



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies (CUWS) Outreach Journal

Issue No. 1117, 30 May 2014

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

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FEATURE ITEM: *"U.S. Strategic Nuclear Forces: Background, Development, and Issues"*. Authored by Amy F. Wolf, Specialist in Nuclear Weapons Policy; Congressional Research Service. Published, May 15, 2014; 42 pages.
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/RL33640.pdf>

Even though the United States plans to reduce the number of warheads deployed on its long-range missiles and bombers, consistent with the terms of the New START treaty, it also plans to develop new delivery systems for deployment over the next 20-30 years. The 113th Congress will continue to review these programs during the annual authorization and appropriation process.

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National Journal – Washington, D.C.

Senate Bill Would Create Separate Fund for New Trident Submarine

By Rachel Oswald

May 27, 2014

A Senate defense panel wants to create a separate fund to underwrite the nation's new nuclear-armed submarine fleet, a step the House also supports.

The Senate Armed Services Committee's mark-up of its annual defense authorization legislation calls for the establishment of a "National Sea-based Deterrence Fund" to finance the construction of new submarines to replace today's Ohio-class ballistic missile vessels, according to a detailed panel summary of the bill released on Friday.

The Democratic-controlled committee approved the legislation on Thursday by a near-unanimous vote. On the same day, the Republican-controlled House passed its own version of the fiscal 2015 policy-setting bill that also included language ordering the creation of a special fund to pay for the new "SSBN(X)" fleet.

The House legislation authorizes the Defense Department to transfer up to \$3.5 billion to the Ohio-class replacement account from "unobligated funds" authorized for fiscal years 2014 to 2016. Meanwhile, the Senate bill would authorize an initial \$100 million to get the fund going.

Congressional support for creating a separate fund for the Ohio-class successor stems from concerns that the submarine-building effort could eat up too much of the Navy's overall shipbuilding budget. The project currently is

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in the design and development stage, with construction of the planned 12 new strategic submarines expected to start in fiscal 2021. The vessels are to be armed initially with the Navy's nuclear-tipped Trident D-5 ballistic missile.

The latest moves in the two chambers come on the heels of skepticism by a key supporter of the separate-funding idea for new submarines, Representative Randy Forbes (R-Va.), who said recently that the approach would be unlikely to gain full congressional approval this year.

Meanwhile, the Senate Armed Services Committee also approved boosting funds for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system to the tune of \$30 million above the Obama administration's request. The additional money is to be used "for improvements in reliability and maintenance" of the antimissile program, according to the summary report.

The GMD program -- comprising 30 Ground Based Interceptors deployed in California and Alaska, plus a network of sensors -- is the country's principal line of defense against a limited long-range ballistic missile attack. However, it has had a number of recent testing problems that have been so troubling that the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency in March announced it would redesign the interceptor's front-end kill vehicle.

This comes as the military is planning to procure another 14 interceptors for fielding in Alaska, in response to a possible missile threat posed by North Korea.

The draft Senate legislation would order the Pentagon to "develop a robust acquisition plan" for the redesign of the kill vehicle, which uses kinetic energy to destroy incoming ballistic missiles, in order "to provide confidence that it will work in an operationally effective manner," the summary states.

The bill also would mandate that the Department adhere to the "fly-before-you-buy" approach for affirming through testing the soundness of ballistic missile defense technologies before they are purchased or deployed. The Missile Defense Agency has come under repeated criticism from independent experts and by Congress' internal watchdog for not sufficiently following this acquisition strategy in its development and expansion of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense program.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/global-security-newswire/senate-bill-would-create-separate-fund-for-new-trident-submarine-20140527>

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Air Force Times.com

Bonuses, Incentive Pay Approved for Some Missileers

By Brian Everstine, Staff writer

May 29, 2014

Some missileers will be eligible for bonuses and incentive pay under the first round of changes aimed at improving morale and addressing ethical issues in the nuclear missile community, the Air Force announced Thursday.

New incentives include bonuses for new missileers who successfully complete initial skills training and targeted incentive pay for airmen operating outside the main base, both effective Oct. 1. The service is also offering Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarships for missile duty, 10 of which have already been awarded. The Air Force has not finalized the amount of pay for the incentives, according to Global Strike Command.

Other changes include a new service medal, a promotion for the Global Strike commander, increased manning and improved training.

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James on May 27 approved the creation of the Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal, which will be awarded to airmen assigned to the nuclear enterprise who work in nuclear operations; nuclear facilities; nuclear command, control and communication; aircraft operations; explosive ordnance disposal; or installation personnel reliability program management. Any active-duty, Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve airmen must be deployed or assigned for 120 consecutive or 179 nonconsecutive days to earn

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the medal. An airmen must be assigned longer to earn the “N” device for the medal. The eligibility has not been finalized, according to the Air Force.

James has said the creation of new medals or awards are one way to address issues of low morale that have been “systemic” among the missileer force.

The Air Force also announced that James has recommended that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel elevate the rank of the Global Strike commander from a three-star to a four-star.

“This important mission in the Air Force deserves the highest level of leadership oversight similar to our other operational core mission areas,” James told the American Forces News Service.

The service also wants to elevate the assistant chief of staff for strategic deterrence and nuclear integration from a two-star to a three-star.

Among manning increases, two majors will be added to each missile squadron to serve as assistant operations officers to cover the gap between lieutenant colonel squadron commanders and lieutenants and captains who are missileers, according to AFNS. These midlevel commanders would help decrease the “micromanaging” from higher commanders that missileers have complained about.

Global Strike Command also announced changes for the development of the officers.

The command is following the lead of the aviation community to increase experience for operators before they transition into leadership. The new “3 + 3” program will have a missile officer spend the initial three-year tour as a deputy crew member and then upgrade to a crew commander. During the first assignment, the officer will focus on mastering the weapons system before moving to the second three-year assignment as instructor, evaluator and flight commander, according to Global Strike Command. For most of the officers, the second three years would include transferring to a different base.

Currently, missileers are on a four-year tour, and an officer would spend the first two years as a deputy crew commander and, based on the strength of test scores, would compete to be an evaluator. In the second half, the airman would be a commander and use evaluations to compete to become an instructor. Officers said this would force airmen to do fewer alerts and focus on evaluations instead of mastering the job.

The command will also implement cross-service exchanges and new leadership development courses for missile commanders.

“By implementing the best practices from the Air Force, training now focuses on providing learning opportunities where critical self-assessment is paramount, and the instruction is tailored to the experience level of each crew,” Global Strike Commander Lt. Gen. Stephen Wilson said in a release.

Evaluation of missile officers is now in a recurring 15- to 18-month cycle, comprised of a written test, simulator evaluation and field evaluation, Wilson said.

The changes came from the command’s Force Improvement Program, which included a bottoms-up review of the nuclear missile community and airmen’s suggestions on how to improve the missile force. The program was started after a large-scale cheating investigation involving airmen at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont, earlier this year.

Global Strike announced May 29 that the program will head to bomber crews, beginning in mid-June. Five teams will visit bomber units at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.; Minot Air Force Base, N.D.; and Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. Other teams will visit airmen at Andersen Air Base, Guam, and Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. The teams will conduct surveys and personally interview airmen.

<http://www.airforcetimes.com/article/20140529/NEWS/305290064/Bonuses-incentive-pay-approved-some-missileers>

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ITAR-TASS News Agency – Moscow, Russia

Russia to Take Retaliatory Measures if Compromise Lacks on Europe Missile Defense

May 23, 2014

MOSCOW, May 23. /ITAR-TASS/. Russia will regret revising an adaptive approach for missile defense in Europe, Russia's high-ranking diplomat said.

"If a compromise is not reached, there will be the only approach towards ensuring security - we'll take retaliatory measures," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said on Friday.

"We cannot be indifferent to the attempts to negatively impact Russia's strategic nuclear deterrence potential. This is the essence of Europe's missile defense segment," he said.

"I'd like people who advocate intensifying the US efforts on missile defense to assume more responsibility," Ryabkov said.

<http://en.itar-tass.com/russia/732963>

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The Boston Herald – Boston, MA

Congress: US Should Confront Russia on Nuke Treaty

By The Associated Press (AP)

Tuesday, May 27, 2014

WASHINGTON — Congress is stepping up pressure on the White House to confront Russia over allegations that it is cheating on a key nuclear arms treaty — a faceoff that could further strain U.S.-Moscow relations and dampen President Barack Obama's hopes to add deeper cuts in nuclear arsenals to his legacy.

Butting heads with Russian President Vladimir Putin over compliance with a 26-year-old treaty to eliminate an entire class of nuclear weapons is not something that fits into Obama's "reset" with Russia, which already was stalled after Russia granted asylum to National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden and annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. But the issue has been simmering for a few years and Republicans on Capitol Hill want Obama to address it head-on.

The Russians are accused of testing a new ground-launched cruise missile in violation of the treaty. Russian officials say they have looked into the allegations and consider the matter closed.

It's unclear why the administration, which has raised the issue with Russia through diplomatic channels, doesn't want to publicly blow the whistle on Moscow's alleged violation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty signed in 1987. The treaty banned all U.S. and Russian land-based ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges between 300 miles and 3,400 miles.

There are several theories: The U.S. doesn't want Russia to pull out of the treaty altogether, which would be embarrassing for a president who, shortly after taking office, declared his vision of a world without nuclear weapons.

Obama has won Senate ratification of the New START treaty, the most significant arms control pact in nearly two decades. The treaty, which took effect in February 2011, requires the U.S. and Russia to reduce the number of their strategic nuclear weapons to no more than 1,550 by February 2018.

Last June, Obama announced in Berlin that he wants to cut the number of U.S. nuclear arms by another third, which would shrink the total to between 1,000 and 1,100 weapons for bombers and land- and sea-based missiles.

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He said he intends to "seek negotiated cuts" with Russia — something Congress would be unlikely to approve if Russia is found in violation of the 1987 INF treaty.

It's an awkward time for Washington to be pointing a finger at Russia over nukes.

Besides the issues over Snowden and Ukraine, Washington needs Russia's help in ending the Syrian civil war and sealing a deal that constrains Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for lifting economic sanctions on Tehran.

Republicans in Congress are getting impatient.

"By failing to even acknowledge Russia's cheating — almost since day one of the 'reset' policy and during his New START treaty negotiation — the president has failed to lead," said Rep. Mike Rogers, an Alabama Republican who chairs the House Armed Services strategic forces subcommittee.

"The Congress — unwilling to wait any longer on the president — is moving ahead with declaring Russia's conduct to be a violation of its treaty obligations. But we only have one commander in chief, and it's time for him to put our defenses and other responses in place."

The Republicans especially want to know whether the Obama administration knew about the alleged cheating on the INF treaty when it was asking Congress to ratify the New START treaty, which the president hailed as a "cornerstone of our relations with Russia."

Earlier this month, Sens. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., asked the Defense Department's inspector general to look into whether the Pentagon knew of "any and all compliance concerns regarding the INF treaty and the Russian Federation during the process of the negotiation and ratification of the New START treaty." On Friday, 10 Republican senators sent a letter to the State Department asking its inspector general to look into whether the then-assistant secretary of state for arms control knew about the compliance issue — and didn't tell the Senate — when New START was being ratified.

Moreover, the defense authorization bill the House passed last week included a clause requiring the administration to submit an unclassified report on the matter to Congress 90 days after the bill becomes law, and every 90 days thereafter. The report should address how the president is holding Russia "accountable for being in material breach" of the treaty and whether it's a good idea for the U.S. to remain a party to it.

In June 2013, Russian presidential chief of staff Sergei Ivanov said the treaty cannot last forever. He lamented that the U.S. never needed the entire class of intermediate-range missiles that the treaty banned unless it planned to go to war with Mexico or Canada. Since the treaty was signed, countries along Russia's borders, such as North Korea, China, Pakistan and India, have acquired these types of weapons, he said. "Why can anyone have weapons of this class but the U.S. and we legally cannot?" he said.

