



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies (CUWS) Outreach Journal

Issue No. 1118, 06 June 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: *"A Low-Visibility Force Multiplier: Assessing China's Cruise Missile Ambitions"*. Authored by Dennis M. Gormley, Andrew S. Erickson, and Jingdong Yuan; Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs. Published by the National Defense University (NDU) Press; April 2014; 196 Pages.

<http://ndupress.ndu.edu/Portals/68/Documents/Books/force-multiplier.pdf>

China's military modernization is focused on building modern ground, naval, air, and missile forces capable of fighting and winning local wars under informationized conditions. The principal planning scenario has been a military campaign against Taiwan, which would require the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to deter or defeat U.S. intervention. The PLA has sought to acquire asymmetric "assassin's mace"¹ technologies and systems to overcome a superior adversary and couple them to the command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems necessary for swift and precise execution of short-duration, high-intensity wars.

A key element of the PLA's investment in antiaccess/area-denial (A2/AD) capabilities is the development and deployment of large numbers of highly accurate antiship cruise missiles (ASCMs) and land-attack cruise missiles (LACMs) on a range of ground, air, and naval platforms. China's growing arsenal of cruise missiles and the delivery platforms and C4ISR systems necessary to employ them pose new defense and nonproliferation challenges for the United States and its regional partners. This study surveys People's Republic of China (PRC) ASCM and LACM programs and their implications for broader PLA capabilities, especially in a Taiwan scenario.

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The Missoulia - Missoula, MT

Most Malmstrom Airmen Involved in Nuclear Cheating Scandal Return to Duty

Associated Press (AP)

June 01, 2014

GREAT FALLS — About two-thirds of the airmen involved in the cheating investigation at Malmstrom Air Force Base have been returned to alert duty or are in the training pipeline to be recertified, according to base officials.

One hundred officers at Malmstrom were involved in the investigation. Nine were cleared when the findings were announced in March. Some cases were retained by the Air Force's Office of Special Investigation because they involved the mishandling of classified material or were part of the initial drug investigation that uncovered the cheating.

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An investigation report released in late March revealed low morale and other issues throughout the nuclear force that prompted the Air Force to establish the Force Improvement Program, asking airmen to make suggestions for improvements.

Some of the improvements being rolled out as a result include the Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal, which was approved by Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James on Tuesday.

The medal is "intended to recognize airmen dedicated to national strategic nuclear deterrence objectives," according to information released by the Air Force Personnel Center on Friday. Eligibility criteria and submission instructions are still under review, and they will be available following approval from leadership.

The Air Force also recently released other new incentives for nuclear airmen, including Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) scholarships for airmen who would perform intercontinental ballistic missile duty. Ten of those scholarships already have been awarded, according to the Air Force.

Bonus pay for new missile specialists, known as missileers, after they complete their initial skills training will start Oct. 1. Targeted incentive pay for airmen operating outside the main base, such as missileers, security forces, maintenance, facility managers and chefs at missile alert facilities, will also start on the same date.

Information on who will be eligible for those incentives and how they will be distributed was not immediately available Friday.

http://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/most-malmstrom-airmen-involved-in-nuclear-cheating-scandal-return-to/article_6cc3f4f6-e9a6-11e3-b972-001a4bcf887a.html

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Air Force Global Strike Command.af.mil – Barksdale AFB, LA

Strategic Bombers Deploy to Europe to Train, Exercise Capabilities

By U.S. Strategic Command Public Affairs

June 3, 2014

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. -- Three B-52 Stratofortresses flew to the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) area of operations today to train and integrate with U.S. and allied military forces in the region.

During this short-term deployment, the multi-role heavy bombers will conduct training flights in the USEUCOM area of operations, providing opportunities for aircrews to sharpen skills in several key operational sets and become familiar with airbases and operations in the region. Additionally, in recognition of the legacy of the U.S. Eighth Air Force in the Allied invasion of Normandy in World War II, a B-52 will take part in the 70th anniversary D-Day commemoration in Graignes, France, June 7.

"This deployment of strategic bombers provides an invaluable opportunity to strengthen and improve interoperability with our allies and partners," said Adm. Cecil Haney, commander, U.S. Strategic Command. "The training and integration of strategic forces demonstrates to our nation's leaders and our allies that we have the right mix of aircraft and expertise to respond to a variety of potential threats and situations."

USSTRATCOM routinely conducts training missions in support of geographic combatant commands to ensure the U.S. has a credible and flexible capability to provide the President a variety of options he may need to protect the nation or its allies and partners.

Two of the forward-deployed B-52s are assigned to Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, and one is assigned to Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota. The B-52 is a long-range, multi-role bomber capable of delivering both conventional and nuclear munitions. B-52s can fly at high subsonic speeds at altitudes up to 50,000 feet.

<http://www.afgsc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123413215>

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Defense World.net

Trident II D5 Missile Records 150 Successful Test Flights

Source: Our Bureau
Thursday, June 5, 2014

Lockheed Martin built Trident II D5 Fleet Ballistic Missile has achieved 150 successful test flights, setting a new reliability record for large ballistic missiles.

The US Navy launched two unarmed missiles June 2 in the Atlantic Ocean from a submerged Ohio-class submarine, marking the 149th and 150th successful test flights of the missile since design completion in 1989.

The test flights were part of a demonstration and shakedown operation, which the Navy uses to certify a submarine for deployment following an overhaul. The missiles were converted into test configurations with kits containing range safety devices and flight telemetry instrumentation.

The operation included the first flight of two modernized avionics subsystems that control key missile functions during flight. The subsystems were updated under the D5 Life Extension program, which incorporates current technologies into the missile's electronics to cost-effectively prolong the service life of the reliable D5 missile design on current and next-generation submarine platforms.

[http://www.defenseworld.net/news/10614/Trident II D5 Missile Records 150 Successful Test Flights](http://www.defenseworld.net/news/10614/Trident_II_D5_Missile_Records_150_Successful_Test_Flights)

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Reuters – U.S.

U.S. Missile Defense Test could Shift Timing to Add Interceptors

By Andrea Shalal
Wednesday, June 4, 2014

WASHINGTON -- (Reuters) - The success or failure of an upcoming U.S. missile defense test could affect when the Pentagon deploys 14 more ground-based interceptors to defend against possible missile threats from North Korea, a top U.S. official said Wednesday.

Peppino DeBiaso, director of missile defense policy at the Pentagon, told a conference hosted by the Brookings Institution and Union of Concerned Scientists that an intercept test of the Groundbased-Midcourse Defense (GMD) system was planned "shortly" but gave no further details about the timing.

The test of the system, which is managed by Boeing Co., and the Raytheon Co. "kill vehicle" that it uses to destroy enemy targets, is planned for June 22, said two sources familiar with the plan, who are not authorized to speak about it publicly.

The Raytheon kill vehicle failed to separate from the rest of the ground-based interceptor (GDI) during the last intercept test in July 2013. This triggered a series of internal and external reviews, an investigation by the Pentagon inspector general, and a push by the Pentagon to start work on a new kill vehicle.

The Senate Armed Services Committee on Wednesday underscored its concern about the missile defense program in language attached to its annual defense authorization bill, and added \$30 million in funding for maintenance and reliability improvements to the Pentagon's request of \$1 billion for the GMD system.

DeBiaso said the Pentagon was committed to the new development effort, regardless of the test outcome.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, citing growing threats from North Korea and Iran, announced plans in March 2013 to add 14 interceptors to 30 already in place in Alaska and California.

DeBiaso said those plans remained firm, but another test failure could affect the timing for deploying the additional interceptors, which are due to be operational by the end of 2017. He said it could also affect efforts to

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retrofit and improve the reliability of the existing two models of kill vehicles, and development of a next-generation "kill vehicle."

"We're going to have to wait until we get to that point in order to determine exactly what the impact might be on the timing of getting those additional 14 in silos and (making them) operational systems," he said.

Cristina Chaplain, director of acquisition and sourcing management at the Government Accountability Office, told the conference that a test failure this month would be a "big setback" that could result in another year-long review.

In comments added to the Senate defense spending bill, Republican Senator James Inhofe said the funding added for better maintenance and reliability should send a "strong message" to the Pentagon about the need to routinely upgrade the system, much as it does nuclear weapons.

"It is time for us to accord the same level of commitment to the GMD system that we provide our nuclear strategic systems," he said.

Reporting by Andrea Shalal; Editing by Richard Chang

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/04/usa-missiledefense-idUSL1N0OL21520140604?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS>

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Air Cargo News.net – Sutton, Surrey, U.K.

US Postpones 100 per cent Container Scanning

By Nigel Tomkins, managing director
01 June 2014

FORWARDERS are not surprised by the latest US climbdown on controversial plans to introduce 100 per cent ocean container screening.

Peter Quantrill, director general of the British International Freight Association (BIFA), says it is "hardly surprising" to hear the news that the USA has delayed – for another two years – its demand that all cargo containers entering the USA must have been security scanned prior to departure from their origin stations.

The decision comes amid questions over whether the total scanning scheme is the best way to protect US ports.

Five years after Congress set a deadline requiring all US-bound shipping containers to be X-rayed overseas for nuclear weapons, US Customs officials now appear to have given up on the goal.

Screening 100 per cent of incoming containers would be nearly impossible to implement now, would cause huge delays and be less cost-effective than focusing only on suspicious cargo, observers say.

More than 30,000 ocean containers arrive at US ports each day and many foreign ports are just not physically equipped to comply.

"As BIFA has said repeatedly, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has consistently underestimated the enormity of the task in hand relative to the costs both to the US government and to foreign governments as well as, importantly, the limited ability of contemporary screening technology to penetrate dense cargo, or large quantities of cargo in shipping containers," says Quantrill.

BIFA's comments are in response to a letter from Thomas Carper, chairman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, which suggested that the use of systems available to scan containers would have a negative impact on trade capacity and the flow of cargo.

Quantrill notes: "Media reports suggest that the US government now doubts whether it would be able to implement the mandate of 100 per cent scanning, even in the long term, and it would appear that it now shares

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BIFA's long-standing opinion that it is not the best use of taxpayer resources to meet the USA's port security and homeland security needs.

"We have always said that expanding screening with available technology would slow the flow of commerce and drive up costs to consumers without bringing significant security benefits."

BIFA says the US government should take an even bolder step – and repeal the original legislation.

"That would be the most appropriate way to address this flawed provision and allow the Department and industry to continue to focus on real solutions, including strengthened risk-based management systems to address any security gaps that remain in global supply chains."

<http://www.aircargoneews.net/news/single-view/news/us-postpones-100-per-cent-container-scanning.html>

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National Journal – Washington, D.C.

Pentagon Funds Development of New Tech for Detecting 'Dirty Bombs'

By Rachel Oswald
June 3, 2014

With its supply of helium running out, the Pentagon is funding research into alternative methods for detecting the presence of possible "dirty bombs."

Helium 3 gas is employed in most of the nuclear-detection systems in use today. The rare substance is currently produced as a byproduct of the radioactive decay of tritium, a material used in nuclear warheads. As helium 3 is collected from aging warheads, the supply of the gas has dwindled as the U.S. nuclear arsenal has grown smaller.

That has prompted the Pentagon's Defense Threat Reduction Agency to seek out promising new technologies that can supplant the use of helium 3 in detection devices, which are used to find radiological substances. Officials fear that attackers could pair these substances with conventional explosives to disperse harmful radiation across a wide area.

To that end, the agency has awarded a \$2.8 million contract to Alion Science and Technology of McLean, Va., to further its research into a next-generation detection system that utilizes bundles of thin copper tubes coated with boron, according to a Monday company press release.

The current generation of helium 3-powered detectors can alert authorities to the presence of a nearby radioactive source, but these systems cannot determine the direction from which the radiation is coming. Alion plans to use its Pentagon funding to give its boron-coated "straw" sensors the ability to pinpoint the direction of a source.

