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China Hacked South Korea Over Missile Defense, U.S. Firm Says

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This 2015 handout photo from the

U.S. Department of Defense shows a terminal High Altitude Area Defense interceptor being test launched on Wake Island in the Pacific Ocean. Photo: AFP PHOTO / DoD / Ben Listerman

Chinese state-backed hackers have recently targeted South Korean entities involved in deploying a U.S. missile-defense system, says an American cybersecurity firm, despite Beijing's denial of retaliation against Seoul over the issue.

In recent weeks, two cyberespionage groups that the firm linked to Beijing's military and intelligence agencies have launched a variety of attacks against South Korea's government, military, defense companies and a big conglomerate, John Hultquist, director of cyberespionage analysis at FireEye Inc., said in an interview.

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