



## **USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies (CUWS) Outreach Journal**

CUWS Outreach Journal 1235

30 September 2016

**Feature Item:** *“Precision Fire: A Strategic Assessment of Iran’s Conventional Missile Program.”* Authored by Bilal Y Saab and Michael Elleman; Issue Brief; Published by the Atlantic Council/ Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security; September 2016; 10 pages.

[http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/images/publications/Precision\\_Fire\\_web\\_0907.pdf](http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/images/publications/Precision_Fire_web_0907.pdf)

The Iranian missile program has been a source of significant concern for regional powers, including Israel, as well as Europe and the United States. The prospect for increased Iranian capabilities raises serious questions such as:

What should the United States, its partners, and others do to limit the growth of Iranian missile capabilities?

How will improved Iranian capability impact regional stability, as the range Iran can target with conventional or non-conventional warheads such as nuclear weapons increases?

How does Iran’s missile program fit into its longer-term strategy for regional hegemony?

What risks do enhanced Iranian missile capabilities pose for US forces in the region and for the United States’ commitment to the security of its regional partners?

What steps should regional powers threatened by the Iranian program take to defend themselves and, based on their inadequate response up to now, how likely is it that they would do so in the future?

“Precision Fire: A Strategic Assessment of Iran’s Conventional Missile Program,” written by Bilal Y. Saab and Michael Elleman, deals with these important questions. It is an excellent primer on Iran’s conventional missile program.

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## **USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies (CUWS) Outreach Journal**

The Japan News – Tokyo, Japan

### **At Huge Cost, U.S. Plans to Replace ICBM Arsenal**

Agence France-Presse (AFP)-JIJI

September 25, 2016

WASHINGTON – Hidden underground in steel-and-concrete silos across rural America, more than 400 intercontinental ballistic missiles point to the skies, poised for launch — and ready to obliterate cities across the world.

First designed in the 1960s at the height of the Cold War, the Minuteman nuclear weapons are starting to show their age, and replacement parts are difficult to find for the weapons designed in an analog age.

Also aging are their silos, many built in the 1950s and now rusting as water seeps through the decaying concrete.

Over the next 20 years, the U.S. Air Force will switch out the entirety of its Minuteman III fleet with an as-yet-unnamed new missile known only as the Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD).

The air force estimates the cost of the GBSD, to be introduced late in the 2020s and phased in over the following decade, will be around \$86 billion over the missiles' life cycle of about 50 years.

Critics point to the Defense Department's long history of projects going way over budget and say the cost of replacing the nukes and maintaining their launch facilities is not warranted, given the tactical threats the United States currently faces.

The air force "doesn't know how we are going to afford this," said Laicie Heeley, a nuclear expert at the Stimson Center, a nonpartisan anti-nuclear proliferation think tank in Washington.

"Nuclear is crowding out more conventional systems that are (better suited to) the threats of today."

The air force issued requests for proposals in July for vendors to replace the Minuteman, named after colonial militiamen who eventually fought against the British in America's Revolutionary War.

The prize will likely go to one of the three U.S. defense giants: Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Boeing, and the new missile will be equipped with state-of-the-art electronics while being protected from any cyberthreats.

America's intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) are just one leg of its "triad" — a three-pronged nuclear attack force also comprising submarines and bombers.

The Pentagon wants to replace or modernize all three legs of the triad, at a cost that experts estimate will hit \$1 trillion over the next 30 years.

"We flat can't afford it. And from a priorities standpoint, it's the wrong priority in the world that we face," Democratic Congressman Adam Smith told a Washington forum last week, noting that the ICBM force is the part of the triad best suited for reduction.

The lawmaker said countries like China are able to boast a "spectacular deterrent" with far fewer nuclear weapons.



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“What they have is enough to say ‘Don’t screw with us, or we will obliterate you,’ ” he said, adding that even if the United States were to enter a major nuclear fight, “we’re pretty much all toast anyways.”

The Pentagon insists it is imperative to push ahead with a complete overhaul of America’s nuclear force.

While the United States and Russia signed a treaty in 2010 to reduce the numbers of nuclear launchers, Moscow is modernizing its own triad.

“The Russians, the Chinese, the North Koreans are upgrading all of their systems,” an air force official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the nuclear program.

“They are upgrading all of their legs of the triad — in that environment, I am not sure it makes sense” to do nothing.

Last Tuesday, North Korea said it had successfully tested a new, high-powered rocket engine, a move that Seoul said was designed to showcase its progress toward being able to target the U.S. East Coast.

The ground test came less than two weeks after Pyongyang detonated what it said was a miniaturized atomic bomb.

Taken together, the two tests raise the prospect that the isolated state could be inching toward its ultimate goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile that could hit Washington and New York.

Another air force official said many of the vendors who first built or equipped the missile silos have long gone out of business, making it an arduous task to find replacement parts.

He said he had heard anecdotes of colleagues scouring eBay or other sites looking for antique components.

The Minuteman fleet is currently dotted across locations in North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter is set to visit Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota on Monday, where control centers for that state’s nukes are located.

The air force has in recent years battled flagging morale among its “missileers” — airmen in charge of the land-based missile force.

A series of embarrassing revelations in 2014 described the state of the nuclear force, with dozens of airmen disciplined cheating on a test. Other investigations have probed drug use.

The trouble began after the demise of the Soviet Union, as the mission gradually received a lower priority and offered a less-promising career path.

[http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2016/09/25/world/huge-cost-u-s-plans-replace-icbm-arsenal/#.V-v\\_IrTFtmB](http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2016/09/25/world/huge-cost-u-s-plans-replace-icbm-arsenal/#.V-v_IrTFtmB)

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U.S. News & World Report – New York, NY

### **Pentagon Chief Is Expert on Nukes but Says Little about Them**

*As defense chief for a president who famously envisioned "a world without nuclear weapons," Ash Carter has said remarkably little about them*

By ROBERT BURNS, Associated Press (AP) National Security Writer

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September 25, 2016

WASHINGTON (AP) — As defense secretary to a president who famously envisioned "a world without nuclear weapons," Ash Carter has said remarkably little about them.

He has been quiet on a range of nuclear issues, including the Pentagon's \$8 billion effort to correct an array of morale, training, discipline and resource problems in the Air Force nuclear missile corps, revealed by The Associated Press in the last three years. Nor has he publicly explained in detail the utility of nuclear weapons in an age of attacks by non-state actors like the Islamic State to build support for spending hundreds of billions on a new generation of them.

When asked, he has left no doubt that he sees nuclear weapons as the "bedrock" of U.S. security. But he rarely reveals the underpinnings of his thinking.

This is all the more notable because Carter, a physicist by training and policy wonk by reputation, cut his professional teeth on nuclear weapons during the Cold War. He probably knows more about them than any defense secretary since William Perry, a longtime nuclear expert, led the Pentagon a generation ago.

This quiet approach is expected to end when Carter visits Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota on Monday. There he plans to deliver a speech on nuclear deterrence, the notion that a robust and ready U.S. nuclear force will make clear that the cost of hitting the U.S. would outweigh any benefit. It will mark his first visit to a nuclear weapons base since becoming defense chief in February 2015.

Minot is home to Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missiles that stand in underground silos, ready for nuclear war. A portion of the Air Force's B-52 bomber force, including a number equipped to carry nuclear bombs, also are at Minot.

Like the three other men who have run the Pentagon for President Barack Obama, Carter has plenty of other high-priority issues to consume his time and attention, including the war against the Islamic State group. Carter also has chosen to focus on what he calls the "force of the future" — a set of policy initiatives meant to modernize the way the defense establishment recruits and develops members of the armed services. And he has given a great deal of attention to Silicon Valley and other technology hotbeds that he sees as potential keys to translating civilian innovation into U.S. military advantage.

Nuclear weapons issues have taken a back seat, at least publicly.

"Secretary Carter has not said much on nuclear weapons, but his actions speak volumes," says Joe Cirincione, president of the Ploughshares Fund, an advocacy group that argues for nuclear reductions and against the administration's plan to commit hundreds of billions to build a next-generation nuclear arsenal. "He has been the Dr. No of nuclear reductions, defending every program contract and resisting every cut in the nuclear force."

A spokesman for Carter disputes that the Pentagon chief has been quiet about nuclear issues.

"He regularly speaks about the importance of the nuclear triad to our security, its importance in reassuring our allies and deterring potential adversaries, and the need to ensure that we maintain and modernize that capability," said Gordon Trowbridge, the Pentagon's deputy press secretary.

Carter has talked quite a lot about the nuclear weapons of other countries. He chastised Russia for nuclear "sabre rattling," endorsed the U.S. nuclear deal with Iran and criticized what he has called North Korea's nuclear "pursuit and provocations." But when it comes to America's own weapons, he has mostly limited himself to broad references to their importance.

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Before this week, Carter had not given a speech about nuclear weapons nor visited a nuclear weapons base. His immediate predecessor, Chuck Hagel, visited two of the three Air Force bases that operate Minuteman 3 missiles, plus one of the two Navy bases for Trident nuclear submarines. Hagel also visited a B-2 bomber base to highlight his support for an Air Force's plan to build a new nuclear bomber.

Among Carter's most substantial remarks about nuclear weapons was his response earlier this month to a question from a student at the University of Oxford in England after Carter spoke about the American defense relationship with Britain. Carter was asked whether he worries that important nuclear issues are being ignored or neglected.

"Well, it's a blessing to be able to take the public's mind off the nuclear question," Carter began. He said he was thankful that nuclear issues are "not in the headlines."

He called deterrence the cornerstone of U.S. strategic defense policy because "we've never found another way to manage the unprecedented risk inherently posed by the technology of nuclear weapons." He added, "we're going to have nuclear weapons as far into the future as I can see. And they need to be safe, they need to be secure, they need to be reliable."

"Fortunately you don't see us using" nuclear weapons, Carter said in response to a question last week from a sailor at the Pentagon. "And that's a good thing." Nuclear weapons, he said, are "there in the background as a guarantor of our security."

During his long career as a national security specialist, Carter has written extensively about nuclear weapons issues. In a 1985 article titled "The Command and Control of Nuclear War" he dissected the intricate issue of how wartime decisions would be communicated to and executed by the nuclear force. He was the lead author of a report, "Crisis Stability and Nuclear War," in 1987, again examining nuclear command and control issues.

During Bill Clinton's first term in the White House, Carter served as assistant secretary of defense for nuclear security and counter-proliferation.

<http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2016-09-25/pentagon-chief-is-expert-on-nukes-but-says-little-about-them>

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Defense News – Springfield, VA

## **Carter: Nuclear Triad 'Bedrock of Our Security'**

By Aaron Mehta

September 26, 2016

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. — Calling the nuclear mission "the bedrock of our security, and the highest priority mission of the Department of Defense," Secretary of Defense Ash Carter today offered a full-throated defense of the need to modernize all three legs of the nuclear triad.

Carter's comments came during a visit to Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota, home to both B-52s and Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles. Defense News is travelling with Carter this week.

Under the fiscal year 2017 budget request, Carter said, the department pledged \$19 billion to the nuclear enterprise, part of \$108 billion planned over the next five years. The department has also spent around \$10 billion over the last two years, the secretary said in prepared comments.



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The “nuclear triad” references the three arms of the US strategic posture — land-based ICBMs, airborne weapons carried by bombers, and submarine-launched atomic missiles. All of those programs are entering an age where they need to be modernized.

Pentagon estimates have pegged the cost of modernizing the triad and all its accompanying requirements at the range of \$350 to \$450 billion over the next 10 years, with a large chunk of costs hitting in the mid-2020s, just as competing major modernization projects for both the Air Force and Navy come due.

Critics of both America’s nuclear strategy and Pentagon spending have attempted to find ways to change the modernization plan, perhaps by cancelling one leg of the triad entirely. But Carter made it clear in his speech that he feels such plans would put America at risk at a time when Russia, China and North Korea, among others, are looking to modernize their arsenals.

“If we don’t replace these systems, quite simply they will age even more, and become unsafe, unreliable, and ineffective. The fact is, most of our nuclear weapon delivery systems have already been extended decades beyond their original expected service lives,” Carter said. “So it’s not a choice between replacing these platforms or keeping them ... it’s really a choice between replacing them or losing them. That would mean losing confidence in our ability to deter, which we can’t afford in today’s volatile security environment.”

He also hit at critics of the nuclear program — which include former Secretary of Defense William Perry, widely seen as a mentor for Carter — who argue that investing further into nuclear weapons will increase the risk of atomic catastrophe in the future.

