



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies (CUWS) Outreach Journal

Issue No. 1122, 03 July 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: *"Department of Defense Strategy for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction"*. Published by the U.S. Department of Defense; June 2014; 32 pages

http://www.defense.gov/pubs/DoD_Strategy_for_Countering_Weapons_of_Mass_Destruction_dated_June_2014.pdf

Potential adversaries of the United States continue to pursue weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to enhance their international influence and achieve greater strategic leverage against U.S. advantages. Increased access to expertise, materials, and technologies heightens the risk that these adversaries will seek, acquire, proliferate, and employ WMD. Furthermore, instability in states pursuing or possessing WMD or related capabilities could lead to dangerous WMD crises.

The Department of Defense Strategy for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction seeks to ensure that the United States and its allies and partners are neither attacked nor coerced by actors with WMD. It outlines three end states: no new WMD possession, no WMD use, and minimization of WMD effects. The strategy also establishes countering WMD priority objectives for the Department of Defense (DoD), defines an approach for achieving them, and identifies essential activities and tasks.

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Great Falls Tribune – Great Falls, MT

Air Force Secretary Returns for Malmstrom Status Check

By Jenn Rowell, *Great Falls Tribune*

July 2, 2014

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Lt. Gen. Stephen Wilson, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, visited Malmstrom Air Force Base for the second time Monday and Tuesday.

Since stepping into the job in December, James said there are some bases she hasn't been able to visit yet, but the nuclear bases deserved special attention. Both of her visits stemmed from the drug and cheating investigations of intercontinental ballistic missile officers in January.

James said that during her January visit, she noted systematic cultural and morale problems within the ICBM community. Micromanagement, lack of career mobility and lack of appreciation by the Air Force were some of the airmen's chief complaints.

She said based on this week's visit, morale is up and improvements are being made.

"These things don't change overnight," she said.

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James also said she remains confident in the nuclear triad, of which the Air Force makes up two legs.

"The nuclear mission is here to stay," she said.

Over the last six months, James said there's been a push to recommit to the Air Force's core values, which were established by then Secretary of the Air Force Gen. Ronald Fogleman in the 1990s due to a wave of disciplinary problems. The core values are "integrity, service before self, excellence in all we do."

Since 100 missile crew officers were investigated, about two-thirds of them are back on duty or in training to return to alert duty.

Wilson said each officer was considered individually when determining whether they were fit to return to duty.

"It's not a one mistake Air Force," Wilson said.

He said those allowed to return to duty received an "appropriate level of punishment" and those officers were contributing to their units with renewed focus.

"They've got a second chance," Wilson said.

Cases for six officers are still being handled by the Air Force Office of Special Investigation and the rest are being handled at the AFGSC level.

"All of those won't come back," Wilson said.

James said the Air Force is redirecting funding to the nuclear force to make improvements, provide gear and manpower.

Even though the Air Force is reducing personnel across the board, about 1,100 positions have been added to the nuclear force.

Of those, about 300 of those will be in security forces and about 50 missileers, others will be involved in standing up a new helicopter operations group and some civilians, Wilson said.

Those new people will come from across the Air Force to all three ICBM bases, and James and Wilson expect the first wave of new personnel to come in November.

The new helicopter group will include a new operations support squadron under the group and will be located at F.E. Warren AFB in Wyoming. The group will report directly to 20th Air Force and the Task Force 214 commander.

Each ICBM wing will retain their helicopter squadrons and an operations support detachment to provide support personnel. The new helicopter group will include the three helicopter squadrons and the new operation support squadron, according to 20th Air Force officials.

Officials at 20th said the group should be activated this fall, but details are still being finalized.

For the current fiscal year, the Air Force redirected \$19 million for areas identified in the Force Improvement Program, during which AFGSC airmen at all levels made recommendations for improvement. Those areas include launch control center refurbishment and infrastructure repairs. Another \$3 million were identified for quality-of-life improvements.

For the next fiscal year, beginning Oct. 1, the Air Force has requested \$455 million to sustain ICBM squadrons, ICBM helicopter support and critical communication areas. The proposed budget also identified \$154 million in other requirements from the force improvement program, including readiness, training and improvements to launch control facilities, among other improvements.

Earlier this year, Malmstrom received \$2.86 million for upgrades identified through the program, plus \$1 million for quality-of-life improvements. The funding received so far at Malmstrom includes \$467,000 for intercontinental ballistic missile weapons system parts and \$200,000 for parts for the minuteman integrated life extension program known as Rivet MILE.

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The base also received \$2.19 million for launch control center refurbishment.

The quality-of-life improvements at Malmstrom include updated kitchen equipment and working gear for the missile alert facilities, as well as reopening the base pool and resurfacing the gym floor in the fitness center. Other improvements include: wall lockers at the missile alert facilities, computer chairs, fire station mattresses and box springs, paint and security cameras for dormitories, carpet steam cleaners, light bulbs, pool table equipment, computers and more.

The Air Force is also working to change the culture and empower nuclear airmen, James asked. Senior leaders are regularly sending directives and memos for changes as well as visiting the ICBM bases regularly.

James said that the new level of attention the nuclear force is getting isn't the same kind of micromanagement the airmen complained about during the force improvement process.

She said in the past, nuclear airmen often asked for equipment, training or other needed items in their budgets and didn't get them.

"People had become discouraged," James said.

She said the airmen are now encouraged to find a workaround for immediate problems and then ask their leadership for whatever they need to correct any issues they have.

The test that officers were cheating on still exists, though the administration of the test has changed, and James said officers still need to score 90 or better to pass, which is the same requirement that existed while the cheating was happening.

The difference, James said, is that the test will no longer be used as a measure for promotions.

The Air Force has also instituted incentives for nuclear airmen.

Those include incentive pay for those operating outside the main base, with primary duty at the missile fields, such as missile crew, security forces, facility support, chefs and maintenance.

The Air Force has not yet released specific details on eligibility and how incentive pay will be distributed.

They're also working to attract high quality airmen, James said.

Part of that effort includes ROTC scholarships for cadets who will be guaranteed classification as a missile officer and priority to initial skills training within 30 days after commissioning. Ten one-year scholarships were awarded to upcoming seniors graduating in 2015.

The Air Force anticipates that those officers will enter training next fall.

All Air Force ROTC cadets going into their junior and senior year are eligible to apply for future scholarships, according to AF officials.

<http://www.greatfallsribune.com/story/news/local/2014/07/01/air-force-secretary-returns-malmstrom-status-check/11922767/>

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Global Security Newswire – Washington, D.C.

Report: Two Years after Y-12 Break-In, U.S. Nuclear Security Still 'Chaotic'

By Douglas P. Guarino, *Global Security Newswire*

July 2, 2014

Two years after an 82-year-old nun was able to infiltrate a nuclear weapons site in Tennessee, the U.S. approach to securing such facilities remains "chaotic," a government report released this week suggests.

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The report to Congress by the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office quotes unnamed National Nuclear Security Administration officials describing the agency's current approach in this manner. "Dysfunctional" is another adjective the unidentified officials have used to characterize the situation, according to the report.

For their part, GAO analysts said the agency's lack of a "clear vision" since the July 2012 incident -- in which the nun and two fellow peace activists went undetected as they approached stores of bomb-grade uranium -- could prove problematic.

"After the Y-12 security breach, NNSA took a number of actions designed to improve its security performance and oversight but did so without first developing a clear vision and path forward for its security program and an implementation strategy, including milestones and responsibilities for carrying them out," the GAO report states.

"For example, NNSA initiated actions to reinstate [Energy Department] security directives, which it had previously replaced with its own security policies; [and] started, then discontinued, a security inspection program and reorganized its headquarters security office twice," the report says.

However, without a clear "road map," the agency "risks putting in place short-lived or ineffective responses to its security problems, on which GAO and others have reported for more than a decade," the report adds.

Republican leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee on Monday issued a statement about the GAO report, which also examines NNSA security efforts prior to the Y-12 incident.

"The report confirms the committee's concerns that the 2009 and 2010 security reform efforts, while making some operational and efficiency improvements, may also have increased security risks," the lawmakers said, adding that committee leaders share GAO concerns about a lack of a clear plan going forward.

"We will continue our oversight of DOE and NNSA's security reforms, including GAO's recommendations, to make sure any security improvements can be sustained," according to the statement, issued jointly by Representatives Fred Upton (R-Mich.) and Tim Murphy (R-Penn.).

Upton serves as Energy and Commerce Committee chairman, while Murphy heads the panel's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. The panel has generally differed with fellow Republicans on the House Armed Services Committee about how best to respond to the Y-12 break-in.

NNSA officials agree with the GAO recommendations, according to the report. They told the study's authors that they have already begun an effort to create a "security road map" for their agency, which they hoped to complete by December.

The GAO authors said the agency response was "encouraging," but added that NNSA should develop an implementation strategy for the road map and regularly monitor its progress.

<http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/report-two-years-after-y-12-break-us-nuclear-security-still-chaotic/>

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DoD Buzz.com

New Pentagon Plan for Countering WMD

By Richard Sisk

Monday, June 30th, 2014

The Defense Department on Monday released an updated policy for countering weapons of mass destruction (WMD) that focused on prevention, partnering with allies and demanding accurate intelligence before military action.

The new "Strategy for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction" differs "from some of the prior documents to allow us an increased emphasis on prevention and reducing and mitigating threats earlier," a senior Defense official said at a Pentagon background briefing.

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Military action was “a right we always preserve,” the official said, but “rather than focusing more exclusively on military options, military scenarios, it (the new policy) might be associated with crises in later phases” of risk mitigation, the official said.

One of the “prior documents” referred to was the 2006 counter-WMD document endorsed by then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld three years after the U.S. invaded Iraq, partly to eliminate WMD that was thought to be controlled by dictator Saddam Hussein. The WMD was never found.

The 2006 document also stressed intelligence collection but said “we must recognize that plans and decisions will need to be made with limited or incomplete WMD-related intelligence.”

The thrust of the new policy was to deal with the WMD threat “left of boom,” or before nuclear, chemical or biological weapons are employed the senior official said.

Another factor in the new policy was the tighter budgets that are impacting Pentagon plans across the board, the senior official said.

“In a constrained fiscal environment, we are focusing our efforts on preventing acquisition (of WMD) and countering the most likely threats,” the new policy document stated.

“Accordingly, this strategy emphasizes early action through pathway defeat, shaping the environment to dissuade actors from pursuing WMD, and cooperating with partners to achieve countering WMD goals,” the new plan said.

The new strategy did not name specific countries or regions as WMD threats. “This is a strategy, not a threat assessment,” the senior official said.

However, the senior official said that the policy was “consistent” with the agreement that resulted in the turnover by Syria of its chemical weapons to international monitors. The last of Syria’s chemical weapons were removed last week and were to be destroyed aboard the specially-outfitted U.S. ship Cape Ray.

“I feel that our effort — and the entire effort — to eliminate Syria’s declared chemical weapons stockpile is consistent from this (strategy),” the senior official said. “We’ve taken the ideas as we’ve been developing the strategy, and we’ve been applying it to the Syria problem.”

<http://www.dodbuzz.com/2014/06/30/new-pentagon-plan-for-countering-wmd/>

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Chicago Tribune – Chicago, IL

Exclusive: U.S. Government Scientists Retrace Events Leading to Anthrax Breach

By Julie Steenhuysen
Friday, June 27, 2014

CHICAGO (Reuters) - Scientists at the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are conducting tests to see whether the procedure they followed to kill anthrax, though flawed by their own standards, may nevertheless have killed the potentially deadly pathogen before it was sent to less-secure laboratories, where employees work without adequate protective gear.

If they are right, it may mean dozens of scientists and staff, who were given a vaccine and powerful antibiotics to prevent anthrax infection, may never actually have been in danger of getting the potentially deadly illness that was at the center of 2001 bioterror attacks.

"We are still figuring out exactly what happened," CDC Director Dr. Thomas Frieden said in an interview with Reuters. "It's not clear at this point whether infectious material actually left the high-containment lab."

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Researchers in the CDC's bioterrorism response lab are retracing the events there between June 6 and June 13 that led to the possible exposure of 84 employees at the agency's Atlanta campus, Dr. Paul Meechan, director of the CDC's environmental health and safety compliance office, told Reuters.