The Washington-based Arms Control Association says the U.S. should try to keep the treaty alive.

"The United States has no military need to deploy ground-launched ballistic or cruise missiles capable of traveling 500 to 5,500 kilometers, which are banned by the treaty," the group said in an analysis it released on the subject Friday. "U.S. withdrawal would only give Russia an excuse to do the same, allowing Moscow to produce and deploy INF missiles."

The U.S., meanwhile, continues to raise the cheating issue with the Russians, but only quietly — perhaps in hopes of keeping the treaty intact.

Rose Gottemoeller, the undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, acknowledged earlier this month that the U.S. has deep concerns that Moscow is cheating, but she and other officials have said little else publicly.

"We have serious compliance concerns with the Russians with regard to the INF Treaty," she said. "I've raised them repeatedly. We will continue to do so until we're satisfied. The concern has to do with a ground-launched cruise missile that has been tested."

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Right now, everybody is waiting to see whether the State Department's latest compliance report, which was due in mid-April and has yet to be released, will accuse Russia of noncompliance. Last year, Congress required the administration to brief lawmakers by May 15 with or without the report. That deadline has passed as well and Republican lawmakers complain the administration has not reached out to brief them.

A State Department official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he did not have permission to discuss the issue publicly by name, said the administration worked hard to produce a compliance report by April 15, which requires coordinated input from the State, Defense and Energy departments and intelligence agencies. The official said only that the report would be available soon.

The official said Secretary of State John Kerry had "raised treaty compliance issues broadly with Russia," that Gottemoeller had discussed them more specifically with Russian officials and that the administration regularly updates Congress on compliance-related issues "and has done so consistently, as required by law, since coming into office."

http://bostonherald.com/news_opinion/us_politics/2014/05/congress_us_should_confront_russia_on_nuke_treaty

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The Washington Free Beacon – Washington, D.C.

Congress Funds Army's Hypersonic Missile After Chinese Strike Vehicle Test

Defense budget crisis limits U.S. role in hypersonic arms race underway by China and Russia

By Bill Gertz

May 29, 2014

Congress approved funding last week for the Pentagon's advanced hypersonic missile program and expressed concerns over China's recent test of an ultra-high-speed strike vehicle designed to deliver nuclear warheads through U.S. missile defenses.

The House fiscal year 2015 defense authorization bill approved \$70.7 million for the Army's hypersonic missile as part of the Pentagon's conventional prompt strike program.

The Senate, in its version of the fiscal year 2015 defense bill, also authorized \$70.7 million for hypersonic weapons.

The prompt strike program is a strategic weapons program aimed at building high-speed arms capable of attacking targets any place on earth within 30 minutes.

A House report on the defense bill provided new details on U.S. hypersonic weapons programs and also stated that the Pentagon appears to be spending too little on U.S. hypersonic weapons programs in light of China's first hypersonic missile test Jan. 9.

The Chinese hypersonic strike vehicle test, which was first reported by the *Washington Free Beacon* and later confirmed by the Chinese Defense Ministry, marked a major leap in Beijing's advanced arms program. U.S. officials said the strike vehicle test involved a maneuvering weapon that traveled at up to 10 times the speed of sound.

"The committee is concerned that the People's Republic of China and other competitor nations pose an increasing challenge to the United States' technology edge in such emerging areas as hypersonic weapons," the report said. "On Jan. 9, China successfully conducted the first flight test of a hypersonic glide vehicle." It also noted that Russia is working on hypersonic weapons, but that its program is said to be less advanced.

The January hypersonic test of what the Pentagon calls China's WU-14 strike vehicle appears to have set off a hypersonic arms race, at least for Russia and China. The Pentagon's severe budget crisis appears to be restricting investment in hypersonic weapons technology.

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A Russian arms industry official, Boris Obnosov, told reporters at an arms show in Astana, Kazakhstan on Friday that “dozens” of Russian institutes and factories are involved in building a hypersonic weapon. “Hopefully, this will happen by 2020,” Obnosov said when asked when the first hypersonic missile prototype would be built.

Obnosov warned that other states are racing to build hypersonic weapons. “If we slacken and lag behind, we will not be able to catch up later,” he said, according to the state-run Interfax news agency.

The Chinese hypersonic vehicle test, first disclosed by the *Free Beacon* in January, was a major high-tech arms breakthrough that caused concern within the Pentagon as the latest example of what the Pentagon calls anti-access, area denial capabilities designed to drive the United States out of Asia and prevent U.S. military forces from aiding regional allies.

Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology, and logistics, told Congress in January that hypersonic arms are a major worry.

“On hypersonics, this is a good example of an area of technology that is going to move forward whether we invest in it or not,” Kendall said, adding, “China is doing work in this area.”

Kendall said hypersonic strike vehicles are difficult to counter with current missile defenses.

Earlier, Lee Fuell, a technical intelligence specialist with the Air Force National Air and Space Intelligence Center, told a congressional China commission that the Chinese hypersonic glide vehicle is a ballistic missile-launched system that glides and maneuvers to its target at speeds up to Mach 10, around 7,611 mph.

“At this point, we think that’s associated with their nuclear deterrent forces,” he said, adding that there are concerns the Chinese could arm the systems with conventional warheads for long-range precision strikes.

Navy officials told *Aviation Week* that they believe the hypersonic strike weapon is part of China’s anti-ship ballistic missile program.

The current House bill funding is focused on an Army program called the Advanced Hypersonic Missile that was first tested in 2011. The Army said the missile is capable of traveling at Mach 5, or 3,600 miles per hour or greater. In the 2011 test, the missile flew 2,500 miles from Hawaii to the Kwajalein Atoll of the Marshall Islands in 30 minutes.

If the second Army missile test goes well, the Pentagon will begin studying whether the weapon can be deployed on a submarine, the House report said, recommending a third test for the missile.

Another U.S. system is the Hypersonic Technology Vehicle, a glider that failed two tests and is facing opposition from some congressional defense authorizers.

Rick Fisher, a specialist on China’s military programs, said the funding for the hypersonic missile is overdue.

“Both Russia and China are developing new hypersonic speed maneuverable warheads for their ballistic missiles and are likely developing new hypersonic speed strategic attack missiles that could succeed long range cruise missiles,” said Fisher, with the International Assessment and Strategy Center.

“The United States has an urgent need for new hypersonic speed weapons to equip aircraft, ships, submarines as well as long range ballistic missiles.”

In March, Alan R. Shaffer, principal deputy assistant defense secretary for research and engineering, told a defense industry conference that the Pentagon’s experimental X-51 scramjet hypersonic missile is a favored design.

“We, the U.S., do not want to be the second country to understand how to have controlled scramjet hypersonics,” Shaffer said March 18.

The House report also expressed concerns about the lack of defenses against hypersonic weapons.

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As a result, the bill contains a provision requiring the undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology, and logistics and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to produce a report to Congress on emerging hypersonic threats. The report will be due before the end of the year.

The report must evaluate “emerging hypersonic threats to the United States, its allies, and its deployed forces, and explain how the Department of Defense intends to develop and deploy a defensive capability to counter this emerging threat.”

Currently, U.S. missile defenses are designed to counter primarily ballistic missiles—weapons with a predictable flight path.

The limited systems of satellite and other sensors and ground and sea-based interceptors are said to be unable to track and defeat hypersonic vehicles.

A hypersonic strike vehicle is a missile or aircraft launched vehicle that travels at five times the speed of sound or greater, or above 3,840 miles per hour.

Current designs include vehicles that are launched from a missile last stage and glide and maneuver to their targets at the edge of space. A second design is a scramjet-powered vehicle launched from a bomber. A scramjet is a high-efficiency engine that operates by burning a supersonic airflow.

<http://freebeacon.com/national-security/congress-funds-armys-hypersonic-missile-after-chinese-strike-vehicle-test/>

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Want China Times – Taipei, Taiwan

PLA Ballistic Missile Submarines Spotted off Hainan

By Staff Reporter

May 25, 2014

Three Chinese ballistic missile submarines have been seen spotted off China's southern island province of Hainan, according to the Canada-based Kanwa Defense Review operated by Andrei Chang also known as Pinkov, a military analyst.

According to Kanwa, satellite photos available online show three submarines that seem to be shorter than the ordinary Type 094 Jin-class ballistic missile submarine. With the capability to carry 12 JL-2 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), the three submarines are either the modified version of Type 094s or Type 096 Tang-class ballistic missile submarines. It indicates however that China is building more nuclear-powered strategic submarines, Kanwa said.

Hainan is the forward base for the People's Liberation Army Navy to deploy its warships into the disputed South China Sea, and this may explain the three ballistic missile submarines in the region. In addition, the deep waters of the South China Sea provide Chinese nuclear-powered strategic submarines with the perfect cover to avoid the detection of US aircraft, warships and satellites.

With three nuclear-powered strategic submarines, China is capable of launching at least 36 ICBMs, according to Kanwa, adding that the PLA Navy is in fact building up its second strike capability. Meanwhile, satellite photos also indicate that the country's Type 092 Xia-class submarine remains in port and may likely be replaced by the Type 094 submarine in the near future.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?cid=1101&MainCatID=11&id=20140525000107>

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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

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N. Korean Nuclear Envoy Confirms Informal Talks with U.S. Experts

May 26, 2014

BEIJING, May 26 (Yonhap) -- North Korea's chief nuclear envoy on Monday confirmed that he held an informal meeting with U.S. experts in Mongolia late last week, in an apparent move to explore ways to resume long-stalled multilateral discussions on the North's nuclear program.

Asked upon arriving at a Beijing airport whether he held informal talks with U.S. experts, Ri Yong-ho, Pyongyang's chief delegate to the six-nation talks, told reporters, "Yes, yes." However, Ri declined to give details before being picked up by a North Korean Embassy vehicle.

The informal talks in the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar on Friday were apparently aimed at reviving the deadlocked six-nation talks, but it was not immediately known whether any progress was made, a diplomatic source in Beijing said earlier Monday.

The Friday talks involved Ri and three U.S. experts, including Joel Wit and Robert Carlin, former U.S. State Department officials specializing in North Korean issues, the source said.

"Ri and the American experts met in Ulaanbaatar on May 23," the source said, declining to elaborate on what topics were covered.

"The U.S. government's stance is that the American experts had nothing to do with the U.S. government," the source said, adding that Washington "seems not to put any meaning to the informal talks in Mongolia."

Ri is expected to stay in Beijing on Monday before returning home on Tuesday. China's foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang told reporters that Ri is not scheduled to meet with Chinese officials.

"I have not heard that any Chinese leaders will meet with him," Qin replied when asked about whether Ri would meet with his Chinese counterpart, Wu Dawei, in Beijing.

North Korea and the U.S. held two rounds of such informal talks last year, which have served as venues for the two nations to share ideas about resuming the six-party talks.

Since North Korea's third nuclear test in February last year, the communist country has repeatedly expressed its willingness to reopen the six-party talks "without preconditions," but South Korea and the U.S. have maintained that North Korea must first demonstrate its sincerity toward denuclearization before the disarmament-for-aid talks can resume.

China has been more accommodating toward North Korea, urging South Korea and the U.S. to lower their bar for talks. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is set to visit South Korea on Monday with the agenda focused on how to deal with North Korea's nuclear program.

North Korea has been threatening to conduct its fourth nuclear test since last March, although recent satellite images showed no immediate signs of a test.

The six-party forum, which includes the two Koreas, the U.S., China, Russia and Japan, has been dormant since late 2008.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2014/05/26/0200000000AEN20140526004500315.html>

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The Korea Times – Seoul, South Korea

Seoul Rebuffs US Missile Defense

May 27, 2014

By Kang Seung-woo

Issue No.1117, 30 May 2014

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CUWS Outreach Journal

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

The Ministry of National Defense said Tuesday that the U.S. -led missile defense (MD) system is not South Korea's option in deterring North Korea's nuclear and missile threats.

