



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies (CUWS) Outreach Journal

CUWS Outreach Journal 1186

9 October 2015

Feature Item: *“Stopping Nuclear Terrorism is a Game of Odds, Not Certainty.”* Authored by Steven Johnson; published by WIRED.com; October 8, 2015.

<http://www.wired.com/2015/10/stopping-nuclear-terrorism-game-odds-not-certainty/>

There are 30,000 nuclear weapons in the world, plus countless supplies of radioactive material that could be made into a dirty bomb, which spreads its poison with a conventional explosion. We live in the age of the “super-empowered angry young man,” in Thomas Friedman’s phrase, and any disgruntled group on the planet is a potential radiological event waiting to happen. No matter how hard you try to assuage or attack such groups, the odds are against you. So it’s prudent not only to keep potential bomb detonators away from bombs but also to keep bombs away from large groups of potential victims.

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Amarillo Globe-News – Amarillo, TX

Pantex Workers End Strike, Ratify Contract

October 4, 2015

By Aaron Davis

The Pantex workers union, represented by the Metal Trades Council, voted in a secret ballot Sunday to ratify the contract negotiated between the union and Consolidated Nuclear Security ending the longest labor-related work stoppage in the plant's history

The new four-year labor agreement was negotiated with help from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services.

Workers voted from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in a secret ballot at Caprock High School. The agreement required a simple majority to ratify.

“This process has come to a conclusion and we feel extremely fortunate to have the ability to collectively bargain for our current conditions of employment,” said Charles Thomas, vice president of the Metal Trades Council. “We were able to maintain the levels of care that we had previously and we were able to control costs through the collective bargaining process.”

The main sticking point between CNS, the company that operates the plant, and the council was the escalating costs of health care benefits.

Sunday marked the 39th day of the strike, which surpassed the last MTC strike at Pantex in 1970; that one lasted for 26 days.

On Aug. 8, 87 percent of the unionized members of the MTC rejected a four-year contract proposal from CNS that represented its “best, last and final” offer.

The strike began Aug. 28 after the MTC rejected the idea of a benefits valuation, which would compare Pantex workers' benefits with those of workers at other businesses in the area. The sides eventually agreed on a smaller increase, union officials said.

On Sept. 22, federal negotiators arrived at the Pantex Plant to help resolve the labor dispute.

“These were difficult and stressful negotiations for the employer and union representatives,” said Allison Beck, director of FMCS. “This tentative agreement is the result of many long days and many late nights for both sides. In their discussions, labor and management were faced with complex issues and some very tough choices, which they were dedicated to resolving. Thanks to their efforts, we now have reason to hope normal operations will soon be restored at this vital facility.”

As part of the strike settlement agreement, MTC will withdraw a charge filed with the National Labor Relations Board that claimed CNS had refused to furnish information during ongoing contract negotiations. However, MTC did not withdraw a charge that alleges CNS unilaterally changed the contract that was filed in March.

All workers are scheduled to return to work today at the nuclear armament and disarmament facility located northeast of Amarillo. MTC issued a press release directing workers to wait for their supervision to notify them of instructions to report to work.

Although the health benefits will go up, MTC spokesperson Charles Thomas said that this was also a factor of all insurance costs going up.

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"Every American's health care will go up over the years, but through collective bargaining we were able to control how much they go up," Thomas said. "We were only able to do this because we had the ability to collectively bargain."

<http://amarillo.com/news/latest-news/2015-10-04/pantex-workers-end-strike-ratify-contract>

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Sputnik International – Russian Information Agency

Russia Begins Construction of Anti-Missile Radar in Arctic

The construction and renovation of the missile attack warning system is set to be completed by 2020, according to the Russian Aerospace Defense Forces.

3 October 2015

MOSCOW (Sputnik) — Construction of a cutting-edge missile attack early warning radar station has begun in the Arctic, Russia's Aerospace Defense Forces Deputy Commander said Saturday.

"Just the other day, on September 24, in the north of the country in Vorkuta, we laid the foundation stone in the construction of new early-warning radar, which will not only replace our stations in Pechora and Olenegorsk but will also supplement them," Maj. Gen. Anatoly Nestechuk told the Rusnovosti radio station.

Nestechuk added that the Usolye-Sibirskoye radar station was currently tracking all missile launches from the territories of China, the Sea of Okhotsk and the Pacific Ocean.

<http://sputniknews.com/military/20151003/1027979871/russia-anti-missile-radar-arctic.html>

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The Hankyoreh – Seoul, South Korea

US Deputy Secretary of State Hints at THAAD in S. Korea

In Seoul, Tony Blinken also emphasizing China's role in pushing N. Korea to denuclearize

By Kim Ji-hoon, staff reporter

October 8, 2015

Tony Blinken, the US Deputy Secretary of State, has emphasized China's role in deterring North Korean nuclear activity, hinting that if China fails to prevent North Korea's nuclear weapons program, the US military's deployment of Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), an anti-ballistic missile system, may become a reality for the Korean Peninsula.

On Oct. 7, during a forum at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul, Blinken was questioned about US intentions to "encircle China" through the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). He responded by saying that the TPP established standards to protect workers, the environment, and intellectual property rights, adding that China is welcome to join if it can meet such standards. Blinken also said that preliminary discussions have also been held with South Korea, and that the US is willing to continue pursuing them.

Blinken also warned North Korea to discontinue its nuclear weapons program, but seemed to avoid making any provocative statements. He stated that if North Korea isn't prepared to discuss denuclearization, the US will not be ready to negotiate, which would make beginning any sort of dialogue difficult. Critics of the foreign policy initiatives of the Obama administration, which is



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nearing the end of its term, are accusing Obama of becoming complacent after securing a nuclear deal with Iran and reinitiating US-Cuba relations, implying that he plans to leave the difficult issue of North Korea for the next administration to handle.

Blinken emphasized China's responsibility in deterring North Korea's nuclear program, claiming that, as virtually its sole trading partner, China exercises more influence over North Korea than any other country. He added that convincing China to use its influence over North Korea to initiate dialogue will be "very much at the heart of our agenda" when he begins this three-day visit to Beijing today.

Thus, if China fails to taking a leading role in denuclearizing North Korea, the US has strongly implied that it will deploy its THAAD system to the Korean Peninsula if needed, although Blinken didn't make any direct statements on the matter. Furthermore, Blinken stated that if North Korea continues to refuse to engage in talks or insists on continuing its nuclear tests, the US and its allies will have no choice but to take defensive measures if the North does engage in direct provocation. He said that THAAD is a defensive measure, adding that it's the duty of the US to take defensive action against the threat of North Korean missiles and instigations. However, he made it clear that no decision has been made concerning THAAD's deployment, emphasizing US intentions to pursue thorough dialogue with South Korea.

http://english.hani.co.kr/arti/english_edition/e_international/712004.html

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Sputnik International – Russian Information Agency

Deadly Illusions: Holographic Missiles and Laser Camouflage Coming Soon

5 October 2015

Inventors at Russia's Strategic Missile Forces have suggested the idea of using laser-generated holography instead of the country's latest Yars intercontinental ballistic missile systems to disorient potential foes; the laser-generated technology will be unveiled in October at the international exhibition of Russia's Defense Ministry.

"Large-scale holographic images, identical in their dimensions to Yars intercontinental ballistic missile systems, could be generated with the help of lasers.

The images could also be used to camouflage the missile systems as the surrounding landscape or other objects," the press-service of Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement.

The new technology is to be unveiled at the International exhibition "Innovation Day of the Defense Ministry," which is taking place in the Moscow region on October 5-6.

The missile system camouflage will take into account the specific nature of the military units, reflecting and radiating characteristics of the equipment and facilities.

The three-stage Yars missile is Russia's newest mobile intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) system. It was first tested in 2007. Although most of its characteristics are classified, freely available information suggests that it can deliver at least four thermonuclear warheads weighing 300 kilotons each to a target located 11,000 kilometers away.

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The ICBM is solid-fuel based, and its boost phase is much shorter compared to previous generation missiles. The RS-24 Yars has “adaptive” missile shield piercing capacity and its warheads are maneuverable – making it highly unlikely to be intercepted.

<http://sputniknews.com/military/20151005/1028048312/russia-laser-holography-missile-systems.html>

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Sputnik International – Russian Information Agency

Russia Develops Portable Aerosol Cloud Generator to Conceal Missiles

An aerosol generator is designed for creating aerosol curtains, or artificial clouds, to hide road-mobile missile complexes, according to Aleksei Solodovnikov, a lecturer at the Peter the Great Strategic Missile Forces College.

6 October 2015

KUBINKA (Moscow Region) (Sputnik) — Russian experts have developed and successfully tested a device designed to conceal missile systems with an aerosol cloud, a lecturer at the Peter the Great Strategic Missile Forces College said Tuesday.

"An aerosol generator...is designed for creating aerosol curtains, or artificial clouds, to hide road-mobile missile complexes," Aleksei Solodovnikov told journalists during an Innovation Day exhibition.

According to Solodovnikov, the generator is capable of producing aerosol compounds, mainly small dispersed particles, to conceal missiles from satellite observation.

The aerosol cloud can conceal RS-24 Yars, Topol and Topol-M ballistic missiles. The unique generator is portable, lightweight and reusable, Solodovnikov said.

The device may be used as a heat source to warm facilities with equipment, for full specific processing of missiles and decontamination. It is also applicable for a number of civil purposes, including the killing of harmful insects.

<http://sputniknews.com/russia/20151006/1028094315/russia-generator-innovation-day.html#ixzz3nuP7Ojo9>

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Defense News – Tysons Corner, VA

USAF in ‘Final Closing Phase’ of Bomber Contract

By Lara Seligman

October 6, 2015

WASHINGTON — The US Air Force is in the final phase of discussion before awarding a contract for the next-generation bomber, and expects an announcement very soon.

“We’re in the final closing phase and it’s going well and you should expect to hear something pretty soon,” William LaPlante, assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition, said during an event hosted by Defense One on Tuesday.



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Even if the Pentagon is forced to operate under a yearlong continuing resolution, the Air Force will proceed with the contract award for the Long Range Strike Bomber (LRS-B) on schedule, he noted.

Industry is still holding its breath for the long-delayed contract, which could come anytime in the next few months. The Pentagon had planned to make the decision on who will build the new bomber fleet first this summer, then early fall. Most recently, one Air Force official estimated the announcement sometime in the next few months.

The Pentagon is still studying whether to go with a proposal from Northrop Grumman, builder of the B-2 stealth bomber, or a Boeing-Lockheed Martin team.

The Pentagon is drawing lessons learned from the McDonnell Douglas/General Dynamics A-12 Avenger II, an all-weather, carrier-based stealth bomber planned for the Navy and Marine Corps, according to acquisition chief Frank Kendall. The program was beset by cost overruns and major delays, which led to its cancellation in 1991.

The A-12 is a perfect example of a “black,” or classified, program that went very wrong, Kendall said. The Pentagon had a “bad business arrangement” for the program, he said: The two contractors were teamed for development of the aircraft, with the idea that they would then compete for the production contract. At the same time, the companies struggled to build the technology needed for the state-of-the-art aircraft.

The A-12 program and its cancellation led to a ban on fixed-price development contracts, Kendall said.

“It was sort of a perfect storm of things that we should not have done,” Kendall said.

The Pentagon is taking measures to ensure the LRS-B program does not go the way of A-12 by focusing on using mature technologies rather than launching new developments. The program is also unusually advanced in terms of design and testing; the Air Force already has two robust prototypes in hand.

