



# **USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER**

# ***CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL***

*Maxwell AFB, Alabama*

---

---

**Issue No. 691, 03 March 2009**

## **Articles & Other Documents:**

[Russia to Update Its Entire Nuclear Arsenal and Introduce Intellectual Arms by 2020](#)

[Will Russia Get the Bulava?](#)

[Russia says Self-sufficient for Early Warning Missile Data](#)

[Russia's Medvedev Hopes to Discuss Missile Shield with Obama](#)

[Obama 'Ready to Drop Shield Plans for Russian Help on Iran'](#)

[New START Treaty could be Ready by Yearend - Russian Diplomat](#)

[Obama Offered Deal to Russia in Secret Letter](#)

[Medvedev says US Offered No Trade-off on Iran](#)

[Missile Threat to British Troops](#)

[U.S. Says Iran has Material for an Atomic Bomb](#)

[Mullen, Gates Divided on Nukes](#)

[Government Moves to Restrict Access to Toxins and Pathogens](#)

[Iran has Enough Nuclear Material for a Bomb, Mullen says](#)

[Iran Nuke Issue Comes into Spotlight Again, Pending a Breakthrough](#)

[Iran Must End 'Nuclear Standoff'](#)

[Iran Dismisses U.S. Nuclear Bomb Statement](#)

[Iran to Put Bushehr NPP into Operation this September](#)

[N. Korea Begins Assembling Rocket for Launch, Yonhap Reports](#)

[South Korea's Lee Calls on North to Stop Missile Plans](#)

[The Tunnels of Musudan-ri](#)

[Westinghouse Helps Develop China's Nuclear Sector](#)

[Burr, Kennedy Introduce Bill to Improve Biosecurity Measures](#)

[Lackland Confronts Unknown Strain of TB](#)

---

*Welcome to the CPC Outreach Journal. As part of USAF Counterproliferation Center's mission to counter weapons of mass destruction through education and research, we're providing our government and civilian community a source for timely counterproliferation information. This information includes articles, papers and other documents addressing issues pertinent to US military response options for dealing with chemical, biological, radiological, and*

nuclear (CBRN) threats and countermeasures. It's our hope this information resource will help enhance your counterproliferation issue awareness.

Established in 1998, the USAF/CPC provides education and research to present and future leaders of the Air Force, as well as to members of other branches of the armed services and Department of Defense. Our purpose is to help those agencies better prepare to counter the threat from weapons of mass destruction. Please feel free to visit our web site at <http://cpc.au.af.mil/> for in-depth information and specific points of contact. The following articles, papers or documents do not necessarily reflect official endorsement of the United States Air Force, Department of Defense, or other US government agencies. Reproduction for private use or commercial gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. All rights are reserved.

Pravda

26 February 2009

## **Russia to Update Its Entire Nuclear Arsenal and Introduce Intellectual Arms by 2020**

Russia's Vice Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov, who administers defense industry issues, stated that the new state-run arms program from 2011 to 2020 stipulated a complete re-equipment of Russia's strategic forces.

"The whole of Russia's satellite fleet will be replaced with more modern spacecraft. The single information space of the action scene will be created. Of course, Russia will switch to absolutely new, intellectual arms and defense technologies," the minister said in an interview with *The Rossiiskaya Gazeta*.

Such a large defense order, the minister said, would also give a chance to many other branches of the Russian economy to survive during the time of the crisis. The defense industry employs over 1.5 million people, the official said. "The state defense order is the most effective anti-crisis measure," he added.

The use of the new arms in the state-run program particularly stipulates the use of nanotechnologies. Sergey Ivanov specified that Russia's renowned Sukhoi design bureau has already developed samples of nano-structured materials. "This is not science fiction anymore, this is real," the vice minister said.

In the meantime, the administration of Barack Obama is cutting the defense budget of the United States for the first time since 2001 – from \$515 billion in 2008 to \$487 billion in 2009. Several senators and congressmen urge Obama to additionally cut the defense spending in the future with a reduction of 20-25 percent.

France plans to cut its national defense spending from 36 billion euros (\$50 billion) to 35.5 billion euros. The reduction will affect the purchase of arms. The United States, for instance, plans to decrease the purchase of F-22 Raptor jets from 183 to 165 planes. Experts do not exclude that the orders for another fifth generation aircraft – F-35 – will be reduced as well.

Russia possesses the largest stockpile of weapons of mass destruction in the world. Russia declared an arsenal of 40,000 tons of chemical weapons in 1997 and is said to have had around 6681 nuclear weapons stockpiled in 2005, making its stockpile the largest in the world.

Russia was estimated to have around 6,681 active strategic nuclear warheads in its arsenal. Russia also has a large but unknown number of tactical nuclear weapons.

Strategic nuclear forces of Russia include:

Land based Strategic Rocket Forces: 489 missiles carrying up to 1,788 warheads; they employ immobile (silos), like SS-18 Satan, and mobile delivery systems, like SS-27 Topol M. Sea based Strategic Fleet: 12 submarines carrying up to 609 warheads; they employ delivery systems like SS-N-30 Bulava. Strategic Aviation: 237 bombers(16 Tu-160,63 Tu-95,and 158 Tu-22m) carrying up to 884 Cruise missiles.

Source: agencies

[http://english.pravda.ru/russia/kremlin/26-02-2009/107155-russia\\_nuclear\\_arsenal-0](http://english.pravda.ru/russia/kremlin/26-02-2009/107155-russia_nuclear_arsenal-0)

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

RIA Novosti

27 February 2009

## Will Russia Get the Bulava?

OPINION & ANALYSIS

MOSCOW. (RIA Novosti military commentator Ilya Kramnik) - Problems besetting tests of the Bulava - a promising intercontinental ballistic missile for the navy - have long been in the focus of discussion.

Bulava abortive launches are putting at risk the re-equipment of Russia's naval strategic nuclear forces, which badly need replacements for aging Soviet-built missile-carrying submarines and missiles.

Russia has inherited two classes of strategic missile submarines from the Soviet Union. One is Project 667, now represented by six 667BDRM submarines built in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and five older 667BDRs. The other is Project 941, developed as a response to Ohio-class submarines that were designed in the United States.

But, with Russia lagging behind the U.S. in sea-launched solid-propellant missiles, the Soviet rocket proved far heavier: 90 tons against the 32-ton Trident-1 and the 58.5-ton Trident-2. They also differed in dimensions: the R-39 had a length of 16 meters and a diameter of 3.4 meters, while the Trident-2 being 13.4 meters long had a width of 2.11 meters and the Trident-1 was smaller still: 10.3 meters long and 1.8 meters wide.

This difference in size translated into a difference in size between the submarines. The Ohio submarine displaces 24,000 tons under water, while Project 941 submarines approach 50,000 tons, surpassing most battleships and aircraft carriers in this respect.

The operation of submarines of this class, their maintenance and keeping in combat readiness cost the navy a lot of money. So, following some unsuccessful launches of the advanced Bark missile, which was to have replaced R-39 missiles in the silos of Typhoons (the name given in the West to the largest Soviet missile submarine), it was decided to develop a lighter missile, called the Bulava. It is intended for a new submarine of Project 955, which is far smaller than Project 941.

The job of developing the Bulava was given to the Moscow Institute of Heat Engineering (MIET), which specializes in solid-propellant missiles (incidentally, it was MIET that developed Topol and Topol-M missiles). Out of nine Bulava launches, only two were successful.

The most likely causes of failures are production defects plaguing the new missile. Hundreds of components are required to assemble a missile, and all of them are made at different industrial plants, which leave much to be desired in the way of quality.

On the other hand, the Bulava is not the only option. A likely replacement could be the 29RMU Sineva, an upgraded rocket of the R-29 family, a product of the Makeyev Design Bureau.