New details about the agency's investigation suggest the anthrax that was being inactivated in a high security lab may have been sitting in a bath of acid for 24 hours before being transferred to two lower-security labs.

Researchers are trying to find out whether that was long enough to kill the anthrax, Meechan said in a telephone interview.

"We don't know that, but we're doing experiments to prove it," said Meechan. The CDC first disclosed the incident to Reuters last week. (Full Story)

An independent laboratory is running the same set of experiments to see if they get the same answers, which would add to the validity of the findings.

Meechan said workers in the bioterror lab had been testing a new protocol for inactivating anthrax before sending the bacteria for experiments in two lower-security CDC labs.

CDC researchers had been using that protocol to inactivate other bacteria, but not anthrax. It called for placing anthrax into a bath of acid for 10 minutes, removing some, putting it on a nutrient-rich plate and placing it in an incubator.

After 24 hours, the researchers checked to see if any colonies of anthrax had grown. None had, so the team took the anthrax that had been soaking in acid for 24 hours, put it on slides and sent it for testing in two other CDC labs.

The material from the 10-minute sample eventually germinated and started to divide and form a colony, a process that normally takes around 48 hours.

SOAKING IN ACID

Why the team did not wait the standard 48 hours to be sure the acid bath had killed the bacteria is still under investigation, Meechan said.

Investigators want to learn what was happening to the anthrax cells left in the acid bath while the material from the 10-minute sample was in the incubator.

"We want to know whether or not in the 24 hours when they were waiting for that plate to grow, they were actually killing more of the anthrax, and possibly all of it," Meechan said.

A CDC team is setting up an experiment using a similar setup, taking samples of anthrax soaking in acid at intervals of up to 24 hours.

"The idea is to see how much time it takes to kill everything in that solution," Meechan said.

Results of the studies will be available soon, said CDC spokesman Tom Skinner.

The agency is also using a detailed questionnaire to assess each employee's proximity to the lower-security labs that may have been handling live anthrax to determine his or her personal risk of exposure. And the CDC has taken samples of surfaces within labs that received the material to determine whether live anthrax was present.

All of those efforts will help the CDC determine whether employees need to continue taking antibiotics to prevent anthrax, Skinner said.

Meanwhile, the CDC has tasked Dr. Harold Jaffe, its associate director for science, with conducting a separate investigation into the circumstances surrounding events that led to the mishandling of anthrax, which is on a list of pathogens considered a select biological agent because it could threaten public health and safety.

"The fact that it was even a concern or that it might have happened is unacceptable," Frieden said. "Employees should never have to be concerned about their safety from preventable exposures."

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He has asked for Jaffe's report to be on his desk by early next month.

Meanwhile, he said, inspectors from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service are at the CDC this week conducting their own investigation.

Reporting by Julie Steenhuysen; Editing by Cynthia Osterman and Lisa Von Ahn

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/sns-rt-us-usa-anthrax-tests-20140627,0,2493958.story>

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Defense News – Washington, D.C.

Interceptions Rise as Russia Boosts Air Power

By MARCUS WEISGERBER

June 28, 2014

WASHINGTON — The Russian Air Force is upgrading its long-range aircraft, making the decades-old planes more lethal amid increasing encounters near US airspace, a top US general responsible for defending the American and Canadian airspace said.

“They are much, much better than they ever were during the Cold War,” Gen. Charles Jacoby, commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and US Northern Command, said in an interview.

“One of the things we have seen is that it’s increasingly sophisticated [and] increasingly capable,” he said.

US and NATO aircraft have been intercepting Tu-95 Bear, Tu-160 Blackjack and Tu-22 Backfire strategic bombers and numerous fighter aircraft since 2007 when the Russian Air Force resumed long-range aviation missions, which had stopped at the end of the Cold War.

“We’ve seen it go up and down a little bit, but steadily increase over the intervening seven years,” Jacoby said of the pace of the flights. “A lot of it depends on their exercise cycle. Sometimes it depends on what’s going on in the world.”

The intercepts typically take place near Alaska and down the western coast of Canada and the continental US. In Europe, they typically occur over the Baltic and North seas.

Since the middle of the past decade, the Russia Air Force has been modernizing its bomber aircraft and long-range missiles, according to Douglas Barrie, senior fellow for military aerospace at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

The Russians had a road map to upgrade their long-range aviation fleet in the 1980s to include avionics, radar and weapons, but that fell by the wayside when the Cold War ended in 1991, he said.

“Over the past few years, we’ve started to see at least some of that planned update was being implemented,” Barrie said.

The Russians have talked about the importance of making system improvements, even if they just modernized one or two aircraft a year, he said.

There have been upgrades to cruise missiles, including a conventional version of the nuclear Kh-55. Another project long talked about is upgrading the Kh-22 anti-ship missile. Within the last year, photos of a Russian test aircraft carrying bright red missiles with a new panel under the nose are believed to be an upgraded Kh-22, Barrie said.

“You’re seeing a range of systems that they’ve long talked about associated with long-range aviation actually now beginning to come into service and fielded,” he said.

Russia also has aspirations of fielding a new bomber aircraft toward the middle the 2020s, Barrie said, calling the operational goal “pretty optimistic.”

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"In the Russian long-range aviation, you see a similar expenditure of resources in order to improve their capability that you see across the array of their capabilities from conventional to special to strategic forces," Jacoby said.

The US had been working to expand military partnering opportunities with Russia in recent years, but exercises have been put on hold following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula in February. Even before this year's incidents in Ukraine, Russia's unannounced long-range aviation flights had continued.

"What we've done is very matter of factly, and calmly maintained our deterrent posture, which demonstrates to them that we have the capability and intention of defending our airspace and at the same time looking for opportunities to cooperate on them with other things," Jacoby said.

<http://www.defensenews.com/article/20140628/DEFREG02/306280023/Interceptions-Rise-Russia-Boosts-Air-Power>

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Global Security Newswire – Washington, D.C.

Audit Questions Savings in Plan to Cut Strategic Command, Other Staffs

By Rachel Oswald, Global Security Newswire

June 30, 2014

A Pentagon plan to cut costs by reducing senior staff at Strategic Command and other military headquarters may not produce significant savings, an audit says.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel last year ordered across-the-board reductions of 20 percent of the budget of all military command headquarters. Congress directed its Government Accountability Office to examine the effects of those directed cuts on the Pentagon's three "functional component commands," which are Strategic Command, Special Operations Command and Transportation Command.

In findings released last Thursday, the analysts said that limiting cuts to just those personnel in management roles at the command organizations would potentially exclude from consideration more than 75 percent of the headquarters positions.

In their 73-page report, auditors "found that less than a quarter of the positions at the functional combatant commands are considered to be management headquarters even though many positions appear to be performing management headquarters functions such as planning, budgeting and developing policies."

The GAO officials concluded the Pentagon does not have "a clear or accurate accounting of the resources being devoted to management headquarters to use as a starting point to track reductions," in part because it relies on self-reported data from the commands, which can be inconsistent.

Strategic Command is responsible for detecting and deterring strategic attacks against the United States and its allies. The Nebraska-based command has combat responsibility over all U.S. ballistic missile submarines, nuclear-capable bombers and intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Currently headed by Adm. Cecil Haney, the command in fiscal 2013 spent \$623.4 million supporting its headquarters operations, which cover service component commands such as Air Force Global Strike Command; coordinating centers such as the Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction; and one sub-unified command -- Cyber Command, according to the report. Comparatively, less than \$200 million was spent in fiscal 2001 on STRATCOM headquarters activities.

The nuclear command also has seen the number of military and civilian personnel assigned to it and its sub-commands balloon in recent years, rising from fewer than 2,000 people in fiscal 2001 to a total of 4,466 authorized positions in fiscal 2013.



Much of that recent growth can be attributed to the creation in 2009 of Global Strike Command, which was established to address shortcomings in the Air Force's management of its nuclear bomber and ICBM missions. The service component command had just under 600 military and civilian personnel assigned to it in the last fiscal year.

The Pentagon partially agreed with the congressional auditors' recommendation that it reconsider its decision to focus military command cuts to just management positions at headquarters. At the same time, the department argued the recommendation fell outside the scope of the GAO review mandate, which was to examine the resources and personnel assigned to the three functional commands.

<http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/audit-questions-savings-strategic-command-other-staffs/>

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The Korea Herald – Seoul, South Korea

Defense Chief Nominee Vows Early Establishment of Missile Defense System

June 29, 2014

President Park Geun-hye's nominee for defense minister pledged Sunday to establish the country's indigenous missile defense system at an early date to counter escalating threats from North Korean nuclear weapons and missiles.

South Korea has been speeding up the establishment of the indigenous Korea Air and Missile Defense aimed at low-flying missiles coming from North Korea. A pre-emptive missile destruction system, the so-called Kill Chain, is also under development to detect and strike North Korea's missile and nuclear facilities.

"The defense ministry will push for an early establishment of the KAMD and the Kill Chain amid growing North Korean nuclear and missile threats," Han Min-koo said at a parliamentary confirmation hearing.

Han said he will try to make North Korea realize that Pyongyang will never get any concessions through military provocations and threats.

"I will do my best to ensure watertight military preparedness against a full-scale provocation from North Korea as well as any localized conflicts," he said.

On June 1, Park tapped Han, a career soldier and former chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to succeed Kim Kwan-jin, who was picked to be her national security adviser.

Kim was named to replace Kim Jang-soo, who resigned from his post last month in the wake of his controversial remarks on April's deadly ferry sinking. Kim is currently serving both posts until Han's nomination is approved by parliament. (Yonhap)

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20140629000169>

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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

N. Korea again Vows to Seek Nuke Program before Xi's Seoul Visit

June 30, 2014

SEOUL, June 30 (Yonhap) -- North Korea renewed its pledge to pursue the communist country's nuclear weapons program on Monday, ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Seoul slated for later this week.

The North's official newspaper Rodong Sinmun, an organ of the Workers' Party of Korea, said that it is time for South Korea and others to awaken from their "stupid delusion" that they can make Pyongyang abandon its nuclear ambitions.



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"Expecting us to make changes in our policies and stances is equivalent to anticipating that the sky falls," the newspaper said.

North Korea's reaction is widely seen as showing its uneasiness as Xi is expected to make a state visit to Seoul on Thursday and Friday to meet South Korean President Park Geun-hye.

It would be the first time that a sitting Chinese president visits South Korea before traveling to North Korea, a long-time ally of China.

The two leaders from Seoul and Beijing are expected to focus on how to deal with North Korea's nuclear issues and how to further enhance their bilateral relations, according to Seoul's presidential office.

The six-party talks aimed at denuclearizing North Korea has been stalled since late 2008 when Pyongyang walked away from the negotiating table. The forum involves the two Koreas, the United States, China, Russia and Japan.

The newspaper said that South Korean President Park Geun-hye is "begging" relevant countries to serve as a force for the North's denuclearization.

"If nuclear problems are to be resolved in the Korean Peninsula, nuclear threats and risks of attacking the North raised by the U.S. and the South Korean puppet group of traitors should be eliminated first," the newspaper said.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2014/06/30/16/0401000000AEN20140630003200315F.html>

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Taipei Times – Taipei, Taiwan

N Korea Launches Ballistic Missiles, Defies UN Sanctions

Reuters, SEOUL

Monday, June 30, 2014

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North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into seas to the east off its coast yesterday, South Korea's military said, defying a UN ban on the isolated country testing such weapons.

The launch came days before Chinese President Xi Jinping's (习近平) scheduled state visit to South Korea. China is the main benefactor of the North, which is also under sanctions for conducting nuclear tests.

North Korea is also due hold talks with Japan this week to work out the details of Pyongyang's plan to reinvestigate the fate of Japanese citizens kidnapped by the reclusive state decades ago.

The missiles, which appeared to be Scud class, were launched from an area on the east coast of the Korean Peninsula and flew about 500km before crashing harmlessly into the water, an official for South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

The test firings came three days after the North launched three short-range projectiles into the waters off its east coast, which flew about 190km and landed in the sea. Such launches are routine.

North Korea frequently test-fires short range multi-rocket launchers, which are not prohibited under UN sanctions on the country.