<http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/air-space/strike/2015/10/06/usaf-final-closing-phase-bomber-contract/73450104/>

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People’s Daily Online – Beijing, China

American Sentenced for Trafficking and Selling Counterfeit Semiconductors from China to the U.S. Military

By Chen Shen, *People's Daily Online*

October 08, 2015

An American man was sentenced yesterday to 37 months in prison for importing counterfeit semiconductors from China and selling them to the U.S. customers, including the U.S. Navy, according to a document released by the U.S. Department of Justice on Tuesday.

Federal officials said Peter Picone, originally from Massachusetts, imported thousands of counterfeit integrated circuits from overseas and resold them in the United States. Picone's clients

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included defense contractors who work with the U.S. Navy and use the devices in nuclear submarines. The prosecutors said they believed Picone sold the electronic compartments to the military with the awareness of them being fake.

<http://en.people.cn/n/2015/1008/c90000-8958719.html>

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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

JCS Chief Nominee Says No Plan to Adopt THAAD

October 4, 2015

SEOUL, Oct. 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has no plan yet to adopt the U.S.' Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system although its local deployment could benefit the South Korean military, the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman designate said Monday.

"At this moment, our military does not have any plan to introduce THAAD," Army Gen. Lee Sun-jin said in a parliamentary confirmation hearing.

"The military currently has weapon systems it is trying to deploy within the Korean Air and Missile Defense (KAMD) system," he added.

The remarks were in response to ruling Saenuri Party's Rep. Yoo Seong-min's question on whether the nominee wants the deployment of the U.S. anti-ballistic missile defense system if he takes office.

Further asked whether KAMD, the local defense system, is sufficient to defend the country, Lee said KAMD needs further development.

"Any deployment of THAAD will be determined under our initiative in consideration of military benefits and national interest," he said, adding that if the U.S. Forces Korea deploys THAAD on South Korean soil, it would help the military.

Touching on North Korea's nuclear capabilities, Lee said the communist country is believed to have miniaturized nuclear weapons "to a considerable extent," but whether the country has deployed them for combat use has not been confirmed yet.

Lee was named as the next Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman last month to replace Adm. Choi Yoon-hee, whose two-year term ends in mid-October.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/search1/2603000000.html?cid=AEN20151005004500315>

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Russia Beyond the Headlines (RBTH) – Moscow, Russia

North Korean Nuclear Problem Can Be Resolved Through Military-Political Detente - Russian FM

Russia Interfax News Agency

October 4, 2015

The provision of lasting security guarantees in Northeast Asia will make North Korea's possession of weapons of mass destruction unnecessary, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov has said.



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"To our mind, security fears were the reason for the 'nuclear choice' the North Korean administration made in the early 1990s," Morgulov said in an interview with the South Korean Yonhap news agency published on the Russian Foreign Ministry website on Sunday.

"Proceeding from this view of the problem, we believe that it can really be resolved in the context of the general military-political detente in Northeast Asia, which implies lasting security guarantees for all regional states, including North Korea," Morgulov said.

This will make Pyongyang's possession of weapons of mass destruction unnecessary, he said. "We are confident that this model will not just correctly reflect regional realities but will also fully comply with international efforts towards strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We will continue to explain our approach to the other parties to the six-nation [negotiating] process," the Russian deputy foreign minister said.

"We categorically reject the recognition of the de facto nuclear status of North Korea, which is incompatible with the status of Russia as an architect and depositary of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty," the diplomat said.

http://rbth.com/news/2015/10/04/north_korean_nuclear_problem_can_be_resolved_through_military-political_49796.html

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South China Morning Post – Hong Kong, China

Nuclear Space Race Picks Up Pace: China Unveils Rocket Capable of Firing 20 Nukes to Defeat US Missile Shield

Successful debut of the Long March 6 puts President Xi Jinping in a better bargaining position with Washington on security, experts say

By Minnie Chan

Monday, 05 October 2015

China showed the world how far it had come in developing space weapons as it unveiled its new family of space launch vehicles.

The first Long March 6 rocket was successfully launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre late last month with a multipayload of 20 small satellites, according to state broadcaster CCTV and the People's Liberation Army's mouthpiece, the *PLA Daily*.

The September 20 launch marked China as the third country with such technology, after Russia and the United States.

About a week later, on September 29, the official *Science and Technology Daily* reported that a Second Artillery Corps battalion had launched a midnight full-flight test of a strategic missile. The test proved that the strategic missile force could now operate the entire chain of the C4ISR – computerized command, control, communications, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance – systems that the US military uses.

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“The launch of the Long March 6 will definitely help President Xi Jinping increase his bargaining power on security issues when dealing with US President Barack Obama,” said defence policy specialist He Qisong of the Shanghai University of Political Science and Law.

“The launch will send a message to the US that the PLA now is capable of breaking its ballistic missile defence system in Asia, because ... the multipayload technology can also be used on the DF-41 [long-range nuclear missile].”

Macau-based military observer Antony Wong Dong said the Long March 6 technology could also be used on the JL-3, China’s third-generation nuclear submarine-launched ballistic missile.

The DF-41, which the Pentagon has described as China’s most powerful weapon, has an estimated 12,000km range and can carry up to 10 warheads. The DF-41 and JL-3 combined could carry up to 20 warheads, hitting as many different targets.

The PLA has yet to acknowledge the existence of the DF-41, although US media have cited Pentagon sources as saying Beijing has launched at least four full tests of the missile since 2012.

The Long March 6, however, was given extensive coverage by CCTV and the PLA Daily.

Hong Kong-based military expert Liang Guoliang said state media reports suggested the PLA was capable of sending 20 reconnaissance satellites to space.

The Long March 6 is a liquid-propellant, small-load space launch vehicle developed by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology and based on the strap-on booster for the Long March 5 family of satellite launch vehicles, which is due to make its first trial flight next year, according to Xinhua.

“The successful launch of the Long March 6 plus the advanced C4ISR operations will enhance China’s strategic threats to its enemies,” He said.

“This means command systems from the PLA’s powerful Central Military Commission ... to soldiers at the firing point have all been computerised to support the missile battalion to make all-weather, rapid and accurate shots.”

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy-defence/article/1864406/long-march-challenging-us-space-power-chinas-most?page=all>

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The Diplomat – Tokyo, Japan

Experts: North Korea's Not Preparing for a Satellite Launch

Despite rumors, satellite imagery analyzed by 38 North suggests a launch is not going to happen on October 10.

By Shannon Tiezzi for *The Diplomat*

October 06, 2015

Despite recent rumors, North Korea is not preparing for a satellite launch on October 10, when Pyongyang will celebrate the 70th anniversary of its Korean Workers’ Party. Recent satellite imagery does not show any launch preparations underway at the Sohae launch facility, said analysts with 38 North, a website providing analysis of North Korean affairs and a program of the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

A bit of background first: the idea that North Korea would conduct a satellite launch – regarded by the United States and South Korea as an excuse to test ballistic missile technology – on October 10



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emerged in the aftermath of North-South tensions this August. Speculation ramped up when North Korea's KCNA published an interview with the director of North Korea's National Aerospace Development Administration, who said that Pyongyang was in the "final phase" of developing a new earth observation satellite.

Analysts at 38 North, however, said satellite imagery analysis tells a different story. "[A]ll these reports about a possible long range rocket or nuclear test on or before October 10 are just all wrong," Joel Wit, a co-founder of 38 North and a senior fellow at the U.S.-Korea Institute, told reporters on Monday. There's "no evidence to support it whatsoever," Wit said.

As of September 27, satellite imagery obtained by 38 North wasn't showing anywhere near the level of activity that would precede an imminent satellite test. In particular, it was clear that there was no rocket on the gantry, and there was no noticeable uptick in activity at the fuel and oxidizer buildings. It's "too late now" for North Korea to begin prepping for a launch on October 10, Wit said. According to past precedent, analysts would begin seeing a "significant increase in activity" at Sohae between four to six weeks ahead of the launch. At least one week before, satellite imagery should show fuel being brought to the rocket. Without those signs of preparation, Wit said that he is "95 percent sure it's not going to happen."

But that doesn't mean Sohae is sitting idle. On the contrary, 38 North showed satellite images revealing major construction work on the launch facility, including the creation of two new preparatory buildings (one stationary, one able to move on railway tracks) that could make it more difficult for analysts to see the early stages of launch preparations via satellite. The gantry at Sohae has also been expanded significantly, and can now accommodate a larger rocket.

Wit also said 38 North had noticed a "large-scale construction program" to build new fuel and oxidizer facilities. Construction started in May and was nearing completion at the end of September. These new buildings are much larger than the old facilities, suggesting, Wit said, that "North Koreans are getting ready to test much larger rocket engines than they've tested in the past." As Wit explained, "Much larger rocket engines mean larger rockets, and maybe ones with longer ranges." It's still unclear, however, how close North Korea is to developing a larger rocket.

So even if North Korea doesn't carry out a launch on October 10, it doesn't mean their ballistic missile program is standing still. As John Schilling, an aerospace engineer who often provides analysis for 38 North, told the press, it's unlikely that North Korea would carry out so much construction on its launch facilities if there were no plan to use it – even though a launch doesn't seem imminent at the moment. Schilling also noted that he expects the next launch to be a repeat launch of the Unha-3 rocket, which enjoyed the only successful satellite launch North Korea has had to date (though the satellite itself failed soon after achieving orbit). Given that Pyongyang is one-for-four on launches, the assumption is that they will want to test the Unha-3 "a few more times" to make sure all the bugs are worked out.

The upshot: don't expect a North Korean satellite launch on or before October 10, but don't make the mistake of assuming that Pyongyang's rocket program is standing still. North Korea is upgrading its facilities to handle both larger rocket engines and larger rockets – maybe not this month, or even this year, but at some point in the future.

<http://thediplomat.com/2015/10/experts-north-koreas-not-preparing-for-a-satellite-launch/>

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Korea JoongAng Daily – Seoul, South Korea

Chinese Delegation to Stop in North

The group will attend anniversary event for ruling Workers' Party

By KANG JIN-KYU

October 6, 2015

A Chinese delegation headed by a senior member of China's Communist Party will attend a ceremony commemorating the 70th anniversary of the foundation of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party on Oct. 10 in Pyongyang.

Liu Yunshan's scheduled visit, announced Sunday, came amid uncertainty over whether Pyongyang may fire a long-range rocket to mark the anniversary and has raised speculation that the delegation's appearance might help to mend ties between the two old allies, whose relations have soured in recent years.

However, the fact that a member of Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party will be dispatched to Pyongyang has raised hopes that the North Korean regime will refrain from stirring trouble in the region, which would undoubtedly unnerve China, its most important ally and trading partner.

The South Korean government declined to say whether Liu's presence in Pyongyang could persuade the North to forgo a show of force on Saturday. "It is inappropriate to comment [on such a prospect] publicly," Jeong Joon-hee, a spokesman for the Ministry of Unification, said on Monday.

While Beijing announced that Liu will head the delegation, it did not elaborate on who would accompany him. It is expected that he will meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to discuss bilateral relations and the North's nuclear programs, which the international community has demanded be shut down.

This will mark the first time a member of the Standing Committee of the China's ruling party has visited Pyongyang under the leadership of the young Kim, who came to power following his father's death in December 2011.

Liu's visit to North Korea comes amid a bolstered alliance between Seoul and Beijing, particularly in their efforts to deal with North Korea.

In August, North Korea threatened to strike at frontline units in the South if Seoul did not accept its demand that all propaganda broadcasts along the border be stopped.

Rising tensions stoked by Pyongyang's warning came to an end on Aug. 25, after North and South Korea struck a six-point deal following more than 40 hours of talks that Beijing reportedly helped broker.

President Park Geun-hye openly thanked China last month after talks with President Xi Jinping for its role in the realization of the agreement.

