



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

Issue No. 1159, 03 April 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](http://cpc.au.af.mil/au_outreach.aspx).**

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**FEATURE ITEM:** *"Busting Myths about Nuclear Deterrence"*. Authored by James A Blackwell and Charles E. Costanzo; published in the Strategic Studies Quarterly, Vol: 9, Issue: 1, Spring 2015; by the Air Force Research Institute, 9 pages. [http://www.au.af.mil/au/ssq/digital/pdf/Spring\\_2015/blackwell.pdf](http://www.au.af.mil/au/ssq/digital/pdf/Spring_2015/blackwell.pdf)

America is embarked on a quest for a world without nuclear weapons, but we live in a world not yet safe from war and threats of war. Hence, for as long as nuclear weapons exist, the United States must maintain a safe, secure, and effective arsenal—both to deter potential adversaries and to assure US allies and other security partners that they can count on US security commitments. Our nuclear posture communicates to potential nuclear-armed adversaries that they cannot use nuclear threats to intimidate the United States, its allies, or partners or escalate their way out of failed conventional aggression.

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Air Force Times – Tysons Corner, VA

## **Rand Confirmed as First 4-star to Lead Global Strike Command**

By Brian Everstine, Staff writer

March 30, 2015

The Senate on Friday confirmed Gen. Robin Rand as the first four-star general to lead Air Force Global Strike Command.

Rand, a career fighter pilot whose previous job was commander of Air Education and Training Command, has not worked in the nuclear field. However Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James said he is the "ideal airman" to lead force improvements that are underway in the command.

"Elevating the commander of Air Force Global Strike Command to 4-stars places the right level of emphasis on this priority mission; and as I've said before, we will continue to provide persistent leadership and persistent focus on our nuclear force," James said in a statement. "Gen. Rand is the right leader to do just that."

The Air Force raised the Global Strike top spot to a four-star billet because it "deserves the highest level of leadership oversight similar to our other operational core mission areas," James said in announcing the move. It is part of a large-scale effort to address morale and integrity issues in Global Strike Command that came to light in a

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2014 investigation of cheating by launch officers on proficiency tests. A three-star general has led the command since it was created in 2009.

Rand took over AETC in 2013. He is a command pilot with more than 5,000 hours in the F-16, T-38 and T-37. He has also served as commandant of the Air Force Weapons School and led multiple fighter wings.

The previous leader of Global Strike Command, Lt. Gen. Stephen Wilson, has been nominated to be deputy commander of U.S. Strategic Command.

<http://www.airforcetimes.com/story/military/pentagon/2015/03/30/robin-rand-confirmed-first-4-star-to-lead-global-strike-command/70673488/>

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Air Force Materiel Command – Wright-Patterson AFB, OH  
March 31, 2015

## **Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center Reorganizes**

By Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center

3/31/2015 - KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. -- The Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center reorganized its structure March 30, 2015, realigning responsibilities, authorities and accountability to better serve the Nuclear Enterprise.

The center now has three execution directorates: one for ICBM systems, one for air-delivered systems, and a third focused on nuclear technology and interagency engagement. The two new directorates are the Air Delivered Capabilities Directorate and the Nuclear Technology and Interagency Directorate. The existing ICBM Systems Directorate has established a Ground Based Strategic Deterrent Division, ensuring seamless evolution from ICBM sustainment activities to the future Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent System.

The U.S. Nuclear Triad consists of Air Force land-based Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and Air Delivered Capabilities, along with Navy Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles. In its new organizational structure, AFNWC now has two directorates directly aligned with the two Air Force legs of the triad -- Air Delivered Capabilities and ICBM Systems.

The Nuclear Technology and Interagency Directorate focuses on the unique aspects of nuclear weapons technology and engagement with interagency partners in the nation's nuclear enterprise. This more direct alignment of organization with mission enhances the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center support of the U.S. nuclear deterrence and assurance responsibility, ensuring this mission is expertly executed by acquiring, sustaining and supporting these powerful weapon systems.

The changes are in accordance with the Air Force Program Action Directive 14-06. In that document, the U.S. Air Force outlines exactly what changes will occur in 2015 to improve operations and life cycle management in the Nuclear Enterprise across Air Force Materiel Command, Air Force Global Strike Command and United States Air Forces in Europe.

"Our mission is still to deliver nuclear capabilities and winning solutions that warfighters use daily to deter our enemies and assure our allies," said Maj. Gen. Sandra Finan, AFNWC commander. "Implementation of this PAD will better align our organization to that mission."

The ICBM Systems Directorate, referred to as "NI" has: Ground Based Strategic Deterrent, Minuteman III, Engineering, Operations Management, Program Control, and Product Support divisions.

The Air Delivered Capabilities Directorate, referred to as "ND" has: Engineering; Strategic Systems, Nuclear Weapons Systems Integration; Outside Continental United States Support; Nuclear Weapons Acquisition; and Cruise Missile Sustainment divisions.

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The Nuclear Technology and Interagency Directorate, referred to as "NT" has: Intelligence; Weapons Effects; Analysis and Enterprise Modeling; Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications; Nuclear Systems Assessments; Materiel Integration and Program Development; Surety and Certification; and Nuclear Weapons divisions.

Additional organizational changes associated with PAD 14-06 include the transfer of the 377th Air Base Wing and portions of AFNWC Staff Judge Advocate, Contracting and Logistics Directorates as well as the Service Logistics Agent function to Air Force Global Strike Command and the maintenance function of AFNWC Operating Location Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to United States Air Forces in Europe. These organizations will continue to report through the AFNWC until formally transferred later this year.

There are no physical relocations of personnel associated with this reorganization, and the AFNWC headquarters will remain at Kirtland Air Force Base.

According to Finan, the reorganization will streamline processes, improving how professionals within the Nuclear Enterprise accomplish the mission, strengthening the enterprise and taking care of our most important asset, our people.

"AFNWC professionals are guardians of a special trust," added Finan. "We ensure the vitality of the U.S. nuclear deterrent by providing the president with ready and reliable nuclear forces. Our success depends on everyone within the organization. Regardless of how we're organized, what patch we wear or what building we occupy, our people remain the single most important factor in mission success."

<http://www.afmc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123443728>

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Air Force Times – Tysons Corner, VA

## **USAF Eyes Larger Say in Nuclear Enterprise**

By Aaron Mehta

April 2, 2015

WASHINGTON — The US Air Force is pushing to reassert itself as a major voice in discussions about America's nuclear strategy, the service's top officer said on Thursday.

Gen. Mark Welsh, Air Force chief of staff, told a breakfast audience that part of the reason he asked Gen. Robin Rand to leave Air Education and Training Command (AETC) and move to Global Strike Command was because a four-star general allows the service to have a stronger voice at the table during discussions about the nation's nuclear force.

The service is "trying to get back into the mode of taking a leading role in the nuclear debate in this country," Welsh said. "We lead and execute two thirds of the nuclear triad, for Christ's sake. We should be in the middle of the policy debates on this issue. We should be very clear on expressing concern, identifying things that [worry us], we should not be waiting for things to happen in this arena."

Rand was confirmed March 27 to succeed Lt. Gen. Stephen Wilson as the head of Global Strike Command. Welsh praised Wilson, who is slated to become the deputy at US Strategic Command, for his work at Global Strike, but said having the fourth star at the table during discussions gives the service greater heft.

"Having a four-star in that position allows us to step into that discussion, where having a three star could be difficult at times," Welsh said. "So the idea, as I told Robin Rand, was go become the next Curtis LeMay. Bring this nuclear mission, no kidding, back to the front edge of Air Force attention every single day."

Rand was considered something of an odd choice to take over from Wilson, given his lack of experience in the nuclear enterprise. A command pilot with more than 5,000 hours in the F-16, T-38 and T-37, Rand took over at

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AETC in 2013. During his time there he focused on reorganizing how education is handled for the service, changes that are slowly being implemented around the service.

Welsh took aim at those concerns with his speech, saying he picked Rand for a very specific reason.

"Some criticism has been brought because of his lack of a nuclear background," Welsh said of Rand. "I'll tell you this — I don't think the nuclear background is the most important thing for the first four-star going up to Global Strike Command. I think leadership is, and there isn't a better leader in our Air Force than Robin Rand."

Later on in the speech, Welsh elaborated on his concerns about the service's voice at the table, acknowledging that in the last 15 years a number of factors — be they a lack of knowledge, experts living outside Washington or other distractions — have combined to the point where the service "kind of slowly slid out of the picture" on the nuclear discussion.

Notably, Welsh's comments on the need to maintain a strong voice on nuclear issues comes as the service is gearing up to award a contract on its next-generation bomber sometime this summer.

The Long Range Strike-Bomber program plans to produce 80 to 100 bombers to replace the B-52 and B-1 fleets. While it will not be nuclear-capable at the start of the program, the aircraft will eventually become the core of America's nuclear bomber fleet.

Members of Congress are already raising concern about potential cost overruns on the program, and outside analysts have said the service needs to lay out the case for the bomber in the current budget environment.

The head of Global Strike Command "should be a part of the senior strategic leadership on this [issue], and if they are, we get a very different picture of the Air Force involvement and the Air Force role in that than if they're not, and I think that's the key," Welsh said.

"We have the ability to influence those discussions," he added. "We have not done that, in my opinion, to the level we need to do that in the future. That's what the four-star does."

<http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/air-space/strike/2015/04/02/usaf-eyes-larger-say-in-nuclear-enterprise/70827882/>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

## **Russia's Orenburg Strategic Missile Forces Unit Undergoes Comprehensive Check**

*The strategic missile unit is armed with Topol and Voyagevoda missile*

March 30, 2015

MOSCOW, March 30. /TASS/. The Orenburg branch of the Russian Strategic Missile Forces has begun a comprehensive check-up, the Defense Ministry's spokesman for Strategic Missile Forces, Igor Yegorov, has told TASS.

"Under the strategic missile force training plan the Orenburg branch under Major-General Anatoly Kulai is to undergo a comprehensive check-up on March 30 through April 11. Strategic Missile Forces commander Colonel-General Sergey Karakayev is in charge," he said.

The main purpose of the exercise is to estimate the real state of affairs and combat readiness and check the commanders' competence.

"The check-up will encompass the missile army's control system, including its logistics center. Commanders' organization skills, the quality of personnel's combat training, skills and morale, observance of law, order and discipline, firearms handling skills and ability to cope with the tasks set will be scrutinized," Yegorov said.

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The exercise is due on March 31 through April 4. Its chief task will be to "perfect performance by the headquarters of all levels and practical skills of the command staff, operative groups and units in view of a threat of a terrorist attack."

The Orenburg strategic missile unit is armed with Topol and Voevoda missiles.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/785821>

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Great Falls Tribune – Great Falls, MT

## **ICBMs Off the Books under Treaty**

By Jenn Rowell, *Great Falls Tribune*

March 30, 2015

The Air Force has eliminated 104 deactivated intercontinental ballistic missiles under budget and ahead of schedule.

The eliminated silos include 50 at Malmstrom Air Force Base that were previously operated by the 564th Missile Squadron, which was deactivated in 2008.

Under New START, a nuclear arms-reduction treaty with Russia, those empty silos counted as nondeployed missile launchers. New START, which was ratified in 2011, limits the U.S. and Russia to 800 nondeployed launchers.

The deactivated silos have to be eliminated by February 2018.

At Malmstrom, the final 10 were eliminated in August and entered a 60-day observation period to allow Russia to verify their elimination.

Malmstrom's eliminated silos were removed from the launcher count under the treaty last fall. The last of the eliminated silos came off the books this spring, according to Air Force Global Strike Command.

Silos were eliminated by filling them with earth and gravel. Gravel fill is a more effective and environmentally friendly method of elimination that's also faster and more economical than those used under the original START treaty. The work doesn't pose any threat to public safety or the environment, Malmstrom officials said.

The second phase includes concrete caps poured over the launchers that had completed the first phase. The sites will remain in caretaker status by the 341st Civil Engineer Squadron until the final disposition of the properties is determined.

AFGSC planned for all elimination and remediation work to be completed by April 2016, and current progress indicates the work will be completed sooner, according to AFGSC.

The construction company was able to complete work 13 months ahead of schedule, including remediation of the Vandenberg AFB, Calif., site in March 2015.

The next phase of work, in accordance with the treaty, will include environmental baseline surveys at the Wyoming sites, ensuring the locations meet state and local environmental regulations. Specific missile alert facilities in Wyoming will also undergo remediation with an expected completion date of summer 2015, according to AFGSC.

