



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER ***CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL***

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

Issue No. 698, 27 March 2009

Articles & Other Documents:

[Cartwright Sees Missile Defense Shifting](#)

[US Lawmaker: Missile Threat from Iran Exaggerated](#)

[Policy Official Pushes U.S. Missile Defenders to Improve Test Realism](#)

[Pentagon: Beijing Boosting Cyberwarfare](#)

[U.S. Sees Chinese Military Rise](#)

[Policy Official Pushes U.S. Missile Defenders to Improve Test Realism](#)

[Pentagon: Beijing Boosting Cyberwarfare](#)

[U.S. Sees Chinese Military Rise](#)

[China says US Defence Report is 'Gross Distortion of Facts'](#)

[Report: Chinese Navy has New Sub Base in Pacific](#)

[Medvedev to Hold Security Strategy Meeting](#)

[Russia New Security Strategy Avoids Arms Race](#)

[Russia to Adjust National Security Strategy for One More Month](#)

[Russia Wants Up to 10 Submarines in Black Sea Fleet](#)

[U.S. Senator Seeks Missile Cooperation with Russia](#)

[Japan FM Expresses Doubts Over Missile Defense](#)

[Japan Will Try to Destroy N. Korean Missile](#)

[Japan Readies Missile Defense System](#)

[Japan Orders Military to Destroy North Korea Rocket](#)

[Japan Readies Missile Interceptors](#)

[We'll Shoot Down Rocket: Japan](#)

[India Warns Obama on Nuclear Test Ban Treaty](#)

[Russia Shares IAEA Concerns on Iran's Nuclear Program - Top MP](#)

[UN Nuclear Watchdog to Elect New Chief](#)

[IAEA Fails to Agree on New Leader](#)

[Al-Qaeda Tops US Afghan Strategy](#)

[Terror Risk for Britons is Growing, U.K. Warns](#)

[Britain: Al-Qaida in Decline](#)

['Global War On Terror' Is Given New Name](#)

[Washington Postpones European ABM Plans](#)

[Long-Range View of Eccentric Regime](#)

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.

Aviation Week

24 March 2009

Cartwright Sees Missile Defense Shifting

By John M. Doyle

The vice chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said March 23 that he envisions the future mission for missile defense shifting from protecting the homeland to protecting U.S. troops deployed overseas, as well as allies and friends.

Marine Corps Gen. James Cartwright said the shift will be due to changing threats in the future. And that will require an architecture "that has the flexibility to address the unknown." Cartwright says that thinking means a shift in acquisition emphasis from the weapon to the command and control sensor network.

"A system that morphs itself in 30 days into the threat is really what we're trying to buy," Cartwright told attendees at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics' missile defense conference in Washington. "It's always about staying ahead of the threat," Cartwright said, adding that the objective is to "impose significant costs" on an adversary to develop better weapons, rather than having their innovations drive U.S. defense spending.

Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-Calif.) told the AIAA gathering that the Bush administration placed too much emphasis on defending against a long-range ballistic missile attack, even though Iran does not yet have that capability, while ignoring the threat of short- and midrange missiles, which Iran does have.

For that reason, among others, she said, President Barack Obama's decision to review the plan to place a missile interceptor system in Poland and the Czech Republic "is fully justified and necessary." While it was important to try to work with Russia, which strongly objects to a missile defense system in Eastern Europe, she added that Russia "should not, and does not have veto power" over U.S. defense planning.

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?channel=aerospacedaily&id=news/MISSILE032409.xml&headline=Cartwright%20Sees%20Missile%20Defense%20Shifting

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

Boston Herald

March 23, 2009

US Lawmaker: Missile Threat from Iran Exaggerated

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A candidate for a top nonproliferation post in the Obama administration played down today the threat from Iran's long-range missile program as a reason to build a European missile defense system.

Democratic Rep. Ellen Tauscher is under consideration to be undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, a position that has involved shaping policy on U.S. missile defense plans in Poland and the Czech Republic. As chair of a congressional military appropriations panel, she has been a critic of U.S. long-range missile defense systems.

Her comments come as the Obama administration is reviewing the European missile defense plans and has signaled to Russia that it is willing to reconsider them, if the threat from Iran recedes. Russia has adamantly opposed the European plans, which it believes would undermine its nuclear deterrent and encroach on its interests.

Advocates of the U.S. plans in Europe argue that missile defense systems should be urgently deployed to counter Iran, which the United States has estimated could have missiles capable of reaching Europe or America within a decade. Tauscher said that the threat has been exaggerated.

She told a conference on missile defense that the United States and allies should first develop and field short range missile defense systems that could protect forces deployed in combat operations. She said that advocates of the European plans "have been running around with their hair on fire."

"The argument that the U.S. would be naked against an Iranian threat unless we deploy the GMD system in Europe is simply not right," she said, referring to the long range system.

http://www.bostonherald.com/news/us_politics/view/2009_03_23_US_lawmaker:_missile_threat_from_Iran_exaggerated/srvc=home&position=recent

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

Global Security Newswire
March 24, 2009

Policy Official Pushes U.S. Missile Defenders to Improve Test Realism

By Elaine M. Grossman

WASHINGTON -- A senior U.S. defense policy official said yesterday he wants to see more realistic tests of the emerging missile defense system (see *GSN*, Feb. 26).

"Generally speaking, the complaint is that most of our tests are not realistic and don't simulate actual ... conditions," Peter Verga, the acting deputy defense policy head, said at a conference held by the Defense Department's Missile Defense Agency. "I think anything the test community can do to reassure people that the tests are, in fact, operationally realistic is very important."

Critics have said that missile defense tests thus far have largely failed to capture the element of a surprise launch under conditions that might particularly stress the system's capability to intercept an enemy rocket.

Philip Coyle, a former top Pentagon test official, questioned the confidence expressed recently by U.S. combatant commanders that the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system could intercept a possible early April North Korean ballistic missile test launch if it threatens the United States. Pyongyang has said it plans only to launch a satellite, but Western analysts remain wary.

"What if North Korea launched their test missile at night or in bad weather or when the sun is shining at a disadvantageous direction?" said Coyle, speaking later at the same conference. "The MDA testing program has fallen far behind in addressing such issues."

In fact, he added, "with these examples I'm not even talking about testing for statistical confidence. ... I'm talking about even doing one good test."

Verga urged missile defense testers to act on such concerns.

"To the extent that you can build into the test scenarios ... a little bit of lack of clarity on the part of the shooters of when the launch is actually going to take place ... that builds greater confidence in people," he said. "The fact that it was the real crew [performing the test], and not the real crew backed up by several hundred contractors looking over your shoulder and making sure everything was ready, etc. Realistic operational testing is what I would recommend to you."

Army Lt. Gen. Patrick O'Reilly, the MDA director, plans to conclude by May a thorough review of the agency's test plans. Congressional auditors have said the test program has exhibited performance shortfalls and delays across the board.

O'Reilly has acknowledged some serious challenges. However, he said yesterday, "Overall, we've had a very successful start to a rigorous test program."

Also speaking at the forum, Representative Ellen Tauscher (D-Calif.) raised questions about the need for a planned missile defenses in Europe.

The influential lawmaker, tapped by the Obama administration for a top State Department arms control post, said it is "simply not right" to justify long-range missile defenses in Poland and the Czech Republic based on a threat from Iran. To date, she noted, the Persian Gulf nation has developed only short- and medium-range missiles.

"Iran has not developed a long-range missile capable of reaching the United States yet," said Tauscher, who leads the House Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee. "If Iran were to do so in the future, the [ground-based] interceptors currently based at Fort Greely, Alaska, should have the capability to protect the United States continent."

She suggested instead that the United States and its allies focus on defenses against the shorter-range missiles, which she said pose a threat that interceptors based in Poland would have "little if any" capability to hit.

