



CENJOWS

CHINESE ASAT MISSILE – DN 3

1. **CHINA'S NEW ANTI-SATELLITE MISSILE DN-3: CAPABLE OF DESTROYING ENEMY COMMUNICATIONS.** The Chinese ballistic missile defense test that took place on February 5, 2018 involved a Dong Neng-3 (DN-3/KO09) hit-to-kill midcourse interceptor successfully striking a target DF-21 (CSS-5) medium-range ballistic missile.
2. The interceptor in the test was launched from the Korla Missile Test Complex, in China's Xinjiang province. The system's target capabilities are analogous to U.S. Standard Missile-3 midcourse interceptors, but it has yet to be successfully tested against an intermediate-range or intercontinental-range-class target. (The DN-3 is also thought to be physically much larger than the U.S. SM-3 series of missiles.)
3. The test was publicly reported by Chinese state media, though few details were provided. Exo-atmospheric midcourse kinetic interceptors like China's DN-3 target an incoming ballistic target after its active flight phase has concluded and the missile is outside the earth's atmosphere, on its way toward descending at hypersonic speeds. ***This capability also makes the DN-3 a capable anti-satellite (ASAT) platform.***
4. China's latest successful DN-3 test also comes just days after the U.S. Missile Defense Agency saw a second Standard Missile-3 Block IIA midcourse interceptor failure, compounding on a failure from 2017 that the Agency attributed to human error. (The test targeted a more challenging intermediate-range ballistic missile target than the MRBM-class DF-21 target the Chinese DN-3 intercepted.)
5. The DN-3 is thought to be China's most capable midcourse hit-to-kill interceptor, but the country has other systems capable of exo-atmospheric ballistic and anti-satellite interception, including the DN-2, the HQ-19, and the ASAT-oriented SC-19.

6. In 2013 China tested a DN2, a predecessor to the current model. It travelled 18,600 miles (30,000km) into space, the orbital region of US intelligence satellites. The DN-3 was first tested in October 2015 with another in December 2016. That test was also masked as an anti-missile interceptor test.

7. It also emerged in December last year that Beijing may also be developing its own satellite capable of grabbing its rivals in space. They will be small manoeuvring satellites capable of both seizing and destroying other satellites. Few additional details are known about the missile and the satellite.



CHINA'S DN-3 TEST ON 23 JULY 2017 TRACKED BY THE US

[\(https://thediplomat.com/2018/02/revealed-the-details-of-chinas-latest-hit-to-kill-interceptor-test/](https://thediplomat.com/2018/02/revealed-the-details-of-chinas-latest-hit-to-kill-interceptor-test/)
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-4753602/China-tests-new-missile-capable-destroying-satellites.html>
[https://freebeacon.com/national-security/china-carries-flight-test-anti-satellite-missile/\)](https://freebeacon.com/national-security/china-carries-flight-test-anti-satellite-missile/)