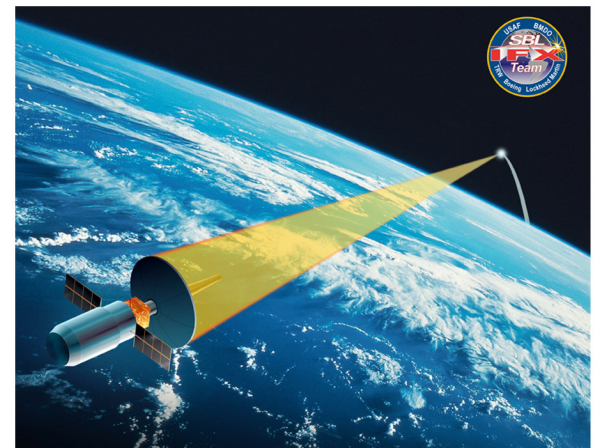


FAS Responds

FAS has convened a panel of distinguished experts with backgrounds in science, government, and industry in order to explore the consequences of space weaponization.

Key questions the panel is addressing:

-  How would placing weapons in space alter the space plans of other nations?
-  Satellite missions (such as reconnaissance) can now be accomplished with smaller, cheaper satellites. This will surely expand the number of countries with access to space, and potentially poses new security challenges. How should the US respond?
-  Explosions in space can increase the amount of debris in particular orbits, potentially posing a hazard to space assets. How can this threat be avoided or mitigated?
-  How at risk are satellites to the threat of a high-altitude nuclear blast? What countermeasures could be taken?



Your voice is needed in the national debate. Join FAS. Help shape the future of space policy.

For more information on this project contact Josh Kellar at jkellar@fas.org

Science. Policy. Results.