"We are still clinging to our position that Korea will not join the U.S. -led MD system," said defense ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok.

Instead of the U.S. MD, Korea is building an independent, low-tier missile shield called the Korea Air and Missile Defense (KAMD) system with a plan to upgrade PAC-2 missiles to PAC-3.

His remarks come as the United States appears to be pushing Korea to join its missile defense system, which mainly aims to contain a rising China in the region.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) last week and it requires the secretary of defense to explore ways to strengthen trilateral cooperation with Korea and Japan on ballistic missile defense, including system integration and more information sharing. The NDAA is a U.S. federal law related to the budget and expenditures of the Department of Defense.

"The secretary of defense shall conduct an assessment to identify opportunities for increasing missile defense cooperation among the United States, Japan and the Republic of Korea," it said.

It also requires the military chief to submit a report to Congress no later than 180 days after the act takes effect.

However, the defense ministry spokesman believes that the passage of the NDAA was prompted by North Korea's ceaseless pursuit of long-range missiles and nuclear weapons, rather than designed to call on the South to follow in Japan's footsteps. Japan joined the U.S. MD system in 2005.

Although Korea confirmed it would continue to build the KAMD system at the ROK-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting in October, there has been speculation that Washington still wants to include Seoul into its MD system.

In a trilateral summit with Korea, Japan and the U.S. in The Hague in March, U.S. President Barack Obama said they discussed specific steps to deepen military cooperation that included joint exercises and missile defense.

In addition, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported last week that the U.S. seeks an information-sharing agreement with Japan and South Korea to combat North Korea's missile threat.

"The specifics of the proposal include a plan to immediately share information among the three nations regarding any missile launch detected by South Korean radar," it said.

The Japanese media added that U.S. National Security Adviser Susan Rice proposed the plan to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during Obama's visit to Japan last month.

However, it will not be easy to reach a deal because of negative reactions Korea has had to Abe's recent rightward shift in his political ideology and actions.

Kim also said: "We basically recognize the need to share information regarding the North's nuclear weapons and missiles.

"However, we are poised to approach the issue, taking into consideration the public sentiment."

Seoul and Tokyo came close to a military intelligence sharing pact two years ago, but the move fell through due to strong domestic backlash because Koreans still harbor lingering resentment against its former colonial ruler.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2014/05/116_157967.html

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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

U.S. Eyes more Missile Defense Ties with S. Korea

May 29, 2014

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By Lee Chi-dong

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Yonhap) -- The United States will continue to push for closer cooperation with South Korea and other regional allies to counter North Korea's ballistic missile threats, a senior Pentagon official said Wednesday amid widespread speculation that Washington is pressing Seoul to do more in the regional missile defense system.

"We're encouraging our allies and partners to acquire their own missile defenses and to strengthen regional missile defense cooperation that will result in better performance than individual countries acting alone," Adm. James A. Winnefeld, vice chairman of the Joints Chief of Staff, said in a speech at Atlantic Council here.

He emphasized the seriousness of North Korea's missile capability and the need to bolster a defense posture.

"We're not betting on Dennis Rodman as our deterrent against a further North Korean ICBM threat," he said. "The cornerstone of our security and diplomacy has been our strong bilateral alliances with South Korea, Japan, and Australia. Going forward, we will continue to emphasize the importance of developing regional ballistic missile defense systems."

His comments came as South Korean officials say Seoul has no plans to formally join the Washington-led missile defense network.

They prefer the word "interoperable" to "integrated."

South Korea is developing its own air and missile defense system.

But the U.S. is considering deploying advanced missile defense equipment to Korea, according to a news report.

The U.S. has conducted a site survey in South Korea for possible locations for a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery, but no final decisions have been made to deploy the system, the Wall Street Journal quoted unidentified officials as saying.

Deploying a THAAD system to South Korea could represent an important incentive for Seoul to cooperate more fully with the U.S. and Japan in a planned regional missile defense system, added the newspaper.

In response to North Korea missile threats last year, the U.S. sent a THAAD battery to Guam.

"There it remains, readily deployable if necessary to somewhere else in the world if needed, but in the meantime defending U.S. soil from potential threats," the admiral said.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2014/05/29/0401000000AEN20140529000351315.html>

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China Daily – Beijing, China

S. Korea Denies Reported Deployment of US Missile Shield

(Xinhua)

May 29, 2014

SEOUL - South Korea's Defense Ministry on Thursday denied the reported deployment of a US missile defense system, saying that it will pursue an indigenous missile shield separately from the US one.

Defense Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok told a routine press briefing that South Korea is not considering the adoption of the Lockheed Martin's Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) designed to intercept ballistic missiles in an ascending stage.

Kim said the ministry was unaware of whether the United States was seeking the deployment of a THAAD battery on the Korean Peninsula, denying a US daily's reports.

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According to the reports, the US military has conducted a site survey for its THAAD battery deployment in South Korea though no final decision has been made yet.

The South Korean military planned to purchase PAC-3 missiles designed to shoot ballistic missiles in a descending stage, while developing L-SAM, a long-range ground-to-air missile that will intercept missiles at an altitude of 50-60 km, Kim said. The military planned to develop its indigenous interceptor missile by 2022.

intercepted by the PAC-3 missiles which would be hard to shoot down the medium- range Rodong missiles.

The spokesman said the military will shoot down ballistic missiles in a descending stage with PAC-3 missiles while developing the L-SAM to intercept missiles at a higher altitude.

Denying speculations that South Korea will join the US-led missile shield, Kim said that the Korea Air and Missile Defense (KAMD) is a separate system from the US missile defense, reiterating that the two systems are different geographically and structurally.

Asked about whether defense chiefs of the United States, South Korea and Japan will discuss missile defense at a security conference in Singapore scheduled for May 31, Kim said the issue has not been on the trilateral dialogue table.

weapons system, saying the military has never examined the concrete weapons for the ship-based missile defense.

Kim said the military is targeting the missile shield that can intercept DPRK ballistic missiles in a descending stage, adding the SM-3 goes beyond its target.

http://europe.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2014-05/29/content_17551762.htm

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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

Park Warns of Domino Effect in Event of N.K. Nuclear Test

May 30, 2014

SEOUL, May 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean President Park Geun-hye has warned that another nuclear test by North Korea would have a huge impact on the regional security landscape as it could force other nearby nations to develop their own nuclear arsenal.

"It would be difficult for us to prevent a nuclear domino from occurring in this area," Park said in an interview with The Wall Street Journal that was conducted Wednesday and published Friday.

Park also said the North "would effectively be crossing the Rubicon if they were to conduct another nuclear test," suggesting that stalled negotiations over Pyongyang's nuclear program involving the U.S. and regional powers would end for good, according to the paper.

In recent months, North Korea had shown signs of preparing to conduct what would be its fourth nuclear test after the communist nation threatened in March to conduct a "new form of nuclear test" in anger over a U.N. rebuke of a series of missile firings.

The North previously conducted nuclear tests in 2006, 2009 and 2013.

Park said during the interview that China's role is critical in maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. She also said the South will continue to seek to build trust with the North under her trademark "Korean Peninsula trust process" policy.

But she said she doesn't have "any illusions that this will be an easy process."

Park said Japan is an important partner, but the neighboring nation must resolve long-running grievances over atrocities committed during its 1910-45 colonial rule of Korea, including the sexual enslavement of Korean women for its troops.

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"Japan would be very well-advised to proceed in a manner that doesn't further deepen the concerns of its neighbors, and it would be very helpful if the U.S. also counsels the Japanese to that effect," Park said, according to the paper.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2014/05/30/25/0301000000AEN20140530002500315F.html>

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Want China Times – Taipei, Taiwan

Xinhua Doesn't Like Seoul Joining US Missile Defense Network

Xinhua (Beijing, China)

May 30, 2014

Washington has invited Seoul to join its missile defense network, claiming that the arrangement would increase the alliance's confidence in the face of persistent "provocations" from North Korea.

Vice-chairman of the US Joints Chief of Staff James Winnefeld on Wednesday called for better missile defense cooperation between Japan and South Korea, the two closest allies of the United States in Asia.

It is worrying that Seoul has reportedly expressed interest in buying Lockheed Martin's Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system, designed to intercept ballistic missiles in midair. It would be bad news for both South Korea and the region at large if Seoul should decide to answer the US call and mount its chariot.

Facing a very complicated and unstable situation on the Korean peninsula, a missile defense system could become a blasting fuse rather than a guard, as it would most possibly trigger the DPRK, already feeling insecure because of the South Korea-US alliance, to respond vehemently.

Such a race would undermine the environment for seeking a peaceful solution to the crisis on the Korean peninsula. Not to mention that the tension, once as high as to break the delicate balance, would induce catastrophe to security on the peninsula, for which all parties concerned would pay an unimaginable price.

Before taking any move, South Korea needs to be aware that the anti-missile system THAAD, a very capable one that can intercept short, medium and intermediate missiles, will cover not only its arch foe to the north, but also such regional countries as China and Russia.

A possible US-led missile defense network will be harmful to the stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region, which is home to both promising economies and clashing interests. The situation calls for inclusive cooperation instead of exclusive alignment.

Furthermore, South Korea will sacrifice its fast-developing relations with China if it should be seduced into the defense network, ignoring the protests of the largest economy in Asia.

China voiced opposition to the possible deployment Wednesday. "China's stance on the missile defense system has been consistent and clear," said a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman at a regular press briefing.

China will never allow chaos or war near its doorway, said Qin Gang, who commented a day earlier that China-South Korea cooperation is in the best period since the establishment of diplomatic ties, referring to a meeting between visiting Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi and his South Korean counterpart as well as President Park Geun-hye.

For Seoul, it should take an over-all prospective in making a decision in today's world where every country is closely knitted with each other, instead of being blinded by any near-term interest.

For the Asia-pivoting United States, it should take into consideration reasonable concerns of all countries in the region, if it wants to make positive contributions as a responsible global major power to the development of the Asia-Pacific region.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?cid=1101&MainCatID=11&id=20140530000147>

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ITAR-TASS News Agency.com – Moscow, Russia

Russia Plans to Develop Hypersonic Missile by 2020

The United States and leading companies in other countries are also intensively working on such a missile
May 23, 2014

ASTANA, May 23. /ITAR-TASS/. The Tactical Missiles Corporation plans to develop the first model of a hypersonic missile by 2020, the corporation's director-general Boris Obnosov said at the Kadex 2014 exhibition of weapons and military equipment in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Russia had completed developing a program to create hypersonic missile technologies. The Defense Ministry and the Ministry of Industry and Trade had already approved the program, Obnosov said.

Twelve working groups were formed with the participation of dozens of institutes and companies. The program was already developed and approved. The main thing was to implement it, he said.

The United States and leading companies in other countries are intensively working on such a missile. India, China and France also try to develop in this direction, he noted. "If we are weak here, if we are behind, it will be hard to catch up with them later. Purposeful, systematic and everyday work is needed," the director-general noted.

"If somebody thinks that tomorrow we will pull a hypersonic missile from a pocket, he is mistaken, since the process requires serious scientific and technical developments, serious tests, personnel training and many other things," Obnosov said.

<http://en.itar-tass.com/russia/732924>

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The Voice of Russia – Moscow, Russia
29 May 2014

Fourth Yasen Nuclear Submarine to Join Ranks of Russian Navy

The fourth multirole nuclear submarine of the upgraded Project 885M (code name: Yasen) will be laid down at the Sevmash shipyard (Severodvinsk) on July 19, a source in the shipbuilding industry told Interfax-AVN on Thursday. "This will already be the fourth consecutive nuclear submarine codenamed Yasen and the third consecutive upgraded ship of Project 885M to be laid down at Sevmash. It will be laid down along with the fifth Borei, Knyaz Oleg," the source said.

He recalled that the Project 885 Yasen head multirole fourth-generation nuclear submarine named Severodvinsk designed by the St. Petersburg-based Malakhit Design Bureau was floated on June 15, 2010. Sevmash is to build seven Yasen submarines for the Navy before 2020, six of them under the upgraded Project 885M, starting from Kazan which was laid down in June 2009.