“None of these investments is intended to change the nature of deterrence or how it works; after all, no one can. And not only are they not intended to stimulate competition from anyone else; we know they aren’t having that effect, because the evidence is to the contrary,” Carter said. “We didn’t build anything new for the last 25 years, but others did — including Russia, North Korea, China, India, Pakistan, and, for a period of time, Iran — while our allies around the world — in Asia, the Middle East, and NATO — did not.”

Carter expressly called out Russia for its “recent nuclear saber-rattling” that “raises serious questions” about Moscow’s commitment to the global post-Cold War nuclear posture. In contrast, the secretary said China “conducts itself professionally in the nuclear arena, despite growing its arsenal in both quantity and quality.”

While the efforts to modernize the ICBM, bomber and submarine fleets garner major attention, there is a second tier of vital nuclear programs – including the command-and-control structure, the B61-12 warhead upgrade, and the Long Range Standoff (LRSO) nuclear cruise missile – that are also part of the modernization effort.

Notably, Minot is home to several hundred Air Launched Cruise Missiles (ALCMs), which provide the US stand-off, plane-launched nuclear strike capability and which would be replaced with the LRSO. Those weapons are increasing in age, with one maintainer telling reporters here that the Pentagon is exploring the use of 3-D printing to help compensate for out-of-production parts vital to the weapon.

The LRSO has become a popular target for Congress and the nonproliferation community, with the argument being made that the capability is duplicative to conventional stand-off weapons.

Speaking at last week’s Air Force Association conference outside Washington, Gen. Robin Rand, head of Air Force Global Strike Command, defended the need for the LRSO program to continue.

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“The deterrent value of it; the options that it gives the president,” Rand responded when asked why the weapon was needed. “The ability not to penetrate enemy airspace, not to fly directly to the target. I don’t believe we should put 100 percent of our eggs all in one basket and solely rely on stealth, so this gives you a long-range strike capability.”

Rand then presented a broader justification for the triad as a whole, one in line with Carter’s comments Monday.

“We say the ICBM land-based missile gives us incredible responsiveness. We are on 24/7 alert. The air leg gives us tremendous flexibility. You can generate them, you can show that you’re generating, they can take off, and you can recall. You can’t recall a sea or a land based missile. Once it comes out of the hole you ain’t getting that bad boy back,” Rand said. “The sea-based gives you tremendous survivability. Those are options that I think the president has found, every president since President Eisenhower, has found those to be compelling reasons to keep the triad.”

<http://www.defensenews.com/articles/carter-nuclear-triad-bedrock-of-our-security>

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International Business (IB) Times (U.S. Edition) – New York, NY

## **How Many Nuclear Weapons Does the United States Have? Pentagon Releases New Numbers**

By GREG PRICE

September 27, 2016

The Pentagon released the latest number of nuclear weapons in the United States stockpile and declassified other information regarding the country’s nuclear arsenal history Tuesday, continuing the Obama Administration’s five-year-old plan to slowly declassify more information.

The newly disclosed and declassified information details the U.S.’s nuclear disarmament and efforts to reduce its nuclear weapons total between 1962 and last year, as well as details on previous placement of weapons near Japan, the names of and megatonnage of older weapons, and even numbers on weapons stationed abroad.

The declassification process is dubbed the Second Open Government Action plan, which follows the first plan started under President Barack Obama in 2011 to give “the public a more active voice in the U.S. government’s policymaking process,” according to the administration.

The significant drop-off in total nuclear arms from the U.S.’ reported peak total in the late 1960s to now is perhaps the most striking information released. While in the midst of the Cold War with the then-Soviet Union, the U.S. reached a peak of 31,255 weapons in its stockpile in 1967. It had 4,571 weapons in 2015. And between 2014 and 2015, the U.S. reduced its total from 4,717 to 4,571.

A glimpse into efforts to dismantle the devices was also given. Between 1994 and 2015, the documents claim the U.S. dismantled 10,360 weapons, with more than 2,700 of those weapons broken down in 1994 and 1995.

The Pentagon also delved into previously unknown facts about placement of weapons on the island of Okinawa in Japan. The report states weapons were deployed on Okinawa before Japan regained control of it after World War II in May 1972.





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The two governments held discussions before the reversion about the possibility of “re-introducing” the weapons in the event of an emergency.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/how-many-nuclear-weapons-does-united-states-have-pentagon-releases-new-numbers-2422582>

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The Washington Free Beacon – Washington, D.C.

### **Clinton Privately Opposed Major U.S. Nuclear Upgrade**

*Dem nominee breaks with key Obama defense policy in previously unreleased recording*

By Lachlan Markay

September 27, 2016

Hillary Clinton privately told supporters this year that she would likely scrap a major upgrade to the United States’ nuclear weapons program, according to leaked audio of her remarks.

At a private event in McLean, Va., in February, Clinton revealed that she would likely cancel plans to upgrade the nation’s cruise missile arsenal. “I certainly would be inclined to do that,” she told a questioner who asked about rolling back the Long Range Stand-Off (LRSO) missile program.

Audio of Clinton’s comments at a gathering of major campaign supporters in February were revealed by hackers who breached the email account of a campaign staffer. One email released by the hackers contained a recording of Clinton’s remarks and a subsequent question-and-answer session.

The LRSO question came from Andy Weber, a former assistant secretary of defense who oversaw the Pentagon’s nuclear weapons programs. He and William Perry, who served as secretary of defense under President Bill Clinton, called for the cancellation of the LRSO program last year.

“Will you cancel this program if President Obama doesn’t in the next 11 months and lead the world in a ban on this particularly destabilizing, dangerous type of nuclear weapon?” Weber asked at around 39:00 in the recording.

Clinton said she would be “inclined” to do so. “The last thing we need are sophisticated cruise missiles that are nuclear armed,” she said.

Her campaign did not respond when asked if her position has changed since then.

Canceling the LRSO program would be a major break from Obama administration policy, which has placed significant emphasis on the missile as a key component of its wide-ranging efforts to modernize the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

About 1,000 LRSO missiles are scheduled to replace the Air Force’s Air-Launched Cruise Missiles (ALCMs) by 2030. The ALCM program has formed a key component of U.S. nuclear deterrence policy since the early 1980s.

The Air Force released long-awaited requests for proposals from defense contractors in July. It estimated that the government will pay \$17 billion for a new arsenal of LRSO missiles, though critics have pegged the cost at as much as \$30 billion.



Emails released by the State Department in response to Freedom of Information Act requests show that Clinton was briefed on aspects of the LRSO debate while serving as secretary of state.

After a November 2010 meeting between high-level Pentagon officials and former Sen. Jon Kyl (R., Ariz.), then the Senate's third-ranking Republican, the State Department's top legislative affairs official informed Clinton and top aides Cheryl Mills and Huma Abedin that the administration was "committed to LRSO."

Clinton has appeared unfamiliar with details of the Obama administration's plans for nuclear weapons modernization in statements since then. Clinton avoided a straight answer when asked about those plans at a campaign event in January, but expressed skepticism.

"Do you oppose plans to spend a trillion dollars on an entire new generation of nuclear weapons systems that will enrich the military contractors and set off a new global arms race?" she was asked.

Clinton responded, "Yeah I've heard about that. I'm going to look into that. That doesn't make sense to me."

Former Air Force launch officer John Noonan disagreed with Clinton's opposition to the LRSO program and other aspects of the Obama administration's nuclear modernization efforts. But he is skeptical that Clinton will actually follow through on that opposition.

"There's been tremendous advancements in Russian and Chinese cruise missiles, coupled with an atrophy in American capability," noted Noonan, a former Jeb Bush campaign aide critical of both Clinton and Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

"The Obama Administration, to their credit, has acknowledged this and have budgeted for the LRSO," he said. "A President Clinton's Pentagon will be faced with the same tough reality."

As for Clinton's remarks to Weber in February, Noonan guessed that she was "just petting a donor on the head and telling him he's pretty."

<http://freebeacon.com/national-security/clinton-privately-opposed-nuclear-upgrade/>

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Scout Warrior.com – U.S.

### **Pentagon: Nuclear Weapons Need Modernization**

*Carter emphasized the importance of nuclear deterrence through submarines, land-based weapons and air-launched nuclear bombs*

By CHERYL PELLERIN

September 28, 2016

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28, 2016 — All three legs of the nuclear triad operate with a high degree of readiness, reliability and excellence, but the aging systems need more investment for the future, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said yesterday at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico.

Carter -- who is traveling to North Dakota, New Mexico, California and Hawaii through Oct. 1 to focus on the U.S. nuclear enterprise -- took questions from reporters after speaking with troops.

Kirtland is home to the Air Force Materiel Command's Nuclear Weapons Center, which is responsible for acquiring, modernizing and sustaining nuclear system programs for DoD and the Energy Department.



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Carter toured Kirtland's underground munitions maintenance storage complex and met with senior leaders charged with maintaining and securing a key part of the nation's nuclear arsenal.

### **Legs of the Triad**

In response to a reporter's question, Carter described issues associated with each leg of the nation's nuclear triad.

"For the submarines -- the Ohio-class submarines -- an excellent submarine, but a submarine can only submerge and ascend so many times before its hull life is consumed and then it has to be replaced," he said. The department will replace the Ohio submarines, he added, because that is a highly survivable and valuable leg of the triad.

With respect to bomber, the secretary said, "We have bombers for a number of reasons, and we're investing in the B-21 bomber, particularly because of its abilities to penetrate air defenses and contribute to conventional strike for a wide range of possible contingencies."

Carter said the department decided to give the Air Force's long-range strike bomber, recently named the B-21 Raider, a nuclear capability. "But it is not a nuclear-only platform any more than the B-52 is or the B-1 was," he added.

And the replacement for the air-launched cruise missile recognizes what has been true for decades, the secretary said. The department developed and deployed the ALCM in the 1970s to penetrate modern air defenses it was necessary to have a cruise missile and a bomber capability, he explained.

### **Time for Modernization**

Addressing intercontinental ballistic missiles, Carter said the Minuteman, whose development began in the mid-1950s, has been in service for decades.

"We have extended its lifetime, its propulsion, its guidance and so forth. But there comes a time when something that old needs to be replaced. And we have put those dates off ... to the point where we really need now to move out on those programs," he said, noting that the long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan pulled attention and resources away from triad modernization.

"We weren't paying enough attention to the nuclear enterprise -- the bedrock of our security," the secretary said. "Now we have to do that. ... I am confident we'll do that."

Along with the nuclear triad and scientific and support facilities, the morale of the Air Force and the Defense and Energy departments' civilian nuclear workforce also needed attention, he added, and DoD began an effort to set that right two years ago.

### **Improving Workforce Morale**

"You see the Air Force doing that in its force improvement program, which seeks to, for example, give people whose specialty is nuclear weapons opportunities to broaden their experience in the course of their careers and enrich their understanding of how their mission fits into the entirety of our national defense mission," Carter said.

"That is important, because people thrive on having an understanding of the meaning of what they're doing. This is a very solemn, significant and essential function, but people are people, and they want to be enriched in the course of their careers. And people in the nuclear specialties are no different," the secretary said.



The Air Force is paying attention to that in the uniformed cadre, Carter said, and DoD is doing the same for its civilian workforce, "because its leadership is just as aware of the need to make sure that we have a future generation of scientists and engineers supporting the nuclear deterrent that we have today."

<http://www.scout.com/military/warrior/story/1711971-pentagon-nuclear-weapons-need-modernization>

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Sputnik International – Russian Information Agency

## **No Way Back: THAAD Deployment Not Negotiable, US Says**

26 September 2016

Despite concerns voiced from China and Russia, the United States official claimed that Washington and Seoul have reached an agreement on the deployment of Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in South Korea, which is not negotiable.

THAAD system is said to be deployed in South Korea by the end of 2017 as response to the North Korean nuclear missiles that Pyongyang has been testing recently.

The plan has been sharply criticized by Beijing, which sees the system as a measure that Washington hopes to use to deter of China rather than address the issue of the DPRK's notorious nuclear program.

Moscow said that the THAAD system deployment in South Korea not only "provokes Pyongyang toward new unreasonable steps," but also affects Russia's interests. Head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control Mikhail Ulyanov said that Russia will take the system deployment into account in its military planning.

However, answering the question on whether talks on THAAD will continue, US assistant secretary of state for East Asia Daniel Russel gave a firm "no."

*"The two countries have made a decision," Russel told reporters.*

The announcement came in the wake of the fifth nuclear test by Pyongyang some two weeks ago. In a speech on September 23, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho said that nuclear arsenal is the only means to protect the country against the US.

However, the United Nations is preparing a fresh round of sanctions against Pyongyang in addition to strengthening sanctions that are already in place.

