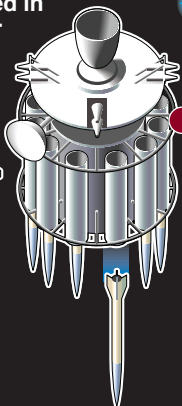


U.S. plans for hostile final frontier

The Bush administration has spent billions of dollars developing space-based weapons which could be deployed at a moment's notice to strike any location on the face of the Earth. Now, U.S. allies and potential foes alike fear they will trigger an arms race in space

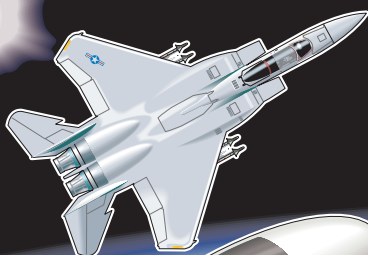
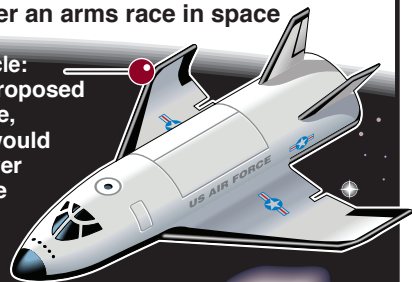


Space-Based Space Surveillance System: To enable offensive and defensive counterspace operations. \$189 million committed in past year

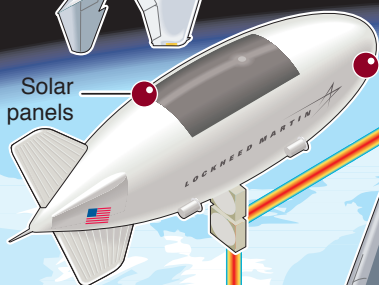


Hypervelocity rod bundles: Orbiting platform with 100kg metal rods which drop to strike ground targets at speeds of 190km a minute. So-called "Rods from God" budget classified

Common Aero Vehicle: Launched from a proposed military space plane, hypersonic CAVs would enable U.S. to deliver weapons worldwide at any time. Over \$88 million committed to date



Air-Launched Anti-Satellite Missile: New-generation ASAT missile capable of intercepting satellites in low Earth orbit planned for 2015 and beyond



Solar panels

Airship Relay Mirrors: To extend range of ABL – and more powerful ground-based lasers – by using relay mirrors. \$40 million awarded to deliver a high-altitude airship prototype by 2006

Airborne Laser (ABL): Chemical laser built into modified Boeing 747-400F freighter. Designed to destroy ballistic missiles in boost phase – just after launch – or enemy satellites

Laser: Three-to five-second burst heats metal skin of target until it cracks

Chemical storage

Six high-energy **Chemical Oxygen Iodine Lasers (COIL).** Laser's fuel consists of hydrogen peroxide and potassium hydroxide – which are then combined with chlorine gas and water. Six-module unit weighs about 12,250kg

Nose turret

Safety bulkhead

Four-man battle management team

First ABL test flight: **July 2002**
First test fire of laser: **November 2004**

Cost of full demonstration of first ABL aircraft: \$3 billion