North Korea's possession and testing of ballistic missiles such as Soviet-era Scuds, however, breach the sanctions, and are seen to contribute to Pyongyang's long-range missile program.

North Korea has so far conducted tests of its ballistic missiles and rockets 11 times this year, including four involving ballistic missiles.

The country usually test-fires its short-range rockets and ballistic missiles amid annual US-South Korean military exercises as a form of protest, observers say.

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Yesterday's launch came less than a week before Xi's visit to Seoul on Thursday and Friday.

North Korea said the launch was "part of its routine military exercise" and that there should be no effect on planned governmental talks between North Korea and Japan tomorrow, a North Korean foreign ministry official was quoted as saying by Japanese media.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/front/archives/2014/06/30/2003593993>

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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

N. Korea Urges U.S. to Stop Hostile Policy, Nuke Threats

July 1, 2014

SEOUL, July 1 (Yonhap) -- North Korea called on the United States on Tuesday to quit its hostile policy and nuclear threats against it in order to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, reaffirming its long-held stance of clinging to nuclear ambitions.

"Under such tense circumstances where the U.S.'s plot to stifle the DPRK is about to spark a nuclear war, it is self-evident that we cannot abandon nukes, the powerful physical strength capable of deterring a nuclear war," the Rodong Sinmun, the North's mainstay newspaper, said in an editorial.

While stressing that the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is what its former leaders called for, the daily under the North's Workers' Party said the goal can be achieved "only when the U.S. gives up the hostile policy toward the DPRK and nuclear threat posed to it from outside is totally terminated."

DPRK is the acronym of the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The communist country has long claimed that its pursuit of nuclear power is to deter Washington, which poses a persistent threat to it to topple the regime.

Such a call came a day after Pyongyang made a surprise proposal to South Korea to stop all military hostilities, while calling for canceling upcoming military drills with the U.S.

The rare reconciliatory gesture comes ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Seoul this week. During the summit, Xi and the South Korean President Park Geun-hye are widely expected to seek ways to deal with the unruly North and its nuclear weapons program.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2014/07/01/27/0301000000AEN20140701007900315F.html>

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The Korea Herald – Seoul, South Korea

Park, Xi Reaffirm Opposition to N.K. Nukes

By Song Sang-ho

July 3, 2014

The leaders of South Korea and China on Sunday reaffirmed their opposition to North Korea's possession of nuclear weapons, pledging to work closely together for peninsular denuclearization.

During their talks on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, Netherlands, President Park Geun-hye and Chinese President Xi Jinping exchanged views on how to strengthen their strategic cooperation to yield "substantive progress" on Pyongyang's denuclearization, Cheong Wa Dae said.

"It is impossible for the North to simultaneously pursue nuclear development and economic reconstruction. While leaving open the door for dialogue, there should be substantive progress on Pyongyang's denuclearization," Park was quoted by her office as saying during the hour-long summit with Xi.

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“Should there be an assurance that Pyongyang’s development of nuclear capabilities will be blocked, we can explore a variety of ways (to resume multilateral dialogue on the nuclear standoff).”

Xi reiterated Beijing’s opposition to the North’s nuclear program.

“We clearly oppose North Korea’s possession of nuclear capabilities and conscientiously implement the U.N. resolutions (against the North),” Xi said.

“There are differences between Beijing and Pyongyang over the nuclear issue, but we are now trying to persuade the North through the Chinese way (of persuasion). We will try to lead the North in the way the international community wants it to go.”

Park also used part of her talks with Xi to explain Seoul’s plan to establish a preparatory committee for reunification and its vision for a unified Korean Peninsula.

“A unified Korea will be nuclear-free, and become a symbol of peace. It would also offer a chance for all regional people to enjoy peace and prosperity by creating a new growth engine in Northeast Asia,” she said.

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20140324000014>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

North Korea Pursues Strategic Guided-Missile Tests - Reports

3 July 2014

MOSCOW, July 3 (RIA Novosti) - North Korea is planning to pursue strategic guided-missile tests, despite the international calls to limit its weapons program, Agence France-Presse reported Thursday citing a spokesman for the Korean People’s Army (KPA) Strategic Force.

“[North Korea] will continue to hold drills of launching high-precision tactical guided missiles,” AFP quoted a KPA Strategic Force’s spokesman as saying. He added that the tests were a «legitimate exercise» of sovereignty.

Over the past week Pyongyang has conducted a series of missile tests. The agency reports that the tests are largely explained by the two-day state visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Seoul.

One of the issues on Xi Jinping’s agenda in Seoul is North Korea’s nuclear program, as well as strengthening of bilateral ties between China and South Korea, a bitter opponent to Pyongyang.

In March, North Korea test-fired two 1,000-kilometer range Rodong ballistic missiles, also known as No Dong, into the East Sea. Rodong missiles can be equipped with a nuclear warhead. The country’s authorities said the launches were their response to the US-South Korea joint military drills and mentioned that new nuclear tests could follow.

Last month, South Korean news agencies reported Pyongyang appeared to be gearing up for a fourth nuclear test, citing a significant increase in activity at North Korea’s Punggye-ri facility in the northeast of the country.

<http://en.ria.ru/world/20140703/190794129/North-Korea-Pursues-Strategic-Guided-Missile-Tests---Reports.html>

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The London Independent – London, U.K.

Keeping Trident 'Stops Nuclear Blackmail,' Claims Cross-Party Commission

By Mark Leftly

Sunday, 29 June 2014

Issue No.1122, 03 July 2014

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Britain should delay the decision on renewing the country's Trident nuclear deterrent beyond 2016, according to a cross-party commission led by two former defence secretaries and a former leader of the Liberal Democrats.

But the Trident Commission is expected to infuriate campaigners by concluding that the deterrent is still necessary to prevent "nuclear blackmail".

The Labour peer Lord Browne of Ladyton, the Conservative grandee Sir Malcolm Rifkind, and Sir Menzies Campbell, who led the Lib Dems in 2006-07, think the ageing submarines carrying Trident could remain seaworthy for longer than originally envisioned. A decision on whether to replace the submarines with four Successor class vessels for £20bn is due in two years' time.

In March, the Defence Secretary, Philip Hammond, announced that the oldest of the four existing submarines, HMS Vanguard, would have its reactor refuelled for the second time since entering service in 1993. The MoD is now confident that the subs, built to last 25 years, can remain in use until the late 2020s, although Mr Hammond has insisted that this and any further refuelling "would not affect our plans" for the next wave of Trident submarines.

The commission is also understood to suggest that the Government should declare that Britain would use Trident only in the event of a nuclear attack. The missiles would not, therefore, be deployed if a country used biological or chemical weapons on Britain, part of what the report calls a "glide-path down towards disarmament".

The commission, which also includes the former ambassador to the United Nations Sir Jeremy Greenstock and the ex-chief of defence staff Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank, wants countries with nuclear weapons to eventually declare a "no first use" policy. The missiles would then be fired only in retaliation for a nuclear attack on an allied country.

The report argues that keeping Trident is not justified on grounds of maintaining the UK's military status, but says: "If there is more than a negligible chance that the possession of nuclear weapons might play a decisive future role in the defence of the United Kingdom and its allies" then they should be retained.

Anti-nuclear sources said last night the high-profile report, to be published on Tuesday after a three-year inquiry, was "bizarre" and should be "quietly shelved". The commission has been funded by several organisations that want nuclear deterrents to be dismantled, including the Ploughshares Fund and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

Campaigners are angry that the commission did not seem to consider whether the billions poured into a replacement for Trident would be better spent on conventional arms or other sectors of the economy, such as healthcare.

Alexander Kmentt, the anti-nuclear Austrian government's director of disarmament, visits Parliament on Wednesday. He will try to convince the UK to attend a conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons after it boycotted two previous events.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/keeping-trident-stops-nuclear-blackmail-claims-crossparty-commission-9570682.html>

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ITAR-TASS News Agency – Moscow, Russia

Russia's New Nuclear Submarine to Use only Domestically Made Components

All components, systems and units intended for the submarine have been made by Russian enterprises
June 30, 2014

ARKHANGELSK, June 30, /ITAR-TASS/. Russia's new nuclear submarine Knyaz Vladimir, being built by the Sevmash shipyard in Severodvinsk, will use only domestically made components, the company's press service said on Monday, June 30.

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“All components, systems and units intended for the submarine have been made by Russian enterprises. This is one of the things that make this craft special,” the press service said.

“There no components in the submarine that were manufactured in the near or far abroad; only domestically made ones. A large number of them are made by Sevmash itself,” Sergei Kotsov, who is responsible for the delivery of the submarine, said.

The Knyaz Vladimir was laid down on July 30, 2012 under Project 955A. The leading vessel of the same class, Yuri Dolgoruky, and the first serial submarine, Alexander Nevsky, were handed over to the Navy in 2013.

The submarine Vladimir Monomakh, the third Borei-class ship and the second serial one, is undergoing sea trials and expected to join the Navy this year.

The fifth one, Knyaz Oleg, will be laid down on July 19. It will become the first serial upgraded version of Project 955A submarines. They will have smaller hulls and cons, better acoustic characteristics and lower noisiness.

The Defence Ministry plans to build at least eight new Borei-class submarines three Project 955 craft and five Project 955A ones - by 2020, which will become the main naval component of Russia's strategic nuclear forces.

Borei-class submarines are designed by the St. Petersburg-based Naval Design Bureau Rubin. Each submarine can be armed with 12 ICBMs with MIRVs. They will also have an escape capsule for all crewmembers. A Borei-class submarine is 170 metres long and 13.5 metres wide, it can sink to a depth of 450 metres and has a crew of 17 sailors.

The Borei claims to be a state-of-the-art submarine, featuring characteristics superior to any submarine currently in service, such as the ability to cruise silently and be less detectable to sonar. Advances include a compact and integrated hydrodynamically efficient hull for reduced broadband noise and the first ever use of pump-jet propulsion on a Russian nuclear submarine.

The submarine will be armed with Bulava missiles. The Bulava carries the NATO reporting name SS-NX-30 and has been assigned the GRAU index 3M30. In international treaties, the common designation RSM-56 is used.

The Project 955 submarine is the first serial strategic rocket carrier of the Borei class. It is 170 metres long, 13.5 metres wide, maximum operating depth is 450 metres, and underwater speed is 29 knots.

Borei class submarines are designed to serve as the basis of Russia's strategic nuclear capabilities for the decades to come.

Sevmash, Russia's largest shipyard, is now building two sets of new-generation nuclear submarines - attack craft (Yasen class, Project 855) and strategic craft (Borei class, Project 955) - for the Russian Navy.

<http://en.itar-tass.com/russia/738412>

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

1 July 2014

Keeping Trident Nuclear Weapons 'in UK's National Interest'

It is in the UK's national interest to keep the Trident nuclear weapons system, a group of former ministers, diplomats and generals have argued.

The Trident Commission says holding on to nuclear weapons could help deter threats to the UK's security in future.

But it said continuous patrols could be relaxed if the UK showed it was serious about working towards further international disarmament.

A final decision on whether to renew Trident will be taken in 2016.

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The decision has been put back until after the 2015 elections following disagreements between the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats.

While David Cameron supports the like-for-like renewal of the UK's existing submarine-based ballistic missile system, the Lib Dems say the same level of protection could be afforded if the number of submarines was reduced from four to three to save money.

Credible threats

Former Liberal Democrat leader Sir Menzies Campbell, also a commission member, said: "There's evidence to suggest that technical advances may allow it to be possible with three boats - it's all about the re-fitting schedule of the submarines."

However, Admiral Sir George Zambellas, head of the Royal Navy, argued that four boats would deliver "100% availability".

"A posture which delivers less than 100% availability is... not credible - not just in the eyes of potential adversaries, but in the eyes of our key strategic partners as well," he said in a keynote speech at the Royal United Services Institutes' International Sea Power Conference 2014.

Shadow defence secretary Vernon Coaker welcomed the commission's recommendation that it was in the UK's national interest to retain a nuclear deterrent.

But SNP defence spokesman Angus Robertson said the only way Scotland could get rid of Trident was to vote "Yes" in the Scottish independence referendum on 18 September.

He said the SNP had not been involved in the cross-party talks. "We would certainly not have agreed to the conclusion of the commission," he said.