The Novosibirsk nuclear submarine was laid down on July 26, 2013. According to open sources, the Malakhit-designed Yasen submarines are double-hulled single-shaft ships. For the first time in the history of domestic shipbuilding torpedo tubes were placed not in the submarine's bow but behind the control post section, thus making it possible to put a hydroacoustic antenna in the fore end. Eight vertical launchers are used for missile weapons. The armament complex includes supersonic cruise missiles, universal deepwater self-propelled torpedoes and mines.

Yasens are fitted with a completely new nuclear propulsion unit. The ships' displacement is estimated at 9,500 tones, length 120 meters, test depth 600 meters. Full speed (submerged): 31 knots approximately 57 kilometers per hour). Crew: 85 members.

The nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine Knyaz Oleg, the fifth to be built under Project 955A Borei, designed by Rubin Central Design Bureau, will be laid down at the Sevmash Shipyard on July 19, a source in the

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shipbuilding industry told Interfax-AVN on Thursday. "The fifth Borei will be called Knyaz Oleg. It will be laid down at the Sevmash on July 19," the source said.

He also said that the Knyaz Oleg will become the second nuclear submarine to be built under the improved project 955-A. The Borei project's lead nuclear submarine, Yuriy Dolgorukiy, raised its flag on January 10, 2013; the first one serially-produced - Aleksandr Nevsky - was handed over to the Navy on December 23, 2013. The third Borei, Vladimir Monomakh, is undergoing tests before entering service in the Navy this year. A solid hull has been built for the fourth ship - an upgraded Project 955-A, Borei-A, new-generation nuclear submarine Knyaz Vladimir.

The Project 955 Borei nuclear submarines have the following characteristics: displacement 24,000 tons (submerged), length 170 meters, width 13.5 meters, draught 10 meters, speed 29 knots, armament: 16 Bulava ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles), torpedoes and torpedo missiles in six 533-millimeter torpedo tubes.

http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2014_05_29/Fourth-Yasen-nuclear-submarine-to-join-ranks-of-Russian-Navy-1535/

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

West Curtailing Missile Defense Cooperation with Russia – Foreign Ministry

30 May 2014

MOSCOW, May 30 (RIA Novosti) – The decision by organizers to reject Moscow's application to attend next month's international conference on missile defense signals that the West is suspending talks with Russia on this issue, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Friday.

"We point that this step fits in the general trend aiming at folding dialogue with Russia on missile defense issues, and that is recently carried out by the United States and its NATO allies. The discussion of this matter through military and political channels is actually blocked by them and now, it seems that the time to fold the contacts [established] through industry and expert circles has come," Russian Foreign Ministry said.

The organizers of the International Conference on Missile Defense, Challenges in Europe, due to be held in Germany's Mainz on June 17-20, said the move came amid new difficulties hampering the creation of the proper conditions to receive Russian guests.

This "ostrich-like," head-in-the-sand approach causes concerns as the unlimited deployment of the US-NATO missile defense elements is continuing in Europe. "This may violate the strategic balance and undermine international stability," the ministry said.

The Foreign Ministry reiterated that Moscow has been asking its foreign partners to improve joint cooperation to counteract possible missile challenges and threats.

"These proposals still remain in force, however they can hardly be fulfilled when one of the parties in fact is absolutely refusing to hold talks. This situation only supports our conclusions on the true goal of the anti-missile potential, being created by the United States and its allies," the statement said.

The US missile defense system in Europe has become a particular source of friction in US-Russian relations.

Last week, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said that Russia would be forced to react "if there is really another look at the European phasing of an adaptive approach to the creation of a missile defense system speeding up to the phase where it's time to place metal to the cement."

<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20140530/190242383/West-Curtailing-Missile-Defense-Cooperation-With-Russia--Foreign.html>

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Al Arabiya – Dubai, U.A.E.

Iran: U.N. Report proves its Nuclear Intentions are Peaceful

Reuters

Saturday, 24 May 2014

Dubai -- Iran on Saturday said the latest U.N. report on its nuclear activities, which calculated it had slashed its nuclear stockpile by around 80 percent, proved its atomic programme was peaceful.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in its quarterly report on Friday that Iran had reduced its stockpile of higher-grade enriched uranium gas under an interim pact with world powers.

It also said it had started to engage with a long-stalled IAEA investigation into suspected weapons research.

A steep cut in uranium gas - a relatively short technical step away from weapons-grade material - is among concessions demanded by the United States and its Western countries in return for limited easing of economic sanctions against Tehran.

"The report is an affirmation of Iran's claim to peaceful activities," nuclear spokesman Behruz Kamalvandi told the official news agency IRNA.

"No deviations have been seen in these activities."

Western countries have long suspected the Islamic republic of seeking nuclear weapons capability and Tehran's cooperation with the IAEA is a test of any progress in the current talks with the six world power known as P5+1.

The latest round of negotiations failed to make much headway last week, raising doubts over the prospects for a breakthrough by the late July deadline.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/asia/2014/05/25/Iran-U-N-report-proves-its-nuclear-intentions-are-peaceful.html>

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Trend News – Baku, Azerbaijan

Iran Says P5+1 Accepts its Right to Enrich Uranium

By Milad Fashtami, Trend News

May 24, 2014

Tehran, Iran -- The P5+1 group of countries recognized Iran's right to enrich uranium in the latest round of nuclear talks between the two sides in Geneva.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araqchi said that the Western side also accepted that the Fordo nuclear facility remains active and that the Arak reactor continues to work under a compromise formula, Iran's ISNA News Agency reported on May 24.

Iran's top nuclear negotiator once again highlighted that the country has no plans to produce nuclear weapons.

"Iran's secret for success is the country's ability to say "no" to the West," he said.

Araqchi said on May 21 that Iran will never negotiate over its defense system with the P5+1.

Araqchi said the other side insists on putting the issue of Iranian missiles on the agenda of the nuclear talks with Tehran.

However, he said that Tehran has so far prevented this, and will continue to do so until the end of the talks, Iran's ISNA News Agency reported on May 21.

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He went on to note that Tehran and the P5+1 group of countries disagreed on most of the topics on the agenda in recent talks in Vienna.

Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - the U.S., China, Russia, France and the UK - plus Germany wrapped up their latest round of high-level nuclear talks in the Austrian capital Vienna on May 16, Press TV reported.

Tehran and the six countries have been discussing ways to iron out differences and start drafting a final deal that would end the West's decade-old dispute with Iran over the country's nuclear energy program.

In November 2013, the two sides signed an interim nuclear deal in the Swiss city of Geneva that came into force on January 20.

<http://en.trend.az/regions/iran/2277928.html>

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran
Sunday, May 25, 2014

DM: Iran's Missile Program Not for Negotiations

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iran's defense minister strongly rejected his US counterpart Chuck Hagel's demand that Iran's missile program should come under negotiation in talks between Tehran and the world powers, and asked for the opposite.

"Iran's missile capability is defensive, conventional and deterrent and not negotiable," Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan underlined in response to Hagel's comments that the negotiations between Iran and the world powers should focus on the country's missile program after the settlement of the disputes over Tehran's nuclear program.

He said if any issue is due to be discussed after the nuclear talks, it should be the full annihilation of the Zionist regime's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons to create a Middle-East free from the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) followed by the destruction of the nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of the United States as the first country which has used these "dreadful weapons".

"We ask our nuclear negotiators to focus their utmost efforts on the complete annihilation of the Zionist regime's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as the biggest danger posed to the region and world security as well as the US nuclear disarmament based on paragraph 6 of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) alongside their negotiations with the Group 5+1 (the US, Russia, China, Britain and France plus Germany)," Dehqan said.

He expressed pleasure that the Zionist regime is concerned about Iran's deterrent power, and said if such deterrence didn't exist, the usurper regime would seize control of the Middle-East through war and bloodshed.

Dehqan underlined that it is a shame for the US which claims to be a superpower that its defense secretary announces "Israelis have allowed us to find a way to exit from (the deadlock over) Iran's nuclear issue".

In relevant remarks last Sunday, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said the western states' demand for restricting Iran's missile capability is foolish.

"They expect Iran to limit its missile program while they continue posing military threats against Iran, and hence, such an expectation is foolish and silly," Ayatollah Khamenei said during a tour of the exhibition of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force.

The Supreme Leader reiterated that the irrational statements of the western countries in their talks with Iran indicate their complete failure vis-à-vis the Iranian nation.

"The IRGC Aerospace Force should precisely advance its works and plans and should not be satisfied with its status quo," Ayatollah Khamenei said.



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The Supreme Leader underlined that the IRGC Aerospace Force should mass produce its products, and said, "This issue is a duty and all military officials should channel their efforts onto this path and government officials should also view this as among their main duties."

In recent years, Iran has made great achievements in its defense sector and attained self-sufficiency in developing and manufacturing its essential needs to military tools, weapons, equipment and systems.

Tehran launched an arms development program during the 1980-88 Iraqi imposed war on Iran to compensate for a US weapons embargo. Since 1992, Iran has produced its own tanks, armored personnel carriers, missiles and fighter planes.

Yet, Iranian officials have always stressed that the country's military and arms programs serve defensive purposes and should not be perceived as a threat to any other country.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13930304001245>

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Tehran Times – Tehran, Iran

Iran Will Not Give Concessions: Nuclear Negotiator

Political Desk

Monday, May 26, 2014

TEHRAN - Abbas Araqchi, the Iranian deputy foreign minister and a chief nuclear negotiator, has said that Tehran has not and will not grant any concessions to the West in a "win-win game" that Iran is seeking.

Araqchi made the remarks in a gathering of the Islamic Coalition Party's secretaries in Tehran on Sunday.

Iran will only take confidence-building actions to assure the other side (the West) that the Islamic Republic will not seek to build nuclear weapons, he said.

He went on to say that to enjoy the right to uranium enrichment and peaceful nuclear technology is Iran's a 'win' for Iran, adding that the other side's 'win' is winning the assurance that Iran does not seek to build nuclear weapon.

The United States and some of its Western allies suspect Iran may be trying to develop a nuclear weapons capability under the guise of a civilian atomic energy program, a charge Iran rejects.

Araqchi said according to the Islamic teachings and the fatwa issued by Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Iran has not, is not, and will not seek to build nuclear weapons.

'Vienna talks was neither a failure nor ended in a deadlock'

Iran and the six major powers ended a difficult round of nuclear talks in Vienna without making any tangible progress. The talks were held on May 23-26.

The talks are expected to resume in the Austrian capital on June 16.

Araqchi who is the second-ranking person in the nuclear talks with the major powers (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany) said the Vienna talks neither failed nor ended in a deadlock.

Commenting on the sanctions, he said that the national economy should reach a level that would not be influenced by sanctions.

'Iran has right to uranium enrichment'

Araqchi stated that Iran, as a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, enjoys the right to uranium enrichment whether the other side recognizes it or not. "We have only expected them to respect this right."

'Prolongation of talks will only serve interests of Geneva deal opponents'

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Araqchi said that a prolongation of the talks will only serve the interests of those foreigners who oppose the interim Geneva agreement and seek to raise tension in the region in order to prevent a final nuclear deal between Iran and the 5+1 group.

Under the Geneva deal, Iran agreed not to expand its nuclear program for six months in exchange for limited sanctions relief. The agreement came into force on January 20.

Iran and the major powers have set a July 20 deadline to clinch a long-term nuclear deal. The deadline can be extended for another six months.

However, the nuclear negotiator said the talks will get more “complicated”, if no deal is struck by July 20.

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/politics/115952-iran-will-not-give-concessions-nuclear-negotiator->

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Gulf Times - Doha, Qatar

IAEA Access to Key Iran Site in Bomb Probe Elusive

By Reuters

27 May 2014

Vienna -- The UN nuclear watchdog appears no closer to finding out what happened at a military site at the centre of its investigation into suspected atom bomb research by Iran, despite signs Tehran is becoming more co-operative.