Russel said that the new sanctions, which will prevent North Koreans from using banking and shipping which could be used to accelerate its nuclear program, will be unveiled in foreseeable future.

*"The international system is being exploited by (North Korea)... for the purpose of pursuing an illegal nuclear and missiles program that threatens both its neighbors and regional peace and security," Russel he claimed at a press conference.*

<https://sputniknews.com/asia/20160926/1045693247/thaad-deployment-not-negotiable.html>

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## **USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies (CUWS) Outreach Journal**

The Korea Herald – Seoul, South Korea

### **Military Picks New THAAD Site; Holds No Briefing**

By Yoon Min-sik

September 30, 2016

South Korea and the US military on Friday decided on a new location within Seongju-gun, North Gyeongsang Province, as an alternate site for the upcoming US missile defense system deployment, flip-flopping on its original decision in July due to residents' dissent.

But the Defense Ministry's refusal to officially and publicly make the announcement to the press aggravated growing doubts over the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense anti-missile system. The THAAD system deployment has been behind the eight ball over health concerns, questions about effectiveness and objection from international parties like China.

According to the ministry data submitted to the National Assembly, the designated site is a location in Dalmasan in the country's southern region, which refers to a golf course in Chojeon-myeon that is located some 18 kilometers north off the Seongju county office.

"The Dalmasan area has the relevant infrastructure which makes it possible to set up a THAAD battery in proper time," the data said. The allies plan to deploy and operate the THAAD system by next year.

Officials of the golf course said they will "positively" consider the ministry's offer "for the sake of the greater good."

The ministry had initially planned to deploy THAAD in Seongsan-ri, Seongju-gun, where its artillery base is currently located. But fierce opposition from residents forced it to consider an alternate spot.

While the ministry says Seongsan-ri is not completely off the table, it is believed to have scrapped the original plan.

The golf course is at a less populated and higher altitude -- 680 meters above sea level to 383 meters -- than the original spot. Officials said it was not considered a candidate in the initial evaluation for potential THAAD locations since it is owned by Lotte Group, not the government.

The ministry, however, refused to carry out an official announcement or media briefing on their latest decision.

In Korea, it is conventional for a government agency to hold an official media briefing in matters considered of great importance to national interest.

Ministry Spokesman Moon Sang-kyun said a presentation held for officials of Seongju county office sufficed as "an official announcement." Seongju residents were briefed on the matter in the morning.

"Our position is that we assessed the explanation (to Seongju) as an official announcement, which we thought was considerate for the residents," he said.

While the golf course technically belongs to Seongju-gun, it is geographically closer to Gimcheon. This has sparked citywide protest, with Gimcheon Mayor Park Bo-saeng having commenced an indefinite hunger strike against the plan since Wednesday.



When it was opined that a briefing session for a single county does not qualify as an announcement, Moon replied that Seongju represents all the parties of interest on the THAAD matter.

The change of location plan by the ministry worked to quell high protest from Seongju, but also left a dent in the credibility of the military, which had heralded the original site as the best possible option to house THAAD.

The review of alternate sites for THAAD came after months of protests from Seongju residents and days after President Park Geun-hye promised to do so in a meeting with lawmakers representing the constituencies in August.

In addition to Gimcheon, members of Won Buddhism also oppose the stationing the THAAD system in the area. The golf course is located about 500 meters from its sacred ground.

Won Buddhism believers on Friday held a press conference condemning the plan in front of the ministry.

On the eve of South Korea's final decision, China again voiced objection to the allies' THAAD plans.

Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman Yang Yujun said Beijing "means what it says" when mentioning possible countermeasures to the missile defense system.

"We will pay close attention to relevant developments, and consider taking necessary actions to protect national strategic security and the regional strategic balance," he was quoted by Reuters as saying in the monthly news briefing.

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20160930000628>

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Global Times – Beijing, China

## **China Urges US, ROK to Halt THAAD Missile Deployment**

Source: Xinhua

September 30, 2016

China on Friday urged the United States and the Republic of Korea (ROK) to halt the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), an advanced US missile defense system, on the Korean Peninsula.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang called on the United States and the ROK to do more to benefit regional peace and stability, and face up to the reasonable concerns of regional countries, including China.

The ROK reportedly selected a golf course in the southeastern part of the country as the final site for the THAAD missile system. Defense ministers of the ROK and the United States approved the site in month-long evaluations jointly conducted by the allies, ending September 27.

We keep repeating our position that the deployment of the THAAD missile system by the United States and the ROK will not address the concerns of relevant parties, contribute to denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, or aid the peace and stability of the Peninsula, Geng said.



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The deployment will severely damage regional strategic security interests and harm the regional strategic balance, Geng said.

Geng said China will take necessary measures to safeguard its national security.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1009367.shtml>

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Military.com – San Francisco, CA

### **'First Strike' Nuclear Doctrine Won't Change: Carter**

By Richard Sisk

September 27, 2016

The doctrine of nuclear deterrence that leaves open the possibility of launching a "first strike" before an enemy attacks will remain the basis of U.S. policy even as new generations of nuclear weapons are introduced, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said Tuesday.

"That's our doctrine now, and we don't have any intention of changing that doctrine," Carter told airmen in a question-and-answer session at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico.

Carter was responding to a question about nations such as Russia and North Korea "brandishing" their nuclear arsenals to bully and intimidate and whether the U.S. would follow suit.

"It's not the American approach to brandish, not the American approach to intimidate," Carter said. "For as long as I can remember," U.S. leaders "have always conducted themselves with tremendous respect for the awesome destructive power of these weapons."

However, Carter suggested that the deterrence doctrine might have to be "adjusted" in the future to adapt to new threats. "We can't just do things the old way," he said. "We have to look at those whom we're deterring and adjust what we're doing to take that into account."

The U.S. must "be aware that others are thinking differently about nuclear weapons," Carter said, and "we're going to have to adapt our approach to deterrence accordingly." He did not give details on how the U.S. might adapt.

Since the dawn of the nuclear era, the basis of U.S. deterrent doctrine has been that any enemy "first strike" would be met by an overwhelming response. But no U.S. president has ruled out the possibility of launching a nuclear attack first before an enemy strikes.

In response to reports that President Obama has been considering ruling out a "first strike" by executive order, 30 U.S. senators last week sent Obama a letter urging him to retain the "first strike" option.

The first strike policy figured in the debate Monday night between Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.



At first, Trump appeared to argue for scrapping the nuclear weapons stockpiles. "I would like everybody to end it, just get rid of it," he said, and "I would certainly not do first strike."

Then Trump seemed to reverse course: "At the same time, we have to be prepared. I can't take anything off the table."

Clinton attacked Trump's previous comments suggesting the U.S. may benefit from such allies as Japan, South Korea and Saudi Arabia developing nuclear weapons. "His cavalier attitude about nuclear weapons is so deeply troubling," she said.

Kirtland was the second stop on Carter's week-long trip to press for modernization of the nation's nuclear triad and also renew the U.S. commitment to the rebalance of U.S. forces to the Pacific region.

On Monday, Carter was at Minot Air Force Base in South Dakota, home to the 5th Bomb Wing and 91st Missile Wing, where he said DoD was seeking \$108 billion over the next five years to begin the process of upgrading the nation's nuclear triad of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, ballistic submarines and strategic bombers.

"I think we are now committed to make up for some time when we were not investing enough," Carter said at Kirtland, home of the 377th Air Base Wing and the 498th Nuclear Systems Wing, as well as the Air Force Materiel Command's Nuclear Weapons Center (NWC). The NWC has responsibility for the acquisition and modernization of nuclear programs for the departments of Defense and Energy.

On Wednesday, Carter will tour the Sandia and Los Alamos National Laboratories in New Mexico, and on Thursday he was scheduled to be aboard the aircraft carrier Vinson in San Diego harbor for a speech on the growing U.S. priorities in the Pacific. Carter will then travel to Honolulu for meetings with Asian defense ministers.

The Congressional Budget Office has projected spending for modernization of the nation's nuclear arsenal through 2024 at about \$348 billion. In its report, the CBO said:

\*\* "The current strategic nuclear forces -- consisting of submarines that launch ballistic missiles (SSBNs), land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), long-range bombers, and the nuclear weapons they carry -- are reaching the end of their service lifetimes."

\*\* "Over the next two decades, the Congress will need to make decisions about the extent to which essentially all of the U.S. nuclear delivery systems and weapons will be modernized or replaced with new systems."

<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2016/09/27/first-strike-nuclear-doctrine-wont-change-carter.html>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

### **Russian Nuclear Sub Test-Fired 2 Bulava Missiles from White Sea**

*One of the missiles self-liquidated after the first stage of the flight program*

September 28, 2016

MOSCOW, September 27. /TASS/. The Yuri Dolgoruky nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine has conducted an experimental launch of two Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles from the White Sea, the Russian Defense Ministry said on Tuesday.

"Today, on September 27, the Yuri Dolgoruky strategic nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine conducted experimental launches of two Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles from the White Sea to the Kura firing range on the Kamchatka Peninsula," the ministry said. "Both missiles were fired from the submarine's silos in a routine regime. The first missile's warhead completed the entire cycle of the flight program and successfully hit the designated targets at the firing range. The second missile self-liquidated after the first stage of the flight program."

The missiles were fired from the submerged submarine.

The lead Borei-class submarine of Project 955 - Yuri Dolgoruky - was delivered to the Russian Navy in January 2013, however, the boat was commissioned with the Navy combat forces only in 2014. The Yuri Dolgoruky submarine is in service with the Northern Fleet. The Yuri Dolgoruky is 160 meters long and 13 meters wide, with a displacement of 24,000 tonnes. The Project 955 nuclear-powered submarine is armed with the advanced R-30 Bulava missile system with a flight range of more than 8,000 kilometers (4,971 miles). The system is furnished with multiple individually-targeted reentry vehicles.

Each Project 955 nuclear-powered submarine can carry 16 solid-propellant intercontinental ballistic missiles.

A multiple launch of two Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles was last performed by the nuclear-powered submarine Vladimir Monomakh on November 14, 2015.

<http://tass.com/defense/902632? ga=1.89382299.1255074863.1475106467>

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Business Insider – New York, NY

### **How the US's Nuclear Weapons Compare to Russia's**

By Alex Lockie

September 28, 2016

At Monday night's debate, Republican candidate and businessman Donald Trump said "Russia has been expanding their" nuclear weapons, adding that "they have a much newer capability than we do."

But according to Dr. Jeffrey Lewis, the founding publisher of Arms Control Wonk, although Russia may have updated its missiles and warheads more recently, the idea that Moscow has better capabilities is "almost certainly not true."

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On paper, newer, more complicated, more fearsome weapons comprise Russia's nuclear arsenal. Russia's RS-24 Yars Intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), introduced in the mid 2000s, can strike anywhere in the US with what some report to be ten independently targetable nuclear warheads.

These ten warheads would reenter the earth's atmosphere at hypersonic speeds, around 5 miles a second. China has developed a similar platform, and the US simply has no way to defend against a salvo of such devastating nukes.

In comparison, the US's Minuteman III ICBM also reenters the atmosphere at hypersonic speeds, but carries just one warhead, and was introduced in the 1970s.

But the question of whose are better is more a philosophical one than a straight comparison of capabilities.

Lewis says that US Strategic Command leaders, who command the US's nuclear arsenal, have said for decades that given the choice between the US's nukes and Russia's they'd choose our own missiles every time.

In an interview with Business Insider, Lewis said that the US's arsenal, while it lacks the potential to devastate and lay waste to whole continents, much better fits the US's strategic needs.

### **Russia's arsenal vs. the US's**

"Russians made a really different design choice than we did," when it came to building ICBMs, said Lewis.

"Russia built nuclear weapons that are incremental improvements," or weapons that would need updating every decade or so.

On the other hand, Lewis said, "US nukes are like Ferraris: beautiful, intricate, and designed for high performance. Experts have said the plutonium pits will last for 100s of years." Indeed the US's stocks of Minuteman III ICBMs, despite their age, are "exquisite machinery, incredible things."

"Russia's nuclear weapons are newer, true, but they reflect the design philosophy that says 'No reason to make it super fancy because we'll just rebuild it in 10 years.'"

The philosophical differences don't end there.

"Russians love to put missiles on trucks," said Lewis, while the US prefer land-based silos, which present a reliable target and lack mobility. During the height of the Cold War, the US did at one point try a truck-launched ICBM, but US safety and durability requirements far exceeded that of the Russians rendering the platform unreasonable.

"If you look at the truck [the US] built for missiles, it's ten times more expensive. It's radiation hardened and way less vulnerable," explained Lewis. "We gold plated the thing," he joked.

