



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

Issue No. 1161, 17 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:** *"The WMD Challenges Posed by a Collapse of North Korea"*. Authored by Robert J. Peters; published by 38 North.org; 14 April 2015.

<http://38north.org/2015/04/rpeters041415/>

North Korea's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) pose a number of challenges, particularly how to find and secure those weapons if the regime collapses. This paper will look briefly at 1) North Korea's nuclear, chemical and biological programs; 2) activities coalition forces might conduct in a collapse scenario; and 3) challenges posed by an operation to eliminate the North's WMD.

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Deseret News – Salt Lake City, UT

## **GOP Boosts Nuclear Weapons Upgrades in 1st Spending Bill**

By Andrew Taylor, Associated Press (AP)

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

WASHINGTON — Republicans controlling the House unveiled legislation Tuesday to boost spending for veterans' health care and for maintaining the safety of aging nuclear weapons.

Spending for Army Corps of Engineers water projects and for upgrading aging barracks and other facilities at military bases would also be increased as the House gets started on a dozen spending bills to implement budget plans for next year.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, whose annual budget increases enjoy sweeping support on Capitol Hill despite agency foul-ups, would receive an almost \$5 billion increase over current levels, and almost 6 percent increase.

"This legislation demonstrates our firm commitment to fully supporting the nation's veterans," said Rep. Charlie Dent, R-Pa., the measure's principal author.

Separately, the Energy Department measure includes an almost \$1 billion increase for weapons modernization. That's a 12 percent increase, which is made easier because Republicans have boosted Pentagon war accounts by \$38 billion to get around tight budget "caps" that would otherwise freeze defense accounts.

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In the veterans and energy and water projects measures released Tuesday, however, Republicans would provide greater than inflation increases. That means cuts down the line for domestic accounts such as job training, enforcing environmental regulations, the IRS, and grants for crime-fighting and transportation projects.

The spending bills arrived even though negotiations on a broader GOP budget blueprint have yet to officially begin. Republicans are seeking to boost defense spending while holding other spending flat. Unlike the broader budget measure, which is an illustrative blueprint that doesn't become law, the annual spending measures ultimately require Democratic support and President Barack Obama's input.

Democrats are likely to support the VA budget measure. But they're likely to oppose the energy and water projects legislation over policy provisions known as riders that would interfere with clean water rules. One such rider would permanently block the Army Corps of Engineers from taking action to limit the dumping of certain mining waste in streams and rivers.

Democrats also oppose cuts to renewable energy programs. The energy measure is likely to test the strength of top Senate Democrat Harry Reid of Nevada. In the past, Reid has successfully blocked GOP efforts to keep the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository from being mothballed. Democrats have since lost control of the Senate and Reid is retiring, which sets up a showdown later this year over the facility.

House Majority leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., says the two measures will face floor votes by the end of the month.

<http://m.deseretnews.com/article/765671863/GOP-boosts-nuclear-weapons-upgrades-in-1st-spending-bill.html>

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Sputnik International – Russian Information Agency

## **Money Talks: Pentagon Can't Afford Crucial Upgrades to its Nuclear Arsenal**

*The aging US nuclear stockpile needs to be upgraded by the 2030s. But budget cuts may hamper those efforts, and Pentagon officials say the American military won't be able to afford new subs, missiles or bombers.*

15 April 2015

President Obama's proposed 2016 budget includes \$585.3 billion for the Defense Department. That's an increase of \$38.2 billion from fiscal year 2015. But as large as that sum may seem, it may not be enough to save the Pentagon's floundering "nuclear triad."

The triad refers to the three pillars of the US nuclear inventory. This includes land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, as well as long-range bombers and submarines capable of delivering a nuclear payload. The entire triad is, evidently, in desperate need of repair.

Yet the new budget proposal falls \$10 billion short. Over the next two decades, the Pentagon expects the whole package could cost as much as \$1 trillion.

"We don't have a solution to that problem right now," Frank Kendall, undersecretary for acquisition, technology and logistics, said during the Navy League's Sea Air Space conference on Tuesday. "I frankly think the only way we can address it and keep the force structure in the Department of Defense that we would like to have is higher budgets. I really don't right now see any management solutions that will help us."

One concern is the Navy's fleet of Ohio-class submarines. Capable of firing nuclear missiles from any ocean in the world, these subs are, nevertheless, over 30 years old. The Navy has plans to buy 12 upgraded models, but those cost between \$5.5 billion and \$8 billion, each.

The Air Force also still needs to design upgraded bombers. The Pentagon is expected to assign that contract in the coming months, and ultimately plans on purchasing nearly 100. Those will likely cost \$550 million each, but will be incapable of carrying nuclear weapons.

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That's a hefty price tag already, and that doesn't even include the new ICBMs and cruise missile purchases the Pentagon needs to purchase.

Defense Secretary Ashton Carter has assembled a group, the Strategic Portfolio Review, to research options, but according to Kendall, the only way – short of drastic budget increases – the Pentagon will be able to afford its long-term upgrades is to consider some fairly controversial alternatives.

"There are radical policy changes you can talk about, like changing the nature of the triad, that would help significantly," Kendall said.

That would mean dropping one of the programs altogether, likely either the submarine or bomber upgrades. That option has been hotly debated among military strategists for years, but has so far remained a mainstay of the Pentagon's policies.

<http://sputniknews.com/us/20150415/1020937345.html>

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The Washington Free Beacon – Washington, D.C.

## **U.S. Cuts Nuclear Warhead Levels**

*In compliance with New START, U.S. now has 1,597 treaty warheads; Russia, 1,582*

By Bill Gertz

April 16, 2015

Despite nuclear saber-rattling by Moscow, U.S. nuclear forces are close to reaching warhead, missile, and bomber numerical cuts required under the 2010 New START arms treaty, a senior Pentagon official told Congress on Wednesday.

U.S. nuclear warheads counted under the treaty with Russia were reduced from 1,642 to 1,597 between Sept. 1 and March 1, said Robert Scher, assistant secretary of defense for strategy, plans, and capabilities.

Russian nuclear warheads were cut from 1,632 to 1,582 during the same period, Scher told the House Armed Services strategic forces subcommittee in prepared testimony.

The treaty requires both nations to reduce their deployed strategic warhead arsenals to 1,550 by February 2018.

For land-based and sea-based missiles and bombers, U.S. forces were reduced from 912 to 898, and Russian missiles and bombers were cut from 911 to 890.

The treaty limit for those weapons is 800 strategic delivery vehicles by 2018.

Scher said the reductions continued despite "serious concerns" over souring U.S.-Russia relations.

"Russia's recent behavior, which currently poses one of our most pressing and rapidly evolving strategic challenges, underscores the importance of stable and robust deterrence," Scher said.

"We are confronted with Russia's occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea, continuing aggressive Russian actions in eastern Ukraine, Russia's increasingly aggressive nuclear posturing and threats, including the prospect of nuclear weapons in Crimea, and its violation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty," he added.

Scher was pressed by subcommittee members to say when the administration will take steps to counter the INF violation, which officials have described as deployment of a new Iskander cruise missile.

Efforts to convince the Russians to return to INF treaty compliance so far have been unsuccessful. Scher said several options are being examined to counter the INF violation.

"Our patience is not limitless," he said, when asked when the United States would take action.

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China also is engaged in a major strategic nuclear buildup and has so far refused to engage the United States in talks about its forces.

“We maintain several ongoing security dialogues with China, and we continue to express our interest in realizing potential mutual benefits of increased bilateral transparency and deeper engagement regarding nuclear weapons and other strategic issues,” Scher said.

The hearing was called as the subcommittee examined President Obama’s fiscal 2016 request for \$142 billion for nuclear weapons and infrastructure over the next five years. A total of \$8.5 billion was added for force improvements, including equipment and personnel training and weapons security.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Garrett Harenca, assistant chief of staff for strategic deterrence, said some elements of the U.S. nuclear force are so old they would qualify for antique license plates if they were vehicles.

Harenca said from the 1990s to the early 2000s, there was an “erosion of the nuclear mission” in the Air Force. “This period of decline was characterized by a loss of senior leader focus, fragmentation of responsibility, and chronic underinvestment in our personnel, weapon systems, and supporting infrastructure,” he said. “While in recent years we have reversed this downward trend and made substantial progress towards addressing these deficiencies and the problems that resulted from them, we recognize considerable work lies ahead.”

Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Mike Rogers (R., Ala.) questioned those who testified about how the administration is following through on the recent statement that maintaining strong U.S. nuclear forces is the Pentagon’s highest priority mission.

Rogers said nuclear forces suffered a 20-year “procurement holiday” when funds were not invested.

“Well, it’s time to come back from that holiday and get to work,” he said. “In the fiscal environment we are facing it won’t be easy. But if nuclear deterrence is truly the nation’s number-one priority defense mission—and I strongly agree that it is—then budgets and policies must follow.”

On Russia, Rogers said: “Our position should be clear: as Russia continues to rattle its nuclear saber, it is the strength of U.S. nuclear forces that makes sure we and our allies will never be intimidated or coerced.”

Scher testified that the number of U.S. nuclear weapons “is the smallest it has been since the Eisenhower Administration, and the number of deployed nuclear warheads will continue to go down as we and Russia both reach the New START Treaty limit.”

Russia is engaged in a major strategic nuclear modernization program while U.S. nuclear forces are aging and in need of modernization, which has slowed under the Obama administration’s defense spending cuts.

Scher stated that defense sequestration, as mandated by the Budget Control Act, poses a serious threat to the Pentagon’s ability to maintain U.S. nuclear forces as a strategic deterrent. “Sequestration presents the greatest threat to the viability of our sustainment plan,” he said.

To prevent nuclear forces from becoming hollow, Scher said support is required for “a viable sustainment and modernization plan, stable funding, and consistent focus.”

“We must achieve and maintain the necessary funding balance among three critical areas to allow continued certification that our nuclear weapons remain safe and secure, and to sustain effective deterrence over time,” Scher said.

New strategic systems that are facing delays under administration defense cuts include a new nuclear submarine, a new long-range bomber, and a new air-launched cruise missile.

<http://freebeacon.com/national-security/u-s-cuts-nuclear-warhead-levels/>

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## US Plans for Anti-Missile Defense in Europe Remain Concern for Moscow

*Moscow considers the US program of anti-missile defense in Europe as a part of a global project aimed at disrupting the regional balance, Sergei Lavrov said.*

16 April 2015

MOSCOW (Sputnik) – Plans by the United States to continue placing its anti-missile defense systems in Europe remain a serious concern for Moscow, the Russian top diplomat said.

"We see all of this as part of a global project creating risks for Russian strategic forces of containing and disrupting the regional balance in the area of security."

The minister also said that the United States had failed to adapt their missile defense plans following a framework deal agreed by Iran and six world powers earlier this month.

Lavrov said that President Barack Obama had explained that the US missile defense plans would be adjusted to the results of the Iran negotiations.

But last week, US Missile Defense Agency Deputy Director Kenneth Todorov told Sputnik that the Iranian nuclear framework agreement would not alter the course of US plans for ballistic missile defense.

"If the realization of the global missile defense system is continued without any adjustments even in light of the progress at the talks on Iran's nuclear energy program, and NATO representatives have already said this, then the motives of constructing the missile defense in Europe will become obvious for everyone," Lavrov said.

Under the framework, Tehran agreed to cut back its uranium enrichment amid fears it could be developing nuclear weapons under the guise of a peaceful nuclear energy program.

<http://sputniknews.com/military/20150416/1020957271.html>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

## NATO, US Missile Defense Plans Threaten Russian Nuclear Forces — Chief of General Staff

*The number of cases of NATO non-Black Sea states' ships entering the Black Sea area has increased four times and the number of flights of early radar warning planes has increased nine times*

April 16, 2015

MOSCOW, April 16. /TASS/. The United States' prompt global strike concept and the deployment of a global missile defence system poses a threat to Russian strategic forces and to global security, the chief of Russia's General Staff, General of the Army Valery Gerasimov, has said.

