

# Asteroid sparks 'war' fear

WASHINGTON: An asteroid which burned up in the earth's atmosphere in June could have triggered a mistaken nuclear war between India and Pakistan had it detonated over South Asia, a US military leader said yesterday.

*The New York Times* quoted Brigadier General Simon Worden, deputy director of US Strategic Command, as saying that the asteroid sizzled with a burst

of energy comparable to the Hiroshima atomic bomb.

He said US early warning satellites detected the flash of energy released by the small asteroid, a so-called near earth object, or NEO, on June 6.

If it had detonated over South Asia, where India and Pakistan were sparring, it could have sparked a disaster, Worden told a House of Representatives Science subcommittee.

Phillip A. Ellis (also see ov

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