A way out might be the upgrading of the launched Project 955 parent submarine and the re-engineering of its sister ships still on the ways to use Sineva ballistic missiles. Fortunately, the Sineva's diameter allows it to be used from silos intended for the Bulava. True, the Sineva is a bit longer, which, however, is no insurmountable obstacle.

This arrangement also solves the problem of launching two different types of missiles - according to some sources, the Makeyev Bureau has developed a Sineva version using pop-up techniques from a dry launch tube.

Should this version prove capable of being tested, there is a chance of commissioning the parent Project 955 submarine in 2010 by equipping it with Sineva missiles. The Sineva has another important advantage: the well-oiled machinery of its batch production makes it possible to get off to a quick start without delaying the commissioning of new submarines, thus eliminating any gap that might be left by retiring 667BDR-class submarines.

It will not be long before we know the decision - tests have been scheduled for March. Any misfiring of the Bulava could put an end to its career.

*The opinions expressed in this article are the author's and do not necessarily represent those of RIA Novosti.*

<http://en.rian.ru/analysis/20090227/120337900.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

RIA Novosti  
27 February 2009

## Russia says Self-sufficient for Early Warning Missile Data

MOSCOW, February 27 (RIA Novosti) - Russia no longer depends on Ukraine to provide it with strategic missile tracking data following the launch of its new radar facility in the country's south, the commander of Russia's Space Forces said on Friday.

Russia's Voronezh-DM radar site in the southern town of Armavir went into service on Thursday.

Maj. Gen. Oleg Ostapenko said the Armavir radar would monitor missile routes and probable directions for a missile attack in the south and southeast of Russia in place of the early warning facilities in Mukachevo in western Ukraine and Sevastopol, the Crimea.

Russia terminated a 1997 agreement with Ukraine on the use of both Ukrainian radars in February 2008 on the grounds that they had become obsolete.

With an effective range of 4,000 kilometers (2,500 miles) the Voronezh-class radar has capabilities similar to its predecessors, the Dnepr and Daryal, which are currently deployed outside Russia, but uses less energy and is more environmentally friendly.

Gen. Ostapenko said Russia would build more radar stations to replace the existing ones, adding that the Armavir facility was the second, after the Lekhtusi complex, in the Leningrad Region, which had been put into operation in March 2006.

Washington wants to place 10 missile interceptors in Poland and a radar station in the neighboring Czech Republic, purportedly to counter a missile threat from Iran and other "rogue" states. Russia has fiercely opposed the plans, saying the European shield would destroy the strategic balance of forces and threaten Russia's national interests.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20090227/120344532.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

RIA Novostia

1 March 2009

## Russia's Medvedev Hopes to Discuss Missile Shield with Obama

MOSCOW, March 1 (RIA Novosti) - Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said on Sunday he hoped to discuss U.S. plans to deploy a missile shield system in Central Europe with U.S. President Barack Obama at a G20 summit in London.

The summit of the G20 advanced and leading emerging economies will be held in April to shape a new global financial architecture and work out measures to fight the global financial crisis.

In an interview with the Spanish media, Medvedev said he hoped the new U.S. administration will display a more creative approach to this issue than the previous administration.

Medvedev said the U.S. idea to deploy elements of a missile shield in Europe was not topical and only caused the feeling of "disappointment" as it was aimed, if not directly, then indirectly, against Russia.

"Of course, Russia does not like it. This is absolutely obvious. No one denies the existence of various threats, including the threats that may be accompanied by the acts of nuclear terrorism, threats from countries with instable regimes. But let us respond to these threats jointly rather than isolating each other from these processes," Medvedev said.

Washington has agreed plans with Warsaw and Prague to deploy 10 interceptor missiles in Poland and a radar in the Czech Republic by 2013. The United States says the defenses are needed to deter possible strikes from "rogue states" such as Iran.

Russia has consistently opposed the missile shield as a threat to its national security and the balance of security in Europe. Medvedev threatened in November to retaliate if the U.S. plans went ahead by deploying Iskander-M missiles in the country's westernmost exclave of Kaliningrad, which borders NATO members Poland and Lithuania.

Obama indicated earlier that he may put on hold his predecessor George Bush's plans concerning the third site for Washington's global missile defense system, which he said needed more analysis.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20090301/120362462.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

RIA Novostia  
2 March 2009

## **Obama 'Ready to Drop Shield Plans for Russian Help on Iran'**

MOSCOW, March 2 (RIA Novosti) - Washington has told Moscow that Russian help in resolving Iran's nuclear program would make its missile shield plans for Europe unnecessary, a Russian daily said on Monday, citing White House sources.

U.S. President Barack Obama made the proposal on Iran in a letter to his Russian counterpart, Dmitry Medvedev, Kommersant said, referring to unidentified U.S. officials.

Iran's controversial nuclear program was cited by the U.S. as one of the reasons behind its plans to deploy a missile base in Poland and radar in the Czech Republic. The missile shield has been strongly opposed by Russia, which views it as a threat to its national security. The dispute has strained relations between the former Cold War rivals, already tense over a host of other differences.

The leaders have exchanged letters and had a telephone conversation since Obama was sworn into office in January, Kommersant said. The first high-level Russia-U.S. meeting will take place later this week, when Russia Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov meets with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Geneva.

Moscow has not yet responded to the proposal by Obama, the paper said, adding that a decision was unlikely to be made during Lavrov and Clinton's meeting.

The issue is likely to be discussed when Obama and Medvedev meet in London on April 2 on the sidelines of the G20 summit of world leaders to address the financial crisis. Earlier reports said Medvedev had also invited the U.S. leader to visit Russia and the date of Obama's first visit to the largest country in the world could be announced in the British capital.

In an interview on Sunday with Spanish media, Medvedev said he hoped to discuss the issue of missile defense with Obama in London. He also said he hoped the new U.S. administration would display a "more creative approach" to the issue than its predecessors.

"We have received signals from our American colleagues," Medvedev said. "I expect those signals will turn into specific proposals. I hope to discuss the issue, which is extremely important for Europe, with U.S. President Barack Obama."

The United States and other Western nations suspect Tehran of secretly seeking nuclear weapons. Iran says its nuclear program is purely aimed at generating electricity. However, unlike his predecessor, George W. Bush, Obama has stated a preference for diplomatic efforts to resolve the dispute.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said on the NBC television channel on Sunday that the Islamic Republic was not close to building a nuclear bomb. "They're not close to a stockpile, they're not close to a weapon at this point, and so there is some time," Gates said.

Gates also said that the while more sanctions should be imposed against Iran, the door should not be closed to diplomacy.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20090302/120375219.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

RIA Novostia  
2 March 2009

## **New START Treaty could be Ready by Yearend - Russian Diplomat**

MOSCOW, March 2 (RIA Novosti) - A new treaty between Russia and the U.S. on the reduction of strategic nuclear arsenals could be prepared by the end of 2009, a senior Russian diplomat has said.

"We are certain that with political will, this document could be prepared before the current START expires, that is before December 5 this year," Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said in an interview with the Nezavisimaya Gazeta newspaper published on Monday.

The Strategic Arms Reduction (START-1) Treaty signed between the Soviet Union and the United States in 1991 places a limit of 6,000 strategic or long-range nuclear warheads on each side, and limits the number of delivery vehicles, such as bombers, land-based and submarine-based missiles, to 1,600 each.

"We would like to take all the best things from the current START treaty, and put this cooperation experience, which proved to be effective, into a new legally binding document," the deputy minister said.

Commenting on media reports that the U.S. administration would like the number of nuclear warheads on both sides cut to 1,000, or an 80% reduction, Ryabkov said Russia still had not received any official confirmation about the reduction parameters that Washington is ready to propose.

"All I can say is that we have no confirmation about the parameters of the cuts the U.S. is prepared to make, as reported in the world press, in particular by the Times and some other newspapers," he said.