"Alongside the creation and deployment of strategic missile defence systems certain fears are aroused by the United States' implementation of the prompt global strike concept.

"It is universally known that within that concept non-nuclear high accuracy attack weapons of a global range are being developed," Gerasimov told the 4th International Security Conference in Moscow.

Despite the considerable financial costs and technical problems research in that field is continuing. For that reason it should not be ruled out that non-nuclear global strike weapons will become a reality in the foreseeable future," Gerasimov said.

"In combination with the implementation of ballistic missile defence plans this may create a risk of upsetting the strategic nuclear balance, which still remains a safeguard of world stability," Gerasimov said.

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These steps by the United States are solid reasons for Russia to take proportionate retaliatory measures, he warned.

**NATO seeks to create hotbeds of tension on Russian borders**

"As they seek to 'put Russia in its place,' Washington and its NATO partners show increasingly obvious interest in creating crisis situations in the regions bordering on the Russian Federation," he said at the 4th Moscow conference on international security.

For this purpose, the tactic of color revolutions is used, the chief of the Russian General Staff said.

"The technology of these revolutions has become standard - manipulating outside with the population's protest potential, using the information space combined with political, economic, humanitarian and other non-military measures," he said.

The scenarios of state coups in the form of color revolutions in the post-Soviet space were successfully implemented in Ukraine, Georgia and Moldavia, he said.

"As a result, basically pro-Western and anti-Russian forces were brought to power," the general said.

Gerasimov said the North Atlantic Treaty Organization seeks to create new hotbeds of instability near Russian borders.

He recalled that the admission of new members to the alliance was continuing non-stop.

"Montenegro, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina are considered as the most likely aspirants. Also, the alliance keeps speculating about the prospects of Georgia's and Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration," Gerasimov said.

"It is characteristic that almost all new members of the alliance are former members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization or post-Soviet republics. In other words, since the 1990s NATO's expansion has proceeded strictly to the east, towards Russia's borders," Gerasimov told the 4th International Security Conference in Moscow on Thursday.

"We are being told that the development of the North Atlantic Alliance is being carried out exclusively for defensive purposes and that it is not aimed against Russia. In the meantime, universally-known facts point to the opposite. Since 1999 the number of the alliance's members has grown by twelve, while throughout the Cold War period only four new members were admitted," Gerasimov said.

"Even regardless the political aspect of the NATO leadership's policies the analysis of the situation entirely from the strategic viewpoint cannot but identify the negative influences of the emerging situation on Russia's military security," he said.

According to Gerasimov, the Russian Defense Ministry has recorded intensification of NATO military activity near Russia's borders.

"Compared to 2013 [in 2014] the number of cases of NATO non-Black Sea states' ships entering the Black Sea area has increased four times, the number of tactical and reconnaissance aircraft flights near the Russian borders has increased two times, and flights of early radar warning planes - nine times," he said.

"Since the start of 2014, the number of NATO operations has drastically increased," Gerasimov said.

According to the Russian General Staff Chief, the number of NATO exercises last year increased practically 1.8 times, compared to 2013.

The total number of military personnel of NATO countries has exceeded 3.7 million.

"The number of joint armed forces of NATO reaches 1.7 million people, and the overall number of regular armed forces of the alliance has exceeded 3.7 million people," Gerasimov said.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/789653>

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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

## U.S. in Discussions about Potential THAAD Deployment to S. Korea: Pacific Commander

April 17, 2015

WASHINGTON, April 16 (Yonhap) -- The United States is in discussions about a potential deployment of the THAAD missile defense system to South Korea to counter North Korea's nuclear and missile threats, the U.S. Pacific commander said Thursday.

Adm. Samuel Locklear made the remark during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, but did not elaborate on what those discussions are, including whether they are internal discussions in the U.S. military or whether they mean talks with South Korea.

"Our ability in the region to partner with our Japanese allies and our South Korean allies to bring the BMD (ballistic missile defense) capabilities to bear has been productive. And in addition, we've been in discussions about the potential deployment of additional THAAD battery, beyond the one that's in Guam but on the Korean Peninsula," Locklear said.

The possibility of a THAAD deployment to South Korea has been one of the hottest defense, political and diplomatic issues in South Korea as China and Russia see the move as threats to their security interests and have expressed strong opposition.

Supporters say the advanced missile defense unit is necessary to meet ever-growing missile and nuclear threats from North Korea, while opponents claim mid- and lower-altitude missile interceptors are enough as the North is unlikely to attack the South with such high-altitude missiles.

Considering its sensitivity, Seoul and Washington have said that there have been no formal consultations or decisions on the issue. U.S. Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter also said in Seoul last week that the U.S. is not ready to begin discussions on the issue.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2015/04/17/26/0200000000AEN20150417000200315F.html>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

## Russia's New RS-26 Missile to Enter Batch Production in 2015-Early 2016 — Source

*The RS-26 Rubezh missile based on the previous RS24 Yars is expected to be put on combat duty in 2015*  
April 15, 2015

MOSCOW, April 15. /TASS/. Serial production of Russia's new RS-26 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), after the successful final test launch in mid-March, will start in late 2015 or early 2016, a source in the military-industrial complex told TASS on Wednesday.

"In the second half of this year, the missile will be put into service and its serial production will begin in the end of this year or in the beginning of the next year," the source said.

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 Irkutsk division of Russia's Strategic Missile Forces will become the first to receive the land-based mobile missile systems with RS-26. In prospect, they could replace the Topol systems.

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This information has not been yet officially confirmed to TASS.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/789383>

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Sputnik International – Russian Information Agency

## **US Says Cooperation With Russia on New START Treaty "Silver Lining"**

*According to the latest data exchange with Russia, the two sides have made a significant progress over the restrictions presumed by the treaty by February 2018, Assistant Secretary of State Frank Rose said.*

17 April 2015

The US is satisfied with the cooperation of Russia on the implementation of the 2010 New START treaty, Assistant Secretary of State Frank Rose said.

The two sides continue to honestly implement the terms of the treaty despite tensions over the Ukrainian crisis and some other international issues, Rose said Thursday at a press-conference on the nuclear disarmament and international security in Colorado Springs.

The State Department official said the latest events in Ukraine "dramatically complicated" the work to minimize the global nuclear threat, but cooperation with Moscow on the New START treaty remains "a silver lining."

"At such a hard time it is highly important to maintain transparency in the displacement and deployment of strategic nuclear weapons," he added.

"According to the latest data exchange with Russia, the two sides have made a significant progress over the restrictions presumed by the treaty by February 2018," Rose said.

He pointed out that by that time Russian and the US will each have 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads, the smallest number since the beginning of the nuclear arms development.

The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which lays out the further reduction of deployed strategic nuclear weapons was signed on April 8, 2010, in Prague. It came into force on February 5, 2011. It replaced the old treaty which expired in December 2009. The New START treaty limits the number of the deployed nuclear warheads to 1,550, and the number of intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine ballistic missile and heavy bombers to 700. The document is expected to last at least for 10 years with the possibility to be prolonged for five years by mutual agreement of the two sides.

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150417/1021006521.html>

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Empire State Tribune – Tel Aviv, Israel

## **Intel Will Stop Selling Computer Chips to the Chinese Government that May Be Used for Nuclear Weapons**

April 11, 2015

The U.S. government has discovered that computers built by four Chinese supercomputer centers were for "nuclear explosive activities", this has prompted an order for Intel and Nvidia to stop selling chips to them.

The two supercomputers known as TianHe-1A and TianHe-2 are currently among the fastest around the world and are both run by Xeon processors from Intel. Nvidia also supplies chips for TianHe-1A .

Today, Intel and Nvidia are prohibited from selling their chips to the four centers in China that operates the gigantic machines.

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The U.S. government is convinced that the supercomputers are mainly for the purpose of anticipating a situation with its power to download numbers and produce exact models of complicated environments like imitating weather or even nuclear explosions. This had implicated a threat since the four Chinese supercomputing centers , counting in the National University of Defense Technology in Changsha City were “ acting contrary to the national security ...interests of the United States.” The U.S Department of Commerce suggests “

The Department of commerce had agreed with the conclusion on the two supercomputing center’s main use yet the agency does not reveal how it came up that way. China has about 250 nuclear warheads while the United States has 1,642 and Russia has 1,643.

Any American company is now obliged to first apply for a special permit if they were to sell any products to the supercomputer centers.

The federal rule was ordered in February. Intel and Nvidia made no comment regarding the issue but complied with the U.S. government. It is not determined if it could affect the sales on both companies since TianHe-2 houses 32,000 Intel Xeon E5 which is \$48 million at retail prices , still they can sell their high-power computer chips to other places in China.

The Commerce Department is confident that buying chips through third parties is illegal making it impossible for those four supercomputing centers from acquiring the chips that way.

<http://www.esbtrib.com/2015/04/11/9498/intel-will-stop-selling-computer-chips-to-the-chinese-government-that-may-be-used-for-nuclear-weapons/>

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

## **Gear to Cold War Era Bunker in Cheyenne Mountains In View Of Threats**

By Kalyan Kumar

April 14, 2015

Faced with a plethora of missile threats, the North American Aerospace Defense is shifting its vital communication gear to the Cheyenne Mountain base in Colorado to safeguard its sensitive sensors and servers from potential electromagnetic pulse attacks. The move to relocate to a Cold War-era mountain bunker has been confirmed by the senior officers.

NORAD, in charge of North America's skies, scans the space for enemy missiles and hostile aircraft. For it, the safety of Cheyenne mountain bunker suits better as it is custom built in a half-acre cavern carved into the mountain. It was created in the 1960s to withstand any Soviet nuclear attack. The massive complex is so designed that airmen can send warnings that could trigger the launch of nuclear missiles.

Admiral William Gortney, head of NORAD and Northern Command said "because of the very nature of the way that Cheyenne Mountain's built, it's EMP-hardened. And so, there's a lot of movement to put capability into Cheyenne Mountain and to be able to communicate in there."

### **Vulnerability**

The precautionary step comes from the vulnerability the command centre faces from electromagnetic pulses, because of the military's high dependence on computer networks and digital communications. A high-altitude nuclear explosion can pulverize the networks wreak heavy damage.

In early April, Pentagon signed a \$700 million contract with Raytheon Corporation to spruce up the work for NORAD and US Northern Command. The contract was meant to make sure, "sustainment" of services to help the military perform "accurate, timely and unambiguous warning and attack assessment of air, missile and space

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threats" at the Cheyenne and Petersen bases. Raytheon's contract also involves unspecified work at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California and Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska.

It may be recalled that in 2006, the headquarters of NORAD and the U.S. Northern Command was moved out from Cheyenne to Petersen Air Force base in Colorado Springs. It was decided that the Cheyenne bunker will be used as an alternative back up command centre. That time the move was described as a means for efficient use of resources despite Cheyenne being modernized by spending hundreds of millions of dollars after the attacks of September 11, 2001. Now the Pentagon is shifting the communications gear back to the Cheyenne bunker for better safety. The officials said a lot of back office communications have already been moved there.

### **Unconventional Threats**

Regarding threats, Adm. William Gortney, is already on record that North Korea's case of it having attained a threatening ability to miniaturise a nuclear warhead attachable to an operational road mobile intercontinental ballistic missile and can hit the United States. "Our assessment is that Pyongyang has the ability to put a nuclear weapon on a KN-08 and shoot it at the U.S. homeland," Gortney had said in a press briefing. In the past, U.S. officials had underplayed Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program and its capability to launch a long-range KN-08 missile. But, Gortney has openly validated that threat for the first time. This supplements many other threats faced by the U.S. from erstwhile Cold war rivals such as Russia, China and some rogue states.

