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Satellite attack: the mounting arms race in space

November 18, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "Last year a US general made an ominous revelation: two Russian satellites in orbit were stalking a US spy satellite high above the earth.

It wasn't clear if the Cosmos satellites could attack USA-245, an American surveillance spacecraft.

'It has the potential to create a dangerous situation in space,' said General Jay Raymond, head of the Pentagon's Space Command.

The incident passed, but it marked a new stage in the mounting arms race in space, where potentially bomb-armed satellites, laser-shooting spacecraft and other technologies have moved from science fiction to reality.

The stakes were made clear Monday when Russia launched a missile from Earth and blasted to pieces one of its satellites in a show of force. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg called the act 'reckless.'

'It demonstrates that Russia is now developing new weapons systems that can shoot down satellites,' he said at a meeting Tuesday with EU defense ministers..."

US, Gulf countries accuse Iran of causing 'nuclear crisis'

November 18, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "The United States and its Arab allies in the Gulf accused Iran Wednesday of causing a nuclear crisis and destabilizing the Middle East with ballistic missiles and drones.

The warning came in a joint statement issued after a meeting of the US and Gulf Cooperation Council working group on Iran, which was held in Saudi Arabia.

'All participants urged the new Iranian administration to seize the current diplomatic opportunity' stemming from the resumption of talks in Vienna aimed at salvaging the Iranian nuclear accord, and 'prevent conflict and crisis,' the statement said.

These indirect talks between the US and Iran were suspended after Iran elected a new president in June and are now scheduled to resume late this month..."



Austrian COVID cases hit record on third day of lockdown for unvaccinated

November 17, 2021 Reuters reported: "Austrian coronavirus infections hit a new daily record on Wednesday, the third day of a lockdown for those not fully vaccinated aimed at halting the surge.

Roughly 65% of Austria's population is fully vaccinated against the virus, one of the lowest rates in western Europe. Austria also has one of the highest infection rates on the continent, with a seven-day incidence <https://covid19-dashboard.ages.at> of 925 per 100,000 people.

Soaring infections across Europe as winter approaches are prompting governments to consider reintroducing unpopular lockdowns. In contrast to the Netherlands, which has ordered a partial lockdown that applies to all, Austria has sought to avoid placing extra restrictions on the fully vaccinated.

Daily infections rose to 14,416 on Wednesday, official data showed, the first time they have passed the 14,000 mark. The peak of the biggest wave of infections before this was 9,586 about a year ago, when the country went into full lockdown.

Having barred the unvaccinated from places including restaurants, hotels, theatres and ski lifts 10 days ago, the government ordered a lockdown under which roughly two million people not fully vaccinated can only leave their homes for a limited number of reasons.

Those include going to work, shopping for essentials and "stretching your legs" with no limit on time or distance. Given those sweeping categories, there are doubts about whether the lockdown can be properly enforced and whether it will succeed in countering the surge in infections." ..."

U.S. accuses Russia of generating orbital debris after 'destructive' satellite test, vows to respond

November 16, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "The United States has accused the Russian Federation of conducting a 'destructive satellite test' that could put astronauts, cosmonauts, and global satellite operations at risk.

Through the U.S. State Department's spokesperson, Ned Price, it was revealed that the alleged test was conducted early Monday. Price went on to condemn the action, calling it 'reckless.'

The test was described as a 'destructive satellite test of a direct ascent and anti-satellite missile against one of its own satellites.'

According to Price, the test resulted in 'over 1,500 pieces of trackable orbital debris and hundreds of thousands of pieces of small orbital debris that now threaten the interests of all nations.'

It has been confirmed by NASA that the orbital debris caused astronauts on the International Space Station to perform emergency actions..."

Secret General Atomics drone reportedly packs double the firepower of current fleet

November 16, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "General Atomics secretly tested their newest drone prototype this summer. According to reports, the drone has significantly more firepower than those currently in use by the US military.

Citing two unnamed sources with knowledge of the program, Breaking Defense revealed in an exclusive report that the secretive drone prototype was tested over the summer at the General Atomics Desert Horizon test center in the Mojave Desert.

The drone can reportedly handle a maximum payload of 16 Hellfire missiles, or double that of the US Army's Gray Eagle drone, and quadruple that of the standard Reaper. A single Hellfire missile is approximately 100 pounds.

The drone was not just designed for firepower, as its most noticeable capability is the ability to take off or land in a linear space of less than 800 feet. One of the unnamed sources suggests that it could be deployed and recovered on dirt roads, dry riverbeds, and potentially even on ships..."

Russian movements at Ukraine border 'rather worrying'

November 15, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "The European Union said on Friday that it was alarmed by Russian military activities close to Ukraine's border, after Washington demanded an explanation from Moscow.

'We continue to watch the situation and the information we gathered so far is rather worrying,' EU foreign affairs spokesman Peter Stano told journalists.

He said the 27-nation bloc was monitoring the situation with partners including the United States and Britain and 'we are open to look at further steps as necessary'.

US top diplomat Antony Blinken on Wednesday warned Russia against making another 'serious mistake' on Ukraine as Washington sought clarity about troop movements near the border..."



Russia sees U.S., NATO Black Sea drills as 'serious challenge'

November 15, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview aired Saturday that Moscow considered recent Black Sea exercises by the US and other NATO ships as a serious challenge.

'The United States and its allies in NATO are carrying out unplanned exercises in the Black Sea. Not only is a rather powerful naval group involved in these exercises, but also aviation, including strategic aviation. This is a serious challenge for us,' he said in an interview with state broadcaster *Vesti*.

His comments came after Washington this week raised alarms over Russian military activities close to Ukraine's border..."

Bennett to Christians: Radical Islam wants to take over the world

November 12, 2021 jpost.com reported: "Iran wants to dominate the world through Islamist extremism, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett warned during the Government Press Organization's seventh annual Christian Media Summit on Thursday.

'Here in Israel, we are fighting a very visible enemy, radical militant Islam,' Bennett warned in a pre-recorded message, delivered to the virtual conference. 'The terror that begins in Tehran seeks to destroy Israel, dominate the world, and drive it into a dark abyss.'

Bennett said that people should not kill or spread war and hatred in the name of the God of life, peace and love..."