With Liu's visit, it is expected Pyongyang and Beijing will reopen channels between the Communist Party and the Workers' Party and move on to expand economic and military cooperation.

Yet, if Pyongyang opts to defy international warnings and proceed to fire a long-range rocket this Saturday, ties between the two allies could again be put to the test.

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Pyongyang is reportedly preparing a large military parade this weekend. During the procession, it is possible that new weapons and missiles could be unveiled for the first time.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3009983&cloc=joongangdaily%7Chome%7Cnewslst1>

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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

IAEA Detects Expanded Activities at N. Korea's Nuclear Facility

October 6, 2015

SEOUL, Oct. 6 (Yonhap) -- The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Tuesday his organization has spotted brisk activities at North Korea's main nuclear site.

"We have observed the discharge of water, transportation of equipment to the facility, and some indications of operations of the 5-megawatt reactor," IAEA Director-General Yukiya Amano told reporters here, citing the satellite imagery of the Yongbyon nuclear complex.

He was speaking after meetings with top South Korean officials including Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se and the top nuclear envoy Hwang Joon-kook.

Amano, however, pointed out that the IAEA's intelligence on the North's nuclear program is limited as it has no inspectors there.

He was also guarded about the possibility of another underground nuclear test by the secretive communist nation, saying it is a matter to be followed by the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

Amano reiterated the IAEA's call for Pyongyang to abide by all of its international obligations under U.N. resolutions and agreements at the six-party talks,

Asked if the IAEA would try to help put pressure on the North, he made clear that its function is to verify the implementation of a nuclear deal, "not to be politically involved."

He stressed that a "political agreement" should be made in advance among major stakeholders, apparently meaning South Korea, the United States, China, Japan and Russia.

The five regional powers are the North's dialogue partners in the now-suspended six-way talks.

"And upon request from member states, the IAEA is ready to play its role," he said.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2015/10/06/0200000000AEN20151006009100315.html>

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The Korea Times – Seoul, South Korea

THAAD is China's only Concern about Park-Obama Summit: Chinese Professor

By Chang Jae-soon

October 6, 2015

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6 (Yonhap) — The only concern China has about the upcoming summit between South Korean President Park Geun-hye and U.S. President Barack Obama is the possibility of the two leaders discussing the deployment of the THAAD missile defense system to the South, a Chinese expert said Tuesday.

Beijing has voiced vehement opposition to the U.S. desire to deploy a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery to South Korea, claiming it could be used against the country, despite repeated assurances from Washington that the system is aimed only at deterring North Korean threats.

“China’s government explicitly opposed the implementations of THAAD systems on the Korean peninsula no matter in the US military base, or on the ROK’s military base,” Cheng Xiaohe, a professor of Renmin University of China, said during a seminar at Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies.

China perceives a THAAD deployment not only as a threat to its military activities on its territory, but also as efforts to further strengthen the trilateral military-to-military ties among the U.S., Japan, and South Korea, which Beijing has long opposed.

“So, the deployment of the THAAD systems will yet inevitably strengthen the military relationship among the three nations. I think that’s probably the only serious concern that China worries about during Park Geun-hye’s visit to Washington next week,” Cheng said.

The U.S. wants to deploy a THAAD unit to South Korea, where some 28,500 American troops are stationed, to better defend against ever-growing threats from North Korea’s ballistic missile and nuclear programs.

But the issue has become one of the most sensitive for South Korea because China sees a potential THAAD deployment as a threat to their security interests and has increased pressure on Seoul to reject such a deployment.

Seoul and Washington have maintained they have never held any formal consultations on the issue.

Park is scheduled to hold summit talks with Obama on Friday next week, when the two leaders are expected to discuss how to deal with a saber-rattling North Korea, further solidify the alliance and expand cooperation on global issues.

Officials in Seoul said, however, that the issue of THAAD is not on the agenda.

<http://www.koreatimesus.com/thaad-is-chinas-only-concern-about-park-obama-summit-chinese-professor/>

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The Chosun Ilbo – Seoul, South Korea

N.Korea Shelves Rocket Launch Plan

October 7, 2015

Recent rhetoric from North Korea suggests that the reclusive state is bowing to international pressure and shelving plans for a rocket launch for the time being.

A blustering article in the weekly Tongil Sinbo on Tuesday claimed the North has "the technology to launch a satellite even in an adverse condition like snowy winter," suggesting that the launch will not go ahead to coincide with the Workers Party anniversary on Oct. 10.

But it added a formulaic expression much used in recent weeks, "As we have already declared, we will launch satellites one after another at a time."

The delay could be due to international pressure, especially China, or technical problems.

The first rocket launch, which was widely seen as an attempt to test long-range missile technology, happened on Dec. 12, 2012.

Choi Jin-wook of the Korea Institute for National Unification said Tuesday's announcement was probably made for internal reasons as well as to keep up pressure on the U.S. to restart dialogue.

Meanwhile, leader Kim Jong-un in a statement published on the front page of the Rodong Sinmun on Tuesday stressed the need to "constantly increase nuclear capabilities."

"We need to make more cutting-edge weapons in our own way, constantly boost our self-defensive nuclear deterrent," the statement added.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2015/10/07/2015100701097.html

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The Dong-A Ilbo – Seoul, South Korea

Pyongyang to Unveil Weapons with Nuclear Mark at Military Parade

October 07, 2015

North Korea will reportedly unveil military equipment with a mark symbolizing nuclear weapons during a military parade marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of its ruling Workers' Party to demonstrate its possession of nuclear weapons.

"North Korea's military inspection parade will focus on an event in which it displays all military capabilities of its Army, Navy and Air Forces that Pyongyang can mobilize, and demonstrates its possession of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles in light of the military parades marking the 70th anniversary of War victory by Russia (May) and China (September)," said an informed source on North Korea on Tuesday. In a commentary marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party that was released through the Rodong Sinmun on the day, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un claimed, "We should continue to strengthen self-defensive nuclear deterrence."

The informed source said Pyongyang is preparing for the military parade by mobilizing all of its flagship weaponry, including mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles, the Musudan intermediate-

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range ballistic missile (IRBM), the Rodong IRBM, and the Scud short-range missile at a site near Pyongyang. In the April 2012 military parade, the North unveiled for the first time the KN-08, a mobile ICBM (max range of 12,000 kilometers).

The North has also mobilized hundreds of military weapons and facilities including military tanks and self-propelled artillery, while conducting exercises to prepare for the military parade. Notably, the latest models of weapons including speed boats, multiple rocket launchers, and unmanned aerial vehicles will reportedly mobilized. "There is a chance the submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) (which was test-fired in May) could make appearance at the military parade," a South Korean defense ministry source said.

Unlike in past military parades, the North is reportedly preparing an event in which dozens of submarines and military boats will maneuver in the Taedong River in Pyongyang. In late last month, the North practiced a performance in which 14 AN-2 airplanes presented the image of number "70" in the air in a bid to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party. This airplane is asymmetric military power designed to allow its elite troops to penetrate an enemy country by flying at low altitude. China presented the image of number "70" by mobilizing helicopters at its military parade marking War victory last month.

Additionally, more than 20,000 North Korean troops are busy exercising for the military parade at a site near Pyongyang since July. The drill is taking place in response to Kim Jong Un's instruction in February this year "to prepare the largest scale ever military parade" at the Workers Party politburo, the supreme policy decision-making body of the Stalinist country. However, some analysts say that weapons to be mobilized at the military parade are outdated ones that are aged 30 years or older, except some items.

Meanwhile, the North said it has technology to launch a satellite even in bad weather conditions including on snowy days in winter season, indicating that test firing of a long-range missile could take place at year's end rather than around the anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party. The North's Tongil Sinbo reported on the day, "The Republic (North Korea) was already adequately prepared in the aspect of science, technology and physical condition to cope with precipitation of snow (when the Unha-3 satellite was launched in December 2012)."

<http://english.donga.com/srv/service.php3?biid=2015100782118>

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The Korea Times – Seoul, South Korea

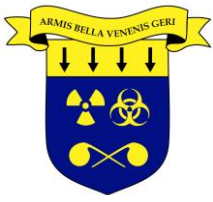
NK Officials Deliver Congratulatory Message to Leader Ahead of Ruling Party Anniversary

October 8, 2015

North Korean officials praised the work of its leader Kim Jong-un in a congratulatory message, as part of concerted efforts to unify the communist regime ahead of the 70th anniversary of the Workers' Party which falls on Saturday.

The Central Committee and the Central Military Commission of the WPK, the powerful National Defense Commission, the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly and the North's Cabinet sent a joint message to Kim, Wednesday, the Korean Central News Agency said.

The incumbent leader has implemented instructions left by the regime's founder and grandfather Kim Il-sung and father Kim Jong-il "without an inch of deviation and without a single concession" the message said.



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The celebration on Saturday is likely to consist of an array of events, including a massive military parade.

The South Korean Unification Ministry said earlier that it is unlikely the North will pursue provocative actions such as launching a long-range rocket, amid condemnation from the international community.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2015/10/485_188249.html

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The Korea Herald – Seoul, South Korea

Pyongyang Estimated to Have 22 Nuclear Weapons' Worth of Fissile Material: U.S. Institute

October 8, 2015

North Korea is estimated to be holding up to 22 nuclear weapons worth of fissile material, a U.S. research institute said Wednesday.

The Institute for Science and International Security made the estimate in a report, saying that as of last year the communist nation was believed to be holding up to 34 kilograms of plutonium and 240 kilograms of weapons-grade uranium if Pyongyang has two uranium enrichment plants.

But the estimate could further increase because Pyongyang could extract plutonium from spent nuclear fuel used in the 5-megawatt nuclear reactor that it restarted in 2013, the institute said.

As part of six-party denuclearization talks, North Korea made a declaration of its past nuclear activity in 2008. Citing an unidentified source, ISIS said Pyongyang is believed to have reported to the U.S. at the time that it extracted a total of 37-38 kilograms of plutonium.

In addition, the North is believed to have extracted about eight kilograms of plutonium from spent fuel it was holding until it froze its nuclear facilities under a six-party deal in 2007.

Of the total, the North is estimated to have used up to 12 kilograms of plutonium in its three nuclear tests in 2006, 2009 and 2013, leaving the total stockpile at the end of last year at between 30-34 kilograms, the institute said.

In 2010, the North also revealed that it was running a uranium enrichment facility, adding to international concerns about its nuclear capabilities. Uranium, if highly enriched, can be used to make weapons, providing Pyongyang with a second way of building atomic bombs, in addition to its existing plutonium-based program.

The North is believed to have produced about 100 kilograms of weapons-grade uranium from the facility. But in case the North has another secret uranium enrichment facility, the total amount of weapons-grade uranium would be about 240 kilograms, ISIS said.

In addition to the three nuclear tests, the North has also conducted a series of long-range missile or rocket launches since 1998. In its most recent launch in late 2012, the North succeeded in putting a satellite into orbit.

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Analysts have warned that it is only a matter of time until the North develops nuclear-tipped missiles. Some experts have recently warned that the communist nation's nuclear arsenal could expand to as many as 100 bombs by 2020. (Yonhap)

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20151008000094>

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

North Korea Could Hit US Homeland with Nuclear Weapon, Says Top Admiral

Bill Gortney says US prepared to respond if Kim Jong-un were to use nuclear force

By Reuters

Thursday, October 8, 2015

The US government believes North Korea has the capability to launch a nuclear weapon against the homeland and stands ready to defend against any such attacks, a high-level US military official has said.

