



## USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies (CUWS) Outreach Journal

Issue No. 1124, 18 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:** *"Missile Defense: DOD's Report Provides Limited Insight on Improvements to Homeland Missile Defense and Acquisition Plans"*. U.S. Government Accountability Office Report GAO-14-626R: Published: July 17, 2014. Report publicly released: July 17, 2014.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/664847.pdf>

The Department of Defense (DOD) was directed to report to the congressional defense committees on the status of efforts to improve the homeland ballistic missile defense capability of the United States and a description of the results of two planned flight tests. The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is developing the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system to defend the United States against a limited intermediate and intercontinental ballistic missile attack from nations such as North Korea and Iran. The Department of Defense (DOD) was directed to report to the congressional defense committees on the status of efforts to improve the homeland ballistic missile defense capability of the United States and a description of the results of two planned flight tests. The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is developing the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system to defend the United States against a limited intermediate and intercontinental ballistic missile attack from nations such as North Korea and Iran.

**Feature Item:** *"Shoulder Launched Missiles (A.K.A. MANPADS): The Ominous Threat to Commercial Aviation"*.

Authored by James C. "Chris" Whitmire; US Air Force Counterproliferation Center Future Warfare Series Paper No. 37; published December 2006; 80 pages.

<http://cpc.au.af.mil/pdfs/monographs/37manpads.pdf>

One glaring threat to the Nation's economic well-being and public safety is the commercial aviation industry's vulnerability to shoulder launched missiles, also known as MANPADS (Man Portable Air Defense Systems). This industry sustains the flow of goods and services in today's globally connected economy and is critical to the American way of life. Currently 27 terrorist groups including Al Qaeda have confirmed or reported possession of MANPADS. Since 1994 there have been ten high profile attempts to target commercial aircraft with four being shot down-including one carrying the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi.

With the means and motive to inflict harm in place, and its propensity to favor economic, symbolic, and mass casualty targets such as passenger aircraft, all that remains is the opportunity.

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[Return to Top](#)

### **U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

1. [Unlike Prior Air Force Leaders, Deborah Lee James Saw Deep Ills in Nuclear Corps and Said So](#)
2. [B-2 Stealth Bomber, at Age 25, Slated for Major Upgrades](#)
3. [Malmstrom to Add 216 New Positions](#)

Issue No.1124, 18 July 2014

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### **U.S. COUNTER-WMD**

1. [Pentagon Weighing Options for Missile Defense: Undersecretary Kendall](#)
2. [Military Outlines Potential Missile Site for Fort Drum, Opens Public Comment Period](#)

### **U.S. ARMS CONTROL**

1. [Russian Lawmakers Propose to Suspend New START Treaty](#)

### **HOMELAND SECURITY/THE AMERICAS**

1. [C.D.C. Shuts Labs after Accidents with Pathogens](#)
2. [AF Moves Forward with Future Bomber](#)
3. [300 Vials Labeled Influenza, Dengue Found at Lab](#)
4. [U.S.-China Nuclear Security Exchanges Hampered by Lingering Suspicions](#)

### **ASIA/PACIFIC**

1. [Reprocessing Plant to Give Japan Enough Plutonium for 2,000 Bombs a Year: US Expert](#)
2. [N. Korea Fires Missiles for 3rd Time in 2 Weeks](#)
3. [China May Be First Buyer of Russian S-400 Missile Defense System](#)
4. [Kim Supervises North's Launches, Photos Show](#)

### **EUROPE/RUSSIA**

1. [Nasa is Making Britain's Nuclear Weapons More Expensive](#)
2. [Russia Creates Anti-Ballistic Control Arc along its Border](#)

### **MIDDLE EAST**

1. [No Iran Breakthrough with Kerry in Vienna](#)
2. [Iran FM: 'Trust is a Two-Way Street' in Nuclear Talks](#)
3. [Iran Makes Offer over Uranium Enrichment Programme](#)
4. [Iran Seeks Nuclear Deadline Extension, U.S. Demands Cuts](#)
5. [Iran Believed to Start up Plant Needed for Interim Nuclear Deal](#)
6. [Obama Opens Door to Extending Iran Nuclear Negotiations](#)
7. [West Considers Early Sanctions Moves in Troubled Iran Nuclear Talks](#)

### **INDIA/PAKISTAN**

1. [Move to Fast-Track Two Submarine Projects Gathers Steam](#)

### **AFRICA**

1. [Ebola Spreads to Sierra Leone Capital of Freetown as Deaths Rise](#)

### **COMMENTARY**

1. [Military Facility Hides Secrets from the World](#)
2. [Submarine Modernization in East Asia](#)
3. [China is the Major Threat to Asian Security and Stability](#)

Star Tribune – Minneapolis, MN

## **Unlike Prior Air Force Leaders, Deborah Lee James Saw Deep Ills in Nuclear Corps \_ and Said So**

By ROBERT BURNS, Associated Press (AP)  
July 14, 2014

Issue No.1124, 18 July 2014

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WASHINGTON — When Deborah Lee James became top boss of the Air Force seven months ago she had no inkling a nuclear crisis was brewing. But once it erupted in the form of exam-cheating by dozens of missile launch officers, she quickly announced conclusions that no Air Force leader before her had dared state publicly.

The nuclear missile corps' problems run deep, she said, morale is "spotty" and forceful fixes are needed.

James reached those conclusions in January after a short visit to the three Air Force bases that operate intercontinental ballistic missiles, or ICBMs. She met not only with commanders but with the rank-and-file, including enlisted airmen who keep the missiles running properly and junior officers trained to launch them.

"I walked away believing there was something systemic, cultural if you will, that went beyond cheating and (that's) why I felt like we needed to not just address cheating — yes, we have to fix that — but we need to go farther than that," she said in an Associated Press interview in her Pentagon office overlooking the Potomac River.

To her it seemed natural to acknowledge this publicly, although others in the Air Force had chosen not to.

"I hope and believe I am a straight talker," she said. "I think it's better to just say it. Don't mince words. And so I thought it was important to just stand up publicly and say what seemed to be obvious to me."

Her candor and crisis management have won praise from Republicans and Democrats alike.

"She has forged relationships with troops and listened to their inputs," said Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, the California Republican who is chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. "She has identified shortfalls in ICBM leadership and made corrections. That is a sharp difference from the way Air Force leadership has handled these issues in the past."

James, 55, is only the second woman to serve as Air Force secretary, the service's top civilian official. She took office in December 2013 following months of Associated Press reports documenting problems inside the nuclear missile corps, starting with the sidelining in April 2013 of 19 launch officers at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota for what commanders called attitude and performance flaws. It was an unprecedented action and coincided with the AP's publication of an internal email from an officer at Minot complaining of "rot" inside the ICBM force.

Senior Air Force officers at the time generally dismissed the reports, saying any problems were localized and limited.

"I don't particularly agree that we have any compelling problems" in the ICBM force, Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencak, the top nuclear weapons staff officer at Air Force headquarters, said in June 2013. "The morale of our crews out there — I've been out there — is exceedingly, exceedingly, good."

James took a look for herself in January 2014 and saw something different, worse than she had imagined. She traveled to each of the three ICBM bases after disclosing at a Pentagon news conference that 34 launch officers at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana had been implicated in a cheating scandal and a small number of those were also suspects in an illegal drug use investigation. (The number implicated in the cheating later rose to nearly 100.)

Before James hit the road she quickly gathered enough information about the dimensions of the cheating to satisfy herself that it did not amount to "a major problem that could be of catastrophic consequences."

"But still, why did this happen and what is going on?" she asked herself.

What she found was a set of interconnected problems that went deeper than the cheating. She spotted morale issues, with airmen asking, in essence, why is it that the Air Force claims the nuclear mission is its No. 1 priority and yet missile facilities are in poor shape and spare parts are in short supply?

"Some of the things I saw had been of a longstanding nature," she said. "So why had these things not gotten fixed before? It's a good question, and I can't really answer that."

James, a native of Rumson, New Jersey, never served in the military but spent a decade — from 1983 to 1993 — as a professional staff member on the House Armed Services Committee, which has oversight responsibility for the

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Defense Department. From 2002-13 she was a senior executive at Science Applications International Corp. in McLean, Virginia.

John Hamre, who was on the professional staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee while she was a counterpart on the House side, said he was not surprised that she quickly sized up the nuclear problem and attacked it head on.

"She is wise enough to know that you cannot fudge your way through a political problem if you don't solve it. It keeps coming back. The way she handled the ICBM problem was typical Debbie James," said Hamre, who also worked closely with James from 1993-97 when he was the Pentagon's budget chief and she was assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. Hamre, who later was deputy defense secretary, is now president and chief executive officer of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank.

James said she was surprised by the ICBM crisis, but not unprepared.

"Life comes at you fast and furious sometimes," she said with a grin.

<http://www.startribune.com/politics/national/266968641.html?page=all&prepage=1&c=y#continue>

[Return to Top](#)

The Kansas City Star – Kansas City, MO

## **B-2 Stealth Bomber, at Age 25, Slated for Major Upgrades**

By MATT CAMPBELL, *The Kansas City Star*

July 15, 2014

The most intimidating aircraft in the world is 25 years old this week and is about to become even more advanced.

The nation's fleet of B-2 stealth bombers, the pride of Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, is poised to get nearly \$10 billion in upgrades over the next several years to ensure it remains the most fearsome attack platform in the U.S arsenal.

The bat-winged aircraft first took to the sky on July 17, 1989. Its maker, Northrop Grumman Corp., is throwing a party for it on Thursday in Palmdale, Calif.

At Whiteman, about 70 miles southeast of Kansas City, the pilots and the people who maintain the B-2 are looking forward to upgrades to the aircraft's communications, avionics and other systems— even as the Air Force contemplates buying a whole new next-generation bomber.

If a newer, faster and possibly pilotless bomber comes into service in the mid-2020s, experts say the B-2 still will play a vital role in the nation's defense. In fact, the Air Force plans to keep it in service at least until 2058.

That is good news for west-central Missouri. The Air Force reports that Whiteman, which employs more than 7,600 people, had an economic impact on the region of more than \$650 million in 2013.

"I think the aircraft should be able to fly until 2058," said retired Col. Mel Deaile, who piloted the B-2 in combat missions over Afghanistan. "Its role will have to evolve, as well as the munitions it delivers will have to evolve, as threats evolve."

The current fleet of 20 B-2s has received incremental upgrades over the years. But Northrop last month was awarded a Defense Department contract capped at \$9.9 billion for even more improvements. It is a flexible order, but it apparently will include a new receiver designed to withstand the high-altitude electromagnetic pulse of a nuclear detonation, according to DoDBuzz.com, a defense and acquisition journal.

Whiteman invites the public on base about once a month. On Friday, the B-2 Spirit of Hawaii looked a bit over-exposed in the bright sun as school groups and others got a chance to get fairly close to a plane that is usually cloaked in secrecy.

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Three B-2 pilots gave The Star a glimpse of what it is like to fly the most specialized aircraft ever built.

"It's pretty easy, actually," said Ian Hart, a flight lieutenant with Britain's Royal Air Force in an exchange program at Whiteman. "It's designed with a good autopilot, so it can help you out. You're talking about being able to go anywhere in the world, and that takes a long time. ... So it's got to be designed around being relatively easy to fly."

Midair refueling by connecting to another aircraft, however, is tricky.

"You wouldn't want to ever do any damage, so you have to be very careful," Hart said.

Flying the B-2 is expensive, so air time for the pilots is limited. When they do exercise, they might stay over the Midwest or head to the western United States.

"It's very common for the average pilot to fly two or three times a month in that aircraft," said Maj. Matt Bruckner. "That is augmented with our simulator training, as well."

Pilots also keep their skills sharp by flying a T-38 supersonic trainer.

"Stick and rudder skills, we call them," said Maj. James Ashlock. "There's no autopilot. The T-38 was built in the '60s."

There are several women B-2 pilots, one of whom is currently a squadron commander at Whiteman.

Unlike fighter jets, there is room in a B-2 cockpit, barely, for a 6-foot pilot to stand up. There are two pilots on each mission so they can alternate napping on long hauls. There is a commode with a curtain for privacy.

"It's kind of like you're in a minivan and the seats behind the driver and the passenger are not there," said Bruckner.

### **From Cold War to Libya**

The B-2 is a legacy of the Cold War. It was designed to deliver as many as 16 nuclear bombs inside the Soviet Union by using stealth technology to evade its dense air defense systems.

The plane can't shoot to defend itself, but then it shouldn't need to. Its radar-deflecting skin is designed to let it sneak through hostile skies undetected.

But less than four months after its first test flight, the Berlin Wall came down. Two years later, the Soviet Union collapsed. Two years after that, the first B-2, the Spirit of Missouri, was delivered to the Air Force at Whiteman.

The original plan to build 132 of the planes was slashed to 21. One of them, the Spirit of Kansas, was destroyed in a crash on Guam in 2008.