The final cost to complete the deactivated ICBM site eliminations was \$16 million for 104 launch facility sites and nine missile alert facilities. That figure was \$23 million under the estimated budget, according to AFGSC.

The original project estimate was \$39 million, but changes in the New START treaty allowed the Air Force to fill the sites with gravel, a less expensive and more environmentally-friendly method of elimination than implosion.

New START also limits deployed launchers to 700 across ICBM fields, submarines and bomber aircraft.

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The Pentagon announced in April 2014 that it would retain all 450 ICBM silos operated by the Air Force, including the 150 at Malmstrom.

The Air Force will remove missiles from 50 silos but keep them in a warm status, meaning they can be rearmed at any time.

According to defense officials, the expectation is that the empty silos will be distributed among the three missile wings and will rotate depending on maintenance and operational needs.

AFGSC officials said missiles will be removed from the selected silos and placed in storage. The silos will remain fully operational and connected to the missile launch control network.

For the last two years, renovations have been underway to storage facilities that are scheduled to receive the missiles and its components. According to AFGSC, those renovations are complete and ready to receive the parts. Shipping arrangements for the missile components that are being pulled from silos are scheduled to begin in May, according to AFGSC.

<http://www.greatfalltribune.com/story/news/local/2015/03/30/icbms-books-treaty/25115269/>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

## **Final Test Launch of Russia's New RS-26 Rubezh Ballistic Missile Successful — Designer**

*The RS-26 Rubezh missile based on the previous RS24 Yars is expected to be put on combat duty in 2015.*

March 31, 2015

MOSCOW, March 31. /TASS/. The final test launch of Russia's solid-fueled intercontinental ballistic missile RS-26 in mid-March was successful, a senior official at the Moscow Institute of Thermal Technology told TASS on Tuesday.

"Yes, the launch was successful," said Vladimir Georgiyevsky, an assistant of the general constructor.

The RS-26 Rubezh missile based on the previous RS24 Yars is expected to be put on combat duty in 2015.

A source at the Russian General Staff told TASS earlier that the first missile would be deployed at the Irkutsk missile division in Siberia.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/786100>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

## **Russia's Strategic Aviation Begins Exercise Featuring Missile Carrying Cruisers, Bombers**

*The drills involve Tupolev-160 (Blackjack) and Tupolev-95MS (Bear) missile carrying cruisers, long-distance missile-carrying strike bombers Tupolev-22M3 (Backfire) and other aircraft*

April 01, 2015

MOSCOW, April 1. /TASS/. A headquarters exercise has begun on a major base of Russia's strategic aviation in the city of Engels, Saratov region in the Middle Volga area, Colonel Igor Klimov, the chief public relations officer of the Russian Air Force told reporters on Wednesday.

Engaged in the exercise are the strategic missile carrying cruisers Tupolev-160 (Blackjack) and Tupolev-95MS (Bear), long-distance missile-carrying strike bombers Tupolev-22M3 (Backfire), the early warning and control aircraft A-50 (Mainstay), the Sukhoi-27 and MiG-31 fighter jets, as well as Antonov-12 airlifters and Mi-8 helicopters.

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All in all, the exercise involves more than twenty aircraft.

The program includes simulation of redeployment of the Tupolev-160, Tupolev-95MS and Tupolev-22M3, aerial reconnaissance, penetration through air defence barriers, coordination with friendly fighter jets for scouting operations, and refueling in midair.

In addition to this, the pilots will do practical and tactical launches of missiles at designated targets placed on the Pemboi and Kura testing ranges that are located in the Komi region in the north of European Russia and in Kamchatka respectively.

The Antonov-12 (Cub) airlifters and Mi-8 (Hip) helicopters are engaged in the exercise to ensure search and rescue operations.

All in all, more than fifty sorties will be made. The chief of Russia's strategic aviation, Lieutenant General Anatoly Zhikharev is supervising the exercise.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/786471>

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The Sydney Morning Herald – Sydney, Australia

## **Russian Analyst Urges Nuclear Attack on Yellowstone National Park and San Andreas Fault Line**

By Su-Lin Tan

March 31, 2015

A Russian geopolitical analyst says the best way to attack the United States is to detonate nuclear weapons to trigger a supervolcano at Yellowstone National Park or along the San Andreas fault line on California's coast.

The president of the Academy of Geopolitical Problems based in Moscow, Konstantin Sivkov said in an article for a Russian trade newspaper on Wednesday, *VPK News*, that Russia needed to increase its military weapons and strategies against the "West" which was "moving to the borders of Russia".

He has a conspiracy theory that NATO - a political and military alliance which counts the US, UK, Canada and many countries in western Europe as members - was amassing strength against Russia and the only way to combat that problem was to attack America's vulnerabilities to ensure a "complete destruction of the enemy".

"Geologists believe that the Yellowstone supervolcano could explode at any moment. There are signs of growing activity there. Therefore it suffices to push the relatively small, for example the impact of the munition megaton class to initiate an eruption. The consequences will be catastrophic for the United States - a country just disappears," he said.

"Another vulnerable area of the United States from the geophysical point of view, is the San Andreas fault - 1300 kilometers between the Pacific and North American plates ... a detonation of a nuclear weapon there can trigger catastrophic events like a coast-scale tsunami which can completely destroy the infrastructure of the United States."

He said the Russian geography on the other hand would protect it from a tsunami or a volcano attack. Few people live on the coast in Russia and Siberia which rests on basalt would withstand similar attacks.

Mr Sivkov, who spoke at the 2013 Moscow Economic Forum, said by 2020 to 2025 Russia would have amassed "asymmetric weapons" in its arsenal for the attack.

"The situation for us today is comparably worse than half a century ago," he said.

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"The weakened economic potential in Russia, the loss of the 'spiritual core of what was the communist idea', and the lack of large-scale community allies in Europe such as the Warsaw Pact, Russia simply cannot compete against the NATO and its allies."

In December last year, the vocal military strategist told Russian newspaper, *Pravda.ru* that there is a "developing standoff between Russia and the West" and the US's ultimate goal was to "destroy Russia".

Mr Sivkov accused American politicians of committing several crimes including causing the deaths of 1,200,000 people in Iraq. He believed the only way for the "American elite" to be held accountable was for its military forces to be destroyed.

"American politicians have committed a variety of crimes. Will anyone be held accountable for those crimes? What about the international law, the UN and other organisations? Are they doing anything?" he asked.

Mr Sivkov told *Pravda* that the idea of the US preparing for a serious war against Russia using cruise missiles was plausible given that it had already launched a thousand missiles in Yugoslavia and Iraq.

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/russian-analyst-urges-nuclear-attack-on-yellowstone-national-park-and-san-andreas-fault-line-20150331-1mbl14.html>

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The Dong-A Ilbo – Seoul, South Korea

## **Beijing Conducted Missile Intercept Test Similar with THAAD in 2013**

March 28, 2015

It has turned out that China conducted a defense missile test that is similar to THAAD. While China has strongly opposed to the U.S. deployment of THAAD in the Korean Peninsula, it tried to establish the missile defense system of identical functions.

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), a U.S. nonprofit science advocacy organization, revealed on its website on Friday that China succeeded its intercept test of mid-range anti-ballistic missile on Jan. 27, 2013. The ballistic missile was fired from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center (JSLC) located in the Gobi Desert near the Mongolian border area and the intercept missile was shot after 2 minutes and 42 seconds from in Korla city in central Xinjiang and some 1,170 kilometers away from the JSLC. The intercept missile cut off the 700km flying ballistic one at the altitude of 250 kilometers. The 250km-altitude is the height that is assumed to intercept North Korea's ballistic missile when the THAAD is deployed.

Assuming the missile to be a newer mid-range Dongfeng-16, the UCS analyzed that SC-19 was used for the interception. While Beijing is the most sensitive to the radar with 2,000 kilometers scanning scope in THAAD system, the UCS didn't mention which radar was used for the test this time. China located its missile launching site in inland area, not in the Pacific coast, to avoid enemy's attack in time of emergency.

<http://english.donga.com/srv/service.php3?bicode=060000&biid=2015032884108>

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The Korea Times – Seoul, South Korea

## **'North Korea Taking Steps to Deploy ICBM'**

*Road-mobile long-range missile poses threat to US*

By Kang Seung-woo

March 29, 2015

The top U.S. intelligence official said Thursday that North Korea has taken steps toward deploying an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) believed capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.

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The Director of National Intelligence James Clapper made the remarks in his written testimony to the House Appropriations Committee's Defense Subcommittee.

Clapper said in the statement that the North is committed to developing a long-range, nuclear-armed missile that is capable of posing a threat to the United States and has displayed the KN-08 twice.

The KN-08 road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missile, believed to be able to travel 12,000 kilometers, is emerging as a threat to Washington because the missile is difficult to locate and target due to mobility of its launchers.

The Stalinist country paraded the missiles in April 12, 2012, to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Kim Il-sung, the North's founder, and in July 27, 2013, for the 60th anniversary of the Korean War armistice.

Clapper, who visited Pyongyang last November to bring back detained Americans Matthew Miller and Kenneth Bae, added that although the North has yet to test-fire the KN-08, the U.S. assesses that North Korea has already taken initial steps toward fielding the missile system.

The U.S. government is worried that the North, eager to expand its arsenal, may develop a miniaturized nuclear warhead enough to fit atop a ballistic missile that could threaten the U.S. mainland.

However, Seoul's Ministry of National Defense declined to confirm the testimony, saying, "The military authorities do not make public their intelligence assessments of North Korea's capabilities."

Clapper's testimony is the latest in a series of U.S. military estimations on the Kim Jong-un regime's development of the ICBM program.

He also made a similar remark last month to a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, worrying that the North was exporting missiles and related material to countries such as Iran and Syria.

Adm. Samuel Locklear, chief of the U.S. Pacific Command, openly expressed concern about the KN-08 earlier this month and Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, commander of the U.S. Forces Korea, said last October that he believes that the North has the capability to build nuclear-tipped missiles — despite no evidence to confirm his assumption.

Military analysts believe that such remarks have unknown intentions.

"As the North has yet to test-fire the KN-08, it is difficult to say that the mobile ICBM system is operationally ready," said Kim Dae-young, senior research fellow of the Korea Defense and Security Forum. He added that the North has still carried out engine combustion tests for the missile.

"Instead, the U.S. military, which has faced defense budget cuts due to sequestering, seems to seek to secure budgets for its missile defense system," Kim said.

[https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2015/03/116\\_176127.html](https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2015/03/116_176127.html)

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

## **Chinese Military to Study Russian Snap Check Practices**

*The Chinese military delegation will come to Russia to familiarise themselves with the practices of snap checks of combat readiness of Russian military units and formations*

March 30, 2015

MOSCOW, March 30. /TASS/. A military delegation headed by deputy commander of the Beijing Military Area Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China, Lieutenant-General Bai Jianjun will pay a visit to the Central Military District of Russia from April 1 to 3.

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"The delegation will meet the Central Military District command in Yekaterinburg, as well as visit the district's formations and units, stationed in the Samara region," assistant troops commander of the district Colonel Yaroslav Roshchupkin told TASS on Monday.

The Chinese military will familiarise themselves with the practices of snap checks of combat readiness of Russian military units and formations, as well as integrated combined-arms and joint-service operational training, he said.

The latest large-scale combat readiness snap check of Russian troops passed earlier this month. The exercise involved the Northern Fleet, a number of force groupings of the Western Military District and Airborne Forces. The manoeuvres involved some 80,000 troops, 80 warships and submarines, more than 220 warplanes and helicopters.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/785903>

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Want China Times – Taipei, Taiwan

## **PLA H-6 Bombers Conduct First Drill in Western Pacific**

Staff Reporter

April 01, 2015

H-6 strategic bombers of the People's Liberation Army Air Force have conducted an exercise in the airspace of the Western Pacific for the first time, according to the state run China News Service on Mar. 30.

Colonel Shen Jinke, spokesperson for the PLA Air Force, confirmed the exercise at a press conference in Guangzhou and said the drill allowed the crew of the bombers to gain necessary experience carrying out mission over the open sea. Shen said the exercise did not target any country nor did it violate any international law.

"It is common for the air force of every major power in the world to carry out exercises like this," Shen said.

Photos published by the PLA Air Force indicated the bombers taking part in the drill were the H-6K variant. Shen also said the bombers flew over the Bashi channel between Taiwan and the Philippines before reaching the airspace of the Pacific.

