



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

**Issue No. 1128, 15 August 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: "Cutting Too Deep: The Obama Administration's Proposals for Nuclear Security Spending Reductions".**

Authored by Matthew Bunn, Nicholas Roth and William H. Tobey; Published by the Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs; July 2014; 44 Pages.

<http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/files/budgetpaper%20WEB.pdf>

The substantial nuclear security budget cuts proposed by the Obama administration for fiscal year (FY) 2015, if approved, would slow progress toward preventing the essential ingredients of nuclear bombs from falling into terrorist hands. Many of the proposed cutbacks are not the result of completing projects under the four-year effort to secure vulnerable nuclear materials or putting the mixed oxide (MOX) fuel program for plutonium in cold standby. The drop in funding would result in real and significant cuts to important ongoing nuclear security programs by at least \$100 million, and should consider other substantial increases in funding for nonproliferation programs.

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Government Executive.com – Washington, D.C.

## **Frustration Grows Over Stalled Reforms for Air Force Nuclear Personnel**

By Elaine M. Grossman

August 14, 2014

OMAHA, Neb. -- Following a series of personnel lapses in the Air Force nuclear missile-launch officer corps over the past 15 months, some defense insiders are growing impatient for Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel to announce publicly the major steps he plans to take to address the matter.

The Defense Department "is just not coming forward to make the improvements and the changes that are required to get the nuclear business back where we want to see it," says Bob Butterworth, an independent consultant on nuclear issues who in March offered his own recommendations for strengthening the Pentagon commitment to the mission. "The silence is deafening. It seems he is not anxious to do it."

Following Hagel's visit to a Wyoming Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missile facility in January, his spokesman said he was "deeply troubled" to learn of test-cheating by missile-launch control officers at a similar base in Montana.

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The spokesman, Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby, the following month said Hagel had directed two separate inquiries -- one internal and another external -- to advise how best to address the string of embarrassing incidents. Those also have included a probe into drug possession by Air Force Global Strike Command officers and the dismissal of a general officer in charge of ground-based nuclear missile operations said to have become inebriated and acted inappropriately during an official visit to Russia.

Hagel's 60-day internal review was completed this spring and the independent assessment also has since concluded, according to Pentagon sources. But the defense secretary has remained relatively quiet on the matter.

Speaking to reporters here at a two-day conference on deterring global military threats, U.S Strategic Command chief Adm. Cecil Haney would not say when a formal announcement to lay out the entire get-well plan for the nuclear sector is anticipated.

He did note, though, that "integrity lapses" occurred only among "a very small population" and that "the majority" of launch-control service personnel "woke up every day to do the business right." More than 90 officers initially were pulled off the job under suspicion of test-cheating or facilitating it, but about two-thirds of them have since returned to duty.

Haney also said changes were being introduced as they become ready and are "not a stagnant thing."

As one example, Global Strike Command early last month announced the creation of new mid-level positions aimed at bridging gaps between young operators and their commanders.

"The people that are working on [nuclear operations] are extraordinary," said Haney, whose headquarters is based at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha. "This was an unfortunate event, but I think we have moved and will continue to move forward in improving things across this capability, to ensure we have it for the future."

Some defense officials say a number of new changes will be implemented beginning Oct. 1.

The Associated Press in June reported that the Air Force was getting set to launch major reforms, to include bonus pay for officers pulling alert duty in underground command centers. Military personnel operating the other two "legs" of the nuclear triad -- bomber aircraft and submarines -- have received such extra pay for years. The initiative would also include funds to improve aging infrastructure and other morale-boosters for serving in the Minuteman 3 launch sector, according to the wire service.

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James has strongly advocated bolstering her service's nuclear enterprise, to include recommending to Hagel that the United States increase the rank of the Global Strike Command chief -- who oversees nuclear-armed bombers and missiles -- from three to four stars.

"I think James' intentions are good, but it's things I don't think the [senior] military Air Force is interested in doing . . . [Their] top priorities are a new bomber, a new fighter, a new tanker, and a new cruise missile," said one former Minuteman 3 missile squadron commander, who requested anonymity to speak candidly.

The Air Force did not respond to questions about the matter.

As the service prepares its fiscal 2016 budget request this summer for Hagel's approval and ultimately submission to Congress early next year, there is some debate among its military leaders over how much bonus pay to award missile-control officers and when to begin the initiative, this defense source and others said.

