



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies (CUWS) Outreach Journal

CUWS Outreach Journal 1202

12 February 2016

Feature Item: *“Statement for the Record Worldwide Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community.”* Presented to the Senate Armed Services Committee by James R. Clapper, Director of National Intelligence; February 9, 2016; 33 pages.

http://www.odni.gov/files/documents/SASC_Unclassified_2016_ATA_SFR_FINAL.pdf

Chairman McCain, Vice Chairman Reed, Members of the Committee, thank you for the invitation to offer the United States Intelligence Community’s 2016 assessment of threats to US national security. My statement reflects the collective insights of the Intelligence Community’s extraordinary men and women, whom I am privileged and honored to lead. We in the Intelligence Community are committed every day to provide the nuanced, multidisciplinary intelligence that policymakers, warfighters, and domestic law enforcement personnel need to protect American lives and America’s interests anywhere in the world.

The order of the topics presented in this statement does not necessarily indicate the relative importance or magnitude of the threat in the view of the Intelligence Community.

Information available as of February 3, 2016 was used in the preparation of this assessment.

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Defense News – Tysons Corner, VA

Pentagon Protects Nuclear Modernization Programs in FY17 Budget

By Aaron Mehta, *Defense News*

February 10, 2016

BRUSSELS — The Pentagon's fiscal 2017 budget keeps all its nuclear modernization programs on track, keeping alive concerns from both inside and outside the department about a coming "bow wave" of modernization expenses.

The building will spend roughly \$3.2 billion on programs to modernize and recapitalize the service's nuclear submarines, bombers, Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM) and nuclear equipped cruise missiles in 2017, a total that will increase throughout the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP). That also includes a small amount of funding to continue development on the F-35 joint strike fighter to enable it to carry nuclear weapons.

In addition, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a Department of Energy organization that handles development of nuclear warheads, requested \$12.9 billion in funding.

Estimates for upgrading and maintaining the US nuclear force show a likely cost of more than \$700 billion over the next 25 years, costs that come simultaneously with a major modernization "bow wave" of conventional weapons.

At a Feb. 9 event rolling out the budget, Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work acknowledged concerns over nuclear modernization funding.

"Starting in 2021, between 2021 and 2035, it's about \$18 billion a year to reconstitute and recapitalize our strategic nuclear deterrent," Work said. "If that comes out of our conventional forces that will be very, very, very problematic for us.

"So, rather than talk about the bow wave, there is future fiscal risk that the country, Congress and future administrations and this administration must come to grips with," Work continued. "Because as soon as we have a better understanding of that, we'll know for sure that our defense strategy is on the right track."

The largest drivers of cost are the SSBN(X) replacement for the Ohio-class submarine, with roughly \$1.86 billion in funds, as well as the Air Force's Long Range Strike-Bomber (LRS-B) program at \$1.4 billion. The LRS-B also requests \$12.2 billion over the FYDP.

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In addition, the Air Force requested \$113.9 million in '17 for the Ground Based Strategic Deterrence program, which will replace the service's Minuteman III ICBM program (\$3.3 billion over the FYDP) and \$95.6 million for the Long Range Stand-Off (LRSO) cruise missile (\$2.2 billion over the FYDP.)

The LRSO will replace the Air-Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM) program with 1,000 to 1,100 cruise missiles that represent the Air Force's stand-off nuclear delivery capability. Critics of the US nuclear modernization strategy have zeroed in on the LRSO as a potential cut, citing its similarity to existing US weapons.

The \$12.9 billion request for NNSA is an increase of \$357 million above the FY 2016 appropriation. Of that funding, \$9.2 billion is slated for upgrade and maintenance of the weapons themselves.

Retired Lt. Gen. Frank Klotz, Administrator of NNSA and Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, said in a statement that the request is a "strong endorsement of NNSA's vital and enduring missions, and is indicative of the Administration's unwavering commitment to a strong national defense."

While those who feel the current nuclear strategy is required in the face of threats from Russia and China, the stay-the-course policy is welcome news. But those who wish to see a change in the nuclear policy were likely unhappy with the decision to maintain the modernization of all four delivery systems, as well as the "2+3" weapon development plan being pursued by NNSA.

"Unfortunately, the president's final budget request released today is divorced from reality," wrote Kingston Reif, director for disarmament and threat-reduction policy at the Arms Control Association, in an analysis on his organization's website.

"The request does not make significant changes to the planned development timelines for these programs. The president missed one of his last opportunities to make common sense adjustments to the current nuclear weapons spending trajectory."

<http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/policy-budget/budget/2016/02/10/pentagon-requests-322-billion-nuclear-weapons-17/80166570/>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

US THAAD System on Korean Peninsula Will Be Focused Solely on North Korea - Pentagon

Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook said that is "an alliance decision that we're making with South Korean and we're doing this in response to what the North Koreans have done"

February 09, 2016

WASHINGTON, February 9. /TASS/. THAAD (Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense) system which US plans to deploy in South Korea will be focused solely on North Korea, Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook told a briefing on Monday.

Answering a question on whether THAAD system may also be looking in to China, Cook said: "It's going to be focused on the threat posed by North Korea." "This is an alliance decision that we're making with South Korean and we're doing this in response to what the North Koreans have done, and that's how it should be viewed," he added.

"It would be specifically put into place to deal with the threat posed by North Korea alone. We don't feel that any other country should feel - have any concern about the deployment of the system, given its defensive nature," Cook noted.



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Washington and Seoul agreed to start consultations on possible THAAD deployment, the press secretary said adding that "the goal of the formal consultations is to bilaterally explore the feasibility of THAAD deploying to and operating on the Korean Peninsula at the earliest possible date."

Answering a question on whether China expressed concerns over the THAAD system, Cook said: "I'm not aware of any direct communication we've received from the Chinese here at the Department of Defense."

Talking about the recent satellite launch by North Korea, the press secretary said that this step "further destabilizes the situation on the Korean Peninsula." "We've been able to determine that they were able to put a satellite or some space device into orbit," he noted.

North Korea successfully launched a satellite into space, its state-run TV said on Monday, an action immediately condemned by the United States as "destabilizing and provocative."

Carrier rocket Kwangmyongsong blasted off from the Sohae Space Center at 9 am Sunday local time, state news agency KCNA said. The Kwangmyongsong-4 satellite entered orbit nine minutes and 46 seconds after the liftoff, an operation "great leader Kim Jong Un personally ordered and directed," the TV announcer said.

According to CNN, though North Korea said the launch was for scientific and "peaceful purposes" - adding it plans to launch more satellites - it was viewed by other nations, such as Japan and South Korea, as a front for a ballistic missile test, especially coming on the heels of North Korea's purported hydrogen bomb test last month.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/855370>

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InSerbia News – Belgrade, Serbia

Russia Rules Out Possibility of Holding Talks with US on Further Nuclear Arms Reduction

Source: Sputnik

February 6, 2016

MOSCOW — Washington's ongoing efforts at creating missile defense systems and developing the Prompt Global Strike (PGS) precision conventional weapon program has a continued destabilizing effect on nuclear disarmament talks, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Saturday.

The US Prompt Global Strike system allows Washington to carry out high-precision non-nuclear attacks using hypersonic weapons from US territory at targets throughout the world within about an hour after launch.

"The second circumstance that deprives us of the possibility of holding talks over further reductions is linked to Washington's ongoing destabilizing actions in areas such as the creation of a global missile defense system, the continued development of the means to carry out disarming strikes without using nuclear warheads while having the same range as strategic missiles. I mean the Prompt Global Strike program," Ryabkov said.

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US proposals on further Russia's nuclear arms reduction lack logic as Washington is trying to undermine Russian defense capability through sanctions policy, he said.

According to Ryabkov, such talks are impossible, firstly, because Russia has already reduced its nuclear arsenal to the levels of the late 1950s — early 1960s, and, secondly, the United States continue its destabilizing actions by developing a global missile defense system and its program of global non-nuclear strike to disarm nuclear forces.

“The third issue worth talking about in the context of ‘reminders’ from Washington, is the complete absence of political logic and common sense in proposals ‘to disarm’ in conditions when the current US administration has been making concerted effort to undermine the defense and the military-industrial potential of Russia through its sanctions policy for a long time,” Ryabkov told RIA Novosti.

The deputy foreign minister added that the return to nuclear disarmament negotiations would only be possible if Russia's concerns and priorities were taken into account.

Moscow rules out the possibility of holding talks with Washington on further nuclear arms reduction, the Russian deputy foreign minister said.

On Friday, the United States urged Russia to discuss further reductions in nuclear arsenals under the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) agreement between the two countries, which entered in force in 2011.

“The stance of the Russian side about the prospects for the continuation of the START negotiations and generally of nuclear weapons reduction remains unchanged. We reached the line where bilateral Russian-US negotiations in this area are not possible for several reasons,” Ryabkov told RIA Novosti.

All nuclear-weapon states should be a part of the denuclearization talks, Ryabkov said.

“The Russian side comes from the necessity to include all states with nuclear weapons capability in a dialogue on the [nuclear disarmament] issue.”

Moscow is concerned over the possibility of the global arms race in outer space, he said.

“We are very concerned about the prospect of moving an arms race to the space field and insist on the need for a legally binding document, which would prohibit the deployment of shock weapons systems in the outer space.”

<http://inserbia.info/today/2016/02/russia-rules-out-possibility-of-holding-talks-with-us-on-further-nuclear-arms-reduction/>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

Russia Does Not See Prospects for Further Strategic Arms Reduction — Ambassador

The ambassador said that among US actions on compensating their deterrent potential are deployment of global missile defense system and creating new non-nuclear weapons

February 10, 2016

MOSCOW, February 10. /TASS/. Russia does not see any prospects for working with the United States in the sphere of strategic arms reduction, Russian Ambassador to Washington Sergey Kislyak told Rossiya 24 TV channel in an interview broadcast on Wednesday.



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"They propose to continue reducing strategic nuclear arms - and this is our main deterrent potential - while Americans are planning to deploy new systems which will partially replace them from the point of view of deterrent potential. This is not going to work," Kislyak said. "We have to ensure the security of our country and our people under any circumstances," he added.

The ambassador said that among US actions on compensating their deterrent potential are deployment of global missile defense system and creating new non-nuclear weapons. "In such conditions at this stage, we do not see prospects for further reduction of strategic arms until our American friends start working seriously with us on those challenges that we consider imminent for our security," Kislyak noted.

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/855643>

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Sputnik International – Russian Information Agency

Russia to Upgrade Nuclear Weapons in Response to NATO's Buildup - Lawmaker

Moscow will improve its nuclear arsenal development in response to NATO's buildup in Eastern Europe, the Federation Council committee's deputy chairman said Wednesday.

10 February 2016

MOSCOW (Sputnik) — Earlier in the day, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said that NATO ministers of defense agreed to boost the alliance's presence in its eastern part as well as in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

"Russia will continue to strengthen its defensive potential, to improve the deterrent potential of nuclear weapons... We possess weapons that can deter our so-called partners from any critical decisions that could come to their minds," Evgeny Serebrennikov told RIA Novosti.

He added that NATO's activities aim at deterrence against Russia both in economic and military spheres.

Since 2014, NATO has been steadily building up its military presence in Europe, particularly in Eastern European countries bordering Russia, using Moscow's alleged interference in Ukraine as a pretext for the move.

In September, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that any NATO advancement toward Russian borders would prompt Moscow to take counter-measures to ensure the country's national security.

<http://sputniknews.com/military/20160210/1034548973/russia-nuclear-upgrade-counter-nato-buildup.html>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

Russia Has No Plans of Reopening Military Bases in Cuba — Diplomat

The Soviet-era spy base in Cuba, the Lourdes SIGINT Station south of Havana, was closed in 2002

February 09, 2016

MOSCOW, February 9. /TASS/. The plans of opening Russia's military bases in Cuba are not being discussed, a Russian diplomat said in an interview with TASS on Tuesday.

"This issue [of opening bases] is not on the agenda," said Alexander Schetinin, the director of the Latin American department of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

"Our cooperation is now developing in other areas - this is first of all our very close friendly foreign policy cooperation. These are issues of advancing our economic and investment cooperation."