"By researching the means to make the boron-coated straw detector more precise and more reasonable to produce, Alion can help [the Defense Threat Reduction Agency] employ improved technologies to mitigate threats effectively and keep warfighters and citizens safe," company senior vice president Terri Spoonhour said in a released statement. "But, beyond providing a drop-in replacement for He-3 detector components, this engineering effort opens up a number of possibilities for new or enhanced portable systems that can be carried into questionable areas or permanently installed to protect ports and depots."

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/global-security-newswire/pentagon-funds-development-of-new-tech-for-detecting-dirty-bombs-20140603>

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Chattanooga Times Free Press – Chattanooga, TN

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Y-12 Replacement Redesigned after Project Cost Overruns

By Dave Flessner
Friday, June 06, 2014

A decade after military planners began its design, the largest construction project in Tennessee is starting over with a new and different layout.

The Department of Energy's Uranium Processing Facility in Oak Ridge has been revamped to help reduce its escalating costs by more than a third.

But the head of the federal agency building the proposed \$6.5 billion complex said Thursday the project is still needed to upgrade the aging Y-12 weapons plant and the project should still spur business across the Tennessee Valley as it is built in the next decade.

Retired Lt. Gen. Frank Klotz, a Department of Energy undersecretary who heads the National Nuclear Security Administration, said one part of the Oak Ridge facility, Building 9212, is more than 60 years old.

"There are a lot of concerns about the safety and functionality of structures that old," Klotz said after visiting Y-12 this week.

In 2005, DOE proposed what was projected to be a \$600 million single complex to bring Y-12 up to date. But since then, costs for that idea ballooned to an estimated \$10 billion or more, forcing a revamp of the design in the past six months.

Under the leadership of Oak Ridge National Laboratory Director Thom Mason, a "Red Team" of experts cut the costs of the new Y-12 complex to \$6.5 billion by moving to modular units in a more distributed design, not all of which will require the highest environmental and security features of the most sensitive operations.

Klotz, who received the Red Team recommendation in April, called the new design "a prudent and reasonable approach" that DOE is also using at a plutonium plant at Los Alamos National Lab in New Mexico.

"We hope to be able to use much of the work that we have done so far, but to be perfectly honest not all of our work in going to carry over," said Steven Erhart, manager of the 7,000-employee Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge.

U.S. Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, R-Tenn., met with Klotz during the Tennessee Valley Corridor summit and said Thursday he "is satisfied that the project is moving forward" with the new design.

"I have been a strong advocate for the UPF since I've been in Congress because the nation needs enriched uranium," he said. "The Red Team, I think, did a very good job and is going to get this back on track."

Fleischmann said the massive project should create business opportunities for many Chattanooga builders and businesses. Last year, he led a conference that attracted more than 200 companies in Chattanooga interested in finding out about how to possibly do work for the Oak Ridge project.

Before such contracts are awarded, however, the new plan must be fully designed.

To help limit cost overruns that have beset many DOE projects, the department now requires more than 90 percent of all of the plant to be designed and planned before construction begins, Erhart said.

At a Mixed Oxide Fuel fabrication plant being built at DOE's Savannah River Site in South Carolina, design work and calculations were not done before the project began. DOE has now proposed that that facility be halted in September because of cost overruns that have swelled the program costs for the MOX program to \$30 billion. Even though the South Carolina plant is nearly half built, it may be scrapped to pursue other, less expensive programs. Klotz said.

Such construction cost overruns, Klotz said, are because of the new and unique challenge of building new nuclear facilities. But he also said the government needs to do better.

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U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., told DOE officials in April they should pursue a similar Red Team revision strategy at the MOX plant that was used at the UPF project in Oak Ridge.

<http://timesfreepress.com/news/2014/jun/06/y-12-replacement-redesigned-after-project-cost/>

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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

U.S. Wants 'Interoperable, Integrated' Missile Defense with S. Korea: Official

May 31, 2014

By Lee Chi-dong

WASHINGTON, May 30 (Yonhap) -- When the defense chiefs of the U.S., South Korea and Japan meet in Singapore this weekend, they are expected to focus on ways to strengthen cooperation on missile defense.

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel stressed the significance of the upcoming three-way meeting with his South Korean and Japanese counterparts to be held on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue, an annual security forum.

The trilateral session will be particularly important, Hagel told reporters, as he embarked on his fifth trip to the Asia-Pacific region since taking office in early 2013.

Hagel did not specify any agenda items but a senior Pentagon official accompanying the secretary later made clear that Washington continues to push for "increased and deeper cooperation on ballistic missile defense in Northeast Asia."

"We're in kind of -- little bit of a hub-and-spoke model -- with the U.S. in the middle talking to the Japanese on one side, talking to the Koreans on the other. And the trick is to get this more integrated and interoperable," the official said, according to a transcript from the Pentagon.

South Korea is seeking its own Korea Air and Missile Defense system to counter the North's threats.

"That makes sense, you know, for where they sit right now," the official added. "But the key is to get it interoperable and integrated into one system that is as effective as possible."

South Korea has stated that it has no intention to formally join the U.S. missile defense system, although it understands the need for interoperability, which apparently means sharing data.

Experts say interoperability is not enough in the technologically challenging arena.

"What's required is a truly 'integrated' international defense," RAND scholar David Gompert told Breaking Defense, an online defense magazine. "Integrated and interoperable, they're not the same thing. Integrated means that things happen in seconds. They happen at speeds that are required for sensors and shooters to work as part of a single system."

Patrick Cronin, senior researcher at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS), said an interoperable system can be a prelude to an integrated one

"In the near term, 'interoperable' may be the best that we can get, hopefully as a first step towards true integration," he said. "This is what the U.S. government can sell today to South Korea."

Earlier this week, a top U.S. military officer said the Pentagon is considering deploying more missile defense systems in the Asia-Pacific region, in addition to a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) unit on Guam, to counter North Korea.

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"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," Adm. James A. Winnefeld, vice chairman of the Joints Chief of Staff, said in a speech to the Atlantic Council here.

His comments came amid a news report that the Pentagon may deploy a THAAD battery to South Korea.

South Korean officials said Seoul and Washington are not in consultations over the reported plan.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2014/05/31/52/0401000000AEN20140531000400315F.html>

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The Japan News – Osaka, Japan

Japan, U.S., South Korea Must Boost Intelligence Sharing over Pyongyang

The Yomiuri Shimbun

June 02, 2014

To deal effectively with North Korea, which has repeatedly carried out nuclear tests and test-fired missiles, Japan, the United States and South Korea should strengthen trilateral cooperation in the military intelligence field.

On Saturday, Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera had talks with U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and South Korean Defense Minister Kim Kwan Jin in Singapore. A joint statement was issued at the close of the meeting.

The statement reaffirmed the three countries' policy of cooperating closely with the international community to deal with security threats from North Korea. Also incorporated in the statement was an agreement to hold talks on creating a new trilateral cooperative framework to share relevant intelligence regarding missile defense arrangements.

Information obtained from a South Korean Aegis-equipped destroyer and through other means immediately after North Korea launches a missile would certainly be highly beneficial for both Japan and the United States. South Korea also would find it advantageous to receive information from Japan and the United States about tracking a North Korean missile when it analyzes Pyongyang's missile capability.

Intelligence-sharing arrangements concerning North Korea among the three sides should be steadily expanded.

In the talks between the defense chiefs, Onodera explained Pyongyang's recent commitment to reinvestigate the fate of Japanese citizens who were abducted by North Korean agents in the 1970s and early 1980s. He was also quoted as telling his U.S. and South Korean counterparts that Japan considered it important to "resolve [North Korea's] abduction issue as well as the nuclear and missile development programs" in a comprehensive manner.

Washington and Seoul are concerned that ties between Tokyo and Pyongyang may make headway while leaving the nuclear and missile problems unaddressed. It was only natural that to dispel such concerns, Onodera insisted that Japan would cooperate in addressing other problems involving North Korea.

The problem, however, is that the relations between Japan and South Korea have remained sour for a long period.

Wary of military role

A face-to-face meeting between the defense ministers of Japan and South Korea was not held this time. South Korea remains wary of signing the General Security of Military Information Agreement, a treaty aimed at sharing military intelligence between the two countries.

Hagel stressed at the meeting that military and political issues must be considered separately, and he prodded Japan and South Korea to push ahead with boosting bilateral defense cooperation. Kim, however, noted that Tokyo-Seoul defense cooperation was difficult because of bilateral history problems and public antipathy toward Japan in South Korea.

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The differences in views are extremely wide regarding such problems as the so-called comfort women issue and perception gaps between the two countries concerning wartime history. The failure to make progress in cooperating on security is bound to seriously affect both sides.

In March this year, Japan, the United States and South Korea had a tripartite summit meeting through the offices of the United States, while a trilateral meeting of officials in charge of defense and diplomatic affairs took place in April. On the strength of the cooperative relationship that was affirmed in the latest defense chiefs' meeting, ties should improve between Japan and South Korea.

Onodera referred in the meeting to the Japanese government's current task of reinterpreting the nation's Constitution in connection with the right to collective self-defense. He explained that the constitutional interpretation, if altered, would never lead to Japanese forces entering any other country's territory without prior agreement.

In South Korea, there seems to be deep-rooted concern regarding the expansion of Japan's military role. But there are a number of instances where this concern is derived from a misunderstanding or distortion of the facts. Japan must try to win the understanding of other countries by making detailed explanations to address these concerns at every possible opportunity.

<http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0001324154>

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Want China Times – Taipei, Taiwan

US Aims at China and Russia with the Deployment of THAAD: People's Daily

By Staff Reporter

June 02, 2014

China's Party-run People's Daily has criticized the potential US deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) anti-ballistic missile defense system to South Korea as an attempt to provoke China and Russia.

The United States is actually testing the reaction of China, Russia and South Korea through the deployment of THAAD to the Korean peninsula, said associate professor Han Xiandong from the China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing. The Korean peninsula is seen as a buffer zone from the perspective of the Chinese and Russian government, making such deployment very crucial to the national security of Beijing and Moscow, he added.

US president Barack Obama is attempting to solidify US leadership in the Asia Pacific region with THAAD. As he said, China, Russia and North Korea are all regional challengers to the United States. THAAD will supposedly keep them under control.

Congressman J. Randy Forbes from Virginia suggested that Taiwan's early warning radar be integrated with US missile defense and sensor systems.

As the chairman of the House Armed Services Seapower and Projection Forces subcommittee, Forbes introduced the provision into the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act on May 1, according to state-run tabloid Global Times. Kung Chushan, the author of the commentary, said that the provision introduced by Forbes proved that the United States is still trying to use Taiwan as an "unsinkable aircraft carrier" against China.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20140602000002&cid=1101&MainCatID=11>

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Military Times.com

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Report: Chinese Cruise Missiles Could Pose Biggest Threat to U.S. Carriers

By Wendell Minnick, staff writer
June 2, 2014

TAIPEI — Saturation strikes from Chinese anti-ship cruise missiles could become the biggest threat to Navy carrier strike groups (CSG), according to a paper issued by the Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs at the National Defense University.

The paper, “A Low-Visibility Force Multiplier: Assessing China’s Cruise Missile Ambitions,” draws from both Western and Chinese-language open source documents and concludes, “experienced Aegis warriors will respect China’s emerging capabilities.”

Written by cruise missile specialist Dennis Gormley, and China military specialists Andrew Erickson and Jingdong Yuan, the paper states that, due to the low cost of developing, deploying and maintaining cruise missiles, the Chinese believe that cruise missiles possess a 9:1 cost advantage over the expense of defending against them. China assumes that “quantity can defeat quality” by simply saturating a CSG with a variety of high-speed, low-altitude, cruise missiles.

The common belief in Navy circles that China would “need to approach parity in deck aviation capabilities” to defeat a CSG “may no longer be valid.”