"Before we move to expand the GMD system, we need a little common sense," Tauscher said. "That is to say, more of a first-things-first approach."

http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20090324_7461.php

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

Washington Times
March 26, 2009

Pentagon: Beijing Boosting Cyberwarfare

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

China is continuing a large-scale military buildup of high-tech forces that includes "disruptive" anti-satellite missiles, new strategic forces, and computer attack weapons, the Pentagon's annual report to Congress on the Chinese military says.

"China has made steady progress in recent years in developing offensive nuclear, space, and cyber warfare capabilities - the only aspects of China's armed forces that, today, have the potential to be truly global," says the report titled "Military Power of the People's Republic of China (PRC)" that was released Wednesday.

While noting that China has limited ability to sustain power far from its shores, the report warns that Beijing's communist-controlled armed forces "continue to develop and field disruptive military technologies, including those for anti-access/area-denial, as well as for nuclear, space, and cyber warfare, that are changing regional military balances and that have implications beyond the Asia-Pacific region."

Anti-access and area denial weapons include large numbers of precision-guided ballistic and cruise missiles and submarines that are designed to attack aircraft carriers, the report said.

The report also criticized China's arms sales to countries such as Iran, Sudan and Zimbabwe. It noted that Chinese arms supplied to Iran "were found to have been transferred to terrorist organizations in Iraq and Afghanistan."

"This is a serious issue that the United States continues to monitor," the report said.

Under a section on significant developments over the past year, this year's report for the first time described China's military efforts to develop and wage computer warfare by attacking networks and electronic infrastructure.

"In 2008, numerous computer systems around the world, including those owned by the U.S. government, continued to be the target of intrusions that appear to have originated within the PRC," the report said.

The report said it is "unclear" whether the attacks were carried out by the Chinese military or with its support, or by other elements of the Chinese government.

"However, developing capabilities for cyber warfare is consistent with authoritative PLA military writings on the subject," the report said.

Larry Wortzel, co-chairman of the congressional U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, said the latest report reflects the Chinese military's ambitions "to be a major military power with global reach."

Richard Fisher, a specialist on the China military with the private International Assessment and Strategy Center, said the report “should be required reading for those proposing major U.S. military reductions like ending production of the F-22A fifth-generation fighter, reducing U.S. carrier battle groups and unilaterally disarming future U.S. space warfare and robust missile defense capabilities.”

Typically, China criticizes the annual report the day after it is released, asserting that its rise as a global power is not hostile. Before the release of this year's report, Maj. Gen. Qian Lihua, director of the Chinese Defense Ministry Foreign Affairs Office, warned in a published article that the report would damage U.S.-China military relations.

<http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/mar/26/pentagon-beijing-boosting-cyberwarfare/>

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

New York Times

March 27, 2009

U.S. Sees Chinese Military Rise

By THOM SHANKER

WASHINGTON — China is seeking technology and weapons to disrupt the traditional advantages of American forces, and secrecy surrounding its military creates the potential for miscalculation on both sides, according to a Pentagon study released Wednesday.

The annual report from the Defense Department to Congress, “Military Power of the People’s Republic of China 2009,” catalogs efforts by China to supply its armed forces with weapons that can be used to intimidate and attack Taiwan and blunt the superiority of American naval and air power, at least near its territory.

“We have advocated time and again for more dialogue and transparency in our dealings with the Chinese government and military, all in an effort to reduce suspicions on both sides,” said Geoff Morrell, the Pentagon press secretary.

He said the report should be read as calling “for deeper, broader, more high-level contacts with the Chinese.”

China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman, Qin Gang, dismissed the Pentagon report on Thursday as “a gross distortion of the facts” and interference in China’s internal affairs.

“This report issued by the U. S. side continues to play up the fallacy of China’s military threat,” he said at his regular news briefing in Beijing. He suggested that the Pentagon stop issuing the annual report to avoid “further damage to the two sides’ military relations.”

China suspended high-level contacts with the Pentagon last October in response to the Bush administration’s decision to sell a record \$6.5 billion in military equipment to Taiwan. But relations appeared to improve after the deputy assistant secretary of defense for East Asia, David S. Sedney, held two days of talks with his Chinese counterparts last month.

Military relations between the United States and China have tended to crest and then fall over recent years, with ties having just recovered from Beijing’s outrage over the sales to Taiwan.

But even the resumption of military-to-military talks was threatened this month after Chinese vessels shadowed and harassed an American surveillance ship in international waters of the South China Sea.

The Pentagon report describes how China’s military modernization has continued over the past year, with a particular focus on Taiwan, which China considers a renegade province. China has built up short-range missiles across from Taiwan, even though the report concludes that relations between the two have relaxed over the past year.

Even so, the study said China could not deploy and sustain even small military units far beyond its borders before 2015. Further, China would not be able to deploy and sustain large forces in combat operations far from China until well into the following decade, the report states.

Instead, the Chinese military appears to have embarked on modernization programs that would allow it to fight and win short conflicts fought with new weapons along its periphery.

To blunt traditional advantages of the United States, China has invested in new technologies for cyber- and space warfare, in addition to sustaining and modernizing its nuclear arsenal, the report said. The Chinese military also is

expanding and improving its fleet of submarines, and hopes to build a number of new aircraft carriers, the report said.

The report does single out acts by the Chinese military to participate in international relief and rescue missions. Between 2002 and 2007, the People's Liberation Army joined at least 14 search-and-rescue missions at sea, and was involved in 10 emergency relief missions in 14 countries.

Between 2003 and 2007, China also sold nearly \$7 billion worth of conventional weapons around the world, mostly to Pakistan, the report said.

Rep. Ike Skelton, the Missouri Democrat who is chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, released a statement on Wednesday that expressed concern at "some of the continuing trends and ambiguities regarding China's military modernization, including China's missile buildup across from Taiwan and the steady increase of China's power projection capabilities."

He said that "China's military budget continues a trend of double-digit increases and questions remain about China's strategic intentions."

Michael Wines contributed reporting from Beijing.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/27/world/27military.html?hp>

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

Daily Telegraph
26 March 2009

China says US Defence Report is 'Gross Distortion of Facts'

By Peter Foster in Beijing

The annual Pentagon report to the US Congress said China's increasing investment in modern weaponry and cyber warfare, was changing the balance of power in the Asia-Pacific region.

However China, which has only just resumed military talks with the US after a five-month suspension, reacted angrily to the US assessment, lodging an official complaint with Washington.

"We suggest the United States respect the fundamental facts, drop the Cold War thinking and prejudices and stop the groundless accusations over China, to prevent further damage to the relationship between the two countries and two armies," said Qin Gang, a foreign ministry spokesman said.

This is a gross distortion of the facts and China resolutely opposes it," he added.

The remarks comes just weeks after Chinese vessels harassed a US Navy surveillance ship in international waters in the South China Sea after it approached too close to a sensitive Chinese submarine base.

The confrontation was described by the US intelligence director, Dennis Blair, as the most serious military incident involving the two powers since a US spy plane collided with a Chinese fighter jet in April 2001.

China is highly sensitive to suggestions that it is building a military to match its rising economic status, accusing the US and other nations of seeking to demonise China for their own political ends.

China's leaders talk often of their country's "peaceful rise", insisting that their armed forces are defensive in nature and that the world has nothing to fear from a strong China.

China frequently reminds the world that its military spending accounts for just 1.4 per cent of the country's GDP, compared with two per cent in Britain and France and four per cent in the United States.

However China's defence minister this week told his Japanese counterpart that long-delayed plans to build the country's first aircraft carrier would not be put off indefinitely.

Under Japan's "peace" constitution, aircraft carriers are considered an "offensive weapon" and a decision by China to build a carrier would, some analysts believe, increase pressure within Japan to reconsider its non-offensive military posture.

The US has also repeatedly accused China of hiding the true extent of its defence spending as it upgrades its armed forces which have traditionally been high on manpower and low on technology.