A confidential report by the International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran for the first time in years had begun engaging with a long-stymied IAEA inquiry into allegations that it may have worked on designing a nuclear weapon.

But any hope that Iran may be ready to fully address concerns about its nuclear activities will be tempered as long as it refuses to give the UN agency access to a location at the Parchin base southeast of Tehran, and information about it.

US officials say it is vital for Iran to answer IAEA questions if Washington and five other powers are to reach a broader nuclear settlement with Iran by a self-imposed deadline of July 20. However, Tehran’s repeated denials of any nuclear bomb aspirations will make it hard for it to admit to any wrongdoing in the past without losing face.

The IAEA report issued to member states late on Friday said satellite images showed “ongoing construction activities” at Parchin, a finding that could add to Western suspicions that Iran has been trying to hide any incriminating evidence of illicit nuclear-related experiments there.

“It seems clear that there is more sanitisation going on,” one Western envoy said, noting indications of major alteration work at Parchin since early 2012, such as soil removal and asphaltting of the specific place the IAEA wants to see.

“I can think of no other explanation for 28 months of cleanup and denied IAEA access at Parchin except an attempt to hide all traces of something from IAEA environmental sampling.”

The IAEA, which has requested Parchin access for more than two years, says it has information that Iran built a large steel chamber there for explosives tests, possibly more than a decade ago. It said back in 2011 that “such experiments would be strong indicators of possible nuclear weapon development”.

Iran denies Western suspicions that it has been seeking to develop the capability to assemble nuclear weapons. It says Parchin is a conventional military facility and has dismissed the cleansing allegations.

“The activity at Parchin gives ample reason for continued concern that Iran may be trying to remove any remaining vestiges of nuclear-related experiments,” said Mark Fitzpatrick, director of the non-proliferation programme at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) think tank in London.

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But one should not leap to conclusions of guilt, he added. "The activity may also be for some entirely innocuous purpose."

The IAEA's suspicions about Parchin were part of a 2011 report that included a trove of intelligence information pointing to Iranian research in the past that could be relevant for nuclear weapons, some of which it said may be continuing.

Iran says it was based on false and baseless information. But it has offered to work with the IAEA to clear up the case since pragmatist Hassan Rohani won the presidency last year, pledging to end Tehran's international isolation.

Friday's IAEA report said Iran had started engaging on one issue in the investigation, by providing explanations about the development of detonators that can, among other things, be used to set off an atomic explosive device.

It also agreed last week to provide the IAEA with information in two other areas of the inquiry, including allegations about the initiation of high explosives.

"The engagement and co-operation (shown by Iran) has been improving all the time," a senior diplomat said.

But the IAEA report showed little progress so far regarding Parchin, saying the UN agency continues to seek answers to "detailed questions" submitted to Iran about it.

It said the activities it had noticed "appear to show the removal/replacement or refurbishment of the external wall structures of the site's two main buildings". The alleged test chamber was believed to have been constructed in one of them.

<http://www.gulf-times.com/region/216/details/393667/iaea-access-to-key-iran-site-in-bomb-probe-elusive>

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Jerusalem Post – Jerusalem, Israel

Iran Says West's Hopes for Nuclear Agreement Too High

UN access to suspected site still elusive; Ashton, Zarif to discuss stalled negotiations in Istanbul this week.

By MICHAEL WILNER

27 May 2014

WASHINGTON – Western governments expect too much from Iran in negotiations over its nuclear program, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Monday amid the stalled diplomatic effort.

Zarif is scheduled to meet in Istanbul this week with EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton, coordinator of the Iran negotiations, to discuss the state of the talks underway in Vienna with a self-imposed deadline of July 20.

Iran and world powers at the negotiating table – the United States, United Kingdom, France, China, Russia and Germany – have expressed public concern over the pace of progress.

Ashton hopes to break the impasse in her meeting with Zarif.

"They should stop demanding too much," Zarif told state-run media in Iran.

"We have our red line, and they too want assurances that our nuclear program will always remain peaceful. We believe these two add up."

Iran considers the right to enrich uranium for nuclear energy a red line, but levels of enrichment are negotiable.

The parties hope to achieve a comprehensive agreement easing international concerns over Iran's nuclear work by the July deadline. They may, however, extend the talks up to six months, should all parties agree.

"I feel the realism awakened from the last round of talks will bring us closer to conclusion," Zarif said.



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Western powers believe Iran's nuclear program has military dimensions, and thus seek to curb the Islamic Republic's ability to forge ahead with weaponization by limiting its uranium enrichment capability, its heavy-water plutonium plant in Arak, and its research and development into nuclear weapons technology.

A confidential report by the International Atomic Energy Agency said that Iran has begun engaging with a long-stymied IAEA inquiry into allegations that it may have worked on designing a nuclear weapon.

But Iran still refuses to give the UN agency access to a location at the Parchin base southeast of Tehran, where the military research facility is supposedly housed.

"It seems clear that there is more sanitization going on," one Western envoy said, noting indications of major alteration work at Parchin since early 2012, such as soil removal and asphaltting of the specific place the IAEA wants to see.

"I can think of no other explanation for 28 months of cleanup and denied IAEA access at Parchin except an attempt to hide all traces of something from IAEA environmental sampling.

Iran unveiled two locally made new air defense systems on Sunday. The command and control system, called Fakour, integrates data from various sources such as radars, lookouts and missile defense systems. According to Iran's Tasnim News Agency, the system is mobile and includes electronic warfare capabilities.

The radar communications system called Rassoul transmits data securely to the nearest air defense unit or command and control center.

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab-African Affairs Hossein Amir Abdollahian announced on Sunday that the country was sending monitors for Syria's upcoming presidential election to be held next Tuesday, Iranian media reported.

He also said that Hamas leader Khaled Mashal has made positive remarks regarding Syria, citing Mashal's statement about non-interference in Syrian affairs.

Asked about the meeting of Syrian opposition leader Ahmad Jarba with the Iranian opposition movement, The People's Mujahedeen of Iran's (Mujahedeen-e-Khalq MEK) leader Masoud Rajavi in Paris, he responded that Jarba is weak politically and should not have a say on the future of Syria.

Regarding Egypt, Abdollahian said, "We are not pleased that Egypt has deviated from the path of democracy," and that "Iran is concerned about the apprehension and imprisoning of the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood as well as popular Islamic movements in Egypt," Fars reported.

Ariel Ben Solomon contributed to this report.

<http://www.ipost.com/Diplomacy-and-Politics/Iran-FM-to-meet-with-Ashton-in-Istanbul-as-regime-keeps-up-rhetoric-against-Israel-354392>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

EU Says Next Round of Iran Nuclear Talks Scheduled for June 16-20

27 May 2014

MOSCOW, May 27 (RIA Novosti) – The next round of talks between Iran and six world powers will be held in Vienna on June 16-20, a spokesman for EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton said Tuesday.

"The High Representative held very long and useful discussions with Foreign Minister Zarif in order to inform the negotiations on the Iranian nuclear programme. They explored different possibilities as part of an ongoing process. The next formal round of E3/EU+3 talks with Iran will be from 16-20 June in Vienna," Michael Mann said.

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"In the meantime, the High Representative and Minister are recommending that an experts' meeting should take place soon. Other political discussions will continue as and when needed," he said.

In November 2013, Iran and the P5+1 group – United States, Russia, China, United Kingdom, and France, plus Germany – agreed in Geneva on the temporary limiting of Iran's nuclear program in exchange for a partial halt of US and EU sanctions on the Middle Eastern country. A complete agreement guaranteeing the lack of a military component to Iran's nuclear program is scheduled to be finalized by July 20.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said last week talks over Tehran's nuclear program had reached an "important and tough juncture," but an agreement was still possible by a July deadline.

<http://en.ria.ru/world/20140527/190169823/EU-Says-Next-Round-of-Iran-Nuclear-Talks-Scheduled-for-June.html>

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The Voice of Russia – Moscow, Russia

27 May 2014

Chemical Weapons Watchdog Says Team in Syria 'Safe' – OPCW

Several officials of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) who were attacked on Tuesday are in safety and are on the way back to their base, the OPCW said in its press release.

"All team members are safe and well and heading back to their operating base," Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) spokesman Michael Luhan told AFP.

Syrian media reported earlier in the day that six OPCW officials and five people accompanying them had been kidnapped. The Syrian Foreign Ministry shouldered responsibility for this action on rebels, accusing anti-governmental forces of terrorism-related crimes targeted against employees of international organizations, including the United Nations and the OPCW.

A motor convoy of OPCW inspectors and UN officials going to the place of a suspected attack with use of chlorine came under attack on Tuesday morning. All participants in the mission are safe and sound and are going back to their base, the OPCW stated.

The OPCW mission came to Syria's capital, Damascus, in early May to check last month's reports about combat use of chlorine in several Syrian settlements.

Alleged incidents were discussed at the UN Security Council urging to hold a probe into them. On April 29, OPCW Director-General Ahmed Üzümcü instructed to deliver a special fact-finding mission to Syria.

http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2014_05_27/Chemical-weapons-watchdog-says-team-in-Syria-safe-OPCW-3123/

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Iranian FM Optimistic about Cutting Final Deal with World Powers in Due Time

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif underlined that Tehran is resolved to do its best to remove possible barriers in the way of concluding a permanent deal with the six world powers, and urged the opposite side to do the same.

Speaking to reporters at the end of two days of unofficial talks with EU foreign policy Chief Catherine Ashton, in Turkish city of Istanbul on Tuesday, the top Iranian diplomat emphasized that it is "completely possible" that the

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nuclear talks will reach a result and that Tehran is pursuing the negotiations with "seriousness, accuracy and without any rush".

"Our base (of work) is protecting the Iranian people's rights and the country's dignity and pride, and removal of brutal obstacles in the way of the country's progress," Zarif pointed out.

On Tuesday, Iran's Deputy Chief Negotiator Seyed Abbas Araqchi described two days of talks between Zarif and Ashton in the Turkish city of Istanbul as "useful", and said there could be more bilateral meetings before the next round of the multilateral nuclear talks between Tehran and the six world powers.

Araqchi described the Istanbul meeting as "lengthy" and "useful", and said the talks were aimed at "studying the different ways to advance the negotiations" (between Iran and the six world powers).

Iran and the six world powers held their fourth round of talks in Vienna on May 14-16. The seven nations have been discussing ways to iron out differences and start drafting a final deal that would end the West's dispute with Iran over the country's nuclear energy program.

Iran said there had been no tangible progress in writing the draft text of the agreement and it blamed the US for the failure, saying Washington has made excessive demands beyond the agreements made in the previous rounds of the talks.

In November 2013, Iran and the six world powers signed an interim nuclear deal in the Swiss city of Geneva that came into force on January 20.

In exchange for Tehran's confidence-building bid to limit certain aspects of its nuclear activities, the Sextet of world powers agreed to lift some of the existing sanctions against Tehran and continue talks with the country to settle all problems between the two sides.

The interim agreement will end late in July, but it could be extended for another six months.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13930307000195>

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Tehran Times – Tehran, Iran

Iran-IAEA Talks Not Advancing Enough, France Claims

By Staff & Agencies

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Despite the fact that the International Atomic Energy Agency has confirmed in its recent reports that Iran is fully cooperating with the UN nuclear agency, France claimed on Tuesday that Iran is cooperating "too slowly" with a UN watchdog investigation into its nuclear activities.

The IAEA said on Friday that Iran had cut its stockpile of uranium enriched to a purity level of 20 percent by around 80 percent under an interim pact agreed in November with the major powers and had seriously engaged with the agency's inquiry.

Iran's discussions with the IAEA are separate from, but closely linked to, its talks with the powers, on the country's nuclear program.

"(The IAEA report) shows that Iran is respecting its commitments according to the Geneva agreement," French Foreign Ministry spokesman Romain Nadal said, referring to last year's pact under which Tehran scaled back parts of its nuclear program in exchange for some easing of sanctions.