The bonus pay -- and possibly also reinstatement of an earlier program that allowed missileers to earn free master's degrees as they pulled alert duty in underground control centers -- could constitute a shot in the arm to a mission specialty that has been humiliated by the repeated lapses, experts say.

A renewed master's degree incentive program is "something they could implement in a matter of weeks," if desired, the former squadron commander said. The service could team with universities located near each of the nation's three Minuteman 3 bases for its 450 ground-based strategic missiles in Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming.

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"If they are serious they will implement some of these items, such as the bonus pay and education program and quality-of-life [initiatives] with a greater sense of urgency," this source said. "If they don't, it will make the situation worse than if they had not done anything at all."

Some experts also have proposed consolidating Pentagon oversight of the nuclear mission into a single hierarchy, though that idea appears to be spawning turf battles among different offices that today share parts of the nuclear portfolio.

Butterworth said if Hagel wants to underscore the value of the nuclear-armed missile mission, changes must come where junior and mid-level crews can see them. He and others noted news reports about broken blast doors and leaking sewage making long shifts in the control centers almost unbearable.

"If basic repairs aren't made, you get smart after a while" about where senior-leader priorities lie, he said.

<http://www.govexec.com/defense/2014/08/frustration-grows-over-stalled-reforms-air-force-nuclear-personnel/91481/>

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Defense News.com – Washington, D.C.

## **Don't Expect Major Changes in US Missile Defense Policy**

By MARCUS WEISGERBER  
August 12, 2014

HUNTSVILLE, ALA. — The Obama administration is not likely to make major changes to the US Defense Department's ballistic missile defense programs and will focus efforts over the next two years on implementing current plans, a senior Pentagon official said.

But fiscal pressure will "continue to challenge implementation" of these policies, Elaine Bunn, deputy assistant secretary of defense for nuclear and missile defense policy, said during the annual Space and Missile Defense Symposium.

The Pentagon will also continue to focus on the "value for dollar" of the systems it is purchasing, she said.

Two of the Obama administration's major missile defense plans are the "European Phased Adaptive Approach" and increasing the number of US-based missile interceptors.

The Phased Adaptive Approach calls for installing a mix of missile interceptors and land and sea-based radars in Eastern Europe in a deliberate manner through the early 2020s. The administration is also increasing the number of US-based missile interceptors at Fort Greely, Alaska, from 30 to 44 and installing a second early-warning radar in Alaska.

All of the DoD systems are designed to intercept long-range missiles launched by North Korea and Iran.

Bunn said DoD would also focus on missile defense-related engagements with allies and partners.

A number of Middle Eastern nations already operate, have purchased or are interested in buying missile defense systems.

<http://www.defensenews.com/article/20140812/DEFREG02/308120027/Don-t-Expect-Major-Changes-US-Missile-Defense-Policy>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **Moscow Dismisses INF Treaty Violation Allegations as Part of US Anti-Russian Propaganda**

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MOSCOW, August 13 (RIA Novosti) — US accusations against Russia over alleged violations of the Soviet-era intermediate-range nuclear treaty are part of a massive anti-Russian propaganda campaign linked to the events in Ukraine, Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov said.

“A massive flow of US accusations is part of the anti-Russian campaign launched by Washington in connection with the events in Ukraine,” Antonov said in an interview with the Rossiiskaya Gazeta newspaper to be published on Thursday.

Anatoly Antonov stressed that the United States is using any means of information warfare to tarnish Russia’s image on the global arena.

He added that Moscow is ready to continue dialogue with Washington on INF treaty issues only on the basis of concrete facts rather than "data obtained from social networks" or "fuzzy satellite photos without links to topographic coordinates."

In late July, the US administration released a report claiming that Russia "is in violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty not to possess, produce, or flight-test a ground-launched cruise missile (GLCM) with a range capability of 500 km to 5,500 km, or to possess or produce launchers of such missiles."

The White House spokesman Josh Earnest said earlier that US President Barack Obama conveyed his findings to Russian President Vladimir Putin in a letter, in addition to the US previous attempts to raise the concern “with the Russians on a number of occasions through our standard diplomatic channels.”