<http://au.ibtimes.com/us-aerospace-command-shifting-its-communication-gear-cold-war-era-bunker-cheyenne-mountains-view>

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Taipei Times – Taipei, Taiwan  
Wednesday, April 15, 2015

## **Beijing Considers US' Missile Policy a Threat: US Report**

By William Lowther, staff reporter in Washington

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China believes that the US' ballistic missile defense (BMD) policy is "emboldening those on Taiwan who want to formalize the island's separation from China," a US congressional report said.

It said that Beijing believes that its conventional missile deterrent against Taiwan is being undermined by US ballistic missile defense assets.

At the same time, Chinese officials and academics see Washington's ballistic missile defense deployments as a threat and a danger to strategic stability, the report said.

The report, Ballistic Missile Defense in the Asia-Pacific Region, was sent this week US Congress members by the Congressional Research Service.

The modernization and growing numbers of ballistic missiles in the Asia-Pacific region poses a security challenge for the US and its allies, and is of "concern," it said.

"The US has made BMD a central component of protection for forward-deployed US forces and extended deterrence for allied security," the report said.

Configuration of sensors, command and control centers, and ballistic missile defense assets in the region has slowly evolved with contributions from treaty allies, primarily Japan, Australia and South Korea, the report said.

"China's strategic missile forces, known as the Second Artillery, field conventionally armed ballistic missiles believed to be intended to deter Taiwan from formalizing its de facto separation from China," the report said.

It says that almost all of China's short-range ballistic missiles — numbering more than 1,000 — are deployed opposite Taiwan.

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“Chinese military scholars have warned that US BMD programs, and particularly the sale of BMD systems to Taiwan, send wrong signals to the Taiwan independence forces,” the report said.

It said the implication is that these missile programs might give the Taiwanese a sense of greater security, causing some to ignore the Chinese missile threat and actively resist China’s efforts to unify with Taiwan.

“The US has been unsympathetic to this set of Chinese concerns, and it has sold Taiwan limited missile defense infrastructure,” the report said.

In the 1990s, the US sold Taiwan three Patriot Advanced Capability (PAC) missile defense units with PAC-2 Guidance Enhanced Missiles.

Additional sales of PAC-3 systems were made to Taiwan in 2008 and 2010.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2015/04/15/2003615978>

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The Korea Herald – Seoul, South Korea

## **Korea, U.S. to Devise Plan to Negate N.K. Launchers**

By Song Sang-ho

April 16, 2015

South Korea and the U.S. on Wednesday agreed to establish an operational plan to destroy North Korea’s road-mobile launchers to better cope with the communist regime’s evolving nuclear and missile threats.

To craft the plan, the allies launched the “Deterrence Strategy Committee,” a body that combines the two existing military consultation bodies — Extended Deterrence Policy Committee and Counter Missile Capability Committee.

These decisions were made during the two-day Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue, a biannual security meeting between the allies.

South Korean Deputy Defense Minister Yoo Jeh-seung and U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretaries David Helvey and Elaine Bunn signed the bilateral agreement to launch the DSC tasked with developing the allies’ antimissile operational concept into a concrete operational plan.

The allies have so far discussed how to respond to North Korea’s possible nuclear and missile attacks at a conceptual level,” said a Seoul official on condition of anonymity. “But we have decided to create an operational plan that involves concrete military procedures.”

The official added that the operational plan would aim to strengthen the efficacy and capabilities of the U.S.’ extended deterrence by mobilizing its conventional strike capabilities as well as the nuclear umbrella.

The launch of the allies’ new military panel came as concerns are rising that the North has secured considerable technology to miniaturize nuclear warheads to mount on long-range missiles such as the KN-08.

At the DSC, the allies will focus on developing the so-called “4D” concept, the allies’ proactive defense concept. The 4D stands for “detect, defense, disrupt and destroy” — the four major steps to handle Pyongyang’s nuclear and missile attacks.

The “detect” represents the allies’ procedures to track North Korea’s missile movements with various intelligence-gathering assets, while the “defense” refers to a set of the allied defensive operations to minimize any damage from potential attacks.

The “disrupt” means striking North Korea’s core missile facilities including supporting installations, while the “destroy” refers to the allies’ efforts to demolish the North’s mobile launchers, called TEL (transporter erector launcher), and incoming missiles.

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“Through the operation of the DSC, the allies will be able to effectively deter and respond to North Korea’s nuclear and missile threats, based on the 4D concept and the tailored deterrence strategy,” said Seoul’s Defense Ministry in a press release.

“The DSC will also help enhance interoperability of the allied forces, and make it possible for the allies to more systematically utilize America’s capabilities — both on the peninsula and outside it — and South Korea’s Kill Chain and KAMD capabilities.”

The Kill Chain and KAMD are Seoul’s preemptive strike system and Korea Air and Missile Defense system, both of which are under development.

At the KIDD, the two sides also agreed to launch the Korea Defense Veterans Association, an organization of retired former U.S. Forces Korea troops, to honor their past contribution to peninsular defense and help strengthen the long-standing alliance.

“After the end of the Korean War in 1953, some 3.5 million U.S. soldiers have worked in Korea,” said a Seoul official. “We expect the KDVA to play a crucial role to open the future of the Korea-U.S. alliance as they have contributed to the development of the alliance and combined defense system.”

Launched in 2011, KIDD is a comprehensive defense meeting between the allies that integrates the four existing consultative meetings — the Security Policy Initiative, Extended Deterrence Policy Committee, Strategic Alliance 2015 Working Group and Counter Missile Capability Committee. The EDPC and CMCC were merged to launch the DSC.

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20150416000945>

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China Daily – Beijing, China

## **PLA to Buy Advanced Missiles from Russia**

By Zhao Lei (China Daily)

April 16, 2015

The deployment of the Russian S-400 surface-to-air missile system will substantially improve China's air defense capability, military experts said as Russian media reported that China has bought the cutting-edge weapon.

"The S-400 is definitely one of the top anti-aircraft weapons in the world. It will greatly supplement the People's Liberation Army's air defense system, which now has some loopholes in long-range, high-altitude defense of airplanes or ballistic missiles," said Wang Ya'nan, deputy editor-in-chief of Aerospace Knowledge magazine.

"The system has multiple types of missiles with various ranges, enabling it to safeguard a very large area of airspace. Some of its missiles are even specifically designed to intercept ballistic missiles," Wang said. "Moreover, some of its launch tubes can store and launch several different missiles, which makes it very convenient and fast to use."

Russia has a long history of developing anti-aircraft and missile defense weapons, so the S-400 is a concentration of some of the most advanced missile technologies Russia has, such as an active electronically scanned array radar, according to Wang.

"China still lacks experience in the development of long-range air defense systems, especially those that can intercept ballistic missiles. There is no shortcut because the development of such sophisticated weapons requires a great number of experiments and tests. It is a matter of time and resource input," he added.

According to Russian media reports, the S-400 is a new-generation, anti-aircraft weapon system capable of engaging any aerial target, including airplanes, helicopters and drones, as well as cruise and tactical ballistic missiles, with a maximum speed of 4.8 km per second. The system's 40N6 missile can destroy airborne targets at ranges up to 400 km.

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Anatoly Isaikin, chief executive of the Russian state-run arms trader Rosoboronexport, confirmed on Monday that China has a contract with his company for the purchase of the S-400 air defense systems.

"I will not disclose the details of the contract, but yes, China has indeed become the first buyer of this sophisticated Russian air defense system. It underlines once again the strategic level of our relations," Isaikin told the Russian newspaper Kommersant.

China clinched the deal in September at a cost of more than \$3 billion for the delivery of at least six S-400 battalions, Moscow Times reported.

Currently, China relies on its domestically developed HQ-9 and the Russian-made S-300 missile system, according to Western military observers.

Du Wenlong, a senior researcher at the PLA Academy of Military Science, said the operational ranges of modern military aircraft and missiles are much longer than their predecessors, so an effective defense system must have long-range missiles that can hit aircraft as well as cruise missiles and tactical ballistic missiles.

"Our air force has deployed the Russian S-300 systems, which are good at dealing with aircraft, but their performance in intercepting cruise missiles and tactical ballistic missiles is not very satisfactory," he said. "After we commission the S-400, it can work with the HQ-9 and S-300 to form a fully covered air defense network."

Zhao Zhihua, a senior missile researcher at China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp, a major developer of China's missiles, said that through the introduction of the S-400, China can gain a lot of experience and expertise on how to operate a missile defense system.

"Operating such a complex system will go beyond our current knowledge and experience, which in turn will teach us things that we don't know, so it is worthy spending big money buying it," he previously told the Ordnance Industry Science and Technology magazine.

[http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-04/16/content\\_20446222.htm](http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-04/16/content_20446222.htm)

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The Korea Times – Seoul, South Korea

## **NK Warns of Nuke War against US**

By Jun Ji-hye

April 17, 2015

North Korea said Thursday that it is ready to wage nuclear war against the United States if the country and its followers continue military provocations that amount to signaling an impending attack.

"The U.S. and South Korea have pushed forward with joint military exercises despite our demand for their suspension," said Hyon Yong-chol, the chief of Pyongyang's People's Armed Forces, during an international security conference in Moscow. "Tension on the Korean Peninsula has reached boiling point."

Citing Washington's wish to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system on the peninsula, Hyon said, "The U.S. is revealing its true colors to confront China and Russia."

He claimed that the North's possession of nuclear weapons "is the direct result of the hostile policy by the U.S. and is aimed at eliminating its nuclear threat."

Hyon added that Pyongyang will continue to beef up its military unless the U.S. stops its hostile policies.

South Korea attacked the repressive state for its renewed pledge to cling to its nuclear weapons program, saying it would deal sternly with the reclusive nation's provocative act.

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"North Korea cannot be recognized as a nuclear-weapons state and its possession of any nuclear (capabilities) cannot be accepted," Kim Min-seok, spokesman of the Ministry of National Defense, said in a statement, Friday. "If it continues to issue threats of war and be provocative, our military will respond strongly and sternly."

Pyongyang has long demanded such recognition despite a flat rejection by the international community. It conducted underground tests in 2006, 2009 and 2013, and has threatened to carry out "a new form" of test.

[https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2015/04/116\\_177271.html](https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2015/04/116_177271.html)

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

## Second Russian Borei-Class Nuclear Sub with 16 Bulava Missiles

### Combat Ready — Source

*The vessel has been commissioned with the Navy combat forces*

April 14, 2015

MOSCOW, April 14. /TASS/. The Alexander Nevsky nuclear submarine, the second Borei-class vessel, has entered service with the Russian Navy combat ready forces, a Defense Ministry source told TASS on Tuesday.

"The submarine has successfully passed all the trials with test firing of all types of weapons. The vessel, armed with 16 Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles, has been commissioned with the Navy combat forces," the source said.

TASS has received no official confirmation of the report yet.

The Alexander Nevsky submarine was delivered to the Navy in late 2013. The head Borei-class submarine of Project 955 - Yuri Dolgoruky, was delivered to the Navy in January 2013, however, the boat was commissioned with the Navy combat forces only in 2014. The Yuri Dolgoruky submarine is in service with the Northern Fleet.

In December 2014, the Russian Navy received the third Borei-class submarine - Vladimir Monomakh. Three more submarines are currently being built under an upgraded project - 955A (Borei-A), and a total of 8 new strategic nuclear submarines are planned to be built by 2020.

The Borei-class subs are 170 metres long, can dive to 450 metres and travel at speeds of up to 29 knots (54 kilometres per hour) when submerged. In addition to the ballistic missile launchers the subs are equipped with 533-millimetre torpedo tubes and carry RPK-2 Viyuga anti-submarine missile systems. Each vessel has a crew of 107 sailors and officers, and is fitted with a floating rescue chamber to evacuate all personnel in an emergency.