Admiral Bill Gortney, commander of US Northern Command and the North American Aerospace Defense Command, said he agreed with US intelligence assessments that North Korea had nuclear weapons, as well as the ability to miniaturise them and put them on a rocket that could reach the United States.

“We assess that they have the capability to reach the homeland with a nuclear weapon from a rocket,” Gortney told an event on Wednesday hosted by the Atlantic Council think tank.

Gortney said it was very difficult to predict the behavior of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un but the US military was prepared to respond if he were to use a nuclear weapon.

“We’re ready for him, and we’re ready 24 hours a day if he should be dumb enough to shoot something at us,” Gortney said.

“I’m pretty confident that we’re going to knock down the numbers that are going to be shot.”

North Korea’s space agency said last month Pyongyang was building a new satellite and readying it for launch, with any use of a long-range rocket suggesting that the secretive state has made advances developing a ballistic missile.

North Korea says its rocket launches are part of a legitimate space programme aimed at putting satellites into orbit. It has in the past conducted missile tests in defiance of international warnings and sanctions.

The US Missile Defense Agency said in March North Korea could achieve the ability to launch an intercontinental ballistic missile this year.

On Wednesday, Gortney said the US military was investing to modernise its current missile defence system, add new sensors and radars to better identify potential missile launches, and drive down the cost of defending against such attacks.

He warned that the failure of the US Congress to pass a budget for fiscal year 2016, or a resumption of mandatory budget cuts, could jeopardise the funding needed for such efforts.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/08/north-korea-could-hit-us-homeland-with-nuclear-weapon-says-top-admiral>



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies (CUWS) Outreach Journal

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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

Top Chinese Official to Meet 'Principal Leaders' of N. Korea

October 9, 2015

BEIJING, Oct. 9 (Yonhap) -- China said Friday that one of its top Communist Party officials will meet with "principal leaders" of North Korea during his four-day visit in Pyongyang for a key anniversary of the North's ruling Workers' Party.

The remarks by Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying suggested that Liu Yunshan, who ranks fifth in China's ruling Communist Party hierarchy, could hold a meeting with North Korea's reclusive young leader, Kim Jong-un.

Liu arrived in Pyongyang earlier in the day to attend commemorative events marking the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the North Korean party, including a huge military parade on Saturday.

Asked whether Liu will meet with Kim, Hua replied, "He will meet with principal leaders of North Korea."

North Korea and China "are in close communication for specific arrangements for his visit," Hua said.

Hua said the visit by Liu to North Korea "will be conducive to consolidating the traditional friendship between the two countries as well as peace and stability of the whole region."

It is the first time for one of the members of the Chinese Communist Party's politburo standing committee to visit North Korea since the North's young leader took power in late 2011.

The four-day visit by Liu to North Korea will be closely watched for whether or not he will meet with Kim, given the strained political ties between the allies over the North's nuclear and missile programs.

Diplomatic sources in Beijing have said Kim is expected to meet with Liu, but it remains to be seen whether such a meeting would help improve ties between the allies, given the North's defiant pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Political ties between China and its only treaty ally, North Korea, remain strained, particularly after the North's third nuclear test in February 2013.

However, economic relations between China and North Korea have been largely unaffected.

There had been speculation that North Korea may launch a long-range rocket to mark the Oct. 10 anniversary, but South Korean officials said Tuesday that there have been no signs that Pyongyang could launch a rocket this week.

North Korea is set to hold a huge military parade on Saturday, a key part of the anniversary, with Liu and other foreign guests attending.

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The U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University, citing satellite images, said about 800 tents, 700 trucks and 200 armored fighting and military vehicles were amassed at Pyongyang's parade training grounds that include a replica of Kim Il-sung Square, where the actual parade takes place.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2015/10/09/54/0301000000AEN20151009005800315F.html>

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Xinhua News – Beijing, China

China Says Japan's Stockpile of Nuclear Materials Poses Serious Risk

(Xinhua)

October 9, 2015

BEIJING, Oct. 9 (Xinhua) -- The supply and demand of Japan's stockpiled nuclear materials is imbalanced, triggering safety concerns that could affect the world, a Chinese study revealed Friday.

"The fact that Japan accumulates more and more weapon-grade fissile materials, especially separated plutonium, will put Japan, and its neighboring countries and the whole world at risk," a joint study by China Arms Control and Disarmament Association and the China Institute of Nuclear Information and Economics said.

With the Rokkasho reprocessing plant starting operation next year, the problem could become worse and may lead to a vicious cycle.

Citing the latest data from the Japanese government submitted to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the study found Japan has 47.8 tonnes of highly sensitive separated plutonium, 10.8 tonnes of which are stored in Japan, enough to make 1,350 nuclear warheads.

"Once the Rokkasho reprocessing plant under construction starts its operation, Japan could obtain the ability of producing eight tonnes of separated plutonium annually," the study said.

In addition, Japan has about 1.2 tonnes of highly-enriched uranium (HEU) for research reactors, according to the study.

"Japan does not need that much enriched uranium for producing nuclear energy. So we are suspicious for any ulterior motives by the Japanese government to invest such a large amount of money in that," Zhu Xuhui, a senior consultant affiliated with the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association said.

"Japan's nuclear materials problem is not insolvable," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in response to the issue.

"The linchpin lies in its sincere and responsible attitude, adopting tangible measures to address the concerns of the international community," she said.

The study suggests Japan should make a rational plan for its nuclear materials consumption, address the imbalance, while ensuring the safety and security of these materials.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-10/09/c_134697915.htm

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London Independent – London, U.K.

David Cameron Says that He Would Use Nuclear Weapons

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The PM described nuclear bombs as 'the ultimate insurance policy' and said the attack could be 'justified'

By Jon Stone

Sunday, 4 October 2015

David Cameron has said there are circumstances in which he would launch a nuclear attack on another country.

The PM described nuclear bombs as “the ultimate insurance policy” and said the attack could be “justified”.

Mr Cameron’s statement comes after Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said he would not use nuclear bombs on another country’s population.

“If you ... believe like me that Britain should keep the ultimate insurance policy of an independent nuclear deterrent, you have to accept there are circumstances in which its use would be justified,” Mr Cameron told BBC One’s Andrew Marr show on 4 October.

“If you give any other answer then you are, frankly, undermining our national security, undermining our deterrent.”

Mr Corbyn told BBC Radio 4’s *Today* programme last week that he would not use the weapons and that the UK should not be spending money on them.

“I don’t think we should be spending £100bn on renewing Trident. That is a quarter of our defence budget,” he said.

“There are many in the military that do not want Trident renewed because they see it as an obsolete thing they don’t need. They would much rather see it spent on conventional weapons.”

Prime ministers leave secret instructions for nuclear missile submarine captains to follow in the event of a nuclear war. These orders are sealed in a letter only to be opened if the United Kingdom is destroyed.

These instructions can either be to launch a nuclear attack, to stand down, to assist a surviving allied power, or for the captain to use their judgement.

A nuclear strike would likely kill a minimum of tens of thousands of people if used. The last nuclear attack, on the Japanese city Nagasaki, killed around 80,000 people in a single blast.

Warheads carried on Britain’s nuclear submarines are eight times more powerful than the atomic bombs used in 1945.

Parliament is set to vote during this parliament on whether to renew the Trident nuclear weapons system.

Mr Corbyn opposes renewal, but some Labour MPs have said they disagree with him.

The Opposition’s official policy remains in support of Trident after the party’s leadership failed to secure a policy vote to change it at annual conference last week.

The SNP and Green Party oppose Trident. The Liberal Democrats want a small nuclear weapons system which they say would be less costly.

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<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-cameron-says-that-he-would-use-nuclear-weapons-a6679256.html>

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MSN News.com – U.S.

AP Investigation: Nuclear Smugglers Sought Extremist Buyers

By DESMOND BUTLER and VADIM GHIRDA, Associated Press

October 7, 2015

CHISINAU, Moldova — In the backwaters of Eastern Europe, authorities working with the FBI have interrupted four attempts in the past five years by gangs with suspected Russian connections that sought to sell radioactive material to Middle Eastern extremists, The Associated Press has learned. The latest known case came in February this year, when a smuggler offered a huge cache of deadly cesium — enough to contaminate several city blocks — and specifically sought a buyer from the Islamic State group.

Criminal organizations, some with ties to the Russian KGB's successor agency, are driving a thriving black market in nuclear materials in the tiny and impoverished Eastern European country of Moldova, investigators say. The successful busts, however, were undercut by striking shortcomings: Kingpins got away, and those arrested evaded long prison sentences, sometimes quickly returning to nuclear smuggling, AP found.

Moldovan police and judicial authorities shared investigative case files with the AP in an effort to spotlight how dangerous the nuclear black market has become. They say the breakdown in cooperation between Russia and the West means that it has become much harder to know whether smugglers are finding ways to move parts of Russia's vast store of radioactive materials — an unknown quantity of which has leached into the black market.

"We can expect more of these cases," said Constantin Malic, a Moldovan police officer who investigated all four cases. "As long as the smugglers think they can make big money without getting caught, they will keep doing it."

In wiretaps, videotaped arrests, photographs of bomb-grade material, documents and interviews, AP found a troubling vulnerability in the anti-smuggling strategy. From the first known Moldovan case in 2010 to the most recent one in February, a pattern has emerged: Authorities pounce on suspects in the early stages of a deal, giving the ringleaders a chance to escape with their nuclear contraband — an indication that the threat from the nuclear black market in the Balkans is far from under control.

Moldovan investigators can't be sure that the suspects who fled didn't hold on to the bulk of the nuclear materials. Nor do they know whether the groups, which are pursuing buyers who are enemies of the West, may have succeeded in selling deadly nuclear material to extremists at a time when the Islamic State has made clear its ambition to use weapons of mass destruction.

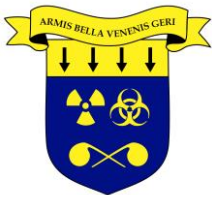
The cases involve secret meetings in a high-end nightclub; blueprints for dirty bombs; and a nerve-shattered undercover investigator who slammed vodka shots before heading into meetings with smugglers. Informants and a police officer posing as a connected gangster — complete with a Mercedes Benz provided by the FBI — penetrated the smuggling gangs. The police used a combination of old-fashioned undercover tactics and high-tech gear, from radiation detectors to clothing threaded with recording devices.

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The Moldovan operations were built on a partnership between the FBI and a small team of Moldovan investigators — including Malic, who over five years went from near total ignorance of the frightening black market in his backyard to wrapping up four sting operations.

"In the age of the Islamic State, it's especially terrifying to have real smugglers of nuclear bomb material apparently making connections with real buyers," says Matthew Bunn, a Harvard professor who led a secret study for the Clinton administration on the security of Russia's nuclear arsenal.

The Moldovan investigators were well aware of the lethal consequences of just one slip-up. Posing as a representative's buyer, Malic was so terrified before meetings that he gulped shots of vodka to steel his nerves. Other cases contained elements of farce: In the cesium deal, an informant held a high-stakes meeting with a seller at an elite dance club filled with young people nibbling on sushi.

In the case of the cesium, investigators said the one vial they ultimately recovered was a less radioactive form of cesium than the smugglers originally had advertised, and not suitable for making a dirty bomb.

The most serious case began in the spring of 2011, with the investigation of a group led by a shadowy Russian named Alexandr Agheenco, "the colonel" to his cohorts, whom Moldovan authorities believe to be an officer with the Russian FSB, previously known as the KGB. A middle man working for the colonel was recorded arranging the sale of bomb-grade uranium, U-235, and blueprints for a dirty bomb to a man from Sudan, according to several officials. The blueprints were discovered in a raid of the middleman's home, according to police and court documents.