"[The US] can't do things the Russians did because we're not going to put missiles on a crappy truck," said Lewis. Meanwhile, the Russian philosophy relies on sneakiness and achieving a threat without breaking the bank.

"Good luck trying to find it, it doesn't have to be gold plated," Lewis said of the Russian's idea of missile trucks.

"[The US] like things that are reliable, things that can be maintained, things that you have to really train people to do," explained Lewis. This difference stems from the people who comprise the US military, and how they differ from the Russians.



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"Non-Commissioned Officers are the core of [the US] military," said Lewis. "They've been around a long time. That's why we're way better than the Russians, who still have conscripts."

It's that professionalism at the core of the US military that makes America a different kind of world power. We prefer accuracy over destructive capability.

"We love accuracy." Lewis says the US's ideal nuke is "a tiny little nuclear weapon we'll fly right through the window and blow up the building." Meanwhile, the Russians would rather put 10 warheads on the building and level the whole city, civilians and all.

"You see it in Syria, that's how they show it off," Lewis said of Russia's air campaign in Syria, where Moscow has been accused of using cluster bombs, incendiary munitions, and indiscriminately bombing hospitals and refugee camps. This careless and brutal attitude is a defining trait of Russia's military.

For instance, Russia's leaked Status 6 nuclear "doomsday" weapon, a "robotic mini-submarine" that can make 100 knots with a range of 6,200 miles is a nuclear-armed dirty bomb. The bomb would not only nuke, but turn the waters around a harbor radioactive for years to come. The US never even considers this kind of devastation, and they don't want to.

Russia's nuclear ambitions, as shown in its nuclear arms, are "deeply deeply deeply immoral," says Lewis.

"That's why [the US is] the good guys."

### **How the US deters Russia without "doomsday" devices**

Lewis explained that the US really can't defend against Russia's most advanced, diabolical nuclear weapons as "the problem is just that the math never works."

A Russian nuclear ICBM would blast into orbit, turn around, break into individual reentry vehicles, and drive towards their individual targets at Mach 23. The US simply can't afford or design a system that would destroy ten nuclear warheads traveling at those mind-bending speed toward the US.

"[The US has] never scaled a missile defense to the size of a Russian attack. It sounds like a really great idea on paper, but when you're looking at 1000 warheads..."

Another possible solution would be to destroy the missiles before they exit the atmosphere, but that means shooting them down over Russia, which presents its own problems.

Another possible solution would be to destroy the missiles from satellites in space, but according to Lewis, the US would have to increase their satellite launches 12 fold before they have enough space assets to protect the US.

### **Don't get even, get MAD**

Instead of spending years of time, trillions of dollars, and escalating an arms race, the US relies on a doctrine known as mutually assured destruction (MAD).

Lewis explained that in the days of John F. Kennedy, the US puzzled over how to size its nuclear arsenal. The Kennedy administration decided to build enough nukes to destroy the Soviet Union if necessary. The administration named the doctrine "assured destruction," but critics pointed out that nuclear salvos would be traveling both ways, so the more apt name was "mutually assured destruction," intended as an insult to Kennedy's policy.

"There was no real theory of victory," said Lewis.

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As Russian President Vladimir Putin once said, Russia could destroy the US in "half an hour or less," using its overblown doomsday devices. But the fact is that US Minutemen III rockets that would vaporize the Kremlin just seconds later.

The US finds it most stabilizing to have a nuclear triad, or three varieties of nuclear weapons available at any time. Submarines, land-based silos, and bomber planes all hold nuclear missiles. No attack from Russia could simultaneously neutralize all three. Nothing could stop the US from retaliating, and nothing would.

The US's nuclear weapons are not doomsday devices that will almost certainly initiate the apocalypse.

Precise, professionally maintained, responsibly kept nuclear arms provide the US with a credible deterrent without needlessly endangering billions of lives.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/us-vs-russia-nuclear-weapons-2016-9>

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RT (Russia Today) – Moscow, Russia

### **Moscow ‘Keeps in Mind’ US Readiness to Use Nukes, Prepared for ‘Countermeasures’**

30 September 2016

Russia has promised to take all necessary countermeasures to ensure its national security given recently-announced US plans to modernize its nuclear triad and hawkish statements on nuclear deterrence coming from Washington.

US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter told American troops at Minot Air Force Base in South Dakota that the Pentagon has been seeking \$108 billion over the next five years to upgrade the nation's nuclear triad of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, ballistic submarines, and strategic bombers. He also announced that NATO is reviewing its "nuclear playbook" to deter potential "terrible attacks" by Russia.

*"Across the Atlantic, we're refreshing NATO's nuclear playbook to better integrate conventional and nuclear deterrence to ensure we plan and train like we'd fight and to deter Russia from thinking it can benefit from nuclear use in a conflict with NATO, from trying to escalate to de-escalate, as some there call it,"* Carter said on Monday.

Commenting on Carter's statements on issues of nuclear deterrence, Russia's Foreign Ministry expressed "serious concern over the mentioned readiness to use nuclear potential in case of an armed conflict with the participation of Russia with an aim to prevent our country from the possibility of using nuclear weapons to rebuff aggression."

*"Of course we will have to keep in mind the US approaches and take necessary countermeasures to ensure our national security,"* the ministry warned.

The ministry said that Carter in his comments in Minot most likely referred to the Russian Military Doctrine which secures Russian right to use nuclear weapons in response to the use of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction or in case of an aggression with conventional weapons that puts the very existence of the state in jeopardy.

*"We emphasize – the doctrine suggests an aggression against Russia and not some 'failed aggression' on our part, as Carter pitched it. Such a flagrant distortion of an official Russian document means that*



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*the American minister either uses incorrect translation or is planning a dangerous game," the statement reads.*

According to Carter's logic, the ministry says, in case of an attack on the Russian state, the US will be willing to use its nuclear weapons to ensure Moscow won't strike back. Moscow hopes that Washington *"understands the meaning of such statements and their possible implications for international security and stability."*

Following the Pentagon chief's stop at Minot base, he delivered yet another speech about US nuclear weapons policy in at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico on Tuesday. There the Secretary of Defense clarified that the US doctrine of nuclear deterrence has always reserved the *"first strike"* right.

*"That's our doctrine now, and we don't have any intention of changing that doctrine,"* Carter said responding to a question about the possibility of Russia and North Korea *"brandishing"* their nuclear arsenals to intimidate the US.

In both of his speeches, Carter promised to upgrade the US nuclear triad, consisting of nuclear bomb carriers, nuclear-carrying submarines, and ICBM silo launchers.

The foreign ministry said that by upgrading the country's delivery means the US seeks to secure a *"highly efficient means of a nuclear attack,"* while shielding themselves with an anti-missile defense system. *"Thus, the [US] military pressure on Russia strategy,... will get more sophisticated and more dangerous military-technical component."*

While calling Carter's statements yet another manifestation of *"Russophobia"* by members of the Obama administration, the foreign ministry could not help but note *"special cynicism"* on behalf of the US president who received a Noble Peace prize for his alleged *"pursuit of nuclear disarmament."*

<https://www.rt.com/news/361141-us-nuclear-concern-russia/>

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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

### **U.S. Expert Warns of Possibility of N. Korea Providing Iran with Advanced Missile Engines**

September 24, 2016

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23 (Yonhap) -- North Korea could provide Iran with advanced missile engines, including a powerful one tested this week, a U.S. expert said Friday, calling for greater vigilance and monitoring of possible collaboration between the two countries.

Michael Elleman, a missile engineer and senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, issued the warning in an article to the website 38 North, days after the North claimed success in a ground test of a new powerful rocket engine.

"Given Pyongyang's history of shipping missile components to Iran and others, and its willingness to support the secret construction of a nuclear reactor in Syria, it is possible, if not likely, that North Korea would ship advanced engines to Tehran, including the engine most recently tested," the expert said.

"Therefore, the international community must remain vigilant and closely monitor the missile and space launch vehicle activities in both countries. Signs of deeper collaboration between Iran and

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North Korea must also be closely monitored, since deeper cooperation has the potential to accelerate the development efforts on both parties," he said.

The North unveiled the massive new engine Tuesday, claiming it successfully conducted a "ground jet test of a new type high-power engine of a carrier rocket for the geo-stationary satellite." It said the engine has a thrust of 80 tons, which is three times the power of the engine used in the North's previous long-range rocket launches.

Elleman said that the engine test renewed allegations that Pyongyang and Tehran are collaborating on ballistic-missile development, but such accusations are mostly speculative based largely on similarities of ballistic missiles and satellite launchers appearing in both Iran and North Korea.

A detailed examination of the designs employed by the two countries casts doubt on claims that the two countries are co-developing missiles and satellite launchers, exchanging detailed design data, and testing prototypes for each other, he said.

"Pyongyang and Tehran may share test data on a limited basis, and perhaps trade conceptual ideas. But there is little evidence to indicate the two regimes are engaged in deep missile-related collaboration, or pursuing joint-development programs," Elleman said.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2016/09/24/0401000000AEN20160924000300315.html>

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Xinhua News – Beijing, China

## **President Xi Expects Strong, Modern Rocket Force**

Source: Xinhua

September 26, 2016

BEIJING, Sept. 26 (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday instructed the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Rocket Force to continue to build itself into a strong and modern rocket force.

Xi, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and also chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), made the remarks during an inspection of the PLA Rocket Force, as he congratulated the first PLA Rocket Force Party congress.

He described the force as a "core of strategic deterrence, a strategic buttress to the country's position as a major power, and a cornerstone on which to build national security."

The PLA Rocket Force was established at the end of last year, part of a wider military structural reform drive. Xi conferred the military flag on the Rocket Force at its inauguration ceremony held in Beijing on Dec. 31, 2015.

Amid the changing international situation and major challenges to national security, the Rocket Force has played an "irreplaceable" role in containing war threats, ensuring a secure and favorable strategic posture for China, as well as maintaining global strategic balance and stability, said Xi.

Xi urged the Rocket Force to increase its sense of crisis and strengthen its strategic ability so as to provide a safe strategic security environment for the nation.

New breakthroughs should be made in enhancing the troop's strategic containment capacity, combat preparedness and application of strategy, Xi noted.



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Xi asked the Rocket Force to follow the Party's absolute leadership, maintain a high degree of consistency with the CPC Central Committee and follow the command of CPC Central Committee and the CMC.

He also told Party organizations to promote institutional innovation and strengthen their creativity, cohesion and combat capacity, urging them to improve the way talents are recruited and used.

In addition, Xi asked for unrelenting efforts when building a clean and honest army and wiping out corruption.

He also said education and supervision for leading officials should be strengthened.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-09/26/c\\_135715273.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-09/26/c_135715273.htm)

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The Korea Herald – Seoul, South Korea

### **U.S. Imposes First-Ever Sanctions on Chinese Firm for Assisting N. Korea with WMD Programs**

September 27, 2016

The United States on Monday blacklisted a Chinese firm, its owner and three other company officials, and announced criminal charges against them for assisting North Korea with its nuclear and missile programs, a landmark move representing the first-ever sanctions on a Chinese entity over Pyongyang's weapons programs.

The sanctions on Dandong Hongxiang Industrial Development Company Ltd and its officials followed recent revelations that the firm exported aluminum oxide, which can be used in enriching uranium, a nuclear bomb ingredient, to the North at least twice in recent years.

The company has also been accused of selling other "dual-use" items that can be used for both civilian and military purposes, such as aluminum ingots, ammonium paratungstate and tungsten trioxide, all of which can be used in the North's missile or nuclear programs.

Monday's measure marks the first time that the U.S. has imposed sanctions on a Chinese company in connection with the North's nuclear and missile programs. The decision shows Washington's commitment to cracking down on those assisting with Pyongyang's weapons programs in the wake of its fifth nuclear test.

The sanctions could have powerful impacts on the North as they are expected to scare other Chinese firms away from dealings with the North for fear that they could also be blacklisted by the U.S. Pyongyang has long used Chinese firms to skirt international sanctions.

"Today's action exposes a key illicit network supporting North Korea's weapons proliferation," Adam Szubin, acting under secretary of treasury for terrorism and financial intelligence, said in a statement.

The Chinese firm and its employees "sought to evade U.S. and U.N. sanctions, facilitating access to the U.S. financial system by a designated entity. Treasury will take forceful action to pressure North Korea's proliferation network and to protect the U.S. financial system from abuse," he said.



The Treasury Department said it blacklisted the Chinese firm for "acting for or on behalf of (the North's) Korea Kwangson Banking Corporation" that has been blacklisted by the U.S. and the U.N. for providing financial services for weapons of mass destruction programs.