The Borei-class submarines are to form the basis of Russia's strategic nuclear forces until the 2030s. Each boat carries 16 Bulava ICBMs with a range exceeding 10,000 km. Each Bulava missile is equipped with six MIRV warheads and antimissile defence penetration aids.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/789154>

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The Washington Times – Washington, D.C.

## Russia Returns to Cold War Posture

By Bill Gertz, *Inside the Ring*

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Russian military activities and strategic nuclear forces are returning to a Cold War-era posture, the commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific said Wednesday.

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"Russia in the last few months has returned to, I would say, nearly a Cold War level of activity that goes towards our homeland, with long-range attacks, exercises and those types of things," Adm. Samuel Locklear, the commander, told the House Armed Services Committee. "We also know that Russia will improve their strategic nuclear deterrent on what's thought as their east coast, which is in the Northern Pacific."

Russia is also building up its submarine forces in Asia, and Moscow's military forces are seeking increased influence in the Arctic region, Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia, Adm. Locklear testified.

The four-star admiral said increasing Russian activities, along with threats from North Korea and China, are being monitored closely with intelligence and surveillance systems.

In his prepared statement to the committee, Adm. Locklear said Russia is "reasserting itself" politically and militarily in the Pacific.

Russian navy and long-range aviation "recently increased significantly, but not above Cold War levels," he stated. "Though challenged by maintenance and logistical issues, Russian Navy cruisers, destroyers and frigates have increased their operations and reach," with Russian warships sailing to the Middle East and Europe, and Russian Baltic fleet ships sailing to the Asia-Pacific.

"Russian [Tu-95] Bear bombers and reconnaissance aircraft regularly fly missions in the Sea of Japan and continue operations as far east as Alaska and the West Coast of the continental U.S.," he said.

Another concern is Russia's deployment of a new class of ballistic missile submarine, the Borei-class, later this year, along with upgrades to Russian land-based missiles that "will modernize Moscow's nuclear capability in the Asia-Pacific," the admiral said.

Russian ballistic missile and attack submarines are also active in the Pacific, as Moscow seeks to demonstrate military capabilities in the region.

The Pacific commander also voiced concerns about maintaining U.S. military readiness in the face of sharp Obama administration budget cuts. Adm. Locklear outlined a number of shortcomings in U.S. force capabilities in the region, including gaps with undersea warfare capabilities; lack of intelligence; surveillance and reconnaissance assets; shortcomings in space systems; battle management and command-and-control; and cyberwarfare, munitions, air and missile defenses, fuel and airlift.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/apr/15/inside-the-ring-russia-cold-war-posture-resumes-wi/>

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Tasnim News Agency – Tehran, Iran

## **Foreign Access to Iran's Missiles Out of Question: Nuclear Negotiator**

April 11, 2015

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – A senior Iranian nuclear negotiator reiterated that nobody would ever be allowed to monitor the country's military capabilities, including its missiles.

Speaking to the Tasnim News Agency on Saturday, Abbas Araqchi said Iran "absolutely rejects" any foreign access to its military facilities under the pretext of addressing the so-called "possible military dimensions" of Tehran's nuclear program.

"Our missiles, either ballistic or other, will not be under the supervision and monitoring of the other side (in the nuclear talks)," the ranking diplomat added.

His comments came after Iran and the Group 5+1 (Russia, China, the US, Britain, France and Germany) on April 2 reached a framework nuclear agreement after more than a week of intensive negotiations in Lausanne, Switzerland, with both sides committed to push for a final, comprehensive accord until the end of June.

The framework provides a series of solutions that will be the basis of a comprehensive joint plan of action.

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Elsewhere in his remarks, Araqchi deplored the European Union's re-imposition of sanctions on an Iranian bank and 32 shipping companies as a wrong decision.

He said the new sanctions "run counter to the necessary goodwill for continuing the (nuclear) negotiations", adding, "I believe this measure was a wrong decision at a very wrong time."

In January, the General Court of the European Union annulled the illegal bans on Bank Tejarat and 40 Iranian shipping companies, citing lack of enough evidence against them.

However, the EU's Official Journal said on Wednesday that 32 of the companies as well as Bank Tejarat are back on the sanctions list based on what it called "a new statement of reasons".

<http://www.tasnimnews.com/english/Home/Single/707042>

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Press TV – Tehran, Iran

## **Putin Signs Decree Lifting Ban on Delivering S-300 to Iran**

Monday, April 13, 2015

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a presidential decree paving the way for the long-overdue delivery of S-300 missile system to Iran, the Kremlin says.

Putin's decree lifts a ban on "the shipment from Russia to Iran" of the S-300 missiles, the Kremlin said in a statement on Monday.

The decree lifts the ban on transit through the Russian territory, including by air, the delivery from the Russian territory to Iran and the transfer outside of Russia with the use of vessels and aircraft flying the Russian state flag of S-300 missile air defense systems, the Russian Interfax news agency reported.

The decision to lift the ban comes after Iran and the P5+1 group of countries - five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany - reached a mutual understanding on Tehran's nuclear program in the Swiss city of Lausanne on April 2.

According to the statement, no Iranian nuclear facility will be shut down while all sanctions against the Islamic Republic will be terminated.

Under a contract signed in 2007, Russia was obliged to provide Iran with at least five S-300 defense systems.

However, Moscow refused to deliver the surface-to-air missiles to Tehran in 2010 under the pretext that it is covered by the fourth round of the United Nations Security Council sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program, which bars hi-tech weapons sales to Tehran.

Following Moscow's refusal to deliver the system, Iran filed a USD four-billion suit against the Russian arms firm, Rosoboronexport, with the International Court of Arbitration in Geneva.

The S-300 missiles have a 125-mile (200-kilometer) range.

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2015/04/13/406093/Putin-lifts-ban-on-Iran-S300-delivery>

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Tasnim News Agency – Tehran, Iran

## **Iran Wants Sanctions Lifted but Not at Any Cost: FM**

April 13, 2015

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif underlined that Iran will not forsake its national dignity in exchange for an end to the sanctions imposed on the country.

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"We want the removal of the sanctions, but what it would cost is also quite important for us," Zarif said in an address at KazGU University in Kazakhstan's city of Almaty, adding, "We will not allow the lifting of the embargos to cost us our national dignity."

He was referring to the nuclear negotiations between Iran and the Group 5+1 (Russia, China, the US, Britain, France and Germany), which is expected to lead to the termination of Western sanctions against Tehran.

Iran and the six powers are in talks to hammer out a lasting accord that would end more than a decade of impasse over Tehran's peaceful nuclear energy program.

On April 2, they reached a framework nuclear agreement after more than a week of intensive negotiations in Lausanne, Switzerland, with both sides committed to push for a final deal until the end of June.

Meanwhile, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei made it clear on April 9 that a possible nuclear deal has to have the entire anti-Iran sanctions lifted at once.

"This issue is very important and the sanctions should be completely terminated at the very day of the agreement," the Leader said, noting, "If the removal of sanctions is to be conditioned by a new process, the fundamental of negotiations will be nonsense, because the purpose of the talks is lifting of the sanctions."

<http://www.tasnimnews.com/english/Home/Single/709325>

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Arutz Sheva (Israel National News) - Beit El, West Bank

## **Germany Approves Fifth 'Special' Submarine for Israel**

*Answer to Iran deal? Germany gives green light to new advanced sub that can hold nuclear weapons.*

By Hillel Fendel

April 13, 2015

Germany has approved the delivery of the fifth of six promised submarines to Israel – amid claims that the sub will be outfitted with nuclear weapons. Is this part of Israel's answer to the US nuclear agreement with Iran?

The German Federal Security Council, which monitors Germany's export of military goods, has given the green light for the delivery of another submarine to Israel. The news has renewed claims that Israel will fit the sub with one or more nuclear-tipped cruise missiles.

The six submarines ordered by Israel several years ago have been and are being built by the German shipyard HDW in Kiel. Four submarines have already been delivered to Israel; the last one, the INS Tanin, was handed over to Israel last September. Vice Admiral Ram Rotberg said at the time that it "can dive deeper, go farther for a longer time and can operate at a level we have not seen until today."

The fifth submarine, and the latest to be approved, will be the INS Rahav. A sixth one is to be delivered by 2017, and Israel has even been reported to be interested in ordering three more.

Germany's *Spiegel* news outlet has often reported that by supplying Israel with the submarines, Germany is actually "helping Israel develop its military nuclear capabilities." *Spiegel* has quoted former Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak as saying that Germans should be "proud" that they have secured the existence of the state of Israel "for many years."

The submarine missiles can be launched using a previously secret hydraulic ejection system.

Coincidentally or not, controversial Egyptian TV presenter Tawfik Okasha called on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu over the weekend to bomb Iran – and promised Egyptian support for "our dear friend Netanyahu,"

Okasha said. "Please, Iran faces you and the Bushehr reactor faces you. Put your trust in Allah and bomb it. We are with you. And if you need fuel for the jets, we will give it to you."

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

## China to Build Nuclear Power Plants for Iran

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iran and China will partner in the construction of nuclear power plants, Spokesman of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi announced on Tuesday.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran plans to produce at least 190,000 SWUs (Separative Work Units) of nuclear fuel at the industrial scale, while we also think about 1,000,000 SWUs, which will be needed to fuel 5 power plants like Bushehr (nuclear power plant)," Kamalvandi said, addressing a meeting dubbed as 'an Analysis of Lausanne Statement' in Tehran on Tuesday.

"This is the reason why we have inked an agreement with the Russians to construct two nuclear power plants for the generation of electricity while the Chinese will also enter this arena soon," he added.

Elsewhere, Kamalvandi referred to the contents of the Lausanne nuclear statement issued by Iran and the world powers on April 2, and said based on the statement, Iran has accepted little limitations on its Research and Development (R&D) program, which will come to an end after a 10-year period.

Noting that based on the statement, the Fordo uranium enrichment facility in Central Iran will be kept intact, he said that over 1,000 centrifuges will remain at Fordo.

On Saturday, Kamalvandi announced the country's plans to build small nuclear power plants on the rims of the Persian Gulf to desalinate water.

"The AEOI plans to build small power plants in the Southern parts of the country for desalination purposes. Construction of such power plants are on the agenda and will be materialized in the next few years," the spokesman said.

Stressing that the AEOI seriously pursued building of large nuclear power plants too, he said, "At present, the world is moving towards the construction of small power plants since they can have different applications."

Kamalvandi said that two or three small nuclear power plants could also be built beside each other and form a mid-size power plant.

Kamalvandi announced in December that the AEOI had started building two new nuclear power plants in the Southern province of Bushehr.

"We have entered the executive phase of the construction of these two nuclear power plants based on the contract signed between Tehran and Moscow in March to construct the plants," he said.

In March 2014, Russia's Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation and the AEOI reached an agreement to construct at least two more nuclear power plants in Bushehr.

According to Kamalvandi, the agreement is part of a 1992 deal between the two countries on further nuclear cooperation.

Under the agreement, the new facilities will be built next to the first unit of the Bushehr nuclear power plant and each will have the capacity to produce at least 1,000 megawatts of electricity, Kamalvandi said, adding that the deal also includes the construction of two desalination units.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13940125001139>

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USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies

CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

## Commander: Iran's Military Capabilities Not Negotiable

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iranian Ground Force Commander Brigadier General Ahmad Reza Pourdastan underlined that the Army's military and defense capabilities would never be an agenda for the ongoing talks between Tehran and the world powers.

"The power, capability and development of the Army are no subject for the negotiations with the Group 5+1 (the US, Russia, China, France and Britain plus Germany)," Brigadier General Pourdastan told reporters on Tuesday.

He underlined that the general policies of the Armed Forces are approved by the Joint Chief of Staff and the defense issues are by no means subject of discussion with the West.

