



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies (CUWS) Outreach Journal

CUWS Outreach Journal
28 August 2015

Feature Item: *“North Korea’s Evolving Nuclear Strategy”*. Authored by Shane Smith; published by 38 North.org; August 2015; 22 pages.

http://38north.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/NKNF_Evolving-Nuclear-Strategy_Smith.pdf

While North Korea’s nuclear capabilities and threats have grown, little attention has been paid to its emerging nuclear strategy for three reasons. First, there is a common caricature of North Korea as backward, unserious and incompetent that has led some to dismiss and downplay its nuclear efforts over the years. Only after its third nuclear test, in 2013, have many analysts begun to take North Korea’s nuclear capabilities seriously. Second, there is a tendency for nuclear scholars to bypass North Korea because, as one suggests, “almost nothing is known about North Korea’s nuclear arsenal or the doctrine by which those weapons might be employed.”⁵ North Korea and its nuclear program are far from transparent, but this is not a unique problem. US scholars struggled for two generations to understand nuclear thinking in the Soviet Union based on sketchy evidence. It would be a mistake now, just as it would have been then, to throw our hands into the air. Moreover, a surprising amount of evidence about North Korea’s nuclear program actually exists from its past nuclear and missile tests, policy pronouncements and military parades as well as from commercially available satellite imagery.

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The People's Daily Online – Beijing, China

U.S. Next-Gen Bomber Capable of Staying above China for over an Hour

By Tian Li (*People's Daily Online*)

August 27, 2015

U. S. Air Force will conclude the bidding process of the Long-Range Strike Bomber (LRS-B) program in September.

According to the program, B-3, the next-generation bombers will be able to fly above Chinese territory for more than an hour if they take off from the two U.S. frontline air bases in Guam and Diego Garcia.

The bombers are designed to have a combat radius of 2000 to 2500 nautical miles, targeting Beijing and Delingha, Northwest China's Qinghai province.

By 2025, U.S. Air Force plans to replace all current bombers with 80 to 100 B-3 aircrafts that worth at least \$50 billion in total, according to a report by Forbes.

Although Air Force tries to keep the new bomber as mysterious to the potential adverse countries as possible, it is not difficult to make some solid guesses on the design's details.

Forbes's article listed ten potential features of B-3:



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1. In order to reach targets deep in China and Russia, it will be able to fly for over 5,000 nautical miles without refueling.
2. Considering the budget, it will carry fewer payloads than the previous models.
3. Each bomber will cost more than \$550 million.
4. It will contain top-end technology, but not breakthrough ones.
5. To optimizing cost and stealth, it will not be supersonic.
6. It will not be unmanned so that it will have nuclear strike capacity and better survival possibility.
7. The look will be different from the B-2 bomber. It will be redesigned for better stealth and flexible operation,
8. It will rely on off-board functions such as networking more heavily.
9. There will be more than 100 to replace a total of nearly 160 current bombers.
10. It will be built by Boeing/Lockheed Martin.

<http://en.people.cn/n/2015/0827/c90000-8942096.html>

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Pacific Daily News – Agana, Guam

Stealth Bombers Back in Guam

By Gaynor Dumat-ol Daleno

August 27, 2015

Radar-evading, bat-looking B-2 bomber aircraft have returned to Andersen Air Force Base at a time of renewed tension between the two Koreas.

Three B-2s and about 225 airmen from the 13th Bomb Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, in Missouri, deployed to Guam on Aug. 7 for what the Air Force's Pacific command called "familiarization training activities" in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

B-2 aircrew and the maintainers and support personnel on the ground will be involved in the training, according to the Air Force.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III also announced at a Pentagon briefing Aug. 24 that three B-2s are being scheduled for rotational deployment to Guam.

"We are in the process right now of deploying three B-2s on a scheduled rotation to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam. That's coming up in the near future," Welsh said, according to a transcript of the briefing.

He didn't specify the timing of the rotational deployment because it's considered classified information.

The latest B-2 stealth bomber presence in Guam followed the recent land mine explosion in the demilitarized zone that divides North and South Korea. North Korea also recently repeated threats against the United States as U.S. and South Korean military forces were conducting joint training. Welsh said at the press briefing, "There's a lot of worrisome things about Korea, but I don't think any of it's new news."

Ready to counter

Still, the United States must be ready to counter North Korean ballistic missile strike capabilities, Welsh said.

"I think it's something we have to pay a lot of attention to and I think we do each and every day," Welsh said.

"Certainly, they have a missile that can reach Hawaii or U.S. facilities in the Pacific, so that's really what we're most worried about."

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More than two years ago, the Pentagon sent the THAAD, a land-based mobile missile defense system to Guam following North Korean threats to launch missiles at U.S. military facilities, in Guam, Japan and South Korea.

The Air Force has rotated aircraft bomber presence on Guam, including B-52s, but B-2 presence at Andersen has been less frequent following an accident on the runway at Andersen in February 2008.

The B-2 Spirit of Kansas crashed while taking off from Andersen, reducing the original fleet of B-2s to 20, most of which are based at Whiteman.

B-2s can fly 6,000 nautical miles unrefueled and 10,000 nautical miles with just one aerial refueling, according to prime B-2 contractor Northrop Grumman.

A B-2 can carry more than 20 tons of conventional and nuclear ordnance and deliver it precisely under any weather conditions, Northrop Grumman stated.

The first of the B-2s was publicly displayed in 1988, and cost \$1.15 billion apiece, according to the Air Force.

<http://www.guampdn.com/story/news/2015/08/26/stealth-bombers-back-guam/32380849/>

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Sci-News.com – Southern, CA

Chrysalin: New Drug Mitigates Deadly Effects of Radiation

By Sci-News.com

August 22, 2015

A research team in the U.S. says it has discovered a drug that successfully combats the deadly effects of radiation exposure. A single injection of a synthetic peptide drug called Chrysalin 24 hours after lethal radiation exposure appears to significantly increase survival and delay mortality in mice by counteracting damage to the gastrointestinal system, according to the team, led by researchers at the University of Texas Medical Branch.

In recent years, increasing threats of radiation exposure and nuclear disasters have become a significant concern for the U.S. and countries worldwide.

Exposure to high doses of radiation triggers a number of potentially lethal effects. Among the most severe is the gastrointestinal (GI) toxicity syndrome caused by the destruction of the intestinal barrier, resulting in bacterial translocation, systemic bacteremia, sepsis, and death.

The GI toxicity syndrome is triggered by radiation-induced damage to crypt cells in the small intestines and colon that must continuously replenish in order for the GI tract to work properly. Crypt cells are especially susceptible to radiation damage and serve as an indicator of whether someone will survive after total body radiation exposure.

“The lack of available treatments that can effectively protect against radiation-induced damage has prompted a search for countermeasures that can minimize the effects of radiation after exposure, accelerate tissue repair in radiation-exposed individuals and increase the chances for survival following a nuclear event,” said Prof Darrell Carney of the University of Texas Medical Branch.

“Because radiation-induced damage to the intestines plays such a key role in how well a person recovers from radiation exposure, it’s crucial to develop novel medications capable of preventing GI damage,” said Dr Carney, who is CEO of Chrysalis BioTherapeutics.

The investigational drug Chrysalin – a synthetic 23-amino acid peptide – was developed for use in stimulating repair of skin, bone and muscle tissues.

The drug, also known as TP508 or rusalatide acetate, has previously been shown to begin tissue repair by stimulating proper blood flow, reducing inflammation and reducing cell death. In human clinical trials, it has been reported to increase healing of diabetic foot ulcers and wrist fractures with no drug-related adverse events.



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“The current results suggest that the peptide may be an effective emergency nuclear countermeasure that could be delivered within 24 hours after exposure to increase survival and delay mortality, giving victims time to reach facilities for advanced medical treatment,” said Dr Carla Kantara from the University of Texas Medical Branch.

The results were published online this week in the journal *Laboratory Investigation*.
<http://www.sci-news.com/medicine/science-chrysalin-tp508-radiation-03157.html>

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Want China Times – Taipei, Taiwan

Reports of China's Early Warning Radar Prompt Speculation Overseas

By Staff Reporter

August 26, 2015

A 4-million pound radar assembly is lowered into place aboard a converted offshore oil rig at the Kiewit Offshore Services in Texas for what will become the Sea-Based X-band Radar for the US Missile Defense Agency. The Sea-Based X-band Radar is a unique combination of an advanced-radar with a mobile, ocean-going, semi-submersible platform that will provide the US with highly advanced ballistic missile detection with the capability to discriminate hostile missile warheads from decoys or countermeasures, Texas, April 3, 2005. (Photo/CFP)

Previous reports by Chinese media of a large active electronically scanned array radar in the country's northeast has provoked a great deal of attention from around the world, according to Duowei News, a media outlet run by overseas Chinese.

Analysts cited by the website have suggested the radar is China's newly developed anti-ballistic early warning radar and others have suggested it is a space target surveillance radar. Japanese media have recently been hyping the former theory, according to the website.

A recent report in Tokyo-based Kyodo News stated that according to Chinese military documents, in order to build a network of anti-ballistic defense systems the Chinese military plans to launch early-warning satellites to explore the capabilities of enemy ballistic missiles. The report also stated that China has already developed X-band radar, which is key to ground-based interception systems targeted at ballistic missiles at high altitudes during their terminal phase.

The Kyodo News report stated that ballistic missile defense systems are divided into three phases. The initial phase is when the missile has just been fired, the mid-stage is when the missile is outside the Earth's atmosphere and the terminal stage is when the missile enters the Earth's atmosphere.

Only the US has successfully developed interception systems for all three phases. If China manages to match this feat, it may shift the strategic balance the country's favor, according to Duowei.

The documents date from November 2014. They stress the importance of creating an early warning system for ballistic missile attacks and make reference to efforts to research and develop X-band ground-based multifunctional radar and an experimental plan for the launch of early-warning satellites. There was no specific launch date mentioned in the documents, however.

China has made almost no attempt to formally explain the development of its ballistic missile defense systems. In January 2010 the country admitted that it was carrying out experiments on mid-phase interception, which raised the hackles of the US. A ballistic missile early warning satellite is indispensable to initial stage interception. In the national defense white paper that Beijing published in May, there was mention of improving the country's strategic early warning capabilities, hinting at the development of ballistic missile defense systems.

The US X-band radar is thought to be able to clearly identify targets at a distance of 4,000 kilometers.

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Looking back at China's multiple experiments with ground-based anti-missile tests, it seems that the development of a ballistic early warning missile is within the range of possibility.

Ground-based anti-ballistic missile early warning radars mostly employ an over-the-horizon radar (OTHR), P-band Active Phased Array Radar and X-band ground-based radar. The X-band radar, which has received the most attention from the media, is mainly used in intercepting targets and identifying and tracking, to provide information on the target for homing radar.

China should first establish anti-ballistic early warning capabilities for key strategic areas such as the capital, aiming at a initial phase anti-ballistic early warning system, according to Duowei.

China is most vulnerable to missile attacks from the southeast, also the most advantageous place for US submarines to launch missiles against China. So it is imperative that China deploy a large active electronically scanned array radar to this region, said Duowei.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20150826000177&cid=1101>

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Russia Beyond the Headlines (RBTH) – Moscow, Russia

Russia Successfully Test-Fires RS-12M Topol ICBM

Interfax News

August 22, 2015

An intercontinental ballistic missile has been test-fired from the Kapustin Yar range in Russia.

"A crew of the Strategic Missile Forces test-fired an RS-12M Topol intercontinental ballistic missile from the Kapustin Yar state central multi-service range in the Astrakhan region at 6:13 p.m.