Publishing its report, The Trident Commission said it believed that "retaining and deploying a nuclear arsenal" was necessary to protect the UK and to fulfil the country's international responsibilities as a Nato member.

It said Trident met the "criteria of credibility, scale, survivability, reach and readiness" and alternative delivery options touted "simply on the basis of possible but speculative cost savings" should not be contemplated.

The commission's members include former Conservative foreign secretary Sir Malcolm Rifkind, former Labour defence secretary Lord Browne and former Lib Dem leader Sir Menzies Campbell, as well as former Chief of the Defence Staff Lord Guthrie and Sir Jeremy Greenstock, UK ambassador to the United Nations.

Their report stated that a nuclear capability should not be justified on the grounds of it being an "insurance policy" against an uncertain future or to maintain Britain's diplomatic standing in the world.

The rationale for keeping Trident, it added, lay in its ability to counter "credible" threats to the UK's security.

It identified three scenarios in which such threats could arise; from a long-standing nuclear state with an "aggressive posture"; from an existing or emerging nuclear state which "enters into direct strategic competition with the UK"; a "massive overwhelming" threat involving weapons of mass destruction.

"If there is more than a negligible chance that the possession of nuclear weapons might play a decisive future role in the defence of the UK and its allies in preventing nuclear blackmail, or in affecting the wider security context within which the UK sits, then they should be retained," the report stated.

"The impact of the UK's falling victim to ongoing strategic blackmail or nuclear attack is so significant that, even if the chances appear slim today, there is sufficient uncertainty surrounding the prospect that it would be imprudent to abandon system that have a high capacity to counter such threats."

'Always at sea'

The commission was divided over the question of whether the current practice of always having one submarine at sea at any other time should be maintained.

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Some members argued that continuous-at-sea patrolling should continue until there was an "improvement in the security environment" while others argued that without a direct threat to the UK's interests, this could happen immediately while retaining the capacity for increased patrols at times of crisis.

But the commission was united in its call for the UK to consider what it could do to further the cause of nuclear disarmament and to discourage proliferation.

While acknowledging the steps that had been taken since the end of the Cold War, it said the UK could consider a further reduction in missile and warhead numbers, enhanced verification procedures and commitments to control or decrease stocks of fissile materials.

"The commission would recommend that the Ministry of Defence study the steps down the nuclear ladder more thoroughly to give greater confidence to the international community that we are considering such steps seriously in preparation for multilateral disarmament negotiations," it said.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-28098583>

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Xinhua News – Beijing, China

Italian Town Ready for Syrian Chemicals Transfer amid Security Fears

By Alessandra Cardone
July 2, 2014

ROME, July 1 (Xinhua) -- Italian authorities and local community near the southern town of Gioia Tauro made final preparations on Tuesday for the transfer of Syria's chemical arsenal, which was due to begin on Wednesday.

As the U.S. Navy Cape Ray was escorted by coast guard vessels into Gioia Tauro port early in the morning, government's representatives and local authorities set up an Emergency Control Room in charge of monitoring all operations from the prefecture of the nearby Reggio Calabria city.

At a preliminary meeting held on Tuesday, representatives from Italy's foreign ministry and experts from the National Institute of Health and the Organisation for the Prohibition of chemical weapons (OPCW) were present.

"An exceptional effort was made to provide the highest degree of safety for the transshipment," Reggio Calabria prefect Claudio Sammartino said after the meeting.

According to OPCW plan, the Syrian chemicals are to be transferred from Danish cargo Ark Futura to Cape Ray at some point on Wednesday, with both ships docked at Gioia Tauro. The operation would take about 48 hours, authorities said.

The stock of Syrian weapons comprises of approximately 560 tonnes of chemicals, including mustard gas and one precursor of the nerve gas Sarin. Once the transfer has been completed, the destruction of chemicals will be carried out aboard the Cape Ray in international waters.

With regard to Gioia Tauro, all measures agreed in the security plan were implemented: additional fences and checkpoints were installed around the port for one and a half kilometre square. The maritime surveillance was also increased and a one kilometre no-fly zone was declared and due to remain in place until July 3rd.

Despite all the measures, in fact, the local community was visibly distressed. The transfer of Syria's most lethal chemicals has worried local authorities and citizens since Gioia Tauro port was sorted out, with regard to the risks the operation might entail for both population and environment.

After the emergency meeting, however, mayors seemed a bit reassured.

"Today the prefect personally assured me the Syrian arsenal here does not contain Sarin gas, but only mustard gas and one precursor of Sarin. This is somehow comforting," San Ferdinando's mayor Domenico Madafferi told Xinhua.

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The mayor said he felt less worried after the security measures were put in place. Anyway, a civil protection's plan containing behaviour guidelines in case of incidents with chemicals was published on San Ferdinando municipality's web site.

"We thought it useful. Despite the prefecture did not entirely agree with us for fear it might cause panic among citizens, I believed people needed to receive clear instructions," Madafferi explained.

Gioia Tauro port is considered one of the largest seaports in Europe and is specialised in transshipping activities. When it was sorted out to host this delicate operation in January, Italy's Minister of Infrastructure Maurizio Lupi assured that "none of the containers with chemicals would be brought on docks" because the operation would be "a ship-to-ship transfer with no storage".

Yet, local authorities complained for not being involved enough in the decision-making process, while citizens and environment associations staged several protests because they felt they had not been given guarantees regarding what was exactly inside the containers.

After the announcement in January, mayor Madafferi even threatened to close the docks of Gioia Tauro, which fall mostly under San Ferdinando's control. On Tuesday, less than 24 hours before the operation began, he sounded a little more confident.

"I am pretty sure nothing wrong will happen, because I was told the substances are in liquid form and the containers have a triple protection," he told Xinhua.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2014-07/02/c_126698026.htm

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

West Never Treated Russia as Equal in Missile Defense – Russian Security Council

2 July 2014

MOSCOW, July 2 (RIA Novosti) - The European missile defense system never saw Russia's participation as equal, as Moscow was never offered processing centers or provided information exchange, Russian Deputy Security Council Secretary Evgeny Lukyanov said Wednesday.

"No one in the US has offered two processing centers or any real-time exchange systems," Lukyanov told RIA Novosti in an interview.

Lukyanov also said the final decision to place the European part of the missile-defense system in Poland, Romania, and Turkey is up to those sovereign states.

"We aren't pleased over these countries' decision, but it's important that people in these countries acknowledge the fact that they will become hostages of the irresponsible American practice," the deputy security council secretary said.

US plans to create a missile defense system in Europe have recently become a source of friction in US-Russian relations.

The US currently has two strategic missile defense systems on its own territory: in Alaska and California, while Russia has only one system of the same kind in Moscow Region. The US is currently planning to build a third missile defense site in Europe.

Moscow insists on legally binding contract guarantees that the European missile defense is not directed against Russia, while NATO has called on Russia to simply take the alliance's word that the system will not be used against Moscow.

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In late May, Moscow was denied participation in the international conference on missile defense.

The Russian Foreign Ministry expressed concern over this head-in-the-sand approach, as the unlimited deployment of US-NATO missile defense elements is continuing in Europe, which may "violate the strategic balance and undermine international stability."

On Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that relations between the US and Russia are not in good shape, as Moscow's attempts to "handle business on an equal basis" were never matched by Washington.

<http://en.ria.ru/world/20140702/190783691/West-Never-Treated-Russia-as-Equal-in-Missile-Defense--Russian.html>

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Sunday, June 29, 2014

Senior MP: West's Excessive Demands Preventing Iran-Powers Deal

TEHRAN (FNA) - A senior Iranian legislator expressed doubt that Tehran and the Group 5+1 (the US, Russia, China, Britain and France plus Germany) could reach a final deal due to the western powers' excessive demands from Iran.

"The negotiations are continued but reaching results depends on the G5+1, specially the US," member of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Esmayeel Kossari told FNA on Sunday.

He described the excessive demands raised by the West as the main impediment to the attainment of a final agreement between the two sides, and said the westerners don't even get satisfied with Iran's undertakings under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and pursue excessive demands beyond the treaty.

"Due to these excessive demands, I have gather that the negotiations would yield no results," Kossari underlined.

Iran and the Group 5+1 sealed an interim deal in the Swiss city of Geneva on November 24, 2013 to pave the way for the full resolution of the decade-old dispute with Iran over the country's nuclear standoff with the West. The deal came into force on January 20.

Under the Geneva deal, dubbed the Joint Plan of Action, the six countries undertook to provide Iran with some sanctions relief in exchange for Tehran agreeing to limit certain aspects of its nuclear activities during a six-month period.

The sixth round of talks between Iran and the G5+1 over a comprehensive final deal is slated for July 2.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told reporters after the latest round of talks with the six world powers held in Vienna on June 16-20 that although the seven nations have started compiling the draft deal, the harsh stance taken by the western powers, which is reflected in their excessive and maximum demands show that they are not fully ready to enter serious negotiations to attain a final solution to the decade-old standoff.

He stressed that Iran would not give up its rights, and would continue resistance until restoring all its nuclear rights.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13930408000395>

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The London Daily Telegraph – London, U.K.

Does the Islamic State Have a Scud Missile?

Photographs appear to show jihadist with Scud missile – but experts say it is likely inoperable

By Raf Sanchez, Washington

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30 June 2014

The Islamic State has appeared to parade a captured Scud missile and T-55 tanks through the streets of the Syrian city of Raqqa, the capital of its proclaimed Sunni caliphate.

Photographs circulating on social media showed masked fighters driving the missile through the streets on the back of a lorry as a crowd looked on.

Twitter accounts associated with the Islamic State, formerly known as Isis, declared that it was a Scud.

But a number of experts said the missile was likely inoperable and did not pose a threat to Iraqi government forces or nearby Israel.

Here's Eliot Nelson, a British blogger who tracks munitions being used in Syria:

Charles Lister, a Syria expert at the Brookings Doha Center, described the Scud as "99pc useless".

It is not clear how the jihadists obtained the Soviet-built missile although reports suggested it may have been captured from a Syrian government military base in the Deir ez-Zor region in September last year. Others suggested it could have been recently captured from Iraq.

The missile was first shown in the hands of the Free Syrian Army, the moderate opposition backed by the West, in 2013. It appears to have since fallen into the hands of jihadist groups.

If it was taken from Iraq, as some believe, questions were being asked as to how it could have been hidden from weapons inspectors, both after the Gulf War of 1991 and before the invasion to topple Saddam Hussein.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/syria/10936926/Does-the-Islamic-State-have-a-Scud-missile.html>

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National Journal – Washington, D.C.

Official: U.S. Approach to Syria 'Consistent' With Counter-WMD Strategy

By Elaine M. Grossman

June 30, 2014

A senior Defense Department official on Monday said the U.S. approach to the conflict in Syria has been "consistent" with a just-updated Pentagon strategy for countering weapons of mass destruction.

The White House last Thursday moved to bolster aid to Syrian rebels just days after Damascus finished relinquishing its chemical arms.

At a Pentagon press conference, the senior official -- speaking on condition of not being named -- was asked whether the juxtaposition in the Syria case might someday make other rogue leaders think twice about giving up their nuclear, chemical or biological arms.

"I feel that our effort -- and the entire effort -- to eliminate Syria's declared chemical weapons stockpile is consistent from this [strategy]," the official said. "We've taken the ideas as we've been developing the strategy, and we've been applying it to the Syria problem. So it's actually been an iterative experience."

The figure did not elaborate specifically on any ramifications of the timing of bolstered aid to rebels, but alluded broadly to some of the complexities involved.

"This is a countering-WMD strategy," the official said. "It's not a regional strategy. It won't solve problems outside of the WMD lane."

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"Our goal there is to try to take the WMD problems, reduce them, eliminate them where we can, take them off the table wherever possible, so that we can get about the business of solving other problems," the senior official added.

Last Monday, an international coalition announced it had completed the removal of approximately 1,300 metric tons of chemical-warfare materials from the Mideast country. President Bashar Assad's regime agreed last year to hand over the stockpile, following a nerve-gas attack near Damascus that killed hundreds and spurred talk of Washington's direct intervention in the Syrian civil war.

The new Defense Department "Strategy for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction," released Monday afternoon, replaces 2006 Pentagon guidance for combating these most sensitive arms around the globe.