While no further details of the exercise were revealed, the Jiji Press based in Tokyo expressed concern over the ability of the PLA Air Force to deploy H-6 bombers to the Western Pacific. China is taking the opportunity to demonstrate its power and resolve to countries in the region, it said.

With a combat radius of 2,000 kilometers, the H-6 bomber could launch attacks against US military facilities on Guam.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?cid=1101&MainCatID=11&id=20150401000102>

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People's Daily Online – Beijing, China

## **PLA's Air Force Drill over the High Seas to be a Standard Practice**

(People's Daily Online)

April 02, 2015

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force successfully completed its first ever military drill in the airspace above the west Pacific Ocean on Monday, and returned to base later the same day.

According to Shen Jinke, spokesperson with the air force, PLA aircraft flew over the west Pacific via the Bashi Channel south of Taiwan on Monday. The drill aims to "level up the PLA Air Force's mobility and combat capability" over the high seas.

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Military expert Yin Zhuo told People's Daily Online that the drill is in line with international laws and practices, and no country has any right to interfere. He also said such drills will become a standard practice and the PLA air force and navy will join together to conduct such exercises.

The PLA's Air Force deployed its H-6k bomber during the drill. Its combat range can reach 2,000 kilometers and the missile it carries extends the bomber's strike range to 4,000 kilometers, which is suitable for operation over the high seas, said Yin Zhuo.

In future training exercises, long-range maritime patrol aircraft, fighters and early-warning aircraft may escort the H-6k bomber and provide targets and electromagnetic environment confrontation for it, according to Yin Zhuo.

The PLA's Air Force has the right to travel to the open seas via the northern part of international public airspace, including the airspace of the Miyako Waterway or Osumi Strait, in line with international law, said Yin Zhuo. But he did not rule out the possibility that other countries or regions will monitor the training.

<http://en.people.cn/n/2015/0402/c98649-8872999.html>

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Sputnik International – Russian Information Agency

## **Russia's Borey-Class Subs Construction Not Subject to Budget Sequestration**

*The construction of the last of Russia's nuclear-powered Borey-class submarines will not be affected by the current budget sequester, the director general of the Rubin design bureau said Tuesday.*

31 March 2015

MOSCOW (Sputnik) — Russia's Ministry of Defense previously said that a series of construction and weapon development programs could be subject to budget sequestration.

"The last Borey-class submarines, the seventh and eighth, will be laid down by the end of the year. The defense ministry has provided financing in accordance with the contract. There is no sequestration," Igor Vilnit told RIA Novosti.

A total of eight Borey-class submarines are planned to join the Russian Navy by 2020 to be the backbone of Russia's marine nuclear forces. The first three have been launched, and another three are currently under construction.

<http://sputniknews.com/military/20150331/1020261285.html>

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Mainichi Daily News – Mainichi, Japan

April 02, 2015

## **Russia Simulates Preemptive Use of Nuclear Weapons in Drills**

MOSCOW (Kyodo) -- The Russian military has simulated the possibility of its preemptive and limited use of nuclear weapons in a military drill conducted in March in the Arctic, military and diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

The drill was based on the scenario that an imaginary military, believed to be the U.S. military and North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces, launches an attack on Arctic islands and the Kuril Islands, which include a group of islets disputed by Japan and Russia.

The latest drill was seen as Russian's attempt to bolster deterrence by signaling it could use nuclear weapons should its relations with European countries and the United States worsen significantly, according to the sources.

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Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Russia was ready to put nuclear weapons on standby in February last year, when the pro-Russian government was toppled in Ukraine.

The massive exercise in the Arctic from March 16 through March 21 deployed 80,000 personnel, 65 ships, 220 aircraft and helicopters, and 15 submarines, according to the Russian Defense Ministry. March 18 marked the first anniversary of Russia's annexation of Crimea.

According to the official website of the president's office, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu told Putin during the drill that multiple atomic submarines loaded with nuclear missiles had been deployed to the Arctic. General Chief of Staff of Russia's Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov sent out direct signals via the latest command channel to nuclear forces in the ocean to control the attack.

The military and diplomatic sources said the course of action is viewed as getting ready to launch nuclear missiles.

The Kuril Islands have strategic importance for Russia, as its Pacific Fleet operates nuclear submarines in the Sea of Okhotsk.

Tokyo and Moscow remain apart over ownership of a group of islands called the Northern Territories in Japan, and the Southern Kurils in Russia. Putin is expected to visit Japan by the end of the year.

Russia conducted the extensive drill not only in the Arctic including the Barents Sea but also in the Black Sea, the Baltic Sea and the Sea of Japan in the Far East.

<http://mainichi.jp/english/english/newsselect/news/20150402p2g00m0in023000c.html>

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TASS Russian News Agency

## **Russia Will Launch First Satellite of Missile Attack Warning System in July-December 2015**

*The data such satellites will be receiving will be reported to the MAWS command center and then to the National Center for Control over State Defense*

April 02, 2015

MOSCOW, April 2. /TASS/. Russian Defense Ministry has issued a report on a forthcoming expansion of the national orbital grouping of the space echelon of the Missile Attack Warning System (MAWS).

"The launch of the first spacecraft of the new generation has been scheduled for the second half of 2015," a spokesman for the ministry said. "The satellite will be taken into orbit by the Soyuz launch vehicle."

He indicated that the Angara carrier rocket would not be used for this particular launch, since the Angara's next mission had already been planned for 2016.

"There are no gaps in the MAWS orbital grouping and there will never be," the spokesman said. "The new-generation satellites have a number of distinct features, like an extended service life and the performance characteristics that are better by a factor of several times."

The satellites have been created on a new component base designed and manufactured in Russia. "Just one satellite in the new family will be able to replace several five or six satellites of the previous generation."

"Simultaneously, we're developing the ground-based elements of the MAWS through the commissioning of new radars of a high degree of factory-gate operational readiness, the spokesman said. "Both echelons will continue performing the previous tasks but doing so at a new level of quality and along a radically overhauled pattern."

Along with it, the space-based and ground-based components of the system will be functioning in maximum coordination with each other and will complement each other mutually.

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The data they will be receiving will then be reported to the MAWS command center and then to, to the National Center for Control over State Defense.

The commander of Russia's Aerospace Defense Force, Gen Alexander Golovko, said somewhat earlier that the military authorities hoped to begin the unfolding of the first stage of the Integrated Space System as of 2015 and this would help ensure the capability to control the areas with a high risk of missile attacks round the clock.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/786746>

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The Moscow Times – Moscow, Russia

## **Kremlin Denies Russia Gearing Up for Nuclear Showdown with West**

By Jennifer Monaghan

April 02, 2015

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has said reports that Russia would provoke a nuclear showdown with the West over Crimea or NATO's presence in the Baltics should "not be taken seriously."

Peskov on Wednesday commented on a report by British newspaper The Times that claimed to have obtained notes from a secret meeting of Russian and American intelligence figures last month.

The report, published Wednesday, cited an unidentified American participant at the high-level meeting as recounting how Russian delegates had listed three scenarios in which Moscow was prepared for direct — and possibly nuclear — confrontation with the West.

The scenarios reportedly listed by the Russian delegates included a reaction to any attempts by the West to return Crimea to Ukraine or the arming of Ukrainian government forces by NATO in eastern Ukraine, where pro-Russian rebels have established an unrecognized confederate that Moscow calls "Novorossia," the Times reported.

The Russian representatives, reportedly briefed by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, also detailed a "spectrum of responses from nuclear to non-military" that would play out if the NATO alliance tried to beef up its presence in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, The Times cited the unidentified participant as saying.

But Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Wednesday denied that Russia was prepared to go nuclear in its standoff with the West, dismissing the claims as little more than mud-slinging by the British media.

"This is a classic example of the ongoing [attempts] to demonize our country," Peskov was cited as saying by the Interfax news agency, adding that such reports only served to fan the flames of the so-called "information war."

"First they exaggerate the reports, without basing them on any concrete facts, and then they scare themselves with their own words," Peskov said, adding such publications "were not to be taken seriously."

Peskov also said comments made last month by President Vladimir Putin — in which the leader said Russia's nuclear weapons were put on standby during its annexation of Crimea last spring — had been taken out of context and that Russia had never threatened nuclear action over the peninsula.

During the three-hour documentary, aired last month to coincide with the year anniversary of Crimea's annexation, Putin told state-run channel Russia-1: "We were ready to do this [put our nuclear weapons on standby]. I spoke to my colleagues and told them that [Crimea] is our historic territory, Russians live there. They were in danger. We couldn't abandon them."

Putin then added: "Despite all of the difficulties and the drama surrounding the situation, the Cold War is over, and we do not need international crises like the [Bay of Pigs]. Moreover, the circumstances did not call for such actions, which would have been contrary to our own interests."

The Baltic states, home to hundreds of thousands of native Russians and Russian-speakers, are become increasingly wary of Moscow's intentions, appealing to NATO to protect them from a Crimea-style Russian

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takeover. Lithuanian lawmakers in March voted overwhelmingly in favor of restarting military conscription in response to ongoing geopolitical tensions in the region.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/kremlin-denies-russia-gearing-up-for-nuclear-showdown-with-west/518519.html>

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Sputnik International – Russian Information Agency

## Russia Ready to Sell S-300 Missiles to Iran if Sanctions Fall

*Russia may resume a deal to deliver S-300 surface-to-air defense systems to Iran if only the UN decides to lift its ban on arms sales to Tehran, a leading Russian defense expert said on Friday.*

3 April 2015

Negotiators from Iran, the United States and other world powers agreed on Thursday to a framework for a final agreement to curb Tehran's nuclear program.

Iran agreed in principle to accept significant restrictions on its nuclear facilities for at least a decade and submit to international inspections.

In return, economic sanctions unilaterally imposed on the Islamic Republic by the US and EU will be lifted.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov then said that a UN arms embargo against Iran should also go.

"Lifting sanctions on Iran, including the arms embargo, would be an absolutely logical thing to do," said Igor Korotchenko, who heads the Global Arms Trade Analysis Center think tank in Moscow.

"Of key importance to us is the delivery of the upgraded S-300 missiles to Iran... A contract to this effect could be resumed on terms acceptable to both Moscow and Tehran," he added.

In 2007, Russia contracted to sell to Iran \$800 million worth of S-300 missile units. Moscow suspended the contract in 2010 following a UN Security Council resolution to stop the sale of arms to Iran due to its controversial nuclear energy program.

Iran then sued Russia's state arms exporter Rosoboronexport at the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in Geneva, with Moscow eventually offering Tehran a settlement and a promise to deliver the Antei-2500 missile systems at a later date, which was not specified.

Tehran refused, insisting on the implementation of the original deal.

<http://sputniknews.com/russia/20150403/1020417724.html>

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Bloomberg Business News – New York, NY

## Menendez Says Congress Must Review Any Iran Nuclear Deal

By Terrence Dopp

March 29, 2015

(Bloomberg) -- Congress must review any nuclear deal the U.S. and other world powers reach with Iran, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said.

Senator Bob Menendez of New Jersey said Sunday he has "real concerns" over the talks and would not support any deal that leaves Iran a "threshold nuclear" state.

Talks between Iran, which holds the world's fourth-largest oil reserves, and world powers continued for a fifth day Sunday in Lausanne, Switzerland. Iran's insistence on an immediate lifting of United Nations sanctions is a main





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obstacle to securing a framework agreement on its disputed nuclear program by March 31, European and U.S. diplomats said on Saturday.

The Western powers negotiating with Iran have proposed lifting UN sanctions in four to six years, according to the officials who asked not to be identified, in line with diplomatic rules. A failure of the talks would raise the prospect that President Barack Obama or a successor would use force to prevent Iran from producing nuclear weapons.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Bob Corker has said the panel will consider legislation on April 14 that he is co-sponsoring with Menendez, which would allow Congress to review and approve a final agreement.

“This bill is a good bill and I’d hoped the administration would have supported it,” Menendez said Sunday at a synagogue in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey. “We are going to have to see what the agreement is and what are the mechanisms for verification. There needs to be a very robust inspection.”

### **Democratic Support**

The decision to delay a committee vote on the bill, S. 615, until after the March 31 deadline for the framework of an agreement may win additional Democratic support for the measure.

The White House has said Obama would veto the proposed bill, which would require the administration to wait 60 days before suspending any sanctions against Iran.