Moscow time on August 22, 2015," Russian Defense Ministry spokesman for the Strategic Missile Forces Col. Igor Yegorov told Interfax.

"The launch aimed to test a prospective warhead of intercontinental ballistic missiles," he said.

"The training warhead of the missile hit a simulated target at the Sary-Shagan range [in the Republic of Kazakhstan] with the required precision," Yegorov said.

http://asia.rbth.com/news/2015/08/22/russia_successfully_test-fires_rs-12m_topol_icbm_48686.html

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

Russia's First Tu-160M Modernized Strategic Bomber to Appear in 2021 — Commander

Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Aerospace Forces Viktor Bondarev said the program for the resumption of the Tu-160 manufacturing would not be disrupted

August 25, 2015

MOSCOW, August 25. /TASS/. Russia's first Tupolev Tu-160M deeply modernized strategic bomber will appear in 2021, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Aerospace Forces Viktor Bondarev told TASS in an exclusive interview on Tuesday.

"The first deeply modernized Tu-160M will appear in 2021. The share of new components in it will be 60%," he said.

Bondarev said the program for the resumption of the Tu-160 manufacturing would not be disrupted.

"I think this program will be implemented without fail. We thoroughly analysed our capabilities before adopting it. The industry said there will be no problems with the Tu-160 reproduction," he said.

Russia's Defense Ministry this year made a decision to restart serial production of the Tu-160 strategic bombers.



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The Russian Air and Space Force is expected to receive no less than 50 new planes, which will enter serial production in 2023.

The Russian Air Force currently operates about 15 Tu-160 (NATO reporting name: Blackjack) supersonic strategic bombers.

Russia is at the moment developing a new strategic bomber dubbed PAK DA (prospective aviation complex of long-range aviation). The new bomber was expected to make its first flight in 2019 and become operational in the Russian Air Force approximately in 2023-2025, but its development has been postponed amid plans to resume series production of the modernized Tu-160 bomber in 2023.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/816362>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

Russia's Railway-Based Missile System may Get Radar Protection — Electronics Manufacturer

The railway-based system armed with Yars inter-continental ballistic missiles may enter duty in Russia in 2019

August 26, 2015

ZHUKOVSKY /Moscow Region/, August 26. /TASS/. The Garmon small-size radar may be used to provide protection for the railway-based strategic ballistic missile complex, being recreated in Russia, the first deputy CEO of the radio-electronics concern KRET, Igor Nasenkov, told the media. "The radar can be used to provide protection for the most sensitive mobile facilities, for instance, the railway-based strategic missile complex. The Defense Ministry declared the resumption of work on this complex just recently," Nasenkov said.

Garmon is a batch-produced radar already being supplied to the Russian armed forces.

The railway-based complex armed with inter-continental ballistic missiles Yars may enter duty in 2019. The strategic missile force expects it will remain operational at least till 2040. Each train will carry six missiles and be equivalent to a regiment in status. Each division of Barguzin trains will consist of five regiments.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/816574>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

Alexander Nevsky Strategic Nuclear Submarine Not to Launch Bulava Missile this Year

According to the General Staff source, the Alexander Nevsky will arrive in Kamchatka in early September to join the Russian Pacific Fleet

August 27, 2015

MOSCOW, August 27. /TASS/. The Borei-class nuclear submarine Alexander Nevsky will not launch the Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile this year after arrival to the Pacific fleet, a source in the Russian Joint Staff told TASS on Thursday.

"The Alexander Nevsky will not carry out a combat training launch of Bulava on the range in the northwest of Russia this year," the source said.

A source in the General Staff of the Russian Navy earlier told TASS that the launch of Bulava from the Alexander Nevsky was planned this year from the Sea of Okhotsk on the range in the Arkhangelsk region.

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The first nuclear ballistic missile submarine of the Borey class, the Alexander Nevsky, is due to arrive in Russia's Pacific Fleet from the Northern Fleet in early September, a source in Russia's General Staff told TASS on Thursday.

"In mid-August, the Alexander Nevsky started subglacial passage from the Northern Fleet to the Pacific Fleet for the permanent combat duty. It is expected to arrive in Kamchatka in the first week of September," the source said.

The submarine has a full allowance of ammunition — 16 Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles. After arriving in Kamchatka, in Russia's Far East, the Alexander Nevsky will join the permanent readiness forces of the Pacific Fleet and will be part of the 25th division of submarines with the base in Vilyuchinsk.

The arrival of the Vladimir Monomakh of the Borey class was earlier postponed because the submarine would have no time to pass all trials and be loaded with missiles.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/816851>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

Russian Missile Factory to Increase Production Volume by 17%

Votkinsky Zavod in western Urals is the batch manufacturer of Iskander-M tactical missiles, Topol-M strategic missiles and sea-based Bulava ballistic missiles

August 28, 2015

IZHEVSK, 28 August. /TASS/. A factory in Udmurtia, western Urals, that manufactures the Bulava and Topol-M ballistic missiles plans to increase the output at the yearend by 17% to \$402.2 million, the Director General of the enterprise, Viktor Tolmachov told reporters during a meeting the regional President, Alexander Solovyov in the city of Votkinsk where the factory is located.

"We're working exactly in compliance with the plan, like we did at the beginning of the year," Tolmachov said. "We'll finish the year with 27 billion rubles (\$402 million at the current exchange rate TASS). We aren't falling. We're growing instead and we'll finish the year with a 17% increase." At present, Votkinsky Zavod (the Votkinsk Factory) is building up a portfolio of orders for next year. "We've met the production targets for this year and now we're getting advanced payments for next year," Tolmachov said. "The factory has two or three work shifts a day."

"The volumes of the state defense order are increasing because we've earned the reputation of an enterprise that fulfills the state defense orders year after year," he said.

Votkinsky Zavod experts say its output of manufactured items totaled \$160 million in the first six months of the year — up 9.2% versus the same period in 2014.

As of 2015, the factory embarked on an investment project worth \$83.1 million and aimed at the revamping and technology overhaul of production facilities, which will last continue through to December 2019. The factory plans to spend \$21.8 million for the purpose this year.

Votkinsky Zavod is the batch manufacturer of Iskander-M tactical missiles, Topol-M strategic missiles and sea-based Bulava ballistic missiles.

It also manufactures commercial produce, including appliances for the oil and gas industry, nuclear plant equipment, metal-cutting units, and custom-made equipment.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/817276>

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Xinhua News – Beijing, China

Scientists Make Breakthrough in Developing Universal Flu Vaccine

(Xinhua)

August 25, 2015



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LONDON, Aug. 24 (Xinhua) -- A team of researchers took a substantial step toward developing a universal vaccine against different subtypes of influenza as animal trials showed promising results, according to the paper published Monday in the journal Nature Medicine.

Variation in viruses means that seasonal influenza vaccines need to be continually updated to protect against circulating strains of the infection. Seasonal vaccines also do not protect against unrelated subtypes that infect animals such as birds and pigs and can be transmitted to humans. Researchers from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the United States developed a nanoparticle vaccine targeting a particular part of the hemagglutinin (HA) glycoprotein on the surface of influenza viruses, the stem that is subject to minimal mutation.

The test on mice and ferrets showed that it could, to a degree, protect the animals infected with different subtypes of influenza virus, according to the study.

Researchers said they still need more work to determine if the vaccine work with other adjuvants -- especially those approved for use in humans -- and to unravel the mechanism by which these antibodies protect the host against influenza.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-08/25/c_134551170.htm

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The People's Daily Online – Beijing, China

China to Display Seven Types of Missiles in V-Day Parade

(Xinhua)

August 23, 2015

China's strategic missile force, the Second Artillery Forces (SAC) will display seven types of missiles in the military parade on Sept. 3, Xinhua learned from military sources.

Organized into six armament formations, the weaponry includes long-range, intermediate-range, and short-range missiles as well as conventional and nuclear missiles, said the source.

The source did not reveal the specific types of missiles, but said "the scale and number of the missiles will surpass any previous outing."

"Our missile weaponry has seen great advances, in terms of firing range, strike methods, accuracy and mobility," said the source.

A senior military official said Friday that 84 percent of armaments to be displayed in the military parade have never been viewed by the public before.

The SAC made its first public appearance on Oct. 1, 1984, when the new China celebrated the 35th anniversary of its founding. After that, it has been a popular section of every military parade.

During the National Day parade in 2009, China showcased five types of missiles, including DF31A, a long-range intercontinental ballistic missile.

<http://en.people.cn/n/2015/0823/c90000-8940318.html>

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Next Big Future.com

China may be Close to Deploying Mach 10 Hypersonic WU-14 Missile

August 23, 2015

China this week carried out another test of a new high-tech hypersonic glide vehicle, an ultra high-speed missile designed to deliver nuclear weapons and avoid defenses.



The latest test of what the Pentagon calls the Wu-14 hypersonic glide vehicle was carried out from the Wuzhai missile test range in central China. The test was judged successful, according to defense officials familiar with details of the event.

Current U.S. defenses are designed to track missiles that travel in predictable flight paths and are unable to counter maneuvering warheads and glide vehicles.

The latest Wu-14 test took place Wednesday.

It was the fifth test of the glide vehicle and the second since June.

China has had two successful hypersonic missile tests in a span of two months.

The weapon is launched as the last stage of a missile that reaches speeds of around Mach 10, or 10 times the speed of sound—around 7,680 miles per hour.

Military analysts said the Chinese test schedule indicates that China may be close to deploying the high priority weapon.

A defense official, however, said the Wu-14 is viewed as a serious emerging strategic threat that could complicate U.S. nuclear deterrent efforts.

“At a minimum this latest test indicates China is likely succeeding in achieving a key design objective: building a warhead capable of withstanding the very high stress of hypersonic maneuvering,” said Rick Fisher, a China military expert. “It is likely that the test vehicle will form the basis for a missile launched weapon.”

“The advent of a Chinese hypersonic weapon may pose the greatest early threat to large U.S. Navy ships,” said Fisher, a senior fellow with the International Assessment and Strategy Center. “The best prospect for a defensive response would be to greatly accelerate railgun development.”

<http://nextbigfuture.com/2015/08/china-has-fifth-test-of-mach-10-wu-14.html>

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China Daily – Beijing, China

ROK, DPRK Agree to Defuse Tension after Talks

(Xinhua)

August 25, 2015

SEOUL - The Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) agreed Tuesday to defuse the tension on the peninsula following a 43-hour dialogue.

The DPRK expressed regrets over landmine blasts, which maimed two soldiers of the ROK and ROK will stop all loudspeaker propaganda broadcasts from Tuesday noon in frontline areas, according to Seoul's officials.

Under the six-point agreement, both sides also agreed to hold an inter-governmental dialogue in Seoul or Pyongyang at an earliest possible date to improve ties and to go ahead with talks and negotiations in various areas.

Pyongyang agreed to release the earlier order of a state of war.

The two sides agreed to hold a working-level Red Cross contact in early September for the reunion of families separated by the 1950-1953 Korean War during the upcoming Chuseok holiday that falls in late September.

Seoul and Pyongyang also agreed to facilitate private-sector exchanges in a wide range.

http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2015-08/25/content_21695844.htm

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The Korea Herald – Seoul, South Korea

War Plan Upgrade Reflects N.K. WMD Threats, U.S. Military Shifts

By Song Sang-ho

August 27, 2015



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The new wartime contingency plan of South Korea and the U.S. is presumed to address the growing concerns over North Korea's evolving weapons of mass destruction and likely to reflect changes in the U.S. force structure and strategy, analysts said Thursday.

Seoul and Washington reportedly signed the so-called Operations Plan 5015 in June to replace OPLAN 5027, the core wartime plan that laid out detailed procedures for the allied militaries to handle a full-blown war initiated by North Korea's aggression.