Russian authorities expressed their own complaints about US compliance with the treaty in light of Washington’s plans to deploy Mark 41 vertical launching systems in Poland and Romania.

The INF was signed back in 1987 by the United States and the Soviet Union to prevent the use of nuclear and conventional missiles with an intermediate range, defined as 500 to 5,000 kilometers (310 to 3,100 miles).

<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20140813/191980690/Moscow-Dismisses-INF-Treaty-Violation-Allegations-as-Part-of-US.html>

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ECNmag.com – Rockaway, NJ

## **Neutrino Detectors Could Help Curb Nuclear Weapons Activity**

By EurekAlert!

Tuesday, August 12, 2014

Physicists at the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland and even in the fictional world of CBS' "The Big Bang Theory" look to subatomic particles called neutrinos to answer the big questions about the universe.

Now, a group of scientists led by a physics professor with the College of Science at Virginia Tech are asking whether the neutrino could provide the world with clues about nuclear proliferation in Iran and other political hotspots.

Neutrinos are produced by the decay of radioactive elements, and nuclear reactors produce large amounts of neutrinos that cannot be shielded or disguised, which could help regulatory agencies monitor plutonium production.

Measuring neutrino emissions allows scientists to infer the plutonium content of a reactor from outside the building, according to a letter due to be released in *Physical Review Letters* written by Patrick Huber, an associate professor of physics and a member of the Center for Neutrino Physics at Virginia Tech, with Thomas Shea, a 20-year veteran of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and graduate students Eric Christensen of Westminster,



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Maryland, a doctoral student in physics, and Patrick Jaffke of Arlington, Virginia, a doctoral student in physics and a master's student in nuclear engineering.

"By making moderate improvements in existing neutrino-detector technology, we can fit a detector system into a standard 20-foot shipping container to monitor the Iranian heavy water reactor at Arak as part of a non-proliferation measure," Huber said. "Neutrino monitoring is non-intrusive and doesn't rely on a continuous history of reactor operations."

Monitoring antineutrinos — subatomic particles akin to the neutrino, except they spin in a different direction — also could help distinguish varying levels of fuel enrichment.

The Iranian 40 megawatt heavy water reactor at Arak has a design which is ideal for plutonium production for nuclear weapons and the International Atomic Energy Agency needs to be able to verify whether operations at the facility are for peaceful purposes.

Antineutrino detectors can provide the agency with high-level monitoring not currently offered by any other technique, the researchers say. This monitoring is based on the spectrum of antineutrinos produced by fission of uranium-235, plutonium-239, uranium-238, and plutonium-241, where the plutonium isotopes produce neutrinos with a lower average energy.

The paper is the result of an interdisciplinary collaboration between Huber's group at Virginia Tech's College of Science and Shea, with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy and the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment at Virginia Tech.

For being such tiny particles, neutrinos have made big headlines.

They travel at about the speed of light, unimpeded by electromagnetism and strong nuclear forces that affect other particles.

Studying them has provided insight into Albert Einstein's theory of the Standard Model of particle physics and has revealed astronomical information from the far reaches of the universe.

<http://www.ecnmag.com/news/2014/08/neutrino-detectors-could-help-curb-nuclear-weapons-activity>

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The Washington Free Beacon – Washington, D.C.

## **Destabilizing Threat**

*Russian cruise missile violation of arms treaty a 'serious threat'*

By Bill Gertz

August 15, 2014

OMAHA—A new Russian ground-launched cruise missile is a significant violation of a strategic arms treaty, a senior State Department official said on Thursday.

Rose Gottemoeller, undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, said during a speech that Moscow's breach of the 1987 intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty poses "a serious threat to strategic stability."

"It is that aspect of a ground-launched cruise missile that is the one about which we have determined is a Russian [treaty] violation," Gottemoeller said during a U.S. Strategic Command conference on nuclear deterrence.

It was the first time the Obama administration acknowledged publicly the specific missile behind the treaty breach announced late last month.

Gottemoeller said the U.S. government offered to hold high-level talks with Russia with the goal of rectifying the treaty breach at the time Moscow was notified of the violation in formal diplomatic channels.

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Russia broke off most bilateral talks with the United States following the imposition of U.S. sanctions for Russia's military annexation of Crimea's Ukraine in June.

