



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies (CUWS) Outreach Journal

Issue No. 114, 16 January 2015

Welcome to the CUWS Outreach Journal! As part of the CUWS' mission to develop Air Force, DoD, and other USG leaders to advance the state of knowledge, policy, and practices within strategic defense issues involving nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, we offer the government and civilian community a source of contemporary discussions on unconventional weapons. These discussions include news articles, papers, and other information sources that address issues pertinent to the U.S. national security community. It is our hope that this information resource will help enhance the overall awareness of these important national security issues and lead to the further discussion of options for dealing with the potential use of unconventional weapons. **All of our past journals are now available at http://cpc.au.af.mil/au_outreach.aspx.**

The following news articles, papers, and other information sources do not necessarily reflect official endorsement of the Air University, U.S. Air Force, or Department of Defense. Reproduction for private use or commercial gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. All rights are reserved.

FEATURE ITEM: *"The Russian and Iranian Missile Threats: Implications for NATO Missile Defense"*. Authored by Azriel Bermant; Memorandum No. 143 Tel Aviv: Institute for National Security Studies, November 2014, 84 pages.
<http://www.inss.org.il/uploadImages/systemFiles/memo143.pdf>

As tensions rise over Ukraine, NATO is making preparations for the deployments of a ballistic missile defense (BMD) system in Romania in 2015 and in Poland in 2018. The United States and NATO claim that the missile defense shield is not directed at Russia, but is designed to deal with the dual threat of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction emanating from the Middle East. Russia, on the other hand, has consistently maintained that the anti-missile shield is directed at its own strategic nuclear forces, as NATO's planned deployments in Eastern Europe reinforce the Kremlin's resentment over what it perceives as Western penetration into its "near abroad." The monograph provides an in-depth exploration of the ongoing controversy over the NATO BMD system in Europe and argues that the very high cost of maintaining the system is justified in terms of its ability to mitigate damage, provide greater flexibility for national leaders, strengthen the morale of vulnerable populations, and devalue the threats posed by revisionist states.

Outreach Journal Feedback or sign-up request: cpc.admin@maxwell.af.mil

[Return to Top](#)

U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS

1. [U.S. Nuclear Arsenal Drops, Russia's Missile Stocks Up - U.S. State Department Report](#)
2. [Hagel Backs Air Force Plans for Long-Range Strike Bomber](#)
3. [Haney: Strategic Deterrence More Than a Nuclear Triad](#)

U.S. ARMS CONTROL

1. [Russia Could Revise Key Nuclear Arms Treaty over Growing US Antagonism - Official](#)
2. [Russia Will Test Launch Iskander-M Missiles during March Drills](#)
3. [STRATCOM's Haney: China Not Transparent with Nuclear Weapons Policy](#)

HOMELAND SECURITY/THE AMERICAS

1. [PLA Does Not Have First Strike Capability, Says Chinese Expert](#)
2. [US Concerned About Russia's Emerging Strategic Military Capabilities](#)

ASIA/PACIFIC

1. [North Korea Will Suspend Nuclear Tests if US Calls off South Korea Military Drills](#)
2. [Chinese Military to Reshuffle Grassroot Officers](#)
3. [N.Korean Missile Launches 'Harder to Predict'](#)

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies

CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

4. [North Korean Media Say Pyongyang set to Pursue Military Policy, Win Standoff with US](#)
5. [Top Expert: North Korea Could Have 20 Nuclear Weapons by the Time Obama Leaves Office](#)
6. [N. Korea Raps Seoul Allies' Military Info Sharing Pact](#)
7. [PLA Officers Placed under Investigation](#)

EUROPE/RUSSIA

1. [Russia's Strategic Missile Forces to Conduct Over 100 Drills in 2015](#)
2. [Russia Must Keep USA at Gunpoint](#)
3. [Russia to Merge Air, Space Forces in 2015: Defense Ministry](#)
4. [Russia Will Develop New Defense Plan for 2016-2020](#)

MIDDLE EAST

1. [Assad's Secret: Evidence Points to Syrian Push for Nuclear Weapons](#)
2. [Iran FM Rejects Der Spiegel Claims as 'Ridiculous'](#)
3. [Iran Insists on Uranium Enrichment Ahead of Talks](#)
4. [Syria Denies Nuclear Allegations, Weapons Experts Skeptical too](#)
5. [Rouhani: Iran to Construct 2 More N. Plants in Bushehr to Boost Power Output](#)
6. [New Sanctions to Obstruct Nuclear Talks: Iran](#)
7. [Kerry and Iranian Counterpart Hold 'Intensive' Talks in Geneva](#)
8. [Official: Iran Might Restart Uranium Enrichment if US Slaps New Sanctions](#)
9. [Zarif, Kerry to Meet in Paris over Iran Nuclear Program](#)

INDIA/PAKISTAN

1. [DRDO Chief Chander Too Old for Job: Parrikar](#)

COMMENTARY

1. [Russia's New Military Doctrine All Bark, No Bite](#)
2. [Reconsidering Deterrence Stability](#)
3. [Russia's New Military Doctrine: Same as the Old Doctrine, Mostly](#)
4. [The Truth behind Iran's supposed Nuclear Ties with Syria](#)

International Business (IB) Times (Australia Edition) – Sydney, Australia

Tuesday, January 13

U.S. Nuclear Arsenal Drops, Russia's Missile Stocks Up - U.S. State Department Report

By Esther Tanquintic-Misa

A newly released report of the U.S. military's nuclear arsenal by the State Department has disclosed that the country's number of nuclear missiles had continued to reduce in compliance to the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) treaty with Russia. The latter, however, continued the opposite.

Data collected as of Sept 1, 2014 showed that the number of deployed Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, submarine-launched ICBMs and deployed heavy bombers by the U.S. went down from 809 the year before to 794. Russia's inventory was the opposite at 528, from 473 a year ago.

The U.S.' warheads on deployed ICBMs, SLBMs and nuclear warheads for deployed bombers, from 1,688, went down to 1,642. Russia recorded the same number at 1,642, but the report said the previous was 1,400.

President Barack Obama's bailiwick, as of Sept 2014, has 912 deployed and non-deployed missile launchers, from 1,015 a year ago. Vladimir Putin's Russia has 911, up from 894.

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

The U.S. and Russia signed the New START Treaty on April 2010 primarily to *reduce the number of nuclear weapons and launchers that the two countries own and deploy*. The agreement entered into force on February 2011, and is expected to last at least until 2021.

With majority of the U.S. nuclear arsenal assigned to the Air Force, the latter has worked to demolish deactivated launch facilities throughout 2014 to comply with the New START Treaty, according to the State Department report. Crews with the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana reported in August they have completed the demolition of 50 Minuteman III launch facilities. This was inspected and verified by Russian inspectors.

A report by Air Force Times further revealed the following details:

- 447 deployed ICBMs, down from 448.
- 307 nondeployed ICBMs, down from 313. That includes 56 of older, non-operational Peacekeeper missiles, down from 57.
- 467 deployed and nondeployed ICBM launchers, down from 557.
- Seven tests launchers, the same as the year before.
- 87 deployed B-2A Spirits and B-52H Stratofortresses, down from 101. In late 2013, the Air Force eliminated the last 12 of its 39 B-52Gs, a reduction that was required under the treaty.
- 22 nondeployed bombers, up from 21.
- Three test bombers, the same as the year before.

The report further said the nuclear arsenal assigned to the U.S. Navy was likewise mostly unchanged:

- 260 deployed Trident II submarine-launched missiles in both 2014 and 2013
- 151 nondeployed Trident IIs in 2014, up from 147
- 336 deployed and nondeployed missile launchers in both years.

<http://au.ibtimes.com/articles/578890/20150113/u-s-nuclear-arsenal-russia.htm#.VLadMCxARDw>

[Return to Top](#)

Military Times.com – Washington, D.C.

Hagel Backs Air Force Plans for Long-Range Strike Bomber

By Andrew Tilghman, Staff Writer

January 14, 2015

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel told airmen here Tuesday that the nation's nuclear mission is as important as ever and he voiced strong support for the Air Force's plans to build a costly new long-range strike bomber.

On one of his last trips as the Pentagon's top official, Hagel came to this rural air base to speak to the airman who fly and fix the B-2 Spirits, the iconic nuclear-armed stealth bombers. While the aircraft is rarely used in operations, Hagel said it is nevertheless critical to national security.

"It's always about strategic deterrence so that we don't have to send our men and women into conflict," Hagel told several hundred airmen. "Our adversaries have to know and have to believe, and essentially have to trust that we have deterrent capability, that in fact we have everything we say we have."

Hagel said the military should invest billions of dollars in developing a new aircraft to replace some of today's aging bombers, in particular the B-52, which are more than 50 years old. He said the new aircraft program, known as the Long-Range Strike Bomber, or LRS-B, will be well funded in the budget request slated for release in February.

"I think the Long-Range Strike Bomber is absolutely essential for keeping our deterrent edge. ... We need to do it. We need to make the investments. We'll have it in the budget. It's something I have particularly put a priority on," Hagel told reporters here Tuesday.

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

Officially, the Pentagon launched the LRS-B program last year with a request for proposals from defense contractors. But it is widely believed that production of the aircraft is well underway, jump-started with money from classified budgets, according to the Congressional Research Service.

As the Pentagon is facing pressure to cut its budget, the LRS-B is emerging as one of the few big-ticket programs that the top brass remains fully committed to.

For now, plans call for building about 80 to 100 bombers, at a price tag of about \$550 million each, to enter the fleet in the mid-2020s. The final design may have an option at flying unmanned. Those new aircraft would likely replace the 76 B-52s in today's fleet.

Hagel is making a three-day trip across the country to visit with soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. After resigning in December, Hagel is expected to leave office in February and said he wanted to make some final visits to thank them for their service.

Hagel has paid special attention to the nuclear force during his two-year tenure. The focus was driven in part by scandal. Dozens of nuclear launch officers who operate the Air Force's 450 intercontinental ballistic missiles were disciplined earlier this year for misconduct that included drug use and cheating.

The high-level advocacy for the nuclear mission reflects concerns that morale is suffering and the Air Force is not drawing the best and brightest into the nuclear-related career fields because those jobs lack prestige and offer limited opportunities for promotion.

Like other parts of the nuclear force, the Air Force's long-range bomber community has been marginalized to some extent during the past couple of decades. After the Cold War ended, the sense of urgency about the nuclear missions faded. And in the post-9/11 era of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Air Force focused on shorter-range tactical aircraft that could provide close-air support for ground troops.

Without a robust replacement program for today's aging B-52s, the long-range bomber force could face a manpower crisis, some experts say.

"We are now approaching levels where you have to question whether the remaining force is going to offer a viable career field for young men and women entering the military and contemplating careers as bombers," said Mark Gunzinger, a retired Air Force pilot who is now a defense expert at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a think tank in Washington.

"If you are a brand new second lieutenant and you're contemplating where you might bid for a career coming out of pilot training, do you want to go into career field that has one wing commander? Compared to the intelligence field or unmanned aircraft and other fields where there is clearly more slots, more opportunities to progress up the leadership ladder?" Gunzinger said in a recent interview.

The Air Force's has 159 aircraft in its long-range bomber fleet, including a total of 20 B-2s and 63 B-1s that are on average 28 years old and are slated to remain in the fleet into the 2040s, according to the CRS.

"We have to have a career field that can attract the brilliant, young talent that we need to maintain a safe and secure for into the future," Gunzinger said.

<http://www.militarytimes.com/story/military/pentagon/2015/01/13/hagel-backs-air-force-plans-for-long-range-strike-bomber/21713815/>

[Return to Top](#)

U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) – Washington, D.C.

Haney: Strategic Deterrence More Than a Nuclear Triad

By Cheryl Pellerin

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

January 15, 2015

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15, 2015 – The United States’ strategic deterrent includes a triad of nuclear delivery platforms, but other critical elements range from intelligence and missile defense to space and cyber capabilities and a capable workforce, Navy Adm. Cecil Haney said here today.

The commander of U.S. Strategic Command spoke on strategic deterrence in the 21st century during a discussion moderated by Thom Shanker of the New York Times and hosted by the Atlantic Council's Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security.

Strategic deterrence includes a robust and agile intelligence apparatus, a synthesis of dedicated space and ground sensors that provide critical early warning for missile launchers and bomber threats, national nuclear command and control and the necessary infrastructure to sustain nuclear weapons without fully testing the warheads, the admiral said.

Other parts of deterrence are a credible missile defense system that defends against limited attacks from rogue nations, cyberspace and space capabilities, trained and ready people, a campaign plan that orients assigned capabilities and activities toward a common purpose, and synchronized treaties, policies and strategies, Haney added.

A Whole-of-Government Approach

“This is not just capability but a whole-of-government approach that requires our attention and the necessary resources,” Haney said, adding that the Nuclear Deterrent Enterprise Review Group recently established by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel provides important support for the nation's deterrence.

Even in an era of significant resource constraints, the nation must get 21st century deterrence right, Haney said, and must make clear to adversaries or potential adversaries that restraint is always the better course.

“It will require us to work together as a team, as partners -- the government, the private sector and academia,” he said, “to shape policy that will have a meaningful impact on our national security.”