"We think that Washington is reviewing its policy in these areas and will make decisions, including on the future reduction parameters, while conducting the review," he added.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20090302/120371181.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

New York Times

March 3, 2009

## **Obama Offered Deal to Russia in Secret Letter**

By Peter Baker

WASHINGTON — President Obama sent a secret letter to Russia's president last month suggesting that he would back off deploying a new missile defense system in Eastern Europe if Moscow would help stop Iran from developing long-range weapons, American officials said Monday.

The letter to President Dmitri A. Medvedev was hand-delivered in Moscow by top administration officials three weeks ago. It said the United States would not need to proceed with the interceptor system, which has been vehemently opposed by Russia since it was proposed by the Bush administration, if Iran halted any efforts to build nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles.

The officials who described the contents of the message requested anonymity because it has not been made public. While they said it did not offer a direct quid pro quo, the letter was intended to give Moscow an incentive to join the United States in a common front against Iran. Russia's military, diplomatic and commercial ties to Tehran give it some influence there, but it has often resisted Washington's hard line against Iran.

"It's almost saying to them, put up or shut up," said a senior administration official. "It's not that the Russians get to say, 'We'll try and therefore you have to suspend.' It says the threat has to go away."

Moscow has not responded, but a Russian official said Monday that Foreign Minister Sergey V. Lavrov would have something to say on missile defense to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton when they meet Friday in Geneva. Mr. Obama and Mr. Medvedev will then meet for the first time on April 2 in London, officials said Monday.

Mr. Obama's letter, sent in response to one he received from Mr. Medvedev shortly after Mr. Obama's inauguration, is part of an effort to "press the reset button" on Russian-American relations, as Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. put it last month. Among other things, the letter discussed talks to extend a strategic arms treaty expiring this year and cooperation in opening supply routes to Afghanistan.

The plan to build a high-tech radar facility in the Czech Republic and deploy 10 interceptor missiles in Poland — a part of the world that Russia once considered its sphere of influence — was a top priority for President George W. Bush to deter Iran in case it developed a nuclear warhead to fit atop its long-range missiles. Mr. Bush never accepted a Moscow proposal to install part of the missile defense system on its territory and jointly operate it so it could not be used against Russia.

Now the Obama administration appears to be reconsidering that idea, although it is not clear if it would want to put part of the system on Russian soil where it could be flipped on or off by Russians. Mr. Obama has been lukewarm on missile defense, saying he supports it only if it can be proved technically effective and affordable.

Mr. Bush also emphasized the linkage between the Iranian threat and missile defense, but Mr. Obama's overture reformulates it in a way intended to appeal to the Russians, who long ago soured on the Bush administration. Officials have been hinting at the possibility of an agreement in recent weeks, and Mr. Obama's proposal was reported on Monday by a Moscow newspaper, Kommersant.

"If through strong diplomacy with Russia and our other partners we can reduce or eliminate that threat, it obviously shapes the way at which we look at missile defense," Under Secretary of State William J. Burns said about the Iranian threat in an interview with the Russian news agency Interfax while in Moscow last month delivering Mr. Obama's letter.

Attending a NATO meeting in Krakow, Poland, on Feb. 20, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said, "I told the Russians a year ago that if there were no Iranian missile program, there would be no need for the missile sites." Mr. Obama's inauguration, he added, offered the chance for a fresh start. "My hope is that now, with the new administration, the prospects for that kind of cooperation might have improved," he said.

The idea has distressed Poland and the Czech Republic, where leaders invested political capital in signing missile defense cooperation treaties with the United States despite domestic opposition. If the United States were to slow or halt deployment of the systems, Warsaw and Prague might insist on other incentives.

For example, the deal with Poland included a side agreement that an American Patriot air defense battery would be moved from Germany to Poland, where it would be operated by a crew of about 100 American service members. The administration might have to proceed with that to reassure Warsaw.

Missile defense has flavored Mr. Obama's relationship with Russia from the day after his election, when Mr. Medvedev threatened to point missiles at Europe if the system proceeded. Mr. Medvedev later backed off that threat and it seems that Moscow is taking seriously the idea floated in Mr. Obama's letter. Kommersant, the Moscow newspaper, on Monday called it a "sensational proposal."

Mr. Medvedev said Sunday that he believed the Obama administration would be open to cooperation on missile defense.

"We have already received such signals from our American colleagues," he said in an interview posted on the Kremlin Web site. "I expect that these signals will turn into concrete proposals. I hope to discuss this issue of great importance for Europe during my first meeting with President Barack Obama."

*David E. Sanger and Thom Shanker contributed reporting from Washington, and Michael Schwartz from Moscow.*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/03/washington/03prexy.html?partner=rss&emc=rss>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Boston Herald

March 3, 2009

## **Medvedev says US Offered No Trade-off on Iran**

By Associated Press

MADRID — Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev said today that Moscow will cooperate with Washington in dealing with the Iranian nuclear standoff, but added there was no talk about a quid pro quo on missile defense and Iran.

Medvedev said Tuesday that Moscow was encouraged by positive signals from Washington, but the U.S. had not offered a trade-off related to Iran.

The New York Times] reported Tuesday that President Barack Obama suggested in a letter to Medvedev that the United States would back off plans for a missile defense system in Eastern Europe in exchange for help stopping Iran from developing long-range weapons.

Medvedev said he had talked with Obama over the phone and exchanged letters with him, but added that there was "no talk about some kind of trade-off, or quid pro quo."

"No, issues haven't been put that way, it would be unproductive," he said at a news conference following talks with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

Medvedev reaffirmed a strong opposition to the previous U.S. administration's plan to deploy a battery of missile interceptors in Poland and a related radar in the Czech Republic, saying the move would hurt security in Europe.

"We have always said that a Russian participation in the (missile defense) project is all right. We would welcome that. If the Russian administration signals it is ready to discuss the missile defense it is a good thing. The system is not aimed against Russia," Czech Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zuzana Opletalova said.

Obama has not said how he intends to proceed, but stressed the system must be cost-effective and proven, and that it should not divert resources from other national security priorities.

Medvedev said that Russia was encouraged by Obama's administration's readiness to discuss Moscow's complaints.

"Our American partners are ready to discuss this problem, and that's already positive," he said. "Several months ago we were hearing different signals: The decision has been made, there is nothing to discuss, we will do what we have decided to do."

"Now I hope the situation is different," Medvedev added. "But no one is linking these issues to some kind of trade-offs, particularly on the Iranian issue. We are already working in close contact with our U.S. counterparts on the Iranian nuclear issue."

Russia has maintained close economic ties with Iran and is building its first nuclear power plant, which is expected to go online later this year. While saying it does not want Iran to acquire nuclear weapons, Moscow has failed to back Washington's tough approach to the Islamic republic.

"We will continue to discuss this problem on a regular basis, especially as we share common goals regarding this issue with the United States."

Medvedev also said that Russia could discuss other prospective joint missile defense plans that would engage the U.S., European nations and Russia. He said that such a system must provide a global response to emerging threats.

"If the new U.S. administration shows common sense and proposes some kind of new approach that would satisfy the United States, all the Europeans and would be acceptable for our country, we are ready to discuss it," he said. "But it should be a normal, full-fledged, global structure and not a fragment near our borders."

[http://news.bostonherald.com/news/international/europe/view/2009\\_03\\_03\\_Medvedev\\_says\\_US\\_offered\\_no\\_trade-off\\_on\\_Iran/srvc=home&position=recent](http://news.bostonherald.com/news/international/europe/view/2009_03_03_Medvedev_says_US_offered_no_trade-off_on_Iran/srvc=home&position=recent)

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

London Sunday Times

March 1, 2009

## **Missile Threat to British Troops**

By Michael Smith

IRAN is supplying the Taliban in Afghanistan with surface-to-air missiles capable of destroying a helicopter, according to American intelligence sources.