Observers assumed that the new plan might entail a series of new procedures to more aggressively eliminate Pyongyang's nuclear arsenal and other weapons of mass destruction, and respond to cyberattacks and other wartime scenarios.

The U.S. Pacific Command in charge of security on the Korean Peninsula told The Korea Herald that the South Korea-U.S. operations plan "has and will continue to evolve" to better handle regional security challenges.

"The U.S. Pacific Command regularly reviews and updates operations plans to ensure our joint forces are ready to respond to regional threats and crises," PACOM said via email.

"The joint ROK (Republic of Korea)-U.S. operations plan has and will continue to evolve to enhance readiness and strengthen the ROK-U.S. Alliance's ability to defend the Republic of Korea and maintain stability on the Korean Peninsula."

Apart from the new plan's likely emphasis on removing the North's nuclear arms and other WMDs, it is thought to reflect ongoing changes in the U.S. military structure, troop capacity and strategy.

One of the key points, which military experts here pay attention to, is whether the new plan sets the level of U.S. troops to be augmented for a peninsular contingency at the same level under OPLAN 5027.

OPLAN 5027 is known to stipulate that the U.S. is to deploy 690,000 troops, and mobilize 160 military vessels and 2,500 aircraft within 90 days of the outbreak of war on the peninsula. Most of the troops are to come from Okinawa, Guam and the U.S. Pacific Command headquartered in Hawaii.

Some observers have argued that the massive U.S. troop mobilization under OPLAN 5027 may be unrealistic given that Washington, struggling with budget constraints, has been reducing its ground forces.

But Park Won-gon, security expert at Handong Global University, raised the possibility that the allies might have kept the U.S. troop deployment level at the same level as OPLAN 5027 in a "symbolic" move to deter North Korea's aggression.

"Above all, what matters is the psychological warfare against North Korea. Leaving the large figure in the new war plan might have the effect of deterring North Korea's aggression," he said.

After focusing mostly on counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operations for more than a decade, the U.S. military has been seen shifting its focus to aerial and naval operations in an apparent move to counter growing China threats.

With the force realignment and a shift in military doctrines, the U.S. has sought to reduce its ground forces and employ high-tech operational tools such as long-range precision-strike systems and drones. This might have influenced the formulation of OPLAN 5015, experts said.

Touching on the cuts in U.S. troops, Bruce Bennett, senior defense analyst at RAND Corp., noted the need for South Korea to step up efforts to maintain its troop level that could decrease due to ongoing demographic changes.

"All U.S. military forces have been reducing in size. The smaller U.S. Army and Air Force, in particular, have fewer personnel to send to any contingency," he said. "But in fairness, the ROK Army has been reducing about as rapidly as the U.S. Army, and will accelerate its reduction in personnel over the next 10 years."



Seoul and Washington were working to formulate OPLAN 5015 in line with their preparations for the transfer of wartime operational control, which was slated for December 2015.

Due to North Korea's evolving nuclear threats, the transfer has been delayed and is expected to take place in the 2020s. But the work to craft the new operational plan reportedly proceeded as planned. Operational plans involving U.S. forces are named based on the codename of each U.S. overarching military command that executes those plans. OPLANs involving the U.S. Pacific Command begin with No. 5. As the U.S. Forces Korea is under PACOM, operations plans involving the USFK thereby begin with No. 5.

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20150827000987>

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The Japan Times – Tokyo, Japan

North Korea's Kim Ousts Top Officials, Credits Nuclear Weapons with Securing Deal

Associated Press (AP), Agence France-Presse (AFP)-Jiji

August 28, 2015

SEOUL – North Korea says leader Kim Jong Un has dismissed some top officials in the wake of a recent standoff with South Korea.

The rival Koreas earlier this week threatened strikes against each other before agreeing on measures to reduce animosity. After land mines maimed two South Korean soldiers, Seoul resumed propaganda broadcasts critical of Kim's authoritarian rule.

State media said Friday that Kim hailed the agreement, saying nuclear weapons rather than negotiating skills had secured the "landmark" agreement.

Chairing a meeting of the ruling party's Central Military Commission, Kim underscored the need to channel "top-priority efforts" into strengthening North Korea's military capability further.

But he also stressed the opportunity offered by the deal with the South, calling it a "crucial landmark occasion" that could open a new period for inter-Korean relations.

Pyongyang gave no reasons for the dismissal of members of the Central Military Commission, but analysts say it could be linked to land-mine explosions that Seoul blamed on the North.

During a party meeting Kim also ordered soldiers to help a recently flooded city, a sign of his need to show his people he cares about a decrepit economy.

Also Friday, the South Korean Red Cross proposed talks with its North Korean counterpart early next month on arranging a reunion of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

This week's inter-Korean agreement committed both sides to organize a reunion sometime around the Chuseok harvest festival, which will fall on Sept. 27.

An official from the South's Unification Ministry said the initial Red Cross proposal was for working-level talks to begin September 7 at the border truce village of Panmunjom.

The last family reunion was held at a North Korean mountain resort in February 2014, and was the first such event in more than three years.

Millions of people were separated during the 1950-53 conflict, and most died without having a chance to see or hear from their families on the other side of the border.

About 66,000 South Koreans — 12 percent of them over age 90 — are wait-listed for an eventual reunion, but only several hundred can be chosen each time.

The reunion program began in earnest after a historic North-South summit in 2000, but the waiting list has always been far larger than the numbers that could be accommodated.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/08/28/asia-pacific/north-koreas-kim-ousts-top-officials-credits-nuclear-weapons-securing-deal/#.VeBwHjYw-is>

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USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies

(CUWS) Outreach Journal

The Courier – Dundee, Scotland, U.K.

Scottish Labour Deputy Leader Calls for Referendum on Trident Renewal

By Press Association,

22 August 2015

The new deputy leader of Scottish Labour has suggested a referendum should be held on whether Britain renews the Trident nuclear weapons system.

Alex Rowley, who was elected as Kezia Dugdale's deputy last Saturday, called for a wide-ranging debate on the issue and said he did not believe the case had been made for renewal.

On the Clyde-based deterrent, the former Fife Council leader told The Herald newspaper: "It is a military issue, with serious question marks over whether it is the best way to defend the country, but it is also a moral issue.

"On such a massive issue, there should be debate across the party, the country, and a referendum.

"I have not seen the case made as to why we would renew, but the most striking thing is a complete lack of debate."

On Friday, the First Minister became the latest high-profile figure to sign a statement calling for plans to replace Trident to be cancelled.

Nicola Sturgeon added her name to the Rethink Trident statement, which has been organised by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and Compass.

The statement says the country can "ill-afford to be spending in excess of £100 billion on replacing Trident with a new generation of nuclear weapons".

Labour leadership frontrunner Jeremy Corbyn has also signed the statement.

Mr Rowley said the veteran left winger would make a "first class" boss of the UK party.

He told the newspaper: "I have no fears whatsoever that if the Labour membership elect him, he wouldn't be a first class leader."

The Scottish Conservatives' deputy leader, Jackson Carlaw, said: "Week one of Scottish Labour take seven, and it is threatening to increase taxes and is now planning to put our nuclear deterrent at risk.

"Who needs Jeremy Corbyn when Scottish Labour chiefs like Alex Rowley are already stampeding back to the 1970s all on their own?"

"These are not the priorities that Scottish voters want. We need a centre ground Scottish alternative to the SNP and the Scottish Conservatives are determined to provide it."

SNP MSP Bill Kidd, co-president of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, said: "I very much welcome Alex's rethink on Trident - he joins a coalition of voices from across politics, civic Scotland and military experts calling on the UK Government to abandon its plan to waste £100 billion on replacing these morally abhorrent nuclear weapons.

"I hope now that Alex will join the First Minister in signing CND's Rethink Trident statement. With Labour's support, Scotland could speak with one voice on this issue and form a powerful collective voice against spending billions on obscene weapons of mass destruction."

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/scottish-labour-deputy-leader-calls-for-referendum-on-trident-renewal-1.895977>

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Sputnik International – Russian Information Agency

Kremlin's New Sub: Russians Are 'Far More Innovative' Than US Ever Was

23 August 2015

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

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News that Russia is testing the latest addition to its underwater fleet of war machines, the BS-64 Podmoskovie nuclear submarine, have apparently left western analysts wondering what the watercraft is capable of while on months-long missions in the deep waters of the world ocean. The BS-64, previously known as K-64, is not a new sub, but a refurbished Project 667BDRM ballistic missile submarine (NATO reporting name: Delta-IV) that spent over 15 years at a repair plant located in the Russian port city of Severodvinsk. Laid down in 1982, it was commissioned four years later and remained in service until 1999.

The Podmoskovie is capable of carrying a crew of 135 people and is armed with 16 R-29RMU Sineva liquid-fueled ballistic missiles. It has been assigned to Russia's Northern Fleet. The 550-foot sub powered by two nuclear reactors was converted into a vessel designed to conduct scientific research, as well as a carrier for nuclear deep-water stations, including the top secret Losharik sub.

The new section allows the submarine to dock and undock deep-water vessels and houses a compartment for the crew and a research unit.

The BS-64 "appears to be part science vessel, part spy ship, part commando transport, and part 'mothership' for mini subs and drones. But no one outside of the Kremlin and the Moscow's future crew knows for sure," defense analyst David Axe observed in an article titled "Russia's Mysterious New Submarine."

Norman Polmar, an expert focusing on naval and intelligence issues, fueled keen interest for the Podmoskovie by cautioning against underestimating Russian engineers.

"These guys are far more innovative than we ever were," Axe quoted Polmar as saying. The naval expert who has advised the US government on submarine strategy speaks from experience since he has been to the Russian design bureaus tasked with developing submarines.

<http://www.sputniknews.com/military/20150823/1026094407/russia-podmoskovie-submarine-losharik-research.html>

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Business Insider – New York, NY

The 7 Most Impressive Weapons Russia Is Developing Right Now

By David Nye

August 24, 2015

While Russia's military is struggling in many ways, the Kremlin is working hard to fix it. With a new ballistic missiles, new submarines launching from shipyards, and the world's newest tank, Russia looks to be modernizing as fast as it can.

If the modernization program survives Russia's economic woes, here are seven new weapon systems that will likely be completed.

1. New nuclear submarines

In addition to building more of their brand new, fourth-generation submarines, Russia is already planning a fifth-generation sub. Details on the fifth-generation are slowly being fleshed out, but Russia wants the subs to network with each other and underwater drones, use onboard robotics for certain tasks, and feature a new nuclear reactor.

2. Hyper sonic missiles

Russia's hypersonic missile program has been plagued by failed tests, but it still has potential. The Yu-71 would be able to fly unpredictable patterns to its targets at speeds of 7,000 miles per hour, piercing air defenses. While the U.S. also has a hypersonic program, the U.S. missiles are designed for conventional warheads while Russia's call for nuclear capabilities.

Russia is also jointly-developing the BrahMos II hypersonic cruise missile with India.

3. A stealthy, heavy-lift strategic bomber



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The PAK-DA is expected to be subsonic with a range of 7,500 miles and capable of carrying a payload of about 30 tons. It's a huge step down from Russia's original plans for a hypersonic bomber, but it may be stealthy enough to get cruise missiles into range against carriers and other targets.

4. An "off switch" for enemy communications and weapons guidance

An electronic warfare system in development supposedly allows Russia to shut off any approaching threats, everything from NATO ships to missiles to future hypersonic weapons. If successfully launched on planes and ships, it could also be used to shut down enemy defenses during a Russian attack.

5. New air defense missiles

While the S-300 is in the news right now, the S-500 would be two generations beyond it. The S-500 is expected to be capable of engaging five to ten ballistic missiles at once and even hitting low-orbit satellites. It will be able to move between engagements, avoiding counter attacks.