China has “clearly” elevated cruise missile development “over an organic carrier capability with the apparent goal of acquiring the capability to neutralize US carrier strike group forces through overwhelming” cruise missile attacks.

The paper also delves into a darker future that includes nuclear-armed cruise missiles. Noting that the former Soviet Navy emphasized the employment of nuclear-armed cruise missiles against a CSG, the paper suggests the possibility the Chinese Navy might pursue the same option in the future. The argument against China pursuing this capability is its weakness in command and control and the fact that such a capability would be “inconsistent with [China’s] current nuclear doctrine.”

The possibility, according to the paper, cannot be ruled out. Quoting retired Navy Rear Adm. Michael McDevitt, China is “likely already ‘arm[ing] nuclear attack submarines with nuclear-tipped cruise missiles.’” The paper’s authors could find no evidence of “substrategic nuclear weapons,” but the “Soviet Navy has clearly influenced” the thinking of the Chinese Navy.

The paper looks at the publications of Senior Capt. Liu Yang, a Chinese naval officer at the Wuhan Office of the Naval Armaments Department. Liu’s writings suggest that “all options are on the table” for the “special anti-aircraft carrier mission.”

Liu outlines three courses of actions, such as a cruise missile armed with a low-weight nuclear burst warhead, a fuel-air explosive warhead, and an undefined “special type of warhead with even greater power to inflict casualties.”

The fact that Liu is associated with the Wuhan Office suggests his writings should be “under serious consideration and may even have moved beyond the theoretical stage.” However, Beijing’s history of centralized control of nuclear weapons argues against allowing deployment of sea-based nuclear-armed cruise missiles.

<http://www.militarytimes.com/article/20140602/NEWS04/306020037/Report-Chinese-cruise-missiles-could-pose-biggest-threat-U-S-carriers>

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Xinhua News – Beijing, China

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S.Korea to Develop Homegrown Missile Defense Instead of Adopting THAAD

June 3, 2014

SEOUL, June 3 (Xinhua) -- South Korea will develop its own missile defense (MD) system to intercept missiles at a higher altitude instead of adopting the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), a military source confirmed local reports on Tuesday.

Yonhap News Agency reported earlier that the military decided to develop its indigenous long-range surface-to-air missile (L-SAM), which is compatible with the U.S.-based Lockheed Martin's THAAD system based on a pilot study by the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA), the country's arms procurement agency.

The military source, who requested anonymity, said over phone that "the report was true," noting detailed plans will be announced after the defense project committee's meeting on June 11.

It is expected to take some seven years to develop the L-SAM system, and it will be deployed between 2023 and 2024.

Such a plan came as the United States is adding pressures on South Korea to introduce the THAAD system. Chief of the United States Forces Korea (USFK) said at a forum held in Seoul Tuesday that the U.S. was considering the deployment of the THAAD on the Korean Peninsula.

USFK commander Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, who doubles as chief of the Combined Forces Command, said that he recommended the deployment as the commander, adding that it was a U.S. initiative.

Vice-chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff James Winnefeld said on May 28 that the U.S. military was mulling an additional deployment of missile defense in the Asia-Pacific region to prepare for what he claimed the threats from the Democratic People ' s Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Seoul's Defense Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok told a routine press briefing that the U.S. has made no request for the THAAD deployment, saying the government will review the case if the U.S. side makes an official request for cooperation.

South Korea has pushed for the Korea Air and Missile Defense (KAMD), or a South Korea-type MD system, which focuses on a terminal-phase, low-altitude missile defense. Seoul's Defense Ministry has said that the low-tier MD refers to intercepting missiles at an altitude of less than 100km.

Seoul will upgrade its PAC-2 missiles to Lockheed Martin's PAC- 3 to shoot down missiles, possibly launched from the DPRK, at an altitude of less than 40km.

The L-SAM system will intercept missiles at an altitude of 40km or above, moderating worries that the PAC-2 and PAC-3 are not enough to shoot down DPRK missiles, possibly tipped with nuclear warheads.

The THAAD, designed to intercept missiles at an altitude of 40- 150 km, has been picked as one of candidates for Seoul's missile defense buildup, but the defense ministry has repeatedly denied the THAAD adoption. The country has aimed to build up a multi- layered MD system, which means the failure of the first-stage interceptors leads to the second-stage interception in different altitudes.

The defense ministry spokesman said last Thursday that South Korea was not considering the THAAD adoption, reiterating its stance that Seoul will pursue a homegrown missile shield separately from the U.S. one.

The spokesman said that he was unaware of whether the United States was seeking the deployment of a THAAD battery on the Korean Peninsula, denying a U.S. daily's reports. The U.S. military conducted a site survey for the deployment of its THAAD battery in South Korea, the reports said.



Standard Missile (SM)-3 has also been excluded from candidates for Seoul's multi-layered missile defense as the SM-3 intercepts missiles at an altitude of 400-500 km. Seoul said it had never reviewed the adoption of the ship-based missile defense, adding the SM-3 goes beyond its target of intercepting missiles at a low altitude.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2014-06/03/c_133380382.htm

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Korea JoongAng Daily – Seoul, South Korea

Missile Defense Pressure Continues

BY SARAH KIM

June 4, 2014

The Pentagon continues to badger Korea into adopting a Washington-led advanced missile-defense system to deter North Korea's missile threat.

"I recommended the deployment of the Thaad [Terminal High Altitude Area Defense] missiles to South Korea," said Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, commander of South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command, at a lecture at a forum hosted by the state-run Korea Institute for Defense Analyses at the Westin Chosun Hotel in central Seoul yesterday.

Scaparrotti emphasized the need to successfully bolster South Korea's defenses and said that with "North Korea's evolving threats, this system [Thaad] will provide a greater sense of security."

The four-star general said that he encourages cooperation between Seoul and Washington in regard to the deployment of the Thaad antiballistic missile system in Korea. But Scaparrotti pointed out that the United States has not yet made an official request to the South Korean government to deploy the Thaad system.

Seoul's official position is that it doesn't want to purchase the Thaad antiballistic missile system or the Standard Missile 3, which both have a broader range and altitude to intercept short- or intermediate-range missiles from the North. That would upset both China and liberal-leaning locals who want moderate independence from the U.S. defense system.

"When there is an official request from the U.S., at that time our Defense Ministry will review it at the government level," Kim Min-seok, spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense, said yesterday. "However, thus far there has been no request on cooperation yet."

The U.S. reportedly conducted a site survey in Korea for possible locations for Thaad equipment, according to The Wall Street Journal last week. Scaparrotti said yesterday that the current progress on the issue is not being accurately reflected in the media and is rather in the initial process.

The Korea Air and Missile Defense, launched in 2006, incorporates South Korean missile defense radar with early warning data from U.S. satellites. When a U.S. satellite detects missiles coming from North Korea, it signals a missile interceptor system here called the Patriot Advanced Capability-2 (PAC-2) and other ship-based interceptors to shoot down the enemy missiles. The Korean military plans to upgrade the PAC-2 missiles to PAC-3s. For Seoul, accepting deployment of the Thaad system may endanger relations with China and Russia.

The Chinese government has also expressed disapproval of Korea considering the Thaad system, saying it will threaten regional security.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/Article.aspx?aid=2990119>

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The Moscow Times – Moscow, Russia

Putin Looks East to Bolster Ties with North Korea

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The Associated Press

June 04, 2014

Angry with the West's response over Ukraine and eager to diversify its options, Russia is moving rapidly to bolster ties with North Korea in a diplomatic nose-thumbing that could complicate the U.S.-led effort to squeeze Pyongyang into giving up its nuclear weapons program.

Russia's proactive strategy in Asia, which also involves cozying up to China and has been dubbed "Putin's Pivot," began years ago as Moscow's answer to Washington's much-touted alliance-building and rebalancing of its military forces in the Pacific. But it has gained a new sense of urgency since the unrest in Ukraine — and Pyongyang is already getting a big windfall with high-level political exchanges and promises from Russia of trade and development projects.

Moscow's overtures to North Korea reflect both a defensive distancing from the European Union and Washington because of their sanctions over Ukraine and a broader, long-term effort by Russia to strengthen its hand in Asia by building political alliances, expanding energy exports and developing Russian regions in Siberia and the Far East.

For North Korea, the timing could not be better.

Since the demise of the Soviet Union and the largesse it banked on as a member of the communist bloc, the North has been struggling to keep its economy afloat and has depended heavily on trade and assistance from ally China. Sanctions over its nuclear and missile programs have further isolated the country, and Pyongyang has long feared it could become too beholden to Beijing.

Better ties with Russia could provide a much needed economic boost, a counterbalance against Chinese influence and a potentially useful wedge against the West in international forums — and particularly in the U.S.-led effort to isolate Pyongyang over its development of nuclear weapons.

"By strengthening its relationship with North Korea, Russia is trying to enhance its bargaining position vis-a-vis the U.S. and Japan," said Narushige Michishita, a North Korea and Asia security expert at Japan's National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies. Michishita added that showing Washington he will not be cowed by the sanctions was "one of the most important factors" why Putin is wooing Pyongyang now.

Moscow remains wary of having a nuclear-armed North Korea on its border. But over the past few months it has courted the North with various economic projects, political exchanges and a vote in the State Duma to write off nearly \$10 billion in debt held over from the Soviet era.

It has pledged to reinvest \$1 billion that Pyongyang still owes into a trans-Siberian railway through North Korea to South Korea — a project that is still in the very early stages. That, together with a pipeline, would allow Russia to export gas and electricity to South Korea.

Michishita noted that the same day the United Nations' General Assembly passed a resolution condemning Russia's annexation of Crimea, Russia and North Korea were busy signing an economic trade cooperation pact.

The warming began around July last year, but it has accelerated as Moscow's antagonism with the West has grown.

Moscow sent a relatively low-ranking representative to the 60th anniversary of the end of fighting in the Korean War that month. But since then, it has hosted North Korea's head of state at the opening of the Olympic Games in Sochi and, in March, sent its minister in charge of Far East development to Pyongyang.

A three-day visit in April by Deputy Prime Minister Yury Trutnev, who is also the presidential envoy for Russia's far eastern federal district, marked the "culmination of a new phase in Russian-North Korean relations taking shape — a sort of renaissance if you will," Alexander Vorontsov, a North Korea expert at the Russia Academy of Sciences, wrote recently on the influential 38 North blog.

"It is still an open question whether the current crisis in Ukraine will result in any more substantial shifts in Russian policy toward North Korea, particularly in dealing with the nuclear and missile issues," Vorontsov said in his blog

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post. "With the West increasing pressure on Russia as a result of differences over Ukraine, the very fact that Moscow and Pyongyang are subject to U.S. sanctions will objectively draw them together, as well as with China."

Since 2003, a series of multilateral talks have been one of the primary means of pressuring North Korea to denuclearize and to coordinate policy between the six main countries involved — China, Russia, the U.S., Japan and North and South Korea.

Though still seen as one of the best tools the international community has to pressure Pyongyang on the nuclear issue, the talks were fraught from the start because of the North's unwillingness to back down and the lack of a unified stance among the five other nations.

With North Korea showing no signs of giving up its nuclear option, some analysts believe a widening rift between Russia and the U.S. could weaken future six-party talks.

"North Korea's motivations and actions are driven by the leadership's perceptions, world view, and ideology," said Seoul-based analyst Daniel Pinkston, of the International Crisis Group. "That remains the same. As long as the leadership is wedded to son'gun [Military First] ideology, they will not denuclearize before the rest of the world does. And that is exactly what their government and media say repeatedly."

Michishita, the Japanese security expert, said the Moscow-Pyongyang thaw could just muddy the waters.

"North Korea will not denuclearize anyway," he said. "A better relationship with Russia might be a positive factor for North Korea in coming back to the six-party talks. But North Korea will certainly try to use it to enhance its position vis-a-vis not only the U.S. and Japan, but also China."