Obama administration spokesman Josh Earnest said on ABC’s “This Week” program that the best way to prevent Iran from getting nuclear arms is “by pursuing diplomacy with the international community, to get Iran to voluntarily take steps that would shut down every single path to a nuclear weapon.”

Menendez, who was also critical of Obama over the decision to open talks on normalizing relations with Cuba, said during the appearance that he and the president “aren’t always seeing eye to eye these days.”

Menendez said he would oppose allowing Iran to retain some centrifuges for enrichment of uranium. He said he wouldn’t agree to any deal that put Iran as close as one year away from producing a nuclear bomb.

“The period of time in my mind should be at least as long as Iran has deceived the West, which is 20 years,” he said. “And at the same time, sanctions relief -- if sanction-relief is going to be given -- should be measured over time.”

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-29/menendez-says-congress-must-review-any-nuclear-deal-with-iran-i7ummog8>

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Ha’aretz Daily News – Tel Aviv, Israel

## **Israel’s Fourth Submarine, ISS Tanin, to Start Operations within Weeks**

*Israel Navy also expecting to receive four new German-built ships in coming years, to protect offshore gas and oil platforms.*

By Gili Cohen

March 30, 2015

The Israel Navy’s fourth submarine, the ISS Tanin, is expected to become fully operational in a few weeks and participate in naval operations.

The navy’s fifth submarine, meanwhile, is expected to arrive this summer, and is now in the final stages of construction at the Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft (HDW) shipyards in Kiel, Germany. Israel is expected to officially take control of the ISS Rahav in a few weeks, when it will begin its maiden voyage from Germany to Israel.

The fifth submarine will only become fully operational some six or so months after it arrives in Israel. During that time, various Israeli weapons and communications systems are fitted to it, explained an officer in the submarine division.” The ISS Tanin (Crocodile) was initially handed over to Israel in May 2012.

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The navy said on Sunday it is prepared for the possibility of cyber attacks against the digital systems on its submarines. There are mechanical systems inside the submarine alongside the electronic ones, in this case manufactured by Siemens in Germany.

Foreign media reports say the Israeli submarines can carry cruise missiles with a range of thousands of kilometers. Reportedly, they can also be fitted with nuclear warheads. Foreign media say the Israeli submarine fleet – which is planned to double in size by 2018 – is intended to provide a “second-strike” capability in case of a nuclear attack on Israel.

Lt. Col. A., commander of the ISS Tanin, called the Dolphin II-class subs a new generation of submarines that will enable Israel to carry out its missions better. “The submarine penetrates deep into enemy [territory], on long and complex missions that demand a large amount of experience and investment,” he said. Submarine officers declined to provide details of the subs’ long-distance operations, in areas that the IDF calls “the third circle.”

The navy is also preparing to receive new ships in coming years. These are intended to help protect Israel’s offshore gas and oil platforms. These ships are also being built in Germany, though the final contracts have yet to be signed, said a senior navy officer. He expects four such ships to arrive within three years to protect the offshore drilling platforms.

Israel’s exclusive offshore economic zone is definitely something Hezbollah is aware of, said the officer. It could be seen as a legitimate target in Hezbollah’s eyes, he added. During Operation Protective Edge last summer in Gaza, the navy decided to make preparations to defend the drilling platforms, and stationed missile boats alongside every offshore platform.

Brig. Gen. David Salma, the commander of the Haifa Naval Base, told the press on Sunday that the major threats the navy is preparing for come mostly from advanced weapons systems. The navy’s assumption is that there are Russian-made P-800 Oniks anti-ship cruise missiles (also known as Yakhont missiles) in operation in the northern sector. The Israel Navy has an answer to these missiles, said Salma.

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/.premium-1.649457>

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

## **Arab Nations Alarmed by Prospect of US Nuclear Deal with Iran**

Middle East governments fear nuclear agreement will strengthen Tehran’s power and influence in the region

By Ian Black, Middle East editor

Monday, 30 March 2015

Arab governments are watching the endgame of negotiations over Iran’s nuclear programme with barely-concealed alarm, fearing that the US is bent on a rapprochement with Tehran, not so much at any price, but certainly at the expense of its long-standing Gulf allies.

Saudi Arabia, Iran’s main regional rival, has made clear its unhappiness with the emerging deal. Still, unlike Israel, which flatly opposes any agreement, Saudi Arabia has adopted a more subtle approach. Adel Jubeir, its ambassador to the US, pledged to wait to see the outcome before criticising it. Jubair also conspicuously refused to rule out the kingdom seeking its own nuclear weapons — a pointed reminder to Barack Obama of the nuclear proliferation risks if his Iran strategy does not succeed.

The Saudis have hinted for years that they would turn to Pakistan if they felt threatened by a nuclear Iran. Last year they displayed their Chinese-made intermediate-range ballistic missiles — capable of reaching Tehran — at a parade attended by the general who controls Pakistan’s nuclear arsenal. It was, said the Brookings Institution analyst Bruce Riedel, “a very calculated signal”.

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But the Saudis have wider concerns: an American-Iranian rapprochement, they fear, will undermine their own influence and security. Prince Turki al-Faisal, the former Saudi intelligence chief, warned in London earlier this month that the romance was now “nearing consummation”.

The United Arab Emirates, which has a long-running dispute with Iran over three Gulf islands, is also concerned, suggesting a nuclear agreement will strengthen Tehran’s hand in other areas of Middle Eastern strategic competition that have a Sunni-Shia sectarian tinge – Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and more recently Yemen. “We see the nuclear issue as a tool of Iran’s foreign policy,” one senior official said.

Rather than directly confronting the US, the Saudis’ strategy is to improve unity in the Gulf. The obstacles to that are Oman, a long-standing mediator between the US and Iran, and Qatar, which also keeps carefully on the right side of Tehran.

The drama over the final stage of the nuclear talks has been heightened by Saudi military operations in Yemen against Houthi rebels it says are backed by Iran. Saudi sources say that obtaining US backing for that was the work of Prince Mohammed Bin Nayef, the powerful Saudi interior minister, who is now second in line to the throne.

The degree of Iranian support for the Houthis is, however, hotly disputed. Emile Hokayem, an analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies, says there is a tendency in the Gulf to overstate Iran’s role and a tendency in the west to understate it. Tehran’s involvement has been “gradually opportunistic rather than causal,” he said

Sir William Patey, a former British ambassador to Riyadh, says some senior Saudis fear a return to the days of the shah before the 1979 Islamic revolution when Iran was America’s preferred regional ally. “Others realise that that is not what’s on offer,” he told the Guardian. “But a nuclear deal could lead to American accommodation to Iranian wishes and they find that worrying.

“On the nuclear issue they are on the horns of a dilemma. They don’t want Iran to become a nuclear power and they will be as sceptical as the Israelis are as to whether this is going to be a real deal. On the other hand they won’t want to be forced into making a difficult decision.

“They will be sceptical but they won’t be critical and they will learn to manage. Their worst fears won’t be realised. There will be all sorts of obstacles to the sort of Iranian-American relations that the Saudis fear. If Iran could be brought into a regional security arrangement that’s something they would learn to adjust to.”

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/30/arab-nations-alarmed-by-prospect-of-us-nuclear-deal-with-iran>

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Press TV – Tehran, Iran

## **Iran, P5+1 Joint Statement Calling for Removal of all Anti-Iran Sanctions**

Thursday, April 02, 2015

Iran and the P5+1 group of world powers have adopted a joint statement after marathon talks in the Swiss city of Lausanne calling, among other things, for the removal of UNSC resolutions and sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

The statement was read out in a joint press conference in the Swiss city by the EU high representative, Federica Mogherini, and Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Thursday.

In the framework of the agreement, none of Iran’s nuclear facilities as well as the previous activities will be stopped, shut down or suspended and Iran’s nuclear activities in all its nuclear facilities including Natanz, Fordow, Isfahan and Arak will continue.

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These comprehensive solutions will guarantee the continued enrichment program inside the Iranian territory and according to this, Iran will be allowed to go on with industrial production of nuclear fuel which is meant for running its nuclear power plants.

According to the solutions, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action for enrichment program will cover a 10-year period, during which more than 5,000 centrifuge machines will continue producing enriched material at Natanz facility up to the 3.67-percent level. Extra machines and the related infrastructure in the facility will be collected by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in order to be replaced by new machines consistent with the allowed standards. Accordingly, Iran will be allowed to allocate the current stockpile of enriched materials for the purpose of producing nuclear fuel or swapping it with uranium in the international markets.

Iran will continue research and development program on advanced centrifuge machines and will be also able to keep initiating and completing its R & D program on IR-4, IR-5, IR-6 and IR-8 machines in the 10-year period of the agreement.

**Fordow facility**

According to the joint statement, Fordow nuclear facility will be turned into a research center for nuclear science and physics. More than 1,000 centrifuges will be maintained at this facility and two centrifuge cascades will keep operating. In cooperation with the P5+1 countries, about half of the Fordow facility will be dedicated to advanced nuclear research and production of stable isotopes which have important applications in industry, agriculture and medicine.

**Arak heavy water reactor**

According to the statement, the heavy water reactor in the Iranian city of Arak will remain in place but will be redesigned and updated. The redesigning process will greatly increase efficiency of the reactor while reducing the amount of plutonium produced in the facility. The redesigning process will be done according to defined scheduled as an international project with cooperation of Iran. Production of fuel for Arak reactor and awarding international nuclear fuel production certificate will be among international cooperation to be offered to Iran.

**Additional Protocol**

Iran will implement the Additional Protocol temporarily and voluntarily in line with its confidence-building measures and after that the protocol will be ratified in a time frame by the Iranian government and parliament (Majlis).

**Removal of Sanctions**

Following the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, all the UN Security Council sanctions as well as all economic and financial embargos by the US and the European Union, including bans on banks, insurance, investment, and all other related services in different fields, including petrochemical, oil, gas and automobile industries will be lifted. Besides, all nuclear-related sanctions against real and legal entities, state and private organizations and institutions, including those sanctions imposed against the Central Bank of Iran, other financial and banking institutions, SWIFT system, and the country's shipping and aviation sectors, and Iran's tanker company will be immediately lifted all at once. Moreover, the P5+1 countries are committed to avoid imposing any new nuclear-related sanctions against Iran.

**International Cooperation**

Iran's international nuclear cooperation, including with the member states of the P5+1 will be possible and promoted in the fields of building nuclear power plants, research reactors, nuclear fusion, stable isotopes, nuclear safety, nuclear medicine and agriculture. According to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Iran will be provided with access to global market as well as international trade, finance, technical knowledge and energy.

**Schedule for implementing Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action**

**Issue No.1159, 03 April 2015**

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At the end of these negotiations, the two sides will start drafting the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in the near future to meet the July 1 deadline. Once the text is finalized, the Comprehensive Joint Plan of Action will be adopted as a UN Security Council resolution. For the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action to be binding for all UN member states, the resolution will be adopted under the Article 41 of Chapter Seven of the UN Charter to be able to render previous resolutions against Iran null and void.

The joint statement released at the end of eight days of intensive negotiations in Lausanne on Thursday is a sign that Iran and its negotiating partners have come to a mutual understanding over Iran's nuclear program.

Representatives of Iran and the P5+1 group of countries -- the United States, Britain, China, France and Russia plus Germany -- along with senior officials of the European Union have held talks over the past years to narrow the existing differences on Tehran's nuclear activities.

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2015/04/02/404427/Iran-P51-adopt-joint-statement>

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Mehr News Agency – Tehran, Iran  
April 2, 2015

## **Statement on Iran N-Talks Released**

LAUSANNE, Apr. 02 (MNA) – Iran's Javad Zarif and EU's Federica Mogherini read the final statement of intensive nuclear negotiations in Lausanne earlier this evening.

Iranian FM Mohammad Javad Zarif and EU Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini appeared in Rolex hall of Lausanne's Polytechnic University to read the final statement. After nine days of hectic, intensive talks between Iran and the 5+1, the two officials provided the media with an English version, read by Mogherini, and a Persian version, read by Zarif, of the statement which would set the framework for further negotiations and a final deal by end of June.

Here is the full text of the statement released jointly by

We, the EU High Representative and the Foreign Minister of the I. R. of Iran, together with the Foreign Ministers of the E3+3 (China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States), met from 26 March to 2nd April 2015 in Switzerland. As agreed in November 2013, we gathered here to find solutions towards reaching a comprehensive resolution that will ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme and the comprehensive lifting of all sanctions.