Last week in relevant remarks, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Brigadier General Massoud Jazayeri rejected media reports that inspection of the country's military centers is included in the recent nuclear statement issued by Iran and the world powers in the Swiss city of Lausanne.

The Swiss statement does not include allowing inspections of military centers, Jazayeri said on Thursday.

"We have not so far permitted inspection of the military centers, and we are not to do so in the future," he underlined.

His remarks came after the UK Guardian Daily claimed that inspecting Iran's military centers was mentioned in the Lausanne statement at the end of talks between Iran and the G5+1 on April 2.

In relevant comments on Wednesday, Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan categorically rejected as a "lie" a Guardian report alleging that Tehran had granted access to its military facilities under the recent framework agreement with the world powers.

"No such agreement has been made; principally speaking, visit to military centers is among our redlines and no such visit will be accepted," General Dehqan stressed on Wednesday, rejecting "the report by foreign media outlets, such as the Guardian" as "untruthful allegations".

The Iranian defense minister reiterated that the Supreme Leader's guidelines, government's strategy and the negotiating team's resolve have placed the Iranian diplomacy on a path that it would never allow the opposite parties to the talks impose their will on the Iranian nation.

Iran and the G5+1 started their new round of talks in Lausanne, Switzerland, on March 26 to narrow their differences over Tehran's nuclear energy program ahead of a July 1 deadline.

After nine days of hard work, the seven nations reached an understanding last Thursday which laid the ground for them to start drafting the final nuclear deal.

On Tuesday, Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari underscored that termination of all sanctions and possession of the full nuclear fuel cycle as Iran's redline in any nuclear agreement with the world powers.

"In addition to the right of possessing the nuclear enrichment cycle and Research and Development (R&D), termination of all the relevant sanctions which are the centerpiece of the Iranian nation's demands are our redline," Jafari said, addressing the IRGC commanders in Tehran.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13940125000588>

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Press TV – Tehran, Iran

## Obama to Allow US Congress to Vote on Iran Deal

Issue No.1161, 17 April 2015

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Tuesday, April 14, 2015

US President Barack Obama says he will sign a bipartisan compromise legislation following an amendment on a proposal by a Senate committee.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said on Tuesday that Obama was not “particularly thrilled” by a new proposal put together by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, consisting of Republican and Democrat members, *Los Angeles Times* reported.

“What we have made clear to Democrats and Republicans in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is that the president would be willing to sign the proposed compromise that is working its way through the committee today,” Earnest told reporters.

According to the new proposal, reached between the committee’s Republican chairman, Senator Bob Corker and Senator Benjamin L. Cardin, a democrat, the review period for a nuclear deal with Tehran would be shortened to 52 days from the original 60. The revised version also eases some other objections the Obama administration had raised.

The revised provisions “would be the kind of compromise the president is willing to sign,” Earnest said.

Iran and the P5+1 group – the US, Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany – reached a landmark understanding over Tehran’s nuclear program in Switzerland on April 2. The two sides will now work to draft a final accord by the end of June.

The Obama administration has been engaged in efforts to prevent the Republican-weighted Congress from measures against a deal with Tehran.

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2015/04/14/406321/Obama-to-let-congress-vote-on-Iran-deal>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

## **Kremlin Names No Date of S-300 Delivery to Iran but Stresses No Restrictions Apply**

*Tehran expects Russia to deliver S-300 air defense missile systems already this year*

April 14, 2015

MOSCOW, April 13. /TASS/. The Kremlin names no specific dates when Russia may begin to deliver air defence missile launchers S-300 to Iran but at the same time points out that no restrictions apply any more.

"In this particular case the questions of contracts - whether or not a new S-300 deal will have to be concluded - is a matter to be decided or discussed by the contracting parties, if need be," Russian presidential press-secretary Dmitry Peskov told the media.

"In general one can state this: from the legal standpoint no more restrictions apply following the signing of the decree (permitting the supplies)," Pskov said. He left unanswered the question when the deliveries may begin.

"I cannot say anything about the dates. I just do not know," he added.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday signed a decree on lifting the ban on supplies of S-300 air defense systems to Iran. Tehran now expects Russia to deliver S-300 air defense missile systems already this year.

### **Why did Russia lift the ban?**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Monday Russia’s voluntary embargo on deliveries of S-300 missile systems to Iran is no longer needed due to progress in the resolution of the situation around Iran’s nuclear program.

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"Initially, the decision to suspend the implementation of the contract, which was already signed and came into force, was made in September 2010," he recalled. "It was done in the interests of support for consolidated efforts of the six international negotiators to stimulate a maximally constructive process of talks on settlement of the situation around Iran's nuclear program."

The minister particularly stressed that "it was done absolutely voluntarily."

"Resolution 1929 of the Security Council, which was approved in 2010, just like any other UN resolutions did not impose any restrictions on deliveries of air defense weapons to Iran. I will emphasize, it was done in the spirit of goodwill to stimulate progress at the talks," he said.

This year, Lavrov continued, the six international negotiators, after a regular round of talks with Iran, "stated" on April 2 in Lausanne "substantial progress in settling Iran's nuclear problem."

"The P5+1 stated progress in the settlement of Iran's nuclear program. Political frameworks of the final agreement were coordinated. They received a high assessment everywhere on the international arena," he said.

The P5+1 is the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, and France - plus Germany.

"This result was in many respects achieved because the six international negotiators worked in a consolidated manner on political settlement of the serious problem," he said. "We are convinced that at this stage, there's no more need of such an embargo, Russia's separate voluntary embargo."

"S-300 is an air defense missile system, which is of a purely defensive nature. It is not designed for attacks and will not put at risk the security of any regional state, including Israel, of course," Lavrov said.

"Meanwhile, for Iran, taking into account the very tense situation in the region surrounding it, modern air defense systems are very important," he said.

"This is in particular proven by an alarmingly fast development of events in the past week of the military situation around Yemen. Of course, we couldn't but take into account commercial and reputational aspects too. As a result of contract suspension, Russia did not receive large sums we were to have received," Lavrov said.

"We see no more necessity in doing that, taking into account progress in the talks on settlement of the Iranian nuclear program and an absolutely legitimate nature of this forthcoming deal," he said.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/789141>

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The Washington Times – Washington, D.C.

## **White House Says Russian Missile Deal with Iran Won't Affect Nuclear Talks**

By Dave Boyer, *The Washington Times*

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

The White House said Tuesday that it considers Iran's deal to purchase an advanced anti-missile rocket system from Russia as "separate and apart" from a U.S.-led agreement to scale back Tehran's nuclear program.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said the military hardware deal announced Monday by Russia isn't likely to scuttle the framework agreement with Tehran on slowing Iran's progress toward developing nuclear weapons. He said if the U.S. and other major powers complete a nuclear deal with Iran by the June 30 deadline, the administration will still have "a long list of concerns about their behavior," including Iran's support of terrorism.

"All of that is separate from the nuclear agreement," Mr. Earnest said. "That's precisely why we're trying to reach a diplomatic agreement" on the nuclear program.

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Russia on Monday gave the green light to a long-stalled \$800 million deal to deliver an advanced anti-missile rocket system to Iran, raising sharp criticism from the U.S. Analysts say the system will increase Iran's ability to defend itself from airstrikes, including a strike on its nuclear facilities from either the U.S. or Israel should international negotiations break down.

The White House also said Tuesday that it is warming to legislation introduced by Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker, Tennessee Republican, to ensure congressional oversight of the nuclear agreement and consider additional sanctions against Iran.

Mr. Earnest said the president "would be willing to sign the proposed compromise that's working its way through the committee" if no other substantial changes come up.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/apr/14/white-house-says-russian-missile-deal-iran-wont-af/>

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Tasnim News Agency – Tehran, Iran

## **Iran Negotiating with Group 5+1, Not with US Congress: Rouhani**

April 15, 2015

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday stressed that Iran is in talks over its nuclear energy program not with the US Congress but with the Group 5+1 (the five permanent UNSC members plus Germany).

"What the US Senate says, what the US House of Representatives wants, what hardliners in the US seek, and what US puppets in the region say are none of our nation and government's business," Rouhani stressed, while addressing a huge gathering of people in Rasht, northern Iran.

He made the remarks in reaction to a legislation passed unanimously by the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday giving the Congress power to review a nuclear deal with Iran.

Rouhani went on to say that Iran is negotiating with all the countries in the Group 5+1 (Russia, China, United States, Britain, France, and Germany), not the US Senate or House.

"We want interaction in return for interaction, goodwill for goodwill, and respect for respect," he stressed.

The Iranian president reiterated that the world, the Group 5+1, and the US Congress, administration, and president need to know that "there will be no deal if (anti-Iran) economic sanctions are not terminated."

An announcement of the termination of the "cruel economic sanctions against the Iranian nation" once the deal is signed should be the point where the negotiations end, Rouhani reiterated.

He also reminded that the prospective nuclear deal will be to the benefit of the whole world.

"All European and American, eastern and western companies and even their governments are waiting for a final deal because it would benefit the whole world," he underlined.

Back on April 2, Iran and the Group 5+1 (also known as the P5+1 or E3+3) reached a framework nuclear agreement after more than a week of intensive negotiations in Lausanne, Switzerland, with both sides committed to push for a final, comprehensive accord until the end of June.

The framework provides a series of solutions that will be the basis of a comprehensive joint plan of action.

<http://www.tasnimnews.com/english/Home/Single/712037>

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

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## EXCLUSIVE: Iranian Parliament Releases "Factsheet" for Revision of Lausanne Statement

TEHRAN (FNA) - The Iranian parliament's Nuclear Committee on Wednesday released a factsheet to declare the revisions needed to be made in the Lausanne statement that was issued by Tehran and the world powers as a framework understanding at the end of their nuclear talks in Switzerland earlier this month.

The factsheet which was presented by Head of the Nuclear Committee Ebrahim Karkhaneyee on Wednesday stresses the necessity for respecting the redlines and guidelines specified by Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, *making Iran's decisions and undertakings reversible* to enable the country to resume its nuclear operations in case of the other side's non-commitment to its undertakings, and *immediate termination of all sanctions in a single step and on the first day of the implementation of the final agreement*.

The factsheet also necessitates commitment of both sides to their undertakings based on the Geneva agreement, a fair and reasonable balance between the gives and takes, taking good care not to impair the country's security and military boundaries and national interests, providing 190,000 SWUs (Separative Work Units) of nuclear fuel enrichment capability needed by Iran to produce fuel for the Bushehr nuclear power plant immediately after the end of contract with Russia, safeguarding the nuclear achievements, actual operation of all nuclear facilities of Iran not in words, but in action, continued Research and Development (R&D) works and scientific and technological progress in Iran and immediate application of R&D findings in the country's industrial-scale uranium enrichment cycle.

***The factsheet urges operation of 10,000 centrifuge machines at Natanz and Fordo, a maximum 5-year-long duration for the deal and for Iran's nuclear limitations, replacement of the current centrifuges with the latest generation of home-made centrifuge machines at the end of the five-year period.***

### **Enrichment Program:**

The period for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) should be limited to five years, in which about 10,000 active centrifuges operating at Natanz and Fordo now will continue nuclear fuel production by enriching uranium below the 5% grade.

The UF6 enriched reserves which are under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should be kept at Fordo nuclear plant and will be turned into nuclear fuel complex based on the existing capabilities.

During the five-year period, the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to keep the excess centrifuges installed at Natanz and Fordo or will gradually dismantle them, and at the end of the 5-year period, it will replace all the existing centrifuges, including the active or inactive ones, with the new generation of (IR-N) centrifuge machines with the help of the new spaces and infrastructures which will have been already prepared and will use them without any limitation.

### **Justification:**

Based on the Geneva agreement, the period for the final step should merely include a single period which has been considered as to be five years in the present factsheet. But in the Lausanne statement, different periods of 10, 20, 25 years and higher have been considered.