Of the remaining 20, all but one are based at Whiteman, the home of the 509th Bomb Wing. The other one is at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

The newest B-2 is 17 years old, entering service in 1997. Each of the planes represents about \$2.2 billion in investment, and they are expensive to maintain because they are so specialized and there are so few of them. It takes an average of nine to 10 hours of maintenance work for every hour of B-2 flight time, according to the Whiteman public affairs office.

"It's inherently inefficient to maintain a small fleet," said Karl Mueller, an analyst at the RAND Corp., a global policy think tank.

The B-2 was in service for six years before it first saw action, in the 1999 Kosovo war. The bomber awed the world by flying nonstop from Missouri to the Balkans and back.

By then, the plane had been retrofitted to carry conventional weapons as well as nukes. It can deliver a wide range of bombs that can be satellite-guided to dozens of targets, avoiding the carpet-bombing technique and reducing collateral damage.

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The B-2 was the first American plane to enter Afghanistan airspace in October 2001, following the 9/11 attacks. Since then, it has been deployed in Iraq and Libya.

Deaile was the Air Force's Pilot of the Year in 2001 after flying the B-2 for a record-setting 44.3-hour combat mission from Whiteman over the Pacific Ocean and targets in Afghanistan before landing at the British base at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. Without even powering down its engines, the plane then flew another 30 hours home without any problems.

"It's an incredible aircraft to fly," said Deaile, now a professor at the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. "It's a well-designed, well-built, well-run aircraft."

But the vast majority of sorties flown by the B-2 have been through relatively benign enemy airspace, in which its stealth qualities were not essential.

"The B-2 is seriously overqualified for those purposes," said Stephen Biddle, a professor at George Washington University and an adjunct to the Council on Foreign Relations. "But we have them, and they have a very long range and a large payload and can deliver precision munitions, which means they can park over a battle.

"You paid the price to buy the airplane. You might as well use it."

The B-2 also is useful as a signal of the U.S. ability to project strength during tense periods. Two of the planes were sent to joint exercises with South Korea in March 2013 when North Korea was being particularly bellicose. Last month, two B-2s were sent to Europe against the backdrop of the crisis in Ukraine. The training missions were planned well in advance but the timing was opportune, nonetheless.

"That's the sort of thing that the sole remaining superpower does," said John Pike, director of GlobalSecurity.org, a military information website.

The B-2 is also the only stealth aircraft that can deliver the Massive Ordnance Penetrator, designed to destroy heavily fortified or underground targets, such as nuclear facilities. The B-2 can carry two of the 30,000-pound bombs.

"If we had to blow up Iran, it would be the delivery system of choice," said Pike.

### **Next generation**

The Air Force last week issued a request for proposals for the next generation of long-range bomber. It is expected to complement the B-2 rather than supplant it.

The next-generation bomber probably will be smaller and faster than the B-2 and take advantage of advances in stealth technology. It could cost \$550 million apiece. Mueller said the Air Force will want a new plane that is less expensive than the B-2 so that it can procure a larger number of them.

The long-range strike bomber may come with the option of being piloted or unmanned.

Pike said an unmanned successor to the B-2 would do away with crew fatigue. Those halfway-around-the-globe sorties from Missouri may have been impressive, but "that's a stunt, that's not a plan," he said.

Steven Bucci, an analyst at the Heritage Foundation, said drones are useful and their capabilities may improve, but "there are some decisions that have to be made on the spot, and the only way a pilot can adequately do that is to be in the cockpit that's flying over the target."

Deaile also thinks we will still need manned bombers, such as the B-2, for three reasons: command signals to drones could be hacked; the cost of a bomber is so great that you want a human at the controls; and humans need to be in the loop when nuclear weapons are involved.

With more than \$40 billion already invested and another \$10 billion coming, the B-2 remains the world's most advanced aircraft. Bucci thinks the cost has been worth it.

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“There is a certain level of investment a global power like us has to make in its war-making capability,” he said.

“The B-2 gives us a really potent ability to reach out anywhere in the world at any given time and touch someone with a lot of power, and that keeps the peace to a degree.”

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/government-politics/article728437.html>

[Return to Top](#)

Great Falls Tribune – Great Falls, MT

## **Malmstrom to Add 216 New Positions**

By Jenn Rowell, *Great Falls Tribune*

July 17, 2014

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

For Malmstrom Air Force Base, that means an additional 216 people.

Those positions will go into intercontinental ballistic missile operations, missile maintenance operations, security forces and operations and support for the 40th Helicopter Squadron.

The additional personnel were announced earlier this year, but the breakdown for Malmstrom wasn't available when Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Lt. Gen. Stephen Wilson, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command were in town on July 1.

Of the 1,100 new positions, Wilson said during his Great Falls visit that about 300 of those would be in security forces and about 50 missileers. Others will be involved in standing up a new helicopter operations group and some civilians.

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 its 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.

“These positions, coupled with a renewed focus on the Air Force’s nuclear enterprise, have provided a better quality of life for the airmen who operate some of the nation’s most important weapon systems,” said Col. Marné Deranger, 341st Missile Wing vice commander.

The need for more personnel in the nuclear community was identified through the Force Improvement Program that was established after an investigation into officers at Malmstrom cheating on their monthly proficiency tests.

“The program is looking at better ways of doing business and pushing decision-making responsibility down to the lowest levels,” Deranger said.

Some new measures established through FIP include incentive pay for airmen operating in the missile field, a service medal for ICBM airmen, bonus pay for airmen who successfully complete ICBM training and scholarships for ROTC cadets that choose the ICBM career field.

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

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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.

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 and computers.

<http://www.greatfallsribune.com/story/news/local/2014/07/17/malmstrom-add-new-positions/12778525/>

[Return to Top](#)

Reuters – U.S.

## **Pentagon Weighing Options for Missile Defense: Undersecretary Kendall**

Sunday, July 13, 2014

LONDON (Reuters) - The U.S. Defense Department hopes to fund a much more reliable kill vehicle, or warhead, for the homeland missile defense system run by Boeing Co, but final decisions will depend largely on cost, the Pentagon's top arms buyer said on Sunday.

"It's going at the end of the day to be a question of affordability," Defense Undersecretary Frank Kendall told reporters on the eve of the Farnborough airshow.

Kendall said decisions had not been finalized on whether to upgrade the existing kill vehicles, built by Raytheon Co, or start from scratch with a new design.

Raytheon, Lockheed Martin Corp and Boeing have all expressed interest in bidding for a new kill vehicle.

The U.S. military on June 22 carried out its first successful test since 2008 of the new kill vehicle that is used on 10 of 30 ground-based interceptors that have already been deployed. Twenty other interceptors carry an earlier version, which failed in an intercept test one year ago.

Kendall said the successful test marked "a very positive step that will us to move forward." He also praised the technical expertise of Vice Admiral James Syring, who heads the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency.

Kendall said he supported testing the initial common kill vehicle that is in place on 20 of 30 kill vehicles, as well as more regular testing of such systems in general to shore up confidence in the system.

"Right now we're moving in the direction of a much more reliable kill vehicle, but how far we're going to go in that direction, ... and the exact form that's going to take, isn't final yet," he said.

Kendall said a successful June 22 missile defense test was encouraging and would help shore up the program.

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Boeing, prime contractor for the program, said there was a lot of activity going on about how to move forward with a new kill vehicle, and the prime contract for managing the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system, but it was not clear when a new deal could be signed.

*Reporting by Andrea Shalal; Editing by Steve Orlofsky*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/14/us-airshow-britain-missiledefense-idUSKBN0FJ01320140714>

[Return to Top](#)

Watertown Daily Times – Watertown, NY

## **Military Outlines Potential Missile Site for Fort Drum, Opens Public Comment Period**

By GORDON BLOCK, Times Staff Writer

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

The Missile Defense Agency will launch an environmental impact survey of Fort Drum and other installations as it reviews potential locations for an East Coast missile defense site.

If an Eastern site is deemed necessary, the listing said, the site, modeled after Fort Greely, Alaska, would consist of an initial deployment of 20 ground-based interceptors with the ability to expand to 60 interceptors.

The listing said that the interceptors would not be fired from their deployment site “except in the nation’s defense” and no test firing would occur.

Among the impacts to be researched are to the area’s air quality, airspace, culture, geology and soils, health and safety, land use, noise, water quality and aesthetic.

The agency also opened a public comment period and committed to holding a meeting this summer in Carthage about the possibility of a missile site placement.

The agency’s study following a directive from Congress to study Eastern locations. A notice about the study was published in the Federal Register on Wednesday.

Other sites under consideration for missile placement are Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center, Ohio; Naval Air Station Portsmouth SERE Training Area, Maine, and Fort Custer Training Center, Mich.

America’s other standing missile defense site is Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

The agency said it will put out a public notice about a Carthage meeting, to be held between July and September, closer to when it is scheduled.

Advocates of a new missile site say such a placement is necessary to protect from attacks from North Korea and Iran, while opponents question the high cost of the system, and a questionable accuracy record.

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20140716/NEWS03/140719059>

[Return to Top](#)

ITAR-TASS News Agency – Moscow, Russia

## **Russian Lawmakers Propose to Suspend New START Treaty**

*As a response to the expansion of US sanctions Russian lawmakers offered to revise the New START Treaty, the terms of the Afghan transit and suspend them*

July 17, 2014

MOSCOW, July 17. /ITAR-TASS/. Members of the State Duma lower house of Russia’s parliament have proposed as a response to the expansion of US sanctions against Russia to unilaterally suspend the Treaty on Measures for the

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Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START) and the agreement on the Afghan transit.

“It is necessary to negotiate with the Americans only from the position of strength. We should revise the New START Treaty, the terms of the Afghan transit and suspend them. It is necessary to look for various options, revise the most sensitive for the United States issues of our bilateral relations,” first deputy head of the house international affairs committee Leonid Kalashnikov told ITAR-TASS. “Ukraine is only a link in the chain of America’s anti-Russian policy. Sanctions would have been adopted in any case, even if Russia had built a wall around the Ukrainian border.”

The Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START) was signed in April 2010 and came into force in February 2011. Its term is 10 years. Under the terms of the treaty, the number of strategic nuclear missile launchers is to be reduced by half. The treaty limits the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads to 1,550, which is down nearly two-thirds from the original START treaty, as well as 10% lower than the deployed strategic warhead limit of the 2002 Moscow Treaty.

The total number of deployed warheads, however, could exceed the 1,550 limit by a few hundred because per bomber only one warhead is counted regardless of how many it actually carries. It also limits the number of deployed and non-deployed inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM) launchers, submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) launchers, and heavy bombers equipped for nuclear armaments to 800.

The number of deployed ICBMs, SLBMs, and heavy bombers equipped for nuclear armaments is limited to 700. The treaty allows for satellite and remote monitoring, as well as 18 on-site inspections per year to verify limits.

NATO co-operation with Russia on Afghanistan, including on the transit of cargoes for NATO forces through the Russian territory was suspended until June. According to available data, NATO has offered Azerbaijan some new platform for co-operation in the transit of cargoes for the international coalition forces in Afghanistan.

<http://en.itar-tass.com/world/741087>

[Return to Top](#)

The New York Times – New York, NY

## **C.D.C. Shuts Labs after Accidents with Pathogens**

By DONALD G. McNEIL, Jr.

July 12, 2014

Page – A1

After potentially serious back-to-back laboratory accidents, federal health officials announced Friday that they had temporarily closed the flu and anthrax laboratories at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and halted shipments of all infectious agents from the agency’s highest-security labs.

The accidents, and the C.D.C.’s emphatic response to them, could have important consequences for the many laboratories that store high-risk agents and the few that, even more controversially, specialize in making them more dangerous for research purposes.

If the C.D.C. — which the agency’s director, Dr. Thomas Frieden, called “the reference laboratory to the world” — had multiple accidents that could, in theory, have killed both staff members and people outside, there will undoubtedly be calls for stricter controls on other university, military and private laboratories.

In one episode last month, at least 62 C.D.C. employees may have been exposed to live anthrax bacteria after potentially infectious samples were sent to laboratories unequipped to handle them. Employees not wearing protective gear worked with bacteria that were supposed to have been killed but may not have been. All were offered a vaccine and antibiotics, and the agency said it believed no one was in danger.

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In a second accident, disclosed Friday, a C.D.C. lab accidentally contaminated a relatively benign flu sample with a dangerous H5N1 bird flu strain that has killed 386 people since 2003. Fortunately, a United States Agriculture Department laboratory realized that the strain was more dangerous than expected and alerted the C.D.C.

In addition to those mistakes, Dr. Frieden also announced Friday that two of six vials of smallpox recently found stored in a National Institutes of Health laboratory since 1954 contained live virus capable of infecting people.

All the samples will be destroyed as soon as the genomes of the virus in them can be sequenced. The N.I.H. will scour its freezers and storerooms for other dangerous material, he said.