The Obama administration wants the talks as part of efforts to prevent the collapse of the Cold War-era arms treaty, she said.

"We are asking Russia to return to compliance with the treaty in a verifiable manner," Gottemoeller said.

U.S. officials said the missile that violated the treaty is Russia's new R-500 cruise missile that has been in development for several years. Reports from Russia say the missile, also known as the Iskander K cruise missile, could be in the early stages of deployment.

Other violations of the INF treaty have included the testing of an intercontinental ballistic missile, the RS-26, to INF ranges. The treaty prohibits such testing.

A senior administration official said a major calculus by Russia for the new missile was China's development of INF-range missiles that Moscow sees as a potential threat.

Russia's government has denied that the new cruise missile development has violated the INF accord.

The State Department's annual arms compliance report released last month stated that Russia had violated the INF accord, which prohibits deploying missiles with ranges of between 500 kilometers and 5,500 kilometers.

Gottemoeller said Russia is currently debating its nuclear modernization and whether to jettison the INF treaty. She urged Moscow to come back into compliance.

Russia appears to be complying with the terms of the 2010 New START arms treaty, Gottemoeller said, adding that the U.S. government is continuing to monitor Russia's New START activities.

Gottemoeller said President Obama is continuing to pursue an additional one-third cut in nuclear warheads beyond New START he announced during a speech in Berlin in June 2013.

However, she acknowledged growing tensions between the United States and Russia over Ukraine make further arms agreement difficult.

"We will continue to be open to discussions of agreements that will reduce nuclear and other military threats," she said. "Of course we know that the situation is different than it was four years ago, four months ago, or even four weeks ago. But cooperation in the arms control realm has been an important facet of strategic stability over the past 40 years and should remain so for the future."

Gottemoeller said the Russian nuclear and missile buildup could prompt a "needless, costly, destabilizing arms race" as occurred during the Cold War.

Gottemoeller also criticized China for conducting an anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test last month and said Russia is also developing space warfare weapons capable of knocking out satellites.

"China's recent irresponsible and provocative ASAT test accentuates the importance of these efforts" to prevent the development of space warfare arms, she said. "Russia's pursuit of anti-satellite weapons is also a concern."

Critics in Congress of the administration's arms control-centered national security policies have said the INF violation was known for years and was kept secret from senators during debate on ratification of the New START treaty.

The belief is that intelligence on the Russian arms cheating was suppressed for political reasons in order to win passage of New START.

Gottemoeller said there are growing concerns that terrorists will acquire nuclear and other devastating weapons.

Last month, Rep. Mike Rogers (R., Ala.), chairman of the House Armed Services subcommittee on strategic forces, introduced legislation directed at Russia for its INF treaty breach.

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The legislation would seek to impose penalties for the Russian treaty violation.

Rogers and other congressional leaders pressed the administration to make the declaration of the INF treaty violation.

“Vladimir Putin does not take his obligations seriously, whether they be arms control or respect for the integrity of Ukraine and Georgia,” Rogers said in a statement announcing the legislation

“He doesn’t believe he has anything to fear from President Obama,” he added. “While the president may prefer to lead from behind in the face of Russian aggression, Congress cannot. We will impose serious consequences for Putin’s threats to our security.”

The Rogers legislation would authorize research and development of U.S. intermediate-range missiles. The bill also would mandate that the Pentagon move ahead with plans for ground-based variants of the Navy SM-3 ship-based missile interceptors in bases in Europe to defend against the new Russian INF missiles.

Other provisions call for imposing harsh economic sanctions on Russia that would limit cooperation with Russia’s civilian nuclear industry.

<http://freebeacon.com/national-security/destabilizing-threat/>

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Santa Fe New Mexican.com – Santa Fe, NM

## **Feds Blast Plans for Biodefense Labs at LANL**

By Patrick Malone, *The New Mexican*

August 11, 2014

A federal report released Monday criticizes a proposed expansion of Los Alamos National Laboratory to add labs that study dangerous biological agents. In the report, auditors urged the National Nuclear Security Administration to reconsider the additions before following through with them.

The audit by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Inspector General questioned the fiscal prudence of the projects, whether Los Alamos’ reports justifying them were accurate and whether the facilities are even needed.