Last year, Russia and Cuba signed major contracts linked to Russia's participation in implementing a number of significant energy projects and projects in the sphere of developing metallurgy on the Freedom Island, he reminded.

"We have projects in the sphere of transport on the agenda," Schetinin said.

The Soviet-era spy base in Cuba, the Lourdes SIGINT Station south of Havana, was closed in 2002. Some media reports claimed that Russia could reopen the base but the rumors were officially denied after the visit of President Vladimir Putin to Cuba in July 2014.

<http://tass.ru/en/defense/855402>

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Global Times – Beijing, China

NK Launch is Preemptive Move, 'Complicates Situation'

By Jiang Jie and Bai Yunyi, Source: *Globaltimes.cn*

February 7, 2016

North Korea on Sunday went through with plans to launch a long range rocket, sparking concern from the international community. Analysts said the launch, which came earlier than previous announcements proclaimed it would, shows Pyongyang's determination to stick to its own agenda and preempt possible actions by others.

The rocket was fired at about 9:30 am local time from the Tongchang-ri launch station on its west coast, the South Korean Yonhap news agency reported, citing South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff. Pyongyang had previously said it would launch the rocket sometime between February 8 and 25.

Its pre-orbital flight arc was planned to traverse the Yellow Sea and head further south to the Philippine Sea, Reuters said, adding that the launch, though labeled as a purely scientific space program, was viewed as a disguised missile test.

The South Korean military detected the rocket launch and tracked its trajectory, reporting, according to Yonhap, that it succeeded in the first-stage separation and shed its payload fairing near South Korea's Jeju Island. . The success of the mission is as yet unclear, though one Korean military official told Yonhap that a satellite was probably successfully launched.

North Korea last launched a long-range rocket in December 2012 to place an earth-observation satellite in orbit, following an earlier failed launch that April.



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Analysts pointed out that the North's latest move highlighted its determination to become a nuclear-weapons state, but may incur further sanctions, harming the country's economy and complicating the situation on the Peninsula.

"The North has a staunch determination to carry out its nuclear plan, which will not be affected by external conditions - a fact that many have underestimated," Zhang Liangui, a professor at the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, told the Global Times.

Lü Chao, a professor at the Liaoning Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times that the early launch of the rocket indicates a deliberate and well-planned preemptive move amid an intense situation when the North's announcement of the rocket launch met pledges from Japan and the South to intercept it.

Lü added that the fact of a rocket launch announcement is more important than its failure or success afterward. "The nation has failed in multiple rocket launches, which was announced as successful to inspire its citizens and to show a strong attitude of its government."

"The two-time announcement of its rocket-launch aimed to show an open attitude toward safe space exploitation by the North," Lü said.

"The launch is part of North Korea's military plan, as it has to enhance its ability to miniaturize nuclear weapons and advance missile carriers," said Gao Fei, a professor of Russian studies at the China Foreign Affairs University.

Lü added that the launch will also pave the way for the seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea in May to demonstrate Kim Jong-un's sole and absolute leadership, as the sixth congress held over three decades ago confirmed then ruler Kim Jong-il's status.

The White House has said that any satellite launch by North Korea would be viewed as "another destabilizing provocation," Reuters reported.

The launch will further complicate the Peninsula situation and have cast negative impact on the efforts to reopen the Six-Party talks, said a Sunday commentary of the Xinhua News Agency, adding that a negative cycle will be formed with increased confrontations between the North and countries like the US. "The risks of frictions and conflicts outbreak have sharply risen, even wars may follow."

China has advised North Korea to exercise restraint and refrain from any actions that might escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula, while warning other countries against taking any action to deepen confrontations.

China is dedicated to denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and calls for all parties to solve the peninsular issue through dialogue and consultation, Chinese President Xi Jinping told South Korean President Park Geun-hye over the phone on Friday, when the defense authorities of South Korea, the US and Japan also held a video conference to share intelligence to prepare for the rocket launch.

The Six-Party Talks have been suspended since North Korea withdrew on April 14, 2009 in protest against the UN Security Council's condemnation of North Korea's launch of a satellite 10 days earlier.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/967739.shtml>

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Maxwell AFB, Alabama

Xinhua News – Beijing, China

DPRK's Satellite Estimated to Double Predecessor in Weight: S.Korea

Source: *Xinhua*

February 7, 2016

SEOUL, Feb. 7 (Xinhua) -- The weight of a newly launched satellite of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was estimated to have doubled that of its predecessor, indicating an advancement in ballistic missile technology, South Korea's spy agency said Sunday.

The DPRK announced a successful launch of a Kwangmyongsong-4 Earth observation satellite into space aboard a Kwangmyongsong rocket, which Seoul sees as a long-range ballistic missile.

The National Intelligence Service (NIS) reported on the launch to the parliamentary intelligence committee, two members of the committee told reporters, according to Yonhap news agency report.

The Kwangmyongsong was estimated to weigh around 200 kilograms, two-fold the weight of its predecessor Kwangmyongsong-3 that was launched by the DPRK in December 2012 into orbit.

The spy agency believed that the newly launched rocket didn't go through an experiment of atmospheric re-entry, a prerequisite for developing an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

But, the DPRK seemed to have advanced ICBM technologies on rocket stage separation and guided control given the flight time, stage separations and drop zones of the separated stages.

Whether the satellite works normally will take a couple of days to determine, according to the NIS. The rocket's key components were estimated to have been imported mostly from Russia.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-02/07/c_135083617.htm

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Sputnik International – Russian Information Agency

Seoul, Washington Will Discuss Deploying US Air Defense Systems in S Korea

South Korea and the United States agreed to start talks on the deployment of an advanced US air defense system THAAD on the South Korean territory, local media reported Sunday, citing officials.

7 February 2016

MOSCOW (Sputnik) — The announcement comes just hours after North Korea launched a long-range missile, defying a UN Security Council resolution banning Pyongyang from launching rockets that may be used as long-range ballistic missiles carrying nuclear warheads.

"The US and South Korea have decided to start official discussion on the possibility of US Forces Korea's deployment of THAAD as part of measures to upgrade the South Korea-U.S. alliance's missile defense posture against North Korea's advancing threats," the Yonhap news agency quoted Yoo Jeh-seung, South Korean deputy minister for policy, as saying.

The United States has raised the possibility of a THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) battery deployment in East Asia in the past, a decision the Pentagon has said would be made through the trilateral Japan-South Korea-US security alliance talks.

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China and Russia have expressed opposition to the controversial defense system, arguing it could upset the regional balance and be used against Chinese interests.

<http://sputniknews.com/military/20160207/1034359676/south-korea-us-air-defense-systems-deployment.html>

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RT (Russia Today) – Moscow, Russia

N. Korea Preparing 5th Nuclear Test - S. Korea Spy Agency

7 February 2016

North Korea is preparing for its fifth nuclear test, the South's intelligence services have said, as cited by Yonhap agency. The news come hours after Pyongyang claimed it had successfully put an earth observation satellite into orbit.

Earlier the agency reported that the South Korean military found suspected fragments of the North's rocket.

The metal object believed to be a part of the rocket's fairing (the nose cone which houses the payload) was discovered southeast of South Korea's Jeju Island by a navy ship, an official from the country's Defense Ministry said.

Yonhap cited a Seoul lawmaker, who said the North has the technology for an intercontinental ballistic missile.

"The satellite is presumed to weigh 200 kilograms, two times heavier than the satellite launched in 2012," the lawmaker said, after being briefed in a closed-door session by the National Intelligence Service. A proper satellite usually weighs at least 800 to 1,500 kilograms, the agency wrote.

The North Korean satellite was launched on a *"carrier rocket"* that blasted off from the Sohae Space Center in Cholsan County. The KCNA news agency said the satellite entered its preset orbit nine minutes and 46 seconds after lift-off at 9:09am Korean time.

Russia's Interfax agency has cited the North Korean embassy in Moscow as saying that Pyongyang is planning to continue to launching rockets carrying satellites into space.

The launch triggered international concern as a potential long-range missile test. The UN Security Council has scheduled an emergency meeting to discuss the situation. South Korean bodies are already convening emergency meetings at different levels. The UNSC has been working on sanctions against Pyongyang for its January nuclear test.

"North Korea has committed an unacceptable provocation by launching a long-range missile after conducting a fourth nuclear test," South Korean President Park Geun-hye said. *"The [UN] Security Council should quickly come up with strong sanctions."*

South Korean officials say parts of the long-range rocket launched earlier by North Korea were likely received from Russia, TASS reported. North Korea manufactured everything, but important parts were probably received from Russia.

"We have information to prove that," a South Korean official said during a briefing.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his Japanese counterpart, Fumio Kishida, discussed the North Korean rocket launch on the phone on Sunday.

Lavrov stressed the importance of diplomacy in defusing tension in Northeast Asia during the conversation, Russia's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The discussion of the launch, performed in violation of UN Security Council resolutions, was initiated by the Japanese side, it added.

<https://www.rt.com/news/331627-nkorea-5th-nuclear-test/>

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People's Daily Online – Beijing, China

China Regrets over DPRK's Satellite Launch

(Xinhua)

February 8, 2016

BEIJING, Feb. 7 -- China expressed regrets on the launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) of an earth observation satellite Sunday morning, calling for calm on the Korean Peninsula.

"The DPRK should be entitled to peaceful use of outer space, but this right is currently restricted by United Nations Security Council resolutions," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said.

"Scientists and technicians of the DPRK National Aerospace Development Administration succeeded in putting the newly developed earth observation satellite Kwangmyongsong-4 into its orbit according to the 2016 plan of the 5-year program for national aerospace development," the DPRK state media KCNA reported.

The Republic of Korea (ROK) has denounced the launch, calling for stronger sanctions against Pyongyang, and the United States also condemned the launch, saying it represents "another destabilizing and provocative action" and is "a flagrant violation" of multiple UN Security Council resolutions.

The UN Security Council is to convene a closed-door emergency session to discuss the launch.

China was regretted that the DPRK insisted on the launch using the ballistic missile technology despite universal opposition of the international community, the spokesperson said.

The launch, the first since December 2012, came one month after the DPRK tested what it claimed to be its first hydrogen bomb. Countries including the United States and the ROK have sought fresh sanctions since the nuclear test on Jan. 6.

Hua called all sides concerned to "remain calm, act cautiously, take no moves that could escalate tension on the peninsula, and make joint efforts to safeguard regional peace and stability."

According to the spokesperson, Chinese deputy foreign minister Liu Zhenmin lodged representations to the DPRK's Ambassador to China Ji Jae Ryong on Sunday over the satellite launch and made clear China's stance.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2016/0208/c90883-9015203.html>

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Xinhua News – Beijing, China

China "Deeply Concerned" over Discussion on THAAD Missile System Deployment in ROK

Source: Xinhua

February 8, 2016

BEIJING, Feb. 7 (Xinhua) -- China is "deeply concerned" over the decision by the United States and the Republic of Korea (ROK) to launch an official negotiation on the deployment of an advanced U.S. missile defense system, called Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), on the Korean Peninsula, a spokesperson said on Sunday.

"China holds a consistent and clear stance on the anti-missile issue," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said.

"When pursuing its own security, one country should not impair other's security interests," said the spokesperson.

Hua said moves to advance the deployment will escalate tensions on the peninsula, which will do harm to regional peace and stability, and set back efforts to address the current situation.

"We demand the countries concerned be prudent when handling the issue," Hua added.

According to the spokesperson, Chinese vice foreign minister Liu Zhenmin lodged representations over the ROK's announcement of the decision and made clear China's solemn position during an urgent appointment with ROK ambassador to China Kim Jang-soo.

"China has also made clear China's stance to the U.S. side through diplomatic channels," she added.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-02/08/c_135083731.htm

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The Daily Beast – New York, NY

North Korean Nuke-Capable Missile Could Hit U.S. and Be Sold to Iran

The launch on Sunday is another sign of Pyongyang's growing threat, and the impotence of U.S. and global efforts to stop it.

By Gordon G. Chang

February 8, 2016

On Sunday, North Korea completed its second-in-a-row successful test of a three-stage launcher, showing the regime's mastery of an especially complex technology.