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/putin-looks-east-to-bolster-ties-with-north-korea/501542.html>

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National Journal – Washington, D.C.

China May Begin Naval Nuclear-Deterrence Patrols in 2014: Pentagon

By Rachel Oswald

June 5, 2014

China will probably begin conducting naval nuclear-deterrence patrols this year, the U.S. Defense Department said on Thursday.

Beijing has never before had a credible submarine force that would give it the capability to launch submerged long-range nuclear missiles. The Asian power last year was officially assessed to be fielding three Type 094 Jin-class strategic submarines. However, a fleet comprising at least four nuclear-armed submarines is generally understood to be the minimum quantity necessary for a country to be able to maintain around-the-clock deterrence patrols.

In a congressionally mandated annual report on the People's Liberation Army, the Pentagon concludes "China is likely to conduct its first nuclear deterrence patrols with the JIN-class SSBN in 2014."

The 87-page report notes the Chinese navy "places a high priority on the modernization of its submarine force." The Pentagon estimates that China could expand its Type 094 fleet to as many as eight vessels before it starts constructing a next-generation Type 096 vessel.

The Jin-class submarines are understood to be armed with the new JL-2 long-range ballistic missile, which has an estimated range of nearly 4,600 miles. A November 2013 report by a congressionally established committee forecast that the JL-2 missile could be put into initial operational use before the year was over.

The Defense Department report does not offer a specific estimate of the current size of China's nuclear arsenal. Independent experts have placed the number at around 250 warheads. The Pentagon does note, however, that China is expanding the size of its mobile intercontinental ballistic missile stockpile with the addition in recent years

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of the Dongfeng 31A missile. A more capable version, the Dongfeng 41, is still being developed, according to the document.

The combination of the expected start of naval nuclear-deterrence patrols and the growth in its mobile ICBM arsenal "will force the [People's Liberation Army] to implement more sophisticated command-and-control systems and processes that safeguard the integrity of nuclear release authority for a larger, more dispersed force," the Pentagon says.

The department report briefly touches on China's development of countermeasures against U.S. ballistic missile defenses, which include [multiple independent reentry vehicles], decoys, chaff, jamming, and thermal shielding."

Beijing publicly opposes Washington's efforts to build an integrated regional missile shield with allies Japan, South Korea and Australia. Chinese cyber hackers were reported last year to have stolen the designs of a number of U.S. missile defense systems in use in East Asia. Experts believe the hacks were aimed at learning how to better foil the antimissile technology.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/global-security-newswire/china-may-begin-naval-nuclear-deterrence-patrols-in-2014-pentagon-20140605>

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The Hankyoreh – Seoul, South Korea

S. Korean Forces to Participate in WMD Seeking Exercises in the US

First-ever S. Korean troop exercises in the US will focus on locating and eliminating weapons of mass destruction

By Park Byong-su, senior staff writer

June 6, 2014

The US and South Korean militaries will carry out exercises in the US to locate and eliminate nuclear weapons, biological weapons, and other weapons of mass destruction. With allegations being raised that the exercises presuppose a crisis in North Korea, a backlash from the North is expected.

The South Korean army released a statement on June 5 explaining that it would be carrying out joint exercises with US forces at the National Training Center (NTC) in Fort Irwin, California, for around four weeks from June 9 to July 1. This is the first time that South Korean ground forces have taken part in joint exercises inside the US.

Around 170 soldiers will be participating in the exercises, including a company of mechanized infantry and a squad from the special forces. The purpose of the exercises, according to the army, is to improve the ability of troops to carry out joint operations in a realistic battlefield situation.

Significantly, a chemical, biological, and radiological (CBR) unit will be joining in the exercises to seek out and dispose of WMDs, including nuclear, biological, and chemical devices. South Korean and US military authorities have often said that the key security concern during a sudden collapse in North Korea would be securing nuclear weapons and other WMDs. For this reason, these joint exercises appear to have been planned with an emergency situation in North Korea in mind.

"Since these exercises are tactical in nature, they do not presuppose any specific situation such as a crisis in North Korea," a Ministry of National Defense official said on condition of anonymity. "These are standard exercises designed to help soldiers master battle command behavior according to various tactical training situations."

However, South Korea and the US have been practicing the task of eliminating North Korea's weapons of mass destruction, under the assumption of a drastic contingency situation in the North, during the Key Resolve joint military exercises since 2009. These exercises are based on the belief that there is a growing danger of nuclear development and nuclear proliferation by North Korea.

Military authorities expect that South Korea will be provided with US technology for locating and eliminating WMDs (nuclear, chemical, and biological) during the joint military exercises.

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The Voice of Russia – Moscow, Russia

31 May 2014

Russia Prepares Response to American 'Prompt Global Strike' Initiative - Defense Ministry

Works aimed at neutralization of the American "Prompt Global Strike" strategy are under way in Russia, Deputy Defense Minister Yuri Borisov said.

"A number of scientific research works as well as experimental and design works is under way in the context of possible threats related to launching works on global attack with the use of hypersonic technologies on the part of the United States," said Borisov.

"The supply of the "Yars" and "Bulava" missiles is in high gear, the works on a heavy missile are in full swing," Borisov noted. According to the Deputy Minister, the creation of a new heavy intercontinental ballistic missile is also in strict accordance with the schedule.

"The work is proceeding according to the plan," he stated.

The American military initiative "Prompt Global Strike" involves creation of offensive weapon systems that are able to deliver a blow with non-nuclear weapons at any point of the planet within an hour after the decision.

It is assumed that deeply modified intercontinental ballistic missiles, hypersonic cruise missiles and weapons based on new physical principles will be the main components of the initiative.

http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2014_05_31/Russia-prepares-response-to-American-prompt-global-strike-initiative-Defense-Ministry-8269/

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The Moscow Times – Moscow, Russia

Russia Fast Tracking 'Unique' Missile

By *The Moscow Times*

June 01, 2014

Intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of traversing the North and South Poles and of penetrating "almost any air defense system" will comprise the whole of the Russian Strategic Nuclear Forces' arsenal by 2021, Deputy Defense Minister Yuri Borisov said.

"Work on a new rocket is going at full speed," Borisov said Saturday, Itar-Tass reported. "The heavy missile is really a unique weapon that the U.S. does not have."

The missile has been tentatively named "Sarmatian" according to earlier reports.

The development of the ICBM came in response to the US's development of a Prompt Global Strike system, which will make it possible to deploy nonnuclear missile strikes anywhere on the planet within an hour, he said.

Military officials said last year that Sarmatians may comprise up to 80 percent of Russia's nuclear arsenal by 2021. Borisov said work on the project is progressing ahead of schedule.

The government plans to pump \$23 trillion into a rearmament program by 2020.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/russia-fast-tracking-unique-missile/501246.html>

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RT (Russia Today) – Moscow, Russia

Live Tactical Missile Firing Touted by Russia's Western Command

June 02, 2014

Russia's most advanced missile complexes for precision firing exercises have been announced by the country's Western Command. Training includes locking on top-priority targets, with air-based and ballistic ground-based missile complexes.

The Russian Air Force's strategic long-range aviation is engaging surface targets with cruise missiles, while training is being undertaken on deployment at Iskander-M nuclear-capable mobile theater ballistic missile complexes. The drills focus on the elimination of hard-to-destroy targets with a high-impact precision weaponry.

The war games started on May 27 and will last till June 5.

"In the course of the maneuvers, we carry out integrated damage attacks on the critically important installations of a hypothetical aggressor's infrastructure, using high-precision ground-and-air-based weapons," reported the press-service of Russia's Defense Ministry.

Iskander-M (NATO reporting name SS-26 Stone), a quasi-ballistic missile complex with an officially declared range of 400 kilometers, is currently limited by the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) agreement signed between the United States and the Soviet Union back in 1987. The INF treaty prohibited development and deployment of all medium-range ballistic and cruise missiles, and eliminated already existing ones with a range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers.

In case the INF is terminated, the range of an Iskander complex could easily be extended to a greater, yet unspecified range.

Iskander-M has a wide range of warheads, from conventional and powerful thermobaric, cluster and bunker buster warheads, to tactical nuclear warhead.

Russian authorities have repeatedly warned NATO leadership that in case of further deployment of US anti-ballistic missile complexes in Europe, Moscow reserves the right to deploy Iskander-M missile complexes in the Kaliningrad region, Russia's enclave in Europe. In this case, all of Poland, where the US plans to station its ABM bases, will be covered for a potential launch-through-attack strike.

The threat of having modern missile complexes on its borders, which practically cannot be intercepted, sparked hot opposition from the Baltic States and Poland, which called on Washington to increase US military presence in the region.

In December 2013, Russia's President Vladimir Putin stated that so far the decision about deployment of Iskander-M missiles to Kaliningrad had not yet been taken, whereas Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov maintained the matter of deployment is fully in the hands of the Russian military, saying that *"when there's a need – the military will make the decision."*

The press-service of the Russian Defense Ministry stressed that deployment of Iskander complexes is not limited with any international agreements.

Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu finalized the discussion, saying that *"on the territory of the Russian Federation we deploy whatever we want, wherever we want."*

The current maneuvers, as the previous ones, are being conducted against the background of the new Ukrainian authorities' military operation against the the primarily Russian-populated rebellious eastern regions of Ukraine, which are demanding federalization of the country.

<http://rt.com/news/163068-iskander-missile-shooting-exercise/>

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ITAR-TASS News Agency – Moscow, Russia

Russian Strategic Missile Force to Make 12 ICBM Test Launches by Yearend

During the summer training period that will last until November 30, the Russian Strategic Missile Force will take part in over 40 staff and 20 command and staff training drills

June 02, 2014

MOSCOW, June 2. /ITAR-TASS/. Russia's Strategic Missile Force will make 12 test launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) by the end of 2014, Strategic Missile Force spokesman, Colonel Igor Yegorov, said on Monday.

"Until the end of the year, 12 launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles of various types are planned," he said, adding the exercise would include launches as part of R&D work for the development of promising missile systems, launches to test combat equipment and missile launches under a program of liquidation with the concurrent injection of spacecraft into orbit.

During the summer training period that will last until November 30, the Russian Strategic Missile Force will take part in over 40 staff and 20 command and staff training drills, and also 10 command and staff and 50 tactical exercises, the spokesman said.

The training plans include snap checks of the Strategic Missile Force's combat preparedness and combat duty.

Training will also be continued for the personnel of the Strategic Missile Force to operate new missile systems, the spokesman said.

"Under the plan of developing the Russian Strategic Missile Force, a key event of this year will be to put Yars missile systems on combat duty in the Kozelsk, Nizhny Tagil and Novosibirsk missile regiments," the Strategic Missile Force spokesman said.

The RS-24 Yars missile is a solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile with a multiple warhead. It can be both silo- and mobile-based. Designed by the Moscow Heat Engineering Institute, the missile is a modernized version of the Topol-M ICBM and should replace RS-18 and RS-20 missiles in the future.

On December 24, 2013, a silo-based RS-24 Yars missile was fired from Plesetsk Cosmodrome and hit the target at the Kura testing range in Kamchatka.

<http://en.itar-tass.com/russia/734355>

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The Voice of Russia – Moscow, Russia
3 June 2014

Two Russian Submarines to Test-Launch ICBM Bulava

Project 955 Borei-class strategic missile-carrying nuclear submarine cruiser Vladimir Monomakh will test-launch an intercontinental ballistic missile Bulava for the first time in August-September 2014, and Borei-class nuclear submarine Yuri Dolgoruky will test-fire another Bulava missile in November, a source in the Russian governmental military industrial committee told ITAR-TASS on Tuesday.

