

European Space Policy Institute

The impact of the war in Ukraine on space defence policy

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The extensive influence of space on the war in Ukraine





Monitoring of a Russian convoy by Maxar

KA-SAT Network cyber attack overview

Viasat is providing an overview and incident report on the cyberattack against the KA-SAT network, which occurred on 24 February 2022, and resulted in a partial interruption of KA-SAT's consumeroriented satellite broadband service.

March 30, 2022 04:55 AM • Viasat, Inc.

Cyberattack against ViaSat's KA-SAT



SIFU initiative



Use of Starlink for military purposes



Commercial satellite imagery

Lessons learned

- 1. The cyber dimension of space infrastructure is key
- 2. Commercial space actors are game-changers

The space defence policy context



Space defence policies have evolved in recent years around three dimensions:

1. Strategies & doctrines: space as a warfighting domain, a domain of operations...



2. Organisations: multiplication of military bodies dedicated to addressing space issues



3. Capabilities: development and tests of anti-satellite technologies



What are the consequences of the "first commercial space war"?

Will to better integrate commercial spacecraft in warfighting



Need to avoid complete reliance on private actors

Blurred distinction between civil and military spacecraft



Raises questions on the protection of commercial spacecraft

Enhanced availability of spaceenabled geospatial intelligence



Creates opportunities for collaboration and potential challenges for future conflicts

Impacts and lessons learned



Investment in military space

- French Law on Military Programming
 2024-2030
 → €6 bn for space
- German special fund ("Sondervermögen") → Expenditures in early warning, satcom

Poland bought two EO satellites

Access to Space

Reinforce the need to ensure autonomous access to space



Need to develop skills

Attract talents in the military space sector

Ensure adequate training of military space operators





Schriever wargame 2023

AsterX 2023

Space: EU tests its response mechanism to threats
© 15.03.2023
The European Union enhances its response mechanism in view of new threats in space: Space Threat Response Architecture (STRA) 2023 an PSC Space Table-Top 2023 exercises

Space Threat Response Architecture 2023



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Thank you!

ESPI is the European think tank for space. We provide decision-makers with an informed view on midto-long-term issues relevant to Europe's space activities.