"That is indispensable for talks to reach a long-term agreement between the six and Iran," he said, according to Reuters.

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The November accord was designed to buy time for talks on a final accord to end the decade-old dispute over Iran's nuclear activities that Tehran says are peaceful but the West claims may be aimed at developing a nuclear weapons capability.

Those talks began in February and are meant to hammer out an agreement by a self-imposed July 20 deadline.

However, Nadal said Iran's "cooperation with the IAEA on a possible military dimension (to its nuclear program) is progressing too slowly despite the agency's repeated efforts."

U.S. officials say it is vital for Iran to answer IAEA questions if Washington and the five other powers are to reach a broader nuclear settlement.

Paris has long held out for strict terms in talks, in which it and Britain, China, Germany, Russia and the United States are contemplating a further easing of economic sanctions if they can reach an agreement with Iran.

"Concrete results (in the IAEA-Iran talks) are indispensable before the possible finalization of a long-term agreement," Nadal said. "More needs to be done between now and July."

The election last year of pragmatist Hassan Rouhani as new president paved the way for a thaw and a diplomatic breakthrough between Iran and the West in November.

But the sides remain far apart on what a final settlement should look like, especially concerning Iran's capacity to refine uranium.

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/politics/115996-iran-iaea-talks-not-advancing-enough-france-claims>

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The Moscow Times – Moscow, Russia

Syria Set to Miss Deadline for Chemical Weapons Destruction

Reuters

May 29, 2014

The UN has confirmed that the destruction of Syria's chemical arsenal will not be completed by June 30, a final deadline set as part of a 2013 deal that averted U.S. air strikes against Syrian President Bashar Assad's government.

In a letter to the Security Council, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the Syrian government to finish "remaining removal operations as quickly as possible, as the authorities have pledged to do."

"However, it is now evident that some activities related to the elimination of the chemical weapons program of the Syrian Arab Republic will continue beyond 30 June 2014," Ban said in the letter on Wednesday.

He also voiced concern about allegations that chlorine gas has been used in recent fighting in Syria and urged all sides in the conflict to cooperate with an investigation launched by the global chemical weapons watchdog.

Assad, embroiled in the fourth year of a civil war with rebels fighting to oust him, agreed last year to hand over the country's entire chemical weapons stockpile and ensure its total destruction by June 30 after hundreds of people were killed in a sarin nerve gas attack near Damascus.

The September agreement with Russia and the U.S. averted U.S. military strikes threatened in response to the worst chemical weapons attack in decades, which Washington and its European allies blamed on Assad's government.

His government, which denies the allegation and blames the rebels for all chemical attacks in Syria, still has roughly 7 percent of 1,300 metric tons it declared to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, or OPCW, enough highly toxic material to carry out a large-scale attack.

Ban said he expected a joint UN-OPCW mission overseeing the elimination of the Syrian poison gas stocks "will continue its work for a finite period of time beyond 30 June, 2014."

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Assad's government has already indicated it wants the mission shut down as soon as all chemicals are shipped out of Syria. But Western governments want it to continue working for the foreseeable future.

Western officials say they want the UN-OPCW mission to continue investigating what they describe as ambiguities in Syria's chemical weapons declaration. They have cited U.S., French and British intelligence that Assad's government failed to disclose all of its poison gas stocks.

The Syrian government has missed several deadlines, most recently its own promise to hand over the remaining chemicals by April 27. It has also failed to destroy a dozen facilities that were part of the chemical weapons program.

The government has blamed those failures on security problems and rebel activities, but Western officials have voiced skepticism about those explanations.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/syria-set-to-miss-deadline-for-chemical-weapons-destruction/501123.html>

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The Times of India – Mumbai, India

Missile Warheads at Supersonic Speeds, on the Ground

By Shimona Kanwar, Tamil News Network (TNN)
May 26, 2014

CHANDIGARH: India has joined an exclusive club of four countries that can test payloads for missile and rocket technology by simulating a flight environment on the ground.

Terminal Ballistic Research Laboratory (TBRL), a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) lab in Chandigarh, has indigenously developed the facility known as the Rail Track Rocket Sled Penta Rail Supersonic Track, RTRS in short. It is a four km rail track where the trials are being conducted.

Some confidential tests have already been conducted on this range, which includes recovery of crew capsules in manned space missions. Officials refuse to give more details on this at present.

The facility has come up on a massive property at Ramgarh in Panchkula and was inaugurated on May 12 without much fanfare. "Only Russia, France, the UK and the US are known to have this technology," said Dr Manjit Singh, director TBRL. Now, countries like South Africa have approached us to conduct tests but our priority remains DRDO."

The track will soon be used to test aircraft arrestor gear, which retards aircraft speed during landing or an aborted take-off. "We have also tested this technology for aerospace systems and unmanned aerial vehicles," Dr Singh added.

These simulated tests are needed because real-life experiments can be prohibitively expensive. One can't repeat a test as the material is lost forever. With RTRS, tests can be repeated and the material can be retrieved to study the defects.

The track can withstand maximum velocity of 1,800 km per hour with which components of missiles can be propelled at supersonic speed. The facility will also be able to test interceptor missiles and study air shelling precision.

TBRL is presently working on enhancing RTRS from a payload of 800kg to more than two tonnes. The project cost is around Rs 100 crore. "It has taken us four years to reach here," said Dr PK Khosla, group director, RTRS.

The material to be tested is mounted on a carriage called a 'sled' and can be propelled to a maximum speed of Mach 3.0 with the help of rocket motors. Forty-two camera sheds placed some distance away monitor the velocity, acceleration and other parameters during the trials.

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<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Missile-warheads-at-supersonic-speeds-on-the-ground/articleshow/35612885.cms>

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Times of India – Mumbai, India

Narendra Modi Has his Finger now on India's Nuclear Button

By Rajat Pandit, Tamil News Network (TNN)

May 27, 2014

NEW DELHI: Narendra Modi now has his finger on the country's nuclear button. As the PM, he will chair the "political council" of the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA), the "sole body" that can "authorize" a nuclear strike against an adversary in retaliation. But the final call will rest with him.

India does not have an elaborate nuclear command, control and communications system like the US, with its primary, alternative and even airborne national military command centres and posts. Or, the so-called "nuclear football", the special black briefcase with launch codes and secure satellite communication links, which accompanies the US President whenever he is away from the White House or command centres.

Nor does India have a Constitutional chain of "pre-delegated" succession, under which the nuclear launch authority is automatically transferred to the next in line if the US President is incapacitated. The vice-president is followed by 15 other successors in this clearly laid-down list.

The decision to authorize the use of nuclear weapons is more of a collegiate process in India, with the NCA's political council as a whole playing the role. Apart from the PM, it includes the home, defence, finance and external affairs ministers. But for all practical purposes, the nuclear button will be wielded by Modi, who will soon get a detailed briefing on the country's arsenal and its command and control systems, say officials.

The NCA also has an "executive council", which will now be headed by the new national security advisor and includes the three Service chiefs, top officials from DRDO, department of atomic energy and others, to provide inputs and "execute directives" given to it by the political council. "Alternative chains of command' have been established if the political leadership is 'decapitated' in a first strike," said an official.

The BJP manifesto caused some disquiet internationally after it proclaimed India's nuclear doctrine would be "revised and updated to make it relevant to challenges of current times". Many interpreted this to mean a BJP government could change India's long-standing policy of "no-first use (NFU)" of nuclear weapons, even though BJP chief Rajnath Singh later clarified that was not the case.

Incidentally, both Pakistan and China have deliberately kept their nuclear doctrines vague without clear-cut NFU policies. Some estimates put Pakistan's number of nuclear warheads at 90-110, as compared to India's 80-100, with China having more than double that number.

The NCA's priority is to make India's nuclear weapons triad fully operational. Though the first two legs are in place with land-based Agni ballistic missiles and fighter-bombers, there still exists a big operational gap on the sea front.

The miniature 83 MW pressurized light-water reactor on board the country's first indigenous nuclear submarine, the 6,000-tonne INS Arihant, went "critical" last August but the vessel is yet to begin sea trials and test its 750-km range K-15 ballistic missiles.

India desperately needs nuclear-powered submarines armed with long-range nuclear-tipped missiles, which can silently stay underwater for extended periods, because a NFU policy must be backed by an assured and effective second-strike capability for "credible deterrence". India's nuclear doctrine, after all, holds "nuclear retaliation to a first strike will be massive and designed to inflict unacceptable damage".

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/lok-sabha-elections-2014/news/Narendra-Modi-has-his-finger-now-on-Indias-nuclear-button/articleshow/35625045.cms>

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Deccan Chronicle – Hyderabad, India

Nuclear Weapons Make Pakistan Invincible: Nawaz Sharif

By Shafqat Ali
May 29, 2014

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday said that nuclear status has made Pakistan's defence invincible adding the nuclear assets were safe hands. Addressing a gathering in Lahore on the occasion of Youm-e-Takbeer, marked to commemorate the country's nuclear tests conducted in 1998, the Prime Minister said that Pakistan is a responsible nuclear power.

He said Pakistan wants to have friendly ties with its neighbouring countries for progress and prosperity of the people. Mr Sharif expressed the resolve to make Pakistan economically viable and self-reliant. He said several projects have been launched in the power sector not only to enhance power generation but also provide the same to consumers on reduced rates.

The Prime Minister said there should be no politicking over country's development, adding that country can only progress once menace of terrorism is eliminated.

Meanwhile, Youm-e-Takbeer, was celebrated across the country on Wednesday. Pakistan, on May 28, 1998, joined the club of seven nuclear powers, by conducting nuclear tests in response to India's initiative of testing nukes on May 11 and 13, the same year.

In a message to the nation on the occasion of 16th Youm-e-Takbeer, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif congratulated the nation. He said that the nuclear weapons have made Pakistan's defence impregnable.

The PM said that the nuclear arsenal is in safe hands and the government is committed to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes according to the international laws. He added that the nuclear technology has also been assisting various sectors of the economy in Pakistan.

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/140529/commentary-op-ed/article/nuclear-wepons-make-pakistan-Invincible-nawaz-sharif>

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New Delhi Times (NDT) – New Delhi, India
OPINION/Op-Ed

Russia's Global Space Shield

By NDT Bureau
May 27, 2014

In the wake of recent Russian actions that seem to indicate a revival of Russia's military power and status on the world stage. Soviet once played a key role in defense exports and proliferation of world class defense machinery. Over years this strategic vital place has been unstable due various reasons and pressure from the international community to subjugate non-proliferation. Considering the present need for Russia to secure its defense against super power like US, Russia's defense industry has shown signs of expansionism. Future plans of the defense industry is to spend up to 20% of the State Armament Program for the period up to 2020 on aerospace defense i.e. almost 40 billion rubles a year.

Russia aims to build hypersonic pilotless aircrafts in coming years as a standoff between Russia and Washington. This recent development is the response to America's Doctrine of Pre-Emptive Strikes, as Russia is preparing to unveil a space shield with no less of a global reach, that of her Aerospace Defense Forces. Considering the present scenario and role of Russia to keep US intervention within limits Russia has taken Defense development with great concern and enthusiasm.

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Considering the fact that U.S is the only country that possesses space war craft that would weaken the Moscow's defenses its defense industry has accepted the challenge for introduction of new era of weaponry system. In the last century the only thing that prevented from realizing the total American supremacy over the Soviets was the absence of the required technology. As US was equipped with the technology it is important for Russia to level up or lead the arms race.

Understanding the gravity of contemporary military threats Russia could face in coming years a Scientific Research Institute for Aerospace Defense was set up. This institute was tasked with developing surveillance and warning system for an aerospace attack and for striking and jamming aerospace threats as well as developing control and maintenance systems for the existing Aerospace Defense Forces of the country.

Apart from developing an early warning system for aerospace threats, Moscow is actively developing a strike threat of its own. Recent years have seen a large-scale modernization of Russia's A-135 anti-missile defense system deployed around Moscow.