Haney recalled President Barack Obama’s 2009 Prague speech, in which Obama publicly stated his goal for a world free of nuclear weapons, and said the new START treaty between the United States and Russia -- formally called Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms -- is an effort to work toward that goal.

Deterrence Can Fail

“The president's 2013 Nuclear Weapons Employment Strategy and strategic documents such as the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review and the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review make it clear that as long as nuclear weapons exist,” Haney said, “the United States must maintain a strong and credible safe, secure and effective nuclear deterrent and ... be prepared for the possibility that deterrence can fail.”

Of the multiple states around the globe who have nuclear weapons or aspirations of acquiring them, the admiral mentioned Russia, China, North Korea and Iran.

Russia has had more than a decade of investments and modernization across its strategic nuclear forces, he said, adding that the U.S. approach to dealing with Russia in this context today is not about continuing the Cold War.

“This is about emerging capability at a time of significant concerns about Russians' execution of their near and abroad strategy,” Haney said, adding that Russia has significant cyber capability.

A Time of Significant Concerns

Russia also has significant cyber capability and Russian leaders have publicly stated that they are developing counter-space capabilities and that Russia’s armed forces have anti-satellite weapons and conduct anti-satellite research.

China also is modernizing its strategic forces, the admiral said, by enhancing silo-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, conducting the first fleet tests of a new mobile missile and making progress on a successor expected to be

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

another road-mobile ICBM capable of carrying multiple warheads. China is also testing and integrating new ballistic missile submarines, providing that nation with its first sea-based strategic nuclear deterrence, Haney said.

“As I'm sure you're aware,” he told the audience, “they're also developing multidimensional space capabilities supporting their access-denial campaign. But with more than 60 nations operating satellites in space, it's extremely problematic to see China conducting missiles designed to destroy satellites.”

North Korea continues to advance its nuclear ambitions, the admiral added, and Iran has made no secret of its desire to acquire nuclear weapons.

21st Century Deterrence

Haney said, “21st century deterrence must be tailored to specific adversaries and threats, and in an integrated manner, so we can predict what deters and what prevents escalation.”

Haney's top priority is to deter strategic attack and provide the nation with a safe, secure and effective nuclear deterrent force, but he's also interested in international partnerships and promoting innovation for future capabilities.

In the past year he's had meetings with defense ministers of South Korea, France and Australia, a former Japanese defense minister, the United Kingdom's vice defense chief, and five partners involved in space-sharing agreements.

In October, he said, “we conducted a command-and-control exercise designed to train our Defense Department forces and access our joint operational readiness across all my mission areas with a specific focus on nuclear readiness.”

Assessing Joint Operational Readiness

Stratcom did this in conjunction with U.S. Northern Command, the North American Aerospace Defense Command, and Canadian partners in exercises that included Vigilant Shield, Positive Response and Determined Dragon.

Another of Haney's high priorities is bolstering Stratcom's ability to anticipate change and confront uncertainty with agility and innovation.

“Last summer we cut the ribbon at U.S. Strategic Command's War Gaming Center back there at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, to help enable and challenge our thinking with the ability to look at alternative scenarios, some plausible today and some unthinkable tomorrow,” the admiral explained.

“We need to grow innovative leaders, identify new operational concepts and continue to develop cutting-edge technology so we can continue to evolve our ideas on how to deter our adversaries and potential adversaries and, of course, assure our allies.”

Finding Problems, Plucking Them Out

But Haney said the nation would not have a credible strategic deterrent today if it were not for the men and women, military and civilian, “who conduct and contribute to our strategic deterrence mission day in and day out, across all areas. From under the sea to geosynchronous orbit, they are making concrete contributions to our security 24/7, 365 days a year.”

About the much-publicized problems over the past year with some members of the nuclear force, Haney said that when such problems are found, no matter where they are, “we pluck [them] out of our system ... and get through some root-cause analysis to figure out what we should be doing associated with that particular problem.”

He added, “When you look at 90 percent of our team, [they] come to work every day to do the right thing, passionate over the mission.”

In any organization, the admiral said, “You have to continue to work on that other percentage of folks ... and in this case I'm very happy that we found the problem, eradicated the problem from our system and went to work with this Nuclear Enterprise Review business to work on those problems.”

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



Charged About the Mission

Haney said he spent 2014 traveling and meeting with all of those involved in the strategic deterrence mission.

“I can say unequivocally that those folks are fired up and charged about the mission,” he said. “I think the rest of us need to support them in how we talk about it and associate it with the plans we have now.”

The admiral added, “I am proud of working with those great Americans.”

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=123981>

[Return to Top](#)

RT (Russia Today) – Moscow, Russia

Russia Could Revise Key Nuclear Arms Treaty over Growing US Antagonism - Official

January 14, 2015

A senior Russian diplomat has admitted that the unfriendliness by the US could cause Moscow to review its approach to the START agreement on cutting nuclear weapons and their delivery.

“So far we have not taken any particular steps in this direction, but I cannot exclude that in the future Washington would force us into taking them, into making corrections to our policies regarding this direction,” the head of the Foreign Ministry’s Security and Disarmament Department, Mikhail Ulyanov said in an interview with the RIA Novosti news agency. *“This would only be natural, considering the unfriendly character of the US actions,”* the Russian official added.

However, at the moment the strained relations between Russia and US have had no effect on the nuclear disarmament programs, the top Russian diplomat said.

“The treaty is being implemented and it is implemented well. Both the American and the Russian sides agree that the process is progressing and neither of the parties have any complaints about the other. We hold that the circumstances that would force us into reviewing our attitude to the treaty have not happened yet,” Ulyanov told reporters.

The active Russia-US nuclear weapons reduction treaty, the New START, allows each side to possess a maximum of 1550 nuclear warheads and 700 deployed carriers, such as missiles and bombers. The treaty came into force in 2011 and will expire in 2021.

When US President Barack Obama suggested further cuts in nuclear arsenals in a speech in June 2013, Russian President Vladimir Putin replied that his country cannot afford such steps in the face of the latest US developments in missile defense and conventional strategic weapons.

“We cannot afford to disrupt the balance of the system of strategic deterrence, to reduce the effectiveness of our nuclear forces. Therefore, the development of the system of space defense will remain a key direction for the military industry,” Putin said.

<http://rt.com/politics/222463-russia-nuclear-start-treaty/>

[Return to Top](#)

Sputnik News – Russian Information Agency

Russia Will Test Launch Iskander-M Missiles during March Drills

Missile force battalions of Russia's Central Military District will test launch Iskander-M tactical ballistic missiles in the course of military drills after undergoing a command and control training course.

15 January 2015

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

MOSCOW, January 15 (Sputnik) — Two missile battalions of the Central Military District (CMD) will test launch a number of Iskander-M tactical ballistic missiles during exercises in southern Russia in March, CMD spokesperson Col. Yaroslav Roshupkin said Thursday.

"In early March, after the completion of military training courses, the full-size unit will take part in combat launching exercises at the Kapustin Yar testing range," Roshupkin said.

The spokesperson added that two CMD missile force battalions have arrived at a testing range in Astrakhan Region to undergo an Iskander-M command and control training course ahead of the drills.

The units were fully equipped with Iskander-M theater ballistic missile complexes last November.

Following tactical drills, the missile forces are expected to return to their home base in Orenburg Region, which is fitted with the infrastructure needed to house the Iskander-M complexes, Roshupkin said.

Also known as SS-26 Stone, the Iskander is a powerful missile strike system with "quasi-ballistic" capability in use by the Russian Ground Forces. The missiles have a range of 400 km (250 miles) and can reportedly carry conventional and nuclear warheads.

Tests of the system were successfully carried out in 2007 and it is supplied by the Mashinostroyeniya military-industrial corporation under a 2011 contract with the Russian Defense Ministry.

<http://sputniknews.com/military/20150115/1016935219.html>

[Return to Top](#)

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

STRATCOM's Haney: China Not Transparent with Nuclear Weapons Policy

By John Grady

January 15, 2015

While Russia continues to steadily invest in strategic capabilities, the head of U.S. Strategic Command (STRATCOM) said there is some transparency in what they are spending money on because of treaty requirements. But with China the story is very different, Adm. Cecil Haney told the Atlantic Council in Washington, D.C.

"The piece that concerns us, and we work hard at is, China is not transparent in terms of its intentions and in terms of its [nuclear] development programs," He added that "when we look at our relationship with countries like Russia, being able to have this transparency through new START treaty is very important to both our nations."

Through the ups and downs in Russian–U.S. relations, "we have continued to inspect each other, per plan, associated with that treaty, for example. When we look at China, we haven't been invited to come explore what they have associated with things in their nation."

At the same time, Haney said, there is no corresponding command to his in China with which to discuss such events as long-range missile tests or cyber operations. To bridge that gap, he is working through Pacific Command on these issues with China on a military-to-military basis. As limited as that is, "those kind of things are good" in building respect and understanding

Looking at Russia's investment in capabilities from miniaturizing missile warheads to a new class of ballistic-missile submarine, Haney said, "This is not about a continuation of the Cold War. . . . This is about emerging capability at a time of significant concerns in Russia's execution of their near and abroad strategy," including Russia strategic bombers penetrating U.S. and allied air defense zones. "Or perhaps you saw President [Vladimir] Putin on YouTube or his commanders in action, both in 2013 and during the Ukraine crisis in May of 2014. Russia also has amazing cyber capability. We just have to look back at Georgia and Ukraine."

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

In addition, he said, “Russia is developing counter-space capabilities, as Gen. [James] Clapper [director of national intelligence] stated, Russia’s leaders maintain that Russia has satellite weapons and conduct satellite research. Today,”

Haney said, “This is not about getting into some Cold War race with Russia, It’s about dealing with it professionally and thoughtfully, using all our mechanisms as a deterrent. We certainly don’t know what is inside Putin’s mind right now.” What is needed, he said, is thoughtful analysis.

As for North Korea, he acknowledged the value of “deterrent missions,” such as the daylight, slow overflight of the peninsula by a B-2 when Pyongyang ratcheted up tensions. It also helped operators hone their skills, but he warned against chest-thumping responses in every case.

“As you look at the art of deterrence, the business of being able to have survival capability matters and the business of being able to predict and follow the movements of North Korea to deter that business is important. Already they had three nuclear tests associated with things. They are very vocal where they’re trying to head with associated capability.”

It’s very important for Strategic Command to work closely with key allies in the region—South Korea and Japan—and the combatant commanders in deterring North Korea, he said.

In countering terrorists and attacks such as those in France, Australia, Canada, and Nigeria or cyber or possible weapons of mass destruction attacks, Haney said, “It’s a long journey for us—from cranial thinking to tactical capability.”

As for his own force in the light of problems identified in safety, security and testing, Haney said he is “very happy we found the problem and eradicated the problem.” He said as a result of the nuclear review ordered by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel some remedies required leadership initiatives and others require resources, such as modernizing facilities, etc., and the command is taking those measures.

He also said that exercises such as those conducted this summer with Northern Command and Canada were important in building skills and competence in the force.

Haney said the United States needs to invest in modernizing its strategic forces from sensing and communications to the nuclear triad, and he recognized the high cost of doing so. “We should be proud of the fact that we made the investment in the B-52,” which is still flying after almost 50 years and remains “durable, flexible and survivable.”

Programs such as the replacement for the *Ohio*-class ballistic-missile submarine and a new intercontinental ballistic missile “need to be in the budget,” but did not whether they should be in a special category of their own or continue in existing budget lines for shipbuilding and missiles. The president’s budget is scheduled to be released in February.

<http://news.usni.org/2015/01/15/stratcoms-haney-china-not-transparent-nuclear-weapons-policy>

[Return to Top](#)

Want China Times – Taipei, Taiwan

PLA Does Not Have First Strike Capability, Says Chinese Expert

Staff Reporter

January 13, 2015

While experts from the United States and Russia have expressed their concerns regarding China's DF-31 and DF-31A intercontinental ballistic missiles, Chinese military analyst Liu Jiangping has told the country's Global Times that the People's Liberation Army is still unable to launch a first nuclear strike against North America.

Vasily Kashin from Moscow's Center for Analysis of Strategies and Technologies said China's DF-31, DF-31A ICBMs and the DF-41, believed to be currently in development, should be considered threats because they are all

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

powered by solid-propellant rockets. It takes hours for China to launch the obsolete DF-5 missile because has a liquid-fueled rocket, while missiles using solid-propellant rockets take only 30 minutes to launch.

A report by the Pentagon said China has at least 10 DF-31 missile systems and may have up to 30 DF-31 mobile launching systems. At the same time, the DF-41 will have the potential to carry multiple independently targeted warheads.

Liu told Global Times on Jan. 8 that China's ability to strike the continental United States had been exaggerated in these reports, however. Liu said China's ICBM arsenal is small compared to that of the United States and added that most of China's missiles could not be used to launch a first strike against North America due to their range. Liu said Russia meanwhile is trying to turn the attention of the United States to China through overstating PLA's nuclear strike capability.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?cid=1101&MainCatID=11&id=20150113000003>

[Return to Top](#)

Sputnik News – Russian Information Agency

US Concerned About Russia's Emerging Strategic Military Capabilities

Commander of US Strategic Command admitted Washington to having concerns over Russia's growing strategic capabilities, noting over a decade of investments in modernization across various spheres of Russia's military.

