



Promoting Cooperative Solutions for Space Sustainability

Space as a Warfighting Domain

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Future Warfighting Symposium, Naval War College

Aug. 5, 2021




Note: This briefing is compiled entirely from public, unclassified sources

SWF's Counterspace Threat Assessment

- Existence of counterspace capabilities is not new, but the circumstances surrounding them are
- Discussions of space often gets classified quickly
- *Global Counterspace Capabilities: An Open Source Assessment*
 - Significant research and development of a broad range of kinetic (i.e. destructive) and non-destructive counterspace capabilities in multiple countries: direct ascent, co-orbital, electronic warfare, directed energy, cyber
 - US, Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, India, France, and Japan
 - ***Only non-destructive capabilities are actively being used in current military operations***
- <https://swfound.org/counterspace>; NB that there are French, Spanish, Mandarin, and Russian language versions of the executive summary available

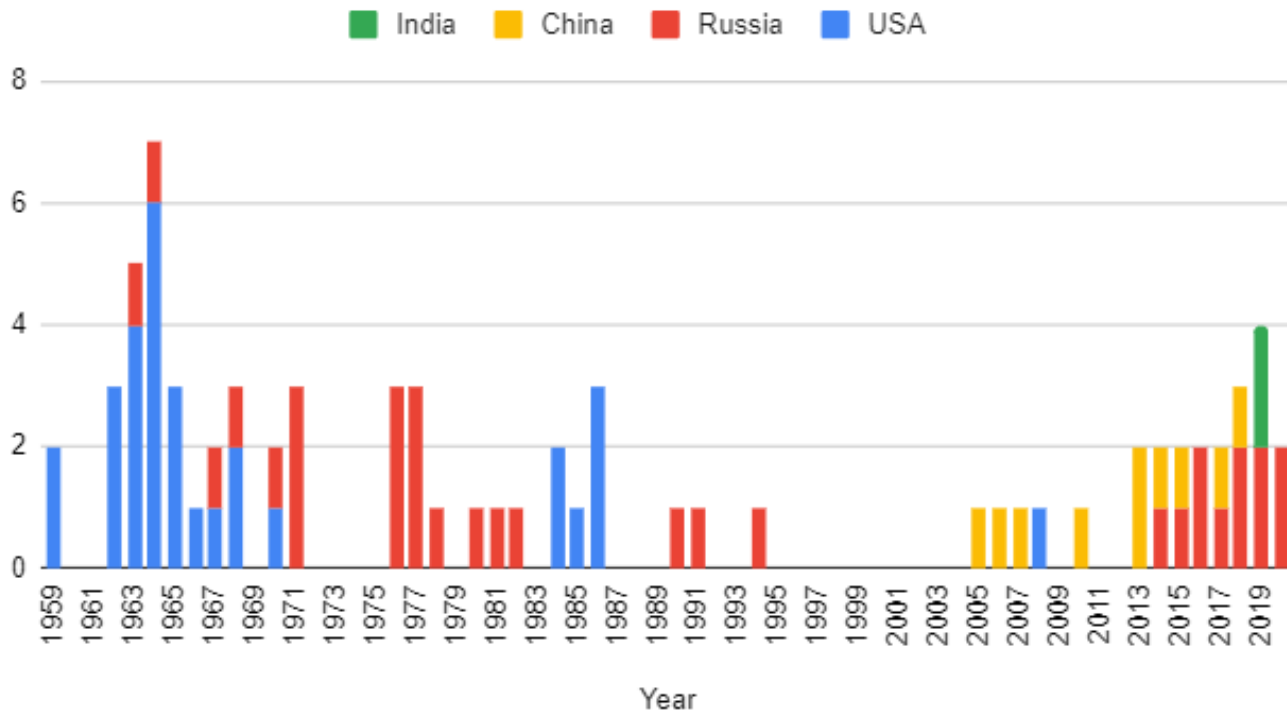
Global Assessment of Counterspace Threats

	China	Russia	U.S.	France	India	Iran	Japan	North Korea
LEO Co-Orbital	Y	G	Y	R	R	R	R	R
MEO/GEO Co-Orbital	Y	Y	Y	R	R	R	R	R
LEO Direct Ascent	G	Y	Y	R	Y	R	R	R
MEO/GEO Direct Ascent	Y	Y	Y	R	R	R	R	R
Directed Energy	Y	Y	Y	Y	R	R	R	R
Electronic Warfare	G	G	G	Y	Y	Y	R	Y
Space Situational Awareness	G	G	G	Y	Y	Y	Y	R

Legend: none  some  significant 

History of ASAT Tests in Space

ASAT Tests By Country and Year



Norms in Space Governance

- Much of the existing space governance framework is based on norms
 - Example: Freedom of overflight for satellite reconnaissance
 - Launch of Sputnik in 1957 helped set the norm that satellite overflight did not breach territorial sovereignty
 - By mid-1960s, freedom of overflight was a generally accepted norm
 - Was not codified into “hard law” until Outer Space Treaty of 1967
- Norms are likely going to be the main mechanism to address future challenges
 - Far more space actors than ever before, with diverse interests and goals
 - Increasingly challenging to get global consensus on new “hard law”
 - Focus on identifying responsible behavior

- There is value-added to U.S. national security and economic strength by shaping these international norms for space
 - Guardrails are needed
- The United States has been a leader in international discussions on civil space, but not in security space issues
 - This vacuum in leadership will be filled one way or another
- Rules based order in space will be comprised of multiple building blocks – no silver bullet
 - Cannot ignore the commercial sector in these discussions



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Questions?

Thanks.

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