It emphasizes taking a wider range of preventive actions aimed at reducing and mitigating WMD threats earlier, rather than grappling militarily with crises after they occur. The senior official said the approach is already being implemented, but the document should help to guide planning and investments going forward.

"What steps can we take earlier, as we often say, 'left of the problem, left of crisis, left of boom, left even of acquisition, left of a country actually acquiring a capability'?" the official said in describing the planning approach that the new strategy seeks to inspire. "What can we bring to bear to shape that environment?"

In the event that non-state actors seize control over weapons of mass destruction somewhere around the globe -- as some fear could occur someday in Pakistan, North Korea or elsewhere -- the Pentagon would pursue "rapid and decisive action," according to the new strategy.

Under such a scenario, the Defense Department "will act in coordination with partners whenever possible, but will act unilaterally if necessary," the document states.

The senior Defense official on Monday rejected the idea that the strategy lays the groundwork for "pre-emptive" action to counter weapons of mass destruction, while noting that the U.S. president always retains such options.

The updated strategy puts "a focus on prevention and a focus on taking steps to make sure that risks don't fully emerge," the official said. "I would not in any way correlate that to any presumption on use of force."

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/global-security-newswire/official-u-s-approach-to-syria-consistent-with-counter-wmd-strategy-20140630>

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The Daily Star – Beirut, Lebanon

US, Iran Trade Barbs Before Nuclear Talks Finale

Agence France-Presse (AFP)

July 2, 2014

VIENNA: The United States and Iran traded barbs Wednesday as negotiators arrived in Vienna for a marathon final round of nuclear talks aimed at securing a historic deal by a July 20 deadline.

The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council plus Germany want Iran to reduce its nuclear program in order to ease long-held fears that Tehran might develop atomic weapons.

Iran, subject to damaging U.N. and Western sanctions, insists its nuclear activities are purely peaceful.

A sixth and final round of talks starts officially Thursday and could potentially last until July 20 when an interim deal struck in November expires, although in theory this can be extended for six months.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, writing in the Washington Post, said that the negotiations constituted "a choice for Iran's leaders."

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"They can agree to the steps necessary to assure the world that their country's nuclear program will be exclusively peaceful and not be used to build a weapon," Kerry wrote.

Or "they can squander a historic opportunity to end Iran's economic and diplomatic isolation and improve the lives of their people."

The P5+1 powers have proposed a "series of reasonable, verifiable and easily achievable measures that would ensure Iran cannot obtain a nuclear weapon and that its program is limited to peaceful purpose," he said.

"What will Iran choose? Despite many months of discussion, we don't know yet."

But Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, writing in French daily Le Monde, said that some among the P5+1 were suffering from "illusions" about Iran's nuclear program.

He said that contrary to fears in the West, Iran - even if it wanted to - is "several years, not a few months" away from being able to build an atomic bomb.

Iran "will not abandon or give up its technological or scientific advances. In addition it would not be prudent ... to expect us to do otherwise," Zarif said in remarks printed in French.

"I appeal for these illusions not to derail a process that could put an end to a pointless crisis," he said.

Iranian nuclear negotiator Majid Takhte Ravanchi went further, telling the ISNA news agency that Iran has set out clear "red lines" in the talks.

"The other side knows that these red lines cannot be crossed. If we reach a deal it will be one respecting these red lines. If not there will be no accord," he said.

"The outcome depends on the other side. If they have a maximalist position, or if they want to address issues that have nothing to do with the talks, if they are far from reality or if they have illusions, there will be no deal," he said.

"We will not accept definitive restrictions" on our nuclear program, he said.

But Kelsey Davenport, Arms Control Association analyst, was upbeat about prospects for a deal, saying that there is "considerable political will" and that an accord is in the interests of both sides.

"There is a lot of time left for diplomacy and a good comprehensive nuclear agreement is within reach, despite significant gaps between the two sides on core issues," she told AFP.

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Jul-02/262382-us-iran-trade-barbs-before-nuclear-talks-finale.ashx#axzz36K3DG0fF>

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The London Daily Telegraph – London, U.K.

Iran Warned It Must Make Concessions for Deal by John Kerry

Iran nuclear negotiations open in Vienna as deadline for deal on sanctions looms on July 20

By Damien McElroy, Foreign Affairs Correspondent

02 July 2014

Iran and the United States traded warnings of the consequences of failure yesterday as negotiators arrived in Vienna for a final round of nuclear talks aimed at securing a historic deal by a July 20 deadline.

We're hopeful that we can make progress in narrowing those gaps and pursuing that comprehensive solution but the Iranian side is going to have to take additional steps that it should be able to take," Ben Rhodes, the US deputy national security adviser, said. "This has been a top priority for our administration."

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's Supreme Leader has given his backing to the negotiations but the stakes are high for Iran and the West as the end nears. The Gulf nation's economy, driven by the world's No. 4 oil reserves, has been

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wracked by sanctions limiting trade and undermining its currency. For world powers, failure to peacefully resolve suspicions over Iran's nuclear program could build on mounting Middle East tensions spreading from Syria to Iraq.

"The decisive time approaches when the temporary nuclear deal could be turned into a global solution," Javad Zarif, the Iranian foreign minister, wrote Le Monde newspaper. "I press them to not allow illusions to derail a process that will allow an end to a pointless crisis and an opening to new horizons."

John Kerry, the US Secretary of State, writing in the Washington Post, said that the negotiations constituted "a choice for Iran's leaders".

"They can agree to the steps necessary to assure the world that their country's nuclear program will be exclusively peaceful and not be used to build a weapon", Kerry wrote. "[Or] they can squander a historic opportunity to end Iran's economic and diplomatic isolation and improve the lives of their people."

William Hague, the Foreign Secretary, also cautioned that success was far from assured.

"Achieving an agreement is far from certain," he said. "But I am convinced that the current negotiations are the best opportunity we have had in years to resolve this issue. Over the next three weeks, an intensive effort will be required by all sides. The benefits of a comprehensive deal for Iran are clear: if Iran is willing to take the steps needed, significant economic benefits will follow. Ultimately, this would lead to the lifting of all nuclear related sanctions and Iran being treated like any other non-nuclear weapons state."

While the sides have made progress toward increasing transparency into Iran's nuclear work and modifying a reactor to make it less susceptible to making nuclear weapons, gaps remain over the amount of enriched uranium the country should produce. Iran wants capacity to produce more fissile material for power plants. The U.S. wants Iran to reduce existing enrichment abilities and cap future expansion.

In his essay, Zarif warned the West against repeating "missed opportunities" of the past and pointed to a two-year span of negotiations from 2003 until 2005. Those talks crumbled after European negotiators rejected an Iranian offer to limit the number of centrifuges — the fast-spinning machines that enrich uranium — in operation to 3,000. Today, Iran has 19,000 of the devices installed.

"No one can go back in time," Zarif said. "Sacrifices were made, our capacities are today considerably different. No one can make them disappear with a wand."

Kelsey Davenport, Arms Control Association analyst, said the prospects for a deal were good. She said: "There is a lot of time left for diplomacy and a good comprehensive nuclear agreement is within reach, despite significant gaps between the two sides on core issues."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iran/10940474/Iran-warned-it-must-make-concessions-for-deal-by-John-Kerry.html>

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The Wall Street Journal - New York, NY

Syrian Chemical Weapons Being Moved to U.S. Ship for Destruction at Sea

Operation Is One of Last Phases to Dismantle Syria's Chemical Arsenal

By Giada Zampano

July 2, 2014

REGGIO CALABRIA, Italy—The transfer of about 560 metric tons of Syrian chemical weapons from a Danish freighter to a U.S. military ship ahead of their destruction at sea was on track to be completed on Wednesday.



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The transfer of the chemicals, which include sulfur mustard and precursors of sarin, is one of the last phases of a month-long process aimed at dismantling Syria's chemical arsenal, under a U.S.-Russian agreement reached last year.

The local authorities sealed off the port area of Gioia Tauro in southern Italy, and shut down the local airspace as part of tight security for the operation that is expected to be over by Wednesday evening, officials said.

Inspectors from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which is overseeing the disarmament, gave the go-ahead for the work Wednesday.

By early afternoon, 36 out of a total of 78 containers had been moved off the Danish ship Ark Futura and loaded on to the U.S. MV Cape Ray.

The Cape Ray will sail into international waters in the Mediterranean Sea, where a team of American experts will neutralize the substances. They will use a process called hydrolysis, which involves mixing the chemicals with water. This final phase could take up to 90 days. The resulting material, called effluent, will be taken to special sites to be incinerated.

The mission began after a chemical weapons attack on a suburb of the Syrian capital Damascus last August that killed about 1,400 people, which Western leaders blamed on the regime of President Bashar al-Assad.

President Barack Obama threatened retaliatory airstrikes, but Congress balked at that and the U.S. struck a deal with Russia to dismantle Syria's chemical weapons program by June 30 of this year.

The deadline wasn't met due to delays in removing the dangerous chemicals from the war-torn country.

The U.S. has harshly criticized Syria for the delays, but the international watchdog overseeing the operation has described Syria's cooperation as "satisfactory." The mission has also showcased U.S.-Russian cooperation at a time of strain over Russian incursions into Ukraine.

Italy's environment minister, Gian Luca Galletti, who visited the Gioia Tauro port on Wednesday, said the mission contributed to international security in a "transparent and environmentally secure operation."

The minister said his presence was also aimed at reassuring the local population and administrators, who had complained of a lack of information on an operation seen as risky for the environment and the inhabitants of the towns surrounding the Calabrian port.

"All the operations were conducted under the maximum safety and with the competence requested," Mr. Galletti said.

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/syrian-chemical-weapons-being-moved-to-u-s-ship-for-destruction-at-sea-1404309946>

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Atlanta Journal-Constitution – Atlanta, GA
Wednesday, July 02, 2014

Iran Pushes Back against US Demands at Nuke Talks

By GEORGE JAHN, Associated Press (AP)

VIENNA — Iran pushed back Wednesday against U.S. demands for concessions at nuclear talks, declaring it would never "kneel" over what curbs Tehran must accept to win an end to the sanctions choking its economy.

Both Iran and the six world powers it is negotiating with want an accord by July 20. But they parted last month without significant progress — and came to the table Wednesday with demands that the other side blink first.

"We have never bowed down to imposition and we will not accept it in this round of talks either," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told reporters in Vienna.

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Separately, he warned the West against "pursuing a game of chicken," adding sanctions would never force Tehran to its knees.

Earlier, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said Tehran needs to show "political will to make the choices that we think that they have to make."

British Foreign Secretary William Hague spoke of "significant differences," adding that "achieving an agreement is far from certain."

The six powers are the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany. Iran's uranium enrichment program is the main dispute, with Tehran resisting U.S.-led attempts to place strict constraints on the process that can produce both reactor fuel and the fissile core of nuclear arms.

Iran says it does not want such weapons and is pushing to keep its present enrichment capacity, while Washington seeks deep cuts in the nearly 20,000 enriching centrifuges that Iran has operating or on standby.

The negotiators now are working on a draft deal they started drawing up in June. Zarif described that document back then as having more blank sections than text.

Associated Press writers Ali Akbar Dareini and Amir Vahdat contributed from Tehran.

<http://www.ajc.com/news/ap/top-news/iran-pushes-back-against-us-demands-at-nuke-talks/ngXs9/>

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The Jerusalem Post – Jerusalem, Israel

Iran, World Powers Resume Push for Nuclear Deal by July 20

By Reuters

3 July 2014

VIENNA - Iran and six world powers resumed talks on Thursday aimed at hammering out an accord later this month to end a long-running dispute over Tehran's nuclear program, seeking to bridge still wide gaps in their negotiating positions.

After informal contacts on Wednesday, chief negotiators from Iran, the United States, France, Germany, China, Russia and Britain began a full plenary session shortly after 9 a.m. (0700 GMT), the sixth round of talks in Vienna since February.

They have less than three weeks to try to agree on the future scope of Iran's uranium enrichment program and other issues if they are to meet a self-imposed July 20 deadline for a deal. Western officials privately acknowledge that an extension of the talks might be needed, although that could further complicate an already difficult task.