Today, we have taken a decisive step: we have reached solutions on key parameters of a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The political determination, the good will and the hard work of all parties made it possible. Let us thank all delegations for their tireless dedication.

This is a crucial decision laying the agreed basis for the final text of the JCPOA. We can now restart drafting the text and annexes of the JCPOA, guided by the solutions developed in these days.

As Iran pursues a peaceful nuclear programme, Iran's enrichment capacity, enrichment level and stockpile will be limited for specified durations, and there will be no other enrichment facility than Natanz. Iran's research and development on centrifuges will be carried out on a scope and schedule that has been mutually agreed.

Fordow will be converted from an enrichment site into a nuclear, physics and technology centre. International collaboration will be encouraged in agreed areas of research. There will not be any fissile material at Fordow.

An international joint venture will assist Iran in redesigning and rebuilding a modernized Heavy Water Research Reactor in Arak that will not produce weapons grade plutonium. There will be no reprocessing and the spent fuel will be exported.

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A set of measures have been agreed to monitor the provisions of the JCPOA including implementation of the modified Code 3.1 and provisional application of the Additional Protocol. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will be permitted the use of modern technologies and will have enhanced access through agreed procedures, including to clarify past and present issues.

Iran will take part in international cooperation in the field of civilian nuclear energy which can include supply of power and research reactors. Another important area of cooperation will be in the field of nuclear safety and security. The EU will terminate the implementation of all nuclear-related economic and financial sanctions and the US will cease the application of all nuclear-related secondary economic and financial sanctions, simultaneously with the IAEA-verified implementation by Iran of its key nuclear commitments.

A new UN Security Council Resolution will endorse the JCPOA, terminate all previous nuclear-related resolutions and incorporate certain restrictive measures for a mutually agreed period of time.

We will now work to write the text of a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action including its technical details in the coming weeks and months at the political and experts levels. We are committed to complete our efforts by June 30th. We would like to thank the Swiss government for its generous support in hosting these negotiations.

<http://en.mehrnews.com/detail/News/106456>

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Xinhua News – Beijing, China

## Iran Says its Goals Achieved in Nuclear Talks with Powers

(Xinhua)

April 3, 2015

TEHRAN, April 3 (Xinhua) -- Iran has reached its goals in its recent nuclear negotiations with the world's major powers, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif said upon arriving at Tehran Mehrabad airport on Friday.

"We were following a number of serious objectives in the talks, and based on the present framework reached (in Lausanne of Swiss), we think we will achieve our goals," Zarif was quoted as saying by semi-official ISNA news agency.

One of the objectives in the talks was to preserve all of the nuclear establishments and to continue the nuclear program in Iran, which was met according to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) regarding Iran's Nuclear Program, Zarif said.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini read a joint statement of JCPOA at a press conference held in Lausanne on Thursday that all sides agreed Iran's enrichment capacity, enrichment level and stockpile will be limited for specific duration and there will be no other enrichment facility than the country's Natanz nuclear plant.

"Iran's research and development on centrifuges will be carried out based on a cope and schedule that has been mutually agreed," she said.

As to Iran's controversial Fordow nuclear plant, it will be converted from an enrichment site into a nuclear, physics and technology center, Mogherini added.

Another achievement of Iran in Lausanne nuclear talks was the clear reference of the JCPOA statement to the removal of all the financial and economic sanctions upon the performance of the final deal, she said, adding that "this is a good achievement."

"The U.S. government will be responsible for lifting the sanctions all at once, and if someone talks about the gradual lift of sanctions, we should know that he is talking against the agreements reached so far," Mogherini said.

According to the JCPOA statement, Iran will receive sanctions relief, if it verifiably abides by its commitments.

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"U.S. and EU nuclear-related sanctions will be suspended after the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) has verified that Iran has taken all of its key nuclear-related steps. If at any time Iran fails to fulfill its commitments, these sanctions will snap back into place," said the statement.

"All past UN Security Council resolutions on the Iran nuclear issue will be lifted simultaneously with the completion of nuclear-related actions addressing all key concerns (enrichment, Fordow, Arak, PMD and transparency)," according to the statement.

Meanwhile, Iranian senior nuclear negotiator, Abbas Araqchi, hailed what he called "the recognition of Iran's nuclear program" by the world, saying "Based on this statement, Iran's nuclear program is internationally valid and recognized and this is the biggest achievement for us," official IRNA news agency reported on Friday.

Top negotiators from Iran and the P5+1 group -- including the United States, Britain, France, Russia, China plus Germany -- on Thursday concluded the nine-day Iran nuclear talks in Lausanne and reached common solutions to outstanding issues in a run for a comprehensive deal by June 30.

"The solutions reached (according to JCPOA) will serve as the basis for the final agreement" on Iran's nuclear issue, Iranian foreign minister said Friday.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-04/03/c\\_134123354.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-04/03/c_134123354.htm)

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran  
Friday, April 03, 2015

## **Iranian Parliament to Supervise Final N. Deal with World Powers**

TEHRAN (FNA) - A senior Iranian lawmaker underlined that the country's parliament will oversee the conclusion and endorsement of the final nuclear deal between Tehran and the six world powers.

"The parliament will supervise over the comprehensive nuclear agreement like any other agreement," member of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Abbasali Mansouri Arani told FNA on Friday.

He underlined that any agreement with foreign countries should be within the framework of the Islamic Republic ruling system and the country's redlines.

On Thursday, Iranian Foreign Minister and Top Negotiator Zarif warned that Tehran will reciprocate any violation of the final nuclear deal by the six world powers with similar action.

Speaking to reporters subsequent to a joint press conference with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini in Lausanne, Switzerland, Zarif told reporters that the agreements and the shared understanding developed in the last eight days of talks will be the basis for working out a final nuclear deal after the inclusion of details and mechanisms for implementing them.

Zarif reiterated that a final deal should be worked out in the next three months.

He said Iran is committed to the documents that it signs and expects the six world powers to do the same.

Zarif said work will continue by the seven nations "to proceed based on their present shared understanding", adding that the seven nations should look ahead with optimism "and if any problem arises, we should sit and talk based on mutual respect, and then move ahead".

Asked about Iran's possible reaction if the opposite side defies its undertakings under the pretext of having a different interpretation of the solutions gained, he said that the seven nations party to the nuclear talks might present today's agreement in different ways as they see fit.

"What was agreed as different solutions to achieve a comprehensive joint plan of action is based on a win-win approach that will end the sanctions against Iran."

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"Iran's nuclear program will continue, but we will adopt measures to build confidence at international level," he added.

He said Iran will inspect the opposite sides' actions and attitude precisely to verify their compliance with the terms of the final deal, once the document is drafted and put into effect.

"There will be a text on which we will agree and move ahead step by step and all the mechanisms should go into effect article by article. We will be ready to remove any pretext or excuse that could be sought by the western side through logic and reasoning."

"But if lack of action is witnessed, reciprocal measures will be taken," the Iranian foreign minister warned.

Zarif underlined that Iran's nuclear R&D will continue and none of Iran's nuclear facilities will be shut down.

He repeated that all the US, EU and UN security council sanctions against will be removed.

He said over 5,000 centrifuge machines will work at Natanz to do industrial-scale enrichment for Iran, while around 1,000 more centrifuges will operate at Fordo, but not for industrial-scale uranium enrichment.

He appreciated the Iranian Supreme Leader for his support throughout the talks as well as the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Ali Akbar Salehi for his technical contribution to the negotiations.

Iran and Group 5+1 (the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany) started their new round of talks in Lausanne, Switzerland, last Thursday to narrow their differences over Tehran's nuclear energy program ahead of a July 1 deadline.

Earlier tonight, Zarif said while reading out a joint statement at a press conference with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini that "Our decision today will be the agreed base for the final text of the Joint the Plan of Action (the final deal) is of vital importance".

"Now we can start drafting the final agreement and its annexations by relying on the solutions achieved in the last few days," he said after eight days of marathon talks with negotiators from the six world powers.

"As Iran continues its peaceful nuclear program, the degree and capacity of its enrichment and the size of its (enriched uranium) stockpile will be limited for specific periods and Natanz will be the only enrichment center in Iran. Nuclear enrichment R&D on centrifuge machines in Iran will be conducted on the basis of an agreed timeline and level."

Zarif said Fordo will turn from a nuclear enrichment plant to a nuclear, physics and technological center, where Iran will receive international cooperation.

The Iranian foreign minister also said the country's Arak Heavy Water Reactor will remain in place after being redesigned and renovated through international cooperation, stressing that the facility will remain a Heavy Water Reactor in nature, but will produce plutonium which won't have the capability to be used for nuclear weapons production.

He said "there won't be any reprocessing at the Arak facility and its consumed nuclear fuel will be exported".

"A collection of arrangements have been agreed for the supervision over the implementation of the contents of the Joint Plan of Action (final deal) which include 3.1 Safeguard Agreement code and the voluntary implementation of the additional protocol (to the NPT); the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will also use modern inspection technologies and will be given more agreed access to verify past and present issues," Zarif said.

He said Iran will partner in international nuclear projects, "including power plant and research reactor construction as well as nuclear safety and security".

Zarif said all sanctions against Iran will be lifted.

All UN Security Council sanctions resolution against Iran will be annulled as they did not help the settlement of the nuclear standoff between Iran and the six world powers.

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"The EU will terminate imposition of its nuclear-related economic and financial sanctions and the United States will also stop implementation of its nuclear-related financial and economic sanctions simultaneous with the implementation of Iran's major nuclear undertakings in a way that they are verified by the IAEA," Zarif said.

Zarif said the final deal will be endorsed by a UN Security Council sanctions in a move to annul all the previous nuclear-related resolutions against Iran.

He said drafting of the deal will start soon to prepare the Joint Plan of Action by the July 1 deadline.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13940114000276>

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Mehr News Agency – Tehran, Iran

April 3, 2015

## Zarif: Negotiations still to Continue for Next 3 Months

LAUSANNE, Apr. 03 (MNA) – Iran's Javad Zarif has said nothing in nuclear talks is definite; negotiations will continue for another 3 months.

Zarif attended a press conference after reading the joint statement by EU Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini in Rolex hall of Lausanne's Polytechnic University.

Zarif told reporters that Iran had attended negotiations 'responsibly' to address concerns voiced by international community; "we have been arguing that our nuclear activities are totally peaceful, and sanctions against Iran are neither humane nor respecting human rights principles," Zarif told the press, "the joint press statement acts as an agreement on and mutual understanding of solutions to draft the comprehensive Action Plan," he added.

"Iran will pursue its research and science projects; our reactors should upgrade to latest cutting edge technology; with Fordow centrifuges, we will remain committed to our responsibilities; we will focus on our activities on Natanz; on the other hand, the UN resolutions should be eliminated, along with complete removal of US government and Congress sanctions against Iran," Zarif emphasized.

Zarif demanded that Iranian universities and academic centers be allowed place to compete in academic excellence; "no sanctions should target and render ineffective our academic centers as well," he added.

"What is raised as the issue of 'Iran's cloak of nuclear secrecy' is to see the empty half of the glass, which would benefit no one in the negotiations; what is today agreed upon as 'different solutions to reach comprehensive agreement' hinges upon a win-win approach to negotiations, which stipulates removal of any unfair sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran," Zarif asserted.

"At the same time," Zarif held, "Iran will continue nuclear program, and will address concerns by international community and restore trust in its program through a number of actions."

On a question about Iran and the international community, Zarif said that Iran had never sought isolation and had always tried integration and cooperation; "it is crucial for Iran to take steps to demonstrate that its nuclear program is peaceful," said he, adding that Iran-US relations had nothing to do with nuclear negotiations; "we expect to see the other side act according to its commitments, refraining from sabotage actions in the negotiations process," he demanded.

<http://en.mehrnews.com/detail/News/106458>

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Press TV – Tehran, Iran

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## Iran to Abide By its Promises if P5+1 Group Fulfills its Obligations: Rouhani

Friday, April 3, 2015

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani says the Islamic Republic will observe its obligations as per recent Lausanne statement achieved with the P5+1 countries, provided that the other side abides by its obligations as well.

Rouhani made the remark in a televised address to the Iranian nation in the capital, Tehran, on April 3.

"The world should know that we are not deceptive and are not liars and any promises we give will be within framework of our national interests and we will live up to our promises provided that the opposite side abides by its promises as well," Rouhani said.

He added that if some day they decide to choose a new path, the way would be open to the Iranian nation to make a proportionate decision as well.

