

United States: space weapons deployment in orbit confirmed for the first time

Published on 16/09/2026

The United States has officially admitted for the first time that it has deployed a space weapon in Earth's orbit. The announcement marks a historic turning point in Washington's offensive and orbital defense capabilities, triggering immediate reactions at the international level and fears of a new arms race in space.

A necessary move against "evolving threats"

The confirmation came from U.S. Air Force Secretary, **Troy Meink**, during his speech at the Air, Space and Cyber Conference. Meink stated that the "on orbit" weapon system became necessary to safeguard American forces from potential hostile enemy actions.

While not specifying either the precise technical capabilities of the device or the exact date of its placement in space, Meink emphasized that the United States must be prepared to face

constantly evolving threats. U.S. military leadership has long aimed to strengthen power projection in space, driven especially by the advances of Russian and Chinese programs aimed at intercepting, disrupting, or destroying American satellites in the event of future conflicts.

China's reaction and the mystery of the technology

Beijing's response was not slow to arrive. A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry warned the United States against the risk of triggering a dangerous "arms race" in space, urging Washington to stop expanding its military capabilities and war preparations in orbit.

For its part, the **US Space Force** reiterated that the concept of "space control" encompasses both kinetic and non-kinetic means to neutralize adversary capabilities through:

- Deactivation and disruption (jamming)
- Degradation of enemy infrastructure
- Targeted destruction, if deemed strictly necessary

Expert hypotheses: electronic warfare or kinetic vehicles?

Operational details remain top secret. According to **Dr. Bleddyn Bowen**, an expert on military uses of space at RUSI (Royal United Services Institute), the options on the table vary considerably.

Bowen hypothesizes that it could be an **electronic warfare or radio disruption platform**, similar to systems already existing on Earth but applied in orbit. More remote, on the other hand, is the hypothesis of a kinetic impact vehicle (*kinetic kill vehicle*), capable of physically destroying rival satellites, since it would generate an excessive amount of space debris dangerous to all.



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Geopolitical context and the treaty precedent

This move is part of a broader strategy. The Trump administration has repeatedly highlighted how orbital capabilities and interceptor missiles are fundamental pillars of the future "Golden Dome" defense system, designed to protect U.S. territory from air and missile threats.

Although the famous Outer Space Treaty of **1967** categorically prohibits the deployment of weapons of mass destruction in orbit, the superpowers (United States, Russia, and China) have progressively explored legal gray areas to develop alternative systems for surveillance, jamming, and neutralization of satellites, now crucial for communications, navigation, and military intelligence.