# US Military Expands Space Capabilities Amid Rising Threats from China and Russia



The United States is rapidly expanding its military capabilities in space, driven by advancements from China and Russia in space-based operations. The Pentagon's initiative focuses on defending U.S. satellites and, if necessary, disabling enemy spacecraft. Defense Department officials have stated that the effort marks a significant shift in military strategy, seeking to counter potential threats to American troops and assets.

China and Russia have already tested systems such as ground-based lasers, antisatellite missiles, and maneuverable satellites. Russia's electronic jamming in Ukraine and potential space-based nuclear weapons amplify concerns. U.S. officials, including Gen. Chance Saltzman and Gen. Stephen N. Whiting, emphasize the importance of securing space capabilities.

China has been rapidly increasing its space tools, such as tripling its satellite network since 2018. However, both China and Russia claim the U.S. is driving the militarization of space, while the U.S. sees it as necessary to maintain security.

The new U.S. approach includes "responsible counterspace campaigning" to avoid creating space debris, with aims to broadly suppress enemy threats in orbit by 2026. The Pentagon is enhancing satellite resilience and developing systems like cyberattacks, ground or space-based lasers, and high-powered microwaves, though specific details remain classified.

International collaboration is also ongoing, with efforts like Operation Olympic Defender involving allies such as Britain, Canada, and Australia. France plans to deploy a high-powered laser-equipped satellite by 2030. Despite rapid developments, some U.S. officials believe progress is still too slow to fully meet future space warfare requirements.

The Pentagon’s push indicates space has become an integral part of the military domain, reflecting a new era of defense operations beyond Earth.