It also blacklisted the company's owner Ma Xiaohong, and three other company officials -- Zhou Jianshu, Hong Jinhua, and Luo Chuanxu -- for similar charges. Under the sanctions, any assets in the U.S. of the company and the four officials are blocked and U.S. citizens are banned from dealings with them, the Treasury said.

In addition, the Justice Department "unsealed criminal charges against" the Chinese firm and the officials for "conspiring to evade U.S. economic sanctions," violating U.S. regulations on sanctions against WMD proliferators as well as for "conspiracy to launder money instruments."

Moreover, the Justice Department announced the filing of "a civil forfeiture action for all funds contained in 25 bank accounts belonging to" the Chinese firm and its front companies and "a request for a restraining order to be sent to China for all of the funds," the Treasury statement said.

The Justice Department said that the charges against the Chinese firm and its officials were filed on Aug. 3. It said the company officials established "numerous front companies" in the British Virgin Islands, the Seychelles, Hong Kong and elsewhere, and used them to conduct U.S. dollar financial transactions through the U.S. banking system when completing sales to North Korea.

"The charges and forfeiture action announced today allege that defendants in China established and used shell companies around the world, surreptitiously moved money through the United States and violated the sanctions imposed on North Korea in response to, among other things, its nuclear weapons program," Assistant Attorney General Leslie Caldwell said in a statement.

"The actions reflect our efforts to protect the integrity of the U.S. banking system and hold accountable those who seek to evade U.S. sanctions laws," she said.

Assistant Attorney General John Carlin said the charges reflect the U.S. commitment to "using all tools to deter and disrupt weapons of mass destruction proliferators."

"One of the strengths of our sanctions programs is that they prevent sanctioned wrongdoers from engaging in U.S. dollar transactions. Denying the use of the U.S. financial system can greatly curtail illegal activities and disrupt efforts to provide weapons of mass destruction to terrorists and rogue nations," he said.

Allegations about the Chinese firm's illicit dealings with the North were first raised last week in a joint research report by South Korean and U.S. think tanks -- Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies and Washington's U.S. Center for Advanced Defense Studies.

The report said that the Chinese company, which is one of six subsidiaries of China's Liaoning Hongxiang Group, engaged in US\$532 million worth of trade with the North between 2011-2015, importing some US\$360 million of goods from the North and exporting the rest.

It also said that the six subsidiaries have also transacted with sanctioned North Korean entities, have been associated with North Korean cyber operators, and have traded in various goods and services that raise proliferation concerns.

South Korea's foreign ministry "highly praised" the latest U.S. sanction measures, saying it has reaffirmed Washington's commitment to penalizing the North.

"By highlighting the danger of having dealings with the North, it is expected to alert individuals and organizations in other third countries and help strengthen the global community's will to faithfully





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enforce U.N. Security Council resolutions," a foreign ministry official said on condition of anonymity.

"The government will closely consult with relevant countries, including the U.S., in order to ramp up sanctions and pressure the North going forward." (Yonhap)

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20160927000337>

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Sputnik International – Russian Information Agency

### **North Korea Declares Basic Completion of Nuclear Weapons Development**

*North Korea has completed an essential part of the nuclear arms development and pledges to continue qualitative and quantitative build-up of nuclear forces amid growing threat from the United States, the country's embassy in Russia said in a statement.*

27 September 2016

MOSCOW (Sputnik) — On September 9, Pyongyang carried out a nuclear test at its northeastern nuclear test site.

*"This is an expression of confidence in the fact that the country has basically completed the study, the development of nuclear weapons," the statement obtained by RIA Novosti reads.*

The embassy said that the last nuclear test verified characteristics of nuclear warheads for North Korea's army.

*"We will continue to take measures for the qualitative and quantitative buildup of North Korea's nuclear forces, designed to protect the country's dignity, the right to exist and peace in the light of the increasing US threat," the statement reads.*

Earlier in the day, Russian Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna Vladimir Voronkov said that North Korea's statement regarding the completion of its development of nuclear weapons indicated it would no longer conduct nuclear tests that have been raising concerns worldwide.

*"[Russia still] believes that Pyongyang will revert to the non-proliferation regime, and it would be a responsible step by North Korea," Voronkov said.*

North Korea has been under pressure from the international community since its January nuclear test and a long-range rocket launch in February, which resulted in tightening sanctions against Pyongyang in the new UN Security Council resolution in March.

<https://sputniknews.com/military/20160927/1045738086/north-korea-nuclear-weapons.html>

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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

## **Carter: Any Use of Nuclear Weapons on Allies Will Be Met with 'Overwhelming' Response**

September 28, 2016

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter has reaffirmed the nuclear umbrella commitment to South Korea in the face of North Korea's nuclear and missile threats, saying any use of nuclear weapons by the communist nation will be met with "an overwhelming and effective response."

"North Korea's nuclear and missile provocations underscore that a diverse and dynamic spectrum of nuclear threat still exists, so our deterrence must be credible and extended to our allies in the region," Carter said during a visit Monday to Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota, which maintains an arsenal of nuclear missiles.

"It starts with the umbrella of deterrence you provide from Minot, supporting conventional forces like our air assets and our troops standing guard 24/7 on the Korean Peninsula to deter attack against our allies," Carter told troops at the air base, according to the Pentagon.

Carter also said the U.S. has been working hard to build more robust ballistic missile defenses oriented toward the North Korean threat, deploying ground-based interceptors in Alaska and California, and agreeing with South Korea to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in the country.

"We back all of that up with the commitment that any attack on America or allies will not only be defeated, but that any use of nuclear weapons will be met with an overwhelming and effective response," he said.

Despite changes since the end of the Cold War, the nature of nuclear deterrence has not changed, Carter said, adding that even now, deterrence still depends on "perception, what potential adversaries see and therefore believe about our will and ability to act."

"The most likely use of nuclear weapons is not the massive nuclear exchange of the classic Cold War-type, but rather the unwise resort to smaller but still unprecedentedly terrible attacks, for example, by Russia or North Korea to try to coerce a conventionally superior opponent to back off or abandon an ally during a crisis," Carter said.

"We cannot allow that to happen, which is why we're working with our allies in both regions to innovate and operate in new ways that sustain deterrence and continue to preserve strategic stability," he said.

Carter also said that the U.S. has held deterrence dialogues with South Korea and Japan to make sure to address nuclear deterrence challenges in Asia, adding that the capabilities at Minot Air Force Base are "a common topic in these conversations, because they play a critical role in deterring a nuclear attack on these allies."

He also noted that the U.S., South Korea and Japan conducted their first joint exercise in June to track ballistic missiles.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2016/09/28/0401000000AEN20160928000200315.html>

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Sputnik International – Russian Information Agency

### **Pyongyang Has 88 Pounds of Weapons-Grade Plutonium - Seoul**

*North Korea has made a significant progress in miniaturization of its nuclear weapons and allegedly possesses at least 88 pounds of weapons-grade plutonium, the South Korean Defense Ministry said on Wednesday.*

28 September 2016

TOKYO (Sputnik) — "North Korea has reached a significant level of miniaturization and power of nuclear weapons," a spokesperson for the ministry told RIA Novosti commenting on Pyongyang's statement regarding the completion of essential part of the nuclear arms development made on Tuesday.

The spokesperson added that the North had reinforced its strategic capabilities and was continuing efforts to develop nuclear and biochemical weapons and ballistic missiles.

*"We suppose, that North Korea possesses 40 kilograms [88 pounds] of weapons-grade plutonium and the uranium enrichment program is underway," the ministry said.*

North Korea has been under pressure from the international community since its January nuclear test and a long-range rocket launch in February, which resulted in tightening sanctions against Pyongyang in the new UN Security Council resolution in March. On September 9, Pyongyang carried out a new nuclear test at its northeastern nuclear test site.

<https://sputniknews.com/military/20160928/1045778251/north-korea-nuclear-weapons.html>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

### **Russian Pacific Fleet Reinforced with Newest Nuclear-Powered Submarine**

*The Vladimir Monomakh (project 955) sub has arrived at its permanent base Viliuchinsk in the Kamchakta Peninsula*

September 26, 2016

MOSCOW, September 26. /TASS/. Russia's newest nuclear-powered submarine The Vladimir Monomakh (project 955) has arrived at its permanent base Viliuchinsk in the Kamchakta Peninsula.

"The submarine force of the Pacific Fleet has been reinforced by the newest strategic nuclear-powered submarine of project 955 The Vladimir Monomakh. The submarine has completed its voyage from the Northern Fleet to the Pacific Fleet to arrive at the permanent base Viliuchinsk, in the Kamchakta Peninsula," the Russian Defense Ministry said on Monday.

The Vladimir Monomakh is a third nuclear-powered submarine of project 955 Borei armed with the inter-continental ballistic missiles Bulava. The submarine began to be built in 2006. It has handed over to the Russian Navy at the end of 2014.

#### **Borei-class submarines**

Borei-class submarines have become a breakthrough project. Borei developers have managed to achieve the submarine's maximum stealth capability by using a hydraulic propeller placed in a special ring nozzle and operating like a water pump receiving a streamflow.

Issue No.1235, 30 September 2016

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<https://cuws.au.af.mil> \ [https://twitter.com/USAF\\_CUWS](https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS)

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The submarine's hull is assembled of blocks while all its equipment is mounted on shock absorbers. They separate each block from the hull, thus further reducing the vessel's noisiness level when a submarine moves under the water.

Besides, all the submarine's sonars are united into a single automated digital system, which both locate targets and, for example, measure the ice thickness and search for ice openings.

Borei-class submarines can detect targets under the water while staying out of reach of sonars used by any of the enemy's warships. Submarines of this class are armed with Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles, which are their basic combat striking power. The performance characteristics of Bulava ICBMs are not disclosed and constitute a state secret.

The Russian Navy currently operates three submarines of this class:

the Yury Dolgoruky as the project's lead vessel operational in the Russian Navy since 2013;

the Alexander Nevsky submarine built under the modernized Project 09551 and operational in the Russian Navy since 2013;

the Vladimir Monomakh submarine built under the modernized Project 09551 and operational in the Russian Navy since 2014.

The next underwater missile cruisers are being built under the Project 09552 Borei-A. They are characterized by better stealth capabilities, more advanced electronic equipment and more comfortable conditions for the crew.

Borei-class submarines will make up the mainstay of the naval grouping of Russia's strategic nuclear forces in the coming decades. At the turn of the 2020s, Russia's Pacific Fleet will receive another two undersea missile cruisers armed with Bulava ICBMs and built under the improved Project 09552.

[http://tass.com/defense/902180?\\_ga=1.152400057.1496339333.1474941358](http://tass.com/defense/902180?_ga=1.152400057.1496339333.1474941358)

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

### **Labour Will Not Ditch Support for Trident, Says Clive Lewis**

*Clive Lewis backs Nato and tells Labour conference the party would meet 2% spending commitment*

By Anushka Asthana and Rowena Mason

Monday, 26 September 2016

The shadow defence secretary has said he has no intention of trying to reverse Labour's policy of supporting the renewal of Trident before the next general election, despite Jeremy Corbyn's opposition to nuclear weapons.

Clive Lewis told the Guardian that the party's existing pro-renewal policy would remain in place unless there were significant changes, such as spiralling costs.

"I won't be coming back to conference between now and the next election to try to undo the policy we have on Trident as things stand," he said, adding that he did, however, plan to "scrutinise and hold the government to account" over the issue.



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Lewis's remarks came after claims that Corbyn's chief strategist, Seumas Milne, altered his speech on the autocue before he delivered it, taking out a suggestion from Lewis that he "would not seek to change" the party's existing policy.

Some reports suggested the shadow minister also reacted angrily after finishing his delivery.

A source close to Corbyn said all speeches delivered to conference were agreed by the leader's office, and did involve some alterations in both directions. But they categorically denied a last-minute change was made on the autocue of which Lewis was unaware.

A decision not to challenge Labour's position over Trident will be seen by some as a concession by the leadership towards the GMB union, which is strongly opposed to any shift in policy.

The pledge drew an angry response from the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, of which Corbyn is a vice-president and long-term supporter.

They accused Lewis of "abandoning the defence review" and defying the democratic wishes of the majority of Labour members.

"There is enormous opposition to Trident replacement within the Labour party and there will be huge disappointment at this U-turn by Clive Lewis," it said.

"We have no doubt that Labour members will work to oppose this disastrous announcement and bring a democratic debate to Labour's conference next year. This issue is too important for Britain's future to be left to questions of political tactics."

The Green party also seized the opportunity to position itself as the only UK-wide party that is anti-Trident.