They believe the Taliban wants to use the SA-14 Gremlins missiles to launch a "spectacular" attack against coalition forces in Helmand, where insurgents claim to be gaining the upper hand.

Although British and American helicopters operating in southern Afghanistan are equipped with defensive systems to deflect an attempted strike, the SA-14 can evade such counter-measures.

It was a shoulder-held SA-14 supplied by Iran that was used by Iraqi insurgents to shoot down a Lynx helicopter over Basra in May 2006.

Five British service personnel died in that attack, including Wing Commander John Coxen and Flight Lieutenant Sarah-Jayne Mulvihill, the first British servicewoman killed in action since the second world war.

Although the Iranians are not natural supporters of the Taliban, they have been willing to assist them in the past in order to prevent Britain and the United States gaining influence in the region.



Special forces have previously intercepted arms shipments from Iran that would have helped the Taliban intensify a roadside bombing campaign that has killed 40 British troops over the past 18 months, including three last week.

However, coalition forces only became aware of the presence of SA14s two weeks ago when parts from two of them were discovered during an American operation in western Afghanistan.

“The weapons are out there and we thought it was only a matter of time before they got one or two into the south,” said a defence source. “A Taliban spectacular against British or American troops would reinforce an increasing view among ordinary Afghans that the Taliban are gaining the upper hand.”

In the past eight months, small arms and rocket-propelled grenade attacks on British helicopters in Helmand have increased. Last night the Ministry of Defence said it was not aware of any threat from SA14 missiles.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article5822094.ece>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

International Herald Tribune  
March 2, 2009

## **U.S. Says Iran has Material for an Atomic Bomb**

By Thom Shanker

WASHINGTON — The United States now believes that Iran has amassed enough uranium that with further purification could be used to build an atomic bomb, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff declared Sunday.

The statement by the chairman, Adm. Mike Mullen, went further than previous, official judgments of the Iranian nuclear threat, and it essentially confirmed a new report by the United Nations nuclear watchdog agency, which found that Iran had enough nuclear material for a bomb.

“We think they do, quite frankly,” Admiral Mullen said on “State of the Union” on CNN. “And Iran having a nuclear weapon, I’ve believed for a long time, is a very, very bad outcome for the region and for the world.”

The International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations agency, reported Feb. 19 that its inspectors had found that Iran understated by a third how much uranium it had enriched.

In its study, the agency declared for the first time that the amount of low-enriched uranium that Tehran had stockpiled, estimated at more than a ton, was sufficient to make an atomic bomb, but only with added purification.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, also appearing on a Sunday television talk show, emphasized that Iran still lacked the ability to build a nuclear arsenal rapidly.

“They’re not close to a stockpile,” Mr. Gates said on “Meet the Press” on NBC. “They’re not close to a weapon at this point. And so, there is some time.”

The Obama administration came to office expressing a desire to increase the dialogue with Iran; disclosures of the new assessments will be likely to add urgency and difficulty to that effort. Iran insists that its nuclear program is for the peaceful pursuit of energy supplies.

Mr. Gates underscored the opportunities for diplomatic efforts to halt Iran’s nuclear ambitions, especially with the drop in oil prices and broader global economic pressures.

“The question is whether you can increase the level of the sanctions and the cost to the Iranians of pursuing that program, at the same time you show them an open door if they want to engage with the Europeans, with us and so on if they walk away from that program,” Mr. Gates said.

“There are economic costs to this program,” he added. “They do have economic challenges at home.”

The Obama administration is deep into a series of foreign and national security policy reviews, including how to manage relations with Iran, which overlaps with how Washington deals with other foreign partners and rivals.

For example, a view is emerging within the administration of a possible way to link a compromise on missile defense with Russia to diplomatic progress in halting Iran’s nuclear program.

The United States says its planned missile defense sites in Poland and the Czech Republic are needed to guard against a potential Iranian nuclear attack, while Russia vehemently complains that those systems are designed to thwart the Russian arsenal.

Obama administration officials may propose that if Russia wants the United States to rethink its plans for building two missile defense sites in Europe, then the Kremlin must do more to help halt Iran's nuclear program.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2009/03/02/america/02military.php>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Washington Times  
Monday, March 2, 2009

## **Mullen, Gates Divided on Nukes**

Deborah Zabarenko REUTERS NEWS AGENCY

"They're not close to a stockpile, they're not close to a weapon at this point, and so there is some time," Mr. Gates said on NBC's "Meet The Press."

Mr. Gates' comments followed a televised interview with Adm. Mike Mullen, head of the U.S. military Joint Chiefs of Staff, who told CNN's "State of the Union" that he thinks that Iran

"We think they do, quite frankly," Adm. Mullen said.

Adm. Mullen had been asked about a watchdog report issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency last month that said Iran had built up a stockpile of low-enriched uranium. The reported stockpile of 1,010 kg (about 2,200 pounds) would be enough - if converted into highly-enriched uranium - to make a bomb, analysts have said.

The United States suspects Iran of trying to use its nuclear program to build an atomic bomb, but Tehran insists it is purely for the peaceful generation of electricity.

Mr. Gates said there has been "a continuing focus on how do you get the Iranians to walk away from a nuclear weapons program" in the Obama and Bush administrations.

President Obama's administration favors diplomatic engagement with Tehran to defuse the dispute over its nuclear intentions but has called Iran's nuclear program an "urgent problem" the international community must address.

The challenge, Mr. Gates said, is finding a balance between sanctions to pressure Iran and incentives for engagement with the United States and Europe. A sharp decline in oil prices since last year increases the chances for a resolution. "There are economic costs to this program; they [the Iranians] do face economic challenges at home."

U.S. spy agencies think Iran lacks enough weapons-grade uranium to make a bomb, but cannot rule it out, Adm. Dennis C. Blair, the U.S. director of national intelligence, told Congress last month.

"Iran probably has imported at least some weapons-usable fissile material but [we] still judge it has not obtained enough for a nuclear weapon," he said. "We cannot rule out that Iran has acquired from abroad or will acquire in the future a nuclear weapon or enough fissile material for a weapon."

He reiterated a view that Iran was undertaking two of three activities needed for a nuclear arms program - developing uranium-enrichment technology and nuclear-capable ballistic missile systems. U.S. intelligence agencies have said Iran has suspended developing a nuclear warhead, the third activity.

<http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/mar/02/mullen-gates-divided-on-nukes/>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Los Angeles Times  
March 2, 2009

## **Iran has Enough Nuclear Material for a Bomb, Mullen says**

By Julian E. Barnes

Reporting from Washington -- The nation's top military officer said Sunday that Iran had enough nuclear material to make a bomb, but Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said Tehran was not close to building such a weapon.

Navy Adm. Michael G. Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told CNN's "State of the Union" program that he believed Iran had enough fissile material for a nuclear weapon.

"We think they do, quite frankly," said Mullen, who reiterated the dangers of a nuclear-armed Iran.

"Iran having nuclear weapons, I've believed for a long time, is a very, very bad outcome -- for the region and for the world," Mullen said.

Gates, speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press," agreed that deterring Tehran from making a bomb was a top U.S. priority. But he said a diplomatic solution remained possible.

"They are not close to a stockpile; they are not close to a weapon at this point," Gates said. "So there is some time." Mullen commented in response to a question about a recent report by the U.N.'s nuclear monitoring body, the International Atomic Energy Agency. The agency found that Iran had built up its supplies of enriched uranium to slightly more than a ton, about 33% more than Tehran had previously stated it had stockpiled. Some experts say it takes about a ton of enriched uranium to make a nuclear bomb.

Although a November 2007 U.S. National Intelligence Estimate found that Iran had stopped developing a nuclear weapon, senior U.S. officials now discount that conclusion. Since taking office, President Obama and other top administration officials have said repeatedly that Tehran is pursuing nuclear weapons.