Amid turmoil in Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East, the diplomatic stakes are high. Israel, Iran's arch foe, has in the past threatened military strikes against Iranian nuclear sites if diplomacy fails to settle the standoff. Iran denies any nuclear weapons ambitions and says it is Israel's assumed atomic arsenal that threatens regional peace and stability.

<http://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/Iran-world-powers-resume-push-for-nuclear-deal-by-July-20-361354#!>

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Reuters.com – U.S.

Exclusive: Iran Eases Demands for Nuclear Capacity at Vienna Talks: Western Diplomats

By Louis Charbonneau and Parisa Hafezi

Thursday, July 3, 2014

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VIENNA (Reuters) - Iran has reduced demands for the size of its future nuclear enrichment program in talks with world powers although Western governments are urging Tehran to compromise further, Western diplomats close to the negotiations said on Thursday.

The diplomats, who spoke to Reuters at the start of a two-week round of negotiations between Iran and the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China, said that despite some movement from Tehran it would not be easy to clinch a deal by their self-imposed deadline for a deal of July 20.

Tehran's shift relates to the main sticking point in the talks - the number of uranium enrichment centrifuges Iran will maintain if a deal is reached to curb its nuclear program in exchange for a gradual end of sanctions. Ending the decade-long dispute over Iran's nuclear ambitions is seen as instrumental to defusing tension and averting a new Middle East war.

"Iran has reduced the number of centrifuges it wants but the number is still unacceptably high," a Western diplomat told Reuters on condition of anonymity and without further detail.

On Wednesday a senior Iranian official told Reuters that Tehran has refused to back down from its demand to maintain 50,000 operational centrifuges, a figure deemed by Western officials to be out of keeping with Iran's stated need for a strictly civilian nuclear energy program.

Iran, a major oil producer, says it plans a future network of nuclear power plants to diversify its energy supply, though just completing one of them would take many years, analysts say.

"Iran needs at least 50,000 centrifuges and not 49,999," the Iranian official said. "We will not compromise on that ... The other party is talking about a few thousands and this is unacceptable for Iran."

That figure has been in the public domain for some time. The head of Tehran's atomic energy organization, Ali Akbar Salehi, said months ago that the Natanz enrichment plant alone would need 50,000 advanced centrifuges going forward.

But the Western diplomats said that behind closed doors Iran was no longer insisting on 50,000 machines. It had signaled it would settle for a lower figure but declined to specify the number so as not to disrupt the negotiations.

Iran now has over 19,000 centrifuges, though only around 10,000 of those are running. The powers want that number cut to the low thousands, to ensure Iran cannot quickly produce enough high-enriched uranium for a bomb, should it choose to do so.

Tehran denies allegations from Western powers and their allies that it is developing a nuclear-weapons capability behind the screen of a declared civilian atomic energy program.

IRAN "WILL NOT KNEEL"

Iranian officials declined to comment directly on the reported concession on centrifuges.

"As we said, we are ready to assure the world that we are not after the bombs," another senior Iranian official told Reuters. "We have shown our goodwill but will not yield to demands that violate our rights.

"A few thousand more or less centrifuges makes no difference," he added. "Our right to enrichment has been accepted by all parties involved in the talks. ... There are technical ways to assure both sides about securing their rights and removing concerns."

Western governments are exerting pressure for Iran to compromise further in the interest of nailing down a deal by July 20, a deadline that Western officials say privately will be extremely difficult to meet.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry chided Tehran on Tuesday by saying in a Washington Post article that Iran's "public optimism about the potential outcome of these negotiations has not been matched, to date, by the positions they have articulated behind closed doors."

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On Wednesday, British Foreign Secretary William Hague echoed Kerry's criticism.

"We will not accept a deal at any price," he said in a statement. "A deal that does not provide sufficient assurances that Iran will not develop a nuclear weapon is not in the interests of the UK, the region or the international community."

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, in an apparent response to Kerry's remarks, said Tehran was ready to take concrete steps to ensure its nuclear program is peaceful but will not "kneel in submission" to do a deal.

Centrifuges are not the only stumbling block in the talks. One of the more sensitive matters is Iran's ballistic missile program, which is banned under U.N. Security Council sanctions imposed on Tehran between 2006 and 2010 over its refusal to suspend enrichment and other activity with bomb applications.

The United States has insisted that Iran's ballistic missile capabilities be covered under the potential nuclear deal under discussion in Vienna but Tehran does not want that to be on the table, officials close to the negotiations have said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, who along with Zarif is leading the Iranian delegation in Vienna, confirmed this by saying that "the two sides are divided on this topic."

"Our position remains the same," Araqchi was quoted as saying on Wednesday by the Iranian student news agency ISNA. "Iran's defense system is not up for negotiation."

Other disputes include the duration of any nuclear deal, the timetable for ending the sanctions, and the fate of a research reactor that could yield significant quantities of plutonium, an alternative fuel for nuclear weapons.

The current round of talks in the Austrian capital will run until at least July 15.

Additional reporting by Fredrik Dahl in Vienna and Mehrdad Balali in Dubai; Editing by Mark Heinrich

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/03/us-iran-nuclear-exclusive-idUSKBN0F810H20140703>

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The Times of India – Mumbai, India

LeT, JuD Trying to Acquire Weapons of Mass Destruction, New Book Reveals

Press Trust of India (PTI)

June 29, 2014

WASHINGTON: Pakistan-based LeT and its front group JuD, enjoying the backing of military, have not only grown far stronger since the Mumbai terror attack in 2008, but are also trying to acquire weapons of mass destruction, in addition to developing air and sea power, a new book says.

"It is known that the JuD has been acquiring sea and air power. However, what is less known is that it is also trying to acquire weapons of mass destruction (WMD)," US-based Pakistani author Arif Jamal writes in his book titled 'Calls for Transnational Jihad: Lashkar-e-Taiba 1985-2014'.

"The JuD believes it is likely to acquire access to nuclear technology by not going against the Pakistani State. It may come sooner than we can imagine given the JuD's ability to realise its plans systematically and cool headedly," he writes in the book running into more than 260 pages.

Jamal concludes that the Pakistan government is unlikely to take any action against LeT or JuD or its leader Hafiz Saeed, mainly because of the goal of the army and ISI — to bleed India in times of peace and avoid war.

Jamal noted that the Pakistan army has used the jihadist groups against India and Afghanistan mostly in time of peace.

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"The goal has been to bleed India in times of peace and avoid war," he said.

The US, last week, named JuD as a "foreign terrorist organization", a status that freezes any assets it has under American jurisdiction.

Noting that the West's efforts to get Pakistan to act against the JuD seem half-hearted at best, Jamal says that the military raised jihadist organizations to fight its jihad in Kashmir and later in Afghanistan.

"Even after the passage of more than five years, Pakistan has not taken any action against the perpetrators of the November 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks. The sham trial of LeT commanders shows that Pakistan has no plans to dismantle the jihadist infrastructure," Jamal says.

"In fact, the JuD has grown far stronger since the November 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks with the support of the Pakistani army," he adds.

"Although Pakistan's primary reasons to keep supporting the jihadist organizations remain the same, new reasons came as time went on. Both publicly and privately, Pakistani military officials stress the new reasons to keep supporting JuD," he said.

The new reason to not dismantle JuD's jihadist infrastructure may be beneficial in the short-term, but may imperil world peace in the medium and long terms beyond imagination, he added.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/LeT-JuD-trying-to-acquire-weapons-of-mass-destruction-new-book-reveals/articleshow/37450813.cms>

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The Hindu – Chennai, India

Karnataka Home to Second Covert Nuke Site, Drone Testing: Report

Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security suggests that India appeared to have followed through on its publicly announced intention to build the SMEF and started constructing a large enrichment centrifuge complex near Chitradurga, Karnataka.

By Narayan Lakshman

July 2, 2014

WASHINGTON -- Karnataka appeared to be a site of hectic activity for India's covert uranium enrichment programme as well as a secret testing ground for armed drones, according to satellite photographs and other evidence compiled by a U.S. think-tank.

The discovery that India's nuclear establishment has pressed forward into the early development stages for a Special Material Enrichment Facility (SMEF) came as the second instance of the veil of secrecy surrounding a nuclear facility being pierced in less than two weeks, in the same State.

On June 20, 2014 IHS Jane's revealed that India was possibly extending Mysore's Indian Rare Metals Plant into clandestine production of uranium hexafluoride that could theoretically be channelled towards the manufacture of hydrogen bombs.

This week the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS) suggested that the country appeared to have followed through on its publicly announced intention to build the SMEF and started constructing a large enrichment centrifuge complex near Chitradurga, Karnataka, where, between 2009 and 2010, approximately 10,000 acres of land were allegedly diverted for various defence purposes.

Within this walled-off tract, 1,410 acres in Ullarthi Kaval and 400 acres in Khudapura were allocated to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre for the purpose of developing the SMEF, the ISIS said, adding that a further 4,000 acres in Varavu Kaval and 290 acres in Khudapura were allocated to the Defence Research and Development Organisation for the purpose of developing and testing "long-endurance (48-72 hours) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles."

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So far as the drone programme was concerned, the April 17, 2014 Airbus commercial satellite imagery appeared to show two areas isolated with 10 km and 5 km walls, as well as a 3.5 km runway and a secondary runway that was “clearly visible” south of this area, believed to be in DRDO’s test centre for long-endurance UAVs and UCAVs.

The speed of the development work underway appears to be evidenced by the fact that a photograph of the site taken on May 2, 2013 only showed that one wall and fencing were under construction, small excavation activity was taking place in several areas, and the DRDO runway and surrounding buildings, were “clearly at the initial construction stage”.

Similarly in Ullarathi Kaval satellite imagery from April 4, 2014 was said to show “pieces of land of being fenced off by what appears to be a wall... a row of five medium size and five smaller buildings... visible on the eastern perimeter of the site, as well as what appear to be possible wells.”

In this regard the ISIS however cautioned, “It is unwise to build a nuclear enrichment facility almost adjacent to a UAV and UCAV test centre. A statement from BARC could resolve this question and would be welcome.”

Evidence supporting these conjectures was compiled from commercial satellite photographs attributed to Airbus, as well as publicly available information, noted the ISIS, including reports by environmental groups that have sought to challenge the sighting of the BARC facility in Karnataka as illegal.

The report’s authors, David Albright and Serena Kelleher-Vergantini, said that the new facility “will significantly increase India’s ability to produce enriched uranium for both civil and military purposes, including nuclear weapons”, urging India to therefore announce that the SMEF would be subject to International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, committed only to peaceful uses.

The report also warned that India “has allegedly pursued illegal means to outfit the RMP and is likely to attempt to do so for this new enrichment plant”, and thus alerted other governments and suppliers of nuclear-related dual use goods to the need for vigilance “to prevent efforts by Indian trading and manufacturing companies to acquire such goods”, for either plant.

At the heart of India’s apparently strong enrichment thrust is an urgent need for Highly Enriched Uranium for the indigenously developed INS Arihant nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine and probably for nuclear and thermonuclear weapons.

Yet according to the ISIS India as a non-signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty faces the risk of trade bans from, for example, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, which may have concerns about the suitability of Indian nuclear entities as to receive nuclear imports regardless of the U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation agreement’s separation between military and civil nuclear programmes.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/world/karnataka-home-to-second-covert-nuke-site-drone-testing-report/article6168832.ece>

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P.M. News Nigeria – Lagos, Nigeria

W. African Nations in Emergency Talks as Ebola Spreads

By P.M. News

July 2, 2014

Health ministers from across western Africa gathered on Wednesday to plan “drastic action” against the world’s deadliest-ever Ebola epidemic as dozens of new cases continued to emerge.

There have been 759 confirmed or suspected cases of the haemorrhagic fever in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday, with 467 people dead.

The new death toll represented a rise of 129 — or 38 percent — since the UN agency’s last bulletin given just a week ago.

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“This makes the ongoing Ebola outbreak the largest in terms of the number of cases and deaths as well as geographical spread,” the WHO said in a statement announcing a two-day conference in Ghana to be attended by 11 West African health ministers.

“Decisions taken at this meeting will be critical in addressing the current and future outbreaks,” it said.

Since west Africa’s first ever epidemic of the deadly and highly contagious fever broke out in Guinea in January, the WHO has sent in more than 150 experts to help tackle the regional crisis.