6. Lasers

Russia claims its laser program is on the same level as the U.S., but the system is fully classified. If accurate, it would mean that Russia's lasers are capable or nearly capable of taking out enemy vehicles, drones, and boats, all weapons systems America relies on.

7. Aircraft carriers

Russia's carrier prospects are dicey, but if the ship makes it to the sea it will be much better than their current carrier. Roughly the same size as a U.S. Nimitz carrier, it would have 4 launching positions and an air wing of 80-90 aircraft.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/the-7-scariest-weapons-russia-is-developing-right-now-2015-8#ixzz3jjv7IUqw>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

Ten Missile Regiments Involved in Drills in Russia's Central, Western Military Districts

Topol, Topol-M and Yars missile systems are drilling routine combat duty tasks

August 25, 2015

MOSCOW, August 25. /TASS/. Ten missile regiments of the Russian Strategic Missile Forces (RVSN) equipped with the Topol, Topol-M and Yars missile systems are drilling routine combat duty tasks at exercises in the Central and Western Military Districts, Defence Ministry's RVSN spokesman Igor Yegorov said on Tuesday.

"Ten missile regiments equipped with the Topol, Topol-M and Yars land-based mobile missile systems are on combat patrol routes. Along with the RVSN mobile group, the exercises will also involve the stationary missile systems," Yegorov said.

He said that the strategic missile troops are drilling missile systems' field deployment, marching, units' redeployment with the change of field positions, position hardening, camouflage security and combat security measures. The anti-sabotage units are drilling detection, blocking and destruction of simulated saboteurs, including with the use of new counter-sabotage combat vehicles (BPDМ) Typhoon-M, equipped with drones.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/816343>

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Tasnim News Agency – Tehran, Iran

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Araqchi Underlines US Retreat from Position on Iran's Heavy Water Reactor

August 23, 2015

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said inclusion of the term "heavy water reactor" in Iran's Arak in the finalized text of a nuclear deal between Tehran and six world powers is a testimony to Washington's "failure" to deprive Iran of such technology.

"The Americans were saying explicitly that they would not allow Iran to have heavy water (reactor). They did not agree to even mention the name of Arak reactor in the Geneva deal... but in the JCPOA, they ultimately acknowledged the Arak heavy water (reactor should remain), and this is the US's failure," Araqchi said in an academic gathering in Tehran on Sunday.

Araqchi was a leading member of the Iranian team of negotiators in 22 months of nuclear talks between Tehran and the Group 5+1 (Russia, China, the US, Britain, France and Germany) that resulted in a lasting agreement on July 14.

According to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), "Iran will redesign and rebuild a modernised heavy water research reactor in Arak, based on an agreed conceptual design, using fuel enriched up to 3.67 %, in a form of an international partnership which will certify the final design. The reactor will support peaceful nuclear research and radioisotope production for medical and industrial purposes."

<http://www.tasnimnews.com/english/Home/Single/837550>

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The Times of Israel – Jerusalem, Israel

Secret IAEA Deal Inked with Reported Ex-Head of Iran Nuclear Bomb Effort

Ali Hosseini-Tash headed up nuclear research, university with nuke department for IRGC, dissident group says

By Times of Israel staff

August 23, 2015

The Iranian official who could be in charge of inspecting suspect nuclear sites as part of a side agreement with the international nuclear watchdog IAEA may be the same man who oversaw Tehran's nuclear program a decade ago when it is suspected atomic weapons were being developed.

Dr. Ali Hosseini-Tash, currently the deputy secretary of Supreme National Security Council for Strategic Affairs, is the signatory on behalf of Iran to the agreement between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency IAEA, revealed last week by the Associated Press.

According to Paris-based dissident group National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), Hosseini-Tash is a military commander who was tasked with militarizing Tehran's nuclear program.

"Ali Hosseini-Tash is a senior IRGC commander, who has been in charge of advancing Tehran's bomb-making projects for many years," Shahin Gobadi, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the NCRI told the Daily Mail.

"In this position, he has been intimately involved in every detail of the bomb-making program and is fully aware of the program's vulnerabilities and concealment tactics," he said

According to the agreement, the IAEA that would allow Tehran to use its own inspectors to investigate the Parchin facility, which is believed to have been the site of nuclear weapons work. The presence of Hosseini-Tash's signature could add fuel to the fire of critics who say the agreement is akin to letting the cat guard the cream.

"Allowing the Tehran regime to inspect Parchin and provide the results to the IAEA is akin to allowing a murderer to investigate his own murder and provide the relevant DNA to the police," Gobadi said.

In 2007, Hosseini-Tash was named as head to Iran's Imam Hussein University, which is thought to be closely linked to the IRGC and Iran's suspected military nuclear program, according to NCRI.

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The university, considered an arm of the military, has a nuclear department which critics say points to a military dimension of Iran's nuclear program. Iran claims its program is peaceful.

As part of the agreement between Iran and the nuclear watchdog revealed Wednesday, Iranian inspectors would be allowed to collect evidence from the Parchin military complex, where it has been accused of using to develop nuclear arms at least a decade ago, before handing it over to the IAEA for analysis.

The IAEA wishes to investigate the site in order to learn more about Iran's past activities there. The report sparked a furious backlash from Israeli leaders and Republican Congressmen, but the White House and IAEA both defended the agreement as standard procedure.

The State Department on Thursday said "in no way" did the UN atomic watchdog agree to let Iran inspect its own nuclear facilities, rejecting the AP's reporting.

"That is not how the IAEA does business," State Department spokesman John Kirby told reporters. However, Olli Heinonen, in charge of the Iran investigation as IAEA deputy director general from 2005 through 2010, told AP on Wednesday he could think of no similar arrangement — a country essentially allowed to carry out much of the probe of suspicions against it.

The Parchin side agreement is not part of the main deal inked in July between six world powers and Iran, but is closely linked to it. The US has said it will not lift sanctions on Iran without being given an okay from the IAEA.

The report still riled Republican lawmakers who have been severely critical of the broader agreement to limit Iran's future nuclear programs, signed by the Obama administration, Iran and five world powers in July.

The critics have complained that the wider deal is unwisely built on trust of the Iranians, while the administration has insisted it depends on reliable inspections.

"President Obama boasts his deal includes 'unprecedented verification.' He claims it's not built on trust," said the Republican leader of the House, Speaker John Boehner, "But the administration's briefings on these side deals have been totally insufficient — and it still isn't clear whether anyone at the White House has seen the final documents."

Israeli officials responded to the report by calling on Iran and the IAEA to fully publicize its agreement, something the IAEA says it is legally barred from doing.

On Thursday, the director general of the IAEA, Yukiya Amano defended the agreement and said he was disturbed that the AP report "suggested" that the IAEA has given responsibility for nuclear inspections to Iran.

"I can state that the arrangements are technically sound and consistent with our long-established practices. They do not compromise our safeguards standards in any way," he said in a statement. Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesman of Iran's nuclear agency was quoted on state TV calling the AP report "media speculation" without denying its substance.

The document seen by the AP is a draft that one official familiar with its contents said doesn't differ substantially from the final version. He demanded anonymity because he isn't authorized to discuss the issue.

It is labeled "separate arrangement II," indicating there is another confidential agreement between Iran and the IAEA governing the agency's probe of the nuclear weapons allegations.

The document suggests that instead of carrying out their own probe, IAEA staff will monitor Iranian personnel as they inspect the Parchin nuclear site.

Iran will provide agency experts with photos and videos of locations the IAEA says are linked to the alleged weapons work, "taking into account military concerns."



That wording suggests that — beyond being barred from physically visiting the site — the agency won't get photo or video information from areas Iran says are off-limits because they have military significance.

IAEA experts would normally take environmental samples for evidence of any weapons development work, but the agreement stipulates that Iranian technicians will do the sampling.

The Associated Press contributed to this report

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/secret-iaea-deal-inked-with-reported-ex-head-of-iran-nuclear-bomb-effort/>

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USA TODAY – Tysons Corner, VA

Attack on Iran could Set Back Bomb Effort Two Years

By Tom Vanden Brook, *USA TODAY*

August 23, 2015

WASHINGTON — U.S. airstrikes aimed at Iran's nuclear facilities would likely set back the regime's quest for a weapon by one or two years and require waves of attacks spearheaded by the ultra-heavy conventional bomb known as the Massive Ordnance Penetrator, according to military officials and experts.

A comprehensive attack aimed first at taking down Iran's air defenses and destroying its deeply buried nuclear facilities would provide a "moderate confidence level" that Iran's pursuit of a nuclear weapon would be set back by as much as two years, said a senior officer familiar with the planning.

Two senior officers involved in planning potential Iran attacks spoke to USA TODAY. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

President Obama wrote an op-ed piece this week that ran in papers across the country, saying that if Iran violates the recently negotiated agreement, "it's possible that we won't have any other choice than to act militarily."

A U.S. attack on Iran, according to two officers involved in planning and several others interviewed for this story, requires more than pinpoint strikes against that country's nuclear facilities. It could spawn retaliatory attacks in the Persian Gulf if Iran retaliates by attempting to choke off shipping. "A strike would try to reduce as much of Iran's nuclear infrastructure as possible, recognizing it wouldn't be perfect or permanently eliminate it," said Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow and military expert at the Brookings Institution.

An air war such as that, with as many as 1,000 aircraft sorties over several days to a week, would likely destroy power plants and other infrastructure associated with Iran's nuclear facilities, O'Hanlon said. He estimates that would set back Iran's nuclear program, which it maintains are for peaceful purposes, from one to five years.

The first wave of a "two-pronged attack"

Even before the first bombs fall and missiles are fired for such an attack, the Pentagon would need to shift people and weaponry to the Middle East.

Public diplomatic overtures to allies in the region will likely be made seeking access to bases and port facilities for U.S. forces, said a second senior planning officer who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

Patriot missiles, which can shoot down enemy missiles, would be deployed to protect bases and other facilities in the region. The Air Force might even announce weapons testing of the Massive Ordnance Penetrator, a huge bomb capable of destroying deeply buried, fortified facilities, the second officer said.

The first wave of attacks would be aimed at Iran's air defenses, the first officer said. Missiles fired from a safe distance — so-called stand-off weapons — would likely be used initially, O'Hanlon said.

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Among the initial targets: surface-to-air missile sites and radars that would be used to track and attack U.S. warplanes. Intelligence would have to be gathered on a "fairly quick timeline" — a matter of hours — to determine if follow-on airstrikes could be safely flown, the first officer said.

The hard part

Targeting facilities where nuclear material is produced is relatively easy, the first officer said. The sites are large and hard to mask. The location of Iran's nuclear facilities are not much of a secret, the officer said. Spy satellites and other means, including monitoring of social media, result in an assessment known as "all-source fused intelligence."

Uranium-enrichment facilities, those with thousands of centrifuges, are large complexes that "are incredibly hard to hide," the first officer said. The other route to a bomb — using plutonium — requires a heavy water reactor and produces tell-tale elements that air sampling can detect. There are about 20 nuclear facilities in Iran that would need to be attacked, some with as many as 60 individual strikes.

The Massive Ordnance Penetrator, a 30,000-pound bomb capable of burrowing through rock, soil and even concrete, would probably be the weapon of choice, O'Hanlon said. Defense Secretary Ash Carter told CNN in April that the MOP can destroy Iran's buried production facilities.

Much more difficult is pinpointing the labs and factories that manufacture the means to deliver the nuclear weapon, the first officer said. The sophisticated work of building warheads, engines and guidance systems for a missile can be done in scattered locations, including populated areas where civilian casualties would be nearly impossible to avoid.