"These events revealed totally unacceptable behavior," Dr. Frieden said. "They should never have happened. I'm upset, I'm angry, I've lost sleep over this, and I'm working on it until the issue is resolved."

The anthrax and flu labs will remain closed until new procedures are imposed, Dr. Frieden said. For the flu lab, that will be finished in time for vaccine preparation for next winter's flu season, he said.

Dr. William Schaffner, the head of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University's medical school, said he thought all American labs should stop shipping all hazardous agents until they have reviewed their safety procedures. Although there is no obvious way to force them to do that, he said, the federal grants that most labs depend on "could be the stick."

Dr. Frieden himself suggested that the accidents had implications for labs beyond his agency, arguing that the world needs to reduce to absolute minimums the number of labs handling dangerous agents, the number of staff members involved and the number of agents circulating.

Scientists doing the most controversial work — efforts to make pathogens more lethal or more transmissible — say the research helps predict mutations that might arise in nature so that vaccines can be created. But other scientists feel that creating superstrains is unacceptably dangerous because lab accidents are more common than is often acknowledged, as Dr. Frieden's announcement indicated.

The revelations at the C.D.C. renewed calls for a moratorium by opponents of such "gain of function" research.

"This has been a nonstop series of bombshells, and this news about contamination with H5N1 is just incredible," said Peter Hale, founder of the Foundation for Vaccine Research, which lobbies for more funding for vaccines but opposes "gain of function" research. "You can have all the safety procedures in the world, but you can't provide for human error."

At the C.D.C. itself, Dr. Frieden said, staff members who knowingly failed to follow procedures or who failed to report dangerous incidents will be disciplined. A committee of experts will be convened to revise procedures.

In the flu-related incident, a C.D.C. lab accidentally contaminated a sample of less-dangerous H9N2 bird flu, which it was preparing for shipment to an Agriculture Department laboratory, with the H5N1 bird flu strain.

Though the contamination was discovered on May 23, Dr. Frieden said that he was dismayed to discover that senior C.D.C. officials were not informed until July 7, and that he was told only 48 hours ago.

Nonetheless, he said, "we have a high degree of confidence that no one was exposed." The flu material was handled in high-biosafety-level labs in both agencies, and the workers wore breathing apparatuses.

In theory, the flu-related accident could have been much worse than the anthrax one.

Anthrax can kill those who inhale it, but is not normally transmitted between humans, so an infected laboratory worker presumably could not have gone home and passed it on. H5N1 bird flu has killed about 60 percent of those known to have caught it, almost always after contact with poultry. Although it does not easily jump from person to person, it is thought to have done so several times.

The anthrax episode took place on June 5 in the agency's bioterrorism rapid response lab as part of testing a new mass spectrometry method.

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The new C.D.C. report found several errors: A scientist used a dangerous anthrax strain when a safer one would have sufficed, had not read relevant studies and used an unapproved chemical killing method.

The error was discovered by accident. The door to an autoclave that would have sterilized samples taken for safety tests was stuck, so they were left in an incubator for days longer than normal. Only then did a lab technician notice that bacteria believed to be dead were growing.

Later tests done at the C.D.C. and at a Michigan State Health Department lab as part of the investigation confirmed that the chemical method would have killed any live, growing anthrax in the samples that were sent out, but might not have killed all spores, which are surrounded by a hard shell and can also be lethal.

Although anthrax terrifies laymen, “when you work with it day in and day out, you can get a little careless,” Dr. Frieden said. “The culture of safety needs to improve at some C.D.C. laboratories.”

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/12/science/cdc-closes-anthrax-and-flu-labs-after-accidents.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/12/science/cdc-closes-anthrax-and-flu-labs-after-accidents.html?_r=1)

[Return to Top](#)

U.S. Air Force.mil – Washington, D.C.

## **AF Moves Forward with Future Bomber**

By Ed Gulick, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

July 12, 2014

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The U.S. Air Force released its Long Range Strike Bomber, or LRS-B, request for proposal to industry July 9 with a contract award expected in spring 2015.

The new bomber is a top modernization priority for the Air Force and will provide the United States with the option to hold any target at risk at any point around the world.

“The LRS-B will be an adaptable and highly-capable system based upon mature technology,” said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. “We have established an achievable and stable set of requirements that should make this capability a hallmark for the future. We’ve set a realistic target cost for the system and have a procurement strategy which allows us to affordably field a new bomber fleet. The program’s strategy will ensure we get the best possible deal for the taxpayer.”

The new bomber will be a long-range, air-refuelable, highly survivable aircraft with significant nuclear and conventional stand-off and direct-attack weapons payload. The LRS-B will provide operational flexibility across a wide range of military operations.

"The long range strike bomber will be essential to our ability to win a full-spectrum conflict in the future.

It is a must-have capability," said Air Force Chief of Staff General Mark Welsh.

The Air Force plans to purchase 80-100 LRS-B aircraft at a \$550 million average unit procurement cost in base year 2010 dollars with an initial capability in the mid-2020s.

A request for proposal, or RFP, defines a future contract’s requirements and informs industry on how to respond in their proposals. Release of the RFP precedes competitive selection based on contractor proposals.

<http://www.af.mil/News/ArticleDisplay/tabid/223/Article/486167/af-moves-forward-with-future-bomber.aspx>

[Return to Top](#)

Atlanta Journal-Constitution – Atlanta, GA

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

## **300 Vials Labeled Influenza, Dengue Found at Lab**

By MATTHEW PERRONE, Associated Press (AP)

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WASHINGTON — The same federal scientist who recently found forgotten samples of smallpox at a federal lab also uncovered over 300 additional vials, many bearing the names of highly contagious viruses and bacteria.

Food and Drug Administration officials said Wednesday the undocumented collection contained 327 carefully packaged vials, listing pathogens like dengue, influenza and rickettsia. Last week the government only disclosed that it had recovered six glass vials of smallpox dating from the 1950s.

The new revelations raise serious concerns about the government's ability to secure its collections of potentially deadly pathogens.

"The reasons why these samples went unnoticed for this long is something we're actively trying to understand," said FDA deputy director for biologics Dr. Peter Marks.

The samples, including those labeled smallpox, were found in 12 boxes in a corner of a cold storage room at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, that has been used by the Food and Drug Administration since 1972. FDA officials estimate the collection was assembled between 1946 and 1964 by government scientists.

"The fact that these materials were not discovered until now is unacceptable," said Karen Midthun, of FDA's director for biologics. "However, upon finding these materials our staff did the right thing — they immediately notified the appropriate authorities who secured the materials and determined there was no exposure."

FDA scientists said they have not yet confirmed whether the newly disclosed vials actually contained the pathogens listed on their labels. The agency is conducting a nationwide search of all cold storage units for any other missing samples.

Investigators destroyed 32 vials containing tissue samples and a non-contagious virus related to smallpox. Several unlabeled vials were sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for testing and the remaining 279 samples were shipped to the Department of Homeland Security for safekeeping. FDA officials said there is no evidence anyone was exposed to any of the agents, which were packed in heat-sealed glass vials with no signs of leakage.

The finding of freeze-dried smallpox samples was disturbing because smallpox was declared eradicated in 1980, and world health authorities said the only known samples left were safely stored in super-secure laboratories in Atlanta and in Russia.

It was the second recent incident in which a U.S. government health agency appeared to have mishandled a highly dangerous biologic agent. Last month, scores of employees at the CDC in Atlanta were feared exposed to anthrax because of a laboratory safety lapse. The CDC began giving them antibiotics as a precaution.

In separate congressional testimony Wednesday, CDC director Dr. Tom Frieden acknowledged that systemic safety problems have for years plagued federal public health laboratories that handle dangerous germs such as anthrax and bird flu. Frieden added that his agency had long thought of the lapses as unrelated accidents.

<http://www.ajc.com/ap/ap/top-news/300-vials-labeled-influenza-dengue-found-at-lab/nggzd/>

[Return to Top](#)

National Journal – Washington, D.C.

## **U.S.-China Nuclear Security Exchanges Hampered by Lingering Suspicions**

By Rachel Oswald  
July 17, 2014

Years after Washington accused China of nuclear espionage, the subject of resuming laboratory-to-laboratory exchanges among scientists remains a sensitive one.

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It has been 15 years since a congressional committee accused China of advancing its nuclear weapons program in the 1980s and 1990s by stealing thermonuclear warhead designs from the United States. And 14 years have passed since the FBI's espionage case against former Los Alamos physicist Wen Ho Lee collapsed and he was released from jail.

For at least one expert, that is enough time for the United States to now consider resuming nuclear laboratory exchanges with China in order to assist the latter country in improving its nuclear security practices. In an online post published last week by the *National Interest*, Hui Zhang, a physicist and expert on China's nuclear arms policies, argues that bilateral laboratory exchanges conducted from 1995 to 1998 should continue, beginning with "less sensitive activities that are identified as mutually beneficial."

The lab-to-lab program was canceled in the aftermath of allegations made in 1999 by a U.S. House select committee led by then-Representative Christopher Cox (R-Calif.) that China was using the scientific exchanges to pilfer classified nuclear weapons information.

In recent years, reports have surfaced that the Energy Department was contemplating restarting the laboratory contacts as a means of building two-way understanding about each side's nuclear arms policy.

Currently, Washington and the Chinese government are jointly funding the construction of a nuclear-security training center in Beijing that is to focus on combating the illicit trafficking of atomic substances and technologies in the region. Last week, U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz discussed the issue of reducing the use of highly enriched uranium in research reactors with the head of China's Atomic Energy Authority.

At the same time, concern has been rising in the United States about cyber espionage committed by Chinese hackers. Last year, a Defense Department advisory board alleged that cyber attackers from China had gained access to the design plans for a number of U.S. ballistic missile defense systems. And a Pentagon report revealed a notable increase in recent years in the amount of military cyber espionage -- understood to originate from the Asia-Pacific region -- on radiation-hardened electronics. So-called "rad-hard" technologies have applications in nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

Beijing officially denies ordering digital intrusions against the networks of U.S. defense companies and government agencies. Chinese officials have argued Washington is being hypocritical in its allegations, given recent revelations by former U.S. intelligence contractor Edward Snowden about widespread National Security Agency electronic spying.

Still, Zhang, a senior researcher at Harvard University's Project on Managing the Atom, recommends that nuclear laboratory contacts be restarted. He'd like to see them begin with comprehensive bilateral discussions on best practices for remote monitoring of nuclear warheads, tracking and observation of fissile-material shipments, and safeguarding atomic arsenals. If these exchanges proceed smoothly, he proposes that, "based on the experience from U.S.-Russian cooperation, China and the United States may consider mutual visits and joint work at selected key sites."

For other researchers, such as Michael Auslin of the American Enterprise Institute, reinvigorating nuclear laboratory contacts with China is a dangerous proposition.

"Resuming nuclear laboratory cooperation with China ... is a terrible idea," Auslin, an expert on U.S.-Asia relations, wrote in an email response to questions from *Global Security Newswire*. "It sounds like it would be a good way to promote trust and best practices, but in reality has the high likelihood of becoming a Trojan Horse whereby the Chinese gain sensitive, if not vital, information about how we protect against threats and evaluate our nuclear programs."

Auslin found particularly objectionable Zhang's recommendation that Chinese specialists be allowed to observe "force-on-force" exercises at U.S. civilian atomic sites that are designed to assess a nuclear power operator's ability to protect sensitive materials from theft or disturbance by potential intruders. To do so "is an invitation to give away our deepest plans for defense of nuclear facilities," he said.

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Lora Saalman, an associate professor at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, said she found some of Zhang's recommendations for best-practice exchanges worth exploring. But she argued that, at present, the suggestions appeared to be more beneficial to China than to the United States. To get backing from the U.S. government and policymakers, a stronger case should be made on how resuming the laboratory contacts would be good for the United States, she said in an email.

"To my understanding, there is already some momentum in U.S. official channels to re-start the lab-to-lab exchanges, but there has been longstanding reluctance on the Chinese side," which has previously demanded an official apology for the allegations made in the Cox report, Saalman said.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/global-security-newswire/u-s-china-nuclear-security-exchanges-hampered-by-lingering-suspicions-20140717>

[Return to Top](#)

The Korea Herald – Seoul, South Korea

## Reprocessing Plant to Give Japan Enough Plutonium for 2,000 Bombs a Year: US Expert

July 12, 2014

Japan would be able to produce enough plutonium to make about 2,000 atomic bombs a year if a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in the country's northeast goes into operation, a U.S. nuclear nonproliferation expert has warned.

Henry Sokolski, executive director at the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, made the remark during a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing Thursday, warning the opening of the Japanese reprocessing plant could prompt South Korea and China to take action in response.

Sokolski said it is "insulting to Seoul" and "reckless" for the U.S. government to allow Japan to reprocess nuclear fuel while banning South Korea from doing so through a bilateral nuclear cooperation agreement. Sokolski urged Congress to demand that the U.S. government renegotiate its nuclear cooperation pact with Tokyo.