"A first Bulava test-launch is planned in August 2014, but probably it will be delayed to September for technical reasons. Vladimir Monomakh will test-fire a Bulava missile at state trials," the source said, adding that "Yuri Dolgoruky, which was brought into service of Russia's navy in January 2013, will test-launch a Bulava missile in November."

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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 tons, 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 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 head 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_06_03/Two-Russian-submarines-to-test-launch-ICBM-Bulava-8567/

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ITAR-TASS News Agency – Moscow, Russia

Russian Armed Forces to Get 10 Modernized Strategic Bombers by year end

June 4, 2014

KAZAN, June 04. /ITAR-TASS/. Russia's Defense Ministry expects to receive at least ten Tupolev Tu-22M3 (Backfire C) strategic bombers by the end of the year as part of the program of long-range aviation fleet repair and upgrade, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Wednesday.

The minister opened a session on Wednesday to discuss the condition and prospects of Russia's long-range aviation.

"We need to discuss the possibility of increasing the volume of aircraft repairs and upgrade, as well as to elaborate measures to raise the quality and reduce the time of works," Shoigu said.

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The Russian defense minister said he hoped that the repair and upgrade of Tu-22M3 strategic bombers would proceed in strict compliance with the schedule.

"We hope to receive the full volume - all ten aircraft - this year and reach the pace of 12 aircraft a year already from 2015," Shoigu said.

Before their upgrade, the Tu-22M3 bombers had a flight range of 6,800 km (4,225 miles) and could carry a payload of 24,000 kg (52,910 lbs), including nuclear bombs and cruise missiles with nuclear or conventional warheads.

<http://en.itar-tass.com/russia/734688>

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Saturday, May 31, 2014

IRGC Ready to Launch Top Secret Air Defense Shield

TEHRAN (FNA) - The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has built a top secret air defense missile system, IRGC Lieutenant Commander Brigadier General Hossein Salami announced on Saturday, implying that the missile shield is more advanced than the Russian S-300 long-range air-defense missile system.

"An air defense system more advanced than what they didn't supply to us due to their strategic interests went on display in the IRGC's recent exhibition," Salami said in Tehran on Saturday, adding that the missile system won't be displayed to the media or the public as it should "remain confidential" for now.

The IRGC Commander did not mention who he was referring to as 'they', but Russia is the only state which was due to supply Iran with a missile defense system, but refrained from doing so.

The exhibition mentioned by General Salami was an expo of the latest achievements of the IRGC Aerospace Force which was not open to the public and was visited by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and a number of senior military commanders.

Salami further stressed that the IRGC's ballistic missiles now enjoy "pinpoint precision capability when fired at mobile targets; this might be impossible in terms of science, but it is true and, in addition to us, only the Russians might possess this technology and even the Americans do not have it".

Salami also said that the IRGC drones which can fly in high altitudes are capable of conducting different missions without being limited in range.

He further noted the IRGC's power in ground battles, and said, "As regards the ground force power, the IRGC stands atop the world, given its hundreds of martyrdom-seeking battalions and hundreds of highly trained combat battalions."

In 2007, Iran signed a contract worth \$800mIn to buy five Russian S-300 missile defense systems but the deal was scrapped in 2010 by then-Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, who was unilaterally expanding on sanctions against Iran imposed by the UN Security Council.

Iran filed a \$4bln lawsuit against Russia in the international arbitration court in Geneva, which is currently pending review.

Moscow has struggled to have the lawsuit dropped, including by offering the Tor anti-aircraft systems as replacement, media reported in December, adding that the offer was rejected by Tehran.

The S-300 is a series of Russian long range surface-to-air missile systems produced by NPO Almaz, all based on the initial S-300P version. The S-300 system was developed to defend against aircraft and cruise missiles for the Soviet Air Defense Forces. Subsequent variations were developed to intercept ballistic missiles.

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The S-300 system was first deployed by the Soviet Union in 1979, designed for the air defense of large industrial and administrative facilities, military bases, and control of airspace against enemy strike aircraft.

The Russian version of the missile shield can trace around 100 flying targets simultaneously and destroy a part of them, while the Iranian version is said to be enjoying a higher targeting capability among its other optimized features.

Iran has also optimized the S-200 missile defense system. Mobility and a narrower ready-for-operation time is among the features of the optimized version.

In February, Iran's top air defense commander announced that the country would launch Bavar (Belief) 373 missile defense system - the Iranian version of the sophisticated S-300 long-range air-defense missile shield - in the next two years.

Commander of Khatam ol-Anbia Air Defense Base Brigadier General Farzad Esmayeeli told FNA that bottleneck problems for the construction of Bavar 373 infrastructures have been resolved, adding that development and construction of the highly advanced anti-missile defense system would be accomplished by the end of Iran's Fifth Five-Year Development Plan (2010-2015).

"We hope to witness a very good system with higher capabilities than the (Russian) S-300 in our air defense structure by the end of the (Development) Plan", added the General.

The air defense commander reiterated that "the indigenized system will be more powerful than S-300 missile system".

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13930310001273>

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Press TV – Tehran, Iran

Iran Upgrades Ballistic Missile Precision: Cmdr.

Sunday, June 1, 2014

A senior Iranian military commander says the Islamic Republic has upgraded its ballistic missiles to hit moving targets with pinpoint precision.

Second-in-Command of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Brigadier General Hossein Salami said on Saturday that it may seem scientifically impossible, but in addition to Iran only Russia is likely to possess this technology and even the United States does not possess the technology.

"Our ballistic missiles are capable of destroying moving targets with pinpoint precision," Salami stated.

The Iranian commander also said that Iran's military has improved its air defense system but declined to disclose further details due to the confidential nature of the issue.

Iran has repeatedly assured other nations that its military might poses no threat to other countries and that its defense doctrine is based entirely on deterrence.

On May 30, Salami said Iran is capable of targeting strategic interests of the enemy at any location across the globe in case of any act of aggression against the Islamic Republic.

The remarks came following recent aggressive statements by US President Barack Obama against Iran.

In an address at the US Military Academy in West Point, New York, on May 28, Obama said there is an opportunity to resolve disputes over Iran's nuclear energy program but reiterated that Washington reserves "all options" against Iran, alluding to military action.

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Subsequently, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Brigadier General Masoud Jazayeri warned that any US act of aggression against Iran will sound the death bell for the Israeli regime and see war engulfing the United States.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/06/01/365055/iran-boosts-ballistic-missile-precision/>

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Al Arabiya – Dubai, U.A.E.

U.N. Probe of Iran Nuke Program May Slow Iran Talks

By The Associated Press (AP)

Tuesday, 3 June 2014

Vienna -- The head of the U.N. nuclear agency suggested Monday that a probe of suspected atomic arms work by Iran may stretch into next year - which would push Tehran's overall nuclear agreement with world powers long past the July 20 target date.

The International Atomic Energy Agency investigation is formally separate from six-power talks with Iran that are meant to build on a first step accord struck late last year and focus on substantially trimming Tehran's nuclear program in exchange for full sanctions relief.

The U.S. and its western allies at the negotiating table insist that Iran and the IAEA must wrap up the investigation as part of the overall nuclear agreement that Iran and the powers want to finalize by July 20.

On Monday, IAEA chief Yukiya Amano told reporters he doesn't believe either side expects his agency to conclude its probe by then - raising new doubts about the deadline. He could not say if the investigation would finish by year's end.

Speaking to the 35-nation IAEA board, Amano said Iran is cooperating "substantively" with the probe, but it is too early to make an overall judgment.

After years of deadlock, Iran recently submitted documents to the IAEA for the first time, to back its claim that its tests with a special kind of detonator were meant only for civilian purposes.

Iran denies any interest in nuclear arms. But agency officials say they have other documentation indicating that those experiments were linked to research on setting off a nuclear charge.

The detonator suspicions are only a small part of a wide range of alleged nuclear weapons-related experiments that Amano - and the United States - want cleared up.

The nuclear talks resume June 16. Hopes for meeting the target date already dimmed after major disagreements at the negotiating round last month prevented the two sides from starting to draft a pact as hoped.

The talks can be extended by mutual agreement. But the U.S. and Iranian governments are under huge domestic pressure to show progress - from both Iranian hardliners and U.S. congressional critics.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/perspective/analysis/2014/06/03/U-N-probe-of-iran-nuke-program-may-slow-iran-talks-.html>

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Jerusalem Post – Jerusalem, Israel

Iran's Demand for Reactor Fuel Emerges as Sticking Point in Nuclear Talks

The Islamic Republic has said it should be able to produce fuel for its Bushehr nuclear power plant, a demand that may put July deadline for a deal in jeopardy.

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By Reuters

3 June 2014

BRUSSELS/VIENNA - Iran has said it should be able to produce fuel for its Bushehr nuclear power plant, a demand that world powers are unlikely to agree to and which may put a July deadline for a deal to end its nuclear standoff with the West in jeopardy.

Diplomats from the major powers negotiating with Tehran said Iranian negotiators expressed the demand at the latest talks in May - identifying one reason little progress was made towards a nuclear deal that could end Tehran's economic isolation.

Iran's ability to produce enriched uranium goes to the heart of a decade-old dispute over its nuclear program as the fuel can be used both to power reactors and - if further processed - to make the core of a nuclear warhead.

"They expect to get capacity to fuel Bushehr and that's unrealistic," one diplomat from the 'P5+1' countries in talks with Iran - the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany - told Reuters.

"It gets you a very short breakout time," he said, referring to the time that would be needed to produce enough highly enriched uranium for one bomb.

Current UN Security Council resolutions demand Iran suspend all uranium enrichment, but it has refused to do so, saying its nuclear work is entirely peaceful. A new deal is likely to allow enrichment, but would aim to extend significantly the amount of time Iran would need to assemble bomb material if it chose to do so.

Iran's demand to make its own fuel for the 1,000-megawatt power plant may face resistance from Russia which built it and has a 10-year contract to supply the fuel, starting in 2011, something it wants to continue doing.

ROWING BACK?

That might hurt Tehran's negotiating stance, which relies in part on Moscow's moderate approach toward Tehran compared to the West at the talks.

To reach a deal, the sides will also have to agree issues such as the future of other Iranian nuclear facilities and the speed and timeline of Western relief from economic sanctions.

One diplomat said that Iran had appeared to row back on its previous openness to resolve concerns over the heavy-water Arak reactor that the West fears could provide plutonium for bombs once it is operational.

At the May talks, Iranian officials appeared to suggest specific technical solutions that ran contrary to Western expectations, diplomats said. Iran has since publicly dismissed as "ridiculous" one solution that could allay western concerns.

A key issue that will determine Iran's enrichment capacity is the number of centrifuges, the machines spinning at supersonic speed to concentrate uranium's fissile element, which it can retain.

Iran now has about 19,000 centrifuges, with roughly half of them in operation. Western diplomats say only about half of the number of machines operating would be acceptable, although it would depend on other factors of any long-term deal, including the extent of oversight by the UN nuclear watchdog.

Such a number could be a small fraction of what might be needed to fuel Bushehr.

Talks resume in mid-June.

<http://www.jpost.com/Iranian-Threat/News/Irans-demand-for-reactor-fuel-emerges-as-sticking-point-in-nuclear-talks-355272>

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Tasnim News Agency – Iranian Government News Agency

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Iranian President Vows to Protect Nuclear Rights

June 04, 2014

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iranian President Hassan Rouhani emphasized that his administration will firmly safeguard the country's nuclear rights and put an end to the West's illegal sanctions.

"We will be successful in foreign policy and manage to protect (our) nuclear rights and break the chains of unfair sanctions, via implementing the framework of standards related to national interests and the guidelines outlined by the Supreme Leader, President Rouhani said in a ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of the passing of late founder of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Rouhollah Khomeini on Tuesday.

"Undoubtedly, nuclear energy, peace and stability, progress and development, science, regional and global influence, and unity are the inalienable rights of the Iranian nation," he added.