A comprehensive attack could require as much as a week's worth of bombing and 1,000 sorties, O'Hanlon said. And the Iranians wouldn't be expected to take it laying down. The Pentagon would have to prepare for attacks on its ships in the Persian Gulf, he said.

A U.S.-launched attack on Iran would likely result in American servicemembers being killed, O'Hanlon said.

Asking the wrong question

To retired Air Force general David Deptula, airstrikes in Iran make little sense — and could be counterproductive — unless they're tied to a strategy.

In Iran's case, that strategy needs to account for Iranian leaders and their desire for a bomb. Unless that desire is changed, a U.S. attack is a temporary solution at best, said Deptula, who led the Air Force's intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance efforts.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2015/08/23/iran-nuclear-attack/32124499/>

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Washington Examiner – Washington, D.C.

White House: IAEA Will Get Access to and Info on Iranian Site

By Susan Crabtree

August 24, 2015

The White House said Monday that it's confident the United Nation's nuclear watchdog will have as much access as it needs to Iran's Parchin military site.

The expression of confidence comes in response to a report late last week suggesting that Iranian technicians, not international inspectors, would take the lead in collecting soil samples to check for the presence of nuclear material.

"What I am confident of is that the IAEA will get access to all the information they need and the site that they need in order to conclude their report," White House press secretary Josh Earnest told reporters at the first daily briefing after the president returned from vacation on Martha's Vineyard.

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The State Department gave a similar explanation on Monday, and some reporters noted State's way of saying "access and information," a change from the week before, when State said the IAEA would have "access."

But Earnest stressed that the IAEA did not compromise its standards in the way it has agreed to work with the Iranians to inspect Parchin, the location where Iran allegedly tested conventional explosives relevant to its nuclear weapons research more than a decade ago.

"The fact is that the arrangements between Iran and the IAEA are sound and consistent with the IAEA's long-established practice," Earnest said.

The Associated Press Thursday reported on a draft document of a side deal between the IAEA and Iran that suggested that the watchdog agency would not send its own inspectors into Parchin, but would rely on data from Iran instead. The head of the IAEA has since pushed back, calling the report a "misrepresentation."

"I am disturbed by statements suggesting that the IAEA has given responsibility for nuclear inspections to Iran. Such statements misrepresent the way in which we will undertake this important verification work," IAEA Director-General Yukiya Amano said in a statement on Thursday.

Under an agreement Iran reached with the IAEA on the sidelines of the July 14 deal between Tehran, the U.S. and other world powers, the Islamic Republic is required to provide the agency information about its past nuclear program to allow the Vienna-based watchdog to write a report by year-end.

Iran says its nuclear program has no military dimensions and is purely for peaceful energy purposes. The IAEA has charged that Tehran has long stonewalled its investigation into the possible military aspects of its past nuclear activities.

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/white-house-iaea-will-get-access-to-and-info-on-iranian-site/article/2570745>

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Xinhua News – Beijing, China

IAEA Receives Information from Tehran on Nuclear Plan

(Xinhua)

August 26, 2015

VIENNA, Aug. 25 (Xinhua) -- The United Nations nuclear agency on Tuesday said it received substantive amount of information from Iran over its nuclear program, while the agency is still verifying the data.

Under the comprehensive deal agreed by Iran and six world powers on July 14, Iran would improve the transparency of its nuclear plan while freezing some of its nuclear activities in exchange for sanction relief.

Yukiya Amano, head of IAEA said the agency has got a "substantive volume" of information from Tehran.

The IAEA chief said the annual cost for verifying and monitoring nuclear activities in Iran is 9.2 million euros (10.63 million U.S. dollars).

Amano called on member states to provide the agency with the money it needed, saying the extra budgetary contributions it received for this purpose will be exhausted by the end of September. Based on information previously given to IAEA by some member states, IAEA said in a 2011 report that Iran might carry out nuclear weapon program under its civilian nuclear plan, and the agency also speculated that Iran may have conducted hydrodynamic tests at Parchin military site, which Iran denied.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-08/26/c_134554974.htm



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Trend News Agency – Baku, Azerbaijan

US Concerned about Sale of Russian S-300 to Iran

26 August 2015

The United States is concerned about the potential sale of Russian S-300 missile defense systems to Iran, but remains confident in its military capabilities.

US Defense Department Spokesman Peter Cook said in a press briefing on Tuesday: "We have long expressed our concerns over reports on this possible sale...but this is something we have been tracking and in general, we are confident in our capabilities, even if that system is sold."

On Sunday, Iran's Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan said the country could receive S-300s from Russia by the end of 2015.

Russia and Iran signed an \$800-million deal for delivery of five S-300 battalions in 2007, but the deal was suspended after the UN Security Council issued an arms embargo on Tehran amid suspicions that it was trying to facilitate nuclear weapons development.

On April 13, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree lifting the ban on the sales, which do not violate the embargo.

The United States has expressed concern over Moscow's announcement arguing the sale would create instability in the Middle East.

<http://en.trend.az/iran/politics/2427195.html>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

Iran Will Revoke S-300 Lawsuit only after It Gets First Batch of Air Defense Systems

Russia insists the lawsuit should be revoked before it takes any action under the newly-concluded deal, a source in the Russian military-technical cooperation establishment says

August 26, 2015

ZHUKOVSKY /Moscow Region/, August 26. /TASS/. Negotiations over a new contract for the supply of air defense systems S-300 to Iran are continuing, but the parties remain divided over the procedure Iran will follow to revoke its lawsuit for Russia's decision to sever the previous contract, a source in the Russian military-technical cooperation establishment told TASS.

"Consultations are in progress. A final agreement has not been reached yet. Iran says it will revoke the lawsuit regarding the previous contract when it gets the first batch of products under the new one, while Russia insists the lawsuit should be revoked before it takes any action under the newly-concluded deal," the source said.

According to the official, Russia was firm in its intention to supply S-300 air defense systems to Iran. Possibly, the contracting parties will agree to compromise and the deliveries under the contract will start simultaneously with the lawsuit's withdrawal.

In reply to a question from TASS Rosoboronexport's Vyacheslav Davidenko said he had no comment to offer.

Under the 2007 contract Moscow pledged to deliver to Iran five battalions of S-300 air defense launchers \$800 million worth. In the autumn of 2010 the then Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed a decree to outlaw the supplies of S-300 to Iran. The contract was severed and the advance payment returned to Tehran. Iran filed a \$4-billion suit in Geneva's court of arbitration.

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In the spring of 2015 President Vladimir Putin lifted the ban from the export of S-300 systems to Tehran. Iranian Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan said he was expecting the contract would be concluded later this week.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/816700>

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Mehr News Agency – Tehran, Iran
27 August 2015

IAEA Confirms Iran's Fulfillment of Commitments

Vienna, Aug 27, IRNA -- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) verified that Iran has fulfilled all its commitments regarding its nuclear program.

The IAEA in its most recent updated report on Iran's nuclear program reiterated that Tehran has maintained its level of uranium enrichment, nuclear research and development and other activity in line with its declarations to the UN nuclear monitoring body.

The report also covers activities by Iran before the country reached a comprehensive breakthrough agreement in nuclear talks with the Group 5+1 countries (the US, Britain, France, China and Russia plus Germany) in Vienna on July 14.

Under the agreement, Iran has agreed to some restrictions in its nuclear program primarily in return for the removal of sanctions against it.

The updated IAEA report said, however, that the IAEA has still some reservations about Parchin, a military site located to the southeast of Tehran.

'Since (our) previous report (in May), at a particular location at the Parchin site, the agency has continued to observe, through satellite imagery, the presence of vehicles, equipment, and probable construction materials. In addition, a small extension to an existing building appears to have been constructed,' the report said.

But Iran has repeatedly denied any nuclear activity at Parchin, noting that 'road construction' activities have been done at the site.

The IAEA report covers Iran's nuclear program in the lead-up to the historic pact on July 14 and its first steps toward implementing that agreement.

In a statement released in New York on August 6, Iran's Permanent Mission to the UN said, 'Parchin military site is a vast area which includes various military, industrial, administrative and residential divisions, and thus construction operations are naturally and frequently conducted there.'

On July 14, Iran and the IAEA signed a roadmap for "the clarification of past and present issues" regarding Iran's nuclear program in Vienna. Iran provided some additional information on Parchin by August 15, further proving that it was complying with the mutual agreement with the UN atomic body.

IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano also confirmed Tuesday that Iran has delivered on its promises for sending information to the agency about the country's nuclear activities.

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/81737448/>

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran
Thursday, August 27, 2015

China Ready to Help Iran Modernize Arak Heavy Water Reactor

TEHRAN (FNA) - Chinese nuclear officials in a meeting with Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi promised to help Tehran modernize its heavy water reactor in the Central city of Arak.



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies (CUWS) Outreach Journal

Iran and China on Thursday agreed to modernize Arak heavy water reactor and cooperate in producing 20,000-megawatt of nuclear electricity.

Salehi held talks with chairman of China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) to discuss ways to foster mutual cooperation.

Touching upon the two countries' experiences in technical and engineering arenas, Iran's accessibility to the third generation nuclear technology and financing the nuclear projects, Salehi voiced the Islamic Republic's willingness to enhance its relations with China.

The Chinese side, for its part, welcomed promotion of cooperation with the AEIOI, and voiced readiness to help Iran modernize Arak heavy water reactor.

Salehi arrived in Beijing on Wednesday morning for an official three-day visit.

Leading a delegation, the AEIOI chief toured two reactors constructed by China National Nuclear Corporation on Thursday morning.

During Salehi's meeting with senior Chinese officials, including Chairman of China Atomic Energy Authority Xu Dazhe, both sides underscored the necessity for the further development of their cooperation in using peaceful nuclear technology.

In the meeting, the two sides underlined development of cooperation to utilize peaceful nuclear energy.

The AEIOI is willing to develop cooperation with Chinese Atomic Energy Authority on construction of small new power plant with the capacity of 100 megawatts with cost-effective expenses in light of the capability to generate electricity for limited area, produce industrial steam plant and desalinate water.

Salehi and Xu underlined the construction of such power plants to generate a total amount of 1,000 megawatts electricity to supply to the national grid.

The two officials assigned related experts of both countries to consider necessary grounds for the development of cooperation.

In relevant remarks on Wednesday, Salehi said Tehran was conducting negotiations with Beijing to construct two 100-MW nuclear power plants.

"We are in talks with the Chinese over the construction of two 100-MW power plants," Salehi said, addressing AEIOI staff in Tehran.

He also referred to the contract signed with Russia on building two other nuclear power plants, and said, "God willing, the construction work will start this year."

Salehi expressed the hope that 4 new nuclear power plants would start workshop operations in the next 3 to 4 years in Iran as well.

He also referred to Tehran's achievements in nuclear talks with the world powers, and said, "They failed to materialize all their objectives, at least in technical aspects."

Also in April, AEIOI Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi announced that Iran and China would partner in the construction of nuclear power plants.

"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.

"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.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13940605000516>

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Trend News Agency – Baku, Azerbaijan

Iran's 10-Year Nuclear Limits to Start from Sept. 23

By Umid Niayesh, Trend

27 August 2015

Imposing limits on the Islamic Republic's nuclear program will start from Sept. 23, the country's Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif said.

Based on the nuclear deal between Iran and the six world powers, the 10-year limitations will start from Sept. 23 and at the end of the period the Islamic Republic's nuclear case will be officially closed, Zarif said, Iran's Fars news agency reported August 27.

After several months of talks, on July 14, Iran and the P5+1 (US, Russia, China, France, UK, and Germany) announced a final accord, curbing Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of most international sanctions. Following the deal, members of the UN Security Council unanimously passed a resolution on July 20, endorsing the deal.

