

Space Lusitania: India and Pakistan

Move 2 U.S. Team Briefing

June 14, 2023

What military response, if any, would be proportionate to the loss of the Maxar satellite? Please explain why.

- Our definition of proportional: Taking sufficient action to prevent or stop future attacks. Not necessarily minimal but enough action to cause the other party to cease.
- What is PROPORTIONAL: Causing permanent dysfunction to a PRC-PAK satellite by laser and/or coorbital (or other non-debris-causing means).
- Above Proportional: Destroying more satellites or creating debris
- BELOW PROPORTIONAL: Disabling/destruction of the Coorbital ASATS as that is just self-defense and not punishment...they should lose those.

What information do you need from other teams?

- We needed to know India's actions
- India and Pakistan were taking de-escalatory or escalatory actions we would have needed to know them. That would have changed our responses.
- If China's intentions are to have no satellite in orbit world

What information can you provide to other teams?

- We could provide significant, attributional intelligence through open-source means
- We could be clear about our intentions about what we could do and not do

What actions do you need to take?

- We took cyber attack of their counter space assets, ground-based laser, notifying commercial and global operators of the laser threat, posturing US Space Command for a counter space exchange
- Planned actions to sanction actors, companies, and supply chain of the Chinese counter-space systems
- Actions toward global evidence of Chinese wrongdoing both in space and against Pakistan

How might you avoid further escalation?

- Publicly supporting multi-lateral talks with a neutral party
- Unless the U.S. just “rolls over” which we are not inclined to do

Conversely, how might you use military power to create a diplomatic firebreak, i.e., to lead to a specific preferred end state?

- If there was more context about a geopolitical environment in the background it would have had an impact on the result of the game – What’s happening with Taiwan? Naval action in the background? This would have a huge impact on our decision making

What counter-space capabilities in what hands might be employed to create either a firebreak or a major comparative advantage in the contest?

- If we had the capability to knock out everyone's satellites – mutually assured destruction in space
- A capability to actively defend
- If we had our own ground-based laser China would have thought twice – could have had a directly proportionate response.
- The old ASAT program using F-15s and kinetic kill missiles