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U.S. Military Warns 'Space Is Now a Warfighting Domain'

March 13, 2018 breitbart.com reported: The U.S. Air Force considers "maintaining space superiority" one of its "core missions," high-ranking American military officials told lawmakers Wednesday, warning that "space is now a warfighting domain."

In jointly written testimony submitted to the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces Wednesday, top officials in charge of America's military space program told lawmakers:

For decades the United States has enjoyed unimpeded freedom of action in space. This benign environment allowed us to operate satellites for intelligence collection, missile warning, weather monitoring, communications, and precision positioning, navigation, and timing in support of all military operations for all of the services, without thinking about how to protect these systems. That environment no longer exists. Space will be contested in any conflict...

Clearly, freedom to operate in space is not guaranteed. In fact, space is now a warfighting domain, similar to the more familiar air, land, and maritime domains our men and women are fighting in today. We must ensure the reliability of our current systems and we must modernize. Our modernization will focus on our ability to deter potential adversaries, and to fight in a contested, degraded, and operationally limited environment should deterrence fail.

The warnings came from Heather Wilson, secretary of the U.S. Air Force; Gen. David Goldfein, chief of staff of the Air Force; Gen. John Raymond, commander of U.S. Air Force Space Command; and Lt. Gen. Samuel Greaves, commander of the U.S. Air Force Command's Space and Missile System Center.

"Our potential adversaries understand the advantage we derive from space and view our reliance on space as a vulnerability they can exploit," they noted.

"Near-peer competitors will offset any U.S. military advantage derived from our space systems and continue to pursue capabilities to degrade or destroy them."

In its latest World Threat Assessment, issued last week, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats identified Russia and China as America's primary rivals in space.

"We assess that Russia and China perceive a need to offset any US military advantage derived from military, civil, or commercial space systems and are increasingly considering attacks against satellite systems as part of their future warfare doctrine," pointed out the assessment.

"Both will continue to pursue a full range of anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons as a means to reduce US military effectiveness."

"The global threat of electronic warfare (EW) attacks against space systems will expand in the coming years in both number and types of weapons," adds the DNI. "Development will very likely focus on jamming capabilities against dedicated military satellite communications (SATCOM), Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) imaging satellites, and enhanced capabilities against Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS), such as the US Global Positioning System (GPS). Blending of EW and cyber-attack capabilities will likely expand in pursuit of sophisticated means to deny and degrade information networks."

Russia and China will likely "complete development" of "ASAT weapons" in the next few years, states the assessment."..."

U.S. Air Force General: China Building a 'Navy in Space'

March 13, 2018 breitbart.com reported: Air Force Lt. Gen. Steve Kwast has argued that China is way ahead of the United States in the race to send settlers to space, and they are currently building a "navy in space."

Kwast, who is the commander and president of Air University at the Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, said that although America remained the world's leader in space exploration, they were beginning to fall behind China two years after they announced their cutting-edge "Space Force" plan.

"In my best military judgment, China is on a 10-year journey to operationalize space. We're on a 50-year journey," he told CNBC. "We could be on a five-year journey because it's all about how aggressively we are going about this journey."

Kwast warned that the Chinese expansion into space could present a serious national security problem, but that North Korea's nuclear and electromagnetic capabilities were the "real problem."

"China is working on building a 'navy in space' that would work even beyond Earth's gravity," Kwast said. "Right now, if North Korea were to launch a missile into space and detonate an electromagnetic pulse, it would take out our eyes in space."

Kwast also criticized America's regulation and bureaucratic procedures for slowing down the progress of America's space programs, especially for private companies such as SpaceX, and urged authorities to "bring together the right talent to accelerate the journey."

"You have to detail everything in your suitcase—each item's material, manufacturer, weight and more—the government takes a year to go through it and then tells you what you can and can't take," he said."..."



Solar Maximum Mission Satellite

Haley: We're prepared to act on Syria

March 13, 2018 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Nikki Haley, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, warned on Monday that Washington 'remains prepared to act if we must,' if the UN Security Council fails to act on Syria, Reuters reported.