Pyongyang claims it put an earth observation satellite—the Kwangmyongsong-4—in a polar orbit. More likely, the object now circling Earth is a decoy. In 2012, after the North's last long-range test, it announced it had put a communications satellite in space. No signal, however, has ever been detected from the device.

That "satellite," and the one launched this week, are about the same weight as a nuclear warhead, and that was the point of these elaborate exercises. North Korea has been putting dead objects in orbit so that it can test, in violation of four sets of UN Security Council resolutions, its ballistic missile technology under the guise of a civilian rocket program.

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The rocket the North Koreans call the Unha-3 was probably the most advanced version of their Taepodong missile. It appears, from the location of Sunday's splashdown zones, that the launcher has a range of 10,000 kilometers, the same as that of the 2012 version.

Some have taken comfort that the North Koreans have not improved the reach of their missile, but that would be a mistake. "This test launch took less time to set up and was conducted more covertly than any other launch in North Korean history," notes North Korea analyst Bruce Bechtol, in comments circulated to *The Daily Beast* and others on Sunday.

Up to now, the North's longest-range missile was never much of a weapon. It required weeks to transport, assemble, fuel, and test before launch. The calculus was that the U.S., in a wartime setting, would have plenty of time to destroy the launcher on the ground.

The North Koreans since 2012 have obviously been able to compress the cycle. This time, Pyongyang moved up the launch window and sent the Unha-3 into space on the window's first day, surprising just about every observer.

That means, of course, the North Koreans are perfecting their launch skills, thereby decreasing on-the-ground vulnerability.

The Taepodong is still an easy target before launch, but once it reaches the edge of space it becomes fearsome. It has the range to make a dent in more than half of the continental United States. If its warhead is nuclear and explodes high above the American homeland, an electromagnetic pulse could disable electronics across vast swathes of the country.

The American intelligence community does not think the North Koreans have built a miniaturized nuclear warhead to go along with the Taepodong yet, but it's clear they are on their way to developing such a device. The launch this week was one month and one day after their fourth nuclear detonation. Pyongyang, for all the snickering and derision it attracts, is capable of sneaking up on us and becoming an existential threat.

Why has the United States, the most powerful nation in history, not been able to stop destitute North Korea's missile and nuclear programs? As Stapleton Roy, the former American diplomat told me in 2004, "No one has found a way to persuade North Korea to move in sensible directions."

Certainly not the Obama administration. A multi-faceted bargain in 2012, the so-called Leap Day deal, fell apart weeks after it was put in place, when Kim Jong-un, the ruler of the despotic state, launched what his regime called a rocket.

Then a new approach, backed by existing sanctions, also failed to produce results. The White House during this phase essentially left North Korea alone, ignoring Kim with a policy now known as "strategic patience." It has been more like "strategic paralysis," as David Maxwell of Georgetown University's Center for Security Studies aptly termed it after the Sunday launch.

The evident failure of the current administration follows failures of different kinds by its two immediate predecessors. These days, like in past ones, American officials tell us how the North's actions are "unacceptable," the words of Secretary of State John Kerry, or "flagrant," the term used by National Security Advisor Susan Rice, but the U.S. never seems to do anything effective.

Similarly, an emergency session of the Security Council on Sunday "strongly condemned" the launch but did nothing else. The UN still has not imposed any sanctions for the Jan. 6 detonation of what North Korea claims is a "hydrogen" device. Veto-wielding Beijing has made it clear it will not support a fifth set of UN sanctions.

Ultimately, the problem, as Maxwell notes, is that no country wants to pressure Kim so much that either he decides he has nothing to lose and goes to war or his decrepit state falls apart, causing



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tragedy of a different sort. Yet as long as the Kim family regime stays in power, it will continue to build horrific weapons.

“What North Korea wants most,” said Ashton Carter before he became secretary of defense “is oddly to be left alone, to run this rather odd country, a throwback to Stalinism.” If that were indeed true, President Obama’s strategic patience would have worked by now. Yet the North’s leaders are not content to misrule their 25 million subjects. They have institutionalized crisis.

When we examine evidence of the most recent crisis—scraps of the missile that fell into the sea Sunday and flight data—we will probably learn the North Koreans in fact tested their new 80-ton booster, which they have been developing for at least two years. It is almost certain Iran has paid for its development.

That’s why Bechtol, author of *North Korea and Regional Security in the Kim Jong-un Era*, thinks America in the months ahead should be looking for evidence of sales of the new missile to Iran. Larry Nicksch of the Center for Strategic and International Studies told the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in July that North Korea earns “upwards of two to three billion dollars annually from Iran for the various forms of collaboration between them.”

Even if one thinks Washington should not sanction North Korea to the brink of war or collapse, the U.S. at a minimum needs to stop sales of the launcher North Korea fired off this week. The Bush administration’s Proliferation Security Initiative, a comprehensive program to stop such transfers, has languished in Washington in recent years.

At this point, American policymakers are not trying very hard to stop North Korea’s trade in dangerous weapons. That, to borrow a phrase, is unacceptable.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/02/08/north-korea-s-missile-could-hit-u-s.html>

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The Korea Herald – Seoul, South Korea

U.S. Hopes to Deploy THAAD in S. Korea 'as Quickly as Possible'

February 9, 2016

WASHINGTON -- The United States hopes to deploy the THAAD missile defense system to South Korea “as quickly as possible” and the two countries will begin formal discussions on the matter “in the next few days,” the Defense Department said Monday.

“We would like to see this move as quickly as possible. We’re beginning the consultations now in the coming days with the South Koreans and we expect that this will move in an expeditious fashion,” Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said at a briefing.

Shortly after North Korea’s long-range missile launch Sunday, South Korea and the U.S. announced they would launch formal consultations on the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system to the South to better defend against the North’s nuclear and missile threats.

Announcing the decision, the two sides said in a joint announcement that the goal of the formal consultations is to bilaterally explore the feasibility of THAAD deploying to and operating on the Korean Peninsula “at the earliest possible date.”

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“Formal talks have not yet begun but we do expect that they will begin in the next few days,” Cook said.

The spokesman said that THAAD is part of a multi-layered missile defense and will “add another level of reassurance to our South Korean allies, other allies in the region.” He also said that THAAD deployment “would be an important step forward.”

“We do feel at this particular moment, given the actions over the last few days, that the addition of THAAD system would only enhance the protective measures that we already have in place,” he said.

South Korea has been in a dilemma for more than a year over how to deal with the sensitive issue amid Washington’s desire to deploy THAAD and China’s intense opposition to it. The North’s twin provocations of its fourth nuclear test on Jan. 6 and then a missile test a month later gave Seoul justification for the decision.

China has claimed THAAD can be used against it, despite repeated assurances from Washington that the system is aimed only at deterring North Korean threats. Beijing expressed regret after the South and the U.S. announced the decision to hold THAAD talks. Cook stressed that THAAD is a defensive system focused on North Korean threats.

“This is ... a defensive system put in place to deal with the threat posed by North Korea in addition to the layered missile defense we already have in place,” he said. “So, we don’t believe that it should pose any sort of concern to the Chinese.”

White House spokesman Josh Earnest also said that THAAD deployment is “geared solely at the risk that is posed by North Korea.”

“South Korea is a treaty ally of the United States and we take those obligations quite seriously,” he said. “We’re committed to the security of South Korea and that is exactly what this technology is intended to address, which is the threat that emanates from North Korea.”

Cook said that the North’s rocket launch succeeded in putting a satellite into orbit.

“We’ve been able to determine that they were able to put a satellite or some space device into orbit,” he said.

He declined to characterize how successful the launch was, but said it was “successful in adding further destabilization to the region.”

“It was another provocative action that does nothing to enhance stability on the Korean Peninsula. As to whether or not it achieved North Korea’s goals, you can ask the North Koreans, but there’s nothing about this test that surprises us, and so in that sense, again, it’s consistent with what we’ve seen previously from the North Koreans,” he said. (Yonhap)

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20160209000043>

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Xinhua News – Beijing, China

DPRK has Restarted Plutonium Production Reactor: U.S. Intelligence Chief

Source: *Xinhua*

February 9, 2016

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (Xinhua) -- The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has expanded a uranium enrichment facility and restarted a plutonium production reactor, U.S. intelligence chief James Clapper said Tuesday.

"We further assess that North Korea (DPRK) has been operating the reactor long enough so that it could begin to recover plutonium from the reactor's spent fuel within a matter of weeks to months," Clapper said in a statement to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

He said Pyongyang announced in 2013 its intention to "refurbish and restart" its nuclear facilities, to include the uranium enrichment facility at Yongbyon and its graphite-moderated plutonium production reactor, which was shut down in 2007.

The DPRK said Sunday that it had successfully launched a Kwangmyongsong-4 Earth observation satellite into orbit, about a month after Pyongyang claimed that it had successfully tested its first hydrogen bomb.

The U.S. has condemned the DPRK's "destabilizing and provocative" actions and vowed to "take all necessary steps to defend ourselves and our allies."

The DPRK's nuclear weapons and missile programs will "continue to pose a serious threat to U.S. interests and to the security environment in East Asia in 2016," Clapper told lawmakers on Tuesday.

The DPRK's export of ballistic missiles and associated materials to several countries, including Iran and Syria, and its assistance to Syria's construction of a nuclear reactor, destroyed in 2007, illustrate its willingness to proliferate dangerous technologies, Clapper said.

The UN Security Council on Sunday also strongly condemned DPRK's launch using ballistic missile technology on Saturday.

"This launch, as well as any other DPRK launch that uses ballistic missile technology, even if characterized as a satellite launch or space launch vehicle, contributes to the DPRK's development of nuclear weapon delivery systems," said a press statement of the council.

The launch is a serious violation of Security Council resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013), and 2094 (2013), it added.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-02/10/c_135087230.htm

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Maxwell AFB, Alabama

Business Insider (U.S. Edition) – New York, NY

North Korea Satellite in Stable Orbit but Not seen Transmitting: U.S. Sources

By Andrea Shalal and David Brunnstrom, Reuters

February 9, 2016

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - North Korea's recently launched satellite has achieved stable orbit but is not believed to have transmitted data back to Earth, U.S. sources said of a launch that has so far failed to convince experts that Pyongyang has significantly advanced its rocket technology.

Sunday's launch of what North Korea said was an earth observation satellite angered the country's neighbors and the United States, which called it a missile test. It followed Pyongyang's fourth nuclear test in January.

"It's in a stable orbit now. They got the tumbling under control," a U.S. official said on Tuesday.

That is unlike the North's previous satellite, launched in 2012, which never stabilized, the official said. However, the new satellite was not thought to be transmitting, another source added.

U.S. President Barack Obama spoke with the leaders of South Korea and Japan by phone on Monday night and reassured them of Washington's support, while also calling for a strong international response to the launch, the White House said.

Obama will also address North Korea's "provocations" when he hosts the leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in California early next week, aides said.

The United States and China, Pyongyang's only major ally, are negotiating the outline of a new U.N. sanctions resolution that diplomats hope will be adopted this month.

The U.N. Security Council has imposed sanctions against North Korea for its nuclear tests and long-range rocket launches dating back to 2006, banning arms trade and money flow that can fund the country's arms program.

But a confidential U.N. report, seen by Reuters, concluded that North Korea continues to export ballistic-missile technology to the Middle East and ship arms and materiel to Africa in violation of U.N. restrictions.

The report by the U.N. Security Council's Panel of Experts on North Korea, which monitors implementation of sanctions, said there were "serious questions about the efficacy of the current United Nations sanctions regime."

Western diplomats told Reuters that restricting North Korean access to international ports is among the measures Washington is pushing Beijing to accept in the wake of the Jan. 6 nuclear test and the weekend rocket launch.

"PROVOCATIVE, DISTURBING AND ALARMING"

Missile experts say North Korea appears to have repeated its earlier success in putting an object into space, rather than broken new ground. It used a nearly identical design to the 2012 launch and is probably years away from building a long-range nuclear missile, the experts said.

Vice Admiral James Syring, director of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, told reporters that North Korea's launch was "provocative, disturbing and alarming," but could not be equated with a test of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

He said North Korea had never attempted to flight test the KN-08 intercontinental ballistic missile it is developing.

