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<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2015/08/20/425516/China-capable-US-space-assets-Exdefense-official>

China capable of destroying US space assets, US ex-defense official says

8/20/2015



China has successfully tested a hypersonic vehicle able to carry nuclear warheads.

The former director of the US Missile Defense Agency says China is developing its missile programs that would allow the country to destroy “nearly all of our space assets.”

During a speech on Wednesday, retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Trey Obering warned about Beijing's growing military power.

"I believe that China is challenging the United States, specifically targeting our strategic ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance), our power projection capabilities, and our technological advantages with their missile programs," he told an audience at the Hudson Institute, a Washington, DC-based think tank.

In 2007, the Chinese military showed that it can target low, earth-orbiting satellites with its anti-satellite missile test and now they have the capability to destroy American space assets, according to the former official.



Chinese DF-21 missiles

Describing China and Russia as "the increasingly sophisticated threats," the retired general pointed to the development of a medium-range anti-ship missile by Beijing, called the DF-21, which is "clearly and specifically targeted" at US carrier battle groups.

"This missile is a formidable threat which represents very advanced technology," he said.

Obering said China's Wu-14 hypersonic vehicle was tested successfully earlier this year and it can travel at 10 times the speed of sound.

"With characteristics of both very high speed and maneuverability, this would be a formidable challenge to any air and missile defense system," he said.

Following the test, the Chinese Defense Ministry announced that "the scheduled scientific research and experiments in our territory is normal, and those tests are not targeted at any country and specific goals."