However announcing a 15 per cent rise in annual defence spending earlier this month, an official spokesman explicitly rebuffed such claims. "There is no such thing as the so-called hidden military expenditure in China," he said.

Nonetheless, the US report warned that Beijing's lack of transparency created uncertainty, calling for greater transparency, more military-to-military discussions with the United States and the publication of more detailed defence papers.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/china/5054485/China-says-US-defence-report-is-gross-distortion-of-facts.html>

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

Stars and Stripes – Pacific
March 27, 2009

Report: Chinese Navy has New Sub Base in Pacific

By [Jeff Schogol](#), Stars and Stripes
Pacific Edition,

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Chinese navy has a new submarine base on Hainan Island, according to the latest Defense Department report on Chinese military power.

The report comes about two weeks after a Military Sealift Command contract surveillance ship was accosted by five Chinese vessels about 75 miles south of Hainan Island.

"The base appears large enough to accommodate a mix of attack and ballistic missile submarines and advanced surface combatant ships," the report said.

"The port, which has underground facilities, would provide the PLA (People's Liberation Army) Navy with direct access to vital international sea lanes, and offers the potential for stealthy deployment of submarines into the deep waters of the South China Sea."

On March 8, the USNS Impeccable was in the region of Hainan Island when it was surrounded by five Chinese vessels while the ship was in international waters. One vessel got so close that the Impeccable had to spray the Chinese crew with fire hoses. The Chinese also tried to snare the Impeccable's sonar equipment.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates later said he hoped diplomatic exchanges that resulted from China's "aggressive acts" against the Impeccable would prevent future incidents.

Neither U.S. Pacific Command nor U.S. Pacific Fleet had further information on the submarine base.

The new base means the Chinese want to project power into the South China Sea and Indian Ocean, said Dan Blumenthal, of the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank in Washington.

"I wouldn't consider it an aggressive move," Blumenthal said.

However, the move has already made other countries in the region nervous, Blumenthal said. That includes India, which has begun upgrading its aircraft carriers in response.

<http://www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=61607>

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

RIA Novosti
24 March 2009

Medvedev to Hold Security Strategy Meeting

MOSCOW (RIA Novosti) - Russian President Dmitry Medvedev will hold a meeting with the national Security Council on Tuesday to approve a national security strategy up to 2020.

The strategy, which updates a 1997 plan, aims to improve the quality of state administration and coordinate the activities of the government and public organizations on defending Russia's national interests and protecting society and the state.

At a meeting with Defense Ministry officials last week, Medvedev said long-term defense plans must be based on the national security strategy, taking into account modern-day realities and potential threats.

Under the previous strategy, terrorism was identified as the main threat facing the country.

Analysts say that in the new strategy, the main threats will be identified as competition for energy resources, NATO's expansion near Russia's borders, and the policies of a number of states to gain nuclear pre-eminence over Russia.

The president announced last year that Russia would make the modernization of its nuclear deterrent and Armed Forces a priority in light of last August's war with Georgia.

Russia's military spending has been steadily growing recently. According to various estimates, spending will rise 50% over the next three years from the current level of \$40 billion.

Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov said earlier that the share of modern weaponry in the Russian Armed Forces would reach 30% by 2015, and 70% by 2020.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20090324/120702430.html>

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

RIA Novosti
24 March 2009

Russia New Security Strategy Avoids Arms Race

MOSCOW, March 24 (RIA Novosti) - Russia will not get involved in a new arms race, the head of the Security Council said on Tuesday at a meeting dedicated to discussing Russia's national security strategy until 2020.

"We will avoid getting involved in costly confrontation and a new arms race...and try to build relations with other countries on the principles of equal rights and mutually-beneficial cooperation...," Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev said.

"At the same time, Russia will conduct rational and pragmatic foreign policies to protect its national interest on the global arena," he added.

The new strategy, which updates the 1997 policy, aims to improve the quality of state administration and coordinate the activities of the government and public organizations on defending Russia's national interests and protecting society and the state.

At a meeting with Defense Ministry officials last week, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said long-term defense plans must be based on the national security strategy, taking into account modern-day realities and potential threats.

Analysts say that in the new strategy, the main threats are identified as competition for energy resources, NATO's expansion near Russia's borders, and policies by a number of states to gain nuclear superiority over Russia.

Patrushev said on Tuesday that the new strategy creates a mechanism of national security assessments through a variety of criteria aimed at improving the effectiveness of strategic planning in both the economic and military spheres.

The Security Council made the decision to spend another month making necessary amendments to the draft document, the official said.

"We are taking another month to finalize work on the document. We will not introduce any drastic changes, but make some adjustments," Patrushev said.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20090324/120713128.html>

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

China View

24 March 2009

Russia to Adjust National Security Strategy for One More Month

MOSCOW (Xinhua) -- The Russian Security Council has decided to give one more month for the adjustment of the draft on the national security strategy up to 2020, Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev said Tuesday.

The national Security Council held a meeting on Tuesday chaired by President Dmitry Medvedev to discuss the draft strategy.

"Although Security Council members had earlier agreed on the draft strategy, participants (of the meeting) made a number of proposals on how to improve it," the Interfax news agency quoted Patrushev as saying after the meeting.

"We need one more month to adjust the document. Principally the strategy will not change, but a number of corrections will be made," he said.

Patrushev also said that the strategy envisions the development of equitable relations with all partners in the world, and Russia "intends to exclude loss-making confrontation and a new arms race."

According to a statement issued by the Security Council's press office earlier Tuesday, the strategy aimed at "increasing the quality of public administration and is intended to coordinate the efforts of the authorities and governmental and public organizations to protect Russia's national interests and to ensure individual, public and national safety."

As an updated version of a 1997 plan, analysts said the strategy will identify competition for energy resources, NATO's expansion near Russia's borders, and the policies of a number of states to gain nuclear pre-eminence over Russia as a main threat, instead of the previously recognized terrorism, the RIA-Novosti said

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-03/24/content_11066504.htm

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

RIA Novosti

24 March 2009

Russia Wants Up to 10 Submarines in Black Sea Fleet

MOSCOW, March 24 (RIA Novosti) - Russia's Black Sea Fleet must have 8-10 submarines in active service and the Navy plans to commission new Lada class vessels to meet the requirement, a senior Navy official said on Tuesday.

The Black Sea Fleet, based in Ukraine's Crimea, currently deploys one Project 877 Kilo class diesel-electric submarine, while an outdated Project 641 Foxtrot class sub is undergoing a long-term overhaul.

"We are planning to deploy additional submarines with the Black Sea Fleet, including new Lada class vessels, but our plans are being hampered by Ukraine, which sees this as the deployment of new weaponry rather than an upgrade of the existing fleet," Vice Admiral Oleg Burtsev, deputy head of the Navy General Staff, told RIA Novosti.

The admiral said that the port of Novorossiisk would be an alternative to the main base in Sevastopol for the deployment of additional submarines when Russia finishes building the necessary infrastructure there.

"The infrastructure is being built under the federal program for the construction of a naval base in Novorossiisk until 2020," Burtsev said.

Russia's Black Sea Fleet uses a range of naval facilities in Ukraine's Crimea as part of a 1997 agreement, under which Ukraine agreed to lease the bases to Russia until 2017.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko announced last summer that Ukraine would not extend the lease of the base in the Crimean city of Sevastopol beyond 2017, and urged Russia to start preparations for a withdrawal.

After thoroughly analyzing the outcome of last year's military conflict with Georgia, Russia's Defense Ministry had proposed an array of measures to strengthen its troops in the country's southern region, as well as the Black Sea Fleet.

The first Lada class diesel-electric submarine featuring extended noise reduction will be commissioned with the Russian Navy in 2010. It features an advanced anti-sonar coating for its hull, an extended cruising range, and advanced anti-ship and anti-submarine weaponry, including Club-S cruise missile systems.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20090324/120704829.html>

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

RIA Novosti
24 March 2009

U.S. Senator Seeks Missile Cooperation with Russia

MOSCOW, March 24 (RIA Novosti) - The chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee has said the country must seek close missile defense cooperation with Russia as the best means of protection against Iran.