The Iranian president said the nuclear agreement is just a step toward interaction with the world and all those countries that want to respect the Iranian nation and "work with the people of Iran within framework" of mutual interests.

"There is no doubt that cooperation and interaction will benefit all," he said.

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2015/04/03/404516/Iran-to-fulfill-promises-if-P51-does>

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Khaleej Times – Dubai, U.A.E.

## Historic Iran N-Deal Will Make the World Safer, Says Obama

*Tehran will go from having 19,000 centrifuges installed today to 6,104 installed under future accord, it is learnt.*  
(Agencies)

3 April 2015

Lausanne (Switzerland) — After marathon negotiations, the United States, Iran and five other world powers announced a deal on Thursday outlining limits on Iran's nuclear programme so it cannot lead to atomic weapons, directing negotiators towards a comprehensive agreement within three months.

Reading out a joint statement, European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini hailed what she called a "decisive step" after more than a decade of work. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif followed with the same statement in Farsi.

US President Barack Obama said the framework agreement reached is "a good deal" that would, if fully implemented, prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

"Today, the United States, together with our allies and partners, has reached an historic understanding with Iran, which if fully implemented, will prevent it from obtaining a nuclear weapon," Obama said in statement. "If this framework leads to a final comprehensive deal, it will make our country, our allies and our world safer," he said. "It is a good deal," Obama added.

US Secretary of State John Kerry and the top diplomats of Britain, France and Germany also briefly took the stage behind them.

A US factsheet on the deal said robust inspections of Iran's uranium supply chain will last over 25 years, and that Iran has agreed not to build any new facilities for the purpose of enriching uranium for 15 years.

The factsheet also said Iran has agreed to reduce current stockpile of some 10,000kg of low-enriched uranium to 300kg of 3.67 per cent low-enriched uranium for 15 years. All excess centrifuges and enrichment infrastructure will be placed in IAEA-monitored storage and will be used only as replacements, it said.

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Tehran will go from having 19,000 centrifuges installed today to 6,104 installed under future accord, it is learnt.

In Lausanne, Kerry said in a tweet that there was agreement “to resolve major issues on nuclear programme. Back to work soon on a final deal”.

Mogherini said the seven nations would now start writing the text of a final accord. She cited several agreed-upon restrictions on Iran’s enrichment of material that can be used either for energy production or in nuclear warheads.

Crucially for the Iranians, economic sanctions related to its nuclear programmes are to be rolled back after the UN nuclear agency confirms compliance.

Zarif told reporters the agreement would show “our programme is exclusively peaceful, has always been and always will remain exclusively peaceful”, while not hindering the country’s pursuit of atomic energy for civilian purposes.

“Our facilities will continue,” he said. “We will continue enriching, we will continue research and development.” He said a planned heavy water reactor will be “modernised” and that the Iranians would keep their deeply buried underground facility at Fordo.

“We have taken a major step but are still some way away from where we want to be,” Zarif said, calling Thursday’s preliminary step as a “win-win outcome.”

Israeli leaders, deeply concerned about Iran’s intentions, were much less positive.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that a final agreement “must significantly roll back Iran’s nuclear capabilities and stop its terrorism and aggression”.

Mogherini said Iran’s heavy water reactor wouldn’t produce weapons-grade plutonium and that Fordo wouldn’t be a site for enrichment of uranium, which can be used for nuclear weapons.

The officials spoke following weeklong talks that were twice extended past a March 31 deadline for a preliminary deal. Although the US pushed for concrete commitments, the Iranians insisted on a general statement of what had been accomplished. Negotiators worked concurrently on documents describing what needs to be done for the final agreement.

The US and its five partners want to curb Iran’s nuclear technologies so it cannot develop weapons. Tehran denies such ambitions but is negotiating because it wants economic sanctions imposed over its nuclear programme to be lifted.

Washington, in particular, faces strong domestic pressure. Critics in Congress are threatening to impose new sanctions over what they believe is a bad deal taking shape and the Obama administration needed to make as many details public as possible to sell the merits of its diplomatic effort.

The final breakthrough came after a day after a flurry of overnight sessions between Kerry and Zarif, and meetings involving the six powers.

[http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2015/April/middleeast\\_April20.xml&section=middleeast](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2015/April/middleeast_April20.xml&section=middleeast)

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The Jerusalem Post – Jerusalem, Israel

## **Gulf States, Saudi Arabia Stay Silent after Interim Iran Deal**

By Reuters

3 April 2015



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DUBAI - Officials of Gulf Arab states traditionally wary of Iran were silent on Friday about an initial deal intended to curb the nuclear program of their regional rival, and state-owned media made only passing mention of the development.

The main evening television news in Saudi Arabia broadcast a segment on the agreement only 40 minutes into its program.

A senior Gulf Arab official said any reaction would come in coming days not from individual countries but from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), an alliance of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Oman and Bahrain.

Another Gulf source said a reaction would come only after GCC members had made a thorough study of the agreement.

Speaking shortly before the news was announced, Adel al-Jubeir, the Saudi ambassador to Washington, said Riyadh could not comment until it saw the details of any accord.

"Everybody wants a good deal that prevents Iran from developing an atomic bomb," he said in Washington.

Saudi Arabia has repeatedly hinted that it would seek its own atomic weapons if Tehran ever did the same.

<http://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/Gulf-States-Saudi-Arabia-stay-silent-after-interim-Iran-deal-396064>

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The Hindu – Chennai, India

## **Upgraded Interceptor Missile to be Test-Fired on April 6**

*The launch is to validate its capability to carry a bigger warhead and minimise the 'mis-distance'*

By Y. Mallikarjun

March 30, 2015

HYDERABAD -- A newly configured version of an interceptor missile, designed to improve its efficacy, will be test-fired against an electronic target missile from Wheeler Island on April 6.

As part of India's plans to deploy a two-tier Ballistic Missile Defence system to protect important cities and installations, missile technologists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have conducted nine interceptor missile tests.

Six of the tests were conducted in the endo-atmosphere (below 40 km altitude) and three in exo-atmosphere (above 80 km). Eight of the tests were successful.

In the upcoming test to be conducted in the endo-atmosphere, the reconfigured version of the interceptor missile (AAD) would be launched to validate its capability to carry a bigger warhead and minimise the mis-distance, among other parameters. Another crucial feature — that of powering the missile when the target missile is detected with a reduced reaction time would also be tested during the mission.

Since the entire exercise from detection till the terminal event is automated, the crucial capability to power the missile after detecting the target would prevent unnecessary powering of the missile, while keeping it alert mode.

While an actual AAD missile would be launched after the take-off of a target missile is simulated on April 6, scientists plan to carry out another exercise by April end in which both the interceptor and target missile would launched with warheads in a real, battle-like scenario, DRDO sources told *The Hindu* here on Sunday.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/upgraded-interceptor-missile-to-be-testfired-on-april-6/article7046450.ece>

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The Indian Express – New Delhi, India

## Pakistan to Buy Eight Submarines from China

By Sushant Singh

April 1, 2015

New Delhi -- Pakistan government has approved the purchase of eight submarines from China, as per an “in principle” decision conveyed during a hearing of the Pakistan National Assembly’s Standing Committee on Defence. Pakistan has been negotiating the purchase of six submarines – now increased to eight — from China since 2011.

Pakistan Navy currently operates five French submarines: three Agosta 90B submarines purchased in the 1990s and two Agosta 70 submarines of late 1970s vintage. It also has three MG110 miniature submarines. After the recent accidents, the number of active duty submarines in Indian Navy is now down to 13 diesel-electric submarines and the nuclear-powered INS Chakra.

Although Pakistan navy officers neither gave the cost of the deal nor disclosed the types of submarines being procured from China, reports suggest that Beijing is likely to offer Yuan-class Type-041 diesel-electric submarines in a \$4bn-\$5bn deal. As per IHS Jane’s Fighting Ships, the Type 041 ‘Yuan’ class is a diesel electric attack submarine (SSK), potentially with Stirling air independent propulsion, that is armed with YJ-2 (YJ-82) anti-ship missiles and a combination of Yu-4 (SAET-50) passive homing and Yu-3 (SET-65E) active/passive homing torpedoes.

At \$4bn-\$5bn, this deal is likely to be China’s biggest ever arms sale, much bigger than the deal for 50 JF-17 fighter jets bought by Pakistan in 2010 for around \$1bn. As per the latest SIPRI report, Pakistan bought more than 40 per cent of China’s arms exports during the past five years, making it China’s top arms importer.

Pakistan had earlier tried to purchase three Type 214 diesel-electric submarines from Germany but the deal could not be finalized as Islamabad deemed them to be too expensive. Pakistan also held negotiations with France for acquiring Scorpène-class submarines but French refused to sell them to Pakistan. The Agosta submarine scandal of 1994 with its ongoing corruption charges and death of 11 French engineers in Karachi in a terror attack in 2002 contributed to the French refusal.

China is likely to offer a long-term loan to Pakistan, possibly at a low interest rate, to cover the cost of this new deal.

Iskander Rehman, a non-resident Fellow in the South Asia Programme at the Atlantic Council in Washington DC who authored the report ‘Murky Waters: Naval Nuclear Dynamics in the Indian Ocean’ believes that this purchase will have a significant impact on the sub-continental naval equation. “Unlike India, Pakistan does not seek so much to project naval power as to deny access to its principal maritime approaches. The addition of another eight diesel-electric submarines to the Pakistani fleet will render Indian naval operations along the Makran coastline far more challenging in times of conflict,” Rehman says.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/world/neighbours/pakistan-to-buy-eight-submarines-from-china/>

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RT (Russia Today) – Moscow, Russia

OPINION/Op-Edge

## Russia and Nuclear Disarmament

By Dr. Alexander Yakovenko

March 28, 2015

One of the most important tasks in the field of international security is to free the world from the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction.

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Russia is constantly advocating for further limitations and reductions of nuclear weapons stockpiles, along with strengthening international regimes of arms control and non-proliferation. One of the examples in the field of nuclear disarmament is the Russia-US START treaty, which entered into force in 2011. Under this treaty, the sides committed themselves to limiting their nuclear arsenals by one-third compared to previous agreements.

Further dialogue on nuclear disarmament, held both bilaterally and internationally, could only be successful if the core principle of international security is observed – i.e. that the security of one country should not be strengthened at the expense of another. Unfortunately, what is happening now on the international scene is a far cry from what the international community was striving for. Among other things that affect global stability and deterrence, trust between Russia and the West is diminishing. Some of the critical Russian concerns are left unaddressed.

They include an unconditional resolve of our partners to build systems of ballistic missile defense throughout the world, primarily in Europe, along with reluctance to engage in serious dialogue on issues related to the Russian initiative on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, and an ongoing uncontrolled build-up of conventional weapons along with efforts to develop such systems that can deliver a precision-guided conventional weapons airstrike anywhere in the world within one hour, known as Prompt Global Strike. It is also worth mentioning that disparity in conventional weapons in Europe is increasing, something that consequently provokes an unnecessary arms race on the continent.

Further nuclear disarmament would be impossible without all countries with corresponding potential being involved in that process. It can't exclusively rely on the efforts by Russia and the US. For that to happen, a greater importance should also be attached to the earliest ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Some states, including the US, have still not ratified it, blocking its entry into force. Signing and ratifying the CTBT should become an imperative of contemporary international relations, for it will contribute to the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Global stability and nuclear deterrence remain the facts that we have to live with. Without trust and consensus, the current challenges in the field of nuclear disarmament are doomed to persist for a foreseeable future. Hopefully, the time will come, sooner rather than later, when nuclear disarmament issues are properly addressed based on respect and trust among nations.

*Dr Alexander Yakovenko was the Russian Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Deputy foreign minister (2005-2011).*

*The statements, views and opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of RT.*

<http://rt.com/op-edge/244921-russia-nuclear-disarmament/>

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The National Interest – Washington, D.C.

OPINION/Feature

## **The Limits of U.S. Missile Defense**

*Expectations may be running too high.*

By Steven Pifer

March 30, 2015

On March 23, 1983, Ronald Reagan announced the Strategic Defense Initiative, popularly known as “Star Wars.” After thirty-two years and tens of billions of dollars, defending the U.S. homeland against attack by strategic ballistic missiles still poses a daunting challenge. Missile defense ambitions have been regularly scaled-back.





