



SCAAE Special Newsletter

No.4

Feb. 17, 2008

Chief Editor: Hsi Chen

Associate Editor: Jane Wang

Contributing Editors:

Bill Chen, Jim Chen, Jason Dai, Key Donn, Yuan Hong, Louis Huang, Jun Hu, John Lai, Charles Lee, Wai Lim, Frank Lin, Kuen Y. Lin, Ed Miao, Nelson Mar, Phil Oyoung, Fred Shen, Philip Tang, Rock Teng, C. C. Tien, Tony Torng, Gordon Wei, Eric Yang, Ying Chin Yeh, Peter Yuan.

Dear Members:

President George W. Bush had decided to have the shoot of the 5,000-pound (2,270 kg) satellite as the security advisers suggested its re-entry could lead to a loss of life.

We wish the mission to be completed on time with good result.

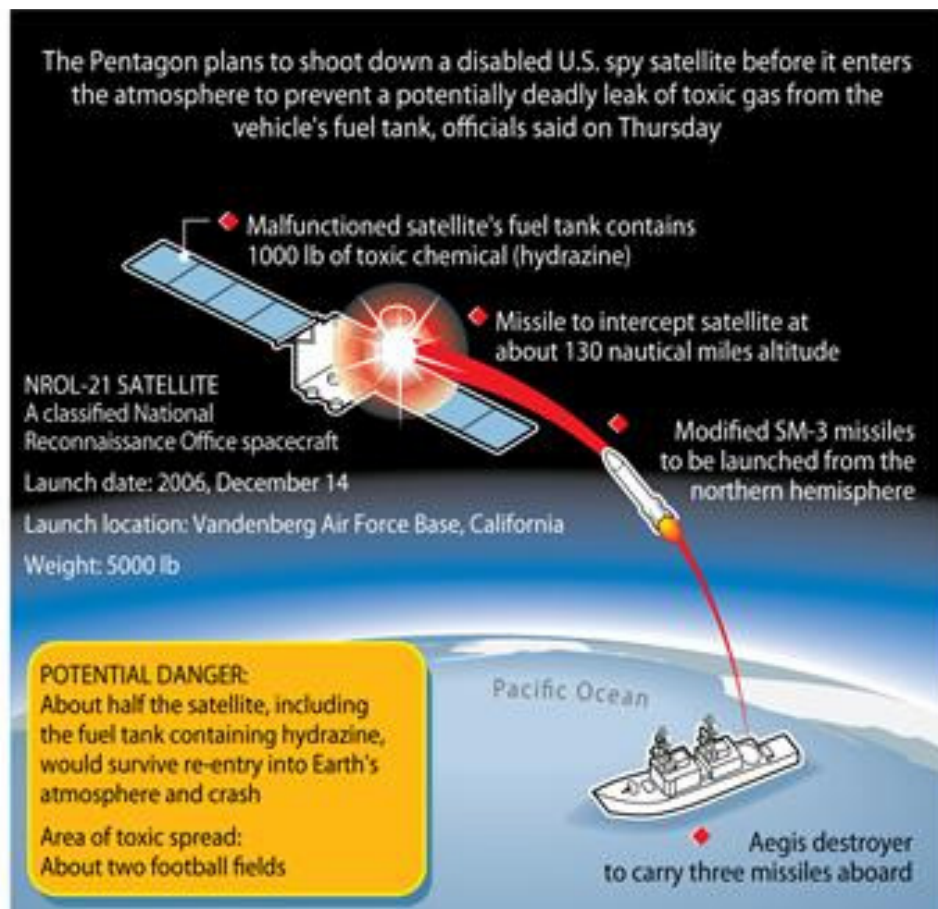
Newsletter Editors

U.S. vows to pay for damage caused by satellite

U.S. officials said that President George W. Bush had decided to have the Navy shoot the 5,000-pound (2,270 kg) satellite with a modified tactical missile after security advisers suggested its re-entry could lead to a loss of life.

The United States pledged to compensate countries if debris lands on their territory from a dying U.S. spy satellite that the plans to shoot down.

The satellite is carrying more than 1,000 pounds (454 kg) of hydrazine fuel, and could release much of it as a toxic gas.