15 January 2015

WASHINGTON, January 15 (Sputnik) — The United States is concerned about Russia's emerging strategic capabilities in nuclear, space, cyber security spheres, Commander of US Strategic Command Adm. Cecil Haney said on Thursday.

“Russia has had more than a decade of investments in modernization across their strategic nuclear forces. This is not about the continuation of the cold war <...>This is about emerging capability at a time of significant concerns in Russians execution of their near abroad strategy,” Adm. Haney said at the event devoted to strategic deterrence in Atlantic Council, Washington, DC.

The commander went on by saying that Moscow has significant cyber capability and also “has publicly stated they are developing counter space capabilities.”

“Russian leaders openly maintain that Russia's armed forces have anti-satellite weapons and conduct anti-satellite research,” Adm. Haney noted.

The commander also reminded of the news of “Russian strategic bombers penetrating the US and ally air defense identification zones on multiple occasions this year.”

“[Russian] President [Vladimir] Putin continues to stress the importance of Russia's strategic forces,” Adm. Haney said adding that President Putin was seen during major strategic force exercises in 2013 and 2014.

Relations between Russia and the United States have deteriorated following Crimea's reunification with Russia in March 2014 and the escalation of an armed conflict in Ukraine's southeast.

The United States and its allies have introduced several rounds of sanctions against Russia over its alleged involvement in the Ukrainian crisis. The restrictive measures target Russia's defense, banking and energy sectors, as well as a number of individuals.

<http://sputniknews.com/military/20150115/1016940962.html>

[Return to Top](#)

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

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



North Korea Will Suspend Nuclear Tests if US Calls off South Korea Military Drills

- *Pyongyang 'ready to take such a responsive step'*
- *US rejects overture and calls for North to 'cease all threats'*

By Dominic Smith and agencies
Saturday, 10 January 2015

North Korea has offered to suspend nuclear tests if the US cancels its annual military drills with South Korea.

Through its official KCNA news agency, Pyongyang called on Washington to “contribute to easing tension on the Korean peninsula” by temporarily suspending the military exercises in South Korea “and its vicinity”. It said the message had been passed to American authorities through “a relevant channel” on Friday.

“The DPRK is ready to take such a responsive step as temporarily suspending the nuclear test over which the US is concerned,” KCNA said.

The US rejected the overture, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki saying on Saturday the nuclear tests and military exercises were separate issues.

“The DPRK statement that inappropriately links routine US-ROK [South Korea] exercises to the possibility of a nuclear test by North Korea is an implicit threat,” Psaki told reporters traveling with secretary of state John Kerry in Europe. The US and South Korea have carried out the joint military exercises for roughly 40 years, she added.

Psaki said the US remained open to dialogue with North Korea and urged Pyongyang to “immediately cease all threats, reduce tensions, and take the necessary steps toward denuclearization needed to resume credible negotiations”.

North Korea has conducted three nuclear tests, the latest in February 2013, the first two in 2006 and 2009. It has threatened to hold another in response to a United Nations resolution condemning its human rights record.

The KCNA report said Pyongyang’s proposal was aimed at de-escalating tensions in 2015, in the year of the 70th anniversary of the division of the Korean peninsula into North and South. The two nations have remained technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean War, which concluded with a ceasefire.

The US has close to 30,000 troops permanently stationed in South Korea and conducts a series of joint military exercises with its key Asian ally every year. Seoul and Washington insist the drills are defensive in nature, but they are regularly condemned by Pyongyang as provocative rehearsals for invasion.

“It’s like they’re putting a worm on a line to see if they can get a nibble,” said John Delury, a North Korea expert at Yonsei University in Seoul.

“But I don’t see the US biting, at least not publicly,” he added.

Washington has always refused to enter into dialogue with Pyongyang until North Korea shows a tangible commitment to abandoning its entire nuclear weapons programme.

Relations between the two countries are particularly tense since North Korea’s alleged role in hacking Sony Pictures’ systems and threatening US moviegoers over film *The Interview*. Earlier this month, the US imposed economic sanctions against several North Korean government agencies and senior officials earlier this month.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jan/10/north-korea-suspend-nuclear-us-military-drills-south-korea>

[Return to Top](#)

China Daily – Beijing, China

Chinese Military to Reshuffle Grassroot Officers

(Xinhua)

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

January 11, 2015

BEIJING - The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has ordered chief officers in charge of military and political work at the grassroots level to switch posts to strengthen the army.

The move is expected to help to train quality grassroots officers who excel as military commanders and political chiefs, said a circular issued by the PLA General Political Department.

The circular was endorsed by President Xi Jinping, also chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC).

This is the first time the military has comprehensively undertaken work in this regard, according to Saturday's edition of the PLA Daily.

The PLA piloted a similar scheme with military and political chiefs at the battalion and company level in 2014.

As part of the pilot program, a brigade in the 27th Combined Corp ordered company chiefs to move positions after two years in office, while all battalion chiefs should change posts if they had not done this before.

The PLA General Political Department is mulling making this a routine practice in the armed forces and a "new normal" in training grassroot offices, said the circular.

http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-01/11/content_19298540.htm

[Return to Top](#)

The Chosun Ilbo – Seoul, South Korea

N.Korean Missile Launches 'Harder to Predict'

January 13, 2015

North Korea has drastically shortened the time it takes to prepare for missile launches by improving liquid fuel quality for ballistic missiles, a government source here claimed Monday.

This could virtually incapacitate South Korea's current missile defense system.

"It used to be thought possible to detect a North Korean launch of ballistic missiles in advance because the liquid fuel had to be pumped into the missiles right before the launch," the source said.

"But analysis of various intelligence reports last year shows that the North's ballistic missiles can now stay in standby mode for a long time even after they are injected with liquid fuel because its quality has improved."

That would give the renegade country more flexibility in deciding when to launch a missile.

The North is estimated to have some 1,000 ballistic missiles, most of which use liquid fuel.

In the past the North's liquid fuel was so explosive that missiles could only be filled an hour-and-a-half to three hours before their launch. But now they can be kept ready for anywhere between a month and several years, the source claimed.

That would make it nearly impossible for South Korean and U.S. intelligence to spot launch preparations with reconnaissance satellites or aircraft.

Military authorities here failed to detect the North's surprise launches of Scud and Rodong missiles in advance last year. They are now trying to improve their reconnaissance and responses.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2015/01/13/2015011301049.html

[Return to Top](#)

TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



North Korean Media Say Pyongyang set to Pursue Military Policy, Win Standoff with US

The article was published after the US rejected Pyongyang's offer to halt its nuclear test should Seoul and Washington temporarily shelve their plan for joint military exercises this year
January 13, 2015

PYONGYANG, January 13. /TASS/. North Korea will continue pursuing its "military first" policy known as songun regardless of changes in the international situation or the structure of relations with neighboring states, the Rodong Sinmun newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea said Pyongyang "will surely gain victory in the confrontation with the United States".

The report says Pyongyang took measures to "strengthen the military potential of containment in the self-defense interests after Washington "attempted to isolate North Korea and stifle the country's economy last year."

According to the article, North Korea will continue strengthening nuclear deterrence forces "to thwart all the attempts of the enemy to overthrow the social system in the country".

The article was published after the US rejected Pyongyang's offer last week to halt its nuclear test should Seoul and Washington temporarily shelve their plan for joint military exercises this year.

US State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said on Saturday Pyongyang was "inappropriately" linking routine military drills between Washington and Seoul to the possibility of a nuclear test.

"A new nuclear test would be a clear violation of North Korea's obligations under multiple UN Security Council resolutions," Psaki said, adding that Pyongyang's offer is an "implicit threat."

Pyongyang said last week that the US should revise its hostile policy against North Korea to avert the threat of war, decrease tensions and create a favorable environment on the Korean Peninsula.

North Korea also expressed readiness to take part in bilateral talks at any time if the US showed its wish to discuss the offer.

<http://itar-tass.com/en/world/770876>

[Return to Top](#)

Business Insider – New York City, NY

Top Expert: North Korea Could Have 20 Nuclear Weapons by the Time Obama Leaves Office

By Jeremy Bender
January 13, 2015

Within the next two years North Korea could have enough fissile material to build a nuclear arsenal of about 20 weapons, according to Siegfried S. Hecker, a senior fellow and affiliated member at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation.

Hecker, a former director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory who has visited North Korea several times over the past decade, believes that the nuclear policies of the past five US presidents, coupled with vacillating South Korean policies and a dearth of Chinese pressure, has allowed North Korea to reach an advanced point of nuclearization.

Hecker notes that "Pyongyang likely has roughly 12 nuclear weapons with an annual manufacturing capacity of possibly four to six bombs." He believes the arsenal is primed for even greater growth in the next couple of years: "By the time the president leaves office, North Korea may conduct another nuclear test and have an arsenal of 20."

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

He is unsparing in his assessment of the past three decades' of presidential administrations and their failure to restrain North Korea's program: "Five US administrations determined to prevent North Korea from becoming a nuclear weapon state through various combinations of diplomacy, threats, ultimatums, and sanctions all failed. The George W. Bush administration failed miserably and, to date, the Obama administration has done as badly."

North Korea first laid the foundations for its nuclear program during the Reagan administration of the 1980s. At the time, Pyongyang's drive for nuclear weapons focused on the construction of plutonium production reactors and facilities capable of extracting bomb-grade plutonium.

North Korea followed this progress by researching an alternate track to weapons through uranium centrifuges during the George H.W. Bush administration. The centrifuges would enrich uranium to weapons' grade, providing a second method of creating a nuclear blast.

Under Clinton, Pyongyang mothballed its plutonium reactors through a negotiated freeze as part of the 1994 Agreed Framework. But North Korea merely shifted its focus to uranium centrifuges and shared nuclear technology and expertise with Syria, Libya, and Pakistan.

Under George W. Bush, North Korea scrapped the Agreed Framework and restarted its plutonium reactors. Pyongyang conducted its first nuclear test in 2006. Since then, North Korea has continued to develop nuclear weapons, and Pyongyang has declared itself a nuclear state.

As North Korea continues its push for additional and more easily deployable nuclear weapons, Pyongyang becomes increasingly dangerous to its neighbors and the world at large. In October, the US general in charge of forces on the Korean peninsula said that Pyongyang has likely managed to miniaturize nuclear weapons, bringing the regime closer to being able to place nuclear weapons on top of rockets or missiles.

At the same time, North Korea has started development on submarines outfitted with ballistic missile tubes and road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missile platforms.

Even though these technologies are in development, the completion of a successful launch is still thought to be beyond North Korea's current capabilities.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/north-korea-could-have-20-nuclear-weapons-by-2016-2015-1>

[Return to Top](#)

The Korea Herald – Seoul, South Korea

N. Korea Raps Seoul Allies' Military Info Sharing Pact

January 15, 2015

North Korea lashed out at the United States Thursday for clinching a military intelligence-sharing pact with South Korea and Japan, calling it "an attempt to be the hegemon in the Asia-Pacific region."

Late last year, South Korea, the U.S. and Japan signed the pact on sharing sensitive military information on North Korea's nuclear and missile programs to better counter Pyongyang's evolving security threats to the region and beyond.

The arrangement "is the first step for the U.S. to compete its missile defense system" in order to "cement its hegemonic status" in the Asia-Pacific region, the Rodong Sinmun, an organ of the North's ruling Workers' Party of Korea, said in a commentary.

Claiming that the intelligence the three nations will share would not only be about Pyongyang but also Russia and China, the North said the U.S. "has employed every means to militarily suppress such regional powers as China and Russia."

"Countries in the Asia-Pacific region will never sit idle facing the schemes made through the trilateral military alliance mechanism," the newspaper warned.

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

The criticism comes at a time when the relations between North Korea and the U.S. have been in poor shape, with Washington intensifying its pressure on the communist country while rejecting its charm offensive.

On Saturday, Washington spurned North Korea's offer to suspend nuclear tests in exchange for the U.S. scrapping joint military drills with South Korea.

Early this month, the U.S. imposed fresh sanctions on Pyongyang in retaliation for its alleged cyber-attack on Sony Pictures, blacklisting three North Korean entities and 10 officials. (Yonhap)

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20150115000781>

[Return to Top](#)

People's Daily Online – Beijing, China

PLA Officers Placed under Investigation

(China Daily)

January 16, 2015

Liu Zheng, deputy head of the People's Liberation Army's General Logistics Department, is under investigation for suspected legal violations, the PLA said on Thursday.

Liu was placed under investigation in November by the military procuratorate, according to a report on the PLA website.

The report listed 16 senior officers - at corps level and above - as subjects of investigation in 2014.

Liu is not the first deputy head of the PLA General Logistics Department to be investigated. Previously, his predecessor Gu Junshan was charged with embezzlement, bribery, misuse of state funds and abuse of power.

Liu graduated from the Second Artillery Corps Engineering School and has spent his career climbing the military ladder.