Missile defense has so far been a major obstacle in Russia-U.S. relations, due to U.S. plans to deploy a missile shield in Central Europe, purportedly to defend against Iranian long-range missiles.

Sen. Carl Levin told a missile defense conference on Monday that the United States and Russia should work jointly to weaken the Iranian missile threat.

"U.S.-Russian cooperation on missile defense against Iranian missiles - even if we were simply to begin serious discussions on the subject - would send a powerful signal to Iran," he said. "Iran would face in a dramatic way a growing unity against her pursuit of dangerous nuclear technology."

Russia has consistently rejected the U.S. justification for the anti-missile radar and interceptors planned for the Czech Republic and Poland, and views them as a major national security threat.

However, Levin said that with cooperation the divisive issue could actually improve the atmosphere between Washington and Moscow.

"Missile defense could become a tool for positive change, rather than an impediment to better relations," he said.

At the same conference, Democratic Rep. Ellen Tauscher, a likely candidate for a top nonproliferation post in the administration of President Barack Obama, questioned the need for the missile shield.

"The argument that the U.S. would be naked against an Iranian threat unless we deploy the GMD [Ground-Based Midcourse Defense] system in Europe is simply not right," she said.

Last week Russia welcomed the Czech Republic's decision to put off a parliamentary vote on the ratification of a deal to host a U.S. anti-missile radar.

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20090324/120703816.html>

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

International Herald Tribune
March 24, 2009

Japan FM Expresses Doubts Over Missile Defense

The Associated Press

TOKYO: Japan may not be prepared to intercept debris that falls into Japanese territory if North Korea's planned rocket launch fails, the country's foreign minister said Tuesday.

North Korea has said it will launch a communications satellite between April 4 and 8, but Japan and its allies fear that is a ruse to disguise the testing of a long-range missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

Japan responded to the warning by saying it will shoot down any debris that falls toward its territory in the case of a botched launch.

The government is expected to issue an order as early as Friday calling for the destruction of debris or parts of the missile that fall toward Japan, allowing the defense minister to deploy interceptors in areas where the fragments are likely to fall, Kyodo News agency reported.

But as the launch date nears some officials have expressed doubts about the country's missile defense prowess, concerns the Defense Ministry has said are unfounded.

Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone said "it would be difficult" to shoot down fragments from a failed launch of the North Korean missile.

"Our country has never done this before. And we don't know how or where it may come flying," Nakasone told reporters Tuesday.

He was echoing an unidentified top official, who said Monday that "there is no way you can hit a bullet if you exchange pistol fire in a distant duel, according to Kyodo and other Japanese media.

Japan has successfully tested intercepting a medium-range missile last year, though it has failed once in the past, but the country has never tested capability to intercept a long-range missile, which Pyongyang is believed to be testing.

Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada said he disagreed with Nakasone's assessment.

"We have been doing our best to be prepared," he said.

Hamada has said some of the interceptors in and around Tokyo, as well as a pair of destroyers carrying the ship-to-air missile defense system, may be shifted to northern states Iwate and Akita to intercept fragments that may fall.

On Tuesday, North Korea warned the United States, Japan and their allies not to interfere with its planned launch.

A 2006 U.N. Security Council resolution prohibits North Korea from engaging in ballistic activity, which Washington and its allies say includes firing a long-range missile or using a rocket to send a satellite into space.

Japan has already warned North Korea of more sanctions if the communist country goes ahead with a rocket launch. Prime Minister Taro Aso has said he would also bring the case to the United Nations Security Council.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2009/03/24/asia/AS-Japan-NKorea-Missile.php>

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

Korea Times
25 March 2009

Japan Will Try to Destroy N. Korean Missile

By Kim Sue-young
Staff Reporter

Japan will order its Self Defense Forces to destroy North Korea's missile if it's launched, Japan's Asahi Shimbun newspaper reported Wednesday.

The decision was made at a meeting of some related ministers, including the foreign minister and defense minister, the report said, adding that Japan will convene a security council meeting Friday to finalize its position on North Korea's planned missile launch.

The report said the defense ministry would deploy surface-to-air interceptor missiles, also known as the Patriot Advanced Capability 3 (PAC-3), in Akita and Iwate prefectures.

On Tuesday, North Korea warned it will boycott the six-party nuclear talks if the United Nations imposes sanctions over its rocket launch, according to the Yonhap News Agency.

"The Tokyo government is expected to soon issue an order to take measures to destroy the missile under the Self-Defense Forces Law. The PAC-3 missiles will then be moved, probably to the Ground SDF's Akita and Iwate camps," a defense ministry source was quoted as saying.

The defense missiles will destroy rocket boosters or other parts that could fall in the prefectures, the source added.

The ministry, however, decided to keep some of the missiles in the northeastern Tohoku region in case the boosters fall on Tokyo, according to the report.

North Korea told international organizations in aviation early this month that it will send a "satellite" into orbit as part of a national space program but many outside experts say it would be a test launch of Taepodong-2, a long-range missile that is theoretically capable of hitting Alaska and Hawaii.

Asahi also had a skeptical view of Japan's plan.

Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone reportedly said it would be "indeed difficult" for Japan's missile to intercept a North Korean "satellite" if it landed in Japan.

Besides, the PAC-3 missile is known to cover an area within a radius of only 70 kilometers, which, the newspaper said, means that the entire Tohoku region will not be defended.

In 1998, Pyongyang launched the Kwangmyongsong-1 satellite, which the outside world considered a Taepodong-1 multi-stage missile. It was fired over Japan.

In Seoul, South Korea's top nuclear envoy, Wi Sung-lak, said it is unavoidable to take a countermeasure if North Korea launches a long-range missile.

Wi made the remarks after returning to Seoul following his two-day trip to China Wednesday. He is scheduled to visit the United States this week for talks with U.S. officials.

Meanwhile, the European Union (EU) has warned the secretive state that the rocket launch scheduled for early April would be seen as a violation of a U.S. Security Council resolution.

An EU delegation emphasized to North Korean authorities that their announced "experimental satellite launch" would be seen as a breach of the UNSC Resolution 1718, and it will send a wrong signal to the international community," the Czech Republic said in a press release.

The message was delivered by the delegation of EU Troika — Czech Republic, European Commission and EU Council — during its trip to Pyongyang early this week.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2009/03/113_41945.html

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

Washington Post

March 27, 2009

Japan Readies Missile Defense System

By Blaine Harden

Washington Post Foreign Service

TOKYO, March 27 -- Japan ordered its military on Friday to destroy a North Korean missile or its debris, if the launch fails and falling pieces of the rocket seem to imperil Japanese territory.

Japan ordered two destroyers equipped with American-built Aegis anti-missile systems into the Sea of Japan, and said it would soon move Patriot land-to-air missiles to the country's northern coast, over which the North Korean rocket is likely to fly.

The orders punctuated a week of rising tensions in Northeast Asia, as North Korea moved its rocket to a launchpad and warned the outside world not to interfere or impose sanctions for its planned launch of what it describes as a "communications satellite." The launch is scheduled for sometime between April 4 and 8.

Japan, South Korea and the United States have repeatedly asked North Korea to cancel the launch, calling it a provocative pretext for the test of a long-range ballistic missile, which may be able to strike Alaska. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the launch could harm talks aimed at helping North Korea with food and fuel in return for abandoning nuclear weapons.

Russia on Friday also called on North Korea to drop its plan to launch the missile, saying it would raise tension in the region.

Japan took pains Friday to explain that it was preparing for a possible accident, not for an attack. Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada said he issued orders "to prepare for an event in which a North Korean projectile falls onto our country in an accident."