Tehran, which is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, has already reiterated that it will not forsake its peaceful nuclear rights under the pressures from world powers.

Iran and the Group 5+1 (the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany) concluded the latest round of the nuclear negotiations in Vienna on May 16.

The two sides are slated to convene the next meeting from June 16 to 20, again in the Austrian capital, in order to draft a comprehensive deal to resolve the decade-long standoff over Tehran's nuclear energy program.

<http://www.tasnimnews.com/English/Home/Single/390965>

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Business Insider.com

Inspectors Press Syria on Chemical Arms 'Discrepancies': Envoys

By Louis Charbonneau, Reuters

June 4, 2014

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Inspectors overseeing the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons arsenal have asked President Bashar al-Assad's government to clarify disparities in its original declaration on its cache of toxic gas, U.N. diplomats said on Wednesday.

The envoys were citing remarks by Sigrid Kaag, head of the joint mission to Syria of the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, who was briefing the 15-nation U.N. Security Council.

"The (U.N.-OPCW) team has been in Damascus seeking clarification on discrepancies in the original declaration," a diplomat present at the closed-door meeting told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

Last month, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that a June 30 deadline for the destruction of all of Syria's declared chemical weapons would not be met.

French U.N. Ambassador Gerard Araud said on his Twitter feed that Kaag's mission "will need to continue its activities beyond this date (June 30)." Another diplomat said Kaag had made clear the destruction work would not be completed this month.

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 an August 2013 sarin nerve gas attack near Damascus.

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

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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 tonnes of chemical weapons it declared to the OPCW, enough highly toxic material to carry out a large-scale attack.

Assad's government has indicated it wants the U.N.-OPCW mission shut down as soon as all chemicals are shipped out of Syria.

But Western officials want the mission to continue to investigate numerous ambiguities in Syria's chemical weapons declaration, which have become increasingly glaring in the course of the mission's work.

The officials have cited U.S., French and British intelligence that Assad's government had failed to disclose all of its poison gas stocks in its original declaration, leaving it with the capability to produce and deploy chemical arms.

Editing by Bernadette Baum

<http://www.businessinsider.com/r-inspectors-press-syria-on-chemical-arms-discrepancies-envoys-2014-04>

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Xinhua News – Beijing, China

Iran Awaits IAEA Document on its Alleged Nuke Weapon Program

June 5, 2014

At the IAEA board meeting, Reza Najafi said his country is waiting to see IAEA's documents in regard to the so called "Possible Military Dimensions" of Iran's nuclear program.

"It's one of our concerns ... We haven't seen any substantiated documents with regard to the so-called PMD, so we are waiting to see to hear from the agency with regard to the information the agency has," Najafi said.

An IAEA report said that based on the "credible information" the agency got, there might be 12 items of activities in Iran's nuclear program relevant to the nuclear bomb research.

Iran has repeatedly said that the information concerning the alleged PMD issues IAEA got was forged and came from western spy agency, asking the agency to provide the documents to Iran, while IAEA demanded Iran to open access to its suspected elements of atomic plan.

"The constraints placed by some Member States on the availability of information to Iran are making it more difficult for the agency to conduct detailed discussions with Iran on this matter," Iran said in the statement to the board members.

Based on the deal made last November, Iran and IAEA agree to cooperate to resolve all the past and present issues of Iran's atomic plan, and Iran has implemented measures to provide greater transparency of its nuclear plan, including the clarification of the first PMD issue.

Both sides also agreed to implement the next five measures by August 15, exchanging information about another PMD issue, "initiation of high explosives, including the conduct of large scale high explosives experimentation" in Iran's nuclear plan.

Iran and six major states (Britain, China, France, Russia, the United states and Germany) struck a landmark deal, according to which Iran would suspend some controversial nuclear activities and western states relief some of the sanctions imposed on Iran in return, buying time for a comprehensive agreement for an end of the long-term stand-off.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2014-06/05/c_126580495.htm

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The Voice of Russia – Moscow, Russia

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Iran and P5+1 Unlikely to Reach Agreement on Nuclear Deal by July 20 – Experts

Iran and the so-called P5+1 keep on trying to draft a historic nuclear deal by July 20. However, the latest round of talks in mid-May ended without tangible results. Experts claim that Iran and six world powers are unlikely to meet their July 20 deadline to sign a long term agreement. Dr. Gary Samore, Executive director for research at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University, and Olli Heinonen, Former Deputy Secretary General of The International Atomic Energy Agency shared their views on the Iranian nuclear issue.

"Yes, I think it is very clear that the two sides are so far apart on the essential issues involved in this negotiation, that they are unlikely to reach an agreement by the end of July. And, therefore, I think most likely all sides will agree to extend the negotiations for at least another 6 months, which is allowed under the joint plan of action between Iran and the P5+1," says Dr. Gary Samore, who was also the National Security Council's top nuclear security official in the first Obama administration.

"We still have time," agrees Olli Heinonen, "Let's not forget that this is a very complex negotiations process and I don't think that the failure is really an option. The views are very far apart from each other, the P5+1 has a very different view of what kind of nuclear program Iran should have at this stage. So, there is a lot of work to be done to breach it."

Both experts emphasize the main stumbling block in the way to the final agreement: the unwillingness of Iran to significantly reduce the number of its enrichment centrifuges, its stockpile of low enriched uranium, and to accept a long-term limit on its enrichment capacity.

"The Iranians are insisting that they need to not only preserve their existing capability, which is about 20 000 centrifuge machines, but to scale up to a much larger capacity, so that they can produce fuel for the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant," explains Dr. Gary Samore.

Meanwhile, Russia remains committed to provide enough fuel to the Bushehr NPP, and in this light, the arguments of Tehran seem neither weighty nor plausible, notes the expert.

"The concern is that Iran is seeking, under the guise of a nuclear power program, the capacity to produce nuclear weapons. And that's why this negotiation is so difficult," Dr. Samore stresses.

Olli Heinonen, in his turn, points to the issue of the heavy water reactors in Bushehr. The question is being raised whether it should be replaced light water reactor and what to do with the huge stock of heavy water that Iran has.

Expressing his concerns about a possible nuclear weaponisation of Iran, Ollie Heinonen offers to look at "these illicit nuclear procurement activities which Iran has been conducting in the past, how Iran should behave in the future and how to deal with those aspects of the nuclear program."

None of the experts suspects any of the sides of the nuclear agreement of sabotaging the deal. However, no one would be surprised if P5+1 make another intermediary agreement, as there are too many burning issues to be considered.

"This is a difficult negotiation where the P5+1, including Russia, of course, are demanding that Iran scale back its existing enrichment program," notes Dr. Samore.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we have another intermediary deal, because the final deal means that all the sanctions will be lifted. And I'm sure that the P5+1 wants to see also some performance from the side of Iran, that it adheres to its commitments," says Ollie Heinonen.

Mr. Heinonen believes that Iran's recent decision to start improving ties with the Gulf-states may improve the atmosphere of the negotiations. He doubts, however, that the concerns will be removed just by improving the relations with the neighboring countries.



If Tehran does not manage to restrict its nuclear program by July, 20, the Western sanctions against it won't be removed. It is most likely that the July 20 deadline will be extended, and this evidently means US President Obama will have to conduct one more round of uneasy negotiations with Congress regarding the Iranian problem. At the same time, the failure of talks will apparently strengthen the position of Iran's clerical establishment, which actively opposes Hassan Rouhani's efforts to improve relations with the US.

http://voiceofrussia.com/2014_06_05/Iran-and-P5-1-unlikely-to-reach-agreement-on-nuclear-deal-by-July-20-experts-5461/

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The Times of Israel – Jerusalem, Israel

Iran's Khamenei: US Has Taken Military Action off Table

Likely reacting to Obama foreign policy address, Iranian leader says strike against nuclear program is not an American priority

By Agence France-Presse (AFP) and Times of Israel staff

June 5, 2014

The US is no longer interested in carrying out military action against Iran, the country's supreme leader said Wednesday, extolling Tehran's efforts at overcoming years of "trouble making" by arch-foe Washington.

The US has often repeated the refrain that "all options remain on the table" vis-a-vis stymieing Iran's nuclear program, but speaking in Tehran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Washington was no longer considering hitting Iran.

"They realized that military attacks are as dangerous or even more dangerous for the assaulting country as they are for the country attacked," Khamenei said, according to a New York Times report.

A "military attack is not a priority for Americans now," he said. "They have renounced the idea of any military actions."

Khamenei was speaking to a gathering of the country's leaders to mark the 25th anniversary of the death of his predecessor Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who founded the Islamic Republic.

His remarks were likely in response to a foreign policy address by US President Barack Obama in late May, during which the president said a nuclear deal with Iran was likely and the US was finding diplomacy for effective than military action.

Khamenei, who sets the direction Iran takes, made no mention of a rapprochement, warning officials of what he called American efforts to "sow discord among leaderships" and foment coup d'etats and "color revolutions."

"The external challenge before Iran is the trouble-making of the global arrogance — frankly speaking, that of the United States," he said in remarks broadcast live on state television from Khomeini's shrine, south of Tehran.

Iran and the US have had no diplomatic ties for more than three decades, but hopes of a thaw in relations were raised in November after Tehran and world powers signed an interim nuclear deal that it is hoped can be transformed into a lasting accord in further talks.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Obama had also spoken by telephone months earlier in what was seen as a major gesture of willingness toward future dialogue.

Iran's domestic challenges include "shifting focus away from the real enemy and on to (internal) disputes and losing national unity."

He did not elaborate but Iran's fragmented political factions have clashed in recent months over the course of nuclear negotiations, led by Rouhani who favors detente with the West and solving the decade-long nuclear standoff.



The negotiations will resume in mid-June, with Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia — plus Germany, meeting in Vienna.

They seek a comprehensive agreement against the July 20 deadline that would curb Iran's nuclear activities and increase international monitoring in exchange for the lifting of painful sanctions.

Western powers suspect Iran is masking a military drive in its nuclear work, while Tehran denies ever seeking atomic weapons.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/irans-khamenei-us-has-taken-military-action-off-table/>

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The Hindu – Chennai, India

Modi Briefed on Nuclear Command Structure

'Sweeping modifications to the command and control structure of India's n-weapons needed'

By Praveen Swami

June 3, 2014

New Delhi -- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been briefed that sweeping modifications to the command and control structure of India's nuclear weapons are urgently needed, highly placed government sources have told *The Hindu*.

The proposals, which come as India becomes just one of six nations with a nuclear submarine operational, centre on the appointment of a tenured four-star general to wield operational responsibility for the arsenal.

The briefing on India's most closely held secrets, the sources said, was given last week by outgoing National Security Adviser Shiv Shankar Menon and Strategic Forces Command chief Vice-Admiral P.S. Cheema, along with Defence Research and Development Organisation and Department of Atomic Energy experts.

Mr. Modi, the sources said, was told that the Naresh Chandra Committee on national security reforms had called for operational control of the arsenal to be given to a full-time chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee, or the CJSOC, a four-star officer with a two-year tenure drawn by rotation from the three armed forces.

Weak link

India's Nuclear Command Authority, chaired by the Prime Minister, has control of the country's estimated 90-110 nuclear warheads. In the event of a crisis, the NCA orders the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) to ready the arsenal. The SFC, working with experts at the DAE and the DRDO, is then tasked to work through the CJSOC to mate the warheads with air and missile-delivery platforms held by the three armed forces.

However, the CJSOC position now goes to the senior-most of the three service chiefs, leading to changes in just a few months sometimes — which, the Naresh Chandra Committee said in its classified 2011 report, created a weak link in the command chain.

"There are many complex issues that will present themselves in the course of an evolving nuclear crisis," said strategic weapons expert Admiral Raja Menon, "which someone who is also struggling to command an armed service during a war will just not be able to handle."

"India is unique in this gap among nuclear-weapons States," Mr. Menon said.