He was appointed deputy head of the General Logistics Department in December 2012, replacing Lieutenant General Gu, who was removed from his post, also on corruption charges, in 2012.

Gu was alleged to have accumulated goods and property worth more than 600 million yuan (\$98 million) through taking bribes. Such a haul would be the largest in any corruption case involving a member of the PLA.

Yu Daqing, deputy political commissar of the Second Artillery Force, and Fan Changmi, deputy political commissar of the Lanzhou Military Area Command, have also been under investigation since December, the report said.

The report also included other names that have been released previously, including the former vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission, Xu Caihou.

Xu, 71, a former general, was brought down last March. He is the highest-level PLA officer to be investigated and charged in more than 30 years.

President Xi Jinping, who also serves as chairman of the Central Military Commission, has vowed to eradicate corruption in China's 2.3-million-strong armed forces.

The past year has seen a major cleanup of the armed forces amid the nationwide anti-corruption campaign, which was described this week by Xi as "a matter of life or death for the Party and nation".

Former top brass netted in the crackdown last year include:

Wang Minggui, former political commissar of the Air Force command school; Fang Wenping, former head of the Military Command in Shanxi; Wei Jin, deputy political commissar of the Tibet Military Command; Ye Wanyong, former political commissar of the Sichuan Provincial Military Command in Chengdu; Yang Jinshan, deputy

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

commander of the Chengdu Military Command; and Zhang Qibin, former deputy chief of staff at the Military Command in Jinan.

They also include Fu Linguo, a deputy chief of staff at the PLA General Logistics Department; Dai Weimin, deputy president of the PLA Nanjing Political College; Gao Xiaoyan, deputy political commissar and chief of discipline inspection at PLA Information Engineering University; Ma Xiangdong, head of the Political Affairs Department at the PLA Nanjing Political College; Zhang Daixin, a deputy commander at the Military Command in Heilongjiang; and Chen Qiang, a deputy head at PLA unit 96301.

Xinhua contributed to this story.

<http://en.people.cn/n/2015/0116/c90785-8836921.html>

[Return to Top](#)

Sputnik News – Russian Information Agency

Russia's Strategic Missile Forces to Conduct Over 100 Drills in 2015

Russia's Strategic Missile Forces will conduct over 100 command and staff, tactical and specialized drills to improve the performance of troops' field training in 2015.

11 January 2015

MOSCOW, January 11 (Sputnik) — The Strategic Missile Forces (SMF) of Russia are planning to conduct over 100 drills at various levels in 2015, SMF spokesperson Col. Igor Yegorov said Sunday.

"In 2015, SMF will conduct over 100 command and staff, tactical and specialized drills. The drills will be conducted in complex and tense conditions," Yegorov told the press.

The spokesperson added that the purpose of the planned exercises is to improve the performance of troops' field training by increasing the duration of the drills. In addition, requirements for skills of all categories of servicemen will be increased.

Russia's Strategic Missile Forces are the arm of the country's Armed Forces and the main component of its strategic nuclear forces. Their main goals include nuclear deterrence of a possible aggression and the defeat of possible enemy's strategic objects of military and economic potential by means of nuclear missile attacks.

In late December, Russia's Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov cited the strengthening of the country's nuclear triad as the Armed Forces' main task for 2015.

<http://sputniknews.com/military/20150111/1016764070.html>

[Return to Top](#)

Pravda.ru – Moscow, Russia

Russia Must Keep USA at Gunpoint

By *Pravda.ru*

12 January 2015

Russia's military doctrine can be updated and altered against the changing nature of threats. Pravda.Ru interviewed President of the International Center for Geopolitical Analysis, Doctor of Historical Sciences Leonid Ivashov, about the current state of affairs in the military doctrine of the Russian Federation.

"The concluding part of the military doctrine from 2010 states that its provisions can be adjusted in accordance with the changing nature of military dangers and threats. Who and what is now a threat to Russia?"

"The military doctrine is neither an order, nor a directive. This is just an action plan, a body of views to military security of a state. Of course, views change as the military-political situation changes. The doctrine is then used as a basis for the creation of rules about the use of armed forces, appropriate orders, directives and so on. The

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

doctrine, which was approved in 2010, was based on more or less quiet conditions for Russia in military-political and military-strategic terms. Russia's military and political leadership believed that our relations with the West were generally friendly. We were only concerned about the expansion of NATO. This aspect was gently designated in the doctrine. The doctrine is clearly defensive in nature. The text of the Russian doctrine from 2010 does not contain such a word as "offensive", let alone "counter battle".

"It contains a purely defensive stance, but if something suddenly happens, we're ready. Our nuclear capabilities serve as the guarantee of Russia's security. This made it possible to destroy forces of ordinary purpose and carry out the reforms that Serdyukov (former defense minister of Russia - ed.) was conducting, destroying the army and the navy of Russia as a military organization system. Everything was guaranteed by the fact that we have nuclear weapons. Our nuclear shield is the primary factor of nuclear deterrence. However, this deterrence does not guarantee safety, because we do not see a situation when we can push the button even for a retaliatory attack.

"The Americans radically changed both their military strategy and nuclear doctrine in the early 2000s. They pushed nuclear weapons into the background. They have not upgraded one single ballistic missile, and they do not build new ones either. What they do is they create a new strike force that will decide the outcome of future battles. On December 18, 2003, they signed a directive on the concept of prompt global strike. Under the directive, they will attack by launching thousands of high-precision vehicles from different strategic directions. These include idea and air based cruise missiles, strategic missiles, drones.

"With the first strike, they plan to incapacitate our submarine-based ballistic missiles and even silo-based missiles. In this situation, if Russia strikes back, they will use the missile defense system, the main component of which is not the European missile defense, but the marine component. The United States has 93 ships equipped with AEGIS systems. It was AEGIS that removed an American defunct satellite from orbit in 2008 at an altitude of 247 km.

"Thus, the Americans plan to destroy our remaining ballistic missiles in the boost phase of their flight. For these purposes, the Americans create this missile defense. Afterwards, AEGIS systems will disable the warheads of the missiles that have been launched. The Americans do their best to devalue the Russian nuclear missile potential. And they can succeed.

"If this happens, and we can already see this, we will see a completely different behavior of the United States. Having neutralized strategic nuclear forces of Russia, the Americans can declare that they do not recognize neither the Northern Sea Route, nor the Mendeleev and Lomonosov Ridge as Russian waters. The USA will pronounce them their own or international, and for the Americans, 'international' stands for 'American.' We may face such a situation, and what will Russia do? Launch nuclear ballistic missiles? No, of course not.

"The military doctrine contains another fairly precarious position, which I call a move of despair. It says that should non-nuclear powers show aggression against Russia, threatening the existence and the territorial integrity of Russia, then we will preemptively use nuclear weapons. Sounds correct, but let's see: against whom of our neighbors can we use tactical nuclear weapons, weapons of the battlefield? Against NATO? They are all under the American nuclear umbrella. Japan is also under this umbrella.

"It just so happens that it is only Mongolia and Finland that can be the countries against which we can use nuclear weapons, if they threaten us. The situation has changed dramatically, and we are standing on the brink of a war - not a cold, but a hot war. Therefore, today Russia hastily takes efforts to rebuild the defensive capacity of the armed forces and change the military doctrine.

"The Russian style of development is slow - a step forward, a step or two back. After all, space forces existed in the times of the Soviet Union. However, it was then thought that we have no enemies in space, and the troops were disbanded. Today we are working on this wasteland. According to the plan of the likely enemy, navigation and reconnaissance satellites that ensure the use of our cruise and ballistic missiles should be destroyed first.

"The first phase of the possible attack will target the space group, so that we do not see anything. It will be hard for aviation to reach targets without the GLONASS system. Today, Russia takes measures to correct this mistake as well."

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies

CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

"The Russian strategic long-range aviation celebrates 100 years since the establishment. What is the role of the long-range aviation today?"

"Any normal state creates a complex system of arms. We still live in the remains of Ustinov's system, when all would be interconnected by problems, when all would work in concert. When we were building the triad of sea, land and air components, there were many disputes, but the place for long-range aviation was found. This place is unique, because ground missiles are attached to a certain base. A submarine travels in oceans, but it still remains a base, the actions and movement of which are trackable.

"Aviation is much more mobile, it can change direction and altitude. Today, when the Americans have built the missile defense system against Russian ballistic missiles, aviation should come to the forefront in this triad. To make matters worse, using such bulky missiles as Bulava, Topol and Voevoda in a nuclear-free version is meaningless, because costs are enormous, but the effect can be minimal.

"Yet, Russian long-range strategic aircraft can use precision cruise missiles in a nuclear-free version. It can even change the capacity of warheads. I think it has been forgotten unfairly. Long-range aircraft needs to be revived urgently. Our "White Swans" can fly and land somewhere at an intermediate distance from the United States, perhaps in Latin America. Bingo - they have the US territory at gunpoint, and this is what the Americans fear most. They invest a lot of money in missile defense not to wage wars on their own territory. They will be happy to stage wars anywhere, but not on their own territory. We need to find some power to create a group that could, in case of aggression against Russia, act on the territory of the United States. Now that would be a factor of deterrence. They say that the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and the Russian Ministry of Defence work on that already."

"What methods of non-nuclear deterrence can be most effective at the moment?"

"One should keep the US territory at gunpoint to be able to immediately act on the territory. The group should target the Federal Reserve, but I'm joking here, of course. Yet, there is some truth in this joke, because, as a rule, it is financial oligarchs, who need to start wars. Non-nuclear deterrence factors should include powerful government agencies, particularly the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Economic agencies should be involved as well to cause damage with the use of economic methods. This should be considered as a combat mission. Planning the supplies of hydrocarbons and other strategic goods must necessarily envisage a possibility for a special period in wartime."

http://english.pravda.ru/russia/politics/12-01-2015/129505-russia_usa_war-0/

[Return to Top](#)

Sputnik News – Russian Information Agency

Russia to Merge Air, Space Forces in 2015: Defense Ministry

Russia will form an Air-Space Force by combining its Air Force and Space Forces in 2015. The military is working to develop a reliable layered missile defense system in space, and to deploy newest radars.

13 January 2015

MOSCOW, January 13 (Sputnik) – Russia will create an Air-Space Force from the merger of its Air Force and Space Forces in 2015, the country's Armed Forces General Staff chief, Valery Gerasimov, said Tuesday.

"A new type of armed forces will be created in 2015, the Air-Space Forces, by combining two already existing types of military armed forces: the Air Force and Space Forces," Gerasimov said.

Earlier it was reported that Russia would combine these two military forces in 2016.

According to Gerasimov, the military is working to develop a reliable layered missile defense system in space, and to deploy newest radars.

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



**USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal**

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

The establishment of the Air-Space Forces has been widely discussed in the press in recent years, but such rumors were always denied by the authorities. Last summer, Russian Air Force commander-in-chief Lt. Gen. Viktor Bondarev confirmed the creation of the new force.

<http://sputniknews.com/military/20150113/1016833544.html>

[Return to Top](#)

TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

Russia Will Develop New Defense Plan for 2016-2020

Russian troops will receive about 700 armoured vehicles, almost 1,550 other vehicles, 126 planes, 88 helicopters and 2 Iskander-M missile systems this year

January 13, 2015

MOSCOW, January 13. /TASS/. The Russian Defense Ministry will work out a new defense plan for the next few years, Minister Sergey Shoigu said.

“We must draw up a new plan for defense of the Russian Federation for 2016-2020 and ensure timely placing and obligatory fulfillment of state defense orders in 2015 to have modern models of weapons and military equipment as planned,” he said.

The minister said Russian troops will receive about 700 armoured vehicles and almost 1,550 other vehicles, 126 planes, 88 helicopters and two Iskander-M missile systems this year. The Navy will receive two multi-purpose submarines and five surface warships.

In 2015 a radar station Voronezh-DM will be placed into service in Yeniseisk, Siberia, a year ahead of schedule, and another such station will begin operating in Barnaul, the Altai region, six month ahead of schedule, Shoigu added.

<http://itar-tass.com/en/russia/770904>

[Return to Top](#)

Der Spiegel.com – Bonn, Germany

Assad's Secret: Evidence Points to Syrian Push for Nuclear Weapons

For years, it was thought that Israel had destroyed Syria's nuclear weapons capability with its 2007 raid on the Kibar complex. Not so. New intelligence suggests that Bashar al-Assad is still trying to build the bomb. And he may be getting help from North Korea and Iran.

By Erich Follath

January 09, 2015

At 11 p.m. on Sept. 5, 2007, 10 F-15 fighter bombers climbed into the sky from the Israeli military base Ramat David, just south of Haifa. They headed for the Mediterranean Sea, officially for a training mission. A half hour later, three of the planes were ordered to return to base while the others changed course, heading over Turkey toward the Syrian border. There, they eliminated a radar station with electronic jamming signals and, after 18 more minutes, reached the city of Deir al-Zor, located on the banks of the Euphrates River. Their target was a complex of structures known as Kibar, just east of the city. The Israelis fired away, completely destroying the factory using Maverick missiles and 500 kilogram bombs.