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Syring said U.S. missile defenses would be able to defend against the new North Korean missile given efforts to improve the reliability of the U.S. system and increase in the number of ground-based U.S. interceptors from 30 to 44.

"I'm very confident that we're, one, ahead of it today, and that the funded improvements will keep us ahead of ... where it may be by 2020," he said.

The latest North Korea rocket was based on engines taken from its massive stockpile of mid-range missiles based on Soviet-era technology and electrical parts too rudimentary to be targeted by a global missile control regime, experts said.

South Korea's defense ministry believes the three-stage rocket, named Kwangmyongsong, had a potential range of 12,000 km (7,457 miles), Yonhap news agency reported, similar to that of the 2012 rocket and putting the U.S. mainland in reach.

"I suspect the aim of the launch was to repeat the success, which itself provides considerable engineering knowledge," said Michael Elleman, a missile expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Separately, U.S. National Intelligence Director James Clapper said on Tuesday that North Korea could begin to recover plutonium from a restarted nuclear reactor within weeks.

Clapper said that in 2013, following its third nuclear test, the North had announced its intention to "refurbish and restart" facilities at its Yongbyon nuclear complex.

"We assess that North Korea has followed through on its announcement by expanding its Yongbyon enrichment facility and restarting the plutonium production reactor," Clapper said in prepared testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Additional reporting by Louis Charbonneau and Michelle Nichols at the United Nations and Irene Klotz, Susan Heavey and Matt Spetalnick; Writing by Mark Bendeich; Editing by Dean Yates

<http://www.businessinsider.com/r-north-korea-satellite-in-stable-orbit-but-not-seen-transmitting-us-sources-2016-2>

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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

N. Korea still Faces Daunting Challenges in Turning Long-Range Rocket into ICBM: U.S. Expert

February 10, 2016

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has yet to master reentry technology and overcome other challenges if it wants to use its recently tested long-range rocket as an intercontinental ballistic missile, a U.S. expert said Tuesday.

John Schilling, a U.S. aerospace engineer with expertise on North Korean rockets, also said in an article carried by the website 38 North that the communist nation would need as least one more test launch to overcome such challenges.



"The obvious concern is that North Korea is testing ballistic missiles and only pretending to care about satellites," Schilling said, adding that the North's Unha-3 rocket tested in late 2012 and the latest rocket launched on Sunday "could certainly be used as an ICBM."

Even if the North has mastered the technology to make nuclear warheads small enough to fit on the rocket, it should test a "reentry vehicle that would survive hitting the atmosphere at roughly 16,000 miles per hour," the expert said.

"That's not an insurmountable technical challenge, and we expect North Korea will succeed when it gets around to it," he said.

The North should also work on the rocket guidance system to improve accuracy, he said.

Even if all such challenges are resolved, the North's rocket is still too big, weighing almost 100 tons, and can "only be launched from fixed sites and requires so much preparation that we can see it being readied days before launch," Schilling said.

"That doesn't make for a useful weapon," he said.

The North could try to overcome the handicap by building hardened silos.

"Should anyone find silos set up to hold Unha-sized rockets, any pretense that this is just a satellite program would vanish and we would know that North Korea is deploying ICBMs. So far, we haven't seen any sign of that," he said.

North Korea says its rocket launches are aimed at putting satellites into orbit, claiming it has the right to peaceful use of space. But Pyongyang is banned from such launches under U.N. Security Council resolutions as it has been accused of using them as a cover for testing intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Following Sunday's launch, the Security Council held an emergency meeting and strongly condemned the launch, saying any launch using ballistic missile technology, regardless of whether it's called a satellite launch or anything else, contributes to the North's nuclear weapons delivery system.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2016/02/10/0200000000AEN20160210000300315.html?b4072560>

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Asia Times – Hong Kong, China

Russia Warns US over Deployment of Missile Defense System to S. Korea

From: Agence France-Presse (AFP)

February 10, 2016

Moscow on Wednesday warned that Washington's deployment of a US missile defence system to South Korea could spark an arms race in the region.

South Korean and US defence officials said last week they would begin formal talks on the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence System (THAAD) system in response to North Korea's recent nuclear and missile tests.

"The appearance of elements of the US global missile defence system in the region -- which is characterised by a very difficult security situation -- can provoke an arms race in Northeast Asia



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and complicate the resolution of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula," said the Russian foreign ministry.

"On a more global scale, this step can increase the destructive influence of the US global missile defence system on international security and stability."

The foreign ministry reiterated that Pyongyang's nuclear and missile tests "could not but inspire strong condemnation" but accused Washington of using them to expand its missile defence system.

The US insists that the defence system is a deterrent necessitated by the North's advancing ballistic missile programme.

China has also argued it would undermine stability in the delicately balanced region.

Pyongyang has said that the deployment of a missile defence system would be a Cold War tactic to "contain" China and Russia.

The THAAD system, in service since 2008, includes truck-mounted launchers, radars, interceptor missiles and global communications links.

Five THAAD batteries are currently operational, according to the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency, and two more were ordered in 2014.

North Korea's rocket launch last week, widely seen as a disguised long-range missile test, sparked international fury and prompted an agreement at the UN Security Council to slap new sanctions against the increasingly defiant state.

The launch, which violated multiple UN resolutions, came just weeks after Pyongyang carried out its fourth nuclear test.

<http://atimes.com/2016/02/russia-warns-us-over-thaad-deployment-to-s-korea/>

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The Korea Times – Seoul, South Korea

USFK to Deploy THAAD Battery

By Rachel Lee

February 12, 2016

South Korea will allow the United States to deploy at least one terminal high altitude area defense (THAAD) battery for defense against North Korean missiles, a senior military official said Friday.

A Korea-U.S. joint working group for the deployment of THAAD will hold its first meeting next week. Topics will include possible candidate sites to host the battery, how to share operational costs and the exact schedule for deployment, the official said.

"South Korea and the U.S. are in the final stages of talks on how to operate the joint working group," the official told reporters on condition of anonymity. "The team should be able to discuss the deployment as early as next week."

Apart from bases of the United States Forces Korea, the team will come up with other possible locations for the battery that will "maximize military efficacy while ensuring the safety of residents," said the official.

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He said that any relations with neighboring countries — including China — will not be considered in the decision-making process.

"South Korea will take charge of the site and other infrastructure, while the U.S. will bear the cost of deployment and operation," the official said.

A THAAD battery consists of six launcher vehicles, each equipped with eight missiles, with two mobile tactical operations centers and a ground based radar.

Next week's talks are expected to increase tensions in Northeast Asia with China and Russia consistently showing strong opposition to THAAD deployment on South Korean soil.

China, the North's key ally, has shown more concern over the deployment than it has over Pyongyang's rocket launch.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi expressed "serious concern" over South Korea's move to allow the U.S. missile defense system to be deployed, Friday.

Wang conveyed the concern to Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se during their meeting in Munich on the sidelines of international talks on Syria.

Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs also said in a statement Wednesday that THAAD deployment in a region with a "highly intricate security situation" could "trigger an arms race in Northeast Asia and complicate a resolution to the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue."

"This once again proves the correctness of our stance that the creation of a comprehensive system of peace in Northeast Asia that would heed the security interests of all regional states is a mandatory pre-condition for settling the situation on the Korean Peninsula," the ministry said.

Official discussions are about to kick off, but experts here have cast doubt over the effectiveness of the system.

The U.S. claims the system has a 90 percent accuracy rate, but military authorities have not raised questions about it nor tested it to see if the system will work properly under the geographical situation on the peninsula.

Military officials believe that THAAD can shoot down North Korean missiles with a range of 300 to 500 kilometers.

"The military authorities are providing sites and infrastructure for a weapon without examining unproven claims," said Kim Dong-yeop, a research professor at the Kyungnam University Institute for Far Eastern Studies. "It will not bring any benefit to our country in the long-term."

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2016/02/205_197875.html

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NK News.org – Washington, D.C.

N.Korea Develops Nuclear Weapons, Missiles by Profits from KIC: MoU

Workers take 6-70% of money to KIC, it's hard to prove whether it is used for weaponry: experts

By Ha-young Choi

February 12th, 2016

The Ministry of Unification (MoU) reiterated that hard currency earned from the Kaesong Industrial Complex (KIC) is used for developing nuclear weapon and long-range missiles on Friday at a press briefing.

Minister of Unification Hong Yong-pyo told journalists that the government has the relevant materials to back up the concerns that the money, including wages, going into the KIC is used for weapons of mass destruction.

“Despite the concerns, (the South Korean government) tried to maintain the KIC, explaining its meaning in inter-Korean relations to international society. North Korea’s continuous provocations in recent days, however, are creating instability for our citizens,” Hong said.

Hong, however, declined to reveal the relevant evidence in public, citing “intelligence.”

“Approximate \$540 million was wages, among the \$560 million in total expenses, as of the end of last year,” an official from the ministry told *NK News*.

The minimum salary of KIC workers is \$73.873 a month, which was agreed upon by the two Koreas last August. Including overtime wages, bonuses and social welfare fees, the average personnel expenses per worker amounted to around \$164.50 a month, according to the MoU.

“The procedure after giving a dollar to the ‘general office’ is not known to us,” an MoU official said, adding that the ministry has not been informed about the next step.

Social welfare fees, which take up 15 percent of the salary, are directly collected by the North Korean governmental organization called the “general office (*chongguk*),” the *Hankyoreh* reported.

Experts suggested that between 60-70 percent of the money is given to the workers.

Another 30 percent is taken by North Korean state organization called the Kaesong City People’s Council and 70 percent is provided to workers, Kim Jin-hyang, who served at KIC Management Council from 2008-11, told *YTN Radio* on Thursday.

“About 60 percent of the money to the KIC is distributed to workers and some of the salary is paid by vouchers,” Kim Young-yoon, president of the Korea Logistics Forum told *NK News*.

The currency given to the workers is exchanged from dollars to North Korean won according to the official North Korean exchange rate, Lim Eul-chul, professor of University of North Korean Studies, told *NK News*.

“North Koreans prefer vouchers to hard money, as they can exchange goods with money,” said Lim.

But South Korean media outlet TV Chosun, a subsidiary of the conservative *Chosun Ilbo* newspaper, reported that only 10-20 percent of money is given to North Korean workers and funds from the KIC may be used to buy a “handbag” for Ri Sol Ju, Kim Jong Un’s wife.



“The organization in charge of foreign currency is Office 39 of the Workers’ Party of Korea, so it is reasonable to see that that all of the money goes into Office 39,” professor Kim Jeong-bong of Hanjoong University said, quoted by TV Chosun.

Lim disputed this argument, saying the MoU had reversed its previous position.

“Like other countries, North Korea uses some of the taxes for national defense expenditures. It is difficult to prove with confidence that some of them are used for nuclear weapons and missiles,” he said.

Kim echoed this remark.

“It is hard to completely ensure that none of the income is used for weaponry, but it’s insignificant, compared to the trade scale between North Korea and China.”

The total amount of money entering KIC amounted \$100 million last year and the total value of production from the complex amounted to \$515 million, according to the MoU. The total value of trade between China and North Korea was \$7.6 billion in 2014, according to KOTRA.

<https://www.nknews.org/2016/02/n-korea-developes-nuclear-weapon-missiles-by-profits-from-kic-mou/>

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IHS Jane’s 360 – London, U.K.

Russian Rail-Mobile ICBM Project Set to Be Axed

Nikolai Novichkov, Moscow - *IHS Jane's Defence Weekly*

07 February 2016

Russia's plan to develop a new rail-mobile intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) looks set to be scrapped as budgetary pressures begin to put pressure on Russian defence procurement.

Russia's strategic nuclear forces, whether land, sea, or air based, are the most sacrosanct element of the country's military and were well protected from cuts during Russia's financial crash of the late 1990s.

Nevertheless, Russia's deteriorating economic situation means it has trimmed its defence budget, with cuts to programmes expected to follow.

<http://www.janes.com/article/57829/russian-rail-mobile-icbm-project-set-to-be-axed>

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The Guardian (U.S. Edition) – New York, NY

Labour Trident Tensions Resurface over Hiding Capability of Submarines

Emily Thornberry provokes ire of party MPs by claiming subs will not be able to hide from seaworthy drones in future

By Rowena Mason, Political correspondent

Tuesday, 9 February 2016



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies (CUWS) Outreach Journal

Labour tensions over Trident have erupted again after Emily Thornberry said nuclear submarines may not be able to hide under the sea within a decade, making them as obsolete as Spitfires.