“Given the current budget realities, plans to develop additional capabilities without fully demonstrating a need may not be prudent,” the audit concluded.

Greg Mello, executive director of the watchdog organization Los Alamos Study Group, said he hopes the audit’s findings end any plans to conduct research on biological agents at Los Alamos.

“Let us hope this report is the end of these misguided ambitions,” Mello said. “LANL is not the place to do biodefense work.”

The NNSA is considering a \$9.5 million expansion at Los Alamos that would open a biosafety lab to study high-risk agents “that cause serious and potentially lethal infections” and medium-risk agents, according to the report. The lab for high-risk agents would be housed at a building erected at LANL in 2003, but never opened because of litigation and vulnerability to seismic activity. Minimizing the earthquake threat to the building alone would cost about \$437,000, according to the report.

The NNSA’s plan also calls for a lab to study medium-risk biological agents. A new building would be necessary for this purpose at a cost of \$8 million.

Los Alamos National Laboratory has issued several reports to justify the need for expansion, but their veracity came under fire in the federal audit.

“Despite LANL’s assertions, we found outside demand for a new ... facility to be less certain,” auditors reported. The audit noted that LANL’s reports ignored the prevalence of biosecurity services throughout the country, and

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officials with federal agencies that LANL plans to rely on for business at the expanded labs told auditors they would be unlikely to use it because less expensive, equally secure options already exist.

"In our judgment, NNSA needs to fully reassess its need for biological research facilities," auditors reported.

Auditors also questioned cost estimates LANL provided for the proposed expansion.

"LANL's current cost allocation practices may have understated the costs of biological research personnel," running afoul of the Energy Department's cost-recovery policies by applying funds allocated for specific projects to work for other government agencies.

Soon after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, at the height of national concern over bioterrorism, the Department of Homeland Security was created and granted authority over biological national security issues, previously the purview of the Department of Energy and NNSA. The handoff resulted in fragmented programs at labs under the NNSA's command.

The audit released Monday was undertaken with cost considerations in mind.

In response to its findings, the NNSA agreed to re-evaluate and reconsider its plans for expansion at Los Alamos, but challenged findings that criticized plans to add a medium-threat biosafety lab because the assertions the audit assailed were merely preliminary proposals.

Los Alamos Study Group's Mello said other sites are better equipped to take on biodefense jobs, and for less money.

"LANL should not try to do everything but should rather try to focus on doing a few things well," he said, "accepting that its nuclear weapons mission is going to be shrinking and being glad for that."

[http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local\\_news/feds-blast-plans-for-biodefense-labs-at-lanl/article\\_8dec950d-dad6-5f0f-864a-8523c204a726.html](http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/feds-blast-plans-for-biodefense-labs-at-lanl/article_8dec950d-dad6-5f0f-864a-8523c204a726.html)

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South China Morning Post – Hong Kong, China

## **China's Development of a New Long-Range Missile is a Significant Boost for the Military, Say Analysts**

*Analysts say development of long-range rocket may prompt the US and Japan to strengthen their own defence capabilities in the region*

By Minnie Chan

Sunday, 10 August, 2014

China's development of a long-range missile capable of hitting anywhere in the United States suggests the PLA has made a significant leap in countering American military might through its strategy of "asymmetrical" warfare.

The approach, which has its roots in Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*, avoids trying to match strength with strength, and instead seeks to create threats that draw an opponent into making a costly response. Amid such calculations, China appears set to introduce the Dongfeng-41, which analysts say will have repercussions at the global and regional levels and alter the US and Japanese military build-up.

"The US will speed up the deployment of its ballistic missile defence systems in the AsiaPacific region after confirming the PLA is continuing to develop the DF-41," said Macau-based military observer Antony Wong Dong.

"When Washington increases its ballistic missile defence abilities, Beijing will possibly react by strengthening the deployment of the DF-21D anti-ship ballistic missile, or even extend the range of the so-called carrier killer."

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The development of the DF-41 was disclosed, possibly by accident, by a government environmental monitoring centre in Shaanxi in June. The information was picked up in a report by the state-run *Global Times* on the anniversary of the formation of the People's Liberation Army on August 1, although it was later removed.

According to industry estimates, the missile is designed to carry up to 10 independent re-entry vehicles each targeting a separate city as far as 12,000km away. The previous model, the DF-31, has an estimated range of 10,000km, putting it within reach of capitals in Europe and the US west coast.