The pilots returned to base without incident and Operation Orchard was brought to a successful conclusion. In Jerusalem, then-Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and his closest advisors were in a self-congratulatory mood, convinced as they were that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad was seeking to build a nuclear weapon and that Kibar was the almost-completed facility where that construction was to take place. They believed that their dangerous operation had saved the world from immense harm.

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



But they also wanted to prevent the situation from escalating, which is why they didn't even inform the US of their plan prior to the bombing run. Olmert only called Washington once the operation had been completed. Orchard was also to remain secret in Israel so as to avoid anything that smacked of triumphalism. Nor did they want it to become known that North Korean nuclear experts had been spotted in Deir al-Zor helping out with the construction of the reactor. They hoped to provide Assad an opportunity to play down the incident and to abstain from revenge attacks.

And that is in fact what happened. Assad complained about the violation of Syrian airspace and the bombing of a "warehouse," but the official version also claimed that the Syrian air force chased away the attackers. The public at the time did not learn what had really taken place.

Now, secret information obtained by SPIEGEL indicates that the world is once again being misled by Assad. Syria's dictator has not given up his dream of an atomic weapon and has apparently built a new nuclear facility at a secret location. It is an extremely unsettling piece of news.

Suspicious Uranium Particles

Back in 2007, it proved impossible to completely quell rumors about the mysterious building complex in the desert and its possible military purpose. In contrast to Israel and Pakistan, Syria is a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and is thus committed to using nuclear power only for peaceful purposes. And the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna demanded access to the site. In June 2008, Assad finally gave in to the IAEA's pressure and experts under the leadership of Olli Heinonen, a native of Finland, were allowed to inspect the destroyed Kibar facility.



DER SPIEGEL

Map: The site of a possible new nuclear facility in Syria.

It quickly became apparent that Damascus had done everything it could to destroy all traces of what had been going on there. But the atomic detectives from the IAEA were nevertheless able to find suspicious uranium particles -- a discovery that the Syrian government sought to explain away as a potential act of sabotage. Though the IAEA noted that its investigation did not turn up definitive proof, the organization requested access to three other facilities due to ongoing suspicions. The IAEA suspected that the trio of nuclear sites may be connected to Kibar, particularly the suspected enrichment facility Marj as-Sultan, located 15 kilometers north of Damascus. The Syrians refused, angered by what they called "unfounded defamation."

A clear picture of the background of the Israeli operation and the details of the commando raid was only made possible by a precise reconstruction by SPIEGEL in 2009, assembled following interviews with political leaders, nuclear experts and secret service experts. Assad, to be sure, denied having nuclear ambitions in a 2009 interview with SPIEGEL, saying: "We want a nuclear-free Middle East, Israel included." But the IAEA investigation report in



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

May 2011 and a story in the *New Yorker* in 2012 made it clear even to skeptics that Syria had been playing with fire. "The Agency concludes that the destroyed building was very likely a nuclear reactor," the IAEA report notes with uncharacteristic clarity.

Afterward, all activity ceased at the destroyed site, as shown by regularly analyzed satellite images of the area. But did that mean that the Israeli attack really brought an end to all Syrian plans for the development of a bomb?

Continued Pursuit of the Bomb

The factory had been on the verge of completion and many observers believed at the time that there could be a secret cache of fuel, at least enough for a year, standing by. According to IAEA research, Syria possesses up to 50 tons of natural uranium, enough material for three to five bombs once the enrichment procedure is completed.

The Institute for Science and International Security in Washington D.C. likewise has strong indications for the existence of such stockpiles and expressed its concern in September 2013. "This large stock of natural uranium metal poses nuclear proliferation risks," the institute wrote. "It could be obtained by organizations such as Hezbollah or al-Qaida or undeclared nuclear programs of states such as Iran."

According to findings of Western intelligence agencies, however, the situation is much more explosive than previously assumed. Based on documents that SPIEGEL has in its possession, the agencies are convinced that Assad is continuing in his efforts to build the bomb.

Analysts say that the Syrian atomic weapon program has continued in a secret, underground location. According to information they have obtained, approximately 8,000 fuel rods are stored there. Furthermore, a new reactor or an enrichment facility has very likely been built at the site -- a development of incalculable geopolitical consequences.

Some of the uranium was apparently hidden for an extended period at Marj as-Sultan near Damascus, a site that the IAEA likewise views with suspicion. Satellite images from December 2012 and February 2013 show suspicious activity at Marj as-Sultan. The facility, located not far from a Syrian army base, had become the focal point of heavy fighting with rebels. Government troops had to quickly move everything of value. They did so, as intelligence officials have been able to reconstruct, with the help of Hezbollah, the radical Shiite "Party of God" based in Lebanon. The well-armed militia, which is largely financed by Iran, is fighting alongside Assad's troops.

Intercepted Conversations

Intelligence agency findings indicate that the material was moved to a well-hidden underground location just west of the city of Qusayr, not even two kilometers from the border with Lebanon. They managed the move just in time. Marj as-Sultan ultimately did fall to the rebels, but has since been retaken by government troops.

Since then, experts have been keeping a close eye on the site outside of Qusayr, one which they had largely ignored before, believing it to be a conventional Hezbollah weapons depot. Analysts compared earlier satellite images and carefully noted even the slightest of changes. Soon, it became clear to them that they had happened upon an extremely disconcerting discovery.

According to intelligence agency analysis, construction of the facility began back in 2009. The work, their findings suggest, was disguised from the very beginning, with excavated sand being disposed of at various sites, apparently to make it more difficult for observers from above to tell how deeply they were digging. Furthermore, the entrances to the facility were guarded by the military, which turned out to be a necessary precaution. In the spring of 2013, the region around Qusayr saw heavy fighting. But the area surrounding the project in the mines was held, despite heavy losses suffered by elite Hezbollah units stationed there.

The most recent satellite images show six structures: a guard house and five sheds, three of which conceal entrances to the facility below. The site also has special access to the power grid, connected to the nearby city of Blosah. A particularly suspicious detail is the deep well which connects the facility with Zaita Lake, four kilometers away. Such a connection is unnecessary for a conventional weapons cache, but it is essential for a nuclear facility.

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

But the clearest proof that it is a nuclear facility comes from radio traffic recently intercepted by a network of spies. A voice identified as belonging to a high-ranking Hezbollah functionary can be heard referring to the "atomic factory" and mentions Qusayr. The Hezbollah man is clearly familiar with the site. And he frequently provides telephone updates to a particularly important man: Ibrahim Othman, the head of the Syrian Atomic Energy Commission.

The Hezbollah functionary mostly uses a codename for the facility: "Zamzam," a word that almost all Muslims know. According to tradition, Zamzam is the well God created in the desert for Abraham's wife and their son Ishmael. The well can be found in Mecca and is one of the sites visited by pilgrims making the Hajj. Those who don't revere Zamzam are not considered to be true Muslims.

North Korean Expert in Syria?

Work performed at the site by members of Iran's Revolutionary Guard is also mentioned in the intercepted conversations. The Revolutionary Guard is a paramilitary organization under the direct control of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. It controls a large part of the Iranian economy and also plays a significant role in Iran's own nuclear activities. Not all of its missions abroad are cleared with the government of moderate President Hassan Rohani. The Revolutionary Guard is a state within a state.

Experts are also convinced that North Korea is involved in Zamzam as well. Already during the construction of the Kibar facility, Ibrahim Othman worked closely together with Chou Ji Bu, an engineer who built the nuclear reactor Yongbyon in North Korea.

Chou was long thought to have disappeared. Some thought that he had fallen victim to a purge back home. Now, though, Western intelligence experts believe that he went underground in Damascus. According to the theory, Othman never lost contact with his shady acquaintance. And experts believe that the new nuclear facility could never have been built without North Korean know-how. The workmanship exhibited by the fuel rods likewise hints at North Korean involvement.

What approach will now be taken to Zamzam? How will the West, Assad and Syria's neighbors react to the revelations?

The discovery of the presumed nuclear facility will not likely be welcomed by any of the political actors. It is an embarrassment for everybody. For Syria and North Korea, both of which have periodically sought to shed their images as international pariahs. For Hezbollah, which hopes to emerge as Lebanon's strongest political power.

A New Assessment

But the new development also comes at an uncomfortable time for the US government. Despite all official denials, Washington is currently operating in the region more-or-less in concert with Assad in the fight against the Islamist terrorist militia Islamic State. Furthermore, following the well-monitored and largely efficient destruction of Syrian chemical weapons, the US, Britain and France all believed that Assad's ability to wage unconventional warfare had been eliminated. The possible development of a Syrian atomic weapon, should it be confirmed, would necessarily lead to a new assessment of the situation.

The discovery presents a particularly difficult dilemma to Israel. The country has, to be sure, continued to bomb Hezbollah supply lines, but it apparently knew nothing of a possible new nuclear facility. Israeli leaders would be faced with the impossible decision between ignoring Zamzam or undertaking an extremely risky attack against a facility built deep underground. In contrast to 2007, bunker buster bombs would be required, with unforeseeable consequences for the environment. It would be an irresponsible decision, but one which Israeli hardliners could ultimately make.

The international monitors in Vienna also don't look good, with IAEA boss Yukiya Amano having been deceived by Assad. In September 2014, the Japanese national urged "Syria to cooperate fully with the agency in connection with all unresolved issues." He hasn't yet received a reply. A sanction of last resort would be that of expelling Syria from the IAEA, an unlikely step given that Moscow continues to protect Assad, in the IAEA as in the United Nations.

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies

CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

Islamic State recently invited IAEA inspectors to investigate in areas under their control. The terror organization conquered the area around Deir al-Zor several months ago and offered the IAEA the opportunity to have another look around the Kibar facility. But the Vienna-based organization declined, not wanting to provide Islamic State with any kind of legitimacy.

Plus, Deir al-Zor is no longer the focal point. The international experts in Vienna now find themselves confronted with new challenges across the country on the border with Lebanon.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/evidence-points-to-syria-still-working-on-a-nuclear-weapon-a-1012209.html>

[Return to Top](#)

Press TV – Tehran, Iran

Iran FM Rejects Der Spiegel Claims as ‘Ridiculous’

Sunday, January 11, 2015

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has rejected as “ridiculous” a report by the website of Germany’s Der Spiegel weekly claiming that Tehran is helping Syria build nuclear weapons.

Speaking at a Sunday news conference with visiting Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides in Tehran, Zarif said such claims are part of a scaremongering campaign targeting the Islamic Republic’s peaceful nuclear work, paving the way for adopting wrong policies vis-à-vis Syria.

In an article published on Friday, Der Spiegel claimed that the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is making efforts to build nuclear bombs, adding that Damascus may be getting assistance from the Islamic Republic to produce nuclear arms.

The top Iranian diplomat further described the claims as “ridiculous” and said such reports are aimed at inciting fears and promoting Iranophobia in the international community.

Iran has repeatedly voiced opposition to the possession of nuclear weapons either on its soil or anywhere else in the world, said Zarif, adding that Tehran favors the removal of all nuclear arms as they are to the detriment of everyone.

“Based on the fatwa by Leader [of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei], we have never been and will never be after nuclear weapons,” added the Iranian foreign minister.

The United States, Israel and some of their allies have repeatedly accused Iran of pursuing non-civilian objectives in its nuclear energy program.

Iran strongly rejects the allegations that it is seeking to develop nuclear weapons. Tehran says it needs the nuclear program for peaceful purposes, including generating electricity and producing radio-isotopes for medical purposes.

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2015/01/11/392675/Iran-denies-ridiculous-Spiegel-claims>

[Return to Top](#)

Al-Akhbar.com – Beirut, Lebanon

Iran Insists on Uranium Enrichment Ahead of Talks

Sunday, January 11, 2015

Iran’s atomic agency chief insisted Sunday on Tehran’s demands for increased uranium enrichment, days before the resumption of thorny talks with world powers in Geneva.

Ali Akbar Salehi, a former foreign minister and ex-nuclear negotiator for the Islamic Republic, said that within eight years the country would need 12 times more enriched uranium than at present.

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

Iran's level of uranium enrichment -- the process that produces atomic fuel -- has been a key stumbling block in reaching a deal with the P5+1 powers (Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States plus Germany) on Tehran's contentious nuclear program.

"We currently produce 2.5 tons but will need 30 tons eventually," Salehi, head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization, was quoted as saying by official news agency IRNA.

"They refuse... and ask that we reduce the number of centrifuges (the machines that enrich uranium)," Salehi said.

"We must have that right in eight years... we are ready to do this in stages. They can set the first step but we want to set the last step."

With a comprehensive nuclear deal at stake by a June 30 deadline, the negotiations have stalled on key issues.

Following a preliminary agreement in November 2013, two deadlines for a final deal have been missed with talks failing to pin down hard details on what an approved Iranian nuclear program would look like.

Under the interim deal, Iran's stock of fissile material has been diluted from 20 percent enriched uranium to five percent in exchange for limited sanctions relief.

Salehi also reiterated Iran's demand for an eventual enrichment capacity of 190,000 SWU (separative work units), which was first set out by the country's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei last July.

In Geneva, US Secretary of State John Kerry will meet Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif on Wednesday, with lower-level P5+1 meetings on January 18.