Wiretapped conversations repeatedly exposed plots targeting the United States, the Moldovan officials said. At one point the middleman told an informant posing as a buyer that it was essential that the smuggled uranium go to Arabs.

"He said to the informant on a wire: 'I really want an Islamic buyer because they will bomb the Americans,'" said Malic, the investigator.

As in the other cases, investigators arrested mostly mid-level players after an early exchange of cash and samples of radioactive goods.

The ringleader, the colonel, got away. Police cannot determine whether he had more nuclear material. His partner, who wanted to "annihilate America," is out of prison.

<http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/ap-investigation-nuclear-smugglers-sought-extremist-buyers/ar-AAfbV3>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

Russia's Largest Chemical Weapons Stockpiles Destroyed in Bryansk Region

According to a spokesperson for the government's Federal Agency for the Safe Storage and Destruction of Chemical Weapons, the last air bomb was destroyed at the enterprise on September 26

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Maxwell AFB, Alabama

October 08, 2015

BRYANSK, October 8. /TASS/. Russia's largest chemical weapons stockpiles have been completely destroyed at a special enterprise in the town of Pochev, in the central Russia's Bryansk region.

A spokesperson for the government's Federal Agency for the Safe Storage and Destruction of Chemical Weapons said the last air bomb was destroyed at the enterprise on September 26.

Since the plant's launch in 2010, more than 67,000 chemical aircraft ammunition have been neutralized at the Pochev facility that contained almost 7,500 tons of toxic agents as sarin, soman and the VX type substances.

An effort on the decontamination of the plant's equipment and sanitation of land where the ammunition was stored is due to begin soon. A decision will be taken later on the conversion of the facility for civilian production.

By October this year, a total of 92% of the chemical agents of warfare have been destroyed in Russia. In 2016, the elimination of chemical weapons will continue at the last facility in Kizner in Russia's Udmurt republic.

<http://tass.ru/en/society/827145>

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Sunday, October 04, 2015

Iran Stresses Removal of All Sanctions Concurrent with JCPOA Implementation

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani underlined that all the sanctions imposed against Tehran by the western countries have to be removed concurrent with the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the nuclear deal.

"Based on the nuclear agreement (reached between Tehran and the world powers), we should witness removal of all sanctions after the implementation of the JCPOA," Larijani said, addressing an open session of the parliament on Sunday and as the ad hoc committee tasked with studying the Iran-powers nuclear agreement presented its report.

The parliament speaker thanked the parliamentary committee for its hard efforts to clarify the different aspects of the plan, and called on the lawmakers to expedite reviewing the JCPOA.

He reiterated that the Supreme National Security Council should also comment on the JCPOA.

Larijani further outlined the aspects of the double-urgency bill that the lawmakers should consider during the parliament's upcoming sessions.

The parliament approved a single-urgency bill for declaring the results of its studies over the JCPOA today.

The bill called 'Iranian government's reciprocal and proportional action' was proposed on the basis of a double-urgency, but lawmakers approved it as a single-urgency bill.

The bill allows the government to implement the JCPOA voluntarily based on the decision of the country's Supreme National Security Council.

Issue No.1186, 9 October 2015

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On September 22, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called on the Group 5+1 (the US, Russia, China, France and Britain plus Germany) to fulfill their commitments concerning the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

"How to implement the JCPOA is of utmost importance; the time is ripe for the six world powers, specially those who have imposed unjust sanctions against Iran to take practical measures to bring about a fundamental and tangible change in their approach towards Iran based on UN resolution 2231, which turned the JCPOA into an official document," Zarif said upon his arrival in New York.

The Iranian foreign minister travelled to New York to attend a UN meeting to follow up the implementation of the JCPOA clinched between Tehran and the G5+1 in Vienna on July 14.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Seyed Abbas Araqchi and Hamid Baedinejad, the director general for political affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, also accompanied Zarif in his visit to New York.

Zarif said that Iran and the G5+1 would hold meetings at the ministerial level in New York to pursue the implementation of the JCPOA, adding, "If needed, experts from the two sides will also convene a meeting to determine what measures should be taken on the removal of sanctions as well as the issue of redesigning the Arak heavy water reactor."

Under the JCPOA, limits will be put on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for, among other things, the removal of all economic and financial bans against the Islamic Republic.

Iran and the G5+1 succeeded in finalizing the text of the JCPOA in the Austrian capital on July 14.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13940712000896>

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Tasnim News Agency – Tehran, Iran

JCPOA Scrutiny Team Reminds IAEA of Iran's Expectations

October 04, 2015

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – A report released by an Iranian parliamentary commission, formed to evaluate the finalized text of a comprehensive nuclear deal between Tehran and six world powers, has reminded the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) about its main duties towards Tehran's nuclear program.

The parliamentary commission on Sunday released its final report on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) after 170 hours of sessions.

The commission members had several meetings with experts, members of the Iranian team of nuclear negotiators, including Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his deputies, and even with Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Yukiya Amano.

According to the final report, the MPs have used the opportunity of meeting Amano to protest against the UN nuclear watchdog's mishandling of Iran's nuclear case over the past 12 years.

The report has also expressed the parliamentary commission's main demands, calling on the IAEA to adopt a "non-political, technical and transparent" approach towards Iran's nuclear case.

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It also urges the UN nuclear watchdog to maintain the confidentiality of information on Iran's nuclear case, help the country develop its nuclear technology, facilitate nuclear research and development activities in Iran and intensify efforts for nuclear disarmament in the world, beginning from the West Asia and North Africa region.

The report features various other topics pertaining to the JCPOA, including legal affairs, economic sanctions, defense, security, nuclear issues, research and development, culture, politics, and society.

Iran and the Group 5+1 (Russia, China, the US, Britain, France and Germany) on July 14 reached a conclusion on the lasting nuclear agreement that would terminate all sanctions imposed on Tehran over its nuclear energy program after coming into force.

<http://www.tasnimnews.com/english/Home/Single/879211>

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Sunday, October 04, 2015

Commander: US Targets within IRGC's Missiles Range

TEHRAN (FNA) - Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Aerospace Force Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh said all US military bases in the Middle East are within the range of the IRGC's missiles, but the country still sees no restriction for boosting its missile capabilities.

"Some of the threats by the US are aimed at appeasing the Zionists, while others are for the purpose of domestic consumption (in the US), but what is important is that they are aware of and acknowledge our capabilities and deterrence power; we do not feel any need to increase the range of our missiles and (our perceived enemy) targets are fully within the range of our missiles," Brigadier General Hajizadeh said, addressing a group of professors of Iran's Science and Technology University in Tehran on Sunday.

He pointed to the allegations made about imposing restrictions on Iran's missile technology, and said, "We do not see any restriction for our missiles and the IRGC's preparedness and missile drills are conducted without a halt and according to our annual time-table, but only some of them are publicized through the media."

Brigadier General Hajizadeh pointed to Iran's self-sufficiency in the missile technology, and said, "Today, all surface-to-surface missiles are fully built in Iran (from idea to finished product), different communications and wireless systems are (also) made inside the country and we do not need to buy radar systems from abroad."

In relevant remarks in late September, IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi stressed that the US is aware of its imminent loss and casualties in case it sparks a new war in the Persian Gulf and it, thus, obeys Iran's orders in the regional waters.

"The US knows that the damages of any war and firing bullets in the Persian Gulf cannot be compared with its benefits at all," Fadavi told reporters on the sidelines of the annual nationwide parades at the mausoleum of the Founder of the Islamic Republic, the Late Imam Khomeini, South of Tehran.

"The US is obedient and passive in the Persian Gulf and we impose our sovereignty right in the Persian Gulf very powerfully," he added.



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Also in May, Fadavi announced that the US forces and warships in the Persian Gulf complied with the orders of the Iranian naval forces deployed in the region.

"We observe confrontations and, as a matter of fact, debates between Iran and the foreign vessels in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz on a daily basis and they always comply," Fadavi told reporters in Tehran.

Noting that the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and Iran's territorial waters were at present the most secure geographical waters in the world, he said, "At present different types of foreign military vessels and 40 US warships and logistic ships are present in these regions but certainly, security is established there due to the measures adopted by our forces."

His comments came after a senior Islamic Revolution Guards Corps commander also announced in May that the IRGC Navy drones and boats were constantly recording movements of the US warships deployed in the Persian Gulf.

"The presence of the US aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf is meant to intimidate such fake regimes as the al-Saud since our forces don't feel any fear at all and are constantly taking footage of the warships when they are on their 15-meter boats and by means of drones," Commander of IRGC Navy's Salman 26 Missile Brigade General Abdolreza Vajdian said.

He said that different massive drills that the Iranian Armed Forces stage are monitored by the Americans and they are aware of the Islamic Republic of Iran's power.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13940712001551>

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Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) – Tehran, Iran

5 October 2015

Iran to Take Delivery of S-300 Missile Defense from Russia Soon

Tehran, Oct 5, IRNA – Iranian Ministry of Defense and Logistics of the Armed Forces said on Monday that Iran will take delivery of S-300 missile defense system from Russia as per an agreement already signed for.

The Ministry of Defense rejected speculations about procedure for delivery of S-300 missile defense.

S-300 missile system is designed for defensive objectives to protect industrial bodies, military sites and state organizations against enemies' air strikes.

In 2007, Russia and Iran signed an \$800-million deal for the delivery of five S-300 missile defense.

Moscow suspended the deal after the UN Security Council issued an arms embargo on Tehran amid allegations that Iran is planning to produce nuclear arms.

Russian President Vladimir Putin lifted the ban on delivery of S-300 missile defense in April, shortly after the P5+1 and Iran struck the nuclear deal -- Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Monday, October 05, 2015

Deputy Chief of Staff: Iran's Defense Power Untouched by N. Agreement

TEHRAN (FNA) - Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Brigadier General Massoud Jazayeri underscored that the country will not implement any part of the nuclear agreement between Tehran and the world powers that could debilitate its defensive power.

Asked to comment on the statements of a number of politicians who have said the nuclear agreement between Iran and the world powers would undermine Iran's military capabilities, Jazayeri told FNA on Monday that enemies' schemes to weaken the Islamic Republic of Iran's defensive power will fail, "and fortunately, there is not even the slightest doubt about the ascending trend of the Armed Forces' capabilities and skills,".

He referred to the war rhetoric against Iran by the US and Israel, and said, "Therefore, we should increase our military power to safeguard the national security of Iran and our friends and this important issue will not be affected by any other phenomenon."

"Any parts of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) which could leave (negative) impacts on the country's defensive power will not be implemented; I tell this to both the Iranians and the foreigners," Jazayeri stressed.

Noting that the Armed Forces have special plans after the approval of the JCPOA, he said Iran will soon stage several missile drills.

In relevant remarks in September, Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh announced Iran's plan to show its missile power in new wargames in the near future.

"Missile drills will be staged soon and we don't allow the enemy to make any moves," Hajizadeh told reporters on the sidelines of the annual nationwide parades at the mausoleum of the Founder of the Islamic Republic, the Late Imam Khomeini, South of Tehran.

He underlined Iran's missile power to confront possible threats, and said, "Iran will never start any assault but stands against threats powerfully and defends itself and doesn't show mercy to anyone."

Also, in August, Hajizadeh announced Iran's plans to hold massive ballistic missiles drills in the near future.

"The IRGC Aerospace Force will hold a large-scale ballistic missiles war-games soon," Brigadier General Hajizadeh said, addressing a ceremony in the city of Qaemshahr, Northern Iran.

He, meantime, reiterated that the IRGC Aerospace Force had successfully conducted all its missile tests over the past two years.

In March, Brigadier General Hajizadeh announced that Iran planned to replace its Fateh, Qiyam and Qadr missile series with a new generation of missiles.