Earlier, a Group of Ministers, led by the then Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani, had recommended the appointment of a Chief of Defence Staff, a supreme military office that exists in other nuclear weapons States.

The then Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, however, shelved the idea after resistance from politicians wary of creating a single-point military leadership as well as the air force.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/modi-briefed-on-nuclear-command-structure/article6079430.ece>

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The Hindu – Chennai, India

Arihant Propels India to Elite Club, but with a Headache

By Praveen Swami

June 4, 2014

NEW DELHI -- Earlier this year, India's first indigenously built nuclear submarine quietly pushed out of its base for sea trials, its 6,000-tonne, 111-metre bulk powered by an 83-megawatt uranium reactor. The submarine is capable of lurking effectively undetectable at depth almost indefinitely, as long as there is food for its 110-man crew. In early 2015, if all goes well, *INS Arihant* will get the nuclear missiles it is designed to carry.

India will join a club of just six nations with nuclear submarines carrying ballistic missiles — and a doctrinal headache.

For more than a decade now, India has kept warheads separate from the missiles that carry them, in an effort to prevent accidents. In times of crisis — like the 2001-02 standoff with Pakistan — delivery platforms and warheads have been brought together, but by some accounts, even then, they were not mated or joined together for delivery.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was briefed on classified reports calling for a full-time four-star General to take charge of India's nuclear arsenal — and the case of *Arihant* explains why.

Nuclear challenge

Last week, Mr. Modi received the most secret briefing he would get — on his role as head of the Nuclear Command Authority, which is empowered to order the nuclear missiles on the *Arihant*, along with other weapons in the strategic arsenal, to be fired. Mr. Modi, government sources say, was briefed on progress in the submarine tests, as well as the status of the missiles that will arm it.

In March, the Defence Research and Development Organisation conducted the first test of the K-4 missile — capable of delivering a two-tonne nuclear warhead on targets up to 3,000 kilometres away.

Fitted four apiece on to the three nuclear submarines India plans to operate, K-4 will ensure that the country has what experts call an assured second-strike capability — the capacity to ensure retaliation even if the rest of the arsenal is wiped out in a surprise first-strike.

India's nuclear arsenal, as that of Pakistan, has been physically separated from the delivery platforms — the missiles controlled by the Army, and soon the Navy, as well as the Air Force's combat jets. The logic is simple: keeping warheads and missiles apart reduces the risks of accidents or unauthorised use.

“For obvious reasons,” says Arun Vishwanathan, a leading nuclear-weapons expert at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, “a nuclear submarine is going to have to carry warheads as well as missiles. This raises significant issues of control, which need to be worked out.”

In addition, nuclear submarines can lose contact with their bases — and officers must decide if this has happened because of technical problems, or because their nation has been obliterated. In 1961, the Soviet submarine B-59, believing that war had broken out, almost fired a 10-kilotonne warhead at the U.S. Flotilla; sub-commander Vasili Arkhipov, one of three officers who had to consent to the decision, alone demurred — averting a nuclear apocalypse.

There are also risks of accidents involving nuclear weapons on board ships and submarines: dozens of warheads ended up at the bottom of the sea during the Cold War, and though technology has improved, it is not fail-safe.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/arihant-propels-india-to-elite-club-but-with-a-headache/article6079477.ece>

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The Diplomat – Tokyo, Japan

OPINION/Article

N. Korea Won't Cause a Nuclear Domino in Asia (But China Might)

If there is a nuclear arms race in Asia, China's conventional military power will be to blame.

By Zachary Keck for *The Diplomat*

May 31, 2014

On Thursday the **Wall Street Journal** published excerpts from an interview it conducted with South Korean President Park Geun-hye.

One article from the interview discusses the dire consequences President Park foresees if North Korea goes through with a fourth nuclear weapons test.

“North Korea would effectively be crossing the Rubicon if they were to conduct another nuclear test,” WSJ quotes Park as saying. President Park has also suggested that the six-party talks over North Korea's nuclear program could end for good if Pyongyang goes through with its threat to conduct a new kind of nuclear test.

The article goes on to say that President Park also claimed that a fourth nuclear test by North Korea could spark a nuclear arms race in the region, where non-nuclear weapon states decide to acquire a nuclear deterrent in response to Pyongyang's growing atomic capabilities.

“It would be difficult for us to prevent a nuclear domino from occurring in this area,” were North Korea to conduct another test, Park is quoted as saying.

Park is hardly the first to worry that a new state acquiring a nuclear weapon will have a nuclear domino effect among its neighbors. Indeed, this has been a constant concern in the United States since the dawn of the nuclear era. This concern continues today with many in Washington claiming that Iran acquiring a nuclear arsenal would spark a nuclear arms race in the already volatile Middle East.

Nor is Park wrong to emphasize that North Korea conducting another test could be especially problematic for its neighbors. While many attribute North Korea's nuclear and missile tests entirely to domestic politics, Pyongyang's interest in continuing with tests is almost certainly due to its desire acquire a nuclear deterrent. The only way to be certain that a state has achieved this status is by conducting actual tests, which is why every nuclear state (very possibly including Israel) has carried out tests.

The next few North Korean nuclear tests will be particularly important because many believe that it is on the verge of being able to build a nuclear warhead small enough to be placed on top of a missile. This will give it the operational nuclear deterrent that it has heretofore lacked. While North Korea will initially still lack the capability to reach the U.S. with a nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), it will only be a matter of time before it can achieve this too. As we saw in the Cold War when the Soviet Union acquired the capability to reach the continental United States with nuclear missiles, North Korea's ability to target the U.S. homeland will complicate extended deterrence.

Still, Park's warnings about North Korea's growing capabilities creating a nuclear domino effect in Asia is merely bluster. This view is premised on the argument that states acquire nuclear weapons to deter rival nuclear armed states. This was true in the early nuclear era when non-nuclear states had no reason to believe that their nuclear-armed rivals would not use nuclear weapons against them.

As the nuclear era progressed, however, it became clear that nuclear weapons would not be used in the same manner as other military capabilities would. In the words of many, a taboo against the first use of nuclear weapons took root. This taboo is especially strong when it comes to using nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear state.

North Korea would be particularly unlikely to break this taboo by launching a nuclear attack against South Korea or Japan. To begin with, it will have an extremely small nuclear arsenal given its financial constraints. Moreover, it will

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also have little in the way of early warning capabilities. This is important because attacking Seoul or Tokyo with nuclear weapons would almost certainly invite a retaliatory nuclear strike from the U.S. And, given the small size of its nuclear arsenal and its inability to detect incoming U.S. nuclear missiles, its entire nuclear arsenal would be wiped out in a U.S. first strike. At that point, it would be defenseless against a conventional attack aimed at overthrowing the regime, which Washington would have every reason to carry out should Pyongyang break the nuclear taboo.

South Korea and Japan understand all this and therefore would not endure the enormous costs (especially to their international reputations, alliances with the U.S., and relations with China) inherent in acquiring a nuclear weapon. An isolated state like North Korea can endure massive international sanctions. Nations with economies highly integrated in the global economy — such as South Korea and Japan — cannot afford to be cut off from the outside world. That's why South Korea is investing in conventional capabilities that would allow it to deal with North Korea's nuclear arsenal.

Although North Korea is unlikely to precipitate a nuclear arms race in Asia, China's growing military capabilities and assertive diplomatic posture very well might. Indeed, just as history has demonstrated that states don't need nuclear arsenals to deter rivals from attacking them with nuclear weapons, it has also demonstrated that nuclear weapons are extremely effective in deterring conventional military attacks. Thus, states that face rivals with overwhelming conventional military power have a strong incentive to acquire nuclear weapons to negate their rivals' conventional superiority.

This is especially true if a state fears that its conventionally superior rival covets its territory. A nuclear arsenal cannot always deter low level skirmishes from nuclear and non-nuclear powers. But nuclear weapons are extremely effective at deterring states from challenging core interests, first and foremost territory.

This is deeply troubling given present trends in the Asia-Pacific. Most notably, China's economic rise is allowing it to amass a conventional military force that Japan, especially with its declining population, will eventually be incapable of matching. China also claims the Senkaku Islands that Japan administers and there's been evidence that it may ultimately covet the Ryukyu Islands as well.

Thus, if current trends in the Sino-Japanese conventional balance continue, going nuclear will be an increasingly attractive option for Tokyo, particularly if it loses faith in America's willingness or ability to defend it.

Zachary Keck is Associate Editor of The Diplomat where he authors The Pacific Realist blog. He also writes a monthly column for The National Interest.

<http://thediplomat.com/2014/05/n-korea-wont-cause-a-nuclear-domino-in-asia-but-china-might/>

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Asia Times Online.com – Hong Kong, China

OPINION/Comment

June 03, 2014

Iran, North Korea as Proliferation Epicenters

By Joseph R DeTrani

The Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) of 1970, comprised of 190 countries, called for the five Nuclear Weapons States (US, China, Russia, France and the United Kingdom) to pursue nuclear disarmament while mandating that the Non-Nuclear Weapons States forego acquiring nuclear weapons and pursue peaceful uses of nuclear energy with, when requested, the assistance of the Nuclear Weapons States.

The eight states recognized as having nuclear weapons include India, Pakistan and North Korea, and experts speculate that Israel is a ninth. Five countries - United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China - are nuclear-weapon states under the terms of the NPT, whereas India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel are not NPT members. North Korea was a member but quit in 2003 when it expelled International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

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monitors from the plutonium facility in Yongbyon and commenced the reprocessing of over 8,000 spent fuel rods originally stored in a cooling pond. This step was in line with the 1994 Agreed Framework that committed North Korea to halt activities at Yongbyon in return for the provision of heavy fuel until the US completed construction of two 1000 mega-watt Light Water Reactors at Kumho, North Korea.

Since 2003, North Korea has pursued an aggressive nuclear weapons program. Although the six-party talks commenced in August 2003 and succeeded in September 2005 in securing an agreement from North Korea to dismantle all of their nuclear programs, in return for security assurances, economic assistance and eventual provision of Light Water Reactors, North Korea has enhanced its nuclear weapons programs and further developed its missile capabilities.

According to media reports, North Korea has enough plutonium for six to 12 nuclear weapons and an active uranium enrichment program for nuclear weapons. The three nuclear tests North Korea conducted, the last in February 2013, were all successful, with progressively higher yields. Their missile programs also have progressed, with a successful satellite launch in December 2012 and progress on a solid fuel, mobile ICBM with significant reach. Indeed, during the last two years, with the new leader, Kim Jong-eun, relations with North Korea have been tense, with threats of nuclear war emanating from Pyongyang.

The US and the other four countries (China, Russia, Japan and South Korea) engaged with North Korea in the six-party process continue to pursue a peaceful resolution to the nuclear issue with North Korea. To date, they have not been successful.

North Korea has made it clear that it is not prepared to relinquish nuclear weapons; that it wants to be recognized as a nuclear weapons state. The US and others tell North Koreans that this will not happen; that if North Korea does not want to be an isolated, pariah state, it will have to give up nuclear weapons and, in return, receive the security assurances, economic aid and the other benefits it would receive as a peaceful, non-nuclear weapons state. Efforts to date have failed. North Korea continues to build greater nuclear and missile capabilities, despite protestations from the US, China and others.

But this is not just an issue for the US and the other countries involved in the six-party talks. North Korea's nuclear program is a regional and international issue, requiring the attention and assistance of all countries; certainly those who are members of the NPT.

The sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council on North Korea for nuclear tests and missile launches should be comprehensively enforced by all countries in the international community to insure that North Korea understands further consequences will ensue if it attempts to proliferate weapons, missiles and related technology.

If this happened, the elites would not receive the luxury goods they have been accustomed to and would not be permitted to sell missiles and missile parts previously sold for revenue purposes. Conversely, if North Korea was prepared to abide by the September 2005 (denuclearization) Joint Statement, all countries and financial institutions should be prepared to assist in providing North Korea with economic assistance and investment opportunities.