Diplomats on both sides say that despite progress, the two sides remain far apart on crucial points: the number and type of uranium-enriching centrifuges Iran should be allowed to keep spinning, the process for relieving sanctions and the duration of the final deal.

Tehran wants to massively ramp up the number of enrichment centrifuges in order, it says, to make fuel for a fleet of power reactors that is yet to be built.

The West seeks them dramatically reduced, a move which, together with more stringent UN inspections and an export of Iran's uranium stocks, would make any attempt to make the bomb all but impossible.

Moreover, Iran wants a quick and total lifting of UN and Western sanctions that have strangled its economy, including its vital oil trade, but the powers want to stagger any relief over a long period to ensure Tehran complies with any deal.

In the latest round of nuclear negotiations, Iran also asked for a time frame of five years to relieve sanctions, but world powers have suggested at least double that.

Besides the unilateral EU and US sanctions, which paralyzed Iran's economy, four additional UN sanctions have been imposed on Iran.

The sanctions have severely curbed Iran's oil trade as well as the import and export of natural gas, and have also affected the country's banking sector.

Salehi also pointed to a third difficulty -- the time period the West considers necessary for confidence-building measures to ensure Iran's nuclear program is peaceful.

"We want this period to be less than 10 years," he said, noting that the P5+1 powers want it to last "between 10 and 20 years".

In a sign that difficulties lie ahead, Khamenei last week used a public speech to voice distrust of the United States in the talks, citing its "arrogance" over the steps to be taken to lift sanctions.

Khamenei, as Iran's top authority, will have the last word on any final agreement.

The West suspects Tehran may be trying to develop a nuclear weapon capability.

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

Iran denies it is seeking a bomb and says its nuclear program is solely aimed at producing atomic energy to reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels, requiring a massive increase in its ability to enrich uranium.

According to Tehran, Israel's presumed atomic arsenal – the only one in the region – is the main threat to peace.

Israel has threatened to use military force against Iranian atomic sites if diplomacy fails to ensure Iran is deprived of the means of developing nuclear weapons.

(AFP, Al-Akhbar)

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/node/23159>

[Return to Top](#)

Ha'aretz Daily News – Tel Aviv, Israel

Syria Denies Nuclear Allegations, Weapons Experts Skeptical too

Der Spiegel says Syrian President Bashar Assad is building secret underground plant to develop nuclear weapons.

By Haaretz

January 12, 2015

Syria's state news agency cited a "media source" Monday denying allegations that Syrian President Bashar Assad is building a secret underground plant to develop nuclear weapons, referring to a report by Germany newsmagazine Der Spiegel that has also prompted skepticism from international nuclear weapons experts.

The "lies" are "part of the conspiracy and media misdirection campaign targeting Syria," news agency SANA said.

The Der Spiegel report, published Saturday, cited information from unnamed intelligence sources indicating that the site is storing about 8,000 nuclear fuel rods in a mountain region two kilometers from the Lebanese border, near the town of Qusayr and reportedly within observation range of Israeli overflights.

North Korean and Iranian experts are thought to be involved in the project, codenamed Zamzam, and Hezbollah is guarding it, the report said.

But nuclear weapons experts have expressed doubts about the report, since the site, which is visible on Google Earth, is not all that secret, the Christian Science Monitor said Sunday.

David Albright, president of Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security, which has conducted detailed satellite imagery analyses of suspected nuclear sites in the Middle East, told the Christian Science Monitor the Der Spiegel story was "perplexing," adding that the institute doesn't "see anything that is distinctively nuclear."

The Monitor says Western intelligence agencies have been aware of the site's existence for several years, with experts speculating it might be Scud missile storage facility, as Jane's Intelligence Review suggested in 2012, or related to communications.

Israel's defense minister, Moshe Ya'alon, told Channel 2 that he could not respond directly to the report but said the Assad regime had built a nuclear reactor in the past.

In 2007 an airstrike on Syria reportedly destroyed a nuclear reactor in the northeast of the country. Israel has never confirmed the many international reports saying it was responsible for the attack on the Al Kibar facility, and the Israeli military censor strictly censors the release of information on this topic.

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/middle-east/1.636715>

[Return to Top](#)

FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



Rouhani: Iran to Construct 2 More N. Plants in Bushehr to Boost Power Output

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani announced on Tuesday that the country has started building two new nuclear power plants in the Southern province of Bushehr to increase nuclear-generated power output of the country.

"Construction of two new power plants will increase the capacity of Bushehr province's power generation to 2,000 megawatts," President Rouhani said in a meeting with investors and economic activists in Bushehr province today.

Earlier today, President Rouhani underlined during a visit to the Bushehr nuclear power plant that Iran is pursuing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and said, "The Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant is an example showing that Iran is only looking for a civilian use of the nuclear energy and for power generation."

President Rouhani, who is on a provincial tour of the Southern Bushehr province, visited the nuclear power plant this afternoon. During the visit, the president, who is heading a delegation of high-ranking governmental officials during the tour, was briefed on the latest conditions of the power plant and its output.

In March, Russia's Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation and the AEOI reached an agreement to construct at least two more nuclear power plants in Bushehr.

In October, Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi underlined the financial and environmental benefits of Bushehr nuclear power plant for the country, saying that the power plant will save Iran \$1bn worth of fossil fuel each year.

"About 7bn kw/h electricity is being generated annually at Bushehr nuclear power plant which saves \$1bn worth of fossil fuel which will be followed by the same level of decrease in air pollution," Salehi said, addressing a meeting with Iranian legislators at the parliament's Energy Commission.

He also presented a report to the Commission on the AEOI's formation and the launch of the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

The operator of Bushehr nuclear power plant said in September that the plant is operating at maximum capacity and has generated 7.5bnkw/h of power so far.

Speaking during a visit to the plant by Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani, Mahmoud Jafari said operation of the power plant "saves the country the consumption of 8.5 million barrels of oil annually".

He further blasted the western animosities towards Iran's civilian nuclear activities, and said, "Although the Bushehr nuclear power plant was exempt from the sanctions, the westerners prevented the supply of the equipment (needed by the power generation facility) to Iran."

Iran signed a deal with the Germans to build the facility, but Berlin did not comply with the agreement following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979. The Germans did not return the huge sums that they had received from the former Pahlavi regime for the construction of the power plant either.

Then the Islamic Republic signed the Bushehr contract with Russia in 1995 and the nuclear power plant reached its full capacity by August 2012. It is located about 18 kilometers South of the provincial capital.

The Bushehr nuclear power plant adds 1,000 megawatts of electricity to the national grid when operating at full capacity.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13931023001531>

[Return to Top](#)

Tasnim News Agency – Tehran, Iran



New Sanctions to Obstruct Nuclear Talks: Iran

January 14, 2015

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Possible imposition of fresh sanctions on Iran amid diplomatic negotiations will ruin the process of talks to secure a comprehensive agreement on Tehran's peaceful nuclear program, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said on Wednesday.

Speaking in her weekly press conference in Tehran, Marziyeh Afkham said a comprehensive nuclear agreement between Iran and six world powers is still within reach, but noted that any new anti-Iran sanction is tantamount to a halt to the current process of talks.

"Resorting to the illegitimate tool of sanction would be repetition of previous mistakes," she stressed.

While Iran and the Group 5+1 (Russia, China, the US, Britain, France and Germany) are in talks to strike a permanent nuclear deal, Tehran has repeatedly noted that imposing new sanctions runs counter to the Joint Plan of Action -an interim accord signed in November 2013.

Based on the Geneva interim deal, the world powers agreed to suspend some non-essential sanctions and to impose no new nuclear-related bans in return for Tehran's decision to freeze parts of its nuclear activities.

With negotiations over Iran's peaceful nuclear program about to resume in Geneva, the Obama administration urged Congress on Monday to delay imposing any new economic sanctions on Tehran.

Samantha Power, the US ambassador to the United Nations, argued that piling new economic penalties on Iran would undermine the negotiations and lead other nations to blame the US for their collapse.

Elsewhere in her press conference, Afkham pointed to Russia's role as a member of the Group 5+1 (also known as the P5+1 or E3+3), saying, "Russia has an influential weight and position in the nuclear talks."

Earlier on Monday, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also highlighted the significant role Moscow can play to help secure a final nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers.

Russia's more active role in the talks is an important factor in the acceleration of settlement of the issue and achievement of a comprehensive agreement, Zarif said in a meeting with Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov in Tehran.

<http://www.tasnimnews.com/English/Home/Single/620685>

[Return to Top](#)

Arutz Sheva (Israeli National News.com) – Beit El, West Bank

Kerry and Iranian Counterpart Hold 'Intensive' Talks in Geneva

Secretary of State John Kerry and Iran's foreign minister hold "substantive" meetings in Geneva about Tehran's nuclear program.

By Ben Ariel

January 15, 2015

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, held intensive talks on Tehran's disputed nuclear program on Wednesday, returning for an evening session before handing off to their deputies, officials told *Reuters*.

Kerry and Zarif "had substantive meetings for approximately five hours today and they discussed a broad range of issues with a small group of staff from each side," a senior State Department official was quoted as having said.

But Kerry later unexpectedly returned to the Geneva lakeside hotel for a third meeting lasting some 90 minutes with Zarif after briefing senior negotiators ahead of their technical-level talks scheduled with Iranian counterparts for Thursday in the Swiss city.

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

"Secretary Kerry and Foreign Minister Zarif reconvened this evening to continue discussion about the nuclear negotiations in advance of the start of the next round of talks tomorrow," a State Department spokeswoman said, according to *Reuters*.

Wendy Sherman, acting deputy secretary of state, and deputy foreign minister Abbas Araqchi are to lead their delegations at Thursday's talks, to be followed on Sunday January 18 by wider talks between Iran and major world powers.

Earlier, Zarif said that serious dialogue with the West would be easier if it respected Muslim sensitivities, ruffled by the latest *Charlie Hebdo* cartoons.

Speaking to reporters before talks began, Zarif said the meeting would help gauge whether both sides were ready to advance toward a deal to curb Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

"I think it's important. I think it will show the readiness of the two parties to move forward and to speed up the process," Zarif told reporters.

Tehran and the so-called P5+1 group of nations have been locked in talks since February on a permanent nuclear deal aimed at ending a decade-long diplomatic crisis.

Despite making progress, the two sides failed to clinch a definitive deal by a November deadline and agreed to extend the talks for another seven months.

Another inconclusive round of negotiations was held in Geneva between Iranian officials and the six powers in December. Araqchi said following those talks that they had been "very useful and helpful".

Diplomats fear that time may be running out, after two earlier deadlines for an accord were missed.

Before the talks were extended, Iran had been toughening its stance, with Araqchi saying he sees no prospect for a deal unless the other side abandons its "illogical excessive demands".

A senior Iranian official followed those comments by declaring that Iran will demand that all Western sanctions be lifted as part of a final deal, rejecting an American proposal of a gradual lifting of sanctions.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/189968#.VLfjXf4cTxg>

[Return to Top](#)

Al-Akhbar.com – Beirut, Lebanon

Official: Iran Might Restart Uranium Enrichment if US Slaps New Sanctions

Thursday, January 15, 2015

Some Iranian lawmakers are considering a push toward resuming unlimited uranium enrichment if the United States imposes new sanctions on Tehran amid negotiations on the country's nuclear program, Parliament speaker Ali Larijani said on Thursday.

In a speech in the Iranian religious city of Qom, Larijani warned the world powers they "cannot haggle with us," saying they must "make correct use of the opportunities offered to them."

"Recently some deputies have been considering a bill stipulating that Iran will pursue its activities at whatever level of enrichment... if the West decides to impose new sanctions," he warned.

US and Iran were seeking this week to break a stalemate that has seen two earlier deadlines pass without an accord.

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

US Secretary of State John Kerry and Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammed Jawad Zarif held intensive talks on Tehran's nuclear program on Wednesday, returning for an evening session before handing off to their deputies, officials said.

Kerry and Zarif "had substantive meetings for approximately five hours today and they discussed a broad range of issues with a small group of staff from each side," a senior State Department official said.

But Kerry later unexpectedly returned to the Geneva lakeside hotel for a third meeting lasting some 90 minutes with Zarif after briefing senior US negotiators ahead of their technical-level talks scheduled with Iranian counterparts for Thursday in the Swiss city.

"Secretary Kerry and Foreign Minister Zarif reconvened this evening to continue discussion about the nuclear negotiations in advance of the start of the next round of talks tomorrow," a US State Department spokeswoman said.

Wendy Sherman, acting deputy secretary of state, and Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi are to lead their delegations at Thursday's talks, to be followed on Sunday January 18 by wider talks between Iran and major six world powers — known as P5+1.

Iran and six world powers renewed their quest for an elusive nuclear deal after negotiators failed for the second time in November to reach to a "comprehensive agreement" before a self-imposed deadline. The two parties extended the deadline until the end of June to reach a deal.

The West suspects Tehran may be trying to develop a nuclear weapon capability. Iran denies the allegations and has stressed time and again that its nuclear program is solely aimed at producing atomic energy to reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels.

Before the Wednesday's meeting Zarif told reporters he felt the talks were "important."