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The United States should make prudent investments in missile defense as part of its overall force mix. But Washington should bear in mind the limits of technology and the nature of the relationship between offense and defense, in which offense has and, for the foreseeable future will retain, the advantage.

### **The Strategic Defense Initiative**

When he took office, President Reagan was dismayed to learn that he had no way to defend America from a Soviet missile attack. The sole U.S. anti-ballistic missile site had been shut down in 1974, so he had to rely on nuclear deterrence, a concept with which he was fundamentally uncomfortable. Thus, on March 23, 1983, he announced the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), posing the question:

*What if free people could live secure in the knowledge that their security did not rest upon the threat of instant U.S. retaliation to deter a Soviet attack, that we could intercept and destroy strategic ballistic missiles before they reached our own soil or that of our allies?*

SDI spurred research on a variety of technologies to intercept intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) and their warheads. Some effort went into development of ground-launched interceptor missiles with “hit-to-kill” technology, in which a kinetic kill vehicle would be launched and fly into an incoming warhead, destroying both.

SDI also prompted exploration of more exotic technologies, including ground and space-based directed-energy weapons. The program put significant emphasis on boost-phase intercept, when the heat from rising ballistic missiles could be readily tracked, and destroying a missile would also destroy all the warheads it carried.

One proposed space-based weapon, Excalibur, planned to use the detonation of a nuclear device to power X-ray lasers that would strike ballistic missiles during or just after their boost phase. SDI also investigated chemical lasers and neutral particle beams. Brilliant Pebbles envisaged deployment of a network of autonomous satellites that could release small hit-to-kill projectiles, which would intercept and destroy ballistic missiles and warheads.

Star Wars sparked controversy because its testing, to say nothing of its deployment, would have necessitated U.S. withdrawal from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, which tightly constrained U.S. and Soviet strategic missile defenses. The program provoked a minor panic in Moscow. By 1987, however, knowledgeable Soviet scientists such as Roald Sagdeev had begun to assure Mikhail Gorbachev and others that this was indeed rocket science and very hard to do.

The Pentagon and American scientists also became aware of the limits of technology. Despite significant spending, research and development on directed-energy weapons and Brilliant Pebbles did not produce mature technologies that could be used in deployable missile defenses.

### **Setting More Modest Goals**

Meanwhile, the Cold War drew to a close, and President George H.W. Bush presented a more modest vision for missile defense. Global Protection Against Limited Strikes, or GPALS, was comprised of holdovers from SDI, including Brilliant Pebbles.

The program represented a significant departure from Reagan’s vision of an impenetrable dome protecting the United States. GPALS aimed to stop a small ballistic missile attack on America and to thwart limited strikes against U.S. troops by theater ballistic missiles rather than to defend the U.S. homeland from an all-out Soviet ICBM assault. Though several of the theater missile defense systems initially included in GPALS are part of U.S. missile defenses today, the broader defense never came online.

President Clinton took office in 1993, and his administration cancelled Brilliant Pebbles, instead directing resources toward theater missile defense, influenced in part by the difficulties that the U.S. military had had in defending against relatively primitive Iraqi SCUD missile attacks during the 1991 Gulf War. The U.S. military developed and later fielded the Aegis SM-3 shipboard missile defense system; a hit-to-kill Patriot missile, the PAC-3; and the Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile system.

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Later in Clinton's term, new concerns—especially in Congress—about emerging ballistic missile capabilities in Iran, North Korea and Iraq led to a push for a more robust national missile defense (NMD) program. The National Missile Defense Act of 1999 set the goal of defending the United States against a limited ballistic missile attack. To do so, the administration pursued development of a ground-based interceptor, along with associated radars and other tracking systems, to defeat a limited ICBM strike. However, after test failures and questions about the implications of the NMD program for the ABM Treaty, Clinton elected to leave the scope and timeline of deployment to the next administration.

### **Back to Homeland Defense**

President George W. Bush took office in 2001 determined to field an NMD system as quickly as possible, to protect against an attack from countries such as North Korea and Iran. He initiated U.S. withdrawal from the ABM Treaty, pumped additional funding into missile defense (a total of \$66 billion during his eight years in office), and set a goal of deploying an initial defense of the homeland by 2004—the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD).

The GMD interceptor employed an exo-atmospheric kill vehicle (EKV), which would collide with and destroy incoming warheads in space during the midcourse portion of their flight. However, in its haste to field a homeland defense at Fort Greely, Alaska and Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, the Bush administration deployed interceptors before they had been fully tested. The rush left significant questions about their effectiveness and reliability.

President Obama has continued a fairly vigorous funding of missile defense, spending about \$48 billion beginning in Fiscal Year 2010. After a review of ballistic missile defense programs in 2009, the Obama administration announced the European Phased Adaptive Approach. Rather than deploying GMD interceptors in Europe, as called for in the Bush plan, the Obama administration focused on the Aegis SM-3 interceptor, to be deployed on ships, at first, and then on the ground in Romania and Poland.

Largely in response to Congressional concerns, the administration plans to add fourteen GMD interceptors to the thirty already deployed at the Alaska and California sites by 2017. The Pentagon has also started an environmental impact study to identify two possible sites for an East Coast GMD base.

The GMD program, however, has been plagued by questions. The interceptor has passed just nine of seventeen tests since 1999. The most recent test, in June 2014, was the system's first success since 2008. Furthermore, the GMD interceptor tests have been highly scripted, with target trajectory known in advance. The interceptor has not yet been tested against a target with the velocity of an ICBM warhead (that test is slated for 2017), nor has it had to face sophisticated decoys and other countermeasures, which would complicate intercept of a real enemy warhead.

The Bush and Obama administrations have had far greater success with their shorter range interceptors, the SM-3, PAC-3 and THAAD. For example, since the THAAD program was reconfigured in 2006, it has intercepted eleven of eleven test targets.

### **Thinking about Missile Defense**

Missile defense should be one part of a sensible mix of U.S. military capabilities. The United States should not allow a country with a few ICBMs a "free ride" in attacking the homeland. At the same time, missile defense spending has opportunity costs: every dollar spent on a GMD interceptor is one less for strategic nuclear modernization or conventional forces.

The history of missile defense since 1983 has been one of downsizing expectations, as U.S. programs have regularly encountered technological and budgetary limitations. SDI was intended to deal with thousands of incoming warheads, while GPALS originally sought to defend against 200 warheads or fewer. NMD aims to cope with a few to a couple of dozen warheads at most.

While progress has been made at intercepting shorter range missiles, defending the American homeland continues to be a difficult task. Current U.S. GMD capabilities remain uncertain at best. When I once asked a knowledgeable

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U.S. official what he would do if a (currently nonexistent) North Korean ICBM were launched in the direction of Seattle, he said he would fire a bunch of GMD interceptors and cross his fingers.

Several considerations should guide U.S. missile defense thinking. First, it is important to get the technology right before deployment. Eleven years after placing the first GMD interceptors in Alaska, the Pentagon is striving to ensure that those interceptors work effectively. Recognizing the limitations of the current EKV, the Missile Defense Agency plans to begin flight-testing a redesigned EKV in 2018, with the goal of deploying it in 2020.

Some in Congress are pushing for construction of a third GMD site on the East Coast. That is not a priority for the Pentagon, as GMD interceptors based in Alaska have the range to provide some defense against an Iranian ICBM. It would be more prudent to put more funding towards getting the existing interceptors to perform more effectively. Interceptors that work at two sites would provide a better defense than interceptors that do not work at three sites.

Second, the threat of a limited ballistic missile attack against the United States has developed more slowly than anticipated. The 1998 Commission to Assess the Ballistic Missile Threat to the United States warned that, within five years of a decision to do so, North Korea and Iran could acquire an ICBM capable of striking the United States. Seventeen years later, Iran has tested a missile with a range of 2,000 kilometers, and North Korea has tested a missile with a range of 1,300 kilometers—both well short of what would be needed to reach America.

Third, defending the United States against a major Russian or Chinese ballistic missile attack is currently not feasible. A reliable and affordable defense that could protect America against a Russian ICBM and SLBM force that could launch some 1,500 ballistic missile warheads simply does not exist. While the Chinese force is much smaller, numbering several dozen ICBMs, it probably includes countermeasures that would seriously complicate disruption by missile defense systems.

Fourth, for the foreseeable future, offense wins the offense-defense relationship. Offensive ballistic missile technology is far more mature than that of missile defense, and cost considerations favor the offense. Adding fourteen more GMD interceptors by 2017 will require the Pentagon to spend about \$1 billion. The Russians and Chinese can each add fourteen more warheads to their strategic offensive forces at considerably less cost. One reason that the Russians are building a replacement for their heavy SS-18 ICBM is to have a missile that can carry ten-fifteen warheads as a means of overwhelming a future American missile defense.

It is important to remember that the other side may not sit passively as the U.S. military develops missile defenses. Other nuclear powers may choose to build up their strategic offensive forces in response, increasing the number of nuclear weapons targeted at the United States (China, in particular, comes to mind). Indeed, it was concern that the ABM systems of the 1960s would spark an uncontrollable strategic offensive arms race that led to negotiation of the 1972 ABM Treaty.

None of this is to say that a future technological breakthrough might not produce a change in the offense-defense equation. Some new technology could be developed that would make defense against ballistic missiles far more lethal, cost-effective and attractive, tilting the equation to favor defense instead of offense. But that breakthrough does not appear to be on the horizon, at least not for the next fifteen-twenty years. And a key lesson of the past thirty-two years is that technology in the missile defense area often does not deliver on its potential—at least not as rapidly, or as inexpensively, as originally thought.

*Steven Pifer directs the Brookings Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Initiative.*

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/the-limits-us-missile-defense-12503?page=show>

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Defense News – Tysons Corner, VA  
OPINION/Editorial

## **Editorial: Invest in Nuclear Capability**

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*Defense News*

March 30, 2015

Over the past few years, Russia has increasingly been spouting nuclear rhetoric to scare America and Europe into getting its way. Vladimir Putin recently said he considered mobilizing his nuclear forces as he seized Ukrainian territory.

Since then, Russia has threatened to target NATO ally Denmark with nuclear weapons if Copenhagen joins the alliance's missile defense program. Moscow has made the same threat against Poland and Romania, which have already agreed to host NATO missile defense sites.

Russia is backing this rhetoric with renewed investment in nuclear weapons, missiles and new submarines, as well as snap exercises of the forces that would employ them.

While that combination is what gives Russia's messaging some teeth, it is also both irresponsible and incredible given the US, Britain and France are nuclear powers, and Washington has atomic weapons in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and Turkey.

And despite some high-profile missteps, the US retains the world's most powerful and reliable nuclear force.

Post-Cold War leaders had the luxury of not worrying about nuclear weapons every day, prompting some to believe we live in a post-nuclear world.

While President Barack Obama's goal of a nuclear-free world is a noble one, even he concedes that it won't be achieved anytime soon. That is why his administration has rightly pledged to retain the nuclear triad and revitalize America's nuclear infrastructure.

And with good reason. China, India, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan are nuclear states as well, and the international community has been working for many years to prevent Iran from joining the club.

The awesome potential of nuclear weapons doesn't define, but underpins, national power. Forgetting that fact only makes the United States and its allies vulnerable to nuclear intimidation whether by Putin or anyone else.

As long as nuclear-armed adversaries are brutish enough to invade their neighbors and threaten them with nuclear weapons, America and its allies must continue to invest in nuclear capabilities.

Britain is investing in a new generation of ballistic missile submarines to maintain its continuous at-sea deterrence, while the United States is ramping up its effort to develop a new generation of even more stealthy and capable missile subs of its own to replace the aging Ohio class.

Despite budget pressures, the Ohio Replacement Program must remain a priority given the sea-based leg of America's nuclear triad is the most survivable.

Equally important is to revitalize the other two legs of the US triad — land-based bombers and ICBMs — command and control systems as well as the nation's nuclear industrial infrastructure that is quite literally crumbling. A new nuclear cruise missile should also be developed.

Abroad, nations that will operate the Joint Strike Fighter will also have a nuclear delivery capability now satisfied by jets like the F-16 and Tornado. France's Rafale is nuclear-capable as well.

Nuclear training for both civilian and military leaders must also become a US and NATO priority.

A generation of political leaders has matured without regularly undergoing the kind of rigorous nuclear training and terrifyingly realistic exercises that were commonplace during the Cold War.

If your adversary is ramping up its nuclear game, it's dangerous to assume it's merely a bluff. Unlike Russia, the United States and its NATO partners have to step up their game because for nuclear deterrence to work, it must be credible.