Given the Geneva agreement, the amount of enrichment should be specified based on the country's practical needs and the number of 10,000 centrifuges has also been specified on this basis.

The 5-year period in this factsheet has been specified with respect to the date when Iran's nuclear fuel contract with Russia for the Bushehr nuclear power plant will end; hence, the rules and limitations for the components of the enrichment cycle should be set in such a way that the Islamic Republic of Iran will be able to supply the fuel needed for the power plant after the end of the contract with Russia.

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Operation of 10,000 centrifuges and developing and having a 10-ton enriched uranium stockpile will enable the Islamic Republic of Iran to supply the fuel needed for the Bushehr power plant in the year when the fuel supply contract with Russia (28-30 tons) ends.

#### **Fordo installations:**

Fordo nuclear facility will remain an enrichment and nuclear Research and Development (R&D) center. 4 enrichment cascades with 656 centrifuges will continue operation and production of fuel for purity levels lower than 5% by maintaining the current chain arrangements.

***If the country would need 20%-degree (enriched) uranium, the nuclear fuel production line for purity levels lower than 5% will be altered to enrich uranium to the 20%-grade after connecting the centrifuge cascades to each other again.***

#### **Justification:**

Based on the above, Fordo will remain an actual and active center, and the Islamic Republic of Iran will maintain its capability to reverse its decision and restore the 20%-grade enrichment.

#### **Research and Development (R&D):**

In a bid to use R&D findings in the country's industrial-scale enrichment chain, R&D should be planned in a way that the necessary possibilities and infrastructures will be provided for replacing the first generation of centrifuges with the latest generation of centrifuge machines (IR-N) when the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action comes to an end after 5 years.

***The R&D program should undergo no limitation before it comes into use for industrial-scale operation.***

#### **Justification:**

Accordingly, the advanced centrifuges will enter the chain of nuclear fuel production without any restriction at the end of the 5-year deal.

#### **Arak Heavy Water Reactor:**

Given the Group 5+1 countries' mere concern about the plutonium existing in the spent nuclear fuel (SNF) of the Arak 40-MW heavy water reactor, the fuel used by the reactor will be sent abroad.

The G5+1 states will be committed to cooperate and take the necessary measures for relevant international licensing and permissions.

#### **Justification:**

Given the SNF export abroad, the insistence of the G5+1, specially the US, on redesigning the said reactor is merely a pretext and doesn't have any scientific rationale.

What is more important than the heavy water nature of Arak reactor is the core of the reactor which is due to be taken out and then be redesigned and renovated. Such a move is irreversible in nature, and thus means crossing the specified redlines.

#### **Supervision and Inspection:**

Supervision and inspections of the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear program should be carried out within the framework of the the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) safeguards agreements.

#### **Justification:**

Once done, the principle stated by the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution - that security and military sanctities and boundaries shouldn't be violated and that the inspections should be carried out at conventional levels similar to all other countries - will be respected and materialized. Given the Islamic Republic of Iran's opposition to the world arrogance, endorsing and implementing the Additional Protocol will provide the world

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arrogance (a term normally used for the US and its western allies) with legal grounds to stage their preplanned plots against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

**Sanctions:**

Concurrently with the start of the JCPOA, all the US and EU sanctions will be terminated and Iran will start fulfilling its undertakings based on the verification of the IAEA.

The UN Security Council sanctions resolution against Iran will be annulled and all nuclear-related sanctions will be terminated and the Islamic Republic of Iran's case will be normalized.

The G5+1 countries, the EU and the UNSC will avoid imposition of new nuclear-related sanctions against Iran.

**Justification:**

By terminating all sanctions in a single step right at the start of the implementation of the final comprehensive agreement, the Supreme Leader's statement that termination of sanctions is part of the agreement and not its result will be materialized.

Based on the Geneva agreement, after the implementation of the JCPOA, all UNSC, US and EU sanctions should be terminated and no new (UNSC) resolution would be needed in this regard; Hence, terminating the UNSC sanctions will close the case and no new resolution which would pave the ground for new plots will be issued.

**International cooperation:**

The Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear cooperation with the world states, including the G5+1 members, in areas of building nuclear power plants, research reactors, nuclear fuel production, nuclear safety medicine and nuclear agriculture, etc. will be possible and will improve. Based on the JCPOA, Iran will be provided with access to the global market, trade and finance and technical know-how and energy.

**Reversibility:**

In case of the two sides' non-commitment to their undertakings, there will be a possibility for reversing all measures.

**Justification:**

Based on the aforementioned proposal, the Islamic Republic of Iran will be provided with reversible measures at the lowest level of damage and, therefore, the G5+1's commitment to its undertakings will be in fair balance (with those of Iran).

**Duration of the JCPOA:**

After the end of the five-year period and the JCPOA exercise, all restrictions will be lifted and based on the Geneva agreement, the case with the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear program will be similar to that of the other NPT member states.

The Iranian Parliament factsheet for a revision to the Lausanne agreement came after the US released a factsheet different from the joint statement issued by Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Federica Mogherini, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and head of the G5+1 in nuclear talks with Iran, at the end of the latest round of Iran-world powers nuclear talks in Switzerland on April 2, known as the Lausanne statement.

The US factsheet that was released only a few hours after the Lausanne framework understanding caused fury in Iran, encouraging many to raise deep doubt about the results of the talks and US accountability and trustworthiness.

In only a few weeks, a bipartisan bill was also presented to the Congress for vote that would give the US legislature oversight of a final deal, a move seen by many across the globe, including both Iran and the US, as furthering impediments to the endorsement of a final deal between Iran and the sextet.

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Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Senator Bob Corker, who wrote the bill, said the White House had agreed to go along with the bill only after it was clear there was strong Democratic support. The legislation was passed unanimously by the committee and is expected to pass the full Senate and then the House of Representatives.

"That change occurred only when they saw how many senators were going to vote for this," Corker said.

Bipartisan support for the bill had grown in recent weeks to near the 67 votes needed to override any presidential veto. But senators from Obama's Democratic Party did succeed in adding amendments to water down the bill, making it more palatable to the White House.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13940126001122>

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Mehr News – Tehran, Iran

April 16, 2015

## **Iran, 5+1 to Resume Fresh N-Talks on Wed.**

TEHRAN, Apr. 16 (MNA) – The next round of nuclear talks between Iran and 5+1 will start in the Austrian city of Vienna on Wednesday at deputy and expert level.

In fresh round of talks between Iran the six states - the US, the UK, France, China, Russia and Germany – a draft version of the final agreement will reportedly begin to be composed.

Iranian deputy FMs Seyed Abbas Araghchi and Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Director General for Political Affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry and nuclear negotiator Hamid Baeidinejad and an expert team of nuclear negotiators will participate in this round of talks.

The two sides had previously prepared a draft version of the agreement that contained a number of loose ends. It is said completing that draft will be on the agenda for this round of talks in Vienna.

Following the Vienna talks that is likely to continue for two days, the next round of talks will be held on the sidelines of the NPT summit (from 27 April to 22 May 2015) at the UN headquarters in New York.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif is to take part in the summit and the negotiations to draft a deal on Iran's nuclear program will continue on the sidelines of the event.

<http://en.mehrnews.com/detail/News/106687>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

## **Iran, IAEA Fail to Reach Agreement on Iran's Nuclear Program at Talks in Tehran**

*Tehran and the International Atomic Energy Agency have not reached an agreement on two remaining disputed issues at talks in Tehran, the IAEA statement says*

April 16, 2015

VIENNA, April 16. /TASS/. Experts from Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have not reached an agreement on two remaining disputed issues at talks in Tehran, the IAEA said in a statement on Thursday.

The exchange of opinions was constructive, and consultations will continue, IAEA said.

IAEA and Iran held technical consultations in Tehran on April 15, and the sides discussed continuing work on implementing the framework agreement on cooperation, the statement said. Iran and the agency agreed to continue dialogue.

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<http://tass.ru/en/world/789766>

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The Economic Times – New Delhi, India

## **Pakistan Successfully Test Fires Nuclear-Capable Ballistic Missile**

Press Trust of India (PTI)

15 April 2015

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday successfully test-fired a new ballistic missile which is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads up to a distance of 1,300 kilometres, bringing many Indian cities under its range.

The launch of intermediate-range Ghauri missile conducted by a Strategic Missile Group of the Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC) was aimed at testing the operational and technical readiness of the command, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

Director General Strategic Plans Division Lieutenant General Zubair Mahmood Hayat expressed complete satisfaction over the "excellent standard" achieved by strategic forces during the training, Dawn reported.

Lieutenant General Zubair also emphasised Pakistan can be justifiably proud of its defence capability as well as its nuclear deterrence.

The successful launch has been commended by President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

They also congratulated the scientists and engineers for their outstanding achievement.

On March 9, Pakistan had conducted another ballistic missile test Shaheen-III capable of carrying nuclear and conventional warheads to a distance of 2,750 kilometres.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/pakistan-successfully-test-fires-nuclear-capable-ballistic-missile/articleshow/46935119.cms>

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The Indian Express – Chennai, India

## **India Successfully Test Fires Nuclear-Capable Agni III Ballistic Missile**

By Press Trust of India (PTI)

April 16, 2015

Balasore (Odisha) -- India on Thursday successfully test-fired its nuclear-capable Agni-III ballistic missile with a strike range of more than 3,000 km from Wheeler Island off Odisha coast.

The indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile was test-fired from a mobile launcher at launch complex-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Wheeler Island by army at about 0955 hrs, defence sources said.

"The trial, carried out by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC of the Indian Army), was fully successful," ITR Director M V K V Prasad told PTI.

Logistic support for the test was provided by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). "It was the third user trial in the Agni-III series carried out to establish the 'repeatability' of the missile's performance," a DRDO official said.

For data analyses, the entire trajectory of today's trial was monitored through various telemetry stations, electro-optic systems and sophisticated radars located along the coast and by naval ships anchored near the impact point, the sources said.

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The Agni-III missile is powered by a two-stage solid propellant system. With a length of 17 metres, the missile's diameter is 2 metres and launch weight is around 50 tonnes.

It can carry a warhead of 1.5 tonne which is protected by carbon all composite heat shield.

The sleek missile, already inducted into the armed forces, is equipped with hybrid navigation, guidance and control systems along with advanced on board computer.

The electronic systems connected with the missile are hardened for higher vibration, thermal and acoustic effects, a DRDO scientist said.

Though the first developmental trial of Agni-III carried out on July 9, 2006 could not provide desired result, subsequent tests on April 12, 2007, May 7, 2008, February 7, 2010 as well as the first user trial on September 21, 2012 and next on December 23, 2013 from the same base were all successful.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-successfully-test-fires-nuclear-capable-agni-iii-ballistic-missile/>

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Bloomberg Business – New York, NY

## **Xi's Submarine Sale Raises Indian Ocean Nuclear Clash Risk**

By David Tweed

April 16, 2015

Soon a brash naval captain may pose a bigger risk of triggering a nuclear crisis between India and Pakistan than a religious terrorist.

China is likely to conclude a sale of eight conventional submarines during President Xi Jinping's visit to Islamabad on April 20, more than doubling Pakistan's fleet. Analysts say it may be the first step in helping Pakistan gain the ability to fire nuclear weapons at sea, keeping pace with rival India.

The submarine sale will add to tensions in regional waters as Prime Minister Narendra Modi bulks up India's navy to prevent China from gaining a foothold in the area. Xi's visit, the first by a Chinese head of state to Pakistan since 2006, will also outline investments in gas pipelines, highways and rail links that will give China access to the Arabian Sea, in part through territory claimed by India.

While Pakistan's efforts are still "embryonic," its naval commanders want to follow Israel's example of equipping conventional submarines with nuclear-tipped missiles, Iskander Rehman of the Atlantic Council, a Washington-based policy research group, said in a March 9 report. Nuclear weapons at sea pose a greater risk than stationary land-based arsenals because they are submerged and harder to detect.