"I think it will show the readiness of the two parties to move forward to speed up the process," he said.

But asked if there would be a comprehensive deal by the new deadline, he remained cautious, replying: "We'll see."

Past negotiations have stumbled over Iran's insistence that it retain the right to enrich some uranium — which can in some cases be used to make an atomic bomb — for what it says is a peaceful civilian nuclear program.

There has also been disagreement over global sanctions, with Tehran calling for an end to the crippling regime while the US has insisted on a temporary, gradual suspension.

"All issues are hard until we resolve them and all issues are easy if you resolve them," Zarif told reporters earlier on Wednesday.

The new Republican-controlled US Congress is already considering a bill which would slap new sanctions on Iran despite attempts by the Obama administration to hold them off.

Zarif set to meet German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier in Berlin Thursday and his French counterpart Laurent Fabius in Paris Friday.

On Thursday, Kerry said he may meet the Iranian foreign minister in Paris on Friday, but no final decision had been taken yet.

Zarif told Iranian television earlier that "we have arrived at the stage where the other party must take decisions so we can go forward."

"New proposals must be put forward. We are ready to discuss all the issues, but we will have to see if the other side is ready," he said.

Among issues complicating negotiations, the new Republican-controlled US Congress is considering a fresh sanctions bill to force concessions from Iran at the multilateral talks that resume this week in Geneva.

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

Washington's UN ambassador, Samantha Power, warned Congress on Monday that ratcheting up sanctions against Iran would likely torpedo the negotiations.

Elsewhere, in Tehran on Wednesday Marziyeh Afkham, Iran's foreign ministry spokeswoman, stressed that Iran is closely watching the nuclear talks and will make "new decisions" if it reaches the conclusion that the talks are not moving in the right direction or leading to a "comprehensive, fair and reasonable agreement," which includes Iran's demands.

According to IRNA, Iran's official news agency, Afkham said that using sanctions to pressure Iran "would be a mistake."

(Agence France-Presse (AFP), Reuters, Al-Akhbar)

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/us-iran-hold-surprise-second-meeting-ahead-nuclear-talks-0>

[Return to Top](#)

Press TV – Tehran, Iran

Zarif, Kerry to Meet in Paris over Iran Nuclear Program

Friday, January 16, 2015

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and US Secretary of State John Kerry will meet in the French capital city of Paris.

According to a US official, Kerry and Zarif will meet in Paris on Friday in to discuss the ongoing Iran-P5+1 nuclear talks.

On Wednesday, Zarif and Kerry held three rounds of intense negotiations in Geneva to help speed up the ongoing negotiations between Iran and the P5+1 group - Russia, China, France, Britain, the US and Germany - over Tehran's peaceful nuclear work.

US State Department officials said Kerry and Zarif held "substantive" talks in the Swiss city.

The Iranian foreign minister is also scheduled to travel to the EU's de facto capital, Brussels, as he steps up his diplomatic efforts to facilitate the achievement of a comprehensive deal aimed at ending the longstanding dispute over Tehran's nuclear activities.

The meetings come as Tehran and its negotiating partners are set to kick off a fresh round of nuclear talks in Geneva on January 18.

Iran and the six states wrapped up their latest round of nuclear talks in Geneva on December 17, 2014, three weeks after they failed to reach a final agreement by a November 24 deadline despite making some progress.

The two sides agreed to extend their discussions for seven more months until July 1, 2015.

The scale of Iran's uranium enrichment and the timetable for the lifting of anti-Iran sanctions are seen as major sticking points in the talks.

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2015/01/16/393361/Zarif-Kerry-to-meet-in-Paris>

[Return to Top](#)

Hindustan Times – New Delhi, India

DRDO Chief Chander Too Old for Job: Parrikar

Rahul Singh, *Hindustan Times*

January 14, 2015

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

New Delhi: A day after the controversial sacking of Avinash Chander, the country's top military scientist, the defence minister said senior positions should not be held by officials hired under contract.

"We will find out someone good from the DRDO, who has the urge for development ... We should introduce a slightly younger generation in the scientific world," Parrikar told reporters, when asked about Chander's successor.

He added that a senior scientist would be given charge temporarily.

Aeronautics head K Tamilmani and missiles and strategic systems chief VG Sekaran are currently number two and three in the DRDO.

The appointments committee of the cabinet (ACC) approved the termination of Chander's contract with effect from January 31, a good 16 months before it was to end.

Chander, 64, may have only 17 days left in the hot seat but he's still focused on India's strategic missile programme, which he helped shape. Hours after receiving his exit order, the outgoing DRDO chief told HT exclusively, "I don't have much time left but my priority will be to ensure that we conduct the third test of the Agni-V missile before January 31."

This will be the 5,000-km range missile's first canister launch aimed at injecting more mobility and flexibility into the weapon system.

"Early induction will boost the military's capabilities. The test will be a crucial step towards the missile's induction and will enhance our strategic deterrence considerably," said the man behind the Agni series of missiles, whose existing variants can hit targets at ranges of 700 km to 3,500 km.

It will be critical for Chander's successor to keep the induction of the 4,000-km range Agni-IV and 5,000-km Agni-V missiles on schedule.

Chander's exit comes at a time when the DRDO has been under fire for delays and cost overruns in key military programmes, with even Prime Minister Narendra Modi lashing out at the organisation over its failure to deliver.

The government had on Tuesday put up the exit order on the department of personnel and training website even before informing Chander, who was told of his unceremonious removal by HT.

The defence minister recommended his sacking but learnt of the ACC decision through the media. Parrikar is not a part of the PM-headed ACC.

Parrikar said Chander's tenure ended last November, and he was granted an extension for 18 months on contract following an order by the previous government.

The Congress, however, gave its own spin to his dismissal with party spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi tweeting: "Avinash Chandar pays price for inability to toe line on 'Make in India' (MAI) campaign? Can anyone press button & do MAI in defence instantly?"

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/parrikar-clears-air-on-drdo-chief-s-removal-says-there-s-no-controversy/article1-1306625.aspx>

[Return to Top](#)

The Moscow Times – Moscow, Russia
OPINION/Commentary

Russia's New Military Doctrine All Bark, No Bite

By Alexander Golts

January 12, 2015

In approving the newest draft of the country's military doctrine, President Vladimir Putin waited until the very end of 2014 — when most of Russia's media outlets and their military analysts were on holiday. This is undoubtedly

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

because Russia's top brass once again failed to deliver any hard-hitting, fateful decisions, but instead produced the equivalent of a little mouse — albeit a rather vicious one.

Recall that back in the fall, Putin announced that the military threat to this country had increased so dramatically as a result of the Ukrainian crisis and the insidious policy of the West that Russia would have to rewrite its military doctrine. Almost immediately, General Yuri Yakubov, the coordinator general of the Defense Ministry's Office of the Inspector General, announced that the new version of the document should clearly identify the country's main potential enemy and define the conditions for a pre-emptive nuclear strike.

The general held no doubts that the United States was Russia's main potential enemy. As for a pre-emptive nuclear strike even in the context of a local conflict — Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev raised that possibility more than four years ago, prior to drafting the previous version of the military doctrine.

Obviously, any such declaration would return Russia to a state of direct nuclear deterrence with the West. And after the annexation of Crimea, it seemed that such lunacy could become a reality.

However, nothing of the kind appeared in the new version of the military doctrine. Instead, it retains the old, wholly reasonable formulation regarding the use of nuclear weapons.

"The Russian Federation reserves the right to utilize nuclear weapons in response to the utilization of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction against it and (or) its allies, and also in the event of aggression against the Russian Federation involving the use of conventional weapons when the very existence of the state is under threat."

What's more, the new version's definition of regional conflicts eliminates the former reference to the possible use of nuclear weapons. Thus, with the country in a currency crisis, leaders begrudgingly gave way to reason, knowing they could not afford to prod the West into a new arms race.

Putin's experts painted a graver picture of the threat posed by so-called color revolutions and proposed ways to counter them with force. Anyone familiar with the materials presented at the "international" conference the Defense Ministry held in May 2014 would have naturally expected the worst.

After all, in an attempt to please the president, the top brass seriously argued that color revolutions not only result from conspiracies by hostile intelligence agencies, but are also a new form of war. Consequently, the authorities can define any act of civil protest as aggression by a foreign enemy.

The result is that the new military doctrine proclaims "there is a trend of misrepresenting military dangers and threats in Russia's internal informational space." In addition, the section listing "the main military dangers" says that "states neighboring Russia have established regimes, including as the result of the overthrow of legitimate bodies of state government, that threaten the interests of the Russian Federation."

Also, the section listing "the main internal military dangers" refers to "informational activity influencing the population, especially young citizens, aimed at undermining the historical, spiritual and patriotic traditions concerning the defense of the fatherland."

And finally, the doctrine's authors describe modern military conflicts as "the comprehensive use of military force as well as political, economic, informational and other non-military means together with the extensive use of the population's potential for protest and special operations forces."

That last phrase is especially remarkable. It places the protest potential of the population on a par with actions by enemy special forces. In other words, citizens who say they dislike something in their country are equated with enemy saboteurs.

At the same time, the doctrine does not indicate which institutions will determine exactly who is undermining the "historical, spiritual and patriotic traditions concerning the defense of the fatherland" and who is strengthening them.

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



Is that the job of the Defense Ministry or the Federal Security Service? Or maybe just the Security Council? And which authors will be accused of undermining the foundations of patriotism — Alexander Solzhenitsyn or current Culture Minister Vladimir Medinsky? Vasily Grossman or Alexander Prokhanov?

Putin recently decided it was permissible to consider Mikhail Lermontov a patriot, even though he had written the line: "Farewell, unwashed Russia." However, I am not entirely certain that this particular poem corresponds to what the military doctrine authors consider "spiritual and patriotic traditions."

Of course, this all looks awful. And yet, the Defense Ministry did not take the seemingly logical next step. This is because, for years now, Russian military theorists have fruitlessly attempted to resolve the intractable problem of how the military should respond to non-military threats.

Thus, they stopped short of clearly providing for the use of armed force against domestic protestors, only hinting at that possibility instead. At the same time, the doctrine contains no direct statement on the subject, providing at least a shred of hope that Russian military strategists possess some remnants of sound judgment.

Thus, with its newest military doctrine, Russian leaders have informed the world not only that they consider their citizens little more than idiots whom Western intelligence agencies can easily manipulate, but also that they are not yet prepared to use force against those citizens if their thinking should fall out of line.

Alexander Golts is deputy editor of the online newspaper Yezhednevny Zhurnal.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/opinion/article/russias-new-military-doctrine-all-bark-no-bite/514247.html>

[Return to Top](#)

Arms Control Wonk.com – Monterey, CA
OPINION/Commentary

Reconsidering Deterrence Stability

By Michael Krepon
14 January 2015

What benefits are conferred by nuclear weapons? Do they provide status? Not like in the past. North Korea and Pakistan haven't gained status by having the Bomb. Instead, they have become more worrisome countries. Do they alleviate security concerns? Possessing nuclear weapons against a similarly-armed foe or against an adversary with stronger conventional capabilities provides a sense of deterrence, dissuasion, and national assurance. To give the Bomb its due, during the Cold War, nuclear weapons helped keep border skirmishes limited between major powers, fostered cautionary behavior in severe crises, and reinforced a natural disinclination to engage in large-scale conventional wars. These were – and remain — significant accomplishments.

But the Bomb always promises more than it delivers. Possessing the Bomb, even in significant numbers, has not deterred limited border clashes between nuclear-armed states, conventional wars with non-nuclear-weapon states, punishing proxy wars and severe crises. The Bomb isn't stabilizing; it exacerbates security dilemmas and can engender risk taking as well as caution. The Bomb promises advances in security that are quickly undercut by countermeasures taken by wary adversaries.

States that acquire nuclear weapons don't feel safe without them. They also do not feel safe with them – if they have something to fight about with another nuclear-armed state. Having assured retaliatory capabilities helps, but assurance erodes in an interactive nuclear arms competition. A key threshold for erosion occurs when the contestants move from counter value to counterforce targeting. Increments in counterforce capabilities lead to and decrements in deterrence stability – even under conditions of absurd nuclear overkill.

Strategic and deterrence stability are about political relations, not technical advances. The United States and the Soviet Union never achieved deterrence stability until the Soviet Union was heading toward collapse. Brief periods of détente were interrupted by clashes of interest in far away as well as sensitive places. Constraints on nuclear testing and arms limitation treaties negotiated with great effort were accompanied by modernization programs

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



that lessened mutual security. Deterrence stability between the superpowers was accomplished only when two unorthodox leaders – one whose economy was cratering – threw nuclear orthodoxy out the window and sought to normalize ties.

India and Pakistan will find deterrence stability as elusive as the nuclear superpowers, even though their nuclear competition pales in comparison and they have not yet embraced counterforce targeting for longer-range delivery vehicles. Deterrence stability on the subcontinent, as elsewhere, rests on the prospect of resolving or mutually agreeing to defer issues in dispute and, in Pakistan's case, regaining a monopoly on the use of violence within and across its borders. In the near term, these prospects are iffy, at best. Deterrence instability is inherent when an interactive nuclear arms competition gets mixed up with religion, inheritance, and regional security issues, not to mention a history of conventional and sub-conventional warfare.