Despite the efforts of the UN agency and other health workers, there has been a “significant increase” in the rate of new cases and deaths in recent weeks, the WHO said.

Medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said last week that the spread of the virus, which has had a mortality rate of up to 90 percent in previous outbreaks, was “out of control”, with more than 60 outbreak hotspots.

The agency has warned that Ebola could spread to other countries, warning those hardest hit could struggle to contain the disease.

The agency’s top Ebola specialist Pierre Formenti told AFP last month that the recent surge in cases had come in part because efforts to contain the virus had been relaxed too quickly after the outbreak appeared to slow down in April.

“One case can restart an entire epidemic,” he warned, justifying the dramatic measures taken to contain Ebola, which is spread via bodily fluids including sweat, meaning just touching an infected person is enough to spread the virus.

Ministers from Guinea, where 413 confirmed, suspected and probable cases have surfaced so far including 303 deaths, and Liberia, which has seen 107 cases and 65 deaths, will take part in the meeting.

Sierra Leone, which has recorded 239 cases and 99 deaths, will also be represented at the conference.

In addition, officials from Ivory Coast, Mali, Senegal, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau, along with Ghana and countries as far afield as Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo have been invited, the WHO said.

They will be joined by a host of UN agencies and other aid organisations including MSF and the Red Cross, as well as personnel from disease control centres in western Africa, the United States, Britain and the European Union.

The WHO has described the current Ebola epidemic as one of the most challenging since the virus was first identified in 1976 in what is now DR Congo.

That outbreak, the deadliest until this year, killed 280 people, according to WHO figures.

Ebola can fell its victims within days, causing severe fever and muscle pain, weakness, vomiting and diarrhoea — in some cases shutting down organs and causing unstoppable bleeding.

No specific medicine or vaccine exists for the virus, which is named after a small river in the DR Congo.

“So far we are free from Ebola but we cannot rest on our laurels,” a spokesman for Ghana’s health ministry told AFP.

“We can’t afford to have Ebola in Ghana and we also need to stop this from spreading in the other west African nations.”

<http://www.pmnewsnigeria.com/2014/07/02/w-african-nations-in-crisis-talks-as-ebola-spreads/>

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The National Interest Online.org
OPINION/Commentary

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America's Massive Missile-Defense Mistake

"The United States should not be so blinded by one good test every five and one-half years as to deploy more flawed interceptors."

Robert Gard and Philip Coyle

June 30, 2014

On June 22, the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system successfully intercepted and destroyed a target missile in a test over the Pacific Ocean. The Obama administration has said that a successful test would trigger the addition of fourteen more long-range missile defense interceptors to thirty already in silos in Alaska and California—at an estimated cost of more than \$1 billion.

This would be a mistake. Here's why:

There's an old adage, often applied to government: "Why is there never enough time to do it right, but always enough time to do it over?" This describes the history over the past decade of the GMD system. Ever since 2002, when President Bush called for deployment of the GMD system within two years, there has been a rush to failure, with no time to do it right, and a decade spent doing it over.

Earlier this year, describing the sorry state of affairs with the GMD system, Frank Kendall, the Pentagon's chief weapons buyer and the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, bluntly stated, "We've got to get to more reliable systems." According to Kendall, a redesign and new development effort is needed. "As we go back and understand the failures we're having and why we're having them, we're seeing a lot of bad engineering, frankly," Kendall said. "It's because there was a rush. . .to get something out."

Over \$40 billion dollars has been spent on GMD so far.

Over time, the performance of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system in flight intercept tests has gotten worse, not better. Since 1999, there have been seventeen attempted target intercept tests, and nine of those produced hits. Out of the seven pre-2002 tests, five of them were successful. However, post-2002, there have been ten attempts, but only four hits.

The June 22 test was only the first successful GMD flight intercept test in the last five and a half years, that is, since the end of 2008. Two tests of the newer Capability-Enhancement II (CE-II) exoatmospheric kill vehicle failed in 2010; and then, another test of the older "CE-I" kill vehicle failed in July of 2013. For the combined tests of the two GMD kill vehicles, that's one success in four tries, or 25 percent.

What does the successful June 22 tell us? Not much. The batting average for the CE-II kill vehicle, which will sit atop the fourteen new interceptors planned for Alaska, is now one for three, or 33 percent. Not bad in baseball, but not good enough to justify putting more flawed interceptors in the ground. That's why a recent National Research Council study recommended the design of a new, bigger, more capable kill vehicle and a new, faster two-stage booster. The Defense Department's Director of Operational Test and Evaluation also recommended that a new design be considered. The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is rightly planning to redesign the existing GMD kill vehicles due to poor performance and low reliability. Since the MDA says the old EKV is not good enough, why not focus on the new model instead?

In a variety of more effective ways, the Pentagon is dealing with the possible threat from North Korea, and the State Department is working to reduce the scope of Iran's nuclear program to clearly peaceful civil purposes. But adding to an existing, unreliable missile-defense system will not improve our security and will waste hundreds of millions on deployments in Alaska that could be spent on more pressing security priorities.

The MDA has announced that it will improve the existing kill vehicle; but as Frank Kendall put it, "Just patching the things we've got is probably not going to be adequate. So we're going to have to go beyond that." In the wake of the successful June 22 flight-intercept test, the Agency should build on that accomplishment to develop the next-generation kill vehicle as recommended by the National Research Council. But the United States should not be so



blinded by one good test every five and one-half years as to deploy more flawed interceptors. In pursuing a redesigned kill vehicle, it only makes sense to avoid past mistakes by taking the time to get it right.

Lt. Gen. Robert Gard (retired U.S. Army) is chairman of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation and former president of National Defense University.

Philip Coyle is the former associate director of the Obama White House Office of Science and Technology and the Pentagon's chief weapons tester under President Bill Clinton.

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/americas-massive-missile-defense-mistake-10768>

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The London Guardian – London, U.K.

OPINION/Comment is free

A Like-for-Like Trident Replacement Isn't Justifiable in Terms of Security or Cost

The world has changed hugely since the cold war. We must reduce our submarine fleet and end continual at-sea deterrence

Danny Alexander

Tuesday, 1 July 2014

Today's report by the British American Security Information Council (Basic) is a significant addition to the vital debate about the future of Britain's independent nuclear deterrent. The group of respected senior political, military and diplomatic figures have set out thought-provoking questions about how best to configure the nation's deterrent in the future. Their thinking on the possible number of Successor submarines and whether we need to maintain continuous at-sea deterrence merits close consideration.

The defence of the nation is the first responsibility of any government. Because of their immense destructive power, their political significance and their cost and complexity, nuclear weapons have a particular place in defence thinking, and the policies around their deployment have an importance that is hard to overstate.

I recently oversaw the most in-depth government study into the options for Britain's future nuclear deterrent, the Trident Alternatives Review (Tar). This ran for 26 months and took evidence from numerous civilian and military experts in the field. While the Basic report acknowledges that the authors felt unqualified to identify alternatives to Trident and its current deployment patterns, our government review was able to identify future alternatives and options.

I subscribe to the view that Britain should remain a nuclear power and that our deterrent should continue to be submarine based. However, I and my fellow Liberal Democrats do not accept that we should be locked into configuring and deploying our nuclear forces in the future as we have done in the past when the security environment has changed so fundamentally from the cold war era.

During the cold war, there was a credible threat of a surprise massive attack against this country or Nato allies. Our nuclear forces needed to be available within minutes in order to give credibility to our policy of deterrence. This is why we maintained continuous at-sea deterrence; we kept at least one armed submarine on patrol 24/7, 365 days of the year. But the Berlin Wall has been down now for 25 years and the threat of "state on state" attack is much reduced.

This new environment has quite rightly already led to significant changes in the composition and deployment of our conventional forces. However, we still maintain and deploy our nuclear resources as if the cold war were at its height. As well as not matching the security threat, this also fails to meet our wider international obligations to work towards reducing nuclear weapons, as other nuclear nations have attempted. We should end continuous at-sea deterrence, and conduct patrols in a pattern required to match the rising or falling perceived threat. These

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patrols would be supplemented by extensive and regular exercise patrols. Changing our posture is rational and would show that we are serious about moving further down the ladder of disarmament.

The financial impact of our decisions on nuclear weapons must also be an integral part of the debate. As a coalition, we have had to take some very difficult decisions to stabilise the public finances and, in turn, the defence budget. The scale of the deficit we inherited from Labour is common knowledge. What is less well known is that we inherited from Labour a defence equipment "black hole" which, by the end of the decade, would have equalled an entire year's defence budget.

The coalition has put the defence equipment budget on a sound footing. We also have to consider how the costs of nuclear deterrence fit in with the other, equally important, calls for defence funding from our conventional forces. To put this in perspective, the cost of our nuclear deterrent in the future could equal one-fifth of total defence equipment spending. Reducing the number of deterrent-carrying submarines from four to three would save £4bn over the expected life of the system.

A like-for-like replacement of Trident, deployed in the same way, will unnecessarily stretch budgets and constrain spending on other defence priorities. Something has to give. I see nothing in the Basic report that changes my view that our national security would be best served by reducing the number of Successor submarines from four to three and ending the policy of continuous at-sea deterrence.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jul/01/replacement-trident-isnt-justifiable-security-cost-danny-alexander>

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The Hindu – Chennai, India
OPINION/Op-Ed

Minimum Deterrent and Large Arsenal

A show of determination and toughness on non-nuclear fronts such as terrorism is more important than stockpiling nuclear weapons

By R. Rajaraman
July 2, 2014

Although the 42-page-long BJP election manifesto had only one short paragraph addressing strategic nuclear policy, that presumably does not reflect the priority that the newly elected government will attach to the subject. It is well-known that the BJP lays great importance on national security, of which nuclear policy forms an important component. Indeed, one of the first tasks undertaken by the Modi government was the appointment of a National Security Advisor.

Sooner or later the new government will undertake, perhaps quietly, a review of our nuclear doctrine. Now is an appropriate time to offer suggestions on what needs to be revised and what can be left as is.

The current official nuclear doctrine, released by the Cabinet Committee on Security on January 4, 2003, summarises our nuclear policy in eight succinct points. Of these, only a few of them really call for significant modification, because in recent years things have been relatively stable on the South Asian nuclear front.

This is despite the fact that both India and Pakistan continue to produce weapons-usable Plutonium at the Dhruva reactor and the Khushab reactors respectively. Pakistan may also be continuing to produce some weapons-grade Uranium at its centrifuge plants, despite its overall Uranium ore constraints. All this fissile material is presumably being assembled into warheads. So both arsenals have been growing, as have all the attendant dangers of maintaining a nuclear force. Nevertheless the situation has, by and large, just been "more of the same." Therefore there is no call for any radical change of our nuclear doctrine. But a few features do need to be clarified and others underlined.

No First Use

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During the election campaign, the only brief reference to nuclear issues was a statement attributed to Narendra Modi that he would retain the principle of No First Use (NFU). His statement is very welcome, particularly since simplistic expectations were that Mr. Modi would bring a more hawkish approach to nuclear issues. Maintaining a doctrine of NFU, apart from being generally in tune with India's non-aggressive ethos, has considerable diplomatic value. After our 1998 nuclear tests elicited the anticipated international opprobrium, the inclusion of NFU thereafter in the 1999 Draft Nuclear Doctrine helped soften the criticism, especially in comparison to Pakistan, which till today retains the option of a first strike.

However, although NFU has moral and diplomatic value, there should be no illusions about its impact on hard strategic decision makers on the other side. What matters to them is not any statement of intentions (like NFU) but the actual capabilities of the adversary. Pakistani colleagues one meets in Track II invariably say they set little store in our NFU. It makes no operational difference in their nuclear plans.

What matters more for nuclear confidence building is the actual state of alert. India has been sensibly following a system of keeping its warheads de-mated from their missiles and delivery aircraft. This introduces a minimum built-in delay in launching an attack after the decision to do so has been made. It greatly reduces the risk of an accidental or hastily decided launch. The new government should continue our policy of a de-mated de-alerted posture.

