

GLOBAL NUCLEAR CAPABILITY MODERNIZATION:

GLOBAL NUCLEAR-CAPABLE DELIVERY VEHICLES

Revisionist states – including Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran – are expanding and modernizing their nuclear-capable delivery systems.

RUSSIA

- Russia has recently deployed a new type of intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), is modifying a second, and is well on its way to fielding two new ICBMs – all of which can employ multiple reentry vehicles (MIRV).
- It has fielded a new type of submarine-launched ballistic missile and sea-launched cruise missile, while also putting to sea a new class of ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) and guided missile submarines.
- Russia is developing a diverse range of other strategic and non-strategic nuclear capabilities, including the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty-violating SSC-8 and the “Status-6” torpedo
- Additionally, over the last decade Russia has also deployed a variety of low-yield nuclear capabilities

CHINA

- In the last decade Beijing has developed and fielded road-mobile and MIRV’d ICBMs, as well as far more capable SLBMs and ballistic missile submarines.
- China is also expanding and modernizing its non-strategic nuclear weapons, including the CSS-5 Mod 6 and DF-26, intended to threaten its neighbors and challenge the U.S.’s ability to conduct regional operations.

NORTH KOREA

- Pyongyang is developing a diverse range of ground- and sea-based nuclear weapons, capable of striking its neighbors and the United States homeland.
- The expansion and modernization of its nuclear-capable delivery vehicles strongly suggest that North Korea believes its nuclear weapons have “warfighting” benefits.

IRAN

- Tehran has advanced its missile delivery vehicle program, thereby reducing the time necessary to achieve an operational nuclear weapon – were it to choose this path.
- More troubling, Iran and North Korea are cooperating to accelerate their missile programs, which raises the specter of cooperation on other issues.

STATE	ALCM	GRAVITY BOMBS	CRBM	SRBM	MRBM	IRBM	ICBM	GLCM	SLBM	SLCM	TORPEDO	ANTI-SHIP MISSILE	DEPTH CHARGES	ASM	ANTI-AIR MISSILE	ABM
RF	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
PRC	X				X	X	X		X	X						
DPRK				X	X	X	X		X							
Iran				X	X											
USA	X	X					X		X	X						