North Korea has notified maritime and aviation groups around the world of its plans to send a satellite into orbit and has released details of its expected flight trajectory. It shows that the missile would fly high over northern Japan as it headed into orbit. The first stage of the rocket is expected to fall into the Sea of Japan and the second stage into the northern Pacific.

Japanese officials said Friday that the likelihood of rocket debris falling on Japan is remote and urged people to remain calm.

"I believe it normally wouldn't fall onto our country's territory," Takeo Kawamura, chief of staff in the prime minister's office, told a news conference.

Japan began investing in anti-missile weaponry after North Korea surprised the world in 1998 by firing a long-range Taepodong-1 missile over the island nation into the Pacific Ocean.

Afterward, amid an international outcry, the North said it had merely exercised its right to "space development." It claimed then that it had succeeded in launching a research satellite. The U.S. government later concluded that the missile had failed to put a satellite into orbit.

That launch and another round of North Korean missile tests in 2006 alarmed Japan, which has invested heavily in American-made ballistic-missile defense systems. North Korea has 200 Nodong medium-range missiles that could hit anywhere in Japan, according to the Japanese Defense Ministry.

There are doubts among missile experts about whether Japan's anti-missile network -- a combination of sea-to-air Aegis missiles and land-to-air Patriot rockets -- can protect the country, in the event of a Nodong missile attack.

"They are not up to the job," said Theodore Postol, an expert on missile systems and a professor of science, technology and national security policy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/27/AR2009032700501.html?hpid=topnews>

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

Daily Telegraph
27 March 2009

Japan Orders Military to Destroy North Korea Rocket

By Julian Ryall in Tokyo

A meeting of the Security Council of Japan approved the decision out of concern that debris from the missile - which Pyongyang claims is a launch vehicle for a satellite - could land on northern Japan.

"I issued the necessary order to the Self-Defence Forces ... to prepare for an event in which a North Korean projectile falls onto our country in an accident," Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada said.

"It is important to deal with and eliminate the North Korean projectile should it threaten the safety and security of the people by entering our airspace or falling into our waters or soil."

Patriot surface-to-air missiles are being deployed in coastal regions of Akita and Iwate prefectures, north of Tokyo, while two Maritime Self-Defence Force destroyers are expected to put to sea from the naval base at Sasebo, near Nagasaki, in the near future and take up station in the Sea of Japan.

North Korea has stated that it has the right to launch the experimental communications satellite and that it will consider any attempt to intercept the rocket as a hostile act. It has also threatened to withdraw from the six-party talks on eliminating nuclear weapons from the Korean peninsula and, on Thursday, warned that it is considering resuming its atomic weapons programme.

Pyongyang says the launch has been set for some time between April 4 and 8.

Intelligence reports indicate that the projectile - which is widely believed to be a disguised Taepodong-2 intercontinental ballistic missile is being assembled on a launch pad in eastern North Korea.

The key envoys on North Korean affairs from Japan, South Korea and the US are to meet in Washington later today to consider their united response to the launch.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/japan/5058668/Japan-orders-military-to-destroy-North-Korea-rocket.html>

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

New York Times
March 28, 2009

Japan Readies Missile Interceptors

By HIROKO TABUCHI

TOKYO — Japan authorized its military Friday to destroy any debris from a North Korean rocket that might fall on its territory. North Korea has said it intends to put a satellite into orbit as early as next week, and warned that fragments could fall into waters off northern Japan.

Japan, South Korea and the United States suspect the launch is a cover for a long-range missile test. In response, Tokyo will deploy missile interceptors and dispatch two warships to the waters between Japan and the Korean peninsula, Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada said.

A battery of Patriot land-to-air missiles will also be deployed in Tokyo, he said. “Whether it’s a satellite or a missile, we are extremely uncomfortable with the object flying over Japanese territory,” Mr. Hamada said. “It’s natural for Japan to seek to eliminate any threat.”

The government spokesman, Takeo Kawamura, called for calm on Friday, saying it was unlikely that debris would fall on Japan.

“We need everyone to continue with their daily lives as usual,” Mr. Kawamura said.

Tension mounted this week after reports that a rocket is being prepared for launch at a pad near North Korea’s northeastern coast. Pyongyang has announced that a test would be conducted between April 4 and 8.

A United Nations Security Council resolution bars North Korea from testing missiles and nuclear devices. Japan, among other nations, imposed tight trade sanctions on North Korea in 2006 after it test-fired a missile and conducted a nuclear test. The United States, Japan and its allies have also demanded the North cancel the launch, and have threatened stricter international sanctions. Even a satellite launch would violate a United Nations Security Council resolution prohibiting ballistic activity, they say.

Also on Friday, Russia joined the chorus of nations condemning the upcoming launch.

“We understand that the current situation in the region of North-East Asia is tense, and this is why it would be better if our partners in North Korea abstained from this, from this launch,” Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexei Borodavkin told journalists, according to Reuters.

A successful test by North Korea would demonstrate that Pyongyang has the technology to launch a missile that could travel as far as the far western United States.

The test would come amid continuing attempts to persuade the North to dismantle its nuclear weapons program.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/28/world/asia/28korea.html?hp>

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

Canberra Times – Australia
28 March 2009

We'll Shoot Down Rocket: Japan

KYOKO HASEGAWA IN TOKYO

JAPAN has given its military the green light to shoot down any incoming North Korean rocket, as tension builds before the expected missile launch that the US and its allies say will be an illegal test.

Japanese and US warships have deployed as the the April 4-8 window looms, when the North Korean regime has said it will launch a communications satellite. Pyongyang has said any move to shoot it down would be an act of war.

The security council in Japan, where pacificism has been official policy since the end of World War II, decided ahead of time to shoot down any incoming missile that could hit its territory, or parts of a rocket that might fall on its territory, rather than wait until a launch.

"The security council this morning decided to issue a destruction order in advance," said Japan's Defence Minister, Yasukazu Hamada. "We will do our best to handle any flying object from North Korea."

South Korea, Japan and the US have all warned that any launch would be unacceptable. Russian also yesterday urged North Korea to refrain from its planned rocket launch.

"Most of the world understands the game they are playing," said the US director of national intelligence, Dennis Blair. "I think they're risking international opprobrium - and hopefully worse, if they successfully launch it."

Mr Blair's comments represented the most pointed US challenge so far to the North Korean Government's repeated assertions that its coming rocket launch is for peaceful purposes. North Korea said on Thursday that any move to refer the launch to the United Nations would ruin the erratic six-nation nuclear disarmament talks, during which North Korea has already tested one missile and an atomic bomb. The US, which says the launch would violate a UN Security Council resolution, has vowed to do so.

Pyongyang has reportedly already put a rocket onto one of its launch pads, raising the stakes in a diplomatic stand-off that has come just two months into President Barack Obama's Administration.

The UN Security Council banned North Korea from engaging in nuclear weapons activities in 2006, after the country detonated its first nuclear device. North Korea argues that ban does not apply to a satellite launch for civilian purposes.

Japan's order for a shoot-down is the first since it revised its defence law in 2005. Asked whether Japan was capable of such an interception, Mr Hamada said: "I have no doubt we can do it."

Agence France-Presse, Los Angeles Times

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/world/world/general/well-shoot-down-rocket-japan/1472071.aspx#>

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

AsiaOne.com – Singapore
Tuesday, March 24, 2009

India Warns Obama on Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

AFP

WASHINGTON - India on Monday warned it would oppose the UN treaty banning nuclear tests, calling it discriminatory, despite President Barack Obama's hopes that the United States will ratify it.

Shyam Saran, India's special envoy on nuclear issues, conceded on a visit to Washington that the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) could prove to be a "contentious" issue with the new US administration.

The CTBT would ban all nuclear explosions for any purpose. It cannot come into effect as nuclear powers such as the United States and China have not ratified it or, in the case of India and rival Pakistan, even signed it.

