

# **Between the U.S. and China: The Current Dynamics of Military Space**

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February 2007**

# Context for Military Space

- **A new strategic environment.**
- **Changes in the nature of warfare.**
- **Conflicts now and in the future will involve operations in space.**

# Assertions

- **Space is not a sanctuary**
- **Arms control is not a panacea**
- **Weapons are no longer only kinetic**
- **Military conflict is not inevitable**
- **Weaponization of space is the wrong debate.**

# Strategic Environment

- **Erosion of post-1945 institutions**
  - **And Alliances?**
- **Multipolar or Hegemony?**
- **Strategic Competition**

# Changes in Warfare

- **RMA/Netcentric/Transformation**
  - **Stealth, Precision, Sensors, Networks**
- **Informational Warfare**
  - **Gaining information superiority**
- **Asymmetry**
  - **Exploit asymmetric advantage**
  - **Reduce asymmetric vulnerabilities**
    - **Awareness of U.S. use of space**
      - **EMP**

# Integrated Battlespace

- **From ground to orbit**
- **Services from space**
  - **Reconnaissance, communication, navigation**
    - **Commercial services for military use**
  - **Firepower?**
- **From strategic to operational**

# Space Control/Superiority

- **Air and Maritime precedents:**
  - Deny an opponent the ability to use airspace or the sea or disrupt your use.
- **Tools:**
  - Electronic Warfare (EW)
  - Cyber
  - Energy weapons
  - Kinetic attack:
    - Orbital Targets
    - Terrestrial Targets

# China: Programs and Intentions

- **Technology Demonstrators**
- **Asymmetric Advantage**
- **Political Symbolism**
- **Regional Goals**
  - **Primacy**
  - **Displacement**

# Effect of the ASAT Test

- Competition with space-faring neighbors
  - India, Russia, Japan
- Damage to Credibility
  - UN Arms Control: CWC versus COPUOS
- 'Floor' on US Space Budget
  - Electoral debate over security
- No effect on the military balance
  - US plans already assumed ASAT

# U.S. Response

- **Will not be an 'Arms Race'**
  - But unilateral disarmament is not in the US interest
- **Exploit asymmetric advantage**
  - Space control
  - Informational advantage
- **Redundancy and resiliency in space services**
  - Operationally Responsive Space
  - Nearspace alternatives

# Perspective is everything



# Concluding Points

- **Near term:**

- Space is an arena for military conflict; banning space weapons does not change this.
- Effective arms control would need to be verifiable and limited in scope.

- **Long term:**

- Further militarization depends on the direction of international relations: multilateral cooperation or multipolar competition.