There's more hope for India and China to work out arrangements of deterrence stability — if their border dispute remains shelved or resolved, and if they manage to avoid venturing into counterforce capabilities. The combination of a quiet, albeit contested border, plus growing trade and investment ties alongside mutual strategic restraint would make for a stabilizing mix. But this won't be easy.

For more on the contested valuation of nuclear weapons, aspiring wonks can check out a volume of essays, *Nuclear Diplomacy and Crisis Management*, co-edited by Sean Lynn-Jones, Steve Miller, and Steve Van Evera (MIT Press, 1990). Robert Jervis's essay argues that nuclear weapons have only limited utility in preventing war:

"It is rational to start a war one does not expect to win... if it is believed that the likely consequences of fighting are even worse. War could also come through inadvertence, loss of control, or irrationality... At best, then, nuclear weapons will keep the nuclear peace; they will not prevent — and indeed, may facilitate — the use of lower levels of violence."

John Mueller's essay in this volume — and his provocative book, *Atomic Obsession* (2010) — argues otherwise, "that nuclear weapons neither crucially define a fundamental stability nor threaten severely to disturb it." Here's more from Mueller:

"Escalation is key: what deters is the belief that escalation to something intolerable will occur, not so much what the details of the ultimate unbearable punishment are believed to be."

"It almost seems ... that the two major powers have forgotten how to get into a war... There hasn't been a true, bone-crunching confrontational crisis for over a quarter-century."

"Since preparations for major war are essentially irrelevant, they are profoundly foolish."

This week's pop quiz: Do Russia's annexation of Crimea and Vladimir Putin's actions into eastern Ukraine support Jervis, Mueller, or both?

Michael Krepon is Co-founder of the Henry L. Stimson Center and the author or editor of thirteen books and over 350 articles. Prior to co-founding the Stimson Center, Krepon worked at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency during the Carter administration, and in the US House of Representatives, assisting Congressman Norm Dicks.

<http://krepon.armscontrolwonk.com/archive/4452/reconsidering-deterrence-stability>

[Return to Top](#)

The Washington Post – Washington, D.C.

OPINION/ Monkey Cage

Russia's New Military Doctrine: Same as the Old Doctrine, Mostly

By Olga Oliker

January 15, 2015

The following is a guest post by political scientist Olga Oliker of the RAND Corp.

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

This past month, Russia published a new military doctrine. It had promised a new text in September 2014, in the wake of NATO's Wales Summit Declaration condemning Moscow's actions in Ukraine. Assuming that the document released Dec. 26 was started at that time, it was roughly four months in development — remarkably fast for a government bureaucracy that has traditionally taken years to vet such documents.

The new policy is a revision of Russia's last doctrine, published in February 2010. The new version repeats much of the language of the old and largely follows the same basic precepts. As in 2010, Moscow sees a general reduction in the likelihood of large-scale conflict involving Russia, combined with an increasingly dangerous overall security environment. The Kremlin's nuclear deterrent approach has also not changed: Russia's arsenal is meant to deter both nuclear and conventional conflict, but nuclear forces can be used only in the event of an existential threat. As before, this doctrine differentiates between "dangers" and "threats:" the former designates concerns, the latter possible sparks for conflict. As in 2010, the NATO alliance, or, more accurately, its behavior and intentions, is classed as a danger, as are terrorism and violations of international agreements.

But if many of the specifics are much the same, the tone of the overall document represents a shift, and a few of the individual changes are notable. This doctrine, in many ways something of a national security strategy document, is meant not only to describe Russian policy but also to send messages to friends, adversaries and others. The challenge lies in understanding Russia's signals, as well as their repercussions.

As 2015 dawns, it seems that Russia sees the world as more perilous than in early 2010. The specific dangers, whether from NATO or elsewhere, may be much the same, but from Russia's perspective, they appear to have grown more immediate. For example, the 2010 doctrine spoke of NATO's (illegal, according to Moscow) intent to develop a global role and capabilities, to deploy military infrastructure near Russia's borders, and to continue to expand. The current doctrine describes these same things as actions already underway. Similarly, where before Russia worried about efforts to destabilize countries and regions, today it is concerned about the reality of destabilization.

The new doctrine is more specific about the Western weapons systems that endanger or threaten Russia. Global Strike, long a concern, is for the first time specifically called out in doctrine. Russia promises to oppose the efforts of others to "attain military superiority"[1] by deploying missile defenses, space weapons or strategic conventional precision weapons. It calls for an agreement, under U.N. auspices, to regulate the use of space.

New in the 2014 doctrine is discussion of the danger of unnamed actors using information warfare and political subversion, as well as force, to destabilize and overthrow regimes. Russia itself, it seems, is at risk, and Russian youth particularly vulnerable to subversion. The Kremlin also fears its adversaries' use of "special forces and foreign organizations." A discussion of the attributes of modern warfare begins by describing it as "complex usage [integration] of military force and political, economic, information, and other non-military means, accomplished [in part] through the extensive exploitation of the potential of popular protest and special operations forces." The description also notes the increasing prevalence of high-technology weapons, high-speed maneuver, irregular and contract forces, and so forth, but comes back at the end to "foreign-financed and controlled political forces and social movements." While Western readers might immediately see aspects of this as strikingly descriptive of Russia's activities in Ukraine (and the Western debate on so-called "hybrid" warfare), from Moscow's perspective, these are threats to Russia. This recurring theme of combined military, "information," "communication," and political methodologies includes a call for dialogue with other states on how to counter such approaches. And while extended sections on mobilizing Russia's economy and society for war are similar to what was in the 2010 doctrine, they seem a bit more ominous in this context.

Some changes are more important than others. The 2010 doctrine described Russia's most important task as the prevention of nuclear and other war. The new doctrine describes war prevention as a cornerstone of military policy. Is this a change in emphasis? Given how much of the old language has remained in place, even minor shifts may have meaning, but some signals are clearer than others. This new doctrine for the first time explicitly mentions Russia's interests in the Arctic. This is perfectly in line with Russia's recent actions and statements, so not a surprise, but its inclusion in military doctrine is an important affirmation of Russia's position. Also new is a discussion of Russian plans to strengthen global ties, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region and with its fellow BRICs.

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



Moscow also pledges to work with Abkhazia and South Ossetia towards common defense and security. These, too, underscore, but do not change, Russian positions. In addition, the 2014 doctrine highlights for the first time the deterrent capacity of Russia's conventional weapons (as opposed to only its nuclear arsenal) — perhaps a reference to the country's growing conventional might.

The new doctrine talks less of proliferation threats than did past versions, although the basic goals remain unchanged. The language on cooperation with NATO and the E.U., while mostly similar, emphasizes the need for new, “non-bloc” security models. The discussion of cooperation in missile defense development emphasizes “equal” Russian involvement.

Russia maintains, as it has in the past, that it will use military force only defensively, when other options have failed. But this is the doctrine of a state that sees a lot to defend against, even as its interests expand globally. While neither Moscow's overall goals nor the threats and dangers it faces have truly changed, it seems the Kremlin has grown more nervous that others are seeking ways to harm it, militarily and otherwise. Little here is new, but nothing here suggests an opening for compromise. Rather, the Kremlin wants the world to know that Russia is settling in for a long siege, preparing to rally its resources and determined not to back down. This is a country that will be very difficult to reassure, even if other states are inclined to try. The resulting danger is that Moscow's view of threats everywhere may thus prove self-fulfilling.

[1] All translations are the author's own.

Olga Oliker is director of the Center for Russia and Eurasia and a senior international policy analyst at the RAND Corporation. Her areas of expertise include Russian and post-Soviet foreign and defense policies, U.S. foreign policy, and the evolving European security environment.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2015/01/15/russias-new-military-doctrine-same-as-the-old-doctrine-mostly/>

[Return to Top](#)

Al Arabiya – Dubai, U.A.E.
OPINION/Commentary

The Truth behind Iran's supposed Nuclear Ties with Syria

By Majid Rafizadeh
Friday, 16 January 2015

A new Western intelligence assessment points to efforts by the Syrian government to renew its operations in an underground and clandestine facility, close to Qusayr near the border of Lebanon, in order to produce nuclear weapons. Citing the Western intelligence assessment, the German weekly Der Spiegel stated that the reconstruction of the nuclear facility is being conducted with the assistance of the Islamic Republic, North Korea, and Hezbollah.

The report has led to a war of rhetoric among Western officials, outlets, along with Iranian and Syrian officials.

The Western intelligence report indicates that dialogues among Ibrahim Othman, head of the Syrian Atomic Energy Commission, Iranian, North Korean and Hezbollah affiliates were “intercepted.” In addition, according to Abu Mohammad al-Bitar, the Free Syrian Army has also noticed the “unprecedented” presence of Iranian and Hezbollah security members in the town of Qusayr on the suburbs of Homs.

The report rattled Iranian leaders, and Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif responded immediately by stating: “The magazine's allegation is one of the attempts made by those circles whose life has been based on violence and fear to cloud the international community with illusion and create imaginary concerns about the Islamic Republic, and this is a ridiculous claim.” In addition, a Syrian source refuted the report and called it “mere lies.”



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

Although one should be cautious about jumping to conclusions about Western intelligence reports, Iran-Syria or North Korean-Syria military and nuclear cooperation is not something new; however, the reaction of Iranian and Syrian leaders have been different this time.

Iran-Syria nuclear cooperation?

The fact that high Iranian officials responded immediately to the Western intelligence assessment refuting the report and calling it “ridiculous” reflects the notion that the Rowhani administration’s attempts to exclude any efforts that might scuttle the nuclear negotiations between the six world powers (China, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia and the United States) known as the P5+1 and the Islamic Republic.

Reports with respect to the Syrian government renewing its nuclear program were previously published in 2013. There had been reports that some activities were being carried out at an alleged Syrian nuclear facility close to eastern suburbs of Damascus, Marj Sultan. Nevertheless, Iranian leaders took the matter more seriously this time around.

Iranian and American chief diplomats will be meeting on Wednesday to find ways to speed up the nuclear negotiations and strike a final nuclear deal. According to Zarif, the reason behind these direct talks with American Secretary of State John Kerry “is to see if we can speed up and push the negotiations forward”

The Islamic Republic is attempting to show that it is complying with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the interim nuclear deal by restricting its uranium enrichment, not engaging in the international black market for obtaining nuclear material, and halting operation in its Plutonium reactor in Arak.

Syria’s nuclear program

In comparison to Iran’s sophisticated nuclear program, Syria’s nuclear program seems potentially nascent. There are two major nuclear sites in Syria. The first one is Al-Kibar reactor in the northeast of the city of Deir Azzor and the second one is Marj Sultan in the outskirts of Damascus- where the fuel is reportedly stored.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) previously reported that Damascus was building a nuclear reactor in Deir Azzor. Reportedly, tons of enriched uranium in Damascus are being protected by Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps and Hezbollah.

This issue has resulted to heightened tensions between Israel and the Iranian-Syrian nexus as well. Formerly, Syrian nuclear site Al-Kibar reactor in the northeast of the city of Deir Azzor, was target of Israeli strikes in 2007, almost destroying the infrastructure and halting the program.

There are three common concerns about the undeclared Syrian nuclear site and nuclear proliferation. First of all, the argument is that the nuclear material might fall in the hands of the wrong side. In other words, if these nuclear sites are seized by some radical groups or al-Qaeda-linked affiliates, they might be capable of utilizing the highly enriched uranium and producing nuclear weapons.

Technically speaking though, the primary question is whether the 50 tons of uranium is natural or highly enriched to a level that can be transferred to nuclear warheads. In order to build nuclear weapons, weapons-grade highly enriched uranium or an adequate amount of centrifuges are needed.

The second question is whether the radical militants possess the capability of transferring Syria’s enriched uranium into weapon-grade bombs. But more fundamentally, Syria possesses other military capabilities that can pose the same threat such as ballistic missiles and biological weapons. For example when it comes to the issues of ballistic missiles, Syria has previously cooperated with Iran and North Korea.

In addition, since Syria can hardly make an estimate of 50 tons of natural uranium, the role of other state and non-state actors is inevitable. Third, one can make the argument that without doubt, becoming a nuclear state for the Syrian government can be a formidable tool and deterrence against foreign intervention.

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

But more fundamentally, this report has diverted attention from Iran's other indisputable and multi-layered activities and engagements in Syria- including the military, financial, intelligence, and advisory assistance to the Syrian government which have further radicalized and militarized the ongoing Syrian war.

Majid Rafizadeh, an Iranian-American political scientist and scholar at Harvard University, is president of the International American Council. Rafizadeh serves on the board of Harvard International Review at Harvard University. He is also a member of the Gulf project at Columbia University.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/views/news/middle-east/2015/01/16/On-Iran-s-nuclear-ties-with-Syria.html>

[Return to Top](#)

ABOUT THE USAF CUWS

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

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

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

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

[Return to Top](#)

Issue No.1148, 16 January 2015

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

<http://cpc.au.af.mil> \ https://twitter.com/USAF_CUWS

Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7226