The shadow defence secretary, who is leading Labour's review of policy on Trident, made the claim at a stormy meeting of the parliamentary party on Monday night and explained it further on BBC Radio 4 on Tuesday.

It drew the immediate ire of pro-Trident parliamentarians, with Alan West, the Labour peer and former military chief, taking the unusual step of calling the Today programme to dismiss his colleague's claims as "nonsense".

Thornberry is opposed to the renewal of Trident, like the Labour leader, Jeremy Corbyn, but the party is split on the issue.

She told Today that tech developers were working on drones that could work in the sea within the next 10 years.

"The idea of the Trident replacement is that they are able to hide in the seas," Thornberry said. "If technology is moving faster, it may well be that Trident is not going to be able to hide. If we are to bet everything on mutually assured destruction we have to be assured it is going to work. If it cannot hide any more, that is a problem."

Lord Admiral West said this was not true, that money was being spent on being able to maintain the ability to hide submarines, and claimed her concerns about the technology were constructed to fit an anti-Trident position.

But Thornberry dismissed this, saying the US, China and Russia were spending billions on technology to try to reveal submarines.

She also defended Corbyn's suggestion that submarines could patrol the seas without nuclear weapons, a compromise solution to the Trident question that could placate the trade unions worried about defence jobs.

"There are more subtleties to some of the things Jeremy was suggesting but I don't want to start discussing here the pros and cons of all the various options," she said.

Asked about Monday's meeting, Thornberry said five or six parliamentarians "kicked off" about her presentation.

She was heckled by colleagues while setting out her progress so far and revealing that she was not convinced by the current delivery system.

According to those present, she was openly criticised by some Labour MPs, prompting her to tell them not to shout her down.

Madeleine Moon, a Labour MP and member of the UK's Nato parliamentary assembly delegation, said people in Nato were worried about Labour's position and argued it was living in "la-la land" to suggest the UK could scrap Trident while remaining a Nato member.

Neil Coyle, the MP for Bermondsey and Old Southwark, said his Labour predecessor in the seat had lost to the Liberal Democrats because the party was perceived as being weak on defence, and asked for assurances this would not happen.



One MP said: "People were really unhappy when they were told [by Thornberry] to keep an open mind and look at all the evidence in almost the same breath as she seemed to be determined to find a way of breaking from Labour's established position on this."

Labour's current position is in favour of having a continuous at-sea nuclear deterrent, but this is under review and could change at its party conference in the autumn.

Corbyn is heading for a battle with much of his shadow cabinet, MPs and trade unions over the issue but he is likely to have the support of grassroots members.

Andy Burnham, the shadow home secretary, said on Monday the splits were so deep that it may be difficult for the party to reach a common position.

The government is considering when to hold a vote on whether to proceed with replacing Trident, which could come as early as this spring. If that happens, Corbyn is likely to hold a free vote given the party's position is under review.

However, the Conservatives could delay the vote until after Labour's review, potentially causing a greater schism in the party.

There were reports last weekend that pro-Trident MPs would consider standing on a different manifesto if Labour moved in favour of unilateral disarmament.

Corbyn was not present at Monday's meeting. He moved Maria Eagle, who supports Trident, from her role as shadow defence secretary to shadow culture secretary in his January reshuffle, installing Thornberry instead.

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/feb/09/labour-trident-tensions-resurface-over-hiding-capability-of-submarines>

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The Daily Beast – New York, NY

Satellites Show Mystery Construction at Iran's Top-Secret Military Site

A series of images, taken from space, show furious construction at a key Iranian facility. Was it to hide nuclear weapons work?

By Kimberly Dozier

February 7, 2016

Newly released satellite images of Iran's top-secret Parchin military complex reveal that even as Iran was working to negotiate a nuclear deal, it was apparently working to hide its atomic work of the past and hedge its bets for the future.

Forecasting site Stratfor.com says the images published Monday show Iran building a tunnel into a heavily guarded mountain complex inside the Parchin facility, some 20 miles southeast of Tehran, while also working to erase signs of alleged high-explosive testing at another area on the site.

"We're not saying they're cheating on the nuclear deal," Stratfor analyst Sim Tack told The Daily Beast. "The images show Iran was going through the motions to hide what it's done before, and it is still...developing facilities that the IAEA may or may not have access to," Tack said, referring to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The progression of satellite images tracking construction at Parchin from 2012 to 2015 show how Iran's leaders apparently worked to keep regime hardliners happy by moving forward with



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weapons programs, even as the leadership worked to erase signs of an illegal nuclear weapons program, Tack said.

The satellite images appear to show new paving around the building that was alleged to be a test site for high-energy explosive charges used to detonate a nuclear weapon. Comparing satellite images from 2010 to one taken this year, Tack points out that the area has been paved, and plants and trees surrounding it removed and the soil scraped—all steps one would take to hide the radioactive fallout of nuclear weapons testing.

The IAEA sent a team to inspect the site last fall, one of the final steps up to the adoption of a deal that will give the country tens of billions of dollars in sanctions relief.

“In September, IAEA Director General [Yukiya] Amano visited the inside of the suspected explosives test chamber building, and found it had been emptied,” said Andy Weber, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs. He added that in his opinion, Stratfor’s analysis “tracked well with the photos.”

While the destruction of that controversial building has been reported before, Tack said the publication of images of the near-simultaneous construction of the tunnel entrance to another part of the complex is new.

“The imagery showed they were working on a tunnel entrance within the Parchin complex...and it looks like it’s complete,” Tack said. A 2014 image Stratfor did not release showed construction equipment outside tunnel entrance.

“They were still going forward with that construction during the talks,” he said.

The mysterious subterranean complex could be part of Iran’s ballistic missile program that triggered new U.S. sanctions in January, even as the nuclear sanctions were being lifted. The U.S. first detected that Iran was testing missile engines at the site in 1997.

Parchin was also the site of a large explosion in 2014 that the Iranian government never explained.

“It could have come from a test of rocket fuel or conventional warheads,” Tack said.

Whatever’s hidden beneath that mountain, the IAEA didn’t get a look at it last September, he said.

“There are places where nobody knows what’s going on,” he said.

The IAEA declined to comment on the new satellite photos.

The Iran’s U.N. Mission did not respond to requests for comment.

Iran has dismissed questions about suspicious construction at Parchin before. The Iranian official news agency IRNA reported that when IAEA chief Amano inspected the facility, he “visited construction works at Parchin, about which there are some irrelevant claims.”

Obama administration officials would not comment on what the photos show, but insisted that IAEA inspectors can check it out if they see fit.

A senior Obama administration official said the nuclear deal, known by the cumbersome acronym JCPOA, for Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, “means the IAEA will have the access it needs to any suspicious location going forward. Such transparency will ensure that these past activities will not occur again, and if they do, that they will be quickly detected.”



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The official spoke on condition of anonymity to defend a deal that is described as the cornerstone of President Barack Obama's foreign policy legacy.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/02/08/satellites-show-mystery-construction-at-iran-s-top-secret-military-site.html>

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Tasnim News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Iran's Missiles Were Ready to Hit US Jets Supporting Intruding Sailors, Commander

February 08, 2016

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – A number of US aircraft that had approached Iran's Persian Gulf island of Farsi on January 12 to support two military vessels captured by the IRGC naval forces had to get out of the zone after the Iranian missiles zeroed in on them, Iran's Air Defense commander said.

When the IRGC Navy announced that it had captured two US naval boats after trespassing the country's territorial waters, the Air Defense switched on all its missile systems and the Air Force fighter jets also scrambled, Brigadier General Farzad Esmaili said at a television talk show on Sunday night.

Thereafter, he added, three American F-18 fighter jets, a radar plane and a maritime patrol aircraft flew over the US aircraft carriers in the region and began to approach the Iranian island.

At first, the US planes conducted "bullying" behavior, and refused to respond to the signals, but felt obligated to make a contact later when they saw themselves aimed by the Iranian missiles and realized that they had less than 30 seconds to decide before Iran's missiles are fired, the general explained.

The US jets announced they only flew towards the zone to support the captured boats, and left the area when the Iranian officers warned them to get away from the country's borders and assured them that the arrested naval forces will be treated based on the international regulations, he noted.

According to Brigadier General Esmaili, the US planes went away at a distance of around 60 miles from the Farsi island afterwards, but the Iranian missile systems remained ready until the next morning.

The 10 US Navy troops, who had been captured on January 12, were released the next day.

According to the IRGC, the USS Harry S. Truman aircraft carrier had been drifting out southeast of the island in the international waters when the Iranian forces seized the two boats, while the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle had been also patrolling in the international waters northeast of the island at the time of the seizure.

<http://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2016/02/08/994737/iran-s-missiles-were-ready-to-hit-us-jets-supporting-intruding-sailors-commander-says>

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Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) – Tehran, Iran

8 February 2016

Minister: Iran Never Neglects Enhancement of Defensive Power

Tehran, Feb 8, IRNA - Minister of Defense Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan said Iranian nation would never neglect to enhance its defensive power, its missile strength in particular.

Dehqan made the remarks at a ceremony after receiving a national medal of merit from President Hassan Rouhani to hail his services related to the nuclear deal.

He said Iran's missile power is a real thorn in the eyes of the Islamic Republic's enemies.

He also reiterated that the Iranian nation should appreciate President Rouhani for his prudence in process of nuclear negotiations.

President Rouhani presented a national medal of merit to Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif at a ceremony on Monday for his work during the intensive nuclear talks with the six world powers that led to July deal and 'Implementation Day' on January 16.

Also, President Rouhani presented medals of courage to Head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi to hail his services related to the nuclear deal.

During the ceremony, 28 officials in charge of legal, technical and diplomatic affairs related to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) were also awarded different medals and plaques of honor.

Iran and the six world powers reached a landmark nuclear deal known as the JCPOA on July 14, 2015, after holding intensive talks for about two years.

Also, on January 16, 2016, the anti-Iran sanctions were lifted and 'Implementation Day' of the JCPOA started.

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/81954722/>

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Mehr News Agency – Tehran, Iran

'Simorgh' Carrier, 'Emad' Ballistic Missile on Display in Feb. 11 Rally

Tuesday, 9 February 2016

TEHRAN, Feb. 09 (MNA) – Iran's Defense Ministry has announced it will street-show its carrier rocket 'Simorgh' and its ballistic missile 'Emad' on February 11 amid the public parade .

Defense Ministry's defense promotions office statement said that these two 'important achievements' in aerospace and missile industries were the epitomes of 'self-sufficiency,' 'defying sanctions,' and 'the national will' of people who now "celebrate 37th dawn of their successful Revolution with glory".

'Simorgh' two-stage orbital carrier rocket is part of the program defined for Iran's aerospace grand scheme by Defense Ministry's Aerospace Industries Organization. It uses a liquid propeller, is equipped to carry a 100-kilogram satellite 500 kilometers into orbit with an orbital tilt of 55 degrees.

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'Emad' ballistic missile, fully designed and developed by indigenous expertise of the Defense Ministry Aerospace Industries Organization is the first long-range missile, is programmable and controllable up to hitting target, and would destroy targets with high precision.

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/114312/Simorgh-carrier-Emad-ballistic-missile-on-display-in-Feb>

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

DM: Iran to Test New Generation Emad Ballistic Missile, Builds Battle Tank like Russian T-90

Defense Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan said, adding that the country also plans to test a new generation of Emad precision-guided ballistic missile.

"The defense industry designed and built the new battle tank from scratch. If not better, it's still as deadly as the Russian T-90," Dehqan said in an interview with the state-run TV on Tuesday night.

He said "Karrar" stands among the most modern battle tanks in the world.

His remarks came after Ground Force Commander Brigadier General Ahmad Reza Pourdastan said Iran was no longer interested in buying T-90 battle tanks from Russia, and plans to supply its needs through domestic production.

"We were once interested in buying the Russian tanks. But since we can manufacture similar models within the country and we plan to do so in the near future, the deal is now off," Pourdastan said last week.

