



# PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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## **AFA's Mitchell Institute Releases new study *Hypersonic Weapons and US National Security: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Breakthrough***

ARLINGTON, VA (March 1, 2016) — According to a study released today by the Mitchell Institute, hypersonic air-delivered munitions are now within a decade of operational fielding given adequate funding levels and stable requirements.

In Mitchell's newest publication, *Hypersonic Weapons and US National Security: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Breakthrough*, report authors, Dr Richard Hallion, Maj Gen Curtis Bedke, USAF (Ret), explain the operational requirement for this new technology, while providing a path forward to address present technology challenges. This release of this report dovetails with recent developments in Congress, several members are introducing legislation to ensure the US is on a sustainable path to realize the potential of hypersonic weapons.

This year Sen Orrin Hatch from Utah proposed legislation to expand the key Utah Test and Training Range in Utah that will ensure the Department of Defense better support for advance weapon system testing. This expansion will create a training area uniquely able to accommodate fifth generation and hypersonic operational testing. Additionally, Rep Steve Knight from California's 25<sup>th</sup> district has proposed legislation for a Hypersonics Research Council that will ensure our nation's hypersonics research and testing follows a sustained and coordinated strategic plan and sustains the US hypersonic edge for both civilian and military purposes.

The full text of the paper can be downloaded from the Mitchell Institute website:  
<http://www.mitchellaerospacepower.org/>

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*The Air Force Association's Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies is an independent, nonpartisan policy research institute established to promote understanding of the national security strategy advantages of exploiting the domains of air, space, and cyberspace. The Mitchell Institute's objective is to provide creative, insightful policy options to better empower our nation's leaders.*

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