If North Korea continues to retain and build more nuclear weapons, it will be a matter of time before Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and others in the region seek their own nuclear weapons. There will be a nuclear arms race in the region, with the introduction of more nuclear weapons and fissile materials. The prospect of some of these weapons and nuclear materials falling into the hands of non-state actors will be a real threat to all countries in the region.

Iran's relationship with North Korea continues to be an issue of concern. According to media reports, a significant amount of Iran's missile programs came from North Korea. Although there's no smoking gun implicating North Korea with Iran's nuclear program, the fact is that Iran has its own significant nuclear infrastructure.

The IAEA, going back to the 1980s, consistently has had problems with the lack of transparency into Iran's nuclear programs. The nuclear facility in Natanz, in 2002, and the facility in Fodor, in 2013, were facilities reluctantly declared to the IAEA. According to the IAEA, there are about 19,000 centrifuges in these facilities, capable of

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enriching uranium to weapons grade purity of over 90%. The Arak plutonium facility, approaching completion, would give Iran another path to nuclear weapons.

The IAEA's past concerns about these facilities, and about Iran's High Explosive test sites and their pursuit of weaponization are issues that must be resolved during ongoing negotiations. A robust Monitoring and Verification protocol should be an integral part of any negotiated agreement with Iran, to insure that nuclear programs there are for peaceful purposes, as claimed.

If Iran acquires the capability to fabricate nuclear weapons, there would be a significant and dangerous nuclear arms race in the region. Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey and others would pursue their own programs. As with North Korea in East Asia, this would introduce more nuclear weapons and fissile materials into the region, some of which could get into the hands of non-state actors committed to using these weapons/materials for destructive purposes.

For these obvious reasons, it is necessary to succeed in these negotiations with Iran. It is necessary to insure that Iran does not have the ability to pursue a nuclear weapons program. This is a regional and international community responsibility and thus all countries should support those sanctions currently imposed on Iran by the UN. Failure to implement these sanctions would permit Iran to think that they can rebuff the IAEA by eluding sanctions while pursuing a nuclear weapons capability. This scenario would be a disaster for the region.

In short, the international community has to succeed with North Korea and convince Pyongyang that it is in its interests to dismantle all of their nuclear programs. Failure to do so will prove to be a disaster for East Asia and the region. And failure to get Iran to cease its pursuit of nuclear weapons will be another disaster, this time for the Middle East.

If we are not successful with these two countries, it would be the beginning of the end of the NPT.

Joseph R DeTrani was the Special Envoy for Six Party Talks with North Korea from 2003-2006. He was the ODNII Mission Manager for North Korea from 2006-2010 and until 2012, the Director of the National Counterproliferation Center. He is currently the President of the Intelligence and National Security Alliance, a nonprofit. The views are those of the author and do not reflect the views of any government department or agency.

<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/World/WOR-02-030614.html>

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World Politics Review (WPR).com
OPINION/Trend Lines

Cost of Nuclear Sub Replacement Will Shape Future Navy Fleet

By Eric Auner
June 4, 2014

The least visible leg of America's nuclear deterrent, its fleet of stealthy ballistic missile submarines, is widely considered to be its most effective. It is also phenomenally expensive even by the standards of Pentagon acquisition programs.

This is one reason that the Senate Armed Services Committee, in its recent markup of the fiscal year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), moved to establish a "National Sea-based Deterrence Fund" to ensure that the Navy replaces the current fleet of Ohio-class submarines "at the appropriate level of priority" assigned to it by the Navy leadership.

This is an acknowledgment of the pressures on the Navy budget, and the shipbuilding budget in particular. The total size of the U.S. fleet is on a downward trajectory, and there is a real risk that an expensive, single-mission ship like the next-generation ballistic missile submarine, or SSBN, could squeeze other priorities like attack submarines and aircraft carriers.

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During a recent presentation, the Navy's program manager for the Ohio replacement, Capt. William J. Brougham, said that construction of the first ship would have to begin in 2021 in order for the first patrol to take place in 2031. He anticipated that the first ship of the 12 ships planned would cost \$6 billion to \$7 billion to construct, not including design work, with each additional ship hopefully costing as little as \$5 billion to \$6 billion.

A Congressional Research Service report on the Ohio replacement has projected that spending on the program will rise from the \$1.2 billion requested in fiscal year 2015 to over \$3.5 billion in fiscal year 2019. The report cited a Government Accountability Office estimate that the total acquisition cost of the program would ultimately be \$95.1 billion in constant 2014 dollars. This does not include the cost of submarine-launched missiles or the nuclear warheads they carry.

Unlike many other U.S. Navy ships, SSBNs perform only one mission. Moreover, the invisible nature of that single mission means that SSBNs don't contribute to Navy goals like forward presence or crisis response.

Seth Cropsey, a former senior defense official in the Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations who directs the Center for American Seapower at the Hudson Institute, puts it somewhat more bluntly. Nuclear deterrence "has nothing to do with seapower" itself, he says, beyond the capabilities that submarine-launched missiles offer as a nuclear weapons delivery system.

Given that Navy shipbuilding accounts are "insufficient," he says it is "understandable and rational" to argue that the costs of designing and building SSBNs should be borne "over and above the Navy's normal budget." He predicts, however, that Congress will not be sympathetic to this view.

A retired naval officer and current naval market analyst, who wished to remain anonymous to discuss a politically sensitive matter candidly, says that the Ohio-class replacement will be a fundamental driver of the shape of the U.S. fleet in the coming decades. He observes that the U.S. must either allocate more money for shipbuilding, or end up building fewer ships than planned.

He anticipates that there will eventually be a compromise to preserve the sea-based nuclear deterrent and "maintain the overall fleet structure in its current form." This could involve extending the life of current Ohio-class SSBNs and reducing the number of next-generation systems.

Regardless of Navy budget woes, SSBNs play a central role in both U.S. nuclear strategy and the politics of the nuclear weapons issues. They are believed to be undetectable, and can quickly deliver large numbers of thermonuclear warheads to targets around the world. With a few SSBNs on patrol, the United States can retaliate against even a massive nuclear first strike on U.S. territory and military assets.

From a political standpoint, the sea-based leg of the nuclear "triad"—which also includes land-based missiles and strategic bombers—is the least controversial. Even strong arms control advocates who think that the U.S. nuclear arsenal is too large believe that a drastically smaller nuclear force should be substantially or entirely based on submarines. They argue, however, that U.S. deterrence goals could be met with fewer than 12 replacement submarines.

It is not a coincidence that when a Cato Institute report last year argued for switching from a triad to a "monad"—that is, a nuclear deterrent relying on only one delivery system—the system of choice was submarine-launched missiles. The authors of the study argued that submarines are "the least vulnerable leg" and "offer superior hard-target kill capability" to land-based missiles. At the same time, submarines' mobility allows the United States to avoid politically dicey overflights of nations like Russia or China when firing missiles at a third country.

But if the money to pay for the planned SSBNs isn't there, neither is the political will to acknowledge it. Eventually, the retired naval officer points out, "something has to give."

Eric Auner has been WPR's Trend Lines reporter since November 2013. He is based in Washington D.C. and has worked for the Arms Control Association, the American Security Project, Guardian Six Consulting, a contractor to the U.S. Naval War College, and the United States Institute of Peace.

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Arms Control Today (ACT).org – Washington, D.C.

OPINION/Article

N. Korea Has Nuclear Missile, Expert Says

By Kelsey Davenport

June 2014 Edition

North Korea probably can make nuclear warheads that are small enough to fit on its ballistic missiles, and activities at its nuclear test site and satellite launch facility likely indicate that Pyongyang is planning further tests to continue improving its nuclear arsenal, a former South Korean official said last month.

In a May 19 interview, the former official said that Pyongyang can “likely fit a nuclear warhead on a Rodong missile” although it is not certain that the warhead would detonate properly.

The medium-range Rodong missile, also known as the Nodong, is a deployed system with a range of 1,300 kilometers. This places South Korea, Japan, and parts of China within its range.

Experts have expressed skepticism in the past about North Korea’s ability to deliver a nuclear warhead via a missile, but that sentiment apparently is beginning to shift.

The former official said his opinion was based on recent North Korean statements and actions, including a February 2013 nuclear test and two Nodong missile tests in March.

But he cautioned against the assumption that North Korea has deliverable nuclear warheads.

When delivered via ballistic missile, nuclear warheads must survive re-entry into the atmosphere, a process that is difficult to perfect even with “advanced resources and technology,” which North Korea does not have, the official said.

One of the key difficulties in delivering a nuclear warhead via a missile is making it small enough to fit. The process of making a nuclear device compact enough for delivery is often referred to as miniaturization.

North Korea conducted nuclear tests in October 2006, May 2009, and February 2013. (See *ACT*, March 2013.) After the 2013 test, North Korea said the device was “smaller and lighter” than past devices. Partly on the basis of that statement, some experts thought that the 2013 test might have used a miniaturized warhead. No public evidence of such a capability has emerged since then.

According to a U.S. intelligence assessment released in January, Pyongyang’s “employment concepts”—the ways in which it would use nuclear weapons—are unknown.

Pyongyang is thought to have four to 10 nuclear weapons that are plutonium based. Last year, it restarted a reactor that produces plutonium that could be separated for additional weapons. (See *ACT*, October 2013.) North Korea also possesses uranium-enrichment technology, giving it another potential route to making nuclear weapons, but it is unclear how much highly enriched uranium, if any, it has produced.

According to experts, satellite imagery of the Yongbyon nuclear test site shows continued activity indicative of preparations for another test. North Korea announced in March that it is considering a “new form” of nuclear test, but did not give specifics as to the meaning of that term or the timing of the test. (See *ACT*, May 2014.)

In an May 13 article posted on 38 North, a website run by the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University, Nick Hansen and Jack Liu wrote that activities at the Punggye-ri test facility indicate that a fourth nuclear test is not imminent, despite speculation to the contrary.



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According to Hansen and Liu's analysis of satellite imagery, activity in the West Portal area of the site shows continued excavation of a test tunnel. Workers also appear to be widening a road leading to the tunnel portal, Hansen and Liu said. If a test were imminent, North Korea would need to seal the tunnel.

The two analysts wrote that if a test was imminent, there would be a "high level of activity" in the site's Main Support Area, which has a key role in preparing for a nuclear test. The current activities "seem consistent with those needed for routine maintenance," Hansen and Liu said.

They also said activity is evident at the Sohae Satellite Launching Station in northwest North Korea.

In a May 20 piece, the analysts wrote that recent satellite images show construction projects at the Sohae site that could be intended for mobile launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM). They concluded that it is "too soon to make a definitive judgment" on the purpose of these projects, but noted several developments consistent with the hypothesis that North Korea is planning to test ICBMs at the site.

North Korea has displayed mock-ups of an ICBM known as the KN-08, or Hwasong-13, in several military parades dating back to April 2012.

According to Hansen and Liu, construction of a "circular facility with a diameter of 50 meters" could be a launch pad for a mobile missile such as the KN-08. The presence of a new reinforced concrete road connecting the possible launch pad to the missile assembly building at the site supports the hypothesis that North Korea is building a mobile launch pad for ICBM tests, they said.

The analysts said that this hypothesis is also supported by evidence of "ongoing KN-08 engine tests" at the Sohae facility.

The January U.S. intelligence report said that North Korea has "already taken initial steps" toward fielding the KN-08 but it remains untested.

Kelsey Davenport is the Nonproliferation Analyst for the Arms Control Association, where she focuses primarily on developments related to the nuclear programs in Iran and North Korea and nuclear security issues. Kelsey joined the Arms Control Association in August 2011 as the Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellow.

https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2014_06/news/North-Korea-Has-Nuclear-Missile-Expert-Says

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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.

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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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