"We will abolish Fateh 110 missiles (a short-range, road-mobile, solid-propellant, high-precision ballistic missile with advanced navigation and control systems) as well as the mid-range (high-



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precision ballistic) Qiyam and Qadr (first generation of air-launched precision-guided) missiles to replace them with new missiles," Hajizadeh said in Tehran.

He referred to the unveiling of long-range ground-to-ground Soumar cruise missile system, reminding that the weapon system has been built under harsh sanctions.

Also in March Iran unveiled 'Soumar' missile system in a ceremony attended by senior military officials and commanders.

"The long-range ground-to-ground Soumar cruise missile system has been designed and built by experts of the defense ministry's aerospace industries organization," Defense Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan told reporters after the unveiling ceremony.

Dehqan also announced the mass delivery of Qadr and Qiyam long-range ballistic missiles to the IRGC's Aerospace Force, and said these missiles are capable of destroying different types of targets under any type of conditions due to their tactical capability, sustainability in the battleground and radar-evading features.

He also announced that the defense ministry would deliver upgraded versions of these long-range and high-precision missiles to the Iranian military forces next year.

The Iranian Armed Forces have test-fired different types of newly-developed missiles and torpedoes and tested a large number of home-made weapons, tools and equipment, including submarines, military ships, artillery, choppers, aircrafts, UAVs and air defense and electronic systems, during massive military drills in the last few years.

Defense analysts and military observers say that Iran's war-games and its advancements in weapons production have proved as a deterrent factor.

Iran successfully tested second generation of Sejil missiles and brought it into mass production in 2013.

Sejil missiles are considered as the third generation of Iran-made long-range missiles.

Also, Iran's 2000km-range, liquid-fuel, Qadr F ballistic missile can reach territories as far as Israel.

Iran's surface-to-surface Sejil missile, the long-range Shahab-3 ballistic missile which has a range of up to 2,000 km, and Zelzal and Fateh missiles have all been developed by the Aerospace Organization of the Defense Industries.

This is while the solid-fuel, two-stage Sejil missile with two engines, is capable of reaching a very high altitude and therefore has a longer range than that of the Shahab 3 model.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13940713001086>

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Mehr News Agency – Tehran, Iran

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NSFP Parliamentary Commission Approves JCPOA

Tuesday, 6 October 2015

TEHRAN, Oct. 06 (MNA) – The details of the bill on JCPOA were approved on Monday during an extraordinary meeting of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy (NSFP) Commission .

Secretary of NSFP Parliamentary Commission Mohammad Hassan Asfari announced that, "in the afternoon session of the Commission, all the terms and provisions of the 'Iranian government's reciprocal and proportional action' bill were adopted with only one or two minor changes".

"According to these minor changes, Iran's Foreign Ministry which was to provide NSFP Commission with the report of JCPOA implementation every six months is now required to hand in a report every three months and NSFP Commission will also deliver a similar report to the Parliament," he added.

Stating that the Commission had a good atmosphere despite the existing disputes among the members, Asfari underlined that, "the bill on JCPOA has been investigated by other relevant Parliamentary Commissions the reports of which have not been announced yet".

"By the approval of the bill in the NSFP Commission's meeting on Monday, the final report will be presented to the public session of the Parliament next Sunday," he asserted.

Iran's Parliament approved a single-urgency bill on JCPOA which is called 'Iranian government's reciprocal and proportional action' bill on Sunday which was proposed on the basis of double-urgency but lawmakers approved it as a single-urgency bill.

The bill permits government to implement the JCPOA voluntarily based on the Supreme National Security Council resolutions.

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/110753/NSFP-Parliamentary-Commission-approves-JCPOA>

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Tuesday, October 06, 2015

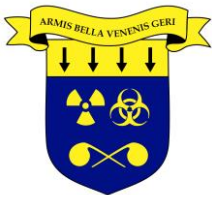
Iran's Top Security Official: S. Arabia Using Biological Weapons in Yemen

TEHRAN (FNA) - Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani blasted Saudi Arabia for using biological weapons against Yemen, and called it an act of genocide.

"The Saudi government's use of weapons which contain toxic and pathogenic gases in air and missile strikes against residential areas is aimed at genocide and breaking the legitimate resistance of the brave Yemeni people," Shamkhani said in a meeting with a delegation of Yemen's high council of revolution in Tehran on Tuesday.

He also described massacre of innocent Yemeni women and children and the inhumane siege imposed on the nation by the Saudi-led coalition as a war crime, and said, "Negotiations among Yemeni groups and preventing foreign meddling in the country is the only way to create understanding and restore security and stability to Yemen."

The head of the Yemeni delegation, for his part, appreciated Iran's effective support for the Yemeni people, and underscored his country's firm resolve to fight against the foreign aggression.



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In relevant remarks in June, a senior leader of Ansarullah revolutionary movement blasted Saudi Arabia for its continued use of internationally prohibited weapons, including chemical ordinance, against the Yemeni people.

"Saudi Arabia is still using chemical bombs against the Yemeni people," Hashem Adnan al-Basouri told FNA.

He underlined that Riyadh hits residential areas under the control of Ansarullah with chemical weapons.

"A report by the human rights watch showed that Saudi Arabia has used poisonous gas in four airstrikes on different parts of Sa'ada province," al-Basouri added.

Saudi Arabia has been striking Yemen for 195 days now to restore power to Hadi, a close ally of Riyadh. The Saudi-led aggression has so far killed at least 6,445 Yemenis, including hundreds of women and children.

Hadi stepped down in January and refused to reconsider the decision despite calls by Ansarullah revolutionaries of the Houthi movement.

Despite Riyadh's claims that it is bombing the positions of the Ansarullah fighters, Saudi warplanes are flattening residential areas and civilian infrastructures.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13940714001218>

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Tasnim News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Iran to Launch Homegrown Remote-Sensing Satellite Next Year

October 07, 2015

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran plans to send its first domestically-made remote-sensing satellite "Tolou 1 (Rise 1)" into orbit in the first half of the next Iranian calendar year, which will begin on March 20, 2016, the head of Iran's National Space Center announced.

Speaking in a press conference in Tehran on Wednesday, Manouchehr Manteqi said a contract for conducting three projects on space studies has been signed by Defense Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehghan and Vice-President for Science and Technology Affairs Sorena Sattari on the sidelines of the cabinet meeting today.

"The third project features designing and producing the Islamic Republic of Iran's first remote-sensing satellite, whose first generation is named Tolou 1 (Rise 1)," he said.

"The satellite has an imaging capability with an accuracy range of 25 square meters at a distance of 500 kilometers from the Earth," Manteqi added.

He further said the construction of the satellite will be completed by the end of the current Iranian year and "efforts will be made" to launch it in the first half of the next year.

Iran successfully launched into orbit its first indigenous data-processing satellite, Omid (Hope), back on February 2, 2009.

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As part of a comprehensive plan to develop its space program, Iran also successfully launched its second satellite, dubbed Rassad (Observation), into the earth's orbit in June 2011. Rassad's mission was to take images of the earth and transmit them along with telemetry information to ground stations.

The country's third domestically-built Navid-e Elm-o Sanat (Harbinger of Science and Industry) satellite was sent into orbit in February 2012.

In January 2013, Iran sent a monkey into space aboard an indigenous bio-capsule code-named Pishgam (Pioneer).

And later in December 2013, the country's scientists successfully sent a monkey, called 'Fargam' or Auspicious, into space aboard Pajoheshan (Research) indigenous rocket and returned the live simian back to earth safely.

<http://www.tasnimnews.com/english/Home/Single/882367>

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British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) News – London, U.K.

Islamic State 'Used Mustard Gas' against Peshmerga

7 October 2015

Islamic State (IS) militants fired mortar rounds containing mustard agent at Kurdish peshmerga fighters in northern Iraq, Kurdish officials say.

The Ministry of Peshmerga Affairs said blood samples from about 35 fighters revealed traces of sulphur mustard.

It did not say if any of the peshmerga had died as a result of the attack, or how severely they had been wounded.

Mustard gas can burn skin and cause severe respiratory problems, and is banned under international law.

The exposure took place along the front lines near the northern Iraqi towns of Makhmour and Gwer, the ministry said in a statement.

Roughly 37 mortars were fired in the attack, the statement added, "releasing white smoke and a black liquid".

The ministry called on countries fighting IS to give peshmerga fighters equipment for protection against chemical attacks. Several countries including the United States are already giving military assistance to the Kurdish fighters.

Chlorine gas

This is not the first time IS has been accused of using chemical weapons. In March, Kurdish authorities in Iraq said they had evidence that IS had used chlorine gas.

That allegation, by the Kurdistan Region Security Council, followed similar claims that the group had used low-grade chemical weapons against Iraqi security forces.

The director of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons expressed "serious concern" in August over the possibility IS was using prohibited chemical weapons.



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies

(CUWS) Outreach Journal

The UN recently adopted a resolution aimed at identifying those behind chemical weapons attacks in Syria.

IS already has a large arsenal of conventional weapons and military vehicles seized from the Iraqi army, much of it produced by the United States.

Iraq Kurds were the victim of a major chemical weapons attack by the Iraqi military under Saddam Hussein in 1988, which left thousands dead in the city of Halabja.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-34471237>

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Tehran Times – Tehran, Iran

Thursday, October 08, 2015

Leader Bans More Dialogue with U.S.

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has said that holding more negotiations with the United States after the conclusion of nuclear talks is “forbidden”, noting that dialogue with Washington has no benefits.

The Leader made the remarks during a meeting with commanders and staff members of the IRGC Navy and their families in Tehran on Wednesday.

“An important part of the activities of the enemy is to change the calculations of officials and to manipulate people’s revolutionary and religious beliefs,” the Leader noted. “Young people are the main target, and they must be alert.”

In principle Iran does not oppose holding negotiations with other countries, be it European or non-European, but holding talks with the U.S. is a different issue, Ayatollah Khamenei remarked.

The U.S. has defined dialogue with Iran as a way to “infiltrate” into the country and “find a way of imposing” its wills, he asserted.

“Talks with the U.S. means opening the way for infiltration into the country’s economic, cultural, political and security areas,” the Leader said.

He also said that Iran has never sought to wage war, but he urged the IRGC Navy to reinforce its capabilities.

Elsewhere, he said that the arrogant powers’ claims of support for human rights “run contrary to the reality” and are totally “nonsense”.

He cited the killing of the Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni, Palestinian and Bahraini people as examples of catastrophes provoked by the arrogant powers.

He added that Iran has prevented any infiltration into the country and has foiled the enemies’ plots.

http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=249951

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Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) – Tehran, Iran

9 October 2015

MP: JCPOA Opponents in Iranian Parliament Very Few

Ardebil, Azarbaijan Prov. Oct 9, IRNA – A small minority of parliamentarians are creating obstacles in way of approving Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), said deputy chairman of National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of Majlis here on Friday.

'The Parliament's single-star bill on implementing JCPOA will be presented to the Majlis General Assembly on Sunday and the MPs will based on the country's national interests approve of the government's implementation of it,' said Mansur Haqiqatpur in an interview with IRNA.

The deputy chairman of National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of the Majlis said that the majority of the people's representatives in the Parliament favor safeguarding the country's national security and the nation's interests and the single-star parliamentary bill, too, is presented to the General Assembly of the Parliament with those concerns in mind.

Haqiqatpur said that President Hassan Rouhani's government and the majority of the Parliament members shared viewpoints on the JCPOA and keeping in mind the prevailing atmosphere in the Parliament it seems as though the single-star parliamentary bill on the need to implement the JCPOA will be approved by the majority of the Parliament members and the sabotage of its few, but loud-spoken opponents will lead nowhere.