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The Lowy Interpreter – Sydney, Australia

OPINION/Article

## Asia's Coming Nuclear Nightmare

*While the world focuses on the dangers that a nuclear-armed Iran could present in the Middle East, a potentially more dangerous and unstable nuclear proliferation is occurring in the Indian Ocean.*

By David Brewster

March 31, 2015

In the coming years India, Pakistan, and perhaps China will likely deploy a significant number of nuclear weapons at sea in the Indian Ocean. This could further destabilize already unstable nuclear relationships, creating a real risk of a sea-based exchange of nuclear weapons.

Observers have long seen India-Pakistan nuclear rivalry as the most unstable in the world, and South Asia as the most likely location of nuclear conflict. This is not just academic speculation. Foreign diplomats have been evacuated from Islamabad on several occasions from fears of an impending nuclear exchange with India.

India has a “no first use” (NFU) nuclear-weapons policy of sorts, although it is increasingly subject to caveats and exceptions. But Islamabad refuses to adopt an NFU policy and indeed has announced a long list of actions that it claims would justify a nuclear response against India. Pakistan is also busy miniaturizing its nuclear weapons for tactical use, thus reducing the threshold for Pakistani nuclear action.

Importantly, Pakistan sees its nuclear arsenal not only as a deterrent but also as an enabler, providing an umbrella under which it can sponsor sub-conventional attacks against India. In the face of terrorist attacks such as those in Mumbai in 2008, Delhi has found its options constrained by concerns about a possible Pakistani nuclear response. But few are confident that India's restraint can be maintained in the face of another serious cross-border attack that is proved to have been sponsored by Pakistan.

Both India and Pakistan are now in the process of moving their nuclear weapons capabilities into the maritime realm.

India is the furthest down this track, having launched its first indigenous nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine INS Arihant in 2009 (expected to be commissioned this year); it is also in the process of building two more so-called SSBNs. Further, India is developing nuclear-tipped Dhanush short range ballistic missiles for deployment on offshore patrol vessels. India has leased a nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarine and has plans to construct up to six more SSNs (unlike SSBNs, SSNs are not armed with nuclear ballistic missiles). Pakistan is following India's lead, having recently established a Naval Strategic Force Command Headquarters with the declared intention of developing a sea-based deterrent. This may involve nuclear-armed conventional submarines supplied by China, rather than SSBNs.

Some nuclear weapons states have created a nuclear “triad” in order to have an assured second strike capability. While such an assured capability can help stabilize a nuclear relationship, according to a recent Carnegie report, taking the India-Pakistan nuclear dynamic into the maritime realm may in fact create greater instability.

One issue is an ambiguous mix of conventional and nuclear capabilities at sea, including the deployment of nuclear missiles on Pakistani conventional submarines and on Indian missile boats. Uncertainty over whether a platform is carrying nuclear weapons creates a risk of an inadvertent but highly escalatory attack on an opponent's nuclear capability. Another concern is that maritime nuclear capabilities could lower Pakistan's already low nuclear threshold. Islamabad may be tempted to conduct a demonstration nuclear attack at sea, believing it will not be escalated on land. A further problem is Pakistan's reported propensity to delegate nuclear authority to field commanders, which could create considerable risks if submarine communications are interrupted.

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China is also a major player in the nuclearization of the Indian Ocean. China's role in creating a nuclear-armed Pakistan is a big factor in the distrust that characterizes the India-China security relationship. In the 1980s, China supplied Pakistan with weapon plans along with fissile material, and facilitated the supply of missile technology. Any further moves by China to develop Pakistan's maritime nuclear capability will only cement India's threat perceptions about China.

The India-China nuclear relationship is itself relatively unstable and is now also moving into the Indian Ocean. This is because India's land-based nuclear deterrent currently suffers from considerable geographical and technological disadvantages compared with China. China is able to deploy its nuclear missiles in sparsely populated territory close to India's border, providing it with nuclear missile coverage of the entire subcontinent. In comparison, India fields much shorter range missiles that can barely reach major population centers in eastern China.

This gives India good reason to establish an assured second strike capability on SSBNs that could potentially be forward deployed into the western Pacific. Alternatively, India may deploy its SSBNs in a well-protected "bastion" in the Bay of Bengal, although this may require further development of Indian missile technology.

There have been increasing detections of Chinese SSNs in the Indian Ocean in recent years, including the deployment of a Chinese SSN to the western Indian Ocean between last December and February, nominally as part of its anti-piracy deployment. According to Indian sources, these deployments are part of hydrographic "profiling" of the region and will likely increase in frequency. But Beijing has less reason to deploy its SSBNs in the Indian Ocean; instead, they will likely be primarily deployed in the western Pacific, targeted at the United States. This could create its own risks: the detection of an unusual transit of a Chinese SSBN into the Indian Ocean or an Indian SSBN into the Pacific could be seen as an escalation at times of tension.

The US also has a potentially significant role in facilitating nuclear stability in the Indian Ocean. In the 1980s, Washington helped construct India's only facility for communications with submerged nuclear submarines and the U.S. might again support India's maritime nuclear capabilities. It might even be in Washington's interests to help Pakistan. The establishment of reliable communications links with Pakistan's nuclear-armed submarines could, for example, be critical in stabilizing the India-Pakistan nuclear dynamic.

Despite concerns about superpower competition in the Indian Ocean during the latter half of the Cold War, there was relatively little nuclear competition in that theatre. The three-party nuclear rivalry we will soon see in the Indian Ocean is likely to be more unstable, and potentially far more dangerous.

*Dr. David Brewster is with the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the Australian National University, where he specializes in South Asian and Indian Ocean strategic affairs. He is also a Senior Maritime Security Fellow at the Indian Council on Global Relations, Mumbai, and a Fellow with the Australia India Institute.*

<http://www.lowyinterpreter.org/post/2015/03/31/The-coming-nuclearisation-of-the-Indian-Ocean.aspx?COLLCC=3638598455&>

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Global Times – Beijing, China

OPINION/Viewpoint

## THAAD Exacerbates Peninsula's Tension

By Zheng Jiyong, *Global Times*

April 2, 2015

The speculation about US deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in South Korea has evoked much debate and some South Korean media are venting their anger on China, arguing that "China should take the responsibility for the North Korean nuclear issue." They have in fact pointed the finger at the wrong party and ignored the real factors.





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The US strategy in Northeast Asia aims to use all means to command its allies South Korea and Japan by throwing the region into controllable disorder and prevent regional stakeholders from getting closer so that US clout can be retained.

To this end, Washington has played the card of THAAD in the context of North Korean nuclear issue and managed to drive a wedge between China and South Korea, China and Russia, and the two Koreas.

Deploying THAAD in the Korean Peninsula will pose a severe threat to the vulnerable stability and peace in Northeast Asia. The region has witnessed a serious arms race and a growing security plight due to historical, territorial and maritime disputes.

This will be complicated by THAAD deployment and plunge the region into the chaos that the Middle East or Ukraine is undergoing.

In this sense, any move that will threaten regional stability and peace will surely incur strong opposition from stakeholders including China.

Deploying THAAD provides no fundamental solution to problems in the peninsula but rather worsens the situation. It will push stakeholders to develop more advanced missiles and weapons to counter the defense system and as a result undermine the hard-earned peace and disrupt the relations between countries in the region. By this definition, THAAD is more an offensive weapon than defense system.

Moreover, debate over the THAAD system has caused huge rifts in the political and social arena of South Korea as opponents and supporters fiercely trade barbs. It also confuses Sino-South Korean relations that have previously been on a fast track. Russia has also expressed its concern. The involvement of these three big powers presents a serious test for Seoul's diplomacy.

Seoul claimed that THAAD is targeted at the nuclear weapons and missiles from Pyongyang, but in fact the system can only have very limited effects that are inadequate to defend it from the threats cited.

Even if THAAD shoots down North Korea's nuclear weapons, they are likely to impact the southern peninsula. Besides, the chances of a nuclear war in Northeast Asia are far slimmer than predicted since using nuclear weapons risks self-destruction.

What Seoul should be wary of is the low-altitude aircraft and artillery from the North, which THAAD is unable to bring down. The missile system can at most offer some psychological consolation.

Some experts suggested that unnecessary conflicts with China may be avoided by lowering the capacity of the THAAD radar so that China doesn't need to be concerned.

The logic makes no sense. It's unwise and unsustainable for Seoul to seek economic benefits from ties with China while leaning on Washington for security, which will eventually harms itself.

The US cites nuclear weapons in North Korea as an excuse for deploying the THAAD system. However, if it truly feels the necessity to address the nuclear issue, it needs to seek a solution instead of complicating the situation.

Likewise, the US and South Korea have turned their previous prudence on North Korea's nuclear capability into frequent exaggeration probably to find an excuse for the THAAD deployment. However, a true solution to the North Korean threat should be figured out at the negotiation table, not by deploying THAAD.

Given its military strength plus the US forces stationed there, South Korea has overwhelming advantages in handling possible threats from the North.

However, Seoul, together with East Asian countries, has to employ political wisdom to deal with its biggest strategic threat, which is the US mind-set of profiting from keeping the peninsula moderately chaotic.

*The author is director of the Center for Korean Studies at Fudan University (located in Shanghai, China).*

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/915151.shtml>

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Defense News – Tysons Corner, VA

OPINION/Commentary

## Commentary: Build Third Missile Defense Site

By Constance Baroudos

April 2, 2015

The Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system located in California and Alaska protects the American homeland from a limited long-range ballistic missile attack. However, there is no comparable system on the East Coast. A third missile defense site must be deployed to increase US protection from accidental or deliberate intercontinental ballistic missile attacks.

Moscow and Beijing are vigorously modernizing their nuclear capabilities. Over the next 10 years Russia will replace Soviet-era ICBMs with five variants of the SS-27 missile. The first version, the Topol-M, is fielded while the second model is under deployment and development of the third variant is in progress. Russia's total ICBM force will contain 220 to 250 missiles by 2022, and 70 percent of them will be equipped with multiple warheads.

China has the "most active and diverse ballistic missile development program," according to the National Air and Space Intelligence Center, which estimates Beijing will have over 100 ICBMs within 15 years that could reach the US. The number and range of ballistic missiles is expanding and payloads are improving as older systems are upgraded and new units are formed. The DF-31 is one type of Chinese road-mobile ICBM with sufficient range to reach the US West Coast.

Iran and North Korea pose longer-term threats to the US as they are predicted to develop ICBMs capable of reaching North America in the near future. According to the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), Iran has conducted multiple successful space vehicle launches since 2008 — these could serve as a test bed for developing ICBM technologies because there is overlap between producing such vehicles and ballistic missiles.

Many members in Congress suspect Iran's space program is a cover for a military ballistic weapons program. Even with ongoing nuclear negotiations, many experts predict that Iran will not forgo nuclear capability.

North Korea has publicly displayed its new road-mobile ICBM that can reach Alaska and has taken steps to field the system. Adm. William Gortney, head of US Northern Command, confirmed this ICBM complicates the ability of American defense systems "to provide warning and defend against an attack." Pyongyang is known to have tested nuclear warheads and is believed to be developing designs that could fit onto its long-range missiles.

Washington must protect its citizens from missile threats accidentally launched from Russia or China due to human error or intentionally fired from Iran or North Korea. Deploying a third defense site is the responsible way to bolster protection; operational capability would be added and there would be additional time to shoot down an incoming missile.

The US should deploy another missile defense site only after critical components of the GMD are upgraded, such as the prototype kill vehicle currently in service and the long-range discrimination radar, to ensure an effective system is fielded. According to the MDA, a redesigned kill vehicle will allow interceptors to communicate with one another to confirm successful engagement and an upgraded radar will help discriminate warheads from decoys in a threat cloud.

MDA Director Vice Adm. James Syring warned that failure to lift congressional budget caps in 2016 could jeopardize modernization funding. Washington must ensure MDA has the resources it needs to improve homeland missile defense while simultaneously exploring new technologies such as directed energy to destroy threats and a common kill vehicle to reduce costs. The price tag of a new site is about \$3 billion, but it will increase confidence that the GMD can counter incoming threats.



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Pentagon officials are conducting an environmental impact study to assess potential sites located in four states, which is planned to conclude in 2016.

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<http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/commentary/2015/04/02/commentary-missile-defense-third-site-gmd-icbm/70765578/>

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## **ABOUT THE USAF CUWS**

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

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

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

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

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