The resolution is completely clear and all limitations on Iran's nuclear program will be removed after 10 years, Zarif underlined.

He further said that the imposed weapon and missile limitations against Iran could be lifted even earlier, if the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) approves.

According to the UN Security Council resolution Iran will have to acquire permission from the UN Security Council for any arms deal it would like to make.

Meanwhile the Islamic Republic President Hassan Rouhani said early this week that Iran will ignore the resolution if necessary. Tehran will buy and sell weapons wherever it deems necessary and does not care about any resolution, he asserted.

The Iranian foreign minister also slammed the domestic critics of the nuclear deal, accusing them of trying to distort the achievement as a defeat.

<http://en.trend.az/iran/politics/2427623.html>

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The Jerusalem Post – Jerusalem, Israel

Iran's Parchin Not a Nuclear Site, State Department Says

Statement is departure from past US characterizations of the controversial site, which has been shut off to international nuclear inspectors since 2006.

By MICHAEL WILNER

August 28, 2015

NEW YORK -- Iran's military complex at Parchin is classified by the United States as a legitimate military site run by a sovereign nation, used for conventional military purposes, the State Department said on Thursday.

The statement, by department spokesman John Kirby, was a departure from past US characterizations of the controversial site, which has been shut off to international nuclear inspectors since 2006. The United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency suspects Iran used the site in the past to experiment with nuclear weapons technology.

Any site that hosts such activity— whether it be military or civilian, declared or undeclared by a member state of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to the IAEA— counts as a nuclear site in the eyes of the UN nuclear watchdog. That includes sites that host experimentation with fissile material, as well as those that do not, but instead experiment with nuclear weapons technology such as trigger mechanisms.

"It's important to remember that when you're talking about a site like Parchin, you're talking about a conventional military site, not a nuclear site," Kirby said on Thursday. "So there wouldn't be any IAEA or other restrictions on new construction at that site were they to occur."

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Kirby was responding to reports of construction activity at the Parchin site. Based on satellite imagery, the IAEA believes Iran is adding an additional facility to the complex. Tehran says it does not need the IAEA's permission to build or adapt military facilities. For over a decade, the IAEA has sought answers to a set list of questions regarding the possible military dimensions of Iran's past nuclear work. The agency agreed on a "road-map" with Iran last month toward that end and hopes to conclude its inquiry by the end of the year. Theoretically, the inquiry is intended to conclude whether the site is conventional or nuclear in nature.

If the investigation concludes to the satisfaction of the IAEA, Iran will begin receiving its sanctions relief, and the broader Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action— the formal name for the Iran nuclear deal— will go into effect.

<http://www.jpost.com/International/Irans-Parchin-not-a-nuclear-site-State-Department-says-413536>

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DAWN.com – Karachi, Pakistan

We Are a Nuclear Power, and Know How to Defend Ourselves: Sartaj Aziz

Dawn.com

August 24, 2015

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs and National Security Sartaj Aziz said on Sunday that the current Indian government under Narendra Modi acts as if it is a regional superpower.

"Modi's India acts as if they are a regional superpower, we are a nuclear-armed country and we know how to defend ourselves," said Aziz.

"We also have evidence of Indian agency RAW's involvement in fuelling terrorism in Pakistan," added Aziz.

He also said that while Pakistan has evidence of Indian involvement in terrorism, India on the other hand only has propaganda against Pakistan.

"Propaganda against Pakistan is more important for the Indians, rather than giving us evidence," stated the adviser to the premier.

Sartaj Aziz also said that India wants normalisation on their own terms, they would like to talk about trade and connectivity but not much else.

He remarked, "If Kashmir is not an issue for India, why have stationed 700,000 troops in Indian-occupied Kashmir?"

The adviser to the premier also stated that India should hold a referendum in occupied Kashmir, and the people would decide their own fate.

"India should realise after the current episode that their tactics are not working, and they need to be sincere about dialogue with Pakistan," added Aziz.

Yesterday, the government decided to cancel the planned meeting of national security advisers with India, citing New Delhi's refusal to allow an expanded agenda and a meeting with Kashmiri leaders. The Indian external affairs ministry immediately termed the decision "unfortunate" and tried to wash its hands of the controversy that led to the cancellation of the meeting by saying that it "did not set any preconditions".

The decision was announced after Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj virtually set a deadline for Pakistan to decide by midnight if it was ready to go ahead with the talks by agreeing not to meet the Kashmiri leaders and restricting the discussion to terrorism.

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Besides a discussion on terrorism, Pakistan had sought inclusion of two additional points in the agenda -- a review of the progress on decisions taken in Ufa regarding release of fishermen, facilitating religious tourism and restoring peace along the Line of Control and the Working Boundary; and exploration of the modalities for discussions on other outstanding issues, including Kashmir, Sir Creek and Siachen.

The meeting between the two countries' security advisers was supposed to signal the resumption of talks between India and Pakistan.

Since the meeting between the two premiers in July, militant attacks and border skirmishes have poisoned the atmosphere between Islamabad and New Delhi.

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1202323/we-are-a-nuclear-power-and-know-how-to-defend-ourselves-sartaj-aziz>

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Deccan Herald –Bengaluru, India

'Pak's Nuclear Arsenal Could Be World's 3rd-Largest in a Decade'

Press Trust of India (PTI)

27 August 2015

WASHINGTON: Pakistan is on course of having about 350 nuclear weapons in about a decade, the world's third-largest stockpile after the US and Russia and twice that of India, two major American think-tanks said today.

"In the next five to 10 years Pakistan could have a nuclear arsenal not only twice the size of India's but also larger than those of the United Kingdom, China, and France, giving it the third-largest arsenal behind the United States and Russia," said a report by two renowned scholars Tom Dalton and Michael Krepon.

The 48-page report titled 'A Normal Nuclear Pakistan' by the Stimson Center and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace says that the growth path of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, enabled by existing infrastructure goes well beyond the assurances of credible minimal deterrence provided by Pakistani officials and analysts after testing nuclear devices.

"If Pakistan continues on its current path, and if there is no reassessment of its presumed need to compete effectively with India, in 10 years time Pakistan could possess a nuclear arsenal nearing 350 weapons (or at least a stockpile of fissile material sufficient for an arsenal of this size)," the report said.

"If Pakistan has defined production requirements for approximately 20 nuclear warheads annually against an India that competes haphazardly, it is unlikely to diminish annual production requirements for an India that competes seriously," it said.

Consequently, if New Delhi picks up the pace of this competition and Rawalpindi responds accordingly, Pakistan's future nuclear stockpile could grow well beyond 350 nuclear warheads.

"If deterrence fails, it appears that Pakistan has no intention of 'losing' a nuclear war with India," it said.

By staying on its present course, Pakistan faces very long odds against entering the nuclear mainstream, the report noted.

NSG members -- especially its non-nuclear-weapon state members -- are likely to view Pakistan's rapid growth in fissile material stocks and warheads as contrary to the norms of responsible nuclear stewardship, it said.

A nuclear future in which Pakistan seeks to exceed or at least match or offset the growth in India's nuclear and conventional military capabilities appears far bleaker for Pakistan than for India, the two think tanks said.

"Both countries have immense social needs, but by virtue of its faster-growing economy and expanding international trade, India has far more resources to devote to them," it said.

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Maintaining such a large nuclear arsenal would come at a huge economic cost, the report said, adding that by staying on the present course, Pakistan's civilian and military leaders will face very hard budgetary decisions going forward.

"Pakistan's nuclear arsenal requires large mortgage payments within a baseline security budget (\$7 billion) that officially consumes 2.8 per cent of Pakistan's GDP, but, is assuredly much higher," the report said.

According to published government documents, expenditures for atomic energy programmes this past year -- which may include some, but probably not all, of the activities related to Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme -- were roughly \$650 million.

"With a growing population, major social and education requirements, severe energy shortfalls and rising needs, as well as requirements to bolster law enforcement and a judiciary that can stabilise Pakistan's internal security, Islamabad can ill-afford nuclear mortgage payments that will balloon in the decades ahead," the report said.

"These expenses will crowd out more pressing requirements to improve conventional armaments that military commanders are far more likely to use, whether in North Waziristan or elsewhere," it said.

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/497645/paks-nuclear-arsenal-could-worlds.html>

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The Economic Times – Mumbai, India

India - The only External Threat: Pakistani Military

By Press Trust of India (PTI)

28 August 2015

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan military has told a parliamentary committee that India is the only external threat to the country and the situation with regard to ties was volatile in the wake of the suspended Indo-Pak dialogue.

The Senate defence committee led by Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed yesterday visited military's Joint Staff Headquarters in Rawalpindi, where it was briefed by chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Rashad Mahmood and his team.

The military officials shared the perceived threat with members of the Senate that India had over the last couple of years purchased weapons worth \$100 billion, 80 per cent of which were Pakistan-specific, the Dawn reported.

The Indian army's 'shopping spree', it was said, was continuing and over the next five years it would be buying weapons worth another \$100 billion.

India, which is the world's second largest arms importer, has more than doubled its military spending over the last decade. Delhi's defence budget for this year was \$40.07 billion, the paper said.

This requires a continuous evaluation of the situation and upgradation of the response mechanism, the members were told.

The committee was also informed that the situation was volatile in view of the suspended dialogue between India and Pakistan and the absence of any conflict resolution mechanism.

They were also informed on how the Joint Staff Headquarters worked as a higher defence organisation and Strategic Plans Division, which is the custodian of the nuclear programme.

Talking about the non-traditional security challenges, the military officials said threats in cyberspace were posing a major challenge and urged the government to establish an Inter-Services Cyber Command to combat cyber-attacks and cyber-warfare.

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<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-the-only-external-threat-pakistani-military/articleshow/48707940.cms>

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The Daily Signal – Washington, D.C.

OPINION/Commentary

The Nuclear Activity You Should Be Paying Attention To

By James Carafano

August 22, 2015

The Iran deal is the biggest nuclear story of the decade. Yet most Americans are paying little attention. Even the 70th anniversary of dropping the atomic bombs on Japan stirred little interest. Today, nuclear weapons are pretty much “out of sight, out of mind.”

That’s quite a change from the Cold War era, when an entire generation of Americans was raised on worrying about “duck and cover.”

In America, writes Yale professor Paul Bracken, “[n]uclear weapons are considered a relic of the Cold War.” And that’s a dangerous conceit. As Bracken warns:

Even as China, India, and others have reenergized their nuclear weapon programs, the United States refuses to acknowledge this development. US nuclear “forgetting” contrasts with the nuclear learning going on in China, North Korea, Iran, India, Pakistan, Israel, and others. This is a significant strategic asymmetry.

We have only ourselves to blame for this imbalance. The United States has a conscious policy of devaluing the importance of nuclear arms. President Obama embraced the notion of pushing for “global zero” as a cornerstone of American defense strategy. There is little to show for this effort aside from the controversial deal with Iran. The administration insists that the agreement will foreclose the nuclear option for the regime in Tehran. Others disagree.

But forget about the Iran deal. There is much, much more going on in global nuclear competition—and it’s receiving scant attention from U.S. policymakers as well as the American public.

Exhibit A: the attention not being paid to tracking Russian nuclear activities. Consider the 1987 treaty on Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF). In 2014 the U.S. State Department reported that Russia had rung up numerous violations of that accord. Yet there is little discussion of how to bring Moscow back into compliance. In an in-depth assessment of Russian behavior, strategic analyst Michaela Dodge recently concluded that “the treaty has outlived its utility and is no longer in the U.S. interest.”