The opponents of the JCPOA have vowed to leave the Parliament's General Assembly on Sunday to decrease the required Parliament members' number for voting.

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/81791891/>

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Friday, October 09, 2015

Iranian General Killed in Syria

TEHRAN (FNA) - The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in a statement on Friday announced that an IRGC war veteran commander, providing military counseling services to the Syrian forces in their fight against the Takfiri terrorists, has been killed while defending the Shiite holy sites in the Muslim country.

Brigadier General Hossein Hamadani, the veteran commander of the IRGC, was martyred during an attack by the ISIL Takfiri terrorists in the outskirts of the city of Aleppo while fulfilling his duty as military advisor and defending the holy Shiite shrines in the country, said the statement.

Brigadier General Hamadani was in Syria to render military advice to the Syrian army and popular forces in their fight against the ISIL terrorists in the Arab country

In September 2014, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Gholam Ali Rashid announced that Iran's military advisors are present in the friendly regional states to provide those nations with necessary military recommendations.

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"Some of our commanders are in the field to give military advice to the Iraqi army, Lebanon's Hezbollah and the Palestinian resistance movement," Major General Rashid said, addressing a conference attended by a group of senior military commanders in Tehran.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13940717000218>

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Tasnim News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Iran Ready for Lightning Reaction to Any Military Action: IRGC Officer

October 09, 2015

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi said Iran knows about the US vulnerabilities more than any other country does, stressing that any hostile moves against the Islamic Republic will be followed by Iran's rapid and firm response.

Iran's military preparedness and capabilities stand at such a high level that the country's forces will respond to any hostile action in a lightning, rapid and crushing manner, the commander said in a gathering of foreign military attachés in Tehran.

Iran's knowledge of the US weak points exceeds that of all other countries, he added, noting that American officials are also aware that any action against Iran will cost them dearly.

Rear Admiral Fadavi then stressed that commanding officers of US aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf have very well felt the power of Iran and the presence of the IRGC naval forces across the water body.

Earlier in August, IRGC Commander Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari said his forces are prepared to counter any foreign threat by having advanced technologies in their possession.

"Today, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has immense power, and, relying on the people and faith (in God), and possessing very advanced technologies, is ready to counter any foreign threat," the top general said.

<http://www.tasnimnews.com/english/Home/Single/883732>

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The Hindu – Chennai, India

India Expanding Nuclear Arsenal: U.S.

By Narayan Lakshman

October 6, 2015

WASHINGTON -- A senior U.S. administration official this week clubbed India along with Pakistan, North Korea and Iran in a reference to nations that were expanding their nuclear weapons capabilities amidst global proliferation concerns.

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Speaking at a conference in Oslo, Norway, Frank Rose, Assistant Secretary of State at the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance, said a few days ago, "... India and Pakistan are adding to their arsenals; North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes remain a concern to all; and Iran, despite the landmark nuclear deal, continues its ballistic missile programs."

Mr. Rose said that given these nations' nuclear ambitions, along with the fact that Russia and China were modernising their nuclear forces, it would take more than simply banning nuclear weapons to prevent their proliferation and "effectively deter multiple adversaries with varying capabilities."

As it stands the agreement for declared nuclear powers to supply India with uranium fuel and reactor capabilities has ground to a halt pending talks between U.S. nuclear corporations and the Indian government, negotiations that have foundered on at least two clauses of India's nuclear liability law.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/india-expanding-nuclear-arsenal-us/article7727311.ece>

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The People's Daily Online – Beijing, China

China to Transfer Technology of Submarine Construction to Pakistan

By Chen Shen (People's Daily Online)

October 8, 2015

China is to build four submarines in Pakistan port city Karachi, fulfilling a new defense deal between the two countries, Pakistan local media reported on Wednesday.

The new defense deal includes eight submarines, which are going to be put into production at the same time in China and Pakistan. This makes the arms deal the biggest ever to China.

Announcing the deal, Pakistani Minister for Defense Production Rana Tanveer Hussain said that the deal had been finalized and four submarines would be built in Karachi. "China will transfer the technology to Pakistan for submarine construction," the Minister told Dawn, the Pakistan media.

The minister did not reveal which type of submarines China would transfer to Pakistan. Neither did he announce the exact date of the submarines being put into production.

Pakistan had earlier explored the options of buying submarines from France and Germany, but the deals did not materialize.

<http://en.people.cn/n/2015/1008/c90000-8958717.html>

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The Times of India – Mumbai, India

US in Talks with Pakistan over Capping its Nuke Range

By Chidanand Rajghatta, Tamil News Network (TNN)

October 8, 2015

WASHINGTON: The Obama administration is exploring a possible civilian nuclear deal with Pakistan ahead of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to Washington later this month, a Washington



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Post columnist has reported, citing a sole source "familiar with the talks" who said Islamabad has been asked to consider "brackets" relating to the deal.

Brackets, in diplomatic parlance, are numerous alternative formulations that are negotiated towards an eventual agreement. According to the report, the deal centers around a civilian nuclear agreement similar to the one the United States arrived at with India, in exchange for a Pakistani commitment that would "restrict its nuclear program to weapons and delivery systems that are appropriate to its actual defense needs against India's nuclear threat."

Pakistan might, for example, agree not to deploy missiles capable of reaching beyond a certain range, the report said, citing the source, who indicated that the US might support an eventual waiver for Pakistan by the 48-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the same way it has done for India.

The Obama administration said it was in "regular contact" with the Government of Pakistan on "a range of issues" as it prepared for the visit on October 22 of Prime Minister Sharif, but declined comment on the specifics of the discussions.

"The United States urges all nuclear-capable states, including Pakistan, to exercise restraint regarding nuclear weapons and missile capabilities. We encourage efforts to strengthen safety and security measures and continue to hold regular discussions with Pakistan on a range of global issues, including nuclear security, counterterrorism, and international norms," an administration spokesperson said in a tacit acknowledgement that some sort of dialogue is taking place on the nuclear issue.

Successive US administrations both under Presidents Bush and President Obama, have knocked down the idea of a deal for Pakistan like the one Washington arrived at with India, saying the background and circumstances surrounding the US-India civilian nuclear agreement was entirely different, and pointing to Pakistan's record of nuclear proliferation.

However, President Obama's recent track record vis-a-vis Iran and Cuba, both regarded for a long time as outlaw nations, suggests there may be some substance to a nuclear outreach towards Pakistan. There is also less pathology about Pakistan in Washington's official circles, where many veterans have a romanticized recall of Islamabad's role in the Cold War when it offered its services to Washington, for a price. The strategy helped Pakistan circumvent nuclear non-proliferation roadblocks that the US all too readily winked at.

In recent months, Pakistan has tried to project itself as a responsible nuclear power, although some of its politicians and generals reflexively brandish the country's nuclear weapons to assure themselves and their constituents about security against India. "We are a nuclear-armed country and we know how to defend ourselves," Pakistan's National Security Advisor Sartaj Aziz boasted recently in a suo motu assertion although no one had talked of a nuclear war.

While a few regional experts have floated the idea of a nuclear deal for Pakistan in the past, most analysts are aghast at the prospect. It will be "sheer madness wrapped in folly," said Sumit Ganguly, a South Asia scholar at Indiana University, among several experts who have critiqued Washington frequent free passes to a country that has a reckless history of nuclear proliferation and home-grown terrorism.

The WaPo report however conceded that inasmuch as Pakistan prizes its nuclear program, "negotiations would be slow and difficult, and it's not clear that Islamabad would be willing to

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accept the limitations that would be required." But, it said, the issue is being discussed quietly in the run-up to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to Washington on October 22.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/US-in-talks-with-Pakistan-over-capping-its-nuke-range/articleshow/49264551.cms>

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The National Interest – Washington, D.C.

OPINION/Feature

Welcome to American Nuclear Weapons 101

Land of the free, home of the nukes?

By Tom Nichols and Dana Struckman

October 3, 2015

Why does the United States have a nuclear arsenal, and what is it supposed to do?

That's actually a complicated question, especially in the 21st century. Even during the Cold War, there were strong divisions among American strategists about the purpose of nuclear weapons. For some, they existed only to deter nuclear attacks on the United States; for others, they were the military equalizer between an outgunned West and a gigantic Communist alliance. How did we get the nuclear deterrent we have, and where should we go from here?

The Past:

The U.S. nuclear force today is the cumulative result of a number of decisions made over 70 years. At the dawn of the Cold War, bombers were the backbone of the American nuclear deterrent, since there was no other way to deliver a weapon over long distances. The Soviets also developed long-range bombers, but they were considerably inferior to their U.S. counterparts, and had to traverse two oceans before reaching North America.

At first, the United States tried to use its nuclear advantage to contain Soviet expansion by threatening to use nuclear force in response to almost any Soviet aggression anywhere. This was the Eisenhower-era policy of "Massive Retaliation," but this was a less a strategy than a sign of desperation. There was no way for the U.S. and its allies to confront the massive conventional superiority of the Soviet Union (and, for a time, its huge Chinese communist ally) in Europe or Asia with conventional force. Outgunned and outmanned, the Americans threatened to respond "at times and in places of its own choosing" with nuclear arms, but Washington never made clear what would trip this nuclear trigger, and in the end, Massive Retaliation, while an early attempt to induce uncertainty in the enemy, was a hollow threat once the Soviets could respond in kind.

From the 1950s to the 1960s, the United States and the Soviet Union both diversified their strategic forces. Both sides soon developed long-range missiles, but the earliest versions were in perhaps the worst possible configuration: huge warheads on top of relatively inaccurate missiles sitting outside on launch pads. These bombers and missiles out in the open were sitting ducks, which made them a strong and destabilizing temptation for an enemy first strike.

In the 1960s, the superpowers started burying their missiles in the ground and hiding them underwater. Survivability was the key to stability: if neither side could be assured of neutralizing the other with a sudden attack, neither would risk suicide. This created the condition American strategists called "mutual assured destruction," a phrase they chose in part because of the evocative



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acronym it created. The United States spread its ICBMs out over vast spaces in the American West, but the Americans took advantage of their maritime prowess to create a powerful sea-going deterrent as well (as did the Soviets, but in smaller numbers). These changes meant that both sides soon had a “secure second-strike capability,” or the guaranteed ability to strike back after being hit first.

By 1967 the U.S. arsenal hit a peak of some 32,000 weapons, from small bombs to blockbusters. This array of forces reflected the war that U.S. leaders and strategists expected to fight. During the Cold War, the United States and its NATO allies assumed, sensibly, that no matter what started an East-West confrontation, the conflict would migrate to the inter-German border, the “Central Front,” in Europe. The Soviets, the reasoning went, would have every incentive to shift any conflict away from areas where they were weaker or less capable (such as Asia or the Middle East) and take it to the area where they enjoyed huge conventional superiority.

Once war was underway in Europe, NATO would be forced to surrender whatever was at issue to get the Soviets to release their grip on Western Europe. Nuclear weapons provided the West with its only chance of stopping such an attack. Small, short-range weapons (“tactical” nuclear arms) would be fired from everything ranging from bazookas to artillery, destroying the advancing Soviet tank armies and halting the invasion in its tracks. The goal was to convince the Soviet Union that nothing could be gained from aggression, since every scenario would lead back to a major nuclear exchange.

But did the Americans really intend to use nuclear arms, or were they trying to deter the Soviets from using nuclear force against the U.S. and NATO? The U.S. answer was to build a nuclear force configured for *both* deterrence and nuclear war-fighting. In fact, by the late 1960s, the American position was something of a paradox: the only way to convince the USSR that we wanted no part of a nuclear war was to have a logical plan for fighting one, and to maintain a credible force that could execute that plan. The U.S. triad thus shifted somewhat from a rationale of survivability and toward increasing options for nuclear use in a variety of scenarios ranging from limited strikes to all-out war. That force, and its multiple options, remains largely in place today.