Saran said India opposed the CTBT because it "was not explicitly linked to the goal of nuclear disarmament."

"For India, this was crucial since it was not acceptable to legitimize, in any way, a permanent division between nuclear weapons states and non-nuclear weapons states," he said at the Brookings Institution.

India declared itself a nuclear state in 1998, arguing it was unfair that international treaties only allowed five nations -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- to maintain the ultra-destructive weapons.

Former US president George W. Bush nonetheless reached a deal giving India access to civilian nuclear technology, triggering protests by some members of Obama's Democratic Party.

Obama in his campaign platform said he would encourage the US Senate to ratify the CTBT and encourage other nations to do so. The United States has not conducted a nuclear test since 1992.

Obama said he would work for the eventual abolition of nuclear weapons, heartening anti-nuclear activists including survivors of the world's only atomic attacks in the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

Saran said that if "the world moves categorically towards nuclear disarmament in a credible time-frame, the Indo-US differences over the CTBT would probably recede into the background."

<http://news.asiaone.com/print/News/Latest%2BNews/Asia/Story/A1Story20090324-130656.html>

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

RIA Novosti
25 March 2009

Russia Shares IAEA Concerns on Iran's Nuclear Program - Top MP

MOSCOW, March 25 (RIA Novosti) - Russia cannot consider Iran's nuclear program "transparent" while the UN nuclear watchdog still has concerns on this account, a senior Russian member of parliament said Wednesday.

The United States and other Western countries suspect Iran of secretly developing nuclear weapons. Tehran denies the accusations saying its nuclear program is purely civilian.

"We in no way close our eyes to what is happening in Iran, and cannot consider this program transparent while the International Atomic Energy Agency has related questions," the chairman of the Russian lower house international affairs committee, Konstantin Kosachyov, told a RIA Novosti press conference.

"Unlike the U.S., we consider the IAEA the only source of any generalizations, conclusions and recommendations," he said, adding that he expected talks on the issue to bear fruit in the future.

"I believe the Russian-American and Russian-European dialogue, as well as the dialogue between Russia and China and other Asian region states on the Iranian issue, will be more productive in the future, and that ultimately Iran will be included in it," he said.

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20090325/120729175.html>

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

RIA Novosti
26 March 2009

UN Nuclear Watchdog to Elect New Chief

VIENNA, March 26 (RIA Novosti) - The board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will meet to elect a new director general at a session in Vienna on Thursday.

The term of the current IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei, who has headed the agency since 1997, ends in November 2009. The 66-year-old ElBaradei, who together with the watchdog was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005, has signaled that he will step down when his term of office ends.

The 35-nation board will meet in a closed session. The two frontrunners are Japan's IAEA ambassador, Yukiya Amano, and South Africa's envoy, Abdul Samad Minty, both need to secure a two-thirds majority to win the vote.

Insiders say that Amano, whose candidacy is reported to be backed by the U.S. and some EU states, is the favorite for the four-year post over Minty, although neither is expected to garner the required two-thirds majority, which could mean the contest is thrown open to a new candidate.

The vote comes at a crucial time for the nuclear watchdog involved in stalled investigations in Iran and Syria and high-profile monitoring of North Korea's nuclear disarmament program.

In a recent report speech made to the IAEA board of governors on March 2 ElBaradei said that watchdog, charged with promoting the peaceful and safe use of nuclear technology, is continuing to monitor and verify the dismantling of North Korea's Yongbyon nuclear reactor, but said that despite numerous efforts there had been no progress in investigations into Iran's nuclear activity.

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20090326/120740144.html>

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

Wall Street Journal
MARCH 27, 2009

IAEA Fails to Agree on New Leader

By DAVID CRAWFORD

BERLIN -- The International Atomic Energy Agency board of governors will look for new candidates to head the United Nations' nuclear watchdog after failing to agree on a new director general.

"The slate is wiped clean," the board's chairwoman, Algerian Ambassador Taous Feroukhi told reporters Friday at the end of a special IAEA board of governors conference.

The search for a new director general to replace retiring Mohamed ElBaradei of Egypt is particularly important as the IAEA faces challenges verifying nuclear programs in Iran and Syria.

The IAEA board of governors remained stalemated after two days of voting --neither Yukiya Amano of Japan nor Abdul Minty of South Africa achieved the required two-thirds majority in the agency's 35-member board.

The deadlock reflects the different views of the IAEA's mission. Mr. Amano's candidacy was backed by developed countries in the European Union and the U.S. who emphasize the agency's role in monitoring the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Mr. Minty found support in non-aligned developing countries that seek development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

On Monday Ms. Feroukhi will ask the IAEA's 146 member states to submit new nominations for director general within four weeks. Ms. Feroukhi says she will set a new date for a board of governors meeting to consider an appointment after informal consultations within the board.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123815751676756331.html>

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

Al Jazeera.net
Monday, March 23, 2009

Al-Qaeda Tops US Afghan Strategy

The administration of Barack Obama, the US president, has been devising a new war strategy for Afghanistan to ensure that al-Qaeda cannot attack US interests.

But the US president reiterated that the US approach must include non-military elements and have an "exit strategy".

The outlines of the strategy have gradually emerged in public statements and media reports as Obama prepares to take his blueprint to a Nato summit in April, when he is expected to appeal to European allies for more help.

In a wide-ranging interview aired by US broadcaster CBS on Sunday, Obama said "making sure al-Qaeda cannot attack the US homeland and US interests and our allies, that's the number one priority".

He said that building up economic capacity in Afghanistan, improving diplomatic efforts in Pakistan as well as the region, and more effective co-ordination with allies may all be needed to achieve that goal.

'Central mission'

"So what we're looking for is a comprehensive strategy. And there's got to be an exit strategy," Obama said.

"But we can't lose sight of what our central mission is," he said.

Saying that the mission was the same as when the US went into Afghanistan after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the US, he said: "These folks can project violence against US citizens, and that's something we can't tolerate."

Obama's comments come as his administration prepares to roll out its new strategy for Afghanistan amid rising violence blamed on the Taliban movement that the US ousted.

The US president said last month's decision to send 17,000 more US troops to Afghanistan was the most difficult he has had to make since taking office in January.

"You know I think it is the right thing to do. But it's a weighty decision because we actually had to make the decision prior to the completion of [the] strategic review that we were conducting," he said.

Plan to 'bypass Karzai'

US recriminations against the administration of Hamid Karzai, the Afghan president, over its corruption and incompetence, have grown steadily as the military situation has deteriorated.

In an article published by *The Guardian*, a British newspaper, a new strategy could also be linked to plans made by the US and its European allies "... to plant a high-profile figure in the heart of the Kabul government in a direct challenge to the Afghan president".

While the Obama administration has declared a "realistic" assessment of the Kabul government, they believe the move is needed to transform Afghanistan into a "flourishing democracy".

The Guardian said the idea of a more dependable figure working alongside Karzai is one of the proposals to emerge from the White House review of Afghanistan and Pakistan that was completed last week.

No names have emerged for the new role, but the paper said the US has high regard for Mohammed Hanif Atmar, the country's interior minister.

Other recommendations from the review include increasing the number of Afghan troops from 65,000 to 230,000 as well as expanding the 80,000-strong police force.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/americas/2009/03/200932361326634450.html>

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

International Herald Tribune
March 24, 2009

Terror Risk for Britons is Growing, U.K. Warns

The Associated Press

LONDON: Britain warned Tuesday of a growing terrorist risk from chemical, biological and radiological weapons and called Al Qaeda in Pakistan an important threat as it revamped its national security strategy.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown's government also said its new anti-terrorism strategy would focus efforts on trying to prevent young Muslims from being radicalized by violent Islamists, and involve the average Briton in tackling the threat.

"We need to tackle the causes of terrorism," Home Secretary Jacqui Smith said. "We need to get in early to prevent people actually supporting violent extremism or supporting terrorism."