Iran says the enrichment program is meant solely for civilian energy purposes.

Gates said it was unclear whether the United Nations would be willing to increase sanctions on Iran to try to persuade it to quell its nuclear activities. But he also noted that the U.S. would show Tehran an "open door," an apparent allusion to Obama's statements during the presidential campaign that he would be willing to engage Iran in talks. With lower oil prices reducing Iran's leverage, the prospects for increasing pressure on the nation have improved, Gates said.

### **Missile defense**

Iran's pursuit of nuclear and missile technology is a crucial issue for the U.S., Israel and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Under the Bush administration, the U.S. pushed for an Eastern European missile defense system to protect against Iranian rockets. In the past, Obama and some of his key advisors have been skeptical of missile defense; military officials are wondering whether the new administration will slow down or cut back the program.

On "Fox News Sunday," Mullen said he expected the administration to conduct a review of missile defense. Such an evaluation would influence how much funding the program gets.

In coming days, the U.S. missile defense system potentially could face a real-world test. North Korea has said it plans a trial of its longest-range missile, believed to be capable of reaching Alaska.

Key military leaders have suggested the U.S. could shoot down that missile. Striking a North Korean missile would lay aside some of the doubts about the missile defense program, but could also prove controversial. North Korea has said the test is part of preparations to send a satellite into orbit.

"We have made no decisions; the president has made no decisions," Mullen said. "I have made no recommendations as to what the North Koreans might do. I would hope that the North Koreans would not be provocative, and we are keeping a very close eye on what they do."

### **Presidential styles**

Gates and Mullen are the two most prominent officials to have served under President Bush who are part of the Obama administration. In the NBC interview, Gates was asked to compare the presidents' styles.

"It is really hard to say," Gates said. "I think probably President Obama is somewhat more analytical. He makes sure he hears from everybody in the room on an issue."

Gates said if an advisor does not speak up, Obama calls on him or her.

"President Bush was interested in hearing different points of view," Gates said. "But he didn't go out of his way to make sure everybody spoke."

Gates and Mullen appeared on the news shows primarily to talk about the Obama administration's Iraq drawdown plan, which was announced Friday.

Under the plan, the U.S. will withdraw about 100,000 troops by Aug. 31, 2010, leaving a transitional force of up to 50,000 troops for 16 more months.

Mullen contended that the success of military actions since the Bush administration's troop buildup strategy had allowed the military to embrace Obama's plans.

"The conditions are much more positive than they were two years ago, and the conditions are set for the government of Iraq to take over their own country," Mullen said.

The large size of that residual force has upset some Democratic lawmakers, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Gates said that having tens of thousands of troops would be a hedge against pulling forces out more quickly than top commanders had wanted.

"If the commanders had complete say, they would have preferred that the combat mission not end until the end of 2010," Gates said. "So having a somewhat larger residual or transition force mitigates the risk of having the combat units go out sooner."

Gates emphasized that, with 18 months to go, the U.S. had time to help the Iraqi government solve security problems in Mosul and other parts of the country.

Obama could alter the timeline in the event of a flare-up of violence or another contingency, but Gates said he doubted the plan would change.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/la-na-gates-mullen2-2009mar02.0.6170851.full.story>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

China View  
2 March 2009

## **Iran Nuke Issue Comes into Spotlight Again, Pending a Breakthrough**

BEIJING, March 2 (Xinhua) -- The Iranian nuclear standoff is coming into the international limelight again, as the meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) 35-member board of governors began in Vienna on Monday.

### **IRAN DENIES LATEST U.S. ACCUSATIONS**

Iran denied again on Monday that it was seeking to make a nuclear bomb after Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in a televised interview on Sunday that Tehran had got enough fissile material to build such a weapon.

"We think they do, quite frankly," Mullen told the CNN when asked if Iran had obtained enough nuclear material to produce an atomic bomb.

"And Iran having a nuclear weapon, I've believed for a long time, is a very, very bad outcome for the region and for the world," the top U.S. military commander said.

"All this talk is baseless," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hassan Ghashghavi said in response, speaking at a weekly news conference.

Iran is a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and all its nuclear programs are under the supervision of the IAEA and monitored by IAEA cameras, he said.

"For that (making a nuclear bomb) to be true, two things would have to happen... first, Iran has to exit the NPT and second, it should be proved that Iran is seeking high-enriched uranium," Ghashghavi said.

"The remarks by the U.S. admiral were also immediately revised by (Robert) Gates," he added.

Gates, the incumbent U.S. defense secretary who also appeared on the Sunday talk shows, struck a cautious note on Iran's nuclear project, saying: "They're not close to a stockpile. They're not close to a weapon at this point."

Meanwhile, U.S. State Department spokesman Robert Wood said on Sunday that it was not possible to say how much nuclear fuels Iran had accumulated.

"There are differing views not only outside the government but also inside the government" on how far Iran has gone, Wood added.

#### IAEA URGES IRAN TO "UNBLOCK" NUCLEAR STALEMATE

Mohamed ElBaradei, the director-general of the IAEA, said on Monday that he hoped Iran could "unblock" its nuclear standoff.

"I again urge Iran to implement all measures required to build confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear program at the earliest possible date and to unblock this stalemated situation," ElBaradei said in his opening speech to the IAEA's board of governors meeting.

While he did not specifically talk about U.S. President Barack Obama's "direct diplomacy," ElBaradei emphasized: "I am hopeful that the apparent fresh approach by the international community to dialogue with Iran will give new impetus to the efforts to resolve this long-standing issue."

Nearly a month ago, speaking to reporters at his first press conference since the inauguration ceremony on January 20, Obama said his administration was "looking for openings" to start face-to-face talks with Iran.

"My expectation is, in the coming months, we will be looking for openings that can be created where we can start sitting across the table face-to-face with diplomatic overtures that will allow us to move our policy in a new direction," Obama said.

"It's important that, even as we engage in this direct diplomacy, Iran understands that we find the funding of terrorist organizations unacceptable, that we're clear about the fact that a nuclear Iran could set off a nuclear arms race in the region that would be profoundly destabilizing," the president added.

In response to Obama's "direct diplomacy," Iran has urged Washington to change its strategy to facilitate the direct talks with Tehran.

"This depends on whether the United States is prepared to change its strategy. We have to know what their objectives are... Practical steps for such a dialogue between Tehran and Washington would be a strategy change," said Iranian parliament Speaker Ali Larijani when attending the Munich Security Conference early February.

"The carrot and stick policy must be dropped," Larijani emphasized.

#### EU DOUBTS EFFECTIVENESS OF NEW SANCTIONS

According to a Financial Times report, France, Germany and Britain, the so-called EU3, are proposing a tough list of additional sanctions to be imposed against Iran, and some Iranian enterprises, including Bank Tejarat, one of Iran's largest commercial banks, entities and individuals are listed for sanctions.

The report, though yet to be confirmed, sheds some light on the direction of the EU's policy on Iran.

Since 2007, the EU has been trying, to no avail, to pressure Iran into changing its position on the nuclear issue through a mix of diplomacy and sanctions.

In a bid to break the stalemate, the EU has been mulling fresh sanctions against Iran over its controversial nuclear program. At the 45th Munich Security Conference held in February, European leaders including German Chancellor

Angela Merkel, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, and British Foreign Secretary David Miliband all warned Iran over its nuclear issue.

Sarkozy made it clear Western powers would have to toughen their sanctions against Iran if the country failed to meet the West's demands.

However, analysts doubted the effectiveness of further sanctions, should there be any, saying they could hardly affect the core interests of the Iranian economy.

#### U.S. ENGAGEMENT POLICY SPARKS INTERNAL DISPUTE

Since the Obama administration came into office, its favorite phrases have been "engage," "listen to" and "negotiate," so frequently used that it is eager to show there is some departure in its diplomacy from that of the previous administration.

