

North Korea – Space/Counterspace

U.S. ARMY

(U) This infographic provides an overview of the North Korean's Space/Counterspace Capability. North Korea is expected to attempt denial of adversary use of space during a conflict. Open sources describe US reliance on space-based assets for joint operations and intelligence. North Korea's non-kinetic counter-space capabilities include GPS and satellite communication jamming, tested multiple times in the past decade. Possession of ballistic missiles and space launch vehicles suggests capability for potential disruption of orbiting satellites in a conflict.

Space



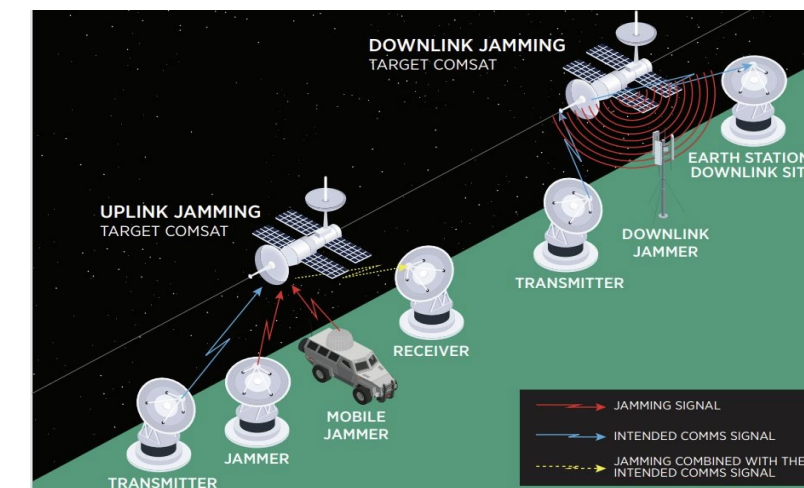
- North Korea's space program is overseen by the state-run National Aerospace Development Administration.
- Operation of the Sohae Satellite Launching Station on the west coast and associated space tracking facilities in Pyongyang
- Had successful satellite launch cycles in 2012 and 2016
- North Korea has successfully placed two satellites in orbit and has expressed its ambitions for further advancements in space.
- They use the space program to test ballistic missile technology



Counterspace

- North Korea may be developing, or already have, non-kinetic physical counter space weapons such as a nuclear EMP device.
- Possession of ballistic missiles and space launch vehicles suggesting the potential to disrupt orbiting satellites during a conflict
- Given its existing ballistic missile and nuclear capabilities, North Korea could potentially launch a nuclear weapon into space and detonate it.
- North Korea has obtained, and is actively using, electronic attack capability against U.S. space systems.
- North Korean downlink jamming systems reportedly have an effective radius of 50 to 100 km.

Electronic Warfare



Sources: [North Korea Military Power](#) (DIA) [N. Korea seeks counterspace, electronic warfare capabilities against enemies: DIA](#) (The Korean Herald) [2022 Challenges to Security In Space](#) (DIA)