Britain has been a target for Islamist militants since it joined the United States in invading Afghanistan and Iraq after the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. In 2005, suicide bombings in London killed 52 people.

Between 2001 and 2008, more than 200 people were convicted of terrorism-related offenses, and the threat level is still at its second-highest level, "severe," meaning an attack is highly likely.

"It could happen without warning," Smith said.

The security strategy updates a 2003 policy based around the principles of "prevent, pursue, protect and prepare."

It says Britain probably has the most numerous and capable Qaeda cells in Europe, and warns there is a growing possibility that militants' hopes of using chemical, biological and even nuclear weapons could become a reality.

"Changing technology and the theft and smuggling of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (C.B.R.N.E.) materials make this aspiration more realistic than it may have been in the recent past," the document says.

While the strategy highlights threats from a number of sources, ministers and officials say militants in Pakistan pose the greatest concern, reflecting the views of the United States.

British security services say there have been Pakistani links to almost all of the dozen major terrorism plots foiled since 2001 as well as the 2005 bombings, while Brown warned Sunday of an "Al Qaeda core" in northern Pakistan.

Sky News, citing unnamed sources, said Tuesday that Pakistan's intelligence service had identified more than 20 Britons who had been trained by militants in Pakistan and had returned to Britain, where they posed a security threat.

Although the government will spend about £3.5 billion, or \$5.15 billion, a year on counterterrorism by 2011, Smith said the country could not depend solely on the security services.

About 60,000 Britons, from security guards to store managers, are being trained to deal with incidents and to spot potential suspects in crowded places such as shopping centers.

Britain has already doubled the size of its domestic intelligence agency MI5 since 2001, introduced tougher laws to allow the police to detain suspected terrorist suspects and installed tighter security regimes at important public buildings like the Houses of Parliament.

Smith said there would also be a focus on encouraging communities to "challenge" those with extremist views, but whose message did not go as far as breaking laws on inciting violence.

"We should argue back, we should make clear those things are unacceptable," she said.

The Muslim Council of Britain said 200 religious and civic leaders had concluded the new strategy was counterproductive.

Britain "may be in danger of adopting misguided notions of extremism as dictated by xenophobic commentators," said the council, the largest Islamic umbrella group in Britain.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2009/03/24/europe/terror.php>

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

International Herald Tribune
March 24, 2009

Britain: Al-Qaida in Decline

The Associated Press

LONDON: Britain's Home Secretary Jacqui Smith said Tuesday that support for al-Qaida among Muslims worldwide was declining, but warned that extremists allied with the terrorist group continue to pose a deadly threat to the West.

Smith said work by intelligence agencies to capture leading terrorists and freeze funds raised to finance attacks had helped undermine the appeal and effectiveness of the terror group.

But, releasing Britain's new anti-terrorism strategy, Smith said that al-Qaida's ideology would outlive any collapse of organization's formal structure. She said small numbers of determined individuals will continue to attempt strikes on the West.

"Assuming continued international pressure, the al-Qaida core organization is likely to fragment and may not survive in its current form," the strategy document states, referring to the deaths or arrests of key operatives and U.S. drone attacks along the Afghanistan and Pakistan border.

"But it will still have the capability to conduct significant terrorist attacks," the document warns.

Though some Muslims in Britain and across the world are likely to continue to support extremist Islamist ideology, "fewer will support al-Qaida operational activities," it states.

Smith said that Britain assess that the capture or death of Osama bin Laden or Al-Qaida's No. 2 leader Ayman al-Zawahiri may disrupt terrorists briefly, but would do little stop small, self-sufficient terror cells from attempting attacks against the West.

Efforts by governments, including by Britain, to encourage mainstream Muslims to reject violent messages had helped diminish the appeal of terrorism, Smith said. Britain is spending almost 400 million pounds (\$587 million) overseas in the next three years on projects promoting positive images of the U.K. to Muslims, mainly in Pakistan and North Africa.

Better understanding of the process of how Muslims become radicalized to carry out attacks was also helping officials identify Britons deemed at the greatest risk of becoming attracted to terrorism.

The strategy document warned that terrorists may in future have easier access to deadlier weapons.

"Changing technology and the theft and smuggling of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear and explosive materials make this aspiration more realistic than it may have been in the recent past," the document states.

Since the July 2005 attacks on London's transit network, in which 52 people were killed, two other major attempted attacks against Britain have failed.

Two weeks after the transit bombings, a group of men attempted a similar strike against the city's transit network but their bombs failed to detonate. In 2007, attempted car bomb attacks against London's theater district and Glasgow airport also failed.

Intelligence and security officials say more than a dozen other attempted attacks against the U.K. have been thwarted since 2001. Several leading terrorists have been convicted in British courts and jailed in recent years.

Britain has doubled the size of its domestic intelligence agency MI5 since 2001, introduced tougher laws to allow police to detain suspected terrorist suspects and installed tighter security regimes at key public buildings, like the Houses of Parliament.

Smith said that, under new plans, shopping mall security guards and hotel clerks will be among 60,000 British workers trained as a second line of defense against terrorist attacks. Britain wants civilians working in high risk locations to be able to identify security threats, she said.

She said that no specific terrorist threat to next month's Group of 20 summit has been identified but warned that an attack on Britain remains highly likely.

World leaders including President Barack Obama, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and French President Nicolas Sarkozy will meet in London on April 2 to discuss efforts to buck the global economic downturn.

"We have a police force experienced in dealing both with public order, and with any terrorist threat, which incidentally we have not identified specifically as relating to the G-20," Smith told reporters in London.

Britain's overall terror alert is set at severe meaning an attack is highly likely. "It could happen without warning," Smith said.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2009/03/24/europe/EU-Britain-Terrorism.php>

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

Washington Post
March 25, 2009

'Global War On Terror' Is Given New Name

By Scott Wilson and Al Kamen, Washington Post Staff Writers

The Obama administration appears to be backing away from the phrase "global war on terror," a signature rhetorical legacy of its predecessor.

In a memo e-mailed this week to Pentagon staff members, the Defense Department's office of security review noted that "this administration prefers to avoid using the term 'Long War' or 'Global War on Terror' [GWOT.] Please use 'Overseas Contingency Operation.' "

The memo said the direction came from the Office of Management and Budget, the executive-branch agency that reviews the public testimony of administration officials before it is delivered.

Not so, said Kenneth Baer, an OMB spokesman.

"There was no memo, no guidance," Baer said yesterday. "This is the opinion of a career civil servant."

Coincidentally or not, senior administration officials had been publicly using the phrase "overseas contingency operations" in a war context for roughly a month before the e-mail was sent.

Peter Orszag, the OMB director, turned to it Feb. 26 when discussing Obama's budget proposal at a news conference: "The budget shows the combined cost of operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and any other overseas contingency operations that may be necessary."

And in congressional testimony last week, Craig W. Duehring, assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower, said, "Key battlefield monetary incentives has allowed the Air Force to meet the demands of overseas contingency operations even as requirements continue to grow."

Monday's Pentagon e-mail was prompted by congressional testimony that Lt. Gen. John W. Bergman, head of the Marine Forces Reserve, intends to give today. The memo advised Pentagon personnel to "please pass this onto your speechwriters and try to catch this change before statements make it to OMB."

Baer said, "I have no reason to believe that ['global war on terror'] would be stricken" from future congressional testimony.

The Bush administration adopted the phrase soon after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to capture the scope of the threat it perceived and the military operations that would be required to confront it.

In an address to Congress nine days after the attacks, President George W. Bush said, "Our war on terror will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated."

But critics abroad and at home, including some within the U.S. military, said the terminology mischaracterized the nature of the enemy and its abilities. Some military officers said, for example, that classifying al-Qaeda and other anti-American militant groups as part of a single movement overstated their strength.