At the Munich Security Conference, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, while expounding on the U.S. foreign policy, said the United States was reviewing its policy toward Iran and was ready for dialogue with that country.

But back at home in the United States, opinions are diverging over the need to negotiate with Iran.

Although Iran insists on pursuing its nuclear rights, the Obama administration is not going back on its pledges to negotiate with Iran. However, critics say that holding talks with Iran is a show of weakness and is not worth the candle.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-03/03/content\\_10930885.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-03/03/content_10930885.htm)

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Al Jazeera.net

2 March 2009

## Iran Must End 'Nuclear Standoff'

Mohamed ElBaradei, the head of the UN atomic watchdog, has urged Iran to co-operate with the international community and be transparent over its nuclear programme.

He said: "I again urge Iran to implement all measures required to build confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme at the earliest possible date and to unblock this stalemated situation."

Speaking at the beginning of a week-long meeting of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, he also appeared to express hope that the United States' apparent change in policy towards Iran would help resolve the problem.

"I am hopeful that the apparent fresh approach by the international community to dialogue with Iran will give new impetus to the efforts to resolve this long-standing issue," he said.

Barack Obama, the new US president, has signalled that Washington may be willing to talk to Tehran over the two countries' relations.

The United Nations has demanded Iran suspend its enrichment programme over fears it could be used to produce nuclear weapons.

Iran denies the charge, saying its programme is only for generating electricity.

Despite a six-year investigation, the IAEA has been unable to determine whether or not Iran's uranium enrichment programme is intended for peaceful purposes.

### Military dimensions

ElBaradei said that Iran was stonewalling on key questions that could give insight into its intentions.

"The agency regrettably was unable to make any progress on the remaining issues which give rise to concerns about possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear programme because of lack of co-operation by Iran," he said.

"For the agency to be able to make progress, Iran needs to provide substantive information and access to relevant documentation, locations and individuals in connection with all of the outstanding issues."

On Monday, Tehran again denied that it harbours nuclear ambitions, after Admiral Mike Mullen, a top US military commander, claimed Iran has enough fissile material to build an atomic bomb.

"All this talk is baseless," Hassan Ghashghavi, a foreign ministry spokesman, said.

"For that to be true, two things would have to happen... first, Iran has to exit the [nuclear] NPT [non-proliferation treaty] and second, it should be proved that Iran is seeking high-enriched uranium," he said.

Last week, Iran said it ran a successful test run of its Russian-built nuclear power plant, in the southern port city of Bushehr.

Moscow, which is supplying fuel for the reactor, has said the it would not be used for military goals.

Ghashghavi said on Monday that Sergei Shmatko, the Russian energy minister, will visit Tehran in the next few days.

His trip is expected to focus on nuclear energy co-operation between the two countries.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/europe/2009/03/200932114431308895.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

China View  
2 March 2009

## **Iran Dismisses U.S. Nuclear Bomb Statement**

Special Report: Iran Nuclear Crisis

TEHRAN, March 2 (Xinhua) -- Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Hassan Qashqavi on Monday dismissed the statement by a top U.S. military officer that Tehran was believed to have enough nuclear material to make a bomb, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Any statement regarding the production of a nuclear bomb is "baseless" and "untechnical," Qashqavi told reporters at a press conference.

"We have repeatedly said that manufacturing atomic bombs has no place in our defensive doctrine," he said, adding that Tehran's nuclear activities were carried out under direct supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and within the reach of its surveillance cameras.

"How is it possible that the enrichment level of 3-4 percent suddenly mounts to 90 percent (the level which is needed to produce an atomic bomb)?" he said.

Qashqavi's comments came just a day after U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Michael Mullen said Washington believed Iran has enough material to make a nuclear bomb. U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates later rejected Mullen's claim, saying that Iran was not close to building atomic weapon.

"Iran favors a world free from weapons of mass destruction," Qashqavi added, reiterating that Tehran's nuclear program was only for civil purposes and generating electricity.

In a report submitted last month to the UN Security Council, IAEA director general Mohamed El Baradei said Iran still refused to fulfill UN's requirement of stopping its uranium enrichment activity.

Iran's uranium enrichment program is questioned by many parties. Western countries like the United States claim that Iran intends to secretly develop nuclear weapons, while the UN Security Council also requires Iran to suspend its uranium enrichment activity.

However, Iran insists that its nuclear plan is only for peaceful purposes, and continues its uranium enrichment activity despite pressure from the western countries and relevant resolutions and sanctions of the United Nations.

Iran last Wednesday launched a test run of its first nuclear power plant which is being built by a Russian contractor near the southern Iranian port city of Bushehr and vowed to continue to install more centrifuges.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-03/02/content\\_10930121.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-03/02/content_10930121.htm)

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

RIA Novosti  
2 March 2009

## Iran to Put Bushehr NPP into Operation this September

TEHRAN, March 2 (RIA Novosti) - Iran expects to put its Bushehr nuclear power plant into operation this September, the country's deputy foreign minister said.

Russia's state nuclear power corporation Rosatom Sergei Kiriyenko announced earlier on Wednesday that Russia had completed the construction of Iran's first nuclear power plant at Bushehr. A series of pre-launch tests at the facility began later in the day.

"The test launch of the Bushehr NPP was an important step and we expect to launch the NPP in the month of Shahrivar [from August 23 to September 22, according to Iran's solar calendar]," Hossein Sheikh al Islam told Iran's state television.

The plant in southern Iran, which Russia undertook to finish as part of a 1998 contract, was originally scheduled to go on line at the end of 2006, but the date has been pushed back several times.

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said previously the Bushehr plant would go on stream in the first half of 2009.

In December 2007-January 2008, Russia supplied nuclear fuel for the plant under the control of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN nuclear watchdog. Iran has agreed to return spent nuclear fuel to Russia.

The construction of the Bushehr plant was started in 1975 by German companies. However, work stopped after a U.S. embargo on hi-tech supplies to Iran was imposed following the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the subsequent seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran by radical students.

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20090302/120369521.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Bloomberg.com

## N. Korea Begins Assembling Rocket for Launch, Yonhap Reports

By Seyoon Kim

Feb. 28 (Bloomberg) -- North Korea appears to be assembling a rocket that it claims will carry a satellite into space, Seoul-based Yonhap News said.

Ground assembly of the rocket appears to be proceeding, Yonhap reported, citing a government official it didn't identify. North Korea will probably complete the work in a week at the earliest, it added.

South Korean officials expect North Korea to complete launch preparations before its scheduled parliamentary elections next month, the report said.

Earlier reports said the communist nation may be preparing to test a ballistic missile capable of reaching Alaska. North Korea denied those reports and has said it's preparing to launch a communications satellite under a peaceful space program.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601080&sid=am2fB7whq3fM&refer=asia#>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

International Herald Tribune  
Sunday, March 1, 2009

## South Korea's Lee Calls on North to Stop Missile Plans

Reuters

By Rhee So-eui and Jon Herskovitz

South Korea's president told the destitute North on Sunday to abandon its plans to develop weapons of mass destruction and return to talks with its capitalist neighbour.



Secretive North Korea has stoked regional tensions in the past weeks by readying a test-flight of its longest-range missile, which is designed to carry a nuclear weapon as far as Alaska but has never successfully flown, U.S. and South Korean officials have said.

North Korea has said it was preparing to launch a satellite and it had the right to do so as part of a peaceful space programme.

"Of all the countries in the world, South Korea cares most about the lives and happiness of the North Korean people. What protects North Korea are not nuclear weapons and missiles, but cooperation with the South and the international community," President Lee Myung-bak said.

"Denuclearisation is a short-cut for North Korea that allows it to grow into a member of the international community," Lee said in a speech to mark an uprising against the 1910-1945 Japanese colonial occupation of the Korean peninsula.