According to him, Iran has enough capacity and technological know-how to produce new generation battle tanks and advanced military hardware, so it makes no sense to purchase them from elsewhere.

Elsewhere, Dehqan referred to the long-range ballistic Emad missile which was test-fired in October, and said, "The missile is being mass-produced but its precision-striking power will improve and its second version will be unveiled next year."

He also said that the defense ministry will deliver scores of new vessels to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Navy next week.

On October 11, Iran successfully test-fired the country's new precision-guided long-range ballistic missile that can be controlled until the moment of impact. Emad carries a conventional warhead.

"This missile (Emad) which has been fully designed and made by Iranian Defense Ministry's scientists and experts is the country's first long-range missile with navigation and strike controlling capability; it is capable of hitting and destroying the targets with high-precision," General Dehqan told reporters after the successful test of Emad missile.

The Iranian Defense Minister reiterated that the manufacture and successful testing of Emad missile is a technological and operational jump in a strategic field, and said, "We don't ask for anyone's permission for boosting our defense and missile power; we resolutely continue our defense programs, specially in the missile field, and Emad missile is a conspicuous example."

General Dehqan felicitated Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, Iranian Armed Forces and the Iranian nation on the successful testing, and appreciated the scientists and experts of the Aerospace Industries Organization of the Defense Ministry.



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The Iranian Defense Minister reiterated that the mass production and delivery of Emad missile to the country's Armed Forces will considerably increase their power and tactical capabilities.

IRGC Lieutenant Commander Brigadier General Hossein Salami announced in December that the IRGC operational units had been supplied with Emad missile.

"Emad missile systems were delivered to the IRGC operational units," Salami told FNA.

He also said the missile will likely be used in the upcoming IRGC wargames.

The Iranian Armed Forces have recently test-fired different types of newly-developed missiles and torpedoes and tested a large number of home-made weapons, tools and equipment, including submarines, military ships, artillery, choppers, aircrafts, UAVs and air defense and electronic systems, during massive military drills.

Defense analysts and military observers say that Iran's wargames and its advancements in weapons production have proved as a deterrent factor.

The Iranian officials have always underscored that the country's defense program cannot be affected by the nuclear deal clinched between Iran and the world powers on July 14 and the UN Security Council resolutions.

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13941121000287>

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Thursday, February 11, 2016

Iran Mounting Nasr Cruise Missiles on F-14 Fighter Jets

TEHRAN (FNA) - The Iranian Air Force Deputy Chief Liaison Officer, General Aziz Nasirzadeh, announced on Thursday that the country is developing its smart bombs production program and plans to mount air-launched Nasr cruise missile on all its F-14 fighter jets.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of Thursday rallies in Tehran to mark the 37th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Nasirzadeh said the air-launched cruise missile has already been mounted on F-4 fighter jets.

In earlier reports, Nasirzadeh had explained that all projects in the Air Force have been planned to increase the range and smartness of the weapons and equipment and their electro-optical guiding capability.

"The air-launched Qader and Nasr cruise missiles are being mounted on different Air Force fighter jets," General Nasirzadeh said.

To this end, the Air Force has already installed land-attack missiles on its F-14, F-4 and Su-24 fighter jets. And according to Nasirzadeh, even with a shorter 2,500-kilometer range — without conformal fuel tanks — these missiles are still deadly.

Iran's F-14, Su-24 and F-4 jets could fire their missiles toward an unspecified target in a pre-defined area — and do so from thousands of kilometers away.



In any case, Nazirzadeh said, the Nasr missile is a technological milestone — even if Tehran never deploys it — or uses it only in the ground-launched, land-attack role.

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13941122000764>

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Tasnim News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Daesh Has Used Chemical Weapons, CIA Says

February 12, 2016

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – CIA Director John Brennan said the ISIL (Daesh) terrorist group has used chemical weapons and has the capability to make small quantities of chlorine and mustard gas.

"We have a number of instances where ISIL has used chemical munitions on the battlefield," Brennan said, The CBS News reported on Thursday.

He added the CIA believes that the ISIL group has the ability to make small amounts of mustard or chlorine gas for weapons.

"There are reports that ISIL has access to chemical precursors and munitions that they can use," Brennan said.

The CIA chief also warned of the possibility that the ISIL group could seek to export the weapons to the West for financial gain.

"I think there's always the potential for that. This is why it's so important to cut off the various transportation routes and smuggling routes that they have used," he said.

When asked if there were "American assets on the ground" searching for possible chemical weapons caches or labs, Brennan replied: "US intelligence is actively involved in being a part of the efforts to destroy ISIL and to get as much insight into what they have on the ground inside of Syria and Iraq."

The release of the interview excerpts comes two days after similar comments from Spy Chief James Clapper before a congressional committee.

"ISIL has also used toxic chemicals in Iraq and Syria, including the blister agent sulfur mustard," Clapper, the director of national intelligence, told lawmakers Tuesday.

He said it was the first time an extremist group had produced and used a chemical warfare agent in an attack since Japan's Aum Supreme Truth cult carried out a deadly sarin attack during rush hour in the Tokyo subway in 1995.

<http://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2016/02/12/998711/daesh-has-used-chemical-weapons-cia-says>

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Times of India – Mumbai, India

Pak's Growing Nuclear Stockpile, Doctrine Pose Risk: Pentagon

Press Trust of India (PTI)

February 10, 2016

Washington: Expressing concern over Pakistan's evolving "tactical nuclear weapons" doctrine, a top American spymaster on Tuesday warned the Congress about the increasing risks of an "incident" associated with the growing nuclear arsenal.

"Pakistan's nuclear weapons continues to grow. We are concerned that this growth, as well as the evolving doctrine associated with tactical weapons, increases the risk of an incident or accident," Defence Intelligence Agency Director Vincent Stewart told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"Islamabad continues to take steps to improve its nuclear security, and is aware of the threat presented by extremists to its programs," Stewart said in his testimony.

A Congressional report in January had estimated Pakistan's nuclear warheads to be between 110-130 and that they are aimed at deterring India from taking military action against it

"Pakistan's nuclear arsenal probably consists of approximately 110-130 nuclear warheads, although it could have more," the Congressional Research Service said in the report.

Stewart also said Pakistan will face internal security threats from militants and separatist groups this year.

Islamic State's branch in Afghanistan-Pakistan and al-Qaeda in the Indian subcontinent will remain significant security concerns for Islamabad, he said.

"Counterinsurgency operations along Pakistan's Western border and paramilitary operations in Karachi have had some success in reducing violence and are likely to continue," Stewart said.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/Paks-growing-nuclear-stockpile-doctrine-pose-risk-Pentagon/articleshow/50923234.cms>

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International Business (IB) Times (India Edition) – New Delhi, India

India, Russia Negotiating Sale of S-400 Missiles to India: Russian Envoy

By Aditya Bhat

February 12, 2016

India and Russia are actively negotiating regarding the sale of S-400 surface-to-air missile systems and the possibility of Russia leasing a second nuclear submarine, Alexander M Kadakin, Russian ambassador to India, told The Pioneer.

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Previously, there were reports suggesting the possibility of India inking a deal to purchase S-400 missile systems and taking on lease a second nuclear submarine during the Moscow visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Dec 2015. But no such deals were inked then.

But now Kadakin has revealed about India possibly getting strategically important air defence systems, the S-400, which could be used to protect various Indian cities from enemy missile attacks. The S-400 air defence systems have been deployed in the Moscow region and at Hmeimim air base in Syria, where Russians have been operating from.

The Indo-Russian relationship is Independent of the relationship with other countries, Kadakin said, and added: "We do not feel jealous when India acquires military hardware from other countries for its strategic needs ... " "Please name a country that can lease a nuclear submarine."

Lately, India has been looking to US, Israel and France for military hardware, moving away from its traditional partner Russia for various reasons, some of those being mid-stage cost escalations and delays in the delivery.

But Russia still remains the go-to partner when it comes to certain strategic areas of military co-operation involving key weapons hardware technology. PM Modi had called the Indo-Russian relationship as a "truly strategic" one.

India already had INS Chakra, Akula-class nuclear-powered attack submarine on a 10-year lease from Russia. INS Chakra was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 2012. This will be the second nuclear submarine from Russia.

"The hull of the submarine is ready but it has to be refurbished as per Indian needs after the talks are concluded," Kadakin said.

The indigenously developed nuclear-powered submarine INS Arihant, built with Russian technical support, is currently undergoing sea trials.

Kadakin further revealed that his country will open four service centres in India for the Su-30 MKI jets. He said that an announcement in this regard will be made soon.

India is also looking at buying more MiG 29K fighter jets for INS Vikramaditya, he said. India has already ordered 45 MiG-29K/KUB aircraft.

The Russian envoy said that the deal for India producing 200 Kamov Ka-226 helicopters has been concluded. This will lead to India producing these light utility helicopters with Russian help under the present government's "Make in India" initiative.

<http://www.ibtimes.co.in/india-russia-negotiating-sale-s-400-missiles-india-russian-envoy-666728>

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The Diplomat – Tokyo, Japan

OPINION/Flashpoints

Nuclear Instability in the Asia-Pacific Region?

A new study reaches sobering conclusions on the potential for nuclear proliferation.



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies (CUWS) Outreach Journal

By Francis P. Sempa for *The Diplomat*

February 07, 2016

Henry D. Sokolski, the executive director of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center and former Pentagon official and consultant to the Office of Net Assessment, has written a thoughtful and sobering study on the potential for nuclear proliferation and competition in the Asia-Pacific region. Published in January 2016 by the U.S. Army War College Press, *Underestimated: Our Not So Peaceful Nuclear Future*, presents a bleak but not altogether hopeless view of current trends in the development of strategic, intermediate and battlefield nuclear weapons, the spread of ballistic missile technology, and the proliferation of nuclear weapons-grade material throughout the region.

This vision is not shared by most of the world's policymakers and academic theorists who instead see the world becoming a safer place as the United States and Russia continue to reduce their stockpiles of nuclear weapons, nuclear deterrence becomes virtually "automatic," and non-nuclear powers obtain "peaceful" nuclear facilities and materials. Sokolski argues that the more sanguine views of the nuclear future in the Asia-Pacific fail to "fully explore the regional insecurities that arise with threatened nuclear weapons breakouts or ramp-ups," ignore the "significant overlaps between civilian and military nuclear activities or the risk that 'peaceful' nuclear facilities or materials might be diverted to make bombs," and downplay the potential strategic instability that may result from U.S.-Russian nuclear disarmament in the face of nuclear weapons build-ups by China, India, Pakistan, and possibly other regional states, and the proliferation of nuclear facilities and materials.

If current trends continue, Sokolski explains, "[t]he strategic military competitions of the next . . . decades will be unlike any the world has yet seen." At the height of the Cold War, the nuclear arsenals of the United States and Soviet Union dwarfed those of the world's other nuclear powers. Today, while the U.S. and Russia freeze or continue to reduce their nuclear arsenals, China, India, and Pakistan are increasing and modernizing their strategic nuclear forces; which means that "the next arms race will be run by a much larger number of contestants with highly destructive strategic capabilities far more closely matched and capable of being quickly enlarged than in any other previous period in history."

According to Sokolski, Russia currently fields 3600 strategic and tactical nuclear weapons, the U.S. has 2130, China has somewhere between 190 and 900, while India, Pakistan, England, France and Israel each field between 100 and 400. "[T]he difference in the numbers of nuclear deployments between the top and bottom nuclear powers. . .," he writes, "has fallen at least two full orders of magnitude and is projected to decline even further." Moreover, because of the spread of weapons-grade material and nuclear facilities, at least six other countries – Iran, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Japan and Algeria – are considered "possible near-or mid-term nuclear weapons-ready states." This means, writes Sokolski, that "the stool of nuclear deterrence will have many more legs that could give way in many more surprising ways than were possible a half-century ago."

Other developments in this area provide additional reasons for concern. Russia and Pakistan have doctrinally indicated that they will use nuclear weapons first against opponents' conventional forces. China is reconsidering its declared "no first use" policy. Russia, China, and North Korea have constructed or expanded underground nuclear complexes to both hide and protect nuclear forces. Twenty-four nations have acquired ballistic missile systems capable of delivering nuclear warheads.