The United States asked the Security Council to demand an immediate 30-day ceasefire in Damascus and rebel-held Eastern Ghouta, where Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's forces, backed by Russia and Iran, say they are targeting 'terrorist' groups which are shelling the capital.

The army's onslaught in the region, backed by air and artillery strikes, has killed about 1,160 people since February 18, a war monitoring group said, according to Reuters.

'It is not the path we prefer, but it is a path we have demonstrated we will take, and we are prepared to take again,' Haley told the 15-member Security Council. 'When the international community consistently fails to act, there are times when states are compelled to take their own action.' ..."

Arabs planning 'day of rage' on Friday

March 13, 2018 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "The National and Islamic Forces, the supreme coordinating body of the Palestinian organizations, announced on Monday that this coming Friday, March 16, will be a 'day of popular rage' at all points of friction, checkpoints and 'settlements'.

The official announcement by the National and Islamic Forces calls on the Palestinian public to rise up against the policy of the American administration and Israel on the Palestinian issue, stressing the importance of implementing the decisions of the PLO Central Council, including severing ties with Israel and revoking recognition of Israel as long as it does not recognize the 'state of Palestine'.

Israel was also accused of escalating 'settler crimes' in attacks on bypass roads, villages and in the firing of live ammunition against Palestinians under the protection of the 'occupation army and its commanders.' ..."

Trump pushes for new 'space force'

March 13, 2018 AFP reported: "President Donald Trump said Tuesday he wants the US military to create a new "space force," adding to the Pentagon's current ground, navy and air forces.

Trump told troops at the Miramar Marine Corps Air Station near San Diego that the new group would be able to encapsulate the "tremendous amount" of work the military and government are doing in space-related defense.

"My new national strategy for space recognizes that space is a war-fighting domain, just like the land, air and sea," Trump said.

"We may even have a space force... We have the air force, we'll have the space force, we'll have the army, the navy.

"Maybe we'll have to do that. That could happen," he said.

Since taking office, Trump has frequently touted his support for the US military and placed high-ranking generals in top White House and cabinet posts.

Last year some legislators pushed a bill in Congress that included a provision to establish a new branch of the military dubbed the Space Corps.

But the military itself has resisted, saying it does not need to create another force and its attendant bureaucracy.

"At a time when we are trying to integrate the department's joint warfighting functions, I do not wish to add a separate service that would likely present a narrower and even parochial approach to space operations," Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told Congressman Michael Turner in a letter last July.

It would be "premature to add additional organizational and administrative tail to the department at a time I am trying to reduce overhead," he added.

The idea was finally dropped from the Pentagon's funding bill by the end of last year, but it retains some support in Congress, where advocates say the US is facing significant strategic vulnerabilities in the face of Russian and Chinese pushes into space warfare."..."

Russia test-fires 'ideal' hypersonic missile

March 11, 2018 spacedaily.com reported: "Russia said Sunday it successfully launched a hypersonic missile which President Vladimir Putin called 'an ideal weapon' as he unveiled a new array of next-generation arms earlier this month.



The high-precision Kinzhal (Dagger) missile was launched from a MiG-31 supersonic interceptor jet that took off from an airfield in the South Military District in Russia's southwest, the defence ministry said.

'The launch went according to plan, the hypersonic missile hit its target,' the ministry added.

The ministry released video footage showing two pilots gearing up for a flight and then running towards a jet with a large missile slung beneath its underbelly. Set to rousing, patriotic music, the video then shows a missile detaching from the airborne plane and gliding across the dark sky, leaving a fiery trail behind.

The Kinzhal missile was one of an array of new weapons Putin unveiled in his state-of-the-nation address earlier this month, ahead of a presidential election on March 18 that he is all but guaranteed to win.

Putin said the missile flies at 10 times the speed of the sound and can overcome air-defence systems..."