The Present:

Today, the Cold War – or at least the *most recent* Cold War – is over. What does the U.S. strategic deterrent look like today, and what purpose should it serve in our national security?

First, it’s important to note that the dilemma of Massive Retaliation persists, in a way, to this day. What can the U.S. nuclear force, designed for World War III, do against a smaller nation that might be considering the use of, say, chemical weapons, or a single tactical bomb in a regional confrontation? Is the United States actually ready to employ nuclear strikes across North Korea or Iran?

Second, although the U.S. force is much smaller than it was during the Cold War (with, for example, only 450 land-based silos instead of 1000), it is still configured for a major nuclear conflict with a peer competitor. By treaty with the Russians, we can only have 700 launchers – that is, any mix of submarine or land-based missiles, along with bombers – and they can only carry a total of 1550 warheads. How should we arrange our forces within those limits?

The United States has conducted three reviews of its nuclear forces – in 1994, 2002, and 2010 – and each time concluded that it needs to retain the triad. But does America still need long-range

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bombers? Should it get rid of the land-based ICBMs, and move most of its missiles underwater, as some have argued? How many submarines, and with how many weapons on each, do we need? Does NATO still need tactical nuclear weapons, now that the Atlantic Alliance is the conventionally superior power and Russia is the inferior regional power?

The Future...Hard Choices Ahead:

Today, the U.S. nuclear deterrent is facing hard choices about modernization. The Air Force and Navy are drawing up plans for new bombers and a new generation of submarines. The American tactical arsenal will be modernized, at great cost. In effect, the result will be a smaller version of our Cold War nuclear deterrent, an idea that would have been harder to sell until the reemergence of Russia as a severe threat to U.S. security. But with the costs projected to reach into the hundreds of billions of dollars, it's time to ask if our previous strategies and nuclear force structure make sense.

The next administration will have to do its own review of U.S. nuclear posture when it comes into office after 2017. Will it start from the ground up, or will it merely ratify decisions made in the 1960s and the 1970s? There's no rule that says that previous answers are the wrong answers, but every planner knows that there's always an insidious and difficult enemy when drawing up future forces: bureaucratic inertia.

Tom Nichols is Professor of National Security Affairs at the Naval War College and an adjunct at the Harvard Extension School. His most recent book is No Use: Nuclear Weapons and U.S. National Security (University of Pennsylvania, 2014).

Dana Struckman (Colonel, USAF, ret) is Associate Professor of National Security Affairs at the Naval War College. On active duty, he was a missileer and also worked in ICBM testing and acquisition. Additionally, he commanded a U.S. ICBM missile squadron at Minot AFB, North Dakota.

The views expressed solely those of the authors.

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/welcome-american-nuclear-weapons-101-13999?page=show>

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Defense News – Tysons Corner, VA

OPINION/Commentary

The Nuclear Agreement Boosts Iran's Missile Threat

By Uzi Rubin

October 5, 2015

The controversial July 18 accord on Iran's nuclear programs (JCPOA) is like the mythical half-full cup of water: Its supporters laud the full half while its critics lament the empty half.

One of the most significant criticisms on JCPOA is the apparent absence of any limitation on Iran's potential nuclear delivery systems, most notably on its ballistic missile. Not so, say the supporters: The JCPOA's provisions continue to restrict Iran from building "missiles designed to be capable of carrying nuclear warheads" for the next eight years, thereby significantly reducing their threat.

This is contested by none other than Iran's foreign minister, who maintains that the JCPOA has nothing to do with Iran's missiles, because they are not designed to carry nuclear weapons.

So who is right here? Will the nuclear deal with Iran reduce its missile threat, or will it leave Iran free to build nuclear-capable missiles to its heart's contents?



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Like many other things in diplomacy, language is the key to this puzzle. Some ballistic missiles, such as the US Minuteman or the Russian Topol M, were built specifically for nuclear delivery. Operationally, they are “missiles designed to carry nuclear weapons.” Technically, however, there is nothing to prevent them from delivering conventional warheads if needed; in other words, they are “conventional capable.”

Similarly, many ballistic missiles that have been mainly built for conventional missions, such as the ex-Soviet Scud, are capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. (The Scud could carry three types of nuclear bombs). In other words, they are “nuclear capable.”

Thus, the JCPOA limitation on “missiles designed to be capable of carrying nuclear warheads” can be interpreted in contradictory ways. For the supporters of JCPOA it means continued limitation on Iran’s “nuclear-capable missiles.” For Iran it means a limitation on missiles designed only for nuclear delivery — hence irrelevant, because all of Iran’s medium-range missiles are dual purpose.

What counts is not what JCPOA proponents say but what Iran does, so it stands to reason that the nuclear deal is not going to block or even slow down any of Iran’s missile programs. If anything, the money released by the JCPOA is bound to accelerate them.

But are the Iranians really after long-range missilery? Some advocates of the deal believe that under Iran’s current president the focus has shifted from long-range to short-range systems. To substantiate this claim, they argue that Iran has not tested any medium-range missile for three years. This, however, is incorrect: The Iranians publicly announced their latest medium-range Shahab 3 test on January 2014, less than two years ago. The hiatus since then may well reflect not the absence of flight tests but a policy of concealment.

Indeed, the preceding flight tests in 2011 were concealed by Iran until unnamed countries leaked their existence to the UN. Incidentally, those were the longest range ever and the first ones that were fired into the Indian Ocean. And while no medium-range ballistic missile test was announced by Iran in the last year, it rolled out a 2,000+ kilometer range cruise missile just six month ago, potentially an even greater threat than equivalent range ballistic missiles.

Not to worry, claim the nuclear deal advocates: Iran’s conventional missiles are inaccurate, hence they are neither game changers nor existential threats. Again, this is more wishful thinking than the truth.

Iran is introducing high-precision capabilities to its entire gamut of ballistic weapons, from its tactical rockets all the way to its medium-range Shahabs. Anthony Cordesman predicted in his October 2014 report that by 2016 Iran will deploy a 1,700-kilometer-range precise, terminally guided variant of the Shahab 3. Right on cue, a flight test of a terminally guided version of the Shahab 3 appeared in a recent Iranian video clip from Sept. 27, 2015.

As for the gulf region, shorter-range precision missiles that can hit individual aircraft shelters in Air Force bases are already deployed by Iran. Such precision missiles are significant game changers: They provide their operators with the attributes of modern air power but without risking pilots and expensive aircraft, a veritable revolution in military affairs.

But they are “conventional,” hence relatively harmless, argue the nuclear deal proponents. This is World War II-era thinking. A precision-guided missile that can hit and destroy aircraft shelters from 1,500 kilometers can also hit and destroy critical national infrastructure such as power stations and



desalination plants. It can also hit and destroy nuclear power stations, causing Chernobyl scale disaster. This is an existential threat by any other name.

Iran's missile threat is there, and it is fast growing in quantity and quality. The end of the sanctions regime is bound to accelerate it not only because of the released funds, but also because Iran's ability to draw on the latest Western technology, hitherto restricted by the need for covert acquisition channels, will now be facilitated by over-the-counter sales to the now-rehabilitated Islamic Republic of Iran.

Rubin is president of the Rubincon consulting firm and founder of Israel's Missile Defense Organization.

<http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/commentary/2015/10/05/nuclear-agreement-boosts-irans-missile-threat/73388484/>

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The London Telegraph – London, U.K.

OPINION/Article

What Could Isil Actually Do If They Got Their Hands on Nuclear Material?

Dirty bomb? Nuclear missile? After reports of Russian criminals trying to sell to Islamic State, we ask what the jihadists could actually do with nuclear material

By Richard Brown, King's College London

08 October 2015

The confirmation that black market gangs have been offering nuclear materials for sale – and have expressly targeted Islamic State buyers – can hardly be received with equanimity.

There is no reason to believe that an organisation with so hellishly violent a track record as Isil would balk at using such materials offensively if ever they had ready access to them.

It would, however, be premature to leap from news of (failed) transactions to visions of a nuclear-armed Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Isil), without first asking what they could actually do with any nuclear material they bought.

Why 'bomb-grade' doesn't always mean that

The term 'nuclear material' can, in fact, cover a range of different substances, including those required for nuclear explosions – namely, uranium and plutonium. Neither is at all easy to produce.

Uranium can be mined, and Isil may already possess a small amount, but even after processing its natural form would be of little military value.

To sustain a nuclear reaction natural uranium must be 'enriched' – an intensive industrial process far beyond the capabilities of Islamic State.

If Isil were to obtain some form of enriched uranium, there would still be the questions of specific enrichment level and mass.

The agreed threshold for classification as High Enriched Uranium (HEU) is >20% U-235, but the enrichment level actually required to enable a nuclear explosion is far higher (>80%).

A uranium device also requires a critical mass, in the order of several kilograms of U-235; a smaller quantity, even if enriched to weapons grade, would be useless for the purpose of a nuclear blast.



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The reported asking price of €32 million per kilogram HEU implies an overall cost to Isil running to hundreds of millions of euros – cash which Isil is unlikely to have and which it could doubtless spend rather more effectively elsewhere.

(Note, moreover, that the successful procurement of appropriate quantities of fissile material would still not guarantee a viable bomb: Isil would need to buy or develop an appropriate weapons design and obtain other difficult-to-obtain materials, such as high explosives, neutron initiators, casings and so on.)

Alternative uses for nuclear material

A nuclear explosion is not the only use to which Isil could put ‘nuclear materials’.

There are other radioactive substances than uranium and plutonium, and a more practical and perhaps more tempting prospect would for Isil to use these to produce a radiological dispersal device – a so-called ‘dirty bomb’. Such a device would scatter potentially lethal doses of radioactive material over a large area.

The explosive component could be fairly crude, and the appropriate radiological materials would be easier to obtain used (a small quantity of Caesium-137 or Cobalt-60 would be ideal).

No nuclear explosion would result, but there would be a significant risk of radiation sickness and contamination of a wide area. The psychological and environmental impact could be severe.

That said, the lethality of the device itself might not be especially high; much would depend on the context in which the device was used, and the swiftness with which authorities could begin decontamination.

At any rate, most of the value to the terrorists would come from the scale of disruption the bomb caused, rather than from the radiological death toll.

Is it realistic?

For a group like Isil, the return on investment for nuclear materials would be poor: even the materials for a crude dirty bomb would likely prove ruinously expensive.

In a world in which young men with AK-47s can kill hundreds it would hardly be worth Isil’s while to seek nuclear materials.

That, of course, is little solace: bullets and bombs are more than enough.

Richard Brown is a researcher at the International Centre for Security Analysis, King’s College London

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/islamic-state/11918489/What-could-Isil-actually-do-if-they-got-their-hands-on-nuclear-material.html>

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ABOUT THE USAF CUWS

The USAF Counterproliferation Center was established in 1998 at the direction of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Located at Maxwell AFB, this Center capitalizes on the resident expertise of Air University, while extending its reach far beyond - and influences a wide audience of leaders and policy makers. A memorandum of agreement between the Air Staff Director for Nuclear and

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Counterproliferation (then AF/XON), now AF/A5XP) and Air War College Commandant established the initial manpower and responsibilities of the Center. This included integrating counterproliferation awareness into the curriculum and ongoing research at the Air University; establishing an information repository to promote research on counterproliferation and nonproliferation issues; and directing research on the various topics associated with counterproliferation and nonproliferation .

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

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

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

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