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Although much has been written about China's rise as a global power and potential peer competitor to the United States, less attention has been paid to China's growing nuclear arsenal and capabilities. Sokolski notes China's efforts to modernize its nuclear-capable missiles; its production of sufficient weapons-grade plutonium and uranium to make as many as 1200 nuclear weapons; its development and deployment of ballistic missile submarines; its construction and deployment of the DF-41 ICBM; its deployment of multiple independently targetable warheads (MIRVs) on the DF-5 missiles; and its increased uranium enrichment capacity, which will enable China to build more than five hundred nuclear weapons per year by the year 2020. These trends threaten to undermine the effectiveness of the U.S. extended nuclear umbrella to Japan and South Korea, and cast doubts on America's ability to protect Taiwan, the Philippines, Australia, and other allies in the region. That, in turn, could lead Japan and South Korea, and perhaps other vulnerable countries, to seek their own nuclear deterrent. "These trends," Sokolski writes, "invite disorder. How much depends on how well the United States, Russia, China, and other key states deal with them."

Sokolski recommends three broad approaches to reverse these trends:

1. Reassess and clarify China's nuclear capabilities and shift nonproliferation and arms control efforts to the Asia-Pacific region.
2. Nuclear supplier states must adopt tougher nonproliferation standards and insist on better international safeguards related to the transfer of "peaceful" nuclear technology.
3. Be more proactive in anticipating and preventing nuclear proliferation developments.

Above all, those countries that seek to improve nuclear stability must avoid the pitfalls of diplomacy by inattention and repeated downplaying of nuclear risks that undermined lengthy but unsuccessful nonproliferation efforts with North Korea and Iran. Adding nuclear instability to a region already beset by geopolitical rivalries and flashpoints is a recipe for catastrophe.

Francis P. Sempa is the author of Geopolitics: From the Cold War to the 21st Century (Transaction Books) and America's Global Role: Essays and Reviews on National Security, Geopolitics and War (University Press of America). He is also a contributor to Population Decline and the Remaking of Great Power Politics (Potomac Books). He has written on historical and foreign policy topics for Joint Force Quarterly, American Diplomacy, the University Bookman, The Claremont Review of Books, The Diplomat, Strategic Review, the Washington Times and other publications. He is an attorney, an adjunct professor of political science at Wilkes University, and a contributing editor to American Diplomacy.

<http://thediplomat.com/2016/02/nuclear-instability-in-the-asia-pacific-region/>

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38 North.org – Washington, D.C.

OPINION/Analysis

North Korea's Space Launch: An Initial Assessment

By John Schilling

09 February 2016



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies (CUWS) Outreach Journal

At first glance, North Korea's launch of an Unha Space Launch Vehicle (SLV) on February 7, 2016, looks very much like a repeat of its successful launch a little over three years ago. In fact, a close examination reveals that the North appears to have used some stock footage of the 2012 launch in its announcement this time around. But there are also images of a rocket launching from the new gantry that North Korea completed only last year. Moreover, the US Joint Space Operations Center (JSpOC) has released the orbital elements of two new bodies in stable orbits, with the identifiers "KMS-4" for the Kwangmyongsong-4 satellite and "Unha 3 R/B" for the launch vehicle's upper stage rocket body.[1] In short, this is not a hoax.

Images of the rocket departing the launch pad indicate an overall length of about 30 meters, the same as the Unha-3 rocket from North Korea's 2012 launch. To the extent that we can tell from low-resolution images, the shape and the engine exhaust plumes are also nearly identical. North Korea did politely tell the mariners and airmen of the world where to expect the expended rocket stages to fall, and these also match the 2012 launch. The satellite itself is in a very similar orbit to 2012. While many had expected North Korea to debut a new and larger rocket, and the new launch pad was clearly built for a larger rocket, that launch is still in the future. North Korea might call this new rocket an Unha-4, but it is almost certainly an Unha-3 with, at most, minor modifications.

Several early reports indicated that the launch had failed, some saying that the first stage was seen on radar to have exploded; others that the rocket disappeared from radar shortly after the payload shroud had separated. These are common times for failure, and yet the satellite is in orbit. Most likely the rocket disappeared from radar at about the time it was passing out of range, with perhaps a moment of confusion while radar tried to track the payload shroud rather than the rocket.

But it does seem likely that the first stage did explode—after safely separating from the rocket. That's a change from the 2012 launch, where the first stage fell into the ocean relatively intact and was recovered by the South Korean Navy. This could have been a late malfunction or a reaction involving unburnt residual propellant, but it could also be that the North Koreans didn't want their southern neighbors to get quite so good a look at their rocket this time. Self-destruct mechanisms are frequently added to stages for "range safety," to make sure no wayward rocket can land on a populated area, and it would be little trouble to deliberately activate one as soon as the first stage has done its job. Whatever minor modifications the DPRK may have made to the first stage will likely remain obscure.

Assume for the moment that North Korea is sincere in its claim that it just want to launch satellites. They are calling this one the "Kwangmyongsong-4," and saying it is an Earth observation satellite. This is plausible enough, though "Earth observation" covers everything from improving weather forecasts and crop yields to military reconnaissance and targeting. North Korea's first satellite accomplished little, tumbling out of control shortly after launch. At this point, North Korea would probably consider it a win if its satellite could hold a stable attitude, communicate with the ground and send back a few pictures.

North Korea claims the satellite was launched into an orbit that ranges from 494.6 to 500 kilometers above the earth, inclined at 97.4 degrees from the equator. JSpOC's data indicates 466 to 501 kilometers and a 97.5 degree inclination. If we trust JSpOC more than we do North Korean newscasters, it looks like they missed their target by a little bit. The orbit they were aiming for was something called a "sun-synchronous orbit," which is particularly suitable for Earth observation satellites as it passes over targets at exactly the same local time every day. This one will drift, but should still be serviceable.



The Unha-3 rocket can probably carry at least 200 kilograms of payload to such an orbit, though its last satellite was reportedly only half that weight. Until the North has mastered the basics of satellite technology, there is little reason for it to try anything bigger or more ambitious at the moment; and little reason to use a bigger rocket that it may be developing either. The Unha-3 worked just fine three years ago; it's the satellites that need work. Presumably when they are confident with basic technology-demonstration satellites they will move on to bigger rockets with more capable payloads.

But the obvious concern is that North Korea is testing ballistic missiles and only pretending to care about satellites. The Unha-3 or Unha-4 could certainly be used as an ICBM. The upper stages generate only about half the thrust we would expect if it were built for that purpose, but it could probably still carry a payload of almost 1000 kilograms to a range of 10,000 kilometers. And with two successful tests under its belt, it could probably do so reliably.

What it can't do, quite yet, is hit anything of value. North Korea can probably build a nuclear warhead light enough for the Unha to carry, and they may well have tested one. What it has not done is tested a reentry vehicle that would survive hitting the atmosphere at roughly 16,000 miles per hour. That's not an insurmountable technical challenge, and we expect North Korea will succeed when it gets around to it, but the North will want to test its technology at least once. Of equal importance, the North still needs to work on the rocket guidance system. If this launch had been aimed at a point 10,000 kilometers distant on Earth, rather than the perfect sun-synchronous orbit we assume was the target, it would have fallen almost 50 kilometers short and 10 kilometers west of its aimpoint. That's an improvement over last time, but still a ways to go.

And really, even if North Korea can turn the Unha-3 into a rocket that delivers 1,000 kilogram warheads with perfect reliability and pinpoint accuracy, there is still the fundamental problem that it weighs almost 100 tons, can only be launched from fixed sites and requires so much preparation that we can see it being readied days before launch. That doesn't make for a useful weapon. What North Korea almost certainly wants for a weapon is a much smaller, road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). They are working on one of those, but we don't expect it to be operational until sometime after 2020.

For now, North Korea is making small steps towards improving its rocket and satellite capabilities. What it will do with the satellites, we are not yet sure. That path may involve larger and more powerful rockets in the future. A real ICBM capability comes from following a different path, longer and less certain, and one where modest improvements in the Unha series of SLVs are of little relevance. Even if North Korea does try to adapt the Unha to serve as an interim ICBM, it will probably need one or two more tests—and the construction of hardened silos to replace the current open launch site.

If the rocket is nothing new, the most important thing to look for in coming weeks is any indication that the satellite is doing something more than tumbling out of control. Even amateur astronomers will likely be able to tell that much from the flickering of reflected sunlight. If it can maintain a stable orientation, that will be an important step forward for North Korea. If it can perform any sort of maneuver using an onboard propulsion system that would be a bigger step forward, and one we would likely know about when JSpOC issues new orbit calculations. Radio signals from the satellite would mark critical progress for North Korea in another area, particularly if they occur over a prolonged period and show signs of two-way communication. Finally, if it is an Earth observation satellite, they may release images to the press to brag about how well it is working—but we will have to be careful not to be fooled if they release copies of someone else's satellite images.

To address the concern that this might be a missile in disguise, we'll have to look closer to Earth. First, if the North Koreans are planning to deploy a weaponized Unha, they'll need to test it at least



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once more to improve the accuracy, and they'll almost certainly want to test a reentry vehicle at the same time—there's no point in getting the launch perfect if the warhead is going to veer off course on reentry. They will also want to practice their launch preparation procedures. They were able to ready this rocket for launch significantly faster than they did in 2012, with the final, highly visible preparations taking only a few days instead of weeks; but for a weapon, they would want to bring that down to hours instead of days. If we see them repeatedly setting up and taking down rockets on the pad, that would be a dangerous sign. But even hours of preparation would probably be too long in wartime, and the North Koreans would want to hedge their bets by building hardened silos. The North Koreans are good at camouflage, but the Unha may be too big a rocket even for them to hide. Should anyone find silos set up to hold Unha-sized rockets, any pretense that this is just a satellite program would vanish and we would know that North Korea is deploying ICBMs. So far, we haven't seen any sign of that.

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Note

[1] The relevant catalog is available on-line at www.space-track.org/auth/login.

<http://38north.org/2016/02/jschilling020816/>

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Real Clear Defense – Chicago, IL

OPINION/Article

A Nuclear South Korea

By Christopher Lee

February 12, 2016

Nearly a month since North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test and a few days after its long-range missile launch, South Korea's interest in Kim Jong-Un's nuclear aspiration continues to be lukewarm. This is mainly because South Koreans know through a decade of personal experience and academic examination of the Kim Family Regime, North Korea has demonstrated these two actions in pairs. Since 2006, nuclear weapons tests and kinematic provocations have followed each other under the Kim Family Regime. Living in Seoul among South Koreans for the past few years, it seems to me that they are more concerned with untidy domestic politics and domestic economic concerns than North Korea's predictable behavior.

Pundits have also downplayed the significance of this nuclear test and questioned the hermit kingdom's nuclear capability. A recent U.S. congressional report extrapolated that the fourth nuclear test could have been merely a detonation of a boosted fission weapon or simply a conventional nuclear bomb. Regardless of the authenticity of the supposedly hydrogen bomb, both the Obama and the Park Geun-Hye governments' stances on opposing the proliferation of South Korea's nuclear weapons need to be reexamined and consider all alternatives.

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After a joint declaration to keep the Korean Peninsula nuclear-free, the U.S. withdrew nuclear weapons from South Korea in the early 1990s. However, this turned out to be a costly decision that backfired on everybody, especially South Korea. North Korea presumably developed nuclear bombs using the materials it extracted from the Yongbyon nuclear reactor. What is more, Kim Jong-Un announced that his country had succeeded in making these nuclear warheads small enough to fit on a missile ready to be launched towards South Korea at any time. With this understanding or even the potential veracity of these claims, both countries must seriously reexamine their policy and approach of employing nuclear weapons in South Korea.

South Korean officials like other government representatives across the world have observed President Obama's nuclear weapons policy in the Middle East – the latest being the P5+1 agreement with Iran – and recognized it will not work with North Korea. Understandably, the U.S. does not want Iran to have enough enriched uranium to produce a nuclear bomb, but why not South Korea, one of our biggest allies in Asia who lives under a persistent nuclear threat? Even before Obama's ongoing "rebalance" or "pivot" towards Asia, under the 1953 Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea, America has been committed to defend and protect South Korea at all cost. 28,500 United States Forces Korea (USFK) troops are ready to fight tonight alongside our South Korean brethren, and the U.S. nuclear umbrella theoretically guarantees peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula.

