

Re: Kiss your GPS units goodbye.. China destroys Satellite with missile

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The only slight hope is that much of the debris will disappear in a relatively short time. Because the satellite was in a low orbit, it is already in contact with traces of the atmosphere.

Small pieces will be braked enough to come down and burn soon. Of the bigger pieces, some will have an altered orbit, at whose lowest point it dives even deeper into the outer reaches of the atmosphere and will thus be braked more rapidly.

Only few of the bigger pieces of debris will have an orbit entirely outside or very near the original satellite orbit and may remain up there for a long time. I wonder how long.

A piece that remains in a low orbit for a long time must be heavy and have a stable, nearly circular orbit not much lower than the original one.

This all reminds me of a sci-fi novel by Stanislaw Lem, in which a layman asks a spacefarer how to recognize inhabited planets, and the answer is that you recognize them by their garbage rings.

Hans-Georg

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No mail, please.

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