Analysts said the North was using brinkmanship to pressure the new U.S. government and its main allies in the region, South Korea and Japan, to reverse tough policies against the North. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, on a trip to Asia in February, warned North Korea against any provocative moves.

In Beijing, Japanese Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone urged North Korea to exercise "self-restraint," following a meeting with Chinese premier Wen Jiabao, spokesman Kasuo Kodama said.

"If North Korea test-fires such missiles, even if North Korea insists that it is not a missile but a satellite launched by a rocket, it is the view of the Japanese government that (that) runs counter to the existing UN Security Council resolution," Kodama told reporters, citing Nakasone.

"I would like to request North Korea to exercise self-restraint, not to escalate tension or anxiety in the region."

The Japanese and Chinese agreed to push forward with the six-party talks chaired by China, a framework that engages North and South Korea, China, the United States, Japan and Russia in negotiations to denuclearise the peninsula.

But Kodama said the Japanese impression was that the Chinese had not yet decided on a stance if the North Koreans claim to launch a satellite. The Chinese foreign ministry spokesman last week declined to comment on whether China considered the North Koreans as preparing for a missile or satellite launch.

Nakasone's brief visit to Beijing also addressed the disputed Diaoyu or Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, but both sides agreed not to let that overshadow their broader relationship.

## ASHES

North Korea has cut off dialogue with the South and threatened to reduce its rich neighbour to ashes in anger at Lee's policy of cutting off what once had been a free flow of unconditional aid and instead tying handouts to the North's disarmament.

Lee repeated an often-made call for the North to return to talks, while Pyongyang at the weekend labelled Lee a U.S. sycophant pushing the peninsula to the brink of war.

"The threat of missiles on the Korean peninsula comes from the United States and South Korea," Pyongyang's KCNA news agency said on Sunday.

"Their talking about the non-existent "missile threat" (from the North) ... is a tactic to justify their intention to invade the North and speed up building a missile defence system targeting us."

South Korean officials have said a launch would be met with sanctions and they do not see any difference between a missile or satellite launch because they use the same technology and the same rocket.

North Korea, which conducted a nuclear test in October 2006, does not have the technology to miniaturise a nuclear weapon to mount as a weapon, experts have said.

The reclusive state has also dragged down an international nuclear disarmament-for-aid deal by refusing to agree to a system to check claims it made about its nuclear programme. Pyongyang has complained aid has not been delivered as promised.

(Additional reporting in BEIJING by Lucy Hornby; Editing by Jerry Norton)

<http://www.iht.com/articles/reuters/2009/03/01/asia/OUKWD-UK-KOREA-NORTH.php>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Strategy Page  
March 2, 2009

## The Tunnels of Musudan-ri

North Korea has built a new ballistic missile launch pad, at Musudan-ri on the northeast coast, with an underground fueling system that makes it much easier to prepare one of their multistage ballistic missiles for launch. Prep time can be reduced from 4-5 days to 1-2 days. Previously, the missile would be surrounded by fuel trucks, special equipment and technical personnel before launch. But now most of that is hidden from view. Thus, with so much of the launch preparation underground, space satellites see less obvious signs of an impending launch. The Musudan-ri facility was completed in the last month.

UN resolutions discourage further North Korean missile launches, as do the major donors of food and other aid. Nearly a quarter of the North Korean population is starving or malnourished, and the rest of the world considers it unseemly that the North Korean government should be devoting so many scarce resources to a new missile launching facility. But North Korea considers it a "sovereign right" to launch ballistic missiles whenever it wants to. Feeding its population is considered a less urgent "sovereign right".

<http://www.strategypage.com/htm/hticbm/articles/20090302.aspx>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

China Daily  
2 March 2009

## Westinghouse Helps Develop China's Nuclear Sector

Log onto the website zhaopin.com, a major employment portal in China, and you can find an advertisement for Westinghouse, on which the US-based nuclear power offers a number of jobs in China.

"We are making continuous efforts to find more local talents in China," said Liu Xingang, vice-president of Westinghouse, adding the move came after the company signed its milestone deal with China in 2007.

China finalized an agreement with Westinghouse two years ago, under which it would use the US company's AP1000 technology to build two nuclear power plants with four reactors in Zhejiang and Shandong provinces.

Although details of the deal have yet to be officially announced, media reports have estimated the agreement, the first example of large-scale Sino-US nuclear cooperation, was worth \$8 billion.

Westinghouse's AP1000 third-generation nuclear power technology is seen as the most advanced in the field at the moment. The two nuclear power plants are also the company's first major projects in China.

"Everything is going smoothly with the two plants," said Liu. "We will start construction of the Sanmen plant in Zhejiang in March, and later begin building the Haiyang plant in Shandong."

Zhang Guobao, vice-minister of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), said earlier that China would start construction of four nuclear power plants this year. The Sanmen and Haiyang plants are included in the plan.

"The global financial crisis has so far made little impact on our business," said Liu.

For Westinghouse, there was more good news in China recently. The country is poised to revise its energy development plans by nearly doubling its nuclear power capacity over the next decade.

In an earlier plan for China's nuclear industry, the country planned to increase its nuclear power capacity to 40 gW by 2020, accounting for 4 percent of the nation's total power capacity. However, the target has since been revised to 70 gW.

"We welcome China's plan to further develop nuclear power. With more use of this clean energy, China will improve its energy structure," said Liu.

China's nuclear power industry will continue to see accelerated development over the next decade, and will not be affected by the global financial crisis, said Yu Jianfeng, vice-general manager of China National Nuclear Corp (CNNC).

"In times of economic downturn, nuclear projects help to boost the domestic economy, as they require a large amount of investment," he said. "Construction of nuclear power projects can also boost many other industries, such as steel, metallurgy and building materials."

In line with the policy to boost domestic demand, China started construction of three nuclear power plants since last November. The three projects, located in Zhejiang, Fujian and Guangdong have a total investment of around 200 billion yuan.

### **New technology**

The Sanmen nuclear power plant, which has two reactors, each with a capacity of 1,000 mW, will also become the world's first plant using Westinghouse's third-generation nuclear power technology, said Liu.

"We are fully confident of making it a model project," he said.

According to Westinghouse, the design of the AP1000, a pressurized water reactor, has three main advantages - safety, economic competitiveness and greater efficiency.

China has put an increasing focus on the construction of third-generation nuclear reactors in recent years. In 2007, the country set up the State Nuclear Power Technology Corp Ltd (SNPTC), which is mainly responsible for the domestic development of nuclear power using advanced third-generation technology from overseas.

Besides the agreement with Westinghouse, China Guangdong Nuclear Power Group signed an 8-billion-euro deal in 2007 with French nuclear company Areva for two third-generation reactors. Under the agreement, Areva will use its European pressurized reactor technology to build a plant in Taishan, Guangdong province.

Construction of the two reactors, each with a capacity of 1,700 mW, will begin in the fall of 2009. They are expected to begin operations in 2014, according to sources close to the deal.

"Although Westinghouse's technology is different to that of Areva in terms of its design, compared with the first or second-generation technology it offers two distinct advantages: greater safety and improved fuel efficiency," said Fu Manchang, a veteran nuclear analyst.

"It (third-generation technology) will become the mainstream for China's nuclear sector," he said.

China currently has 11 nuclear reactors in operation, using domestically developed technology as well as imported technology from France, Russia and Canada, all of which is first or second generation.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2009-03/02/content\\_7524488.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2009-03/02/content_7524488.htm)

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Press Release

February 26, 2009

## **Burr, Kennedy Introduce Bill to Improve Biosecurity Measures**

Today, U.S. Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), along with U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), introduced the *Select Agent Program and Biosafety Improvement Act of 2009*, to improve America's approach to biosecurity by reauthorizing the Select Agent Program and enhancing the safety of biological research laboratories. The Select Agent Program regulates the transfer, possession, and use of biological substances that pose a serious threat to public health and could be used for bioterrorism. Authorization for the program expired in September of 2007. Representative Jane Harman (D-CA) introduced similar legislation in the House of Representatives.