Caroline Lucas, the party's co-leader, said: "While there are some in the Labour party who are concerned about jobs in the nuclear industry it is crucial that the Labour leadership put forward a post-Trident plan for decent jobs, rather than back down from the principled and practical position of ridding Britain of these weapons.

"Of course we must use our position on the international stage to encourage other nations to disarm, but those negotiations should not be at the cost of Britain leading the way by ditching these weapons of mass destruction."

The decision not to challenge Labour's position on Trident comes alongside a move by Corbyn to get the party's national executive committee to sign up to 10 policy principles including a commitment to honour the UK's international treaty obligations on nuclear disarmament.

Some within the Labour movement argue that this means Trident could not be replaced on a like-for-like basis because it involves the renewing the submarines for nuclear weapons.

Lewis, a former army officer who served in Afghanistan, also used his party conference speech to mount a staunch defence of Nato, saying it was in keeping with Labour's values of "collectivism, internationalism and the strong defending the weak".

Corbyn has been lukewarm about Nato and in the past has called for its membership to disband. Earlier this year, he avoided answering the question of whether he would automatically come to the defence of a Nato ally under attack.



However, Lewis, an ally of the leader, made plain he was an outright supporter of the organisation and in a speech to the conference floor earlier in the day pledged as shadow defence secretary to commit the party to the 2% defence spending target met by the Conservatives.

“Every Labour government since Attlee’s has met Nato’s spending target of at least 2% of GDP, every single year. And I confirm today that the next Labour government will do the same, including our UN and peacekeeping obligations,” he said.

Lewis also said a Labour government would fulfil the UK’s international commitments, including those under Article 5, which would entail coming to the military aid of another Nato country facing attack.

He went on to emphasis a policy of multilateral rather than unilateral nuclear disarmament - referring broadly to the party’s pre-existing policy.

Lewis said he was “sceptical about Trident renewal, as are many here”.

“But I am clear that our party has a policy for Trident renewal,” he added.

He said Labour would put multilateral disarmament at the forefront of its defence policy, committing to making headway on the international stage.

“We will make our longstanding multilateralism reality, not rhetoric,” he said. “We will be working with international organisations, including the UN general assembly first committee on disarmament and international security, within the spirit and the letter of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.”

Emily Thornberry, the shadow foreign secretary, had a similar message, saying a future Labour government “will not just revive talks on multilateral nuclear disarmament among the world’s great powers, we will make the success of those talks the test of our success on foreign policy”.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/sep/26/labour-clear-on-trident-renewal-says-shadow-defence-secretary-clive-lewis-nato>

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The Mirror – London, U.K.

## **Jeremy Corbyn Does Not Rule Out Using Nuclear Weapons if He Becomes Prime Minister**

*The Labour leader said he doesn't 'want to' use a nuclear weapon - but failed to rule it out entirely*

By JACK BLANCHARD

27 September 2016

Jeremy Corbyn today did not rule out using nuclear weapons if he becomes Prime Minister.

The Labour leader was asked by the BBC if he would ever be prepared to fire nukes, following the row at Labour conference over Trident.

“I never want to use a nuclear weapon,” he replied.

His failure to rule it out marks a subtle shift from last year when he drew heavy criticism from his own MPs for saying he would never push the red button if PM.

The veteran anti-nukes campaigner also indicated the issue of renewing Trident may not be settled within Labour despite his decision this week not to demand the party officially opposes new nukes.



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The policy the party has from previous conference decisions does support the renewal of Trident. As you know, I never agreed with that decision," he told ITN.

"That's the existing party policy. I cannot predict what will happen in the future, who will decide what they want to bring forward to conference."

Mr Corbyn also risked angering his MPs today by saying he is having "fun" despite the crisis gripping the Labour Party.

"It's been a very busy year and I have travelled more than I have ever travelled before around the country and dealt with a wide range of issues," he said.

"That fundamentally is what democracy is about. Those in elected office have got to represent the people who put you there.

"And it's fun and I enjoy it. Yes, it's fun because you are dealing with fascinating people."

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/jeremy-corbyn-not-rule-out-8925666>

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Monday, September 26, 2016

### **Commander: Iran to Deploy New Indigenous Long-Range Radar System near Tehran**

TEHRAN (FNA)- Commander of Khatam ol-Anbia Air Defense Base Brigadier General Farzad Esmayeeli underlined that the country will soon deploy a new home-made strategic radar system capable of covering flying objects in a range of over 1,000 kilometers in the Northeastern province of Semnan near Tehran.

"Deployment of a radar system with a range of 1,000km in Semnan is a piece of good news for the region's people which will be materialized soon," General Esmayeeli told reporters in Semnan province on Monday.

He also announced deployment of a missile system in the Central parts of Iran, and said, "We have decided to launch a defensive and missile system from Mersad class and with Talash missiles in the deserts and Central areas of Iran to have a more integrated air defense."

In relevant remarks in July, General Esmayeeli announced that the country would unveil new missile defense systems in September.

Missile systems with the capability to stand against electronic warfare and mid-range and long-range radars will join the integrated air defense system in September Esmayeeli said at the time.

"The radar and missile defense systems will cover an important part of the country in the South and Southeast," he added.

Esmayeeli underlined that defensive depth is one of the main important feature of these systems, specially the long-range radar defense systems.

Esmayeeli announced in June that the country is able to meet all its needs in manufacturing air defense systems.



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Maxwell AFB, Alabama

"We have been able to build all our needed (air defense) systems domestically," the senior commander told reporters in the Central province of Isfahan.

Noting that defending the Iranian airspace is a priority in the country's defensive doctrine, he said that increasing the number of air defense systems has always had a message of peace and friendship.

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13950705001188>

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U.S. Naval Institute (USNI) – Annapolis, MD

## **Experts: Iran Developing Long-Range Missiles under Nuke Treaty**

By John Grady

September 26, 2016

While complying with the terms of the nuclear weapons agreement, Iran will continue to test and improve the range and accuracy of its ballistic missiles to deter or coerce potential adversaries — the United States operating in the region, Gulf Arab states, Turkey and Israel — four Middle East experts said last week.

"The missile program was not directly affected by that agreement" covering the nuclear weapons program, Zalmay Khalilzad, a former ambassador and now a counselor to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said Friday.

That has been the opening Iran uses to continue working on its missiles.

Bilal Saab, co-author of a new issue briefing paper on Iran's missile program for the Atlantic Council, said, Tehran understands it faces a powerful set of adversaries [the United States, United Kingdom, France, Israel and the Arab Gulf states] if Tehran forces a confrontation.

But by playing its cards carefully on its missile program it can test the Gulf Cooperation Council's ability to react, the relationship between the council and the United States and Washington's resolve to act in a challenge — say an attack on a GCC radar site — to partners but not treaty allies, he said.

A number of the panelists pointed out that the missile program itself continues to destabilize a region wracked by civil war in Syria, heighten sectarian tensions between the Sunni states — led by Saudi Arabia and Shiite Iran and could set off a new arms race that would include cyber in the Middle East.

Speaking at the Atlantic Council in Washington, Michael Elleman, consulting senior fellow for missile defense at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, said Iran started its missile program in response to Saddam Hussein's attacks on its cities in the long-running 1980s war as a deterrent. Tehran learned from allied tactics in Desert Shield how to employ missiles as precision fires to conduct war.

Tehran, however, still has a long way to go in improving accuracy even in its shorter and medium-range missiles carrying conventional weapons. For example, Iran's version of the Scud "lands within one kilometer of its target." To be effective against a hardened target, he said it needed to be accurate within 20 feet.





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Elleman added that Iran has not stepped up the pace of its testing program on a number of missiles and needs much more work on its target acquisition, communications systems and bomb damage assessment — using unmanned aerial vehicles.

He estimated Iran was five years or more away from producing missiles equivalent to the long-range Army Tactical Missile System and Pershing II. Achieving range and accuracy “is not something that’s going to happen overnight.” But the United States should “keep a watchful eye and make sure Russia and China are not helping them.”

Elleman also mentioned Pakistan as a possible supplier of missile technology and North Korea, a supplier in the past.

As for Iran’s space program being a cover for Tehran developing an intercontinental ballistic missile, Elleman was skeptical since it has “moved part of the space enterprise outside the control of the military. He said it was more likely Iran “will continue to pursue a hedging strategy” where it can learn some lessons applicable to an ICBM through its space program.

“Over time, Iran will prove a threat to the homeland [and allies in Europe].” He estimated a decade to develop an ICBM, Khalilzad said.

Kelsey Davenport, director for nonproliferation policy at the Arms Control Association, said the United Nations acceptance of the Iranian nuclear deal muddied the waters of what was acceptable or not acceptable in Tehran’s missile program by specifying a halt to it as it related to nuclear weapons.

“You can see the ambiguity that creates” by not specifically including conventional weapons.

Davenport sees export controls, being wary of sales of dual-use technologies and a strengthening of the interdiction program to stop the flow of materials to Iran, rather than new sanctions, as being effective ways to slow the missile program down.

As for the Gulf states, Saab said Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates could “double down” on their strengths in airpower and stand-off weapons to keep Iran at bay. For all, they should “really get serious about missile defense integration,” even if it means giving up some bits of national sovereignty, to alert each other and fire from one nation to protect another.

<https://news.usni.org/2016/09/26/21768>

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

### **Iran to Supply IRGC with High Volume of Zolfaqar Missiles Soon**

TEHRAN (FNA) - Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Aerospace Force Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh announced Iran’s plans to supply the IRGC forces with a large number of various types of Zolfaqar missiles.

“The new Zolfaqar missile is being supplied to the IRGC Aerospace Force and a large number of this missile will be supplied to our units by the yearend,” General Hajizadeh told FNA on Tuesday.



Asked if Iran has any plans to develop missiles to hit targets more than 2,000km in range, he said, "Our target is Israel and we don't need missiles with a range of more than 2,000km."

Iran on Sunday started mass-production of home-made Zolfaqar missile that can destroy targets in distances up to 700km in range with a zero margin of error.

The production line of Zolfaqar was inaugurated in a ceremony attended by Defense Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan and General Hajizadeh.

Zolfaqar, the latest generation of Iran's mid-range missiles, was unveiled during the nationwide parades of Armed Forces on Wednesday.

Iran has made giant advancements in developing long-range missiles in recent years.

The IRGC fired 2 home-made 'Qadr H' ballistic missiles from the Eastern Alborz Mountains at a target in Iran's Southeastern Makran seashore some 1,400km away in March.

The missiles were fired on the sidelines of the main stage of the IRGC drills in Central Iran and various parts of the country.

One missile had a message written on it that said in Hebrew: "Israel should be wiped off the Earth".

Qadr is a 2000km-range, liquid-fuel and ballistic missile which can reach territories as far as Israel.

The missile can carry different types of 'Blast' and 'MRV' payloads to destroy a range of targets. The new version of Qadr H can be launched from mobile platforms or silos in different positions and can escape missile defense shields due to their radar-evading capability.

A Multiple Reentry Vehicle payload for a ballistic missile deploys multiple warheads in a pattern against a single target. (As opposed to Multiple independently targetable reentry vehicle, which deploys multiple warheads against multiple targets.) The advantage of an MRV over a single warhead is that the damage produced in the center of the pattern is far greater than the damage possible from any single warhead in the MRV cluster, this makes for an efficient area attack weapon. Also, the sheer number of warheads make interception by Anti-ballistic missiles unlikely.

Improved warhead designs allow smaller warheads for a given yield, while better electronics and guidance systems allowed greater accuracy. As a result MIRV technology has proven more attractive than MRV for advanced nations. Because of the larger amount of nuclear material consumed by MRVs and MIRVs, single warhead missiles are more attractive for nations with less advanced technology. The United States deployed an MRV payload on the Polaris A-3. The Soviet Union deployed MRVs on the SS-9 Mod 4 ICBM.

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13950706000479>

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Press TV – Tehran, Iran

## **Iran May Reverse Steps if JCPOA Violated: Nuclear Chief**

Friday, September 30, 2016

Iran warns the West to keep its end of the bargain in last year's nuclear agreement, saying any failure could prompt Tehran to radically reverse the steps it has taken under the deal.

"Should the West fail to live up to its promises, our reversion would not be one to the previous state, but to a state which would be much different from how we used to be prior to the JCPOA," said head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Ali Akbar Salehi.

Issue No.1235, 30 September 2016

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The JCPOA stands for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the nuclear accord signed between Iran and the six major world powers, namely Russia, China, France, Britain, the US and Germany, in July 2015.

The deal, which took effect in January, calls for an end to decades of economic sanctions against Iran in exchange for restrictions on its nuclear program.

However, months after the lifting of anti-Iran bans on paper, major foreign banks are wary of doing business with Iran, fearing they would violate restrictions on US banks and face penalties.