Yet there is almost no debate or discussion in Washington of the viability of existing arms control treaties, even as the administration presses to seal the Iran deal. If the U.S. can’t manage the Russians, how can we expect Washington to do any better holding Tehran accountable?

Arms control isn’t the only strategic topic that deserves more attention. Nuclear modernization and missile defense deserve a good deal more consideration as well.

Finally, there ought to be real debate about nuclear strategy. The world is way past outdated notions like massive retaliation and mutually assured destruction, which dominated Cold War strategy debates.

There is an argument that what the U.S. really needs is a “protect and defend” strategy. This would include a mix of strategic offensive and defense capabilities (nuclear weapons and missile defense), as well as strong conventional arms to deter and constrain all the bad actors in the world today.

Others can suggest options other than “global zero” or the “protect and defend” strategy, but Americans can never afford to forget about debating the role of strategic arms in our nation’s defense.



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James Jay Carafano, a leading expert in national security and foreign policy challenges, is The Heritage Foundation's Vice President, Foreign and Defense Policy Studies, E. W. Richardson Fellow, and Director of the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies.

Originally published in Forbes.

<http://dailysignal.com/2015/08/22/the-nuclear-activity-you-should-be-paying-attention-to/>

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Mehr News Agency – Tehran, Iran

OPINION/Op-Ed

'Death to America' Still Iran's Policy

By Hamid Reza Gholamzadeh

Monday, 24 August 2015

TEHRAN, Aug. 24 (MNA) – In his recent speech a week ago, Iran's Leader Ayat. Khamenei once again criticized the Americans very harshly, dubbing them as epitome of 'enemy' for Iran and the Muslim world .

The recent speech by the Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Khamenei addressing foreign guests of two international and Islamic event in the country on August 17 was almost the clearest and the most strategic message to the West after the July 14 nuclear deal between Iran and the 5+1.

Ayatollah Khamenei's remarks was a fresh manifestation of basic principles of the Islamic Revolution amid speculations that the JCPOA would lead to normalization of ties between Iran and West, particularly the 'Great Satan'. In fact, the remarks by Iran's Leader, more than anything else, was an outspoken positioning against the United States.

First of all, pointing to a verse in Quran, Ayat. Khamenei described the country's policy as being firm against enemies and soft toward Muslims. He described 'enemy' as Arrogant Powers 'whose existence depends on dominance over others, interfering into their issues, and controlling their financial and natural sources'.

“In our political lexicon, we refer to them as 'hegemony,' which means dividing the world into two groups of 'the Oppressors' and 'the Oppressed'. All those leading this system of hegemony are enemies. And if we want to introduce an embodiment for it out there, it is the United States regime. A total illustration of hegemonic system is the regime of the United States of America. There are of course others as well, but the most concrete, evident and distinct instance is the United States, who is devoid of morality and has no shame to commit any crimes and commits violence and oppression in cold blood and under pretext of good slogans. That is the enemy we mean(2015/08/17) ”.

Iran's Leader is pitching up his harsh criticism towards the US as part of his recent censure against the States' policies in the region and the whole world. Such comments could be heard more and more during the negotiations between Iran and the 5+1. While some analysts and media tried to interpret sitting of Iran at negotiation table with the US representatives as sign of gradual improvement of relations between the decades-long enemies, Ayat. Khamenei reiterated Iran's opposition to US policies and asserted that “the American policies in the region are 180 degrees the opposite of the policies of the Islamic Republic(2015/07/18) ”.

Another instance of such positioning was earlier on July 11 when university students met with the Leader; a meeting during which hot debates are usually made as students frankly criticize authorities and offer their speculations and solutions, thus covering host of key issues about which students try to receive feedbacks from and viewpoints of the Leader. Therefore, when asked by students about 'their responsibility towards fighting against arrogance after the negotiations,' Ayat. Khamenei emphasizes that

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the topic has been ‘one of the things that I had written down to discuss’ in the meeting to show the significance of the issue.

“This is among our fundamental duties. It is one of the principles of the Revolution. If fighting against arrogance does not take place, it means that we are not followers of the Holy Quran at all. Fighting against arrogance cannot be stopped and America is the very epitome of arrogance in all its forms. We have said to the honorable officials in charge of nuclear negotiations that they can only negotiate on the nuclear issue, not any other issue and they have listened to this(2015/07/11) ”.

In his August 17 remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei also slammed the United States for its attempts to infiltrate into and interfere with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the region, as well. He emphasized on sovereignty of states and criticized the West for trying to ‘infiltrate into the region’ and ‘sow sectarian discord’ among Muslim nations. However, the Leader asserted that Iran “would not allow such thing to happen”.

This criticizing tone could also be seen in different speeches by Iran’s Leader during the nuclear talks. This was usually in form of slamming excessive demands of the western parties to the negotiations and with regard to their previous instances of misbehavior and lack of commitment to previous agreements or cooperation. Ayatollah Khamenei has also urged a firm enough deal so that the other parties would not be able to interpret it to meet their own interests, as it was done after Lausanne agreement.

These are indeed the main reasons the Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran has so far since July 14 insisted that the JCPOA must proceed with its legal procedure to be ratified. Moreover, during the recent speech, he also emphasized that the fate of the deal was still unclear both in Iran and the United States; a reiteration of his earlier positions that, firstly, the deal must be approved within its normal procedures under Iran’s regulations; and, secondly, casting doubt about US honesty in reviewing and implementing the deal; and asserting that the deal would not pave the way for any possible interference or penetration into Iran by the Americans.

In short, in order to avoid any misinterpretations – either intentionally or unintentionally – of nuclear negotiations and the JCPOA and of recent developments in the region, the world and Iran’s foreign policy, the Leader of the Islamic Republic has in his major remarks in recent months been illustrating the frameworks of Iran’s basic principles and foreign policy; and meanwhile, critically introducing arrogant and interventionist policies of the United States. This in fact means that the policy of opposing and confronting the United States still remains in place and there is going to be no changes in this part of the Iranian policy.

Hamid Reza Gholamzadeh has done his MA in North American Studies and his focus has been on US policies towards the Middle East. He also contributes to Mehr News as a columnist.

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/109482/Death-to-America-still-Iran-s-policy>

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The Diplomat – Tokyo, Japan
OPINION/Asia Defense

Should the Pentagon Fear China’s Newest Weapon?

Beijing conducted yet another test of a new high-tech hypersonic glide vehicle.

By Franz-Stefan Gady for *The Diplomat*

August 25, 2015

Last Wednesday, China conducted its fifth test of the WU-14 hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV) – an ultra high-speed missile purportedly capable of penetrating U.S. air defense systems based on interceptor missiles, Bill Gertz of *The Washington Free Beacon* reports.

“The latest test of what the Pentagon calls the Wu-14 hypersonic glide vehicle was carried out from the Wuzhai missile test range in central China. The test was judged successful, according to defense officials familiar with details of the event,” Gertz notes.



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This was the fifth time that China tested this new weapon (See: “Will This Chinese Weapon Be Able to Sink an Aircraft Carrier?”) and it could be an indication that the W-14 may soon become operational.

Similar to the June 7 test, the WU-14 HGV again performed evasive actions - extreme maneuvers - which makes the detection and tracking of the weapon difficult, if not impossible.

As I noted in my previous piece, the W-14 warhead is carried to the boundary between space and Earth’s atmosphere, approximately 100 km above the ground, by a large ballistic missile booster. Once it reaches that height, it begins to glide in a relatively flat trajectory by executing a pull-up maneuver and accelerates to speeds of up to Mach 10.

The gliding phase enables the W-14 HGV not only to maneuver aerodynamically - performing evasive actions and evading interception - but also extends the range of the missile.

Furthermore, I explained:

[U]nlike conventional reentry vehicles, which descend through the atmosphere on a predictable ballistic trajectory, hypersonic glider vehicles are almost impossible to intercept by conventional missile defense systems, which track incoming objects via satellite sensors and ground and sea radar.

Thus, the answer to why the Pentagon should be worried about this new weapon is simple: its speed, range, and erratic flight path make it a potent weapon that not only could be deployed against land targets but also used to attack large U.S. naval vessels, although the development of such an anti-ship HGV could still take up to two decades, according to experts.

However, Rick Fisher, a senior fellow with the International Assessment and Strategy Center told the *Washington Free Beacon* that the threat against U.S. naval assets could indeed become a reality in the future:

At a minimum this latest test indicates China is likely succeeding in achieving a key design objective: building a warhead capable of withstanding the very high stress of hypersonic maneuvering. It is likely that the test vehicle will form the basis for a missile launched weapon. The advent of a Chinese hypersonic weapon may pose the greatest early threat to large U.S. Navy ships. The best prospect for a defensive response would be to greatly accelerate railgun development.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Navy has had a number of difficulties fielding directed energy weapons systems such as railguns for a while now (See: “US Navy’s Deadly New Gun Won’t Be Ready for Some Time”).

On August 6, China also tested its newest intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) - the DF-41 (CSS-X-20) - with two guided simulated nuclear warheads (See: “China Tests New Missile Capable of Hitting Entire United States”). WU-14 hypersonic glider vehicles (HGVs) could potentially be installed on the DF-41, which would provide Beijing for the first time with a precision strike capability to hit any target in the world within an hour.

Franz-Stefan Gady is an Associate Editor with The Diplomat.

<http://thediplomat.com/2015/08/should-the-pentagon-fear-chinas-newest-weapon/>

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Real Clear Defense - Chicago, IL

OPINION/Article

Number One Priority: Nuclear Deterrence

By Matthew R. Costlow

August 25, 2015



What do you do when the nation's senior-most military figure says that today's global security environment "is the most unpredictable" he has seen in his 40 years of service? The first thing you should do is listen up. The second thing you should do is ask "why?" and "what should we do?" General Martin E. Dempsey, the outgoing Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recently introduced the latest version of the "National Military Strategy of the United States of America." The unremarkable title and relatively quiet roll-out of this document mask some of the significant conclusions President Obama's top military advisers have come to, namely, "global disorder has significantly increased while some of our comparative military advantage has begun to erode." While malicious state and nonstate actors and technology competitions are nothing new on the international stage, one conclusion the Joint Chiefs of Staff came to is somewhat surprising: that there is a "growing" risk of "war with a major power." Additionally, the Joint Chiefs of Staff expect that "future conflicts between states may prove to be unpredictable, costly, and difficult to control." Likewise, the National Intelligence Council believes that "the employment of new forms of warfare such as cyber and space warfare" will allow states to "escalate and expand future conflicts beyond the traditional battlefield."

So not only is there a growing risk of the United States being involved in a war with a major power, but the number and type of potential crises that could spark a war is rising.

That answers the question of "why" the threat environment is unpredictable. The subsequent question then is, "what should we do about it?"

The Joint Chiefs of Staff ranked their priorities in this unpredictable world and one mission stood out above the rest. The number one priority as defined by President Obama's top military advisers is sustaining and modernizing the U.S. nuclear triad of bombers, submarines, and missiles.

The Obama administration, as well as previous ones, has determined rightly that ensuring the United States possesses a flexible and resilient nuclear force now is the best hope for deterring existential threats both now and in the uncertain future. Nuclear weapons can help deter the only existential-level threats facing the United States in ways that conventional, economic, or political power alone cannot.

This recognition is not, as some critics have claimed, anachronistic thought coming from long-slumbering Cold Warriors. It is a clear-eyed admission of reality that is, while unpleasant, supremely necessary.

A recently-released report titled "Project Atom," which surveyed four of the leading think-tanks on this issue, shows there is remarkable agreement across most of the ideological spectrum. All four think tanks concluded that all three legs of the nuclear triad should not only be retained, but modernized.