"In the history of the space age, there has not been a single human being who has been harmed by man-made objects falling from space."

So what could that other reason be?

The veteran space security specialist believes there are several. To him, the satellite shot is a chance to try out its space defense capabilities; a way to keep secret material out of the wrong hands.

The primary concern for our human spaceflight program is obviously the risk of increased orbital debris. First of all, shooting at the satellite when it's just about to enter the atmosphere over 240 KM height significantly reduces risk,'

'With the current plan, after the target is hit more than 50 percent of the debris will enter the atmosphere within two orbits. The rest will be down in no more than a few weeks. This is significantly different than the ASAT test last year (by China), in which a satellite was hit at around 850 KM - that debris will be in orbit for decades.

波蘭嚴陣以待 美衛星若未摧毀或墜落其領土

美國日前宣佈將發射導彈摧毀一顆失控的間諜衛星。不過如果該計劃失敗，它的碎片將墜落在地球上。波蘭國防部長克利赫 2 月 15 日表示，波蘭是這個衛星可能“光顧”的國家之一。

克利赫說，美國向幾個國家發出了警告，提醒衛星可能在其領土上墜落，波蘭就是其中之一。不過，他補充說，衛星的危險性是“最低限度的”。波蘭軍隊總參謀長弗朗齊歇克·加戈爾表示，軍方決定從下周起進入“高度警戒”狀態，以防有衛星碎片落在波蘭領土上。

據悉，這顆如一輛小型巴士大小的美國衛星因為電腦系統出現故障，地面人員已經失去了對它的控制。衛星攜帶著一個裝有聯氨的毒性很強的燃料箱，這個燃料箱在穿越大氣層後仍有可能對地表和人類生命安全造成威脅，污染面積或將有兩個足球場大。

美國常駐聯合國裁軍談判會議代表克裏斯蒂娜·羅卡 2 月 15 日在日內瓦向裁軍談判會議(裁談會)通告了美國將擊落這顆衛星的計劃，並稱實施該計劃的美國三艘海軍軍艦以及三顆導彈已經部署到位。美國總統布希命令軍方將這顆衛星擊毀，但是何時執行還是個未知數。

如果行動失敗，那麼這顆衛星將在 3 月 6 日左右進入地球大氣層，墜落在南、北緯 58.5 度之間的任何地區。羅卡補充說，美國將考慮善後處理方案，儘量減小燃料箱墜入有人類居住的區域所造成的危險。她表示，美國政府計劃向衛星碎片墜入其國土的任何國家提供協助。

此前有報道稱，美國擊落間諜衛星的目的是為了保護軍事技術秘密外泄或顯示美國的反衛星能力。羅卡 15 日否認了這一說法。她說：“這一非同尋常的舉措並非為了發展和測試反衛星技術。”

美國官員稱，美國可能本周在“阿特蘭蒂斯”號航天飛機返回後動手，摧毀這顆帶有先進的成像傳感器的衛星，因為在摧毀這顆價值不菲的間諜衛星的同時，美國官員可不希望它的殘骸碎片與“阿特蘭蒂斯”號航天飛機發生任何“親密接觸”。

按照計劃，“阿特蘭蒂斯”號航天飛機將於 18 日脫離國際空間站返航，20 日降落在美國佛羅裏達州肯尼迪航天中心。

俄羅斯發表聲明

俄羅斯國防部發表聲明說，美國擊毀故障間諜衛星的計劃可能隻是個借口，真實目的是測試美國新型太空武器。

俄羅斯國防部指責美方沒有就擊落衛星的決定提供足夠信息。聲明說，美方堅稱擊毀衛星的目的是防止衛星進入大氣層後有毒燃料殘余可能對人類生命構成威脅，但這一理由並不充分。

俄塔社發布的一份聲明說：“對於衛星潛在危險的推測背後，隱藏著典型反衛星武器的測試準備。這樣的測試基本意味著一種新型戰略性武器已經誕生。”

聲明續稱：“摧毀美國衛星的決定並非像他們嘗試聲稱一樣毫無害處，尤其是當美國正在逃避限制外太空軍備競賽談判的時候。