

# CENTRE FOR JOINT WARFARE STUDIES



## CENJOWS

### Hypersonic Weapons

#### US Conducted Hypersonic Missile Test in Mid-March, Kept Quiet Due To Escalating Tensions With Russia.

1. The US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) announced a successful free flight test of an aircraft-launched hypersonic missile partnered with the U.S. Air Force in March 22. The missile flew to an altitude greater than 65,000 feet (19,800 meters), achieved a speed of more than Mach 5 and a range of over 300 nautical miles. It was the second test under the agency's Hypersonic Air-breathing Weapon Concept (HAWC) Program and the missile had a different configuration from the first, which was tested last September.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/us/us-conducted-hypersonic-missile-test-in-mid-march-kept-quiet-due-to-escalating-tensions-with-russia/articleshow/90669896.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/us/us-conducted-hypersonic-missile-test-in-mid-march-kept-quiet-due-to-escalating-tensions-with-russia/articleshow/90669896.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

#### AUKUS To Deepen Cooperation on Hypersonics, Electronic Warfare Capabilities

2. In a step that enhances their security commitments and visibility in the Indo-Pacific, with a clear eye on the challenge posed by China's military assertiveness and technological advances, leaders of Australia, United Kingdom and the United States (AUKUS) have declared that they are commencing "new trilateral cooperation on hypersonics, counter-hypersonics, and electronic warfare capabilities". The initiatives

would add to their existing efforts to “deepen cooperation on cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and additional undersea capabilities”

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/aukus-to-deepen-cooperation-on-hypersonics-electronic-warfare-capabilities-101649184448657.html>

3. **Comments.** U.S. has shown concern over Chinese and Russian advances in hypersonic weapons – with China’s successful test of a hypersonic missile last year that flew around the globe and hit a target in China and alleged Russian use of hypersonic missiles against Ukraine. These weapons, with their extremely high speeds that make it difficult to intercept them, their manoeuvrability and nuclear warhead carrying capability, have the potential to alter the global strategic balance. As U.S. and AUKUS intensify efforts to operationalise hypersonic weapons and counter systems, the global race in the hypersonic regime is going to hot up in the coming days.