Critics at this point may concede that nuclear weapons are necessary for America's defense, but claim current modernization plans are "unaffordable" and just as much deterrent effect could be squeezed out of a smaller nuclear force. Advocates of this position point to President Obama's pledge in Berlin in 2013 to seek up to a one-third cut in deployed U.S. nuclear weapons.

What proponents of further nuclear cuts fail to realize, however, is that President Obama's pledge was not a call for unilateral U.S. disarmament, but rather a proposal for negotiated nuclear reductions with Russia. Little more than seven months after the speech, Russian troops occupied Crimea, and Russia now rejects further negotiations. Alas, the unpredictability of international relations remains a cruel constant.

As for the affordability of U.S. nuclear modernization plans, new research shows that U.S. nuclear forces will indeed be affordable as the U.S. defense budget shifts to accommodate upcoming expenses. Again, it is a matter of ranking military priorities, and U.S. military leaders agree that the modernization of U.S. nuclear forces ranks right at the top.

While the U.S. nuclear force is the top military priority, this does not mean it is silver bullet that can address every security threat facing America today, it was never meant to. Just as tanks are useless against cyber-attacks and artillery cannot defend satellites in space, U.S. nuclear weapons have



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defined roles for limited missions, namely: deterring massive attacks on the United States, defeating an enemy and limiting damage should deterrence fail, deterring attacks on our allies and assuring them of our capabilities, and limiting coercion by state and non-state actors.

Deterrence, as a strategy, is not fool-proof and guarantees nothing. But every presidential administration, Republican and Democrat alike, since the dawn of the atomic age has recognized the immense value U.S. nuclear weapons have in deterring catastrophic attacks and affecting the behavior of international leaders.

Choosing not to modernize U.S. nuclear forces or cutting their numbers drastically will result in a less adaptable force in an international system that enforces one rule ruthlessly: evolve or die. Like debates in Washington D.C. always seem to do, conversation will inevitably gravitate towards the question of affordability in a tight budget environment. Yet, this is at best a secondary issue. The real question is, what priority should we give U.S. nuclear modernization in an uncertain and unpredictable world? The answer: number one.

Matthew R. Costlow is a Policy Analyst at the National Institute for Public Policy. His research focuses on nuclear deterrence and assurance, arms control, nonproliferation, Russian and Chinese defense strategy, and nuclear terrorism. His work has previously appeared in Defense News, The National Interest, TheHill.com, and RealClearDefense.com.

http://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2015/08/25/number_one_priority_nuclear_deterrence_108408.html

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The National Interest – Washington, D.C.

OPINION/The Buzz

This Is How China and Russia Plan to Crush America's Stealth Aircraft

By Zachary Keck

August 26, 2015

Both China and Russia appear to be building unmanned aerial vehicles designed to negate America's advantages in stealth aircraft.

Earlier this year, photos first emerged of a new High Altitude, Long Endurance (HALE) UAV termed the Divine Eagle that foreign observers believe is designed to detect and eliminate stealth enemy aircraft far from the Chinese mainland.

As Jeffrey Lin and P.W. Singer wrote back in May:

"[The Divine Eagle's] long range anti-stealth capabilities can be used against both aircraft, like the B-2 bomber, and warships such as the DDG-1000 destroyer. Using the Divine Eagle as a picket, the Chinese air force could quickly intercept stealthy enemy aircraft, missiles and ships well before they come in range of the Mainland. Flying high, the Divine Eagle could also detect anti-ship missile trucks and air defenses on land, in preparation for offensive Chinese action."

Russia appears to be designing a similar system, according to Flight Global.

While at the MAKS show in Moscow this week, Flight Global spoke with Vladimir Mikheev, the first deputy chief executive officer of the electronic systems producer KRET, about a new UAV being shown at the show, which KRET is a subcontractor on. During the interview, Mikheev said the new (thus far, unnamed UAV) is similar to China's Divine Eagle in that it uses low frequency radars to detect low-observable stealth aircraft like the F-35, F-22 and B-2 bomber. Most stealth aircraft are created to evade high-frequency radar systems.

The Russian UAV goes a step further by integrating a sophisticated electronic warfare suite onto the aircraft. According to Flight Global, "Mikheev says KRET is providing a deeply-integrated electronic

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warfare system that not only provides a protective electromagnetic sphere around the aircraft to counter air-to-air missiles, but also cloaks it from radars." Thus, if true, Russia's new UAV would be able to detect America's stealth aircraft without itself being detected. That could be a deadly combination.

Some in the U.S. military are already planning for a day in which stealth becomes mostly obsolete. As *The National Interest* previously noted, when discussing what America's sixth generation fighter jet might look like back in February, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert said that stealth may be overrated.

"You can only go so fast, and you know that stealth may be overrated.... Let's face it, if something moves fast through the air, disrupts molecules and puts out heat—I don't care how cool the engine can be, it's going to be detectable. You get my point."

It was not the first time that Greenert had questioned the long-term viability of stealth technology. In a 2012 paper, for instance, he said that better computing power would ultimately greatly undermine the value of stealth.

"Those developments do not herald the end of stealth, but they do show the limits of stealth design in getting platforms close enough to use short-range weapons," Greenert wrote at the time, according to the *Navy Times*.

"It is time to consider shifting our focus from platforms that rely solely on stealth to also include concepts for operating farther from adversaries using standoff weapons and unmanned systems — or employing electronic-warfare payloads to confuse or jam threat sensors rather than trying to hide from them."

Dave Majumdar has also observed on *The National Interest* that, "Russia and China are already working on new networked air defenses coupled with new radars operating in the UHF and VHF-bands that threaten to neutralize America's massive investment in fifth-generation fighters. Fighter-sized stealth aircraft are only optimized to perform against high-frequency fire control band radars operating in the Ku, X, C and portions of the S-band."

Not everyone completely agrees, however. For example, in response to Greenert's comments about the stealth capabilities of America's future 6th Generation fighter, Gen. Hawk Carlisle, the head of Air Combat Command, said that stealth will continue to be "hugely important."

"Stealth is wonderful, but you have to have more than stealth," Carlisle said, according to the *Air Force Times*. "You have to have fusion, you have to have different capabilities across the spectrum. It will be incredibly important. It won't be the only key attribute, and it isn't today."

Zachary Keck is managing editor of *The National Interest*.

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/how-china-russia-plan-crush-americas-stealth-aircraft-13708>

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Gatestone Institute – New York, NY
OPINION/Commentary

The Alfred E. Neumann "What, Me Worry?" School of Nuclear Deterrence

By Peter Huessy
August 27, 2015

Jeffrey Lewis argues that, whatever China's motives are for deploying such weapons, "there is no arguing that China's nuclear force is small." Unless, of course, you happen to live in Taiwan, Vietnam, South Korea, Japan, Nepal, Tibet, the Philippines, Indonesia, or Malaysia -- all of which collectively have zero nuclear weapons.

Lewis also assures us China has no interest in a "large" number of missiles. He argues that China's nuclear posture has been driven "by an enthusiasm for reaching technological milestones" -- as if China is simply engaging in a high school science project.

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In the nuclear deterrent business, U.S. commanders both civilian and military are paid to take things seriously.

Getting the nuclear deterrent business wrong would, after all, be bad for America, bad for civilization and bad for the world.

Recently, China tested a missile with multiple warheads. Up to that time, all of China's nuclear-armed missiles were assumed to have only single warheads. Many of those were liquid-fueled and required considerable time to load and launch.

It is true that China's increased economic and military clout is seen by conventional thinking largely as a "peaceful rise" -- a term taken directly from the Chinese communist party description of its overarching goal of "pursuing a peaceful rise."

Ahh, a "*peaceful rise!*" So what's the worry?

According to one arms control analyst, Jeffrey Lewis, China's recent missile test merely demonstrates Chinese prowess in developing missile technology -- not any danger to the United States or our allies.

According to Lewis, the Chinese have in fact not changed their strategy on nuclear weaponry. The test was simply the result of a "decision taken a long time ago," which Peking just now got around to implementing. Lewis is implying, of course, that the deployment of many new warheads in the Chinese nuclear arsenal is not a big deal.

"China," Lewis continues, "has a fairly small arsenal of nuclear-armed ballistic weapons," but with significant technological "drawbacks." A recent PBS television documentary approvingly cited a claim that China has only twenty warheads capable of reaching the USA. So what's the problem? Lewis also reassures us that only *some* of the 18 Chinese "bad boy" multiple independently targetable reentry vehicle (MIRV) missiles can reach "all" of the United States, and a second series of missiles -- the DF-31A -- probably cannot reach "much" of the United States. China's missiles, writes Lewis, can mostly "only" target Hawaii, Alaska and the West Coast.

Lewis also argues that in examining "What else would one do with all that space" on top of a rocket, the Chinese would not necessarily put a lot of warheads in it. He further explains that the Chinese will probably also deploy some warhead "decoys" in the same space to "defeat missile defenses."

Oh, so it's *our* fault: *we* made the Chinese do it!

Lewis then chastises Americans for thinking there is something "morally compromised" about China placing multiple warheads on its ballistic missiles. After all, writes Lewis, the U.S. has multiple warheads on the D-5 missiles aboard its submarines, so why can the Chinese not do so as well?

Lewis's position is ironic. Throughout the Reagan defense build-up of America's nuclear deterrent, the "arms control community" roundly condemned the U.S. deployment of the multiple-warhead Peacekeeper land-based missile as highly destabilizing and even immoral.[1] But now that China is poised to deploy such multiple warheads on both its land- and sea-based nuclear forces, Lewis argues precisely the opposite -- that it is no cause for concern.

In addition, Lewis notes, whatever China's motives are for deploying such weapons, "there is no arguing that China's nuclear force is small." Unless, of course, you happen to live in Taiwan, Vietnam, South Korea, Japan, Nepal, Tibet, the Philippines, Indonesia, or Malaysia -- all of which have collectively zero nuclear weapons.

Lewis also assures us China has no interest in a "large" number of missiles. He argues that China's nuclear posture has been driven "by an enthusiasm for reaching technological milestones" -- as if China is simply engaging in a high school science project and not seeking nuclear weaponry as a means of achieving hegemonic ambitions.[2]



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And just so we don't get the wrong idea, Lewis reminds us that it was America's nuclear deterrent "posture," and not China's, that inspired the movie "Dr. Strangelove."

Lewis also claims that with a multiple warhead missile, the Chinese can better survive a "sneak attack" because its missile force is small. However, according to Philip Karber, a retired senior Pentagon official, a number of top-level sources believe China has 3000 warheads, or 200% of America's deployed strategic arsenal.[3]

Finally, Lewis argues that while China might "stumble" unthinkingly into an arms race, America already chases "unthinking new missile defense and conventional strike capabilities."

Because China's is only a "peaceful rise," right?

Peter Huessy is president of GeoStrategic Analysis.

Notes

[1] *MX Prescription for Disaster*, by Herbert Scoville Jr. Illustrated. 231 pp. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press.

[2] "Strategic Implications of China's Great Underground Wall," Philip Karber, September 26, 2011. The Chinese nuclear arsenal probably is now, or soon will be, in the 400-800 warhead range; but all numbers are estimates by U.S. and other China experts, not numbers published by any official Chinese government or military sources. No such data is available. For further information, see Mark Schneider of NIPP, Dan Cheng of the Heritage Foundation, and Richard Fischer of the International Assessment and Strategy Center, all of whom are experts on the issue.

[3] Michael Pillsbury, *The Hundred-Year Marathon: China's Secret Strategy to Replace America as the Global Superpower*, Henry Holt and Company 2015; and "China's Missiles and the Implications for the United States," Conference at the Hudson Institute, August 19, 2015, hosted by national security expert Rebeccah Heinrichs.

<http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/6396/nuclear-deterrence>

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