Tehran has criticized Washington and its allies for refusing to translate their words into action and assure the banks that they would not be punished for resuming ties with Iran.

“On the surface, the US says that it is acting commensurate with the JCPOA but behind the scenes, it scares banks by telling them that the slightest mistake would result in this or that consequence,” Salehi said in a Thursday televised interview.

Likewise, Secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani criticized obstructive US measures in the implementation of JCPOA.

“If we are to witness obstruction and disruption on the part of the US even in small matters such as the purchase of passenger planes, then we will take more serious decisions to restore our rights,” he said.

Shamkhani further said experience proves that trusting the US in any matter, from the lifting of sanctions to regional developments, is in fact “chasing a mirage.”

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2016/09/30/486986/Iran-West-Salehi-JCPOA-US>

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Deccan Chronicle – Hyderabad, India

### **Will Use Nuclear Weapons, Destroy India if It Declares War, Says Pakistan**

Press Trust of India (PTI)

September 28, 2016

Islamabad: In a fresh anti-India tirade, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has threatened to use nuclear weapons in case of war with India, saying his country has not made atomic device to display in a showcase.

"We will destroy India if it dares to impose war on us. Pakistan army is fully prepared to answer any misadventure of India," the defence minister told private TV channel SAMAA.

He was replying to a question about India's intention to carry out surgical strike in Pakistan.

"We have not made atomic device to display in a showcase. If a such a situation arises we will use it and eliminate India," Asif said the channel.

He said Pakistan Air Force is ready to give a befitting response to India if it violates Pakistan's airspace.

The Pakistani minister claimed that the "entire world knows now that India is not as serious about resolving the Kashmir dispute as Pakistan is".

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He claimed India has not received support from anywhere despite launching a diatribe against Pakistan and added that China had, on the other hand, supported Pakistan's viewpoint.

Asif also alleged that the assault on an Indian army base in Uri that killed 18 soldiers was a 'plan devised by India itself'.

Maintaining that no proof implicating Pakistan in the Uri attack had surfaced yet, Asif told DawnNews that "it was evident the attack was a plan devised by India itself." He claimed that India "orchestrated Uri attack to divert the attention of the world from the Kashmir issue".

India has said it has evidence showing involvement of Pakistan-based terrorists in the Uri attack and demanded that Islamabad refrain from supporting and sponsoring terrorism directed against this country.

One of the four terrorists involved in the Uri attack has been identified as Hafiz from Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Commenting on a bill moved in the US Congress to label Pakistan as a terrorist state, he said that anti-Pakistan elements are present in each and every country but the impacts of their voices depend on the policies of these countries.

"Five or 10 voices raised against us are not enough evidence to declare Pakistan a terrorist state," he said.

Meanwhile, military spokesman Lt Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa has said Pakistan's eastern borders are under close monitoring of the security forces who are ready to respond to any aggression.

He urged people to be vigilant and keep an eye on any suspected movement in the border areas.

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/world/neighbours/280916/will-use-nuclear-weapons-destroy-india-if-it-declares-war-says-pakistan.html>

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Times of India – Mumbai, India

## **India Well Aware of Pakistan's Nuke Threshold**

By G Parthasarathy, Tamil News Network (TNN)

September 30, 2016

For over a quarter of a century, Pakistan has waged an undeclared war against India in Jammu and Kashmir, using radical Islamic groups like the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, to disrupt life across the LoC and attack Indian security forces. There have been occasional, small-scale actions to respond to such attacks. But India has abided by the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement to respect the "sanctity" of the LoC. While the international community lauded India's "restraint," the US and others did little to "restrain" Pakistan. For India, the Uri attack was the proverbial last straw on the Indian camel's back.

After having blocked 17 recent terrorist infiltration bids and facing growing terrorist strikes across Kashmir Valley, India finally struck back across the LoC, at seven locations, with a meticulously executed attack by its Special Forces. The attack destroyed staging areas for terrorists preparing to cross the LoC and eliminated some of their Pakistan army backers. This military action came after a high-voltage diplomatic offensive led personally by PM Modi in forums like G 20 and Asean, focusing on growing anger in India at unrelenting Pakistani support for terrorist violence. External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj reinforced the PM's efforts speaking out at the UN General

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Assembly. All this led to open expressions of support for India from major world powers like Russia, US, UK, France, Germany.

Even China was cautious in its response, urging "restraint". But, what has shaken Pakistan is the support for India from Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar and Bahrain -countries Islamabad regarded as "natural allies". The attack across the LoC came after India succeeded in isolating Pakistan in South Asia. New Delhi had been working for weeks to bring diplomatic pressure to bear on Islamabad. Nawaz Sharif and his advisers were shocked when they learnt that Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Bhutan had joined hands to ensure an effective boycott of the November 20 Saarc Summit in Islamabad. Worse still for Pakistan, these countries informed Pakistan and the world that they were boycotting the summit because of Pakistan's policies of supporting terrorism, using radical Islamic groups. Before Indian troops crossed the LoC to attack terrorist staging areas; Pakistan faced tensions and shootouts on its borders with both Afghanistan and Iran. Tensions on its border with Afghanistan have remained high for the past few months.

It was heartening to see the opposition welcoming the Army action. There are queries on how what has transpired will affect Pakistan's policies. How does one handle nuclear escalation threats by Pakistan? Will Pakistan escalate its terrorist activities? How will the world react to the raid? It would be naive to believe that Pakistan will end support for terrorism anytime soon. We are dealing with a country which has not hesitated to continue support for the Taliban despite US warnings. While infiltration across the LoC will continue, albeit in a calibrated manner, one should never forget that Pakistan has endeavoured to set up terrorist "sleeper cells" within India and could well use them. While countries like the US continue to urge "restraint" and dialogue", they will now have to spare no effort to caution Pakistan to rein in terrorism.

An important signal has gone to Pakistan following India's cross-LoC attack, barely a day after its bombastic, but powerless defence minister held out threats to use tactical nuclear weapons, if India escalated matters. India has let it be known that it regards the defence minister's statements as nothing but bluster. New Delhi is aware of Pakistan's nuclear threshold, enunciated by the former head of its nuclear command authority, Lt General Khalid Kidwai. General Kidwai acknowledged that Pakistan would use nuclear weapons only if its populated centres are threatened, or its army is facing defeat. India has no intention of capturing disintegrating Pakistani cities when it is trying to build its own "smart cities".

India knows that while Pakistan's army may be adventurist, it is not suicidal. It is important for Indians to understand this. Facing a determined but dysfunctional adversary, India has to continue diplomatic efforts to isolate Pakistan in its immediate neighbourhood, while getting world powers and influential Islamic countries to persuade it to mend its ways. No effort should be spared to get the US Congress to declare Pakistan a state sponsor of terrorism. In his speech in Kozhikode, PM Modi reached out to the Pakistani people, asking them to persuade their leaders to work with India in a common quest for progress and prosperity. This message needs to be reiterated.

*G Parthasarathy is a former high commissioner to Pakistan*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-well-aware-of-Pakistans-nuke-thresholdbr/articleshow/54595453.cms>

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The Diplomat – Tokyo, Japan

OPINION/The Koreans

## How North Korea Helped Seal the Deal on THAAD

*After North Korea's nuclear test, support for THAAD deployment is now the "politically correct" thing to do.*

By Jin Kai

September 26, 2016

"Political correctness" is often used to describe words or policies that intentionally avoid offending disadvantaged groups in a society — or simply upsetting mainstream opinion. From a certain perspective, given the current situation in Northeast Asia, the term may also be adopted to describe South Korea's difficult but decisive decision over deploying the U.S. Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system.

Putting aside any "moral obligation" to the Seoul-Washington alliance, threats from North Korea's resolute nuclear tests and missile launches (particularly the fifth nuclear test earlier this month) may have sent a timely "gift" to Park Geun-hye's administration, which for a time had faced tremendous domestic opposition to THAAD deployment. The "gift" of a nuclear test, provocative though it is, may have helped to justify Park's determination that no matter the circumstances, national security (or "survival") overrides economic interests. Therefore, South Korea's "national survival" and "moral obligation" to its ally can be regarded as the two main rationales for Park's administration at this particular moment.

In fact, after North Korea's fifth nuclear test, South Korea's opposition parties have started to change their attitude. According to South Korean media, the previous tussle between the ruling party and the opposition parties over THAAD deployment has virtually evolved into practical consent after Pyongyang's latest nuclear test, as the opposition parties realized that the deployment seems to be "inevitable." There are of course consequences to follow the deployment. South Koreans believe, however, that though they may face certain "reactive measures" (if not retaliation) diplomatically and economically — particularly from China — supporting the THAAD decision is now "politically correct."

The current sense of "political correctness" surrounding the THAAD deployment is likely here to stay. A political consensus is being reached in South Korea and North Korea will not compromise at this moment. There is a rather natural but ironic logic of "mutual survival" driving military build-ups on both sides of the 38th parallel.

In China's view, however, no matter how "politically correct" the deployment of THAAD system is, given South Korea's concerns over its national security and survival, it may eventually open a "Pandora's Box." Although this system is absolutely capable of directly imposing a substantial threat to China's national security, Beijing's prime concern is that strategic uncertainty will cause a series of unpredictable and maybe unbearable events in the region after the deployment of THAAD in South Korea.

This is not groundless speculation; both China and Russia may need to seriously rethink their military strategies and diplomatic policies. In fact, according to *Sputnik*, the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control said that Russia will take U.S. missile system deployment in South Korea into account in its military planning.

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Of course, the U.S.-South Korea alliance may take further countermeasures to “take into account” multiple reactions, including those from China and Russia. The question is, like always, where will the cycle end?

*Jin Kai received his Ph.D. in International Relations from the Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS), Yonsei University, South Korea and is presently a lecturer at GSIS, Yonsei. He previously served with the People's Liberation Army of China as a professional officer and was an international communications and public relations officer for the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Center of Education for International Understanding.*

<http://thediplomat.com/2016/09/how-north-korea-helped-seal-the-deal-on-thaad/>

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Sputnik International – Russian Information Agency

### **Nuclear Poker: Why the US Can't Trick Russia into Changing Its Nuclear Doctrine**

29 September 2016

On Tuesday, Senator Edward Markey and Representative Ted Lieu introduced legislation which would bar the president from conducting a nuclear first strike absent a Congressional declaration of war. Russian military analysts comment on the bill, and the prospects it has for changing Russian strategic doctrine.

In the press release for the bill, Senator Markey explained that "by maintaining the option of using nuclear weapons first in a conflict, US policy increases the risk of unintended nuclear escalation." According to the senator, "the President should not use nuclear weapons except in response to a nuclear attack." The proposed "legislation enshrines this simple principle into law."

In turn, outlining his support for the bill, Congressman Lieu said that "our Founding Fathers would be rolling over in their graves if they knew the President could launch a massive, potentially civilization-ending military strike without authorization from Congress." According to the lawmaker, granting this power to any single individual "is flatly unconstitutional."

*With US journalists and political analysts suggesting that the proposed legislation has to do with the prospect of Donald Trump becoming president and given the nuclear codes, their Russian counterparts have offered a different take, which they suggest is worth considering.*

Commenting on the bill, Svobodnaya Pressa contributor Andrei Polunin noted that "at first glance, the Democratic initiative is a bad fit with the Pentagon's position. A day earlier, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter accused Russia and North Korea of 'sabre rattling', and said that these were the only two countries which pose a nuclear threat to the United States."

Speaking at the Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota, where he inspected the base's 150 Minuteman III ICBMs, Carter explained that the US and its European allies were now "refreshing" US strategy, integrating conventional and nuclear deterrence. This, the Secretary of Defense said, is meant to "deter Russia from thinking it can benefit from nuclear use in a conflict with NATO." Of course, this "refresher" includes an increase in spending to modernize the US nuclear arsenal and the means of its delivery.

Perhaps most importantly, according to Polunin, was Carter's claim that Moscow has little regard "for long-established accords of using nuclear weapons," raising "serious questions" about

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"whether they respect the profound caution that Cold War-era leaders showed in respect to brandishing their nuclear weapons."

*According to the journalist, the question that's worth asking is: What if any connection is there between Carter's words and the bill recently put forth by Democrats in Congress?*

The answer, according to Sergei Ermakov, a senior expert at the Russian Institute for Strategic Studies, a think tank established by the Russian president, is that the actions by Congressional Democrats and the Pentagon are pieces to one puzzle.