One clause currently in the Doctrine merits some revision. It states that "....[our] nuclear weapons will only be used in retaliation against a nuclear attack on Indian territory or on Indian forces anywhere...retaliation to a first strike will be massive." Now, threatening retaliation "against a nuclear attack on Indian territory" is one matter. It is the basic component of nuclear deterrence and should apply whether the attack on our territory is small or big, as long as it is nuclear.

But adding on the phrase "or on Indian forces anywhere" is a different matter. The rationale behind it was presumably to deter a nuclear attack on our forces should they enter alien territory or the high seas in combat. Such an eventuality is not implausible after Pakistan developed the Nasr — a nuclear capable battlefield missile which could be used on Indian forces if they march deep into Pakistani territory. However, threatening retaliation against that with a massive nuclear attack from our side can boomerang on our credibility. Pakistan's battlefield nuclear attack is likely to be small (by nuclear standards). They would not want to spread much radioactivity on their own soil. It is also unclear whether they can develop a sufficiently miniaturised warhead to fit the Nasr, and how much damage such a warhead could do. It may achieve at most a few hundred fatalities. This is still a terrible loss of Indian soldiers and armoury. But it would be far from being "mass destruction."

However, such a battlefield nuclear attack will place India in a dilemma. Having threatened in our Doctrine to inflict a "massive" nuclear retaliation, can we really go ahead and kill lakhs of their civilians in response to a much smaller attack, that too on their own soil? It would be a disproportionate response, which would go against our national sensibilities and attract widespread criticism from around the world. Surely, there are more proportionate non-nuclear ways of inflicting punitive retaliation.

Yet, if we do not counter attack after having threatened to do so, that would invite derision that we are "a soft state" incapable of hard nuclear decisions and would erode the credibility of our future deterrence, not only against Pakistan, but also against China.

It may therefore be better to limit massive nuclear retaliation only against nuclear attacks on our country and say nothing in the Doctrine, one way or the other, about attacks "on Indian forces anywhere." Should the latter take place, we always have the option of some appropriate, measured retaliation.

What deterrence needs

Next, consider the characterisation in our Doctrine of our nuclear force as a "credible minimum deterrent (CMD)", where the requirement of "minimum" has been spelt out as what is needed to "inflict unacceptable damage" to the adversary. These represent a very judicious choice of words selected, in fact, by the last BJP administration. It is designed in part to temper over-zealous weapon enthusiasts from going on an endless spree of building nuclear

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bombs. It recognises the dangers of possessing an unnecessarily large arsenal of nuclear weapons, beyond what is essential for deterrence. The new government must ensure that the agencies concerned respect CMD in spirit and substance.

Unfortunately, our arsenal of nuclear bombs has already gone way over the minimum required to “inflict unacceptable damage” on any rational government, be it Pakistan or China. (Should Pakistan someday be taken over by irrational extremists to whom death of lakhs of civilians is “acceptable”, then no arsenal, however large, will deter them anyway. With respect to China, what deterrence needs is not more bombs than what we already have, but longer range missiles capable of reaching major Chinese cities.)

As to credibility, large arsenals, beyond a point, do not enhance it. What does is a show of determination and toughness on other non-nuclear fronts, such as terrorism or border incidents.

R. Rajaraman is professor emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/minimum-deterrent-and-large-arsenal/article6167350.ece>

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The London Daily Telegraph – London, U.K.

OPINION/ Telegraph View

Trident Given a Vote of Confidence – For Now

A convincing case has been made for the retention of Britain's nuclear deterrent by the cross-party Trident Commission

By Telegraph View

02 July 2014

The cross-party Trident Commission has concluded that the UK should retain its nuclear deterrent, and its case is compelling. Trident is typically described as an “insurance policy” against future dangers or something that is kept purely to maintain Britain’s diplomatic heft. But the commission argued that Trident is needed here and now to counter “credible” threats. The challenges to Britain’s defence could come from a major power, an up-and-coming power with unknown nuclear capabilities, or from the use of weapons of mass destruction. The report concluded: “If there is more than a negligible chance that the possession of nuclear weapons might play a decisive future role in the defence of the UK and its allies in preventing nuclear blackmail, or in affecting the wider security context within which the UK sits, then they should be retained.”

The document proves that there is a broad consensus within mainstream politics on the importance of keeping Trident. But this is not to say that the matter is entirely settled. For example, some on the commission insisted that it was vital always to keep one Trident submarine at sea; others thought that it was possible to keep the weapon docked until it was necessary to use it. Moreover, the Lib Dems continue to claim that Trident could be reduced to just three boats rather than four – an idea that makes little strategic sense. What is the point of spending money on a continuous deterrent only to limit its capability? Admiral Sir George Zambellas, head of the Royal Navy, has argued: “A posture which delivers less than 100 per cent availability is... not credible – not just in the eyes of potential adversaries, but in the eyes of our key strategic partners as well.”

The Lib Dems’ posturing is, therefore, a sign that they are desperately playing politics on the issue – deferring to the overwhelming consensus that Trident must be maintained while trying to keep their more doveish party members happy. It is sad to think that our defence strategy could be shaped by such dynamics, but Trident faces that risk when it comes up for renewal in 2016.

If the next election results in another Tory/Lib Dem pact, David Cameron will presumably insist that all four submarines should be maintained. But if Labour forms a government with the Lib Dems things would be a little less certain: it has floated the possibility of scaling the system down. And further trouble is brewing in Scotland, where Alex Salmond does not want to afford his constituents protection beneath the nuclear umbrella at all. It is a debate that will doubtless be rehearsed at the ballot box – and only the Tory position is clear and coherent.

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China's Missile Forces Are Growing: Is It Time to Modify the INF Treaty?

U.S. forces in East Asia are becoming increasingly vulnerable to China's missiles, which could be used against the air bases and aircraft carriers that underpin U.S. power projection. Could a change to the INF treaty help?

By Evan Braden Montgomery

July 2, 2014

Arcane arms-control compliance issues rarely grab headlines. But the State Department's next status report on the 1987 Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty might be an exception. INF bars the United States and Russia from testing and deploying most ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles—whether nuclear-armed or conventionally-armed—with ranges between 500 and 5500 kilometers. According to press reports, though, Moscow has been testing a pair of missiles with intended ranges that might fall between these bounds, potentially circumventing or violating INF's prohibitions. With relations between the United States and Russia already approaching rock bottom, the State Department can expect many eager readers on Capitol Hill.

If Moscow is violating the INF Treaty, it won't just be a problem for Europe. It could also create fresh doubts about the Obama administration's rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region. Before its troops infiltrated Crimea and instigated separatism, Russia appeared to be a source of frustration, but not a serious danger. In the post-Crimea era, however, the United States cannot assume that Europe will remain whole and free while China's rise reshapes Asia, and a serious dispute over INF could further inflame the reemerging U.S.-Russia rivalry. Yet it could also create an opportunity for Washington to adapt an increasingly anachronistic agreement and shore up its military posture in the Western Pacific.

While the United States and Russia have been prohibited from fielding intermediate-range missiles (and many shorter-range missiles as well) for more than twenty-five years, other nations haven't been so restrained—especially the People's Republic of China (PRC). Beijing has amassed a sizable arsenal of missiles that would be proscribed under INF, including highly accurate road-mobile missiles that represent a serious threat to its neighbors, as well as significant danger to U.S. military facilities in East Asia. These missiles could someday pose a threat to Russia too.

For instance, if Taiwan reunified with the mainland one day, whether by choice or by force, Beijing might opt to relocate many of its missiles and target other rivals rather than reduce its inventory—and Moscow could be in its crosshairs. Despite their recent gas deal, tensions between Russia and China run deep. Not surprisingly, then, Moscow's interest in getting out of INF is hardly new. Nearly a decade ago, senior Russian officials floated the idea of withdrawing from the treaty to their American counterparts. Neither side wanted to bear responsibility for abrogating the agreement, however, so instead they suggested that others join it—a proposal that was met with little interest in China or anywhere else.

As for the United States, it has a growing incentive to reconsider the types of weapons it gave up in 1987. American forces in East Asia are becoming increasingly vulnerable to China's missiles, which could be used against the air bases and aircraft carriers that underpin U.S. power projection. Countering this threat with existing defenses alone (either active defenses like kinetic interceptors or passive defenses like hardened shelters for land-based aircraft) has the potential to be prohibitively expensive. Meanwhile, capabilities that might remain viable as China's military power continues to grow (such as long-range bombers that are not tied to close-in bases and



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nuclear-powered attack submarines that can operate undetected in contested waters) are scarce assets that could eventually be tasked with more missions than they can handle.

Given these constraints, forward-based missile forces could be a partial solution to emerging operational problems in the Western Pacific. As the United States has learned the hard way on multiple occasions, mobile missiles are extremely difficult to locate and destroy, either from the air or from the ground. Ballistic missiles (given their velocity) and cruise missiles (if they are stealthy) can also be effective against a variety of targets, even if those targets are guarded by sophisticated air defenses. In short, ground-launched missiles could help to bolster crisis stability by preventing a situation where China believes it can deliver a serious blow against forward-deployed U.S. forces and ride out any retaliation.

How might Washington leverage current tensions with Moscow to improve its long-term military posture vis-à-vis Beijing? One option is to abrogate INF. Yet advocates and skeptics of the treaty alike agree that this would throw the baby out with the bathwater by removing any constraints on Russia's ability to deploy prohibited missiles. Another option is to multilateralize INF by bringing China into the fold. Beijing still has nothing to gain by participating, though, and even more to lose than it did a decade ago thanks to the growth of its missiles forces.

A third alternative, which has not yet been discussed seriously, is to modify the treaty. For example, instead of maintaining a global ban on the types of missiles captured by INF, the United States and Russia might consider permitting the deployment of missiles in Asia but prohibiting them in Europe. In fact, during the original INF negotiations, Moscow wanted to retain some of its missiles in the East rather than destroy them all, but Washington ultimately wouldn't agree. In the current strategic environment, however, an Asia option could allow both sides to counter China's missile buildup—and ensure that relations between Beijing and Moscow don't get too close at the same time—without completely upsetting the military balance in Europe.

Arms-control advocates would argue that this option isn't viable. Verification of a modified treaty might become much more difficult. American allies in Asia might not want U.S. missiles on their territory or Russian missiles in the neighborhood. Allies in Europe might fear that any new Russian missiles will someday be pointed at them. And China could respond by rapidly expanding its own missile force to keep its numerical advantage.

All of these concerns would need to be taken into account. But they might not be quite as daunting as they seem at first glance. For instance, the ability to verify a treaty is not by itself a good reason to keep it. Moreover, if China's military power continues to grow and Beijing continues to act assertively, allies like Japan and the Philippines might become more receptive to hosting U.S. missiles and more willing to tolerate Russian weapons that are aimed primarily at the PRC. For their part, NATO allies might have fewer qualms if the deployment of missiles in Asia enables Washington to station additional combat air forces in Europe. Lastly, while China could certainly build more missiles in response, it might not want to start an arms race with two great powers at the same time.

Perhaps most important, just the prospect of an amended treaty could put Beijing between a rock and a hard place, particularly if the blame fell squarely on its shoulders. On the one hand, it could do nothing and risk seeing its biggest military advantage erode. On the other hand, it could accelerate its military buildup and turn the rest of the region against it. With no good alternatives, it might be willing to head off U.S. and Russian deployments by negotiating limits on its own missile forces—perhaps not the comprehensive ban contained in INF, but some meaningful quantitative or qualitative caps. In short, the United States might gain a source of leverage that it does not currently have, one that could help create a more stable military balance in East Asia over the long run.

Evan Braden Montgomery is a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/chinas-missile-forces-are-growing-it-time-modify-the-inf-10791>

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ABOUT THE USAF CUWS

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The USAF Counterproliferation Center was established in 1998 at the direction of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Located at Maxwell AFB, this Center capitalizes on the resident expertise of Air University, while extending its reach far beyond - and influences a wide audience of leaders and policy makers. A memorandum of agreement between the Air Staff Director for Nuclear and Counterproliferation (then AF/XON), now AF/A5XP) and Air War College Commandant established the initial manpower and responsibilities of the Center. This included integrating counterproliferation awareness into the curriculum and ongoing research at the Air University; establishing an information repository to promote research on counterproliferation and nonproliferation issues; and directing research on the various topics associated with counterproliferation and nonproliferation .

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

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

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

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