"We are now entering a new era whereby naval interactions will occur under a perpetual nuclear shadow," Rehman said by phone. "My main concern is less the risk of nuclear terrorism, but rather the dangers tied to naval friction within a newly nuclearized maritime domain."

### **India's Submarines**

Pakistan has the fastest growing nuclear program in the world, according to the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations. Its arsenal, built with the help of Chinese technology, stands at between 100 and 120 warheads, compared with China's 250 and India with between 90 and 100.

While India began sea trials for its first nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine in 2009, Rehman says the nation is still years from deploying a nuclear weapon at sea. In February India increased its defense budget by 11 percent to \$40 billion and approved the building of six nuclear-powered submarines.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government approved a proposal to buy eight Chinese submarines, Rohael Asghar, chairman of a parliamentary panel on defense, said earlier this month. It may be signed during Xi's visit, he said. It will be the first time China has exported submarines.

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Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam said she had no more details on the submarine sale. Xi will address a joint session of Pakistan's parliament, the ministry said in a statement.

### **Closing the Gap**

"Pakistan has been compelled to develop full spectrum nuclear weapons to maintain its deterrence," she told reporters on Thursday in Islamabad. "We see very aggressive doctrines emanating from India, so we maintain our credible deterrence."

China's defense ministry didn't immediately respond to faxed questions about the type of submarines to be sold and whether it'll help Pakistan achieve a sea-borne nuclear deterrent.

The initial objective of Pakistan's new submarines will be to counter India's naval dominance in the Indian Ocean, according to Li Jie, a senior researcher from the Chinese Naval Research Institute in Beijing. The vessels will probably be China's most advanced air-independent propulsion S20 model armed with homing torpedoes and anti-ship missiles, he said.

"The sale will accelerate the process of Pakistan building an underwater warfare platform," Li said. "It will significantly close the gap in submarine capabilities between the two Indian Ocean rivals."

### **'Second-Strike Capability'**

Pakistan's navy at present operates five French diesel-electric submarines: three purchased in the 1990s and two dating from the late 1970s. Aside from India's lone operational nuclear-powered submarine, it has 13 diesel-electric ones, among which about half are in service.

Pakistan signaled its intention to develop a maritime nuclear deterrent when it established the Naval Strategic Force Command Headquarters in 2012. The force would be the custodian of the "nation's second-strike capability," according to a statement on a Pakistan military website, referring to the strategy of responding to a nuclear attack with atomic weapons.

### **Nuclear Expansion**

Lieutenant General Khalid Kidwai told a seminar in Washington D.C. last month that Pakistan plans to expand its nuclear arsenal with weapons deployed on ships or submarines within a "few years." Kidwai is a former head of the Pakistan military's Strategic Plans Division, which directs the nation's nuclear weapons and missile programs.

Since conventionally powered diesel-electric submarines aren't equipped with vertical launching tubes most commonly used for firing missiles, they would need to be modified to fire horizontally from torpedo tubes, according to David Brewster, a specialist in Indo-Pacific security at the Australian National University in Canberra. China would probably help Pakistan with this "although that would be kept under wraps," Brewster said.

China helped Pakistan in the 1980s to obtain nuclear weapons and the ability to deliver them, and it may be motivated to help it obtain sea-borne nuclear weapons as a balance to India, he said. "The more resources and distraction that Pakistan can soak up, the better from China's perspective."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-04-16/xi-s-submarine-sale-raises-risk-of-nuclear-clash-in-indian-ocean>

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Global Times – Beijing, China

OPINION/Op-Ed

## **US Uses THAAD to Worsen Peninsula Rifts**

By Li Kaisheng, *Global Times*

April 13, 2015

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Both Washington and Seoul stated that the closely watched deployment of the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system didn't come up during the visit of US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter to South Korea over the weekend. "We are not at a point yet of determining where it might be suitably deployed in the future," said Carter. Such equivocal gestures indicate that discussions about THAAD system will continue.

In South Korea there are many voices saying that the defense system should be deployed in the interest of national security, while China has opposed the potential deployment on multiple occasions based on the security of both the Korean Peninsula and itself. If such debate continues, rifts may emerge in the growing political and security ties between China and South Korea. Both of them have to keep alert to the US attempt to drive a wedge between them with the THAAD system.

The US is not happy to see China and South Korea enjoying improved political and security relations in recent years, but it has no justified reason to voice opposition and even has to mouth some ostensible support. However, as Washington always seeks to deter North Korea with the US-South Korea alliance and counter China, better China-South Korea ties will undermine the cornerstone of the US rebalancing strategy and it has to take some countermeasures. The deployment of the THAAD system is a smart tactic that can kill more than two birds with just one stone if Seoul eventually agrees.

First of all, the deployment will significantly enhance the asymmetric US strategic advantage. The THAAD system seems to be designed to counter Pyongyang's nuclear and missile threat, but it will also somewhat weaken the strategic deterrence of China and Russia.

South Korea will be bound to its alliance with the US more tightly, which will add assurance to their political and security relationship but hinder ties between China and South Korea.

Moreover, THAAD deployment will likely prompt Pyongyang to react and intensify the uncertainties in the peninsula. This may be taken by Washington as a chance to demonstrate the importance of its military presence in the peninsula and therefore cement its regional and global strategic cornerstone.

Even if Seoul disagrees, Washington has at least driven a wedge between Seoul and Beijing. THAAD deployment touches upon South Korea's most sensitive point as Seoul attaches absolute importance to dealing with Pyongyang's threat. Therefore, it is highly skeptical of any opposition to THAAD deployment. The longer discussions about the deployment last between it and China, the deeper the rifts between their bilateral relations will run.

Washington released the deployment rumor long ago but still says it isn't ready to discuss it. It may intend to observe the reactions on the one hand and deliberately let the issue evolve on the other hand to drive China and South Korea apart as much as possible.

Therefore, both Beijing and Seoul need to stay wary and vigilant of US intentions since their hard-earned development of political and security relations is critical to the interests of both sides and regional stability.

The priority for China and South Korea now is to enhance policy exchanges and reach a strategic consensus, which requires both sides to adjust their positions and approach toward the middle point.

To this end, China needs to pay more attention to South Korea's security concerns and take more specific and powerful actions in promoting the denuclearization in the peninsula so as to alleviate Seoul's fundamental worries.

Meanwhile, South Korea should be aware that the fundamental ways to ease tensions in the peninsula are political and diplomatic means that advocate dialogue and cooperation rather than containment and confrontation. A weapon system may work locally, but will deepen the splits in the peninsula, making unification a more distant prospect.

Given the complex geopolitical arena, South Korea needs to be clear-headed more than headstrong while China should show more decisiveness and vision. If China and South Korea can reach strategic consensus, the crisis would convert into an opportunity for the two to enhance their political and security ties. Politicians from both sides should create the outcome with ample wisdom and will, not be misguided by a third party.

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The Lowery Interpreter – Sydney, Australia  
OPINION/Article

## **Iran Nuclear Deal: Some Longer-Term Issues**

By John Carlson

April 14, 2015

If the framework announced in Switzerland on April 2 regarding Iran's nuclear program and detailed in a US State Department Fact Sheet is successfully carried forward to an agreed Plan of Action (due to be concluded by June 30), it will be a major achievement.

But it should not be seen as the end of the process. It is a definitive step, but it will need to be followed by a number of concrete actions before we can consider that the Iranian nuclear problem has been resolved.

If the deal is agreed in June, and if it is faithfully implemented, it will give all parties – Iran, its neighbors, and the wider international community – 15 years of breathing space. It is essential to use this time effectively to ensure the deal doesn't just kick the can down the road. During this period decisions need to be made by Iran and others to ensure that the Middle East does not end up in a South Asia-style nuclear arms race.

It is by no means a forgone conclusion that Iran wants nuclear weapons, though Iran no doubt believes that having the capability to produce nuclear weapons within a relatively short time – what is termed nuclear hedging – has major strategic value. It is essential to ensure that the consequences for crossing the threshold remain high enough to deter Iran from doing so. This will require the US to keep a high level of engagement in Middle East affairs for the foreseeable future.

But having Iran maintain “just” a hedging posture cannot be considered a good outcome – we have already seen some of Iran's neighbors wanting to develop nuclear programs that will give them a similar capability. A situation of strategic competition in nuclear capability will be destabilizing for the Middle East.

With the problem of hedging in mind, an objective earlier in these negotiations was to establish the principle that Iran's uranium enrichment capability should be directly linked to its demonstrated nuclear fuel needs. In current circumstances these needs are zero, because Russia is willing to supply fuel for the lifetime of Iran's only power reactor, at Bushehr. For the future, Iran says it plans a number of reactors, both imported (Russia has agreed to build eight, and would supply the fuel) and indigenous.

But there is a dilemma in pushing the capability-not-exceeding-needs argument: the scale of any power generation need is much greater than Iran's existing capability. Enrichment capability is measured in separative work units (SWU). Currently Iran has installed enrichment centrifuges totaling around 20,000 SWU, and is operating centrifuges totaling around 8000 SWU. Iran's main enrichment facility, at Natanz, has room for 50,000 centrifuges – between 40,000 SWU (based on Iran's first generation centrifuges) and perhaps 250,000 SWU if using more advanced models. This compares with the capacity required to produce the annual fuel requirements for just one Bushehr-size reactor, around 120,000 SWU (and three times this to produce the initial fuel load). Only 5000 SWU are required to produce sufficient HEU (highly enriched uranium) for one nuclear weapon.

So, the scale of a “legitimate” enrichment program easily dwarfs Iran's current program. This could be why the capacity/needs principle was dropped from the negotiations. But it is an important principle, and it should never be accepted that nuclear hedging is a legitimate purpose under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty for a “peaceful” nuclear program. The last thing anyone – including Iran – would want is a proliferation of enrichment or

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reprocessing programs. It is essential for the international community to use the 15-year breathing space to address this problem of nuclear hedging.

In this regard the most useful action would be to establish a system of international nuclear fuel supply guarantees so no country can claim it needs an enrichment program to ensure security of supply. Where new enrichment (or reprocessing) programs do proceed, these should not be national programs but controlled on a regional or international basis. Convincing alternatives are needed to show Iran and other prospective newcomers that they have no legitimate reason for pursuing a national program in proliferation-sensitive technologies.

Another essential project to pursue during the breathing space is a Middle East WMD-free zone. Iran must be persuaded that the best way of ensuring its long-term national security is not through nuclear capability but through the establishment of such a zone, a point recently made by Saudi Arabia. If Iran pursues nuclear weapons, or a stronger hedging posture, its current advantage will erode over time as others pursue the same. Eventually Iran will find itself with nuclear-armed or nuclear-capable neighbors, and its strategic circumstances will be substantially worse than anything it can imagine today.

The same challenge confronts Israel. If others in the region become nuclear armed or even just nuclear capable, the strategic advantage Israel now enjoys will disappear. It would be very risky to rely on nuclear deterrence in these circumstances. For Israel as well as Iran, a WMD-free zone offers the best long-term future. This means that eventually Israel will have to divest itself of nuclear weapons. This may seem unthinkable today, but a future where others in the region also have nuclear weapons is even more unthinkable. Others in the region must be realistic; Israel cannot be expected to disarm as a pre-condition for a WMD-free zone. But Israel must be prepared to think in terms of a phased approach, disarming in stages as a WMD-free zone is established and is shown to be effective.

The Iran deal may present a 15-year breathing space, but the negotiating parties (the P5+1) cannot afford to rest on their laurels. To resolve the challenges discussed here will require a program of work every bit as intensive as over the past several years.