"We must support scientific research while also making sure select agents are kept out of the hands of terrorists and are used safely and securely in our laboratories," Burr said. "Reauthorizing the Select Agent Program is vital to ensuring our nation's safety and security, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to reauthorize and improve the program."

"Our ability to protect Americans against modern-day dangers depends on robust scientific research to counter biological threats. The bill that we introduce today helps protect Americans from biological threats, while also

protecting scientific freedom and integrity,” said Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

“The threat of bioterrorism – whether a small pox outbreak, pandemic flu, or proliferation of deadly ricin – is real. Weaponized biological agents can spread and infect at a ferocious pace,” said Rep. Harman. “This isn’t about playing the ‘fear card,’ this is a call for a better action plan. A sophisticated system for tracking deadly agents and securing the nation’s labs – potential Petri dishes for WMDs – should be a staple component of our national defense.”

In addition to reauthorizing the Select Agent Program, the *Select Agent Program and Biosafety Improvement Act* would evaluate federal oversight of our most secure biological laboratories, improve training for laboratory workers, and establish an incident reporting system to help identify protocols for safety and security improvements. The recent report by the Commission on the Prevention of WMD Proliferation and Terrorism called for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to tighten government oversight of high containment labs.

[http://burr.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressOffice.PressReleases&ContentRecord\\_id=b4785480-d092-90c0-d2b9-e7dec62c0aba](http://burr.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressOffice.PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=b4785480-d092-90c0-d2b9-e7dec62c0aba)

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

San Antonio Express-News  
February 27, 2009

## **Lackland Confronts Unknown Strain of TB**

By Sig Christenson, Express-News

The Air Force said Thursday that eight civilian contract employees at Lackland AFB have tested positive for tuberculosis — including a single worker at a dining hall at the Training Annex who was found to have the disease, the base said.

Lackland spokesman Joe Bella said the sick worker did not handle food in the dining hall, and cautioned that those testing positive are not actually ill.

“As far as I know they (San Antonio Metropolitan Health District) tested 15,” Bella said. “There may be more later. The investigation is continuing, so for now as far as we know they tested 15.

“Seven of the 15 tested positive for exposure. That doesn't mean they're going to contract the disease. That just means they were exposed to the bacteria.”

As the day ended, Bella did not know how many people eat in the dining facility or if anyone using it could have been exposed to the disease. TB, caused by bacteria that typically trigger infections in the lungs, is not easily transmitted, the base said, citing data from the American Pulmonary Association.

It is easily treated as long as the type of TB is not resistant to drugs. Most people survive it and recover, but in some cases people with active or drug-resistant forms of TB can suffer permanent lung damage — making it harder to breathe, said Jean Patterson, chair of the virology and immunology department of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research.

One unanswered question was the strain of TB identified by Metro Health. Bella said he did not know, adding, “We really don't have all the details.” Patterson said the type of mycobacterium could make a difference in how many people were exposed and whether they are at risk of illness.

Metro Health could not be reached late in the evening.

“It's a combination of the bacterium and the host,” Patterson explained. “If the host is compromised, you are more likely to get sick. If the bacterium is more virulent, then more people will get sick irrespective of their immune system.

“HIV co-infection with tuberculosis is very, very serious,” Patterson added. “That is where a lot of people actually die.”

There was no indication of TB troubles at other local bases. Fort Sam Houston has reported no such incidents, said its spokesman, Phil Reidinger. Brooke Army Medical Center spokesman Dewey Mitchell said he had not heard of any cases being treated there.

It is not known if there have been TB incidents at any of the Air Education and Training Command's 12 bases — including Lackland and Randolph AFB, said AETC spokesman Dave Smith. Roughly 86,000 students from military services in the United States and other countries are at Lackland, home to Air Force basic training.

Most Lackland trainees do not go to the Medina Annex west of the main base off S.W. Military Drive and Loop 410. Basic-training recruits, though, do utilize a remote site at the annex; they do not eat in its dining hall.

In a short news release issued by Lackland, base officials said Metro Health screened the 15 workers using a TB skin test. After finding that people had tested positive, the agency expanded its probe and said it would notify anyone at risk.

Bella, the Lackland spokesman, said he did not know the health status of the sickened contract worker.

[http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/Lackland\\_confronts\\_unknown\\_strain\\_of\\_TB.html](http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/Lackland_confronts_unknown_strain_of_TB.html)

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Globe and Mail – Canada  
February 27, 2009

## **Government Moves to Restrict Access to Toxins and Pathogens**

GLORIA GALLOWAY

OTTAWA — Attention mad scientists: It may soon be illegal to store Ebola in your basement.

The federal government has introduced legislation to limit access to disease-causing pathogens and toxins and to dictate how they should be handled.

The aim of the bill, which is heading to a Commons committee, is to prevent terrorists from intentionally unleashing biohazards and to protect Canadians from mistakes by lab workers.

Laboratories - local community labs that diagnose disease, as well as university and government research labs - are required to follow bio-safety guidelines before they can import pathogens, explained Theresa Tam, director-general of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Those import regulations apply to about 3,500 facilities across Canada.

But, said Dr. Tam, "there is a gap in that laboratories that do not import pathogens currently fall outside the existing regulations."

Most technicians follow a regime that has become accepted practice when dealing with human pathogens. The really bad bugs such as anthrax, for instance, are stored only at the Health Canada Level 4 laboratory in Winnipeg.

"We certainly believe that laboratories, many of them, voluntarily comply with existing laboratory bio-safety guidelines and that, in general, laboratories are safe in Canada," said Dr. Tam.

But there is a clear need, she said, for people working with the highest-risk pathogens to obtain a security clearance. The new legislation, which was originally introduced last year but died when the fall election was called, would do that.

Under the new law, no one who is not licensed by the government would be permitted to possess, produce, store, transfer or dispose of a human pathogen or toxin.

In addition, the disease-causing materials would be divided into categories, according to the level of risk they present, and technicians would be required to handle them accordingly.

The legislation makes it clear that the regulations won't apply to diseases that occur naturally in human beings. No one will be carted off to jail for coming down with Ebola.

But the consequences for those who knowingly violate the law could be fines of \$1-million and jail terms of five years.

Peter Singer, a professor of medicine at the University Health Network and the University of Toronto, has been studying whether Canada is prepared for bioterrorism. The answer, he said, is "I'm not sure."

The introduction of a law to control the security of pathogens and toxins is an important piece of the puzzle, said Dr. Singer. "To really get the bio-security thing right you need a web of protection."

Any law, he said, must balance that security with the need to allow scientists to do their work.

It also must take into account that bio-materials are more easily obtained than the highly enriched uranium or plutonium that would be required for a nuclear attack.

So "this is at least as much about fostering a culture of bio-security among scientists as it is about controlling pathogens," said Dr. Singer. "And that is why scientists need to be deeply engaged in developing the solution."

#### *Bio-threats*

The following is a quick list of some of the most feared bioterrorism threats. All can be deadly. A new law introduced by the federal government aims to keep them under tight control.

#### Anthrax

Transmitted through the inhalation of spores, rarely person-to-person

Causes respiratory failure

Can be treated with Cipro

or Doxycycline

#### Botulism

A food-borne toxin

Causes gastrointestinal symptoms, blurred vision, possible muscle paralysis or airway obstruction

Can be treated with an antitoxin

#### Plague

Transmitted person-to-person or animal-to-person

Causes fever

and brochopneumonia

A number of medications can be used as treatment

#### Smallpox

Transmitted through airborne droplets, can be communicated person-to person

Causes flu-like symptoms, fever, rash, scabs

There is no known treatment.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20090227.wtoxins27/BNStory/National/home>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)