Early in Bush's second term, then-Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld promoted a change in wording to "global struggle against violent extremism," or GSAVE. Bush rejected the shift and never softened his position that "global war" accurately describes the conflict that the United States is fighting.

Last month, the International Commission of Jurists urged the Obama administration to drop the phrase "war on terror." The commission said the term had given the Bush administration "spurious justification to a range of human rights and humanitarian law violations," including detention practices and interrogation methods that the International Committee of the Red Cross has described as torture.

John A. Nagl, the former Army officer who helped write the military's latest counterinsurgency field manual, said the phrase "was enormously unfortunate because I think it pulled together disparate organizations and insurgencies."

"Our strategy should be to divide and conquer rather than make of enemies more than they are," said Nagl, now president of the Center for a New American Security, a defense policy think tank in Washington. "We are facing a number of different insurgencies around the globe -- some have local causes, some of them are transnational. Viewing them all through one lens distorts the picture and magnifies the enemy."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/24/AR2009032402818.html?hpid=topnews>

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

RIA Novosti
OPINIONS & ANALYSIS
24 March 2009

Washington Postpones European ABM Plans

MOSCOW. (Nikita Petrov, for RIA Novosti) - The Czech government has suspended the ratification of its agreement with the United States on the deployment of a missile tracking radar.

Some military analysts link this decision with the changes in the new U.S. administration's attitude to the plans to deploy anti-ballistic missile systems in Eastern Europe. Barack Obama said during his election campaign that the efficiency of the system should be scrutinized. When he was elected president, he said he might put off the ABM plans for Europe or bury the idea, especially if Russia would help convince Iran to suspend its nuclear weapons program.

However, all is not as simple as it seems. Nearly half of Czechs protested against the ratification of the ABM agreement with the U.S. Now that a coalition of opposition parties has been formed in the Czech parliament, the Topolane government is not prepared to risk the agreements with Washington.

However, postponing ratification does not mean cancelling it.

The situation can be seriously influenced by the upcoming talks between the U.S. and Russian presidents during the G20 summit in London in early April. After that, President Obama is expected to visit Russia. These talks may put the European ABM on hold for a very long time, if not bury the idea altogether.

There have been some promising statements.

In particular, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden said at a recent Munich security conference that it is time to "press the reset button" on U.S.-Russia relations. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov supported the idea during their recent meeting in Geneva.

Another indicator is the working group on U.S.-Russian relations, made up of former officials in both governments and co-chaired by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov. The group has recently finished talks ahead of the presidential meeting in London and has met with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

However, Eastern Europe is not sure whether Washington will indeed freeze its plans for the missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic. In fact, the U.S. has recently held a successful trial of its new anti-ballistic missile. It has spent \$50 billion and plans to allocate another \$60 billion on the global ABM system, which, frankly speaking, does not sound like a freeze at all.

Moreover, talks on a new Russian-U.S. strategic arms reduction treaty or on the prolongation of the START-I treaty can succeed only if Washington abandons plans for an ABM system in Europe.

There is a direct connection between the two issues. However, Russia is unlikely to accept the U.S. proposal for a dramatic reduction of strategic nuclear weapons if Washington uses its ABM system as an additional shield.

Washington is aware of Moscow's stance, but is it prepared to respect it and to accept its proposals on a new strategic arms reduction treaty? We will know the answer only after Obama and Medvedev meet.

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

<http://en.rian.ru/analysis/20090324/120708525.html>

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

Sydney Morning Herald

OPINION

March 27, 2009

Long-Range View of Eccentric Regime

Sam Roggeveen

It sounds counter-intuitive, but building a shield to protect yourself from attack can actually make you less safe. Australia is about to learn that lesson.

North Korea has announced that, between April 4 and 8, it plans to launch a satellite into space. The United States and its Pacific allies are nervous, as well they might be.

North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-il, is a riddle wrapped inside a Mao suit. Who knows what he is capable of? And it is impossible to know what his rocket will be carrying under its nose cone. Could it be a satellite for broadcasting revolutionary propaganda? Or is it a nuclear warhead aimed at Seoul, Tokyo or Los Angeles? Because of that uncertainty, the US and Japan will monitor the launch, and have even threatened to shoot down the rocket if they think it endangers them.

That they are able to make this threat is due to a remarkable technological feat. Today, after two decades of multibillion-dollar budgets, parts of America's ballistic missile defence network - the stepchild of Ronald Reagan's Star Wars program - actually work. Based on numerous successful tests of its ship-based missile defence system, the US really can "hit a bullet with a bullet".

The US has exported this technology to Japan and it looks like Australia wants in, too. We should get a final decision on this in the imminent defence white paper, but we already know the Labor Party favours a limited Australian missile defence capability. In practice, that will mean our three new air warfare destroyers will be built with the capability to detect, and possibly shoot down, some classes of ballistic missiles.

However, if North Korea ever perfects its Taepodong-2 missile, which might have the range to reach Australia, we would still be defenceless. Long-range missiles such as the Taepodong-2 travel too high and too fast. Our system would work only against shorter-range missiles, so it could protect our troops if deployed overseas but it could not defend the homeland.

That sounds like a limited but still useful capability - but imagine if we had such a capability today, just as North Korea is readying its rocket. Just having the capability creates difficult diplomatic choices. Australia maintains a somewhat independent foreign policy stance on North Korea - unlike Japan and the US, we have diplomatic status in Pyongyang. That buys us some flexibility and might even make us useful as a conduit to the regime or as an honest broker.

What would happen to that valuable diplomatic flexibility if we deployed our warships off the North Korean coast? On the other hand, what if we did not? What would Japan and the US think of our reluctance to help defend them from potential attack?

Yet those curly questions pale against the true significance of an Australian missile defence capability in this scenario. Our air warfare destroyers could not intercept a long-range North Korean missile but they could help track one using their powerful radars. In missile defence, fast and accurate information is critical, and the US and Japan have deployed a suite of radars and satellites to help them shoot down a missile aimed at them.

If Australia had a missile defence capability on its destroyers today, we could sail north to form part of that network, and thus help defend Japan and the US.

Put yourself in Kim Jong-il's shoes. If you are intent on raining nuclear destruction down on your enemies and you have only one missile on the launchpad, would you take the risk of trying to get through those defences? Perhaps, but it might also cross your mind to fire the missile at a less-defended target. A US ally, perhaps, with widely dispersed cities that are big targets for your highly inaccurate missile.

There's the rub: by sending our ship north to help protect our allies, we would strengthen their defences, making it more likely that North Korea would fire its missile at us instead. Talk about an own goal.

None of this is likely to happen. First of all, North Korea's technology is primitive, and it may never develop a truly long-range missile. Second, Australia is just not that important to North Korea. There would be plenty of other undefended targets to hit. And third, Kim Jong-il knows that if he ever tried a nuclear sneak attack, the US would retaliate, and then some. The Pyongyang regime may be eccentric, but it shows no sign of being suicidal.

Ballistic missile defence is seductive because it promises a neat technological fix to a problem - the proliferation of missiles and weapons of mass destruction - for which we currently only have messy diplomatic solutions.

But missile defence cannot solve the problem of North Korea's nuclear weapons. At best, it buys America and Japan some time in negotiations with North Korea and gives them a useful tool for managing tensions such as those we are now experiencing as a result of Pyongyang's latest piece of brinkmanship.

Unfortunately, missile defence could have the perverse effect of increasing the North Korea threat for Australia. Were we to invest in missile defence, we might actually contribute to that deterioration in our security.

That is why the "messiness" of a diplomatic solution will continue to be the best hope for Australia and its friends and allies who want to disarm North Korea. Collectively, there is simply nothing for it but to hold our noses, sit down and talk to Pyongyang.

Sam Roggeveen, a former intelligence analyst, is the editor of the Lowy Institute's blog (www.lowyinterpreter.org).

<http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/longrange-view-of-eccentric-regime-20090326-9c4m.html?page=-1>

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