Russia has also deployed Pantsir-S1-range anti-aircraft system, as well as 28 anti-aircraft missile regiments equipped with the S-400 Triumph, (which amounts to around 450-670 launch sites) and also 38 batteries of the advanced S-500 Vityaz system (this amounts to around 300-460 launch sites).

Missile defense allows countries to develop offensive technologies under the pretence of defense. Missiles are also launched into space to take out enemy missiles by colliding into them. They also have potential applications as offensive anti-satellite weapons, because the same maneuvering abilities and set of controls is necessary to destroy satellites.

Along with these deployments the country is still taking steps in developing military equipments to keep up the arms race. The renovation and modernization of Russian strategic missile forces as a troubling sign of another round of strategic competition between Moscow and Washington.

Given the existing military and political world order, Russia's strategic nuclear forces are the only guarantee of Russia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Major defense contractors are actively developing their aerospace capabilities, and smaller aerospace corporations are competing to prove their technical innovation in making satellites smaller and launch vehicles less expensive beneficial for the country's defense. This competition has resulted into unending war for excellence.

The arms race is nothing but would act as a catalyst for hostilities in the future. The greed of annexing the territories gaining more beyond limits is the basic drive behind the race. Powerful countries like US- Russia are creating a wave of insecurity within other countries compelling them to enter the race too. These developments would definitely bring more assertion of power over the world. There are huge repercussions that the world would have to face if space wars are triggered.

There are many reasons to be concerned about the development of missile defense and space weapon technology, including the increased conventional military dominance by powerful countries, the vast waste of resources that accompanies any arms build-up, whether it's a race or an asymmetrical surge, and the physical results of fighting in outer space – especially space debris, which will destroy civil and commercial space infrastructure such as satellites. International organizations have to take firm steps in curbing the arms race and further avoiding stimulus for war and destruction.

<http://www.newdelhitimes.com/russias-global-shield123/>

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The Wall Street Journal – New York, NY
OPINION/ Review & Outlook

Iran's Nuclear Masters

Tehran has kept its core team of weaponization researchers intact.

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USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies
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The International Atomic Energy Agency and Iran last week issued a joint statement in which Tehran pledged to apprise the Agency of "the initiation of high explosives, including the conduct of large scale high explosives experimentation in Iran." In a word: weaponization, the most secretive dimension of the Iranian nuclear program. Tehran's willingness to broach the topic will be hailed by supporters of the current talks as a sign that they're yielding results.

Yet Iran has thus far dismissed as "fabrications" evidence of its weaponization work compiled by the IAEA. We'll believe honest disclosures of prior weaponization activity when we see them. More to the point, we've obtained a plausible new report from the Mujahedeen-e Khalq, an Iranian opposition group, suggesting that Tehran has kept active and intact its core team of weaponization researchers.

The Islamic Republic's attempts to develop a nuclear explosive device date to the late 1980s, when the regime established a Defense Ministry-linked physics research center in Tehran, according to Western intelligence agencies. By the next decade, according to the IAEA, the regime would consolidate its weaponization researchers under an initiative called the "AMAD Plan," headed by Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, a Ph.D. nuclear engineer and senior member of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

The AMAD Plan was charged with procuring dual-use technologies, developing nuclear detonators and conducting high-explosive experiments associated with compressing fissile material, according to Western intelligence agencies. The AMAD Plan's most intense period of activity was in 2002-03, according to the IAEA, when current President Hasan Rouhani headed Iran's Supreme National Security Council before becoming its chief nuclear negotiator.

Feeling the heat from the MEK's disclosure of two nuclear facilities in 2002 and the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, the mullahs apparently halted the AMAD Plan's activities in late 2003. But Mr. Fakhrizadeh and his scientists didn't stop their weaponization work. As former United Nations weapons inspector David Albright told us, "Fakhrizadeh continued to run the program in the military industry, where you could work on nuclear weapons." Much of the work, including theoretical explosive modeling, was shifted to Defense Ministry-linked universities, such as Malek Ashtar University of Technology in Tehran.

Mr. Fakhrizadeh has continued to oversee these disparate and highly compartmentalized activities, now under the auspices of Iran's new Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research, known by its Persian acronym, SPND. The MEK first disclosed the SPND's existence in 2011. Now the opposition group has obtained what it says are key new biographical details and the first photograph of the 56-year-old Mr. Fakhrizadeh, whom Iran has refused to make available to the IAEA for long-sought interviews.

The MEK has also compiled a list of what it says are 100 SPND researchers. Far from disbanding the SPND, the MEK alleges, the Tehran regime has kept its nucleus of researchers intact. Possibly to avoid detection by the IAEA, the MEK says, the regime recently relocated the SPND's headquarters from Mojdeh Avenue in Tehran to Pasdaran Avenue. "The new site," the MEK adds, "is located in between several centers and offices affiliated to the Defense Ministry . . . , the Union of IRGC, the sports organization of the Defense Ministry . . . and Chamran Hospital."

To further mask the illicit nature of the relocation from the IAEA, the MEK says, "parts of Malek Ashtar University's logistical activities were transferred to the former site of SPND. The objective was to avoid closing [the former] center, and in the event of inspections, to claim that the site has always had the current formation." Don't expect the regime to fess up to much of this by the August 25 deadline set in its joint communique with the IAEA.

The fact that the IAEA and the Western powers are now turning to the weaponization question is a sign of how far the Iranian nuclear-weapons program has progressed. As the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center's Henry Sokolski, a former nonproliferation director at the Pentagon, told us: "A concern about weaponization followed by testing and use is the moral hazard when you don't pay attention to fissile-material production."

In other words, having ceded a right to enrich and permitted the Islamic Republic to develop an advanced enrichment capability, the West is now left with preventing weaponization as the final barrier against a nuclear-

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capable Iran. The diplomacy of Mr. Rouhani and his Foreign Minister, Javad Zarif, is intended to soothe jittery Western nerves on weaponization.

That palliative effect will be reinforced by the IAEA's latest quarterly report, also released last week, in which the Agency reported that Iran has sharply reduced its stock of 20% uranium and hasn't enriched above 5% since the November interim agreement took effect. The report also highlights the Islamic Republic's new willingness to address at a technical level the "possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear program," including Tehran's development of exploding bridge-wire detonators and high-explosives testing.

But if past is precedent and the MEK's new disclosures are to be believed, Mr. Fakhrizadeh will continue to do his work as he has to this day. The snake may shed its skin but not its temper, runs an old Persian proverb.

Editorial Writer Sohrab Ahmari

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/irans-nuclear-weaponization-researchers-are-still-at-work-1401214103>

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Eurasia Review – Spain

OPINION/Op-Ed

Changing Nature of Nuclear Deterrence in South Asia – OpEd

By Ali Raza

May 28, 2014

There was a time when both the states of India and Pakistan were becoming successful in using tools to deter each other, but with the passing of time the nature of deterrence was changed — and could continue to change — if the existing strategic environment prevails.

A number of factors are responsible for changing the nature of nuclear deterrence in South Asia i.e., the introduction of new strategies and doctrines, the quest for a defense shield, technical progress and other secondary factors, including the role of media whether it is social media, print media or electronic media. In this respects, the media, which also has been considered as important entity in India, is playing a very negative role — by the reporting of propaganda or giving hype to sensitive issues media from Indian should perform more wisely and with some maturity.

Policy makers from the Indian side are trying to coin new strategies to deter Pakistan and are also in a quest of hegemonic status for India in the region, which is resulting in changing the existing nature of nuclear deterrence. India is formulating new policies and strategies which according to its policy makers would be proved fruitful for India, but they fail to be mindful of the fact that experiments in such a sensitive business could be highly dangerous for not only the fate of India, but for the whole region.

Furtherance in conventional aspects may also provide justifications for each side in the launching of a nuclear weapon. India is continuously expanding its conventional arsenals. According to reports, India is a leading buyer of conventional arms. Between 1999 and 2006, India totaled \$22.4 billion in arms sales agreements, according to a 2007 report by the U.S. Congressional Research Service. That total made India first among all developing arms buyers during that period. India became the leading global arms importer in the period from 2007 to 2011, accounting for ten percent of total arms imports.

This trend is expected to continue, with an announced increase of 17 percent in defense spending for the fiscal year 2012-2013. It is clear from the reports that India is continuously pursuing ambitions that are highly unfavorable for the region. The steps which have been taken by the India in furtherance of conventional aspects may damage the stability of the region. It would also not be wrong to mention that actually India is confusing the purpose of deterrence. As a bigger state of the region India should lead from the front for the exploration of new horizons of Confidence Building Measures (CBM'S) with Pakistan to strengthen the stability of the region.

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Pakistan is quite satisfied with the existing pattern of deterrence, which is also currently prevailing to some extent in South Asia. But, a question does arise: Why is Pakistan continuously exploring ways which ultimately lead towards the possession of low-yield nuclear weapons and advancement of nuclear capabilities? The answer to this question can be addressed in a way that it was India which was strongly portraying its Cold Start Doctrine and also showing its urge of getting defense shield. Keeping in view these initiatives or intentions of India there was no other choice left for Pakistan rather than pursuing of low-yield nuclear weapons and the advancement of its nuclear capabilities. In other words, it would not be wrong to mention that Pakistan is being compelled by India to follow or adapt such ways and policies.

After the careful study of history and acute consultation of to-date existing literature, it can be strongly determined that the only purpose behind possessing deterrence for every nuclear weapon state is to secure itself from the aggression of an adversary state, which will result in maintaining peace. Therefore, it is pretty clear from the origin of deterrence that it is a political tool and sole purpose at the back end of deterrence is the maintenance, furtherance and stability of peace among states, which should be followed by the states that are in race with each other.

Deterrence should not be manipulated for the purposes of gaining ultimate supremacy, but nevertheless, India's current policies are disturbing the existing pattern of deterrence without keeping in view that repercussions would be dire for the whole region.

Now the question arises that why is Pakistan not following the lines which are being followed by the India? The answer to this question is quite simple — Pakistan does not want to take such steps that ultimately could lead towards an arms race, and a change in deterrence patterns. This in itself shows that Pakistan is mature and concerned about the strategic stability of region. In other words, it would not be wrong to mention that Pakistan doesn't want to instigate any adversary state in a nuclear manner for the survival of strategic stability of region.

Ali Raza is an associate at the Strategic Vision Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan.

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/28052014-changing-nature-nuclear-deterrence-south-asia-oped/>

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Phys.org – Douglas, Isle Of Mann, U.K.

Opinion/Book Review

The Varieties of Nuclear Strategy

By Peter Dizikes

May 28, 2014

During the Cold War, nuclear-weapons strategy was oriented around the doctrine of "mutual assured destruction": The world's two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, both knew that any use of nuclear arms would lead to an escalating exchange that would annihilate both countries.

This strategic paradigm has its limits, though: The world of two diametrically opposed superpowers has since changed. Today, most countries with nuclear weapons, or an active nuclear capability, have smaller arsenals and are situated in different political circumstances than existed during the Cold War. Most of those countries are regional powers, not global forces. For these reasons, our approach to nuclear doctrine needs an overhaul, suggests Vipin Narang, an assistant professor of political science at MIT who has studied nuclear strategy and security issues.

"There's a lot of texture in the way regional nuclear powers have thought about nuclear strategy and optimized their forces," Narang says. "India and Pakistan are two different types of nuclear states. China thinks about nuclear weapons differently than, say, South Africa or Israel [does]. There is a diversity of regional nuclear power strategies."



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Now, in a new book, "Nuclear Strategy in the Modern Era," published this week by Princeton University Press, Narang lays out his own new paradigm for thinking about nuclear strategy. Beyond the U.S. and Russia, states have nuclear arsenals for multiple reasons—which, in turn, shape how they might potentially deploy their weapons. Recognizing this, Narang asserts, can help us craft new, nuanced policies that are better suited to preventing nuclear weapons from being used, either intentionally or by mistake.