Notwithstanding, the nuclear umbrella, also known as extended deterrence, seems quite imprecise. Should South Korea be threatened by regional nuclear powers (China, North Korea, and Russia), America would trade-off Los Angeles for Seoul and New York City for Busan. As outrageously as aforementioned, the extended deterrence is erroneous and perplexed. For the past decade, America and South Korea have continued their commitment to costly and precarious conventional arms races with China and North Korea respectively.

A week after the fourth nuclear test, President Park revealed that her administration is genuinely reviewing plans to deploy U.S. advanced missile interceptor, the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system. Amid growing concerns over South Korea's ballistic missile defense system in the wake of North Korea's latest nuclear test, deployment of the THAAD system is becoming a hot-button issue again. Yet, this is another conventional force buildup and not a solution to a militant Kim Jong-Un. Deploying THAAD may enhance the U.S.-ROK Security Alliance, boost South Korea's ballistic missile defense system, but the situation on the Korean Peninsula may never be resolved.

Deploying the THAAD system would not singlehandedly change North Korea's nuclear brinkmanship. Each THAAD system is comprised of five major components: interceptors, launchers, a radar, a fire control unit, and THAAD-specific support equipment. Out of the five, THAAD's X-Band radar is the most important component to South Korea. The radar, which can only see in a 90-degree arc, would be directed at North Korea to pick up short and medium range ballistic missiles. Nonetheless, as North Korea proceeds with its development of a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), there's a possibility that North Korea will launch a missile from seas surrounding South Korea. Clearly, Kim Jong-Un is also serious about developing SLBMs that would pose a greater threat to South Korea. These SLBMs would be outside the X-Band radar range, accordingly, to counter the SLBM threat, South Korea would need to position THAAD that could defend the population, troops, and critical infrastructure from any of the sea areas around the peninsula. Along the same lines, this would drastically increase the cost of missile defense against North Korea.

For the past few years, a flyby of a B-52 bomber, or deployment of long-range strike capabilities forces have been the U.S. Department of Defense's response against a belligerent North



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Korea. These methods are both non-effective and costly. Billions are already being spent by America to guarantee peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, but spending more on other conventional capabilities will not affect North Korean nuclear threat.

There is a much better and inexpensive way to provide security and stability in South Korea for both nations. The U.S. should allow South Korea to procure its own nuclear weapons. President Obama should encourage President Park Geun-Hye to consider this unconventional means. Mr. Chung, Moon-Joon, a renowned seven-term lawmaker of South Korea, is demanding that his country be granted the right to procure nuclear weapons in order to counter the North Korean nuclear threat. By having its own nuclear capabilities, South Korea will not only be able to protect itself from Pyongyang's bullying, but Seoul would also achieve equivalent status.

South Korea has already proven to be one of the world's wealthiest nations and technologically advanced enough to procure and maintain sophisticated armaments. A nuclear force in South Korea would be the great equalizer against North Korea. Through the Cold War, we have seen that peace and stability can only be maintained by countering nuclear threats with nuclear weapons. What we have on the Korean Peninsula is a similar case of a Cold War, consequently a strong means are necessary when corresponding to a nuclear threat.

A nuclear umbrella is not cheaper for South Korea, and it surely cannot stop a sporadic nuclear launch by North Korea. The sojourn of provocative nuclear tests and missile launches will continue as long as South Koreans do not have its own nuclear weapons. South Korea should now acknowledge the inadequacy in its military and adapt to changes in the 21st century security environment while considering the limited effect of U.N. sanctions and Beijing's lackadaisical commitment to stop Pyongyang. The capable and enduring USFK troops will remain the foundation of the U.S.-South Korea security relationship, a nuclear South Korea would not likely undermine it. Rather, their joint defense efforts would evolve and, perhaps, push the South Korean government towards taking a greater role in its own national defense. Moreover, it may convince President Park to review her options under Article X of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty which stipulates that "Each Party shall in exercising its national sovereignty have the right to withdraw from the Treaty if it decides that extraordinary events, related to the subject matter of this Treaty, have jeopardized the supreme interests of its country."

Along with the U.S., South Korea has worked relentlessly for years toward a resolution of concerns regarding North Korea's compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty; however, efforts have failed to succeed. Bilateral and multilateral talks with North Korea remain hopeless, support of the International Atomic Energy Agency and U.N. Security Council actions are non-effective, and implementation of U.N. and domestic sanctions to compel Kim Jong-Un have become just a formality to fulfill its obligations.

Pyongyang's actions clearly validate that a conventional arms race has lost its significance against North Korea's nuclear threat. A more logical and cost effective means of providing security and stability in the Korean Peninsula exists in the form of providing South Korea access to its own arsenal of nuclear weapons. In order to do so, President Park should immediately withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty and pursue acquiring her own nuclear deterrence. Simply, as a nuclear state, South Korea can achieve peace and self-defense in the Korean Peninsula. President Park is wasting time, money, and resources by pursuing other conventional weapons while issuing no clear response to North Korea's latest provocation. As her administration continues their efforts to denuclearize North Korea, the situation will further deteriorate and the nuclear threat will, conceivably, never be fixed.



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http://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2016/02/12/a_nuclear_south_korea.html

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Huffington Post – New York, NY

OPINION/Blog

China May Put its Nuclear Weapons on High Alert, and It's a Dangerous Idea

By Elliot Negin

February 12, 2016

China's military wants to put its relatively small nuclear arsenal on hair-trigger alert for the first time, according to newly translated documents. That's not good. Such a radical departure from the country's longtime nuclear policy could pose a threat not only to the United States, but also to China itself.

Gregory Kulacki, an analyst with the Union of Concerned Scientists, discovered evidence of this potential policy change in a number of Chinese military documents. He published a paper this week that provides the details of what he found.

Why is the People's Liberation Army (PLA) considering such a major policy change?

According to Kulacki, it's due to U.S. intimidation.

"It's a combination of factors," he explained. "First, the PLA is worried that it doesn't have a credible nuclear retaliatory counterweight to highly accurate U.S. nuclear weapons, conventional weapons, and missile defense systems. Second, U.S. officials have refused to acknowledge that the United States is vulnerable to a Chinese retaliatory strike, which the Chinese think means the United States is not deterred from attacking them. And third, the United States has threatened China with a nuclear attack a number of times and still refuses to adopt a no-first-use policy. All that makes the PLA very nervous."

But why would it matter if the Chinese put their nuclear weapons on high alert?

Because it's an extremely dangerous policy.

Too Many Close Calls

Since the beginning of the Cold War, both the United States and Russia have had a percentage of their respective nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert, enabling them to be launched within minutes if an early warning system detected an attack. Given that it is highly unlikely that either country would launch a first strike against the other, it's more likely that a technical glitch or human error would cause an accidental ICBM launch in response to a false warning. In fact, there have been a number of incidents of this kind in Russia and the United States over the last few decades that could have prompted a nuclear launch. It's dumb luck that one of them didn't start World War III.

Unlike the United States and Russia, China currently keeps its nuclear weapons off alert. Its warheads are not even attached to their delivery vehicles. But Kulacki found passages in a several

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Chinese military texts suggesting that the PLA is considering adopting a launch-on-warning, high-alert posture. For example, the latest edition of *The Science of Military Strategy*, a standard Chinese military text, lays out what China would be able to do when its nuclear weapons are on high alert: "When conditions are prepared and when necessary, we can, under conditions confirming the enemy has launched nuclear missiles against us, before the enemy nuclear warheads have reached their targets and effectively exploded, before they have caused us actual nuclear damage, quickly launch a nuclear missile retaliatory strike."

Adopting a hair-trigger policy would require China to build an early warning system like the ones the United States and Russia deploy, and such a system may be in the offing. An internal November 2014 military document Kulacki obtained includes a chapter on constructing a system and asserts: "There are plans to launch experimental early warning satellites." About a year later, in September 2015, China launched an experimental satellite that an independent U.S. news site, *NASASpaceFlight.com*, said may be the first in "a new series of Chinese satellites dedicated to early warning similar to the American Space-Based Infra-Red Sensor satellites." An official Chinese press release claimed the satellite was for communications.

Still Time to Nip It in the Bud

The United States has a strong incentive to dissuade China from adopting a hair-trigger policy. As noted above, putting weapons on alert increases the risk of nuclear launches instigated by accidents or false warnings. And a mistaken launch due to a false warning is more likely to happen during the development of a new warning system. Indeed, the record shows that it was in the early days of U.S. and Soviet warning systems when technical glitches and human errors were a particular problem.

Kulacki recommended a number of actions the United States can take to help keep Chinese nuclear weapons off alert. One is for U.S. officials to recognize China's nuclear deterrent by acknowledging that the United States and China are vulnerable to a nuclear attack from each other. A second is for the United States to abandon first-strike options by declaring that the sole purpose of its nuclear force is to deter and, if necessary, respond to a nuclear attack by another country.

Kulacki also argued that the United States should end its own hair-trigger policy. How can the United States credibly argue that China should not put its nuclear weapons on high alert when some 900 U.S. warheads can be fired within minutes? In any event, keeping U.S. weapons on high alert is not necessary for deterrence and increases the risk of a nuclear exchange that could devastate the United States.

The Union of Concerned Scientists has long recommended that the United States take its own nuclear weapons off high alert, and President Obama could do that without congressional approval before leaving office. Such a move, which has the support of a significant number of former high-ranking administration and Pentagon officials, would help put international pressure on Russia to do the same and China to refrain from adopting such a policy.

"It's critical for the Obama administration to pay attention to this ongoing debate in China over a hair-trigger policy because it's part of a bigger conversation about the future of the country's nuclear forces," said Kulacki. "They're also talking about abandoning their no-first-use policy and using nuclear weapons to respond to conventional attacks. The alarm bells should be going off.

"But U.S. officials have to realize that China is contemplating these changes because it believes the United States is unwilling to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in its national security strategy--what President Obama promised to do in his famous speech in Prague back in 2009," he added.



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"What the U.S. says and does regarding nuclear weapons has a profound effect on Chinese thinking. And right now, we're pushing China in the wrong direction."

Elliott Negin is a senior writer at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/elliott-negin/china-may-put-its-nuclear-b-9213552.html>

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ABOUT THE USAF CUWS

The USAF Counterproliferation Center was established in 1998 at the direction of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Located at Maxwell AFB, this Center capitalizes on the resident expertise of Air University, while extending its reach far beyond - and influences a wide audience of leaders and policy makers. A memorandum of agreement between the Air Staff Director for Nuclear and Counterproliferation (then AF/XON), now AF/A5XP) and Air War College Commandant established the initial manpower and responsibilities of the Center. This included integrating counterproliferation awareness into the curriculum and ongoing research at the Air University; establishing an information repository to promote research on counterproliferation and nonproliferation issues; and directing research on the various topics associated with counterproliferation and nonproliferation .

The Secretary of Defense's Task Force on Nuclear Weapons Management released a report in 2008 that recommended "Air Force personnel connected to the nuclear mission be required to take a professional military education (PME) course on national, defense, and Air Force concepts for deterrence and defense." As a result, the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, in coordination with the AF/A10 and Air Force Global Strike Command, established a series of courses at Kirtland AFB to provide continuing education through the careers of those Air Force personnel working in or supporting the nuclear enterprise. This mission was transferred to the Counterproliferation Center in 2012, broadening its mandate to providing education and research to not just countering WMD but also nuclear deterrence.

In February 2014, the Center's name was changed to the Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies to reflect its broad coverage of unconventional weapons issues, both offensive and defensive, across the six joint operating concepts (deterrence operations, cooperative security, major combat operations, irregular warfare, stability operations, and homeland security). The term "unconventional weapons," currently defined as nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, also includes the improvised use of chemical, biological, and radiological hazards.

The CUWS's military insignia displays the symbols of nuclear, biological, and chemical hazards. The arrows above the hazards represent the four aspects of counterproliferation - counterforce, active defense, passive defense, and consequence management.

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