Professor Arthur Ding Shu-fan, secretary general of the Taipei-based Chinese Council of Advanced Policy Studies, said the DF-41 would prompt the Pentagon to work more closely with Japan by strengthening its missile defence systems in the Asia Pacific, and possibly give Tokyo an argument for developing nuclear weapons.

"The upcoming introduction of the DF-41 by the PLA will help [Japanese] Prime Minister Shinzo Abe push his cause to normalise the Japanese army," Ding said.

"Indeed, if collective selfdefence is added to Japan's constitution, Abe's next step might be to develop nuclear weapons. And it's possible that Washington will back Tokyo in developing this capability in a bid to contain a rising China."

Until now, the Pentagon has focused on the threat posed by China's DF-21D missile, which it fears could knock out an aircraft carrier, weakening the US' naval dominance, according to a report published by the Centre for a New American Security, a Washington think tank.

Dr Richard Bitzinger, a senior fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore, said the Pentagon had expected China to develop the DF-41 given the technology involved was within China's reach.

"Honestly, multiple independent re-entry vehicles have always been a worry for [the US'] ballistic missile defence. It's one of the things that killed antiballistic-missile defences in the 1970s," Bitzinger said. But he agreed the US was likely to respond by speeding up development of its ballistic missile defences.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1570233/chinas-development-new-long-range-missile-significant-boost-military-say>

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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

August 11, 2014

## **N. Korean FM Says Pyongyang's Nukes Aimed at Deterring U.S. Hostility**

By Kim Soo-yeon

NAYPYITAW, Aug. 10 (Yonhap) -- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Su-yong claimed Sunday that the North's nuclear weapons program exists as a "deterrence" against what it calls U.S. hostility against it, vowing to strengthen the country's nuclear capabilities.

Ri made the remarks at a meeting of top diplomats from the 27-member ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), which involves all countries to the six-party talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear program, Choe Myung-nam, a North Korean diplomat, told reporters.

"We came to have nuclear deterrence unavoidably as we have been consistently beset by Washington's hostile policy, military pressure and its nuclear threats over more than 50 years," Ri was quoted as saying by Choe during the meeting.

"Our possession of nuclear weapons is deterrence against war. We have nuclear weapons neither for using against anyone nor threatening anyone," he told reporters on the sidelines.

**Issue No.1128, 15 August 2014**

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Choe, deputy director of international affairs at the North's foreign ministry, also said that a joint military exercise between South Korea and the U.S. is much more threatening to peace on the Korean Peninsula than its rocket launches in recent weeks.

His remarks came as North Korea has ratcheted up provocative acts by launching a series of missiles and rockets, snubbing the United Nations Security Council's fresh condemnation against it. Since earlier this year, it has threatened to conduct a fourth nuke test.

"The U.S. has been menacing to strike us with nuclear weapons. We will continue to step up efforts to beef up nuke deterrence to counter Washington's threats," Choe said when asked about the possibility of another nuclear test.

He also preached for North Korea's unification blueprint, rejecting South Korean President Park Geun-hye's unification proposal, known as "the Dresden proposal."

Park held out the prospect of the South increasing humanitarian assistance and building infrastructure in North Korea if trust builds between the two sides. North Korea has since angrily rejected the proposal.

Choe also denounced Park's proposal, saying that it does harm than good in achieving inter-Korean reunification.

Instead, he claimed that the only realistic way to achieve unification is the federation system that respects such differences of political ideology and government system.

Touching on its participation in the upcoming Asian Games in South Korea, the North Korean diplomat said that his country will closely watch Seoul's attitude following recent botched inter-Korean talks over the details of its participation.

The communist country has said that it will dispatch 350 athletes and coaches, along with the same number of cheerleaders, to the Asian Games to open on Sept. 19 for a two week run.

But the talks have recently fallen through over the details including who will cover the cost of the North's delegation. Neither Seoul nor Pyongyang have proposed another meeting.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2014/08/10/12/0301000000AEN20140810002451315F.html>

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The Korea Times – Seoul, South Korea

## **No Activity at N. Korea's Nuclear Test Site: 38 North**

August 12, 2014

Recent satellite imagery has shown virtually no activity at North Korea's nuclear test site, which could mean initial preparations for a new test have been completed, a U.S. think tank said Monday.