"Knowing which strategy a regional power can and does adopt helps us think about what types of risk are present in a crisis or peacetime," Narang says.

Three other nuclear strategies

In the book, Narang makes the case that there are three distinct strategies regional powers adopt with regard to their nuclear arsenals. The first is what he calls the "catalytic" posture, in which a state has a small number of nuclear weapons, but uses them to get a superpower—usually the U.S.—to intervene on its behalf. In this sense, the weapons are the catalyst that forces the U.S. to smooth over regional conflicts. Historical examples, in Narang's view, include Israel in the 1970s and Pakistan in the late 1980s.

"It's a political strategy that's designed to strengthen the reliability of a superpower patron in a conflict to help the state," Narang says. "It's only available to the regional powers."

A second nuclear posture, which Narang calls "assured retaliation," exists when a state develops a sufficiently large and dispersed arsenal to be able to retaliate if it is the victim of a nuclear attack. This strategy is exemplified by China and India, in his view.

"Having a secure second-strike capability is designed to deter nuclear use and coercion," Narang says. "They have small arsenals, but large enough to credibly threaten retaliation if nuclear weapons are used against them." He adds: "Both China and India view nuclear weapons as primarily political deterrent tools and not as active war-fighting instruments. This is the classic nuclear strategy where the state is developing nuclear weapons basically to assure the existence of the state."

The strategic drawback to this posture is that other states often recognize that the nuclear weapons are a threat of last resort, to be used only in case of prior nuclear attack.

"This strategy sacrifices some deterrent power against conventional conflict," Narang says: Enemies may assume that limited conventional battles are very unlikely to escalate and involve nuclear arms.

That is not the case with the third posture Narang identifies, which he calls the "asymmetric escalation" strategy. In this case, a state deploys a nuclear arsenal to present a credible threat of a first nuclear strike, in response to a conventional, non-nuclear attack. This was France's posture during the Cold War, and is Pakistan's posture today, Narang observes, as a way—necessary or not—of securing its borders against India.

"This is explicitly designed to deter conventional conflict," Narang explains. "It moves up a spectrum of aggressiveness." Countries with this posture tend to delegate authority for a strike to certain military leaders—which may present problems for the rest of the world, since the procedures for using nuclear weapons may not involve many safeguards. "The challenge is really command and control, safely managing its nuclear arsenal," Narang says.

'Substantial reductions' are realistic

Recognizing this diversity of nuclear postures, Narang says, can not only help us better interpret geopolitics today, but think more flexibly about potential problems of the future.

"I think there's a myth that once a state acquires nuclear weapons, they'll never face another conflict again," Narang states. "But nuclear weapons by themselves don't [always] deter conventional conflict." Moreover, a state's nuclear posture can evolve over time, as it has in the cases of France, Pakistan, and perhaps Israel and South Africa; policymakers should be aware that states are not locked into the same outlook indefinitely.

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"Nuclear Strategy in the Modern Era" has received praise from other scholars of nuclear security and international relations. Robert Jervis, a political scientist at Columbia University, says the book "combines rich empirical research and careful theorizing to add greatly to our understanding of deterrence." Alexander Downes, a political scientist at George Washington University, says Narang's "conclusions have wide-ranging implications for the way we think about nuclear deterrence."

Narang acknowledges that the book's findings do not precisely fit the nuclear nonproliferation agenda, since he identifies some states where the weapons appear to have ongoing practical use as a deterrent. He characterizes his own view on limiting arsenals as a "realistic" one, in which reduction is possible and desirable, while the total elimination of nuclear weapons is less likely.

"In our lifetimes, getting to nuclear zero may not be possible," Narang suggests. "I think the conversation should probably be shifted from zero to low numbers. Because there is an attendant risk: The more nuclear weapons there are, the more chance of inadvertent use. But there's no reason we can't achieve substantial reductions."

Provided by Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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<http://phys.org/news/2014-05-varieties-nuclear-strategy.html>

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The Hill – Washington, D.C.

OPINION/Congress Blog

May 28, 2014

Keep Missile Defense System on Course

By U.S. Lt. Gen. Edward Anderson (Ret.)

Increasingly strident threats from hostile nations make it clear that a strong missile defense system in Europe is critical to U.S. troops deployed abroad and our allies. In recent weeks, Russia began to advance on Crimea, and Iran claimed it had successfully tested a new generation of long-range ballistic missiles.

The good news is that the United States, with the support of Congress, is on a prudent timeline to field next-generation missiles in Europe to protect against these threats.

However, a recent call by a group of U.S. senators to accelerate this timeline could prove disastrous for our mission: protecting against growing missile threats.

The Russian Aggression Prevention Act, introduced April 30, has several key provisions designed to deter Russian aggression, including increasing U.S. and NATO support for forces in eastern Europe; placing additional sanctions on those involved in Crimea; imposing sanctions on four Russian banks; providing direct military assistance to resistance in Ukraine; and other important steps.

But one of the bill's provisions is potentially problematic: The bill would require the third phase of the current missile defense program to be deployed in Poland by 2016, at least two years earlier than planned.

The desire of these senators to keep up pressure on Russia is certainly understandable, and the intent of their legislation is laudable. But we ought to proceed carefully when attempting to speed up complex technology development, and perhaps look to another missile defense example that has been defined by rolling out too quickly.

In the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and North Korea boasting of a nuclear weapon, the Bush Administration rushed deployment of a system to protect the United States from long-range ballistic missile attacks. Since then, the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system (GMD) has faced a host of challenges stemming from that decision, however understandable it was at the time, which ultimately sacrificed engineering for speed.

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A system that should have been allowed 15 years or more from inception to deployment was squeezed into just eight years. System engineering was drastically cut short; production was initiated prior to the completion of testing; and highly complicated technology designed to take out intercontinental ballistic missiles outside the Earth's atmosphere was too immature and didn't work. In more recent years, the GMD program has suffered from lack of funding for testing and redesign.

As a result, the GMD is still working to live up to its potential. While the GMD performed successfully in numerous tests early on, it has failed to intercept targets in the three tests since 2008.

Fortunately, the problems with the GMD are still fixable through a short-term redesign of the exoatmospheric kill vehicle, the warhead that is central to the interception system, and the Department of Defense's FY 2015 budget appropriately requests an investment for this redesign.

In contrast, other missile defense systems that have been permitted proper design and development time have been remarkably effective. For instance, the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense system and earlier variants of its Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) have passed 26 of 32 tests, including 5-for-5 intercepts in 2013 and a first successful flight test of Aegis Ashore in May.

So, as a nation we know how to build these systems. Enter the next generation of the SM-3, the IIA, which the U.S. Navy is co-developing with Japan. This is the missile system scheduled to be deployed in Poland in 2018. By every measure, this advanced interceptor will answer this call, and these senators have picked up on the initial successes of the SM-3 program and perhaps assumed more than should be.

This program is phased intentionally to ensure logical technology progression, each building on its prior phase. The first phase was deployed in 2011, and the second is set for 2015. But it is not practical for the third phase to be ready for prime time in 2016, at least two years early. Such expectations would shortchange the engineering cycle and risk cost overruns.

But if given the room it needs to develop, there is every expectation that the SM-3 IIA will do its job to protect key U.S. allies and our troops in harm's way. We should benefit from our previous experiences and let good acquisition be the hallmark of our successful development and deployment, not politics.

Anderson is a former head of the Army Space and Missile Defense Command.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/homeland-security/207281-keep-missile-defense-system-on-course>

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Asia Times Online.com – Hong Kong, China
OPINION/Speaking Freely

China Frets over Japanese Nuclear Program

By Hui Zhang
May 30, 2014

At the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit held in The Hague in March, Japan agreed to turn over to Washington hundreds of kilograms of plutonium and highly enriched uranium, some of which would have been ideally suited for use in nuclear weapons.

This was an important victory in global nuclear security efforts for which Japan should be commended. Unfortunately, Japan still stores 9 tonnes of separated plutonium at home and 35 tonnes in Britain and France - enough for thousands of nuclear weapons.

Tokyo plans to separate more such materials even though in the aftermath of the Fukushima disaster the future scale of nuclear energy production in Japan is very uncertain. Thus, Chinese experts and officials cannot help but view Japan's plutonium stocks with considerable alarm.

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Beijing believes that Tokyo's existing plutonium stockpiles are "far exceeding ... [the] normal needs" of a nuclear power program. Even worse, once Rokkasho reprocessing facility starts operating, about eight tonnes of plutonium - enough to build 1,000 bombs - would be added to its already immense plutonium stockpile each year.

Some suspect that the real intention of Tokyo's plutonium recycling program is to retain the option of developing nuclear weapons sometime in the future.

Tokyo defends its plutonium recycling program as solely for civilian purposes. However, reuse of separated plutonium in fast breeder reactors planned originally several decades ago is now demonstrated to not be feasible commercially before 2050.

Even Japan's Monju prototype breeder reactor is now slated mainly for other research use. Also the plan to reuse plutonium in light water reactors is now believed to be unviable, given the concerns for safety after the Fukushima accident.

Without a clear prospect of consuming existing surplus plutonium in the near future, it makes no sense to continue separating more plutonium. While Tokyo is expected to take actions to minimize its surplus plutonium stocks, instead the opposite is happening and the Abe administration pushes ahead with the operation of the Rokkasho reprocessing plant. This clearly contradicts Japan's stated policy of avoiding surplus plutonium and only raises further questions over its real purpose.

Japan is the only non-nuclear state that continues to reprocess its nuclear fuel. Its continuing reprocessing is encouraging another neighbor, South Korea, to pursue reprocessing as well, thus leading to a broader race for reprocessing technologies or even weapons in northeast Asia, which would further destabilize the region. Indeed, Seoul has been insisting on a new Agreement of Nuclear Cooperation with Washington to have the same right to reprocess as Japan.

Many Chinese further question why Tokyo is determined to move forward with its reprocessing plan, defying current world trends. The Hague Nuclear Security Summit communique encouraged "States to keep their stockpile of separated plutonium to the minimum level". The international community unanimously endorses the concerns about security issues of separated plutonium, which would create an inviting target for terrorists to steal or attack.

In fact, even Washington has recently expressed concerns about Tokyo's reprocessing program which would increase both the risk of proliferation and security issues of separated plutonium. However, Tokyo remains committed, ignoring all those efforts.

Further, Japan has an advanced space program, including solid-propellant rocket technology, and guidance and re-entry technology. Those technologies could be adapted to develop Tokyo's ballistic missile capabilities. Chinese nuclear weapons experts emphasize that Japan has technically everything needed to make nuclear weapons. The only thing it needs is political will, and, once decided, Japan can make its bombs in a short time.

Indeed, Tokyo has linked its plutonium recycling program with its defense purpose from the inception of its nuclear program. As early as the late 1960s, a study per a request by then-prime minister Eisaku Sato about the possibility of Japan developing an independent nuclear force maintained that "the plutonium stocks resulting from its civilian nuclear power program would give Japan the option of making nuclear weapons".

In practice, many Japanese officials have repeatedly argued publicly that "Japan should have nuclear weapons", and that this development "would not violate its constitution". Then deputy chief cabinet secretary and current Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said in 2002 that "the constitution would not block Japan's production of nuclear weapons provided they were small".

Many Chinese worry that as Japanese politics moves rightward, it could result in the country seeking its own weapons. Beijing's concerns have intensified with its confrontation with the Abe administration over historical recognition and territorial issues.

Tokyo should address concerns over its reprocessing plans and plutonium stocks. These worries, if left to fester, can have negative consequences for regional security in Asia. To reduce suspicions, Tokyo should take specific

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steps to abide strictly by its "no surplus plutonium policy". It is time for Tokyo to stop reprocessing and eliminate its surplus plutonium as soon as possible.

Hui Zhang, a physicist, is leading a research initiative on China's nuclear policies for the Managing the Atom Project in Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.

<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China/CHIN-01-300514.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 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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