The Rokkasho Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Facility in the northeast prefecture of Aomori had originally been planned to begin operation in October last year, but its opening was delayed due to new safety regulations. Its operator said the plant would be ready for operation in October this year.

"If Japan ever decided to open its large reprocessing plant at Rokkasho, it would be producing roughly 2,000 bombs' worth of nuclear weapons-usable plutonium a year," Sokolski said. "This would almost certainly prompt South Korea to initiate nuclear enrichment or reprocessing of their own as a hedge or weapons option."

Sokolski said China could also take action in response, and whatever action it takes would "likely challenge not only Japan's and South Korea's security, but our own treaty commitment to defend our Asian allies." (Yonhap)

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20140712000053>

[Return to Top](#)

The Japan News – Tokyo, Japan

## N. Korea Fires Missiles for 3rd Time in 2 Weeks

Jiji Press

July 13, 2014

SEOUL (Jiji Press)—The South Korean Ministry of National Defense said Sunday that North Korea had fired two short-range ballistic missiles, believed to be Scuds, into the Sea of Japan earlier in the day.

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The missiles were launched from a location near Kaesong in southern North Korea between 1:20 a.m. and 1:30 a.m., according to the ministry. They flew about 500 kilometers northeast and fell into the sea, according to the report.

Japan's Defense Ministry made a similar announcement. There has been no report of damage, the ministry said. Japanese and South Korean authorities are on the alert for another possible missile launch by the reclusive state.

North Korea is believed to be targeting Scud missiles at South Korea. It is rare for Pyongyang to launch the missiles from a place close to Kaesong, which is near the border with South Korea.

Pyongyang apparently demonstrated the missiles could reach a wide range into South Korea.

On Saturday, North Korea's National Defense Commission slammed a visit by the U.S. aircraft carrier USS George Washington to Busan, South Korea.

The aircraft carrier is to participate in joint military exercises by the United States and South Korea from Wednesday and joint maritime rescue drills by Japan, the United States and South Korea on July 21-22.

The communist nation may thus have shown its opposition to these events with Sunday's missile launch.

It fired two short-range missiles from a location on its Sea of Japan coast on June 29 and another two from a southern place last Wednesday. These were also believed to be Scud missiles.

In Tokyo on Sunday, the government lodged a protest against North Korea through the embassy in Beijing, emphasizing that the launch runs counter to U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe instructed government agencies to gather and analyze information in cooperation with nations concerned, such as the United States and South Korea.

Abe also called for ensuring the safety of operations of aircraft and ships and providing the public with necessary information immediately and accurately.

The prime minister told reporters that he has instructed government agencies to take all possible measures.

He said, however, that the missile launch will not affect Japan's efforts through talks with North Korea to solve the issue of Japanese nationals abducted by the communist nation.

Japan will urge North Korea to proceed with its reinvestigation of abducted Japanese in accordance with the recent bilateral agreement, Abe said.

Since North Korea has test-fired missiles more frequently since late June, with Sunday's launch following one Wednesday, the government is carefully analyzing the North Korean side's intentions, officials said.

<http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0001421752>

[Return to Top](#)

Want China Times – Taipei, Taiwan

## **China May Be First Buyer of Russian S-400 Missile Defense System**

Staff Reporter

July 14, 2014

China may be the first buyer of Russia's S-400 missile defense system, Sergei Ivanov, the Kremlin's chief of staff, was reported as saying on July 10 by the Voice of Russia.

The chance that China may be the first foreign buyer of S-400s are high, Ivanov said, though he did not provide further details of a contract.

The S-400 Triumph, the new-generation long and medium-range anti-aircraft missile system upgraded from the S-300, was developed by Almaz Central Design Bureau and passed testing in April 2004. The system is capable of

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countering all existing air attack weapons, including tactical and strategic aircraft, ballistic missiles and hypersonic targets. With a range of 2,400 kilometers, the S-400 can engage up to 36 targets simultaneously at altitudes of five meters to 30,000 meters.

The S-400 is currently in limited service in Russia but several countries including Egypt, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Vietnam, Armenia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Serbia have also expressed interest in purchasing the system.

If a contract were to be signed for China to buy the system, it would still take a number of years for the deal to be completed, Ivanov said, however. "It all depends on the deadline you have in mind. Firstly, it is realistic; secondly, it is unrealistic in the nearest historical perspective, this cannot be done in one step."

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20140714000069&cid=1101>

[Return to Top](#)

Korea JoongAng Daily – Seoul, South Korea

## **Kim Supervises North's Launches, Photos Show**

July 16, 2014

North Korea showed detailed photos yesterday of Kim Jong-un directing rocket launches from a site close to the South in an apparent act of defiance.

Satellite imagery and photos released by state media show the rockets were fired several kilometers north of a popular South Korean tourist observatory near the inter-Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

The roar of rockets and the burning trails from the Soviet-era projectiles on Monday could be seen rising from clouds of smoke between mountains on the North Korean side, footage filmed by staff members at the observatory and obtained by Reuters showed.

It was not immediately clear why North Korea conducted drills so close to the border, but state media has in recent days called the presence of a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier in South Korea a "sinister interference."

"They know South Korean officials will report their missile launches so they've decided to seize the initiative and announce it themselves," said Michael Madden, an expert on the North Korean leadership.

North Korea routinely fires short-range missiles or rockets into waters off its east and west coasts, but state media rarely show Kim supervising drills so close to South Korea, and has only in recent weeks shown the young leader present at short-range ballistic missile and rocket launches.

Kim personally gave the order to launch the rocket barrage, according to the North's main mouthpiece, the Rodong Sinmun, suggesting his growing confidence in executing actions that infuriate the South.

"North Korea fired from a position very close to the DMZ. It represents such a threat to South Korea that even our civilian tourists were able to witness columns of water caused by North Korean shells landing in the sea," South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok said at a news briefing.

"Our government takes the firm stance that we will mercilessly retaliate if North Korea fires missiles or artillery south of the DMZ."

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=2992083&cloc=rss%7Cnews%7Cjoongangdaily>

[Return to Top](#)

The London Daily Telegraph – London, U.K.

## **Nasa is Making Britain's Nuclear Weapons More Expensive**

*Cost of rocket fuel for Trident missiles spikes after the US ends the space shuttle programme*

By Raf Sanchez, Washington

15 July 2014

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Nasa's decision to end the US space shuttle programme has inadvertently caused a spike in the cost of rocket fuel used for Britain's Trident nuclear missiles.

Both the space shuttle and the nuclear-tipped weapon rely on booster engines containing a powerful form of solid rocket fuel because liquid fuels are too dangerous to store in the confined quarters of a submarine.

Nasa was the the largest consumer of solid rocket fuel, buying around 70 per cent of all propellant made in the US. Launching a single shuttle into orbit required the fuel equivalent of around 20 Trident missiles.

When Nasa brought the shuttle programme to an end in 2011 after nearly four decades of flight it left American fuel companies desperately short of customers. As a result, fuel prices for the US military spiked by around 80 per cent, rising from £6.3 million to £11.2 million in a single year.

Hundreds of Trident missiles are bought in bulk by the US military, of which 58 are given to the UK under terms of a 1982 agreement struck between Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan.

Britain will decide in 2016 whether to renew the Trident system at a cost of more than £20 billion. While the surge in fuel prices would be only a small portion of the overall cost of renewing Trident, the rising costs have caused alarm in the US.

The American military is currently buying 12 missiles a year, the bare minimum to keep the solid rocket fuel industry from collapsing for lack of business.

Vice Admiral Terry Benedict, director of the US Navy's Strategic Systems Programmes, warned that the lack of demand was putting strain on "already-fragile industry".

The US Navy is pinning its hopes of propping up the industry on Nasa committing to solid fuel boosters once more when it begins the Space Launch System, a successor to the shuttle, in 2017.

"Nasa is a very important player and what they choose to do matters to everyone else," said one defence industry executive.

A spokeswoman for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said problems with the US solid fuel industry were having "no impact" on Britain's nuclear deterrent and were not affecting plans to continue using Trident.

"The US has supplied the UK with solid fuel powered missiles for over 40 years with an excellent safety and reliability record. The UK also has a sufficient pool of Trident missiles to meet our needs for decades to come," she said.

Privately, an MoD official acknowledged the issues in the solid fuel industry but said it was up to the Americans to address the problem.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/defence/10967429/Nasa-is-making-Britains-nuclear-weapons-more-expensive.html>

[Return to Top](#)

ITAR-TASS News Agency – Moscow, Russia

## **Russia Creates Anti-Ballistic Control Arc along its Border**

*Missile attack warning stations Voronezh-DM in Krasnoyarsk and Altai territories will be fifth and sixth among similar radar stations, which will be deployed along Russian borders to control space*

July 17, 2014

MOSCOW, July 17. /ITAR-TASS/. Voronezh-DM new radar station of the missile attack warning system will be put on trial combat duty in the area of the city of Yeniseisk in East Siberia's Krasnoyarsk territory before the end of this year, Commander of Aerospace Defense Troops Lieutenant General Alexander Golovko said during an inspection of military formations of the Space Command of Aerospace Defense Troops deployed in Krasnoyarsk territory on Thursday.

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Voronezh-DM highly prefabricated radar station of the missile attack warning system will be also put on trial combat alert duty in West Siberia's Altai territory this year, the general said on Wednesday.

Missile attack warning stations Voronezh-DM in Krasnoyarsk and Altai territories will be fifth and sixth among similar radar stations, which will be deployed along Russian borders to control space, lands and water surface to avert a sudden launch of strategic missiles of a probable enemy on Russian territory. Before this similar radar stations have already been brought into service in the settlement of Lekhtusi outside the Russian northern capital of St. Petersburg, westernmost Kaliningrad region, near the city of Armavir in southern Russia's Krasnodar territory and near the city of Usolye-Sibirskoye in East Siberia's Irkutsk region.

For instance, Irkutsk radar station controls the aerospace area with a 6,000-kilometre radius on a 120-degree curve. The radar station monitors Japan, the whole territory of China, both Koreas, Vietnam, the Indochinese peninsula, the Bay of Bengal in the Indian Ocean and a large part of India. This is only the first segment of this station. A second segment is to be put into operation in 12-18 months. It will be controlling one more arc at the same range and with the same field of view. But now almost the whole central and northern part of the Pacific, including the US West Coast.

All missile launches from this territory will be immediately detected by satellites of the space control system and the information about a launch will be transmitted to the early missile warning radar station. The electronic computer system of the radar station will calculate a missile flight trajectory, the place of its dropping and will transmit this information to Moscow, to the Central Command Post of Aerospace Defense Troops in Moscow regional town of Solnechnogorsk. And then after a report to the president and his order a decision will be taken for further actions, if a missile poses a threat to security of Russia and its population - to intercept an attacking missile, deliver a retaliatory strike or a retaliatory counter-strike. Meanwhile, all this should be done in few minutes. If a probable enemy is aware of such Russian combat capabilities, he will hardly dare to take such a thoughtless action, the military affirm.

Voronezh-M is a unique radar station with a huge potential to build up combat capabilities which became another development in resolving strategic tasks which the Supreme Commander-in-Chief had set, Designer-General of the new radar station and the Russian domestic missile attack warning system Sergey Boyev said. It plays a key role in the missile attack warning system. This radar station can detect, track down and classify modern and promising aerospace attack weapons and will operate for information support to resolve the tasks of deterrence of missile strikes on Russia and higher effectiveness of retaliatory actions of Russian armed forces. Jointly with space control satellites it can detect launches of strategic ballistic missiles, medium-and short-range missiles, as well as cruise missiles and different aircrafts starting from strategic bombers to fighters. Give targeting orders on these targets to decision-making posts. In concrete, to firing radar station Don-2N which protects the space over central Russia as well as air defense missiles systems S-300, S-400 and promising air defence missile system S-500.

<http://en.itar-tass.com/russia/741159>

[Return to Top](#)

Khaleej Times – Dubai, U.A.E.

## **No Iran Breakthrough with Kerry in Vienna**

*The dispute over Iran's enrichment programme appeared to be defying the Western foreign ministers' combined diplomatic muscle.*

Associated Press (AP)

13 July 2014

Joint efforts by US Secretary of State John Kerry and three other Western foreign ministers failed on Sunday to advance faltering nuclear talks with Iran, with the target date for a deal only a week away.

"There has been no breakthrough today," said British Foreign Secretary William Hague after meetings with Kerry and the foreign ministers of France, Germany and Iran.

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The trip gave Kerry a chance to ease an espionage dispute with Germany. After meeting with German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, both stressed the importance of their cooperation in solving global crises, yet offered little indication they have fully mended ties.

Separately, Kerry spoke by telephone with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about the escalating Mideast violence. Like the others, he also met with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

“We’re working, we’re working, we just got here,” said Kerry, chiding reporters asking about progress as Sunday’s meetings wound down.

But the dispute over Iran’s enrichment programme appeared to be defying the Western foreign ministers’ combined diplomatic muscle.