*"In the early 1990s," the expert recalled, "US military analysts actively developed the concept of preventative defense, and these designs have never gone away. It is on the basis of these concepts that the US continues to build its long-term military strategy. The US always proceeded from the assumption that they have an advantage over China and Russia in conventional weapons, and overwhelming superiority in prospective weaponry. Only Moscow's superiority in nuclear forces forced Washington to reckon with Russia as a serious potential opponent."*

In recent years the US appraisal of Russian capabilities has since shifted. "Washington has learned that Russia has a strong foundation in Soviet military research, which has allowed the Russian Armed Forces not only to stay afloat, but to ensure their future development. In this situation, the US finds it beneficial to accuse Russia of destabilizing the international situation, in order to maintain and upgrade America's own nuclear arsenal."

For example, Ermakov noted that the US plans to spend \$8.1 billion to modernize its B61 nuclear bomb – via the so-called B61-12, which would replace four existing modifications, by 2024. This weapon will feature improved range and accuracy compared to its predecessors, and can be fired from both strategic and tactical aviation.

This is concerning to Moscow, the analyst explained, since the weapon's glide capability will allow it to target Russian territory without its carrier entering the zone of Russian air and missile defense. Moreover, "this type of weapon is dangerous because there is no way of knowing whether the rocket carrying it carries a nuclear or conventional warhead, thus increasing the risk of unintended escalation."

*At the same time, Pentagon analysts remain confident about a qualitative and quantitative superiority in Europe over Russia in conventional armaments. "This assessment is not changing, in spite of the recent noise in Western mainstream media about the US's alleged weakened military might," Ermakov emphasized. Key US experts believe that Russia's latest weapons would make little difference – they are too few in number."*

Accordingly, the analyst emphasized, a unilateral US rejection of the doctrine of first strike could be aimed only at tying Russia's hands. "Washington is talking only about giving up preemptive strike using nuclear weapons. But they retain the possibility of a pre-emptive attack by all other types of weapons, and will stand firmly on that principle."

*"The result is that in accordance with the doctrine of containing Russia, the US is increasing its nuclear capabilities. Meanwhile, in formally abandoning the doctrine of preemptive nuclear strike, they get an opportunity to 'play in the field', where it is more difficult for Russia's armed forces to achieve superiority over the US. Finally, an initiative rejecting preemptive nuclear strike gives the US a trump card in the information war – allowing them to talk about the 'monstrous aggression of the Russian regime', and blaming Moscow for unleashing an arms race."*

Mikhail Alexandrov, a senior expert at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations Center for Military-Political Studies, agreed with Ermakov's assessment, recalling that NATO has a significant quantitative superiority over Russia in conventional weapons.





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"With this numerical superiority, the West expects to win in a war with Russia. But it cannot do so if nuclear weapons become part of the equation. These weapons would destroy Western Europe and the US much faster than Western countries are able to mobilize."

Accordingly, Alexandrov suggested that US lawmakers' proposal is based on the understanding that a nuclear war is unwinnable, and to try to trick Russia into abandoning its established doctrine.

*"In essence, the US is repeating the technique of Leonid Brezhnev's Soviet Union, which unilaterally renounced the first use of nuclear weapons. This was done because at the time, the USSR had a significant superiority in conventional forces over NATO. As a result, the use of nuclear weapons was judged to be disadvantageous, since all of Western Europe could be captured without their use. In that situation, it's worth noting, NATO banked on the use of tactical nuclear weapons, which became a deterrent against possible Soviet attack."*

Today, Alexandrov noted, the situation has been flipped on its head. Russia can no longer resist the combined might of NATO in a long war using only conventional weaponry. "Therefore, since the 1990s, our doctrine provides for the possibility of using nuclear weapons first in case of a serious threat to Russia's national security."

*"Thus, the Democrats' initiative is aimed at achieving strategic superiority over Russia, and possibly China," the analyst suggested. "Of course, Moscow should not give in to this kind of demagoguery. Russia must continue to retain the right to use tactical nuclear weapons first," he emphasized.*

Ultimately, Alexandrov noted, Russia has already taken the necessary measures to move to a new generation of nuclear weaponry, from the Iskander tactical missile complex and the Kh-101 strategic cruise missile, which has a range of 5,000 km, to new ballistic missiles capable of overcoming US missile defenses. "All of this has forced the US to maneuver in this way, and to try to outplay Russia in the nuclear field," the analyst concluded.

<https://sputniknews.com/politics/20160929/1045845530/russia-nuclear-doctrine-us-diplomatic-maneuvers.html>

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U.S. Naval Institute (USNI) – Annapolis, MD

OPINION/Blog

### **The Iran Nuclear Agreement: Safer With or Without It?**

By Barry Schneider

September 2016

In July 2015, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal, was agreed to by Iran on one side and on the other by the United States, Russia, China, United Kingdom, and France plus Germany (the P5+1).

At the inception of negotiations, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry stated that Iran was believed to be within 2 to 3 months of being able to manufacture 10 to 12 nuclear weapons.<sup>[i]</sup> Three basic options were available to the United States and its P5+1 partner countries regarding how to deal with an Iranian nuclear threat: (1) deterrence after Iran had such weapons, (2) military operations to disarm Iran, or (3) a diplomatic agreement to rollback the Iranian nuclear program.

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The P5+1 governments decided not to accept an Iranian nuclear weapons program, nor to simply try to deter its use after it was established. None of the P5+1 countries were willing to live in a world where Iran's radical leaders were permitted to have atomic bombs so the deterrence option was placed on hold. Also, P5+1 saw war as a last resort and sought through diplomacy to prevent a nuclear Iran.

War was rightly always considered to be the last resort. War with Iran likely would be even more costly than the 12-year war in Iraq since Iran has a much larger economy, is over three times larger in area than Iraq, and has a population two and a half times greater.

The Iran nuclear agreement is controversial both in the U.S. and abroad. On the one hand, if honored, it retards the capacity of Iran to go nuclear and would buy a decade or more to seek a more permanent solution, but JCPOA also does not offer a permanent end to the Iranian program and gives Iran added fiscal resources at the beginning of the deal.<sup>[ii]</sup> When Iran met threshold conditions required on Implementation Day, on January 16, 2016, US, UN and EU sanctions were suspended so Iran is in the process of receiving around \$ 100 billion of its previously frozen assets.<sup>[iii]</sup> In addition, Iran can again sell its oil freely on the world market. The U.S. Treasury Secretary said economic sanctions have cost Iran more than \$160 billion since 2012 in oil revenue alone<sup>[iv]</sup>

Some U.S. Republican Party candidates and Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu have argued that this is a bad deal because it does not forever remove the Iranian nuclear threat<sup>[v]</sup> and provides Iran new resources that might be used against Israel and others.

Netanyahu appears to have favored a military intervention over the diplomatic option represented by the Iran nuclear agreement. But, as a former Israeli official, concluded, " An [Israeli] attack probably could not have achieved more than a few years delay of Iran's program whereas the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Attack, if observed, will do so for at least 10 to 15 years. "<sup>[vi]</sup>

In the real world no agreement is ever perfect. JCPOA seems to have achieved what was possible to achieve. It is unclear what rejecting the agreement would accomplish short of hastening the arrival of an Iranian nuclear capacity or a war to prevent the same.

This agreement would give Iran's leaders a strong incentive to avoid actions that might bring back sanctions and increase the threat of war against them. The agreement also strengthens the hand of Iranian moderates against their more hawkish elements who most dislike the agreement.

The important point is that Iran would likely get a nuclear arsenal far faster and more certainly without this deal than with it. JCPOA allows additional years to try to change the regime, or relations with it, short of their acquiring nuclear weapons.

### **Comparing a Future With or Without JCPOA**

There are two paths to a nuclear weapons capacity, the plutonium path using heavy water reactors and the uranium route accomplished by separating Uranium 235 from Uranium hexafluoride using centrifuges. Once the material is enriched to 90 percent U-235 it is nuclear bomb material.

The Iranian plutonium path to a bomb is currently blocked by JCPOA. Iran's only potential source of plutonium, the Arak reactor has had its core removed and disabled. As of January 31, 2016, Iran filled the Arak reactor calandria with concrete.<sup>[vii]</sup> For 15 years Iran will be legally prohibited from reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel<sup>[viii]</sup>

The Iranian highly enriched uranium path to the bomb is also blocked. The Iranians have agreed to reduce its number of active centrifuges from 19,000 to 6,104. Almost all of these will be the oldest and least advanced centrifuges in their inventory. Iran's advanced centrifuge R&D will be limited



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for 8.5 years to a small number of IR-3, IR-5, IR-6 and IR-8 centrifuges at Natanz. The others have already been dismantled and put in storage, as verified by IAEA inspectors. JCPOA also imposes a 20 year ban on Iranian centrifuge production. Until the agreement, such centrifuges had been operating at three Iranian centrifuge facilities: two at Natanz and one at Fordow. Now, centrifuge enrichment activity is permitted only at a single site at Natanz.

The agreement imposes a 3.67 percent enrichment purity limit on all Iranian uranium fuel for 15 years. [ix] As required, Iran has transferred outside their territory 25,000 pounds or 98 percent of their low and medium enriched uranium that has been placed in storage in Russia, a step verified by the IAEA inspectors. [x]

In the agreement, the Iranians have acquiesced in having very strict IAEA inspections and other verification procedures to ensure their compliance. The agreement allows continuous monitoring of Iranian uranium mines and mills for 25 years, and provides oversight of Iranian centrifuge production facilities for 20 years, and permits 15 years of IAEA access to inspect Iranian sites. For already declared Iranian sites, IAEA inspectors are to be granted immediate access. Inspections of any other sites are to be conducted within 24 days of a request for entry.[xi]

U.S. intelligence officials have said they have confidence that any cheating on the agreement could be detected in a timely manner, allowing the U.S. and allies to take corrective military actions a year or more before Iran could race to its first atomic weapons. And with the Iran deal concluded, Iran's adversaries like the Saudis and Turks will be less likely to start their own nuclear weapons R&D programs to offset an Iranian A-bomb.

For the next 10 years, should Iran cheat on the agreement, all UN, U.S. and EU sanctions would automatically be immediately snapped back into place against Iran. If the agreement succeeds, it will prevent an Iranian nuclear weapon capability in the next decade or more. The Iran nuclear agreement buys time to improve US-Iranian relations and to defuse other points of contention in the Middle East. If it fails, the deterrence, international sanctions and military options remain viable.

*Dr Barry R. Schneider was the Director of the US Air Force Counterproliferation Center from 1998 to 2012.*

#### **Notes**

[i] BBC, "Iran Nuclear Deal: Key Details," Middle East, 16 January 2016, p.7 of transcript. See <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-33521656>.

[ii] David E. Sanger, "Iran Complies With Nuclear Deal; Sanctions Are Lifted," New York Times, January 16, 2016. See <http://nyti.ms/1NsdvV>.

[iii] Kenneth Katzman and Paul K. Kerr, "Iran Nuclear Agreement: Selected Issues for Congress, Congressional Research Service, Report 7-5700, p. 14. See also Eric Pianin, "Lew: Iran Not Getting Full \$100 Billion of Frozen Assets," The Fiscal Times, July 26, 2015. U.S. Treasury Secretary Lew said, "We estimate that after sanctions relief, Iran will only be able to freely access about half those resources, or about \$50 billion." He also said "It's not money we are giving to Iran. It's Iran money that sits in other countries that was locked up by international sanctions.

[iv] Eric Pianin, "Lew: Iran Not Getting Full \$100 Billion of Frozen Assets," The Fiscal Times, July 26, 2015.



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[v] Isabel Kershner, "Israel: Netanyahu Denounces Agreement as Historic Mistake and Threat to Region," *New York Times International*, July 15, 2015, p. A11.

[vi] Chuck Freilich, "A Good Deal for Israel," *New York Times*, July 20, 2015. See also, Kenneth Katzman and Paul K. Kerr, "Iran Nuclear Agreement: Selected Issues for Congress, Congressional Research Service, Report 7-5700, p. 17.

[vii] Arms Control Association: "Key Elements of the Iran Nuclear Deal," *Arms Control Today*, September 2016, P 28.

[viii] David E. Sanger, "Iran Complies With Nuclear Deal; Sanctions Are Lifted," *New York Times*, January 16, 2016. See <http://nyti.ms/1NsdrV>.

[ix] Arms Control Association, Op Cit, PP 28-29.

[x] Sanger, Op Cit.

[xi] U.S. intelligence agencies felt 24 days would allow them to verify compliance. Some others felt this was too long a period and risked some undetected noncompliance. See Institute for Science and International Security, "Verification of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action," July 28, 2015, p.5.

<https://blog.usni.org/2016/09/15/the-iran-nuclear-agreement-safer-with-or-without-it>

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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.

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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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