Earlier this year, speculation abounded that North Korea could carry out what would be its fourth nuclear test at the Punggye-ri underground test site in the country's northeast, with South Korean officials citing increased activity at the site.

Since then, activity at the site "has come to a standstill," said the website 38 North, run by the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, in a report published Monday. The report cited satellite imagery taken in July.

"Recent commercial satellite imagery indicates that there is virtually no activity at either area where North Korea might conduct its next blast, or at the facility that would serve as the main support area for a future test," the report said.

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A spoil pile near two complete test tunnels in the South Portal area has remained unchanged since May. At the West Portal area, too, after months of excavation at a third tunnel entrance, there has been no major digging since late May and no vehicles or activities in or around the portals since July, it said.

The meaning of diminished activity remains unclear, but one possibility is that test site personnel may have completed whatever initial preparations are necessary for conducting a fourth nuclear test once Pyongyang gives the order, it said.

Completed initial preparations may include finishing excavation of a third nuclear test tunnel that has been under construction at the West Portal area, in addition to two already finished at the South Portal area, according to the report.

"Once the order is given to proceed, based on past limited experience, it would take the North approximately six to eight weeks to conduct a detonation," the report said, adding that it is unclear whether site personnel could move more quickly if initial preparations were completed last spring.

"However, it is likely that a spurt of activity would be observable" in the run-up to a test, it said.

North Korea carried out nuclear tests in 2006, 2009 and 2013, and claims the country is a nuclear weapons power. Six-party talks aimed at ending the North's nuclear program have been stalled since December 2008. (Yonhap)

[http://m.koreatimes.co.kr/phone/news/view.jsp?req\\_newsidx=162743](http://m.koreatimes.co.kr/phone/news/view.jsp?req_newsidx=162743)

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Want China Times – Taipei, Taiwan

## Beijing's Nuclear Capability Still Far Behind US, Russia: Report

By Staff Reporter

August 12, 2014

The nuclear capability of the People's Liberation Army still lags far behind that of the United States and Russia, despite the country's recent revelation of the new DF-41 road-mobile ICBM, according to professor Robert Farley from the University of Kentucky's Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce, in an article written for the Washington-based National Interest.

"Over the past decade, China has worked to modernize its nuclear delivery systems, both on land and at sea," Farley wrote. "This work has helped narrow the gap between China and the US-Russia superpower tandem, although Chinese capabilities remain far behind."

The Second Artillery Corps, China's strategic missile force, relied completely on the outdated DF-5 missile for decades, so the new DF-31A and DF-41 represent a major modernization and expansion of China's overall deterrent capability, according to Farley.

Farley wrote that China is finally gaining its second-strike capability by putting the DF-41 into service. This will lead to a significant change in how China views its nuclear arsenal. The development of the Type 094 Jin-class submarine equipped with the JL-2 intercontinental-range submarine-launched ballistic missile has helped to revise the nuclear equation between China and the United States.

While stating that the ballistic missile submarine with nuclear strike capability significantly increases the reach of China's nuclear deterrent, Farley said that it is still not yet a practical threat to the mainland United States, due to the missiles' lack of range and the submarine's lack of stealth. He said, however, that China has more freedom than the United States and Russia to explore the technical frontiers of ballistic and cruise missiles, as it has not signed any arms control agreements.

Farley said that the development of a US missile defense system may prompt China to invest more resources in increasing its nuclear strike capability. He also suggested that it can be viewed as a long overdue modernization of Chinese nuclear forces. "However, if China is serious about supplying the Second Artillery with new ICBMs in

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significant numbers, it is very difficult to envision a scenario in which a National Missile Defense system could threaten to fully defeat China's deterrent," he said.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?cid=1101&MainCatID=11&id=20140812000019>

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The London Guardian – London, U.K.

## **Australia Embraces Missile and Naval Ties as it Cements US Defence Pact**

*Ministers also confirm 25-year agreement to rotate US marines and air force personnel through Darwin*

Katharine Murphy, deputy political editor

Tuesday 12 August 2014

Australia has signed on to cooperate with American ballistic missile defence systems in north Asia, and has welcomed both the larger US marine presence in Darwin and the prospect of more joint naval cooperation in the region.