Tehran says it needs to expand enrichment to make reactor fuel but the US fears Tehran could steer the activity toward manufacturing the core of nuclear missiles. The US wants deep enrichment cuts; Iran wants to greatly expand enrichment.

“There is a huge gap” over enrichment, said Hague, in comments echoed by the other foreign ministers.

Steinmeier and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius left on Sunday, a few hours after they arrived.

Kerry and Hague stayed on for another day of diplomacy. Still, the dispute and other differences strongly indicated that six world powers and Tehran will need to continue negotiations until July 20 and could decide to extend their talks past that informal deadline for a deal.

Such an agreement would buy time to negotiate a pact limiting the scope of such programs in exchange for a full end to nuclear-related sanctions against Tehran.

“Obviously we have some very significant gaps still, so we need to see if we can make some progress,” Kerry told reporters before a meeting with European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, who is convening the talks.

“It is vital to make certain that Iran is not going to develop nuclear weapons, that their programme is peaceful. That’s what we are here trying to achieve.”

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said “positions are still far apart,” and the ministers had come to “try to narrow differences.”

Steinmeier said he and other Western foreign ministers had made clear in meetings with Iranian officials that “the ball is Iran’s court.”

“It is now time for Iran to decide whether they want cooperation with the world community or stay in isolation,” he told reporters.

The show of Western unity notwithstanding, Kerry’s presence was most important. With the most significant disputes between Washington and Tehran, his visit gave him a chance to discuss them directly with Zarif.

Lower-ranking officials represented both Russia and China, possibly reflecting their view even before Sunday that talks past July 20 are unavoidable.

But Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi suggested any extension would be relatively short, saying “there is not much willingness” by either side to go a full six months. He, too, earlier spoke of “huge and deep differences.”

Kerry arrived in Vienna after a diplomatic bounce in Afghanistan, where he persuaded rival presidential candidates to agree to a full audit of their recent runoff election. They also agreed to a power-sharing arrangement.

But the nuclear dispute could prove harder to solve.

Iranian hardliners oppose almost any concession by moderate President Hasan Rohani’s government. In the US, Republicans and Democrats have threatened to scuttle any emerging agreement because it would allow Iran to maintain some enrichment capacity.

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Outside the negotiation, regional rivals of Iran, including Israel and Saudi Arabia, are extremely skeptical of any arrangement they feel would allow the Islamic republic to escape international pressure while moving closer to the nuclear club.

An interim deal in January effectively froze Iran's program, with world powers providing sanctions relief to Tehran of about \$7 billion. The two sides also agreed to a six-month extension past July 20 for negotiations to reach a comprehensive deal if necessary.

Kerry also spoke on Sunday with the three European foreign ministers about worsening violence in the Middle East, with each likely to push harder than the American for a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas.

Fabius said a cease-fire "is the absolute priority."

Kerry did not directly address German-US tensions caused by revelations about widespread American spying in Germany. "We are great friends," he told reporters, extolling the "enormous" importance of cooperation on the world stage between Washington and Berlin.

Steinmeier was more direct. Calling good bilateral relations "indispensable," he acknowledged recent "difficulties" and urged that relations "revive on the basis of trust and mutual respect."

[http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2014/July/middleeast\\_July123.xml&section=middleeast](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2014/July/middleeast_July123.xml&section=middleeast)

[Return to Top](#)

Al Arabiya News – Dubai, U.A.E.

## **Iran FM: 'Trust is a Two-Way Street' in Nuclear Talks**

Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Sunday, 13 July 2014

Washington -- Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Sunday just days ahead of a deadline for a nuclear deal that "trust is a two-way street" demanding good faith on all sides.

And in a second tweet posted on his official Twitter account, he added: "I won't engage in blame games or spin. Not my style. What I will engage in is a sincere effort to come to an agreement. I expect the same" from the world powers negotiating with Iran in Vienna.

Zarif's comments came several hours after U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Austria for the final round of the P5+1 negotiations, telling reporters that significant gaps remain in the talks.

Kerry said: "We need to see if we can make some progress ... it is vital to make certain that Iran is not going to develop a nuclear weapon, that their program is peaceful."

Iran has always denied that it is pursuing a nuclear bomb. Zarif's comments seemed aimed at reiterating the Islamic republic's position that its atomic program is for peaceful energy purposes only.

His first tweet said: "We're able to make history by this time next Sunday. Trust is a two-way street. Concerns of all sides must be addressed to reach a deal."

Before his tweets, some of Zarif's comments on the talks were made in a television interview due to be broadcast Sunday.

"I will commit to everything and anything that would provide credible assurances for the international community that Iran is not seeking nuclear weapons, because we are not," Zarif told NBC's "Meet the Press" from Vienna, where the talks are taking place.

"We don't see any benefit in Iran developing a nuclear weapon."

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Zarif rejected “calculations” suggesting the Shiite country would seek to develop nuclear weapons to guard itself against its Sunni neighbors.

“We need to go out of our way in order to convince our neighbors that we want to live in peace and tranquility with them,” he said.

“The politics of geography -- the fact that we’re bigger, the fact that we’re stronger, that we’re more populous, the fact that we have a better technology, the fact that our human resources is by far more developed than most of our neighbors -- all of these provide us with inherent areas of strength that we don’t need to augment with other capabilities.”

Calling the principle of nuclear deterrence “simply mad,” the foreign minister insisted that Pakistan was not considered stronger than Iran simply because it has nuclear weapons.

**‘Simply mad’**

“The fact that everybody in the international community believes that mutual assured destruction -- that is the way the United States, Russia and others, seek peace and security through having the possibility of destroying each other 100 times over is simply mad,” he added.

“I do not believe that you need to inculcate this mentality that nuclear weapons makes anybody safe. Have they made Pakistan safe? Have they made Israel safe? Have they made the United States safe? Have they made Russia safe? All these countries are susceptible,” Zarif said.

“Now you have proof that nuclear weapons or no amount of military power makes you safe. So we need to live in a different paradigm. And that’s what we are calling for.”

The deal sought by the latest round of talks is meant to quash for good concerns about the Islamic republic getting the bomb after more than a decade of failed diplomacy, threats of war and atomic expansion by Iran.

The deadline for an accord is July 20, when an interim agreement struck by foreign ministers expires, although this can be put back if both sides agree.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/07/13/FM-Iran-sees-no-benefit-in-nuclear-weapon.html>

[Return to Top](#)

The London Guardian – London, U.K.

## **Iran Makes Offer over Uranium Enrichment Programme**

*Foreign minister says Tehran willing to pause development for seven years, as nuclear talks in Vienna near conclusion*

By Julian Borger, diplomatic editor

Tuesday, 15 July 2014

Iran has said it could accept limits on its nuclear programme, freezing its current capacity for up to seven years on condition it would then be free to operate without any special restrictions.

The offer was made by the Iranian foreign minister, Muhammad Javad Zarif, in an interview with the New York Times six days before a deadline for the completion of talks in Vienna. It still leaves a gap between the two sides' negotiating positions: western states want Iran's uranium enrichment capacity reduced, and then frozen in place for at least 10 years, and they have a long list of conditions Iran would have to fulfil over the long term before they would allow it to function as any other state with a civilian nuclear energy programme.

However the Zarif offer, if confirmed, suggests there is enough flexibility on the Iranian side at least to gain extra time for the talks beyond the 20 July deadline, which the negotiating states imposed on themselves. "I'm not here to present maximalist positions," Zarif said. "We're here to reach an agreement."

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Zarif met the US secretary of state, John Kerry, on Tuesday morning for a new session of talks, which Zarif described as hard but productive. "We had a good exchange of views," Zarif said, according to Iran's official news agency, IRNA.

In the interview, he also said a heavy-water reactor approaching completion near the town of Arak had been sabotaged, with components being altered in the cooling system that would raise the temperature of the reactor rather than lowering it. Zarif said it would have caused "an environmental catastrophe" if it had not been spotted. He said a "foreign power" was responsible, but did not say which one.

Iran has 19,000 centrifuges in two enrichment plans, of which about 9,000 are in operation. The six sides involved in the Vienna negotiations – the US, UK, France, Germany, Russia and China – want that number reduced so that it would take Iran longer, if it took the decision to build a weapon, to expel international inspectors, and make a dash to make a bomb.

The west wants this theoretical breakout time to be over six months and preferably a year. Zarif said other conditions could be inserted into a deal that would give extra assurances to the international community that Iran could not make a nuclear weapon quickly.

All the low-enriched uranium produced by the centrifuges would be turned into oxide, suitable for reactor fuel, and Iran would not build the facility necessary to turn that oxide back into gas, the state it needs to be in to be enriched further, to weapons-grade uranium.

What is not clear is what conditions Iran would fulfil in order to be treated like other countries that have a nuclear energy programme, free of sanctions and special restrictions. One of them will be a seal of approval from the International Atomic Energy Agency that Iran has answered all the questions its inspectors have about evidence of development work on weaponisation work in the past.

There would also be pressure on Tehran to carry out uranium enrichment as part of a regional consortium, to prevent a proliferation of enrichment technology across the Middle East.

When asked by the NYT for a response to Zarif's offer, a senior US official said: "We have consistently said we wouldn't negotiate in public, and we're not going to start doing so now.

"Some of the things described in this interview they have put forward in negotiations. Some have not come up. And on some, they've shown more flexibility behind closed doors."

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/15/iran-offer-uranium-programme-talks-vienna-nuclear>

[Return to Top](#)

The Daily Star – Beirut, Lebanon

## **Iran Seeks Nuclear Deadline Extension, U.S. Demands Cuts**

Reuters

July 16, 2014

VIENNA: Iran and six world powers Tuesday appeared likely to extend talks on Tehran's nuclear program beyond a July 20 deadline, while Washington said the Islamic Republic must cut its capacity to make nuclear fuel if a deal to end sanctions is to be secured.

"We have made it crystal clear that the 19,000 [nuclear centrifuges] that are currently part of their program is too many," U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters after three days of talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

At a separate news conference, Zarif responded by saying that "insisting on the number of centrifuges is useless."

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In a New York Times interview, Zarif floated the idea of Tehran keeping its enrichment program at current levels for a few years before expanding it. Diplomats said the Iranian delegation had raised this issue with the six in recent weeks.

Kerry was responding to a question about a speech by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, which diplomats said has limited the ability of the Iranian delegation at the talks to make concessions and therefore clinch a deal.

Kerry said the talks – involving the U.S., Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China, as well as Iran – had made tangible progress on key issues but gaps remained.

“It is clear we still have more work to do and our team will continue to work very hard to try to reach a comprehensive agreement that resolves the international community's concern.

“There are more issues to work through and more provisions to nail down to ensure that Iran's program can always remain exclusively peaceful,” Kerry said.

Zarif said that although he had had good talks with the U.S. diplomat, serious differences remained between the two sides.

He suggested prolonging the talks past July 20 was likely since: “I see an inclination on the part of our negotiating partners that they believe more time may be useful and necessary.”

He added that no decision on an extension had been taken, though several Western diplomats said prolonging the talks beyond July 20 was very likely.

“Given that it is highly improbable to finalize an agreement by Sunday, it would be highly probable that we will continue the talks in the coming months,” a diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity. “The coming weeks don't make much sense given it's August. There will be a little break.”

The Western diplomat said the terms of the extension would be discussed in the coming days.

An extension of up to six months is theoretically possible according to an interim agreement Iran and the powers signed in November and began implementing in January. The interim deal gave Iran limited sanctions relief in exchange for curbing some atomic work.

“The idea is to keep the status quo,” the Western diplomat said. “The same terms as now. Nothing is decided and that will be the object of discussions in hours that come.”

Kerry will consult with President Barack Obama and Congress leaders about the prospects for a comprehensive agreement and the path forward if the July deadline is not met.

Zarif said: “We have made enough headway to be able to tell our political bosses back home that this is a process worth continuing.”

In the New York Times interview, Zarif said any limits on Iran's nuclear program should be lifted after three to seven years. But U.S. officials have said Washington would want verifiable limits to remain in place for over a decade.

<http://dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Jul-16/264043-iran-seeks-nuclear-deadline-extension-us-demands-cuts.ashx#axzz37fNjLfUB>

[Return to Top](#)

Daily times – Lahore, Pakistan

## **Iran Believed to Start up Plant Needed for Interim Nuclear Deal**

Reuters

July 17, 2014

**Issue No.1124, 18 July 2014**

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VIENNA: Iran is believed to have started operating a long-delayed uranium conversion plant which it needs to fulfil an interim nuclear agreement reached with six world powers last year before it expires on Sunday, diplomatic sources said.

If confirmed, the facility's launch would signal Iran's commitment to the landmark Nov. 24 deal as it holds negotiations with the United States, Russia, France, Germany, Britain and China on a long-term settlement of the dispute over its atomic aspirations. Those talks resumed in the Austrian capital two weeks ago and appeared likely - in view of still-wide differences - to be extended beyond a self-imposed July 20 deadline for reaching a comprehensive accord to curb Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for an end to sanctions.

That would probably also mean last year's preliminary accord - under which Iran halted its most sensitive work and received limited easing of sanctions in return - will be prolonged. Diplomats said it remained to be agreed on how to do that, suggesting this would be discussed over coming days. "The idea is to keep the status quo. The same terms as now," one Western diplomat said. However, "nothing is decided and that will be the object of discussions."

The major powers want Iran to significantly scale back its uranium enrichment capacity to deny it any capability to quickly produce nuclear bombs. Iran says its activities are entirely peaceful and want crippling sanctions lifted quickly. As one of the terms under the initial accord that runs for six months until July 20, Iran is supposed to convert a large amount of low-enriched uranium gas into an oxide form that would be less suitable for processing into bomb material.

To be able to do that, it has been building a facility near the central city of Isfahan for turning the gas into powder. After months of delays, the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in May said the plant's commissioning had begun, but it was still not operating. Diplomatic sources said Iran later took preparatory action to start conversion, and that it was now believed to be working.

They said this still needed to be confirmed by the IAEA - which is monitoring compliance with the November agreement - in a monthly update due in a few days' time. Earlier IAEA reports have shown that Iran is meeting the deal's other requirements. The half-year agreement was designed to buy time for talks on a permanent deal intended to remove the risk of a new Middle East war over Iran's nuclear ambitions. The aim was to strike an accord to replace the interim deal by Sunday.

However, after meetings in Vienna earlier this week between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif apparently failed to yield a breakthrough, diplomats said more time would likely be required. While Iran under the November agreement halted its most sensitive work, enrichment to a fissile concentration of 20 percent, it is allowed under the pact to continue producing uranium gas refined to up to 5 percent.

But, reflecting Western concern about this reserve, Iran undertook not to increase it so that it is not larger by the end of the half-year accord than what it was when it took effect on Jan. 20, Western diplomats have said. Because of the conversion plant's delay, the low-grade uranium stockpile has grown to nearly 8.5 tonnes in May from 7.6 tonnes in February, according to IAEA reports. Experts say Iran would be able to convert a large amount in a relatively short time once the facility required for this is up and running.

Iran says it is producing low-enriched uranium to fuel a planned network of nuclear power plants, not to develop bombs. Uranium must be enriched to a high degree - about 90 percent fissile purity - for a nuclear weapon. Experts say Iran potentially has enough of this kind of uranium gas for a few nuclear weapons if enriched much further. Limiting its overall enrichment capacity is one of the thorniest issues in the negotiations on a final deal.

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/region/17-Jul-2014/iran-believed-to-start-up-plant-needed-for-interim-nuclear-deal>

[Return to Top](#)

Bloomberg Businessweek – New York, NY

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## Obama Opens Door to Extending Iran Nuclear Negotiations

By Indira A.R. Lakshmanan, Bloomberg News  
July 17, 2014

U.S. President Barack Obama raised the possibility of extending talks with Iran over its disputed nuclear program, suggesting that a comprehensive accord won't be reached before an interim deal expires July 20.

"There are still some significant gaps between the international community and Iran, and we have more work to do," Obama told reporters at the White House yesterday.

Those gaps include the key issue of Iran's uranium-enrichment capability, according to U.S. and Iranian officials. Iran wants more clarity over how sanctions will be lifted. A failure to reach an agreement would again put the U.S. and Iran on a collision course over the Islamic republic's potential to build nuclear weapons.

"Over the next few days, we'll continue consulting with Congress and our team will continue discussions with Iran and our partners as we determine whether additional time is necessary to extend our negotiations," Obama said.

Robert Einhorn, formerly the State Department's nuclear nonproliferation adviser and part of the U.S. negotiating team, said that in his view "clearly" the U.S., its partners and Iran have decided to pursue an extension.

"But before indicating that publicly, the administration wants to make the case to Congress that sufficient progress has been made to justify an extension, and it needs to work out with the Iranians the terms of the extension, including its duration and whether the terms of the interim deal will be modified or simply rolled over for an additional period," said Einhorn, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

### Terms, Timeframe

The Vienna talks now include discussions of the terms and timeframe for an extension of the six-month deal that has curtailed parts of Iran's nuclear program in exchange for limited relief from sanctions, according to a U.S. official involved in negotiations who spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks are private.

No final decisions have been made, the official said.

Obama has been briefed by Secretary of State John Kerry, who returned from Vienna, and the president indicated talks are not on the brink of collapse, even if a deal can't be sealed by July 20.

"It's clear to me that we've made real progress in several areas, and that we have a credible way forward," Obama said, while echoing Kerry's comments that important differences remain between the two sides.

Kerry traveled to Vienna on July 13 for talks with his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Javad Zarif, and returned to Washington after failing to reach a breakthrough. The interim agreement finalized in January to curtail Iran's nuclear work in exchange for some sanctions relief allows for a six-month extension in talks.

### July 18

Iran's state-run Mehr News Agency yesterday reported that the nuclear talks will wrap up on July 18, with an extension "likely." The talks could continue for a few months, according to Iran's official IRNA news agency.

Iran and six world powers, including the U.S., agreed Nov. 24 on the interim deal to curb Iran's uranium enrichment. That was intended to be a first step toward a long-term accord to ensure that Iran's nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only.

In return for a comprehensive agreement to limit and verify Iran's nuclear activities, the Islamic republic would be rewarded with the lifting of an array of international and US sanctions that have hit energy, banking, ports, insurance, shipping and other key sectors of Iran's petroleum-based economy.

Kerry's No. 2 at the State Department, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns, also left Vienna, though the rest of the negotiating team remains in place, according to a U.S. official.

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### 'Difficult Position'

While Iran's foreign minister has said he is staying on in Vienna in an attempt to bridge the gaps by July 20, both sides are in a "difficult position" to reach a deal by the deadline, Zarif said at a press briefing.

Negotiators have made progress on giving international monitors access to Iran's nuclear infrastructure and winning modifications to a reactor under construction, though they remain at loggerheads on core issues.

Two weeks into the latest round of negotiations, neither side has shown a willingness to budge on the critical issue of Iran's uranium-enrichment capacity. Kerry has said that Iran must cut back the 19,000 uranium-enriching centrifuges it currently has installed, half of which are operational.

If agreement on a final accord or extension isn't reached before next week, Iran has said it's ready to restart nuclear activities it had suspended. Some U.S. lawmakers have said they will introduce tighter sanctions intended to increase pressure on Iran.

"We need to have the option" of making nuclear fuel, Zarif said. Allowing more time for talks depends on whether a final accord is "feasible" and extra time would be "helpful," he said.

In addition to disputes over enrichment, world powers want Iran to come clean about possible military dimensions of its previous nuclear work.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-07-16/obama-opens-door-to-extending-iran-nuclear-negotiations>

[Return to Top](#)

The Jordan Times – Amman, Jordan

## West Considers Early Sanctions Moves in Troubled Iran Nuclear Talks

Reuters

July 18, 2014

BRUSSELS/VIENNA — With talks between world powers and Iran over a broad nuclear accord at an impasse, Western governments are considering offering a significant easing of sanctions early on in the process to try to wring concessions from Tehran, diplomats say.

To be effective, such a plan would have to involve clear guidance to companies made wary by US fines for sanctions-busting, be reversible and not go too far, or sceptical US lawmakers would simply reimpose restrictions.

The OPEC oil producer has seen its economy devastated by years of sanctions imposed over its contested nuclear programme, which Western states say appears to be aimed at producing a nuclear bomb and Tehran says is purely peaceful.

The prospects for an immediate accord scaling back that programme in return for sanctions relief appeared tenuous on Thursday. Diplomats said the six world powers negotiating with Iran — the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany — were working out terms for an extension of talks, beyond their self-imposed July 20 deadline, instead of seeking to close a deal now.

If there is an agreement in the coming weeks or months, Western diplomats have told Reuters, Iran might still have to wait years, or as long as two decades, to see the complex web of sanctions permanently removed.

Instead, they said, Western states may opt for a patchwork of steps suspending sanctions in various industries that can be easily reinstated if Tehran reneges on its nuclear commitments. The extent of these steps would match Iranian concessions.

"When Iran does something, then we can respond with sanctions relief," one said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The whole process will take years."



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The timing of any easing of oil sanctions — closely watched by the markets — which now prohibit US and European importers from buying Iranian crude and impose severe restrictions on third country purchases, will depend on what Iran offers to do from its side and when.

But some diplomats said restrictions on banking with Iran might have to be eased in step with other industries, such as shipping for example, to make sure companies can finance any newly re-established trade.

“We can be flexible,” a senior western diplomat said.

Without access to finance, relief might not materialise, raising questions about the world powers’ credibility and endangering the implementation of the accord, they said.

Western companies are eager to enter Iran, a market of nearly 80 million people and vast oil reserves.

But banks have been reluctant to process cash when it became admissible to a certain extent under an interim accord struck between Iran and the world powers last November, which provided modest sanctions relief for some nuclear concessions.

Some experts have said overcoming this reluctance may mean, for example, that the West would have to name several banks that would process transactions allowed under newly allowed relief.

“Overcoming the reticence of international banks to do business with Iran will require the [six powers] to issue clear regulatory guidance about which multilateral sanctions are lifted,” said Elizabeth Rosenberg from the Centre for a New American Security in a research note.

French bank BNP Paribas agreed earlier this month to pay \$9 billion for contravening US sanctions, also against Iran, in a move likely to increase western banks’ reluctance to open up for business with Tehran.

### **The right timing**

How sanctions relief for Iran is introduced might be a crucial factor in ensuring the integrity of any deal, which will likely be implemented over many years.

The West wants Iran to scale back its atom work so much that it would take it a long time, maybe years, to assemble materials for a bomb. To achieve that it wants Iran to limit its capacity to enrich uranium to bomb-grade and subject any remaining work to strict United Nations oversight.

For now, diplomats said, the sides have struggled to match Iranian and western concessions sufficiently to craft a deal, despite holding six rounds of talks since the start of this year coordinated by the EU’s top diplomat Catherine Ashton.

Some diplomats have said that as a goodwill gesture towards Iran, the West would be willing to “front-load” some sanctions relief, in return for quick stepping back from atom work.

“It’s all meant to be reciprocal,” one diplomat from the six powers said.

But experts warn that Congress, where Republicans and some Democrats have called for talks to be abandoned and a return to tough sanctions to deter Tehran from building an atom bomb, may move ahead with new sanctions if they view a deal as too lax.

“If they try to front-load relief too significantly or lift key elements [of the western sanctions architecture] too precipitously, they will inspire a congressional backlash,” said Mark Dubowitz of the Foundation for Defence of Democracies, a US think tank which advocates tougher sanctions.

### **Political complications**

Any sanctions relief would have to be closely coordinated between the United States and Europe, some diplomats also said, to ensure Washington’s power to punish third countries for contravening its restrictions does not complicate implementation.

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It would be difficult, for example, for the Belgium-based SWIFT, which provides banks with a system for moving funds around the world to unblock Iranian banks from using its network to transfer money without some easing of US restrictions.

The Belgian company cut off Iranian banks in 2012 as part of a wider international push to ratchet up sanctions that also included a European Union embargo on purchases of Iranian oil.

The once unthinkable move — considering the extent of dependence of some European countries on Iranian crude — pulled between 450,000 and 600,000 barrels per day off world markets and made it very difficult for global buyers of Iranian crude to insure shipments.

One western diplomat said Iran's immediate goal was to roll back sanctions to what they were prior to EU moves in 2012.

If that happens, EU rules would only allow for the oil embargo to be initially suspended before permanent removal.

A suspension could be easily reversed, while to reimpose such a ban, which took months of painstaking negotiations in 2011 to agree, might be impossible again because it would require an unanimous decision by all 28 EU governments.

In Washington, Obama can theoretically use waivers to allow for some previously sanctioned trade. But a permanent removal of sanctions in many industries would require congressional support, which might be impossible to secure before Iran has completed its side of the deal.

Several diplomats said much of the extensive western sanctions architecture could remain in place even after an accord is concluded.

Many US measures pre-date the nuclear conflict and are related to tensions between Washington and Tehran over a hostage crisis following the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The domestic US oil embargo would be one example, even if Washington gradually removes pressure on third states not to buy Iranian oil.

<http://jordantimes.com/west-considers-early-sanctions-moves-in-troubled-iran-nuclear-talks>

[Return to Top](#)

The Times of India – Mumbai, India

## **Move to Fast-Track Two Submarine Projects Gathers Steam**

By Rajat Pandit, Tamil News Network (TNN)

July 14, 2014

NEW DELHI: There is finally some urgency being shown to rescue India's ageing and depleting underwater combat arm. The approval for two long-pending projects, one for construction of six advanced diesel-electric submarines and the other for six nuclear-powered ones, is well on the cards now.

Sources said the finance ministry has asked the defence ministry to "club" the separate projects to "draft a single note" for the requisite nod from Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). "The two projects have been languishing for long in the files being exchanged between the two ministries. The government seems serious about fast-track approvals this time," said a source.

The approvals, when they come, will not be a day too soon since India is down to just 13 old diesel-electric submarines, barely half of which are operational at any given time, and a single nuclear-propelled submarine INS Chakra on lease from Russia without any long-range missiles.

It takes at least seven to eight years for the first submarine to roll out once its construction project actually gets underway. The two projects will together entail a cost of well over Rs 1 lakh crore spread over 10-15 years.

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'Project-75India' for the six conventional submarines, armed with both land-attack missiles and air-independent propulsion (AIP) for greater underwater endurance, was granted "acceptance of necessity" in November 2007, as was reported earlier by TOI.

But the global tender to select the foreign collaborator for it is yet to be even issued. As per the existing plan, the first two submarines will be imported to save time, while three will be constructed at Mazagon Docks (Mumbai), and the sixth at Hindustan Shipyard (Visakhapatnam).

The project to build the six SSNs (nuclear-powered attack submarines, usually without nuclear-tipped missiles), in turn, is to be undertaken at the secretive ship-building centre (SBC) at Vizag. India's first three SSBNs (nuclear-powered submarines with nuclear ballistic missiles) are already being built at the SBC to complete the country's nuclear weapons triad - the capability to fire nukes from land, air and underwater. The expertise gained in the construction of the SSBNs will help the SSN project, said sources.

The first SSBN, the 6,000-tonne INS Arihant, is slated to go for extensive sea trials soon after its miniature 83 mw pressurized light-water reactor, which went "critical" in August last year, attains "full power" in another month or so. The second, INS Aridhaman, is also to be "launched into water" soon with its hull and basic structure ready.

China, incidentally, has five nuclear and 51 conventional submarines. It is poised to induct up to five JIN-class SSBNs, with their new 7,400-km range JL-2 missiles, over the next few years.

India, however, has miserably failed in this arena. It was in 1999 that the CCS had approved a 30-year submarine-building plan, which envisaged induction of 12 new submarines by 2012, followed by another dozen by 2030.

But 15 years later, not a single new submarine has been inducted because of politico-bureaucratic apathy. The first programme, Project-75, was finalized only in 2005 to build six French Scorpene submarines at MDL. It's already running over four years behind schedule, with the first Scorpene now slated for delivery by November 2016 and the other five rolling out thereafter every 8-10 months. Moreover, the Rs 1,800 crore contract to buy 98 heavy-weight torpedoes to arm the submarines is also yet to be inked.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Move-to-fast-track-two-submarine-projects-gathers-steam/articleshow/38342676.cms>

[Return to Top](#)

Bloomberg Businessweek – New York, NY

## **Ebola Spreads to Sierra Leone Capital of Freetown as Deaths Rise**

By Silas Gbandia, Bloomberg News

July 12, 2014

The worst outbreak of Ebola moved to Sierra Leone's capital of Freetown where an Egyptian was found with the city's first confirmed case of the disease.

The unidentified Egyptian national had traveled from Kenema, the largest city in the nation's Eastern Province, and checked into a clinic east of Freetown, Sidie Yahya Tunis, director of Information, Communication and Technology at the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, said by phone today. The person was moved back to the Ebola center in Kenema, he said.

"The Ebola disease usually spreads to other places when suspected or confirmed cases in one community move to another, they abandon treatment centers to stay with relatives or they seek treatment outside the Ebola centers," Tunis said.

There have been 99 Ebola deaths in Sierra Leone out of 315 laboratory-confirmed cases, the ministry said in an e-mailed statement today. The ministry said yesterday that 92 people had died out of 305 cases. Cases of the hemorrhagic fever have killed more than 540 people in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia in an outbreak that according to the World Health Organization may last another three to four months.

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The toll is greater than the 280 people killed in 1976, when the virus was first identified near the Ebola River in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo. The rapid spread of the virus is largely due to people moving across borders as well as cultural practices that are contrary to public health guidelines, such as people touching the body of a deceased relative before the funeral.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-07-12/ebola-spreads-to-sierra-leone-capital-of-freetown-as-deaths-rise>

[Return to Top](#)

Bangkok Post – Bangkok, Thailand  
OPINION/Investigative Report

## **Military Facility Hides Secrets from the World**

*With journalists sentenced to hard labour for writing about an isolated installation, experts are concerned about what might be being produced*

By John Arterbury  
13 July 2014

It was the kind of scoop any intrepid journalist dreams of getting, hitting all the right notes along the way — a vast and mysterious military installation, rumours of chemical weapons, unexplained Chinese workers, the gaping maw of a tunnel jutting from the earth.

No doubt the Myanmar journalists thought that, given the heady political changes afoot in their country, something might actually come of their revelation that the government appeared to be in the business of making chemical weapons.

Instead, the scoop landed them in jail, and left the government rushing to snap up unsold copies of the February issue of the Myanmar-language Unity Journal carrying their claims.

Now, the four writers and the paper's CEO face 10 years of hard labour after a court found them guilty on Thursday of revealing state secrets, and a lawyer for the accused told Spectrum that the state's prosecution of the journalists is meant to stifle press freedoms. The sentence was widely condemned by human rights advocates.

"They are charging the journalists to oppress the media," defence lawyer Aung Thane told Spectrum.

The government charged the journalists under a seldom-used colonial law intended to safeguard military secrets, alleging that they trespassed in pursuit of their story and spilled state secrets by publishing detailed descriptions and pictures of a military site.

It maintains that the sprawling military centre in the Pauk township of Magway region, which opened in 2009, is merely a conventional ordnance factory.

As the journalists face a decade behind bars, security experts told Spectrum that the site could have several possible purposes, including the production of weaponry with foreign backing, raising eyebrows as to what officials in Myanmar's Byzantine defence industry might be up to.

The speed with which Myanmar pursued the journalists, experts say, illustrates that the government is still keen to keep a tight lid on its military activities, regardless of recent government reforms.

This deeply rooted secrecy has done little to dissuade speculation, as one long-time Myanmar watcher suggested that the site is direct evidence the country has increased its cooperation with North Korea.

"It's not a chemical weapons factory, but reportedly a factory where they produce aluminium casing for missiles, and 'the Chinese technicians' they mention in the article are most likely North Koreans," veteran journalist Bertil Lintner said.



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This doesn't surprise some observers, who suspect that ties between North Korea and Myanmar run deep. There have been unconfirmed reports in recent years that the reclusive state has been providing Myanmar, under the umbrella of the country's Directorate of Defence Industries (DDI), with technical assistance in starting its own missile programme near the city of Minbu.

One defence analyst stressed caution, noting that if North Koreans were helping make hefty rockets that the outcome would likely be publicly known.

"It's a reasonable avenue of speculation, but we don't know as a fact that the North Koreans are cooperating in a Burmese [Myanmar] missile production programme," said Anthony Davis, a Bangkok-based analyst with IHS-Jane's.

**DIGGING DEEP**

To assess the Unity Journal's claims, the East Asia Non-proliferation Programme analysed a recent commercial satellite picture of the facility and supplemented it with publicly available satellite images. While such imagery alone isn't enough to determine the facility's true purpose, the photos appear to verify parts of the Unity Journal story, including the time frame of the site's construction, said Jeffrey Lewis, the programme's director.

"They mention a number of details that are true or consistent with the imagery, including the loss of farms and homes, as well as the presence of high-ranking visitors and foreign workers," Mr Lewis said.

The imagery also appeared to confirm villager tales of land confiscation and displacement. The hamlet of Lebinaing appears in one image, only to be erased in a later shot, replaced by overgrowth and craggy soil.

Images also show construction at the site, and it was in the midst of building activity that the Unity Journal reporters entered the fray.

For the reporters, the story started innocently enough. Villagers had asked the journalists to come to the area because they said the government had seized their land to make way for the site — not entirely unheard of in a country known for rampant land confiscation.

Once there, locals told them stories of foreign workers, high-ranking visitors and tunnels stretching under the complex. The suspicion among area residents, which the Unity Journal published, was that chemical weapons were being made.

"There was construction going on at the site and two journalists went inside with them [the villagers]," Aung Thane said. "There were no signs at the site and nobody stopped them."

The law under which they were been prosecuted — Section 3/1/A of the Official Secrets Act, which covers espionage — should not have been applied to this case, Aung Thane said, because sites protected by the law must be clearly marked in local languages.

"To define a secret area the government has to issue a statement or order in multiple languages and publish it in the Gazette," Aung Thane said.

The Unity Journal staff are also charged under 2C of the Secrets Act, which concerns trespassing.

A planned new media law could not yet be used to try the journalists because the rules needed for its implementation have not yet been approved. Contrary to local media reports, Aung Thane said the defence did not request the government use the law.

Little has been heard from the Myanmar government to address the allegations. In the meantime, the Unity Journal has fallen on hard times since the arrests. With its editor jailed and circulation declining, the publication has been forced to close its Yangon office.

A key discovery in the East Asia Non-proliferation Programme's findings was the presence of a helicopter pad similar to one found at the Minbu site, which Mr Lewis said appears to validate claims by locals that Chinese or North Korean technicians are present.

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“At a more general level, the presence of foreign workers is most interesting to me. DDI has been sanctioned for dealing with North Korea, and this site appears similar to another location near Minbu where North Koreans are believed to live and work,” Mr Lewis said. “Working from satellite images, it would appear that DDI’s activities are expanding, not contracting, despite promises to stop any illicit programmes and end cooperation with North Korea.”

The possibility of strengthened ties between the countries startles observers who say such a development would be a step in the wrong direction for Myanmar. North Korea is also involved in vast under-the-radar activities worldwide that provide the cash-starved nation with a vital economic lifeline, according to reports — a practice that Mr Lewis says likely extends to Myanmar.

“One concern is that Myanmar is a source of hard currency for the DPRK,” said Mr Lewis, using the North’s formal name. “Myanmar may also serve as a trans-shipment point for the DPRK to help it evade sanctions. And, of course, there is the challenge that such a relationship poses to Myanmar’s transition to democracy.”

A Myanmar official downplayed the significance of the East Asia Non-proliferation Programme’s findings.

“They based their assumptions only on bird’s-eye-view images. Even if it was a real chemical weapons factory, the American intelligence capability would be able to detect it in the first place,” presidential spokesman Ye Htut told website Eleven Myanmar. “This facility is meant only for our defence measures.”

For Southeast Asia, Myanmar is a heavyweight defence spender, allocating nearly US\$2.4 billion (77.3 billion baht), more than 12% of its annual budget, on military expenditures this year alone. Much of the reason for this, Mr Davis said, is to counter “more complex and more varied” military threats, such as ethnic insurgencies.

To counter these threats, the Myanmar defence industry has ramped up its production of naval frigates, sophisticated weaponry and vehicles, he said. In doing so, Myanmar has increasingly drawn on Chinese expertise.

“They’re beefing up their capabilities for conventional conflicts, plus there is a range of civil unrest scenarios they have to be prepared for,” Mr Davis said. “The Burmese military industrial complex is much more broadly developed and ambitious than people give it credit for. The days when they just produced assault rifles and ammunition are long over.”

### **CHEMICAL CLAIMS**

In weighing the Unity Journal’s allegations, one chemical weapons expert said that it’s difficult to tell the site’s purpose without having a thorough look behind its doors.

“Observing from the outside, and even having a peek into the factory may not shed much light as to what is actually going on,” independent security consultant Dan Kaszeta said. “Trucks go in, trucks go out — there’s a spaghetti factory of pipes and valves inside. Even a highly trained specialist can’t necessarily tell you what’s going on in the mess of pipes and vessels without knowing some of what’s in the pipes.”

But despite the government’s claims, the limited open-source information on the site lends credibility to the idea that it could be something other than a run-of-the-mill munitions factory.

“The Burmese government says only that the site is a ‘standard ordnance factory’, but it is far too large to be a standard anything,” Mr Lewis said.

It’s in part this immense size, stretching over more than 1,200 hectares, that gives way to additional possibilities.

“A factory built in a remote area in secrecy and under high security with a lot of pipes and pumps and such could easily be a chemical weapons facility,” Mr Kaszeta said. “However, it is occurring in a country known for secrecy with a military that operates a vast defence industry as a state-owned enterprise. Many things under that umbrella could account for this, such as manufacture of explosives or propellants.”

Myanmar is no stranger to chemical weapons allegations, but past charges remain uncorroborated. Witness accounts of chemical weapon use by the Myanmar military against ethnic rebels, spanning from the 1980s to more

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recent skirmishes, have not been independently verified. In a 1992 report, the US government accused the Myanmar government of using artillery-fired chemical munitions, but it quickly abandoned the claims.

Were Myanmar making chemical weapons, Mr Kaszeta said there would likely be other evidence, such as set-ups for testing weapons or changes in troop training, weaving chemical weapons into their playbook.

“A strong indicator is some kind of testing regime to see if weapons actually work,” said Mr Kaszeta, a former US army chemical corps officer. “It seems unlikely that a country would go to the massive effort of making chemical weapons without seeing whether their chosen delivery mechanisms work.”

Yet Myanmar has done little to allay fears. The government could go a long way in putting chemical weapons rumours to rest were it to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), experts said, since the treaty contains robust provisions for monitoring defence installations. The country signed the 1993 arms treaty but has yet to ratify it.

“If the facility is declared as a civil facility under the CWC, there are routine provisions for inspection,” Mr Lewis said, noting that it could shed light on its activities.

Ratifying the treaty, which bans the use, production or possession of chemical weapons, would also mean that other countries could request inspections of specific sites.

“In theory it opens up the country to an inspections regime,” Mr Kaszeta said. “What the practical impact would be, it’s hard to say. It could pave the way for a ‘challenge inspection’ if some other country says, ‘XYZ factory might be a chemical warfare plant, please inspect it.’ ”

The journalists, meanwhile, remain behind bars, and Aung Thane condemned the state’s vigorous prosecution. The entire taxing ordeal has sent a direct message, Aung Thane said.

“The case is used to set an example for other journalists,” he said.

There could be a quick fix, experts say, with the country accepting the treaty and doing an about-turn. But the hope that it opens the doors of its opaque facilities remains bleak in a country not renowned for its transparency.

“This would be easy enough to resolve if Burma were to simply ratify the CWC,” Mr Lewis said. “Instead, they continue to delay, while holding the journalists in prison.”

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/investigation/420248/military-facility-hides-secrets-from-the-world>

[Return to Top](#)

The Diplomat – Tokyo, Japan  
OPINION/Flashpoints

## **Submarine Modernization in East Asia**

*Countries around the region are upgrading their submarine fleets.*

By Michael Raska for *The Diplomat*

July 14, 2014

On July 3, South Korea launched its fifth *Type-214* submarine, *ROKS Yun Bong-gil*, a diesel-electric air-independent propulsion (AIP) submarine equipped with the Haeseong-3 missile, a supersonic, stealth precision-guided ship-to-surface missile with a range of 1,500 km. The launch signifies an important aspect of the regional “arms competition” in East Asia – the gradual introduction of new classes of conventionally powered diesel-electric submarines (SSKs), which are increasingly becoming “platforms of choice” – as force-multipliers in diverse missions as well as against superior forces.

Notwithstanding East Asia’s economic growth rates and deepening integration into the global economy, the region’s strategic realities reflect contending trajectories. As China expands its national interests in the broader context of “new historic missions,” it seeks to regain a great power status and reassert its geopolitical role in the

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region. As a result of China's accelerating military modernization, regional powers are responding by revamping their force modernization priorities, alliances, and overall strategic choices.

The economic, political and military rise of China, embedded in three decades of relentless economic growth, has propelled progressive modernization of the Chinese military with major improvements in virtually every capability domain.

### **China's Naval Modernization and Submarine Expansion**

Notwithstanding weaknesses and limitations in capabilities integration, China's PLA Navy (PLAN) is gradually transforming into a regional [blue water] defensive- and offensive-type navy with extended so-called anti-access/area-denial (A2/AD) capabilities, limited expeditionary capabilities, and corresponding defensive and offensive air power. China calls its comprehensive A2/AD strategy a "counter-intervention," which is interpreted as denying the U.S. and its allies the freedom of action in China's "near seas" by restricting their deployments into theatre (anti-access) and denying them freedom of movement there (area denial).

An important aspect of China's multilayered strategy is the gradual introduction of new classes of submarines: nuclear and conventional. China is currently operating as many as 45 submarines structured in six different classes: two classes of indigenously designed diesel submarines, including the *Song class* (Type 039) and the *Yuan-class* (Type 041), and four nuclear classes that include the *Shang-class* (Type 093), *Jin-class* (Type 094) nuclear powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBN), and the follow-on *Type 095* nuclear-powered attack submarine (SSN) and *Tang-class* (Type 096) SSBN.

Since 2004, China is believed to have launched 12 *Type 041 Yuan-class* conventional submarines, which have been progressively modified to carry more advanced high-frequency sonar, upgraded weapons systems, noise reduction, and air independent propulsion (AIP) technologies. The PLA Navy may procure up to 20 additional *Yuan-class* submarines based on technologies imported from Russian boats. Since the mid-1990s, China has procured as many as 12 *Kilo-class* submarines from Russia, and is reportedly negotiating the purchase of at least four fourth-generation *Amur (Lada)-class* or possibly a fifth-generation *Kalina-class*, both featuring advanced AIP systems.

### **Regional Responses**

In Northeast Asia, Japan and South Korea are prioritizing the procurement of new types of submarines. South Korea's latest launch of its fifth *Type-214* submarine in July, *ROKS Yun Bong-gil*, comes less than a year after the introduction of the 1,800 ton *Son Won-ill* class in September 2013, featuring AIP and advanced combat management systems. South Korea now operates 14 submarines: nine *Type 209 Chang Bogo* and five *Son Won-ill class* submarines. Meanwhile, in October 2013, the Japan Marine Self Defense Force (MSDF) launched its newest submarine, the *Kokuryu* – the sixth of ten planned *Soryu class* boats first commissioned in 2009. With its range, endurance, sensors, weapons load, and other systems, including the Stirling AIP propulsion system and Harpoon anti-ship missiles, the *Soryu class* is regarded as the most advanced in Japan's conventional submarine fleet of 16 submarines.

In Southeast Asia, the relatively high acquisition costs and maintenance requirements have traditionally precluded a quantitative diffusion of submarines. However, the recent introduction of more capable coastal diesel-powered submarines provides unprecedented capabilities. Most recently, Vietnam received two of six *Kilo-class* (Project 636) diesel-electric submarines from Russia in 2013-2014, designed for diverse reconnaissance and patrol, anti-submarine, and anti-ship missions.

Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore are also planning to expand or upgrade their submarine fleets. From 2007-09, Malaysia took formal delivery of two French-built *Scorpen-class* submarines, equipped with underwater-launched *Exocet* anti-ship missiles. Both submarines are based at the Kota Kinabalu Naval Base in Sabah, East Malaysia, indicating their primary mission is to protect Malaysia's sovereignty in part of the South China Sea. Meanwhile, Indonesia has ambitious plans to expand its submarine fleet to at least six, and ideally to 12 by 2024, a key element in the "Minimum Essential Force" (MEF) and declared goal of developing a "green-water"



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navy. In 2012, the Indonesian Navy (TNI-AL) announced a \$1.1 billion contract for three *Type-209/1400* diesel-electric submarines, constructed by South Korea's Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering.

In November 2013, Singapore announced a contract with German shipbuilder ThyssenKrupp to acquire two advanced *Type-218SG* submarines that will augment existing *Archer-class* boats and replace ageing ex-Swedish *Challenger-class* by 2020. *Type-218SG*, designed for littoral, shallow sea operations, is a customized design that will integrate features from *Type 214* and possibly *Type-216* 'concept submarine' fitted with fuel-cell AIP system.

### **Strategic Ramifications**

Over the past decade, the operational utility of submarines in East Asia has widened: from anti-submarine warfare to force protection such as close submarine escort missions, intelligence surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR), support of Special Forces, and other complementary deterrence and defensive tasks supporting territorial defense. At the same time, the introduction of submarine-launched anti-ship and land-attack cruise missiles, anti-submarine sensors and weapons, as well as air independent propulsion systems have increased their stealth capacity to remain undetected shortened their target-identification-and-attack cycle, and ultimately, improved their flexibility, mobility, endurance, reach, and lethality.

For smaller, defensively oriented navies in East and Southeast Asia, these attributes enable "sea-denial" capabilities aimed at preventing an opponent from using the sea, rather than providing a degree of sea control to use the sea for own power projection. Submarines will therefore become an increasingly valuable strategic asset in the region, particularly with installed AIP systems. The key difference, however, will be in the experience, training, and skill set of their operators.

*Michael Raska is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, a constituent unit of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.*

<http://thediplomat.com/2014/07/submarine-modernization-in-east-asia/>

[Return to Top](#)

South Asia Analysis Group – India

OPINION/ Paper No. 5744

## **China is the Major Threat to Asian Security and Stability**

By Dr. Subhash Kapila

17 July 2014

Contemporaneous review of the Asian security landscape would in mid-2014 suggest with clarity that China has emerged as a major threat to Asian security and stability. The China threat palpably raises concerns all over the Indo Pacific.

The China threat to Asian security and stability can only recede if China elects to modulate its aggressive strategies and militarily provocative postures and takes conscious steps to generate "strategic trust" amongst Asian countries as a whole. Then only can it project convincing credentials within Asia that it is a benign stakeholder in Asian security and stability.

Alternatively, the China threat can be diluted if the global major powers and the major Asian powers act in a concerted manner to checkmate China's unprecedented military rise and military assertiveness all over Asia whether on the land borders or in Asia's maritime expanses.

United States, Russia and major Asian powers like India need to be strategically honest in highlighting the China threat that has already emerged and created "strategic distrust" all over Asia. Strategic analysts and policy analysts have already started speculating that if the powers named above do not exercise some plain-speaking on China's aggressive impulses all along its land and maritime borders and now air spaces over international waters, then dangers exist of a Nazi Germany-like danger looming all over Asia with devastating effects.

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Nazi Germany too was being appeased and molly-coddled by the existing powers of the day and the same trend is visible today in relation to China.

From South Asia through South East Asia and on to East Asia there is not one major region of the Indo Pacific in which China is not involved in territorial and sovereignty disputes with its neighbours and where lately China in defiance of international norms not indulged in conflict generation, conflict escalation or aggressive military brinkmanship.

China's propensity to do so arises from its historical record of seeking resolution of its territorial disputes with its neighbours by the use of military force or the threat to use military force. China does so with immunity, secure in the belief that the powers that could provide counter-vailing power to restrain China would hesitate in doing so because of their own selfish political expediencies.

It is therefore galling for strategic analysts that whether at the global level countries like the United States engage China on the specious pleas that China needs to be engaged to bring it in the global mainstream as a responsible stakeholder in global security. This has not generated any matching positive responses from China.

Similarly, it is galling to witness the spectacle at multilateral summits like the BRICS Summit recently where an unwarranted deference is displayed by countries like India towards China completely oblivious to China's demonstrated record of the military situation on the India-Tibet border where Chinese troops were committing incursions even while the BRICS Summit was ongoing.

A brief review of the Asian security landscape is in order in relation to what China has demonstrated in each of the Asian regions in terms of its propensity to use force or threat to use force or use regional proxies to further its strategic ends.

East Asia is the latest theatre of China's military aggressiveness and brinkmanship. China has upped the military ante 'against Japan by provocative actions and political and military coercion against Japan over the ownership of the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea. China has gone a step further in its military provocations by declaring an ADIZ over the East China Sea setting a new provocative trend of controlling and dominating the 'air-space' over international maritime expanses.

East Asia also provides the glaring instance of China using its North Korea protégé, equipped with nuclear weapons and IRBMs—courtesy China, to introduce an added destabilising and uncertain strategic element in a highly surcharged and edgy strategic environment.

South East Asia provides the most glaring example of China's conflict-escalation and use of political and military coercion against its small and less powerful neighbours like Vietnam and the Philippines. Here again China has been involved in islands- grabbing in the South China Sea from both the Philippines and Vietnam by use of naked military force. China still has not restrained itself from aggression in the Spratly Islands.

In South East Asia too China has a new-found proxy, namely Cambodia to divide ASEAN regional grouping unity in relation to its South China Sea military adventurism.

In South Asia, more appropriately to be termed as the Indian Subcontinent, China and India are locked in a military confrontation along the India-Tibet border. The territorial disputes that China has imposed on India as elsewhere in Asia are characterised by China's dogged obstinacy to maintain in what can be construed as any settlement of the vexed border issues can only be done on China's terms.

China's aggression against India is a regular feature whether in Ladakh or in Arunachal Pradesh in the form of intrusions into Indian Territory or violations of Indian airspace. The situation is militarily tense as China approaches to India are from a position of strength emerging from a militarisation of the Tibetan Plateau including deployment of nuclear missiles targeting India without a corresponding Indian military build-up.

To arrest India's rise as an Asian power and keep it confined to the Indian Subcontinent, China for over four decades now has built Pakistan as its regional protégé and the 'regional destabiliser state'.

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China's propensity to resort to political and military coercion on the Asian strategic spaces are only likely to grow as China expands its nuclear and missiles arsenal and its force projection capabilities as it makes a bid to muzzle its way into being recognised as a "strategic co-equal" of the United States.

With the strategic canvass of the Asian security landscape that has been unfolded above can any reasonable analysis suggest otherwise that China is not a threat to Asian security and stability?

*(The views expressed are his own)*

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[Return to Top](#)

## **ABOUT THE USAF CUWS**

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

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

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

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

[Return to Top](#)

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