*John Carlson is counselor to NTI (the Nuclear Threat Initiative, Washington) on nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and verification issues. He is a member of the Advisory Council of the International Luxembourg Forum, member of VERTIC's International Verification Consultants Network, and adviser to the Asia Pacific Leadership Network for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament.*

*He is a Fellow of the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management, and recipient of the Institute's Distinguished Service Award. In June 2012 John received the award of Member of the Order of Australia (AM).*

<http://www.lowyinterpreter.org/post/2015/04/14/Iran-nuclear-deal-Some-longer-term-issues.aspx?COLLCC=778494479&>

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The Diplomat – Tokyo, Japan

OPINION/Asia Defense

## China's THAAD Gamble Is Unlikely to Pay Off

*Beijing might have overplayed its hand on South Korea's possible THAAD deployment.*

By John K. Warden and Brad Glosserman for *The Diplomat*

April 15, 2015

South Korea is stuck between a rock and a hard place. After news leaked that the United States is exploring the possibility of deploying a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery in South Korea to counter North Korean missile threats, China voiced a strong objection, claiming that such a deployment would threaten its security. If the U.S. decides to make a formal request, Seoul will face an uncomfortable choice between its indispensable security provider and its largest trading partner – and China might not like the result.

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China claims that THAAD – in particular the Army Navy/Transportable Radar Surveillance and Control Model 2 (AN/TPY-2) X-band radar that would accompany the interceptors – is unnecessary to counter North Korean missiles. Many Chinese analysts believe that, in fact, an overly hyped North Korean threat is Washington's excuse to justify deployment of a system that actually targets China. They argue that having an AN/TPY-2 in South Korea would improve the U.S. ability to intercept Chinese missiles and could even threaten the reliability of China's nuclear second-strike capability.

While there is some merit to Chinese military concerns, they are overblown. A THAAD battery on the Korean peninsula could, in theory, improve U.S. capability against Chinese missiles, but only at the margin and certainly not enough to threaten China's second strike capability. China is exaggerating this threat to drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington and prevent future deployments.

The North Korean threat is real, and the U.S. response is justified. The Kim Jong-un regime is belligerent, unpredictable, and continues to rattle its nuclear saber against the United States and its allies. More alarming still, the DPRK's nuclear weapon and missile programs continue to advance. It can already target South Korea, Japan, and potentially Guam, and Pyongyang may even be able to threaten the U.S. homeland. There is debate about the reliability of North Korea's missiles and its ability to miniaturize a nuclear device, but, given the potential consequences, the United States, South Korea, and Japan must err on the side of caution.

For North Korea, the ability to carry out a limited, discriminatory nuclear strike is strategically essential. North Korea knows it has little chance in a protracted conventional conflict with the United States and its allies. Therefore, its likeliest path to victory is a limited nuclear strike – perhaps over the open ocean or on a relatively remote military target – accompanied by a threat to launch additional weapons toward cities if the United States, South Korea, or Japan escalates. North Korea, in any future conventional conflict, will face enormous pressure to use nuclear weapons early – a premise most Chinese analysts have yet to accept.

Missile defense plays a critical role in countering this strategy. By raising doubts about North Korea's ability to carry out limited, precision strikes, the United States and its allies give Pyongyang reason to reconsider nuclear use in the first place. If North Korea's choice is between a large nuclear strike that is sure to trigger massive retaliation and no nuclear use, it may well choose the latter. Just as important, even if missile defense fails to deter North Korea from using nuclear weapons, it will help to limit damage, potentially saving millions of lives.

The U.S. desire to deploy THAAD in South Korea should thus come as no surprise to China. Since the 2010 Ballistic Missile Defense Review, the United States has committed to expanding its missile defense architecture as the North Korea threat evolves. In March 2013, then Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, noting North Korean advances, announced that the United States would activate 14 additional ground based midcourse interceptors (GBIs) at Ft. Greely, Alaska – nearly a 50 percent increase – and deploy an additional X-band radar in Japan (which arrived at the Kyogamisaki Communications Site in December 2014). In April 2013, the United States deployed a THAAD battery to Guam.

While U.S. GBIs, Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) batteries, and Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) interceptors are capable, THAAD batteries containing AN/TPY-2 radars are the most sophisticated missile defense systems in the world. AN/TPY-2 radars are extremely sensitive and, if appropriately located, can acquire targets in their ascent phase, and precisely track them in their terminal phase. With this information, THAAD interceptors are so accurate that they can rely on pure kinetic energy – hit-to-kill – rather than warheads to destroy their targets.

Yet, while extremely capable, THAAD interceptors in South Korea pose no direct threat to China. THAAD is a *terminal* system, meaning that it can only intercept missiles in their final phase of flight with a maximum intercept range of about 200 kilometers. In essence, the only Chinese missiles that a THAAD battery on the peninsula could intercept would be those aimed at South Korea. Similarly, an X-band radar in South Korea should not be a major concern for China. AN/TPY-2 radars have two modes of operation: either as a forward-based target identification system or as a terminal tracking system. China's concern is that an AN/TPY-2 in the first mode could look deep into China and link to other missile defense systems; in fact, however, the radar in Korea would need to be in the latter

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mode for THAAD interceptors there to be most effective, thus offering little improvement in the US ability to track missiles launched in China.

China has overplayed its hand. Deployment of a U.S. THAAD system in South Korea has not been formally initiated, let alone resolved. Chinese complaints about THAAD, based on unrealistic assessments of its capability and seeming indifference to the very real threat posed by North Korea, has irritated many South Koreans. They can see that Beijing is attempting to impose a choice on them between the U.S. or China. That irritation is further inflamed by a feeling that China is once again choosing the North over the South. In response to questions about THAAD, Kim Min-seok, a South Korean Defense spokesman, said that “A neighboring country...should not try to influence our security policy.”

Ironically, this is largely a self-inflicted wound for China. If Beijing had done more to limit North Korea’s missile and nuclear programs and punish its belligerence, then there would have been little or no need (or the political will) in either Washington or Seoul for additional missile defense deployments. U.S. missile defense systems in East Asia are targeted against North Korea, and they will expand in size and sophistication as long as the North Korean nuclear and missile programs continue to advance. The sooner China accepts this, the better.

*John K. Warden is a WSD-Handa Fellow at the Pacific Forum CSIS in Honolulu; Brad Glosserman is the Executive Director.*

<http://thediomat.com/2015/04/chinas-thaad-gamble-is-unlikely-to-pay-off/>

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The National Interest – Washington, D.C.

OPINION/Feature

## The World's Greatest Nuclear Fear: Will Iran Pull a North Korea?

*We’ve been down this path before... with North Korea*

By Bruce Klingner

April 16, 2015

The interim Iranian nuclear framework is a vague accord with significant shortcomings. Moreover, the ink had barely dried before Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei disputed the Obama administration’s depiction of what had been agreed to.

Khamenei declared that all sanctions against Iran must be removed immediately upon signature of a final accord in three months. He also insisted that Iran would not permit inspections of its military sites. Khamenei’s comments run counter to Obama administration claims that “international inspectors will have unprecedented access” to all Iranian nuclear facilities. The administration had also asserted that Tehran agreed that United States, EU, and UN sanctions would be “retained for much of the duration of the deal” and only incrementally reduced.

We’ve been down this path before... with North Korea. In September 2005, the Six Party Talks joint statement was followed by dueling U.S. and North Korean press statements. Portrayals of how quickly Washington would lift sanctions and remove Pyongyang from the state sponsors of terrorism list diverged widely.

Given the similarities between the two sets of nuclear negotiations, the Korean experience should provide hard-earned guidance for American negotiators on how the Iranian agreement *should* be completed.

### Don’t Do Your End-Zone Dance Too Early

Clinton administration officials initially claimed the 1994 Agreed Framework had resolved the North Korean nuclear problem. The Obama administration entered office thinking it would achieve dramatic breakthroughs with North Korea (and Russia, the Muslim world, etc.) and proclaimed the U.S. would never accept a nuclear North Korea or Iran.

### A Bad Cop Is Good to Have

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The Agreed Framework was not the immaculate diplomatic conception that its supporters claim. Talk of war with North Korea was rife in the mid-1990s, and Clinton administration officials claim they were debating attack options when surprised by a preliminary agreement midwifed by a rogue Jimmy Carter. Israel's threats of attack similarly focused Tehran's leaders on the penalties of defiance.

### **Vague Text Begets Vague Progress**

Experts still debate whether the Agreed Framework prohibited North Korea's covert uranium program. The Six-Party Talks relied on a diplomatic gimmick whereby the plurality of "nuclear programs" was cited by U.S. negotiators as clearly proscribing uranium weapons. Pyongyang, not surprisingly, disagreed. Vaguely worded agreements may, in the words of U.S. Six-Party Talks negotiator Christopher Hill allow the "bicycle to keep moving forward lest it fall over," but papering over loopholes merely postpones an inevitable collapse of the agreement.

### **Even a "Final" Agreement is Never Final**

Vague text also allows countries to cheat while still semi-legitimately claiming compliance. Like a good defense lawyer, Pyongyang uses ambiguity to obfuscate and avoid punishment. To prevent a crisis, negotiators even become willing to negotiate away their laws and previous treaties.

### **Verify, Verify, Verify**

President Ronald Reagan's dictum "Trust but Verify" was reflected in the extensively detailed verification protocols that enabled the United States to have arms control treaties with the Soviet Union. Precisely defining verification mechanisms and responsibilities of all parties may hinder completion of negotiations, but is critical for ensuring the long-term viability of an agreement. Claiming "unprecedented access" is no substitute for unambiguous inspection rights.

### **Violations Make a Shaky Foundation for Negotiations**

Nuclear diplomacy with North Korea and Iran was precipitated by their violating previous agreements and UN resolutions – hardly the basis for confidence they will abide by yet more accords. Negotiators should remember the adage, "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me."

### **Arms Control Advocates Reject Evidence of Cheating**

Pyongyang serially deceived, denied, and defied the international community. Yet arms control proponents responded to growing evidence of North Korean cheating by doubting, dismissing, deflecting, denouncing, deliberating, debating, dawdling, delaying, demanding, and eventually dealing.

These "experts" initially rejected intelligence reports of North Korea's plutonium weapons program, its uranium weapons program, complicity in a Syrian nuclear reactor, and steadily increasing nuclear and missile capabilities.

### **Evidence of Cheating Doesn't Arrive Gift-Wrapped**

After decades of debating whether Iran even had a nuclear weapons program, experts now claim that U.S. intelligence will be able to unequivocally identify and then convince U.S. policymakers and UN representatives to impose sufficient penalties to deter Iran from nuclear weapons, all within one year.

### **The International Community Doesn't "Snap-Back"**

The UN has shown a remarkable ability to emit a timid squeak of indignation when its resolutions are blatantly violated and then only after extensive negotiations and compromise. Hampered by Chinese and Russian obstructionism, the UN Security Council has been limited to lowest-common denominator responses.

### **Negotiations Allow Inching Across Redlines**

Alternating provocative behavior and a willingness to negotiate enabled North Korea to manipulate the international community into timidity about imposing penalties and acquiescence to repeated violations.

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By maintaining strategic ambiguity on their nuclear programs, Pyongyang and Tehran, like the proverbial camel's nose under the tent, are gaining international acceptance of activities that were previously declared "unacceptable."

Proponents for diplomatically resolving the North Korean and Iranian nuclear problems argue that, without negotiations, Pyongyang and Tehran would continue to develop nuclear weapons. Yet, North Korea continued to augment its arsenal while negotiating and even after signing numerous agreements not to do so. It is expecting too much to assume Iran has not learned that lesson from North Korea—a friendly tutor who has done so much to help Tehran advance both its nuclear and missile programs.

*Bruce Klingner is the Senior Research Fellow for Northeast Asia at The Heritage Foundation's Asian Studies Center.*

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/the-worlds-greatest-nuclear-fear-will-iran-pull-north-korea-12646?page=show>

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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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