A communique issued after Tuesday's annual Ausmin talks in Sydney said the US and Australia had "committed to continue to work together to counter the growing threat of ballistic missiles in the Asia Pacific region – including by establishing a bilateral working group to examine options for potential Australian contributions to ballistic missile defence in the region".

The joint statement also welcomed the "larger US marine corps presence under the third rotational deployment currently in Darwin" and noted that the respective foreign and defence ministers "discussed the way forward for enhanced aircraft cooperation".

"They discussed the potential for additional bilateral naval cooperation and welcomed the significant, wide-ranging series of port visits planned for 2015. They also asked their respective officials to develop practical options to enhance naval training and exercises in Australia and the region."

The US secretary of state John Kerry and defence secretary Chuck Hagel, and Australia's foreign minister Julie Bishop and defence minister David Johnston, used Tuesday's meeting in Sydney to sign a 25-year "force posture" agreement – the formal legal arrangement which allows US marines and air force personnel to rotate through northern Australia.

The meeting also resolved to expand trilateral defence cooperation with Japan – a development that troubles China.

The Darwin deployment and the US move to forge closer security ties with Japan are elements of the US "pivot" or "rebalance" to the Pacific – the Obama administration's diplomatic and strategic nod to the region.

Security experts have questioned how committed Washington is to the rebalance, given the current preoccupation with dangerous conflicts in the Middle East.

But despite Washington's divided attention, the posture creates the potential for continuing flashpoints with China.

Beijing is increasingly seeking to assert itself militarily within the region, troubling both the US and China's near neighbours. China's ambitions to project its status have manifested in part through provocative actions in the disputed territory of the South China Sea.

Tuesday's Ausmin communique addressed China's actions and called for calm in the South China Sea.

The communique said territorial disputes must be resolved in accordance with international law, and opposed "unilateral attempts to change facts on the ground or water through the threat or use of force or coercion".



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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

## **N. Korea Has 'No Room' for Further Nuclear Tests: CTBTO Head**

August 13, 2014

SEOUL, Aug. 13 (Yonhap) -- North Korea should realize it has "no room" for further nuclear tests, given increased global pressure and an upgraded international monitoring system, the steering-committee head for an international test ban treaty said Wednesday.

The remark by Lassina Zerbo, the executive secretary of the preparatory committee for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), came only days after North Korea reasserted its intention to keep pursuing nuclear weapons.

Attending the ASEAN Regional Forum over the weekend in Myanmar, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Su-yong insisted that Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program exists as a deterrence against U.S. hostile policy toward the country and vowed to strengthen its nuclear capabilities.

Since its third nuclear test in February 2013, the North has repeatedly threatened to conduct another atomic detonation, escalating tensions in the region.

"I think the three tests are just the beginning, and what we have to do is to make sure they don't go further," Zerbo said in an interview with a group of South Korean reporters, vowing to stop North Korea from conducting additional tests.

For North Korea, "there is no room for nuclear test any more" because of increased global pressure and the upgraded international monitoring system on nuclear activities, the scientist-turned-executive secretary said.

"We moved from thousands of nuclear tests to nearly none (recently). And there have been only those three tests from the DPRK (North Korea) in this 21st century," said Zerbo, who was in Seoul for a meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the treaty in 1996 in efforts to prevent the development of nuclear weapons around the globe, but it has yet to enter into force due to non-ratification by eight of the 44 nuclear-armed countries, including the U.S., China and North Korea.

With 337 monitoring facilities scattered around the world, CTBTO's nuclear test detection ability is about 90 percent complete, the executive secretary said, adding that it's not likely that any test relevant to the development of nuclear weapons will go unnoticed by the international monitoring system.

Zerbo also called for the U.S., China and North Korea to join the treaty, stressing that their entry would help stop global nuclear proliferation. Washington and Beijing have signed, but not yet ratified the treaty, a process which is necessary for the test ban treaty to take force.

"(The U.S. and China) said no to nuclear testing by signing the treaty now. We have to get them to say never by ratifying the CTBT," Zerbo said, adding that his commission is making efforts to that end.

"We together with the international community (also) urge the DPRK to join the consensus on nuclear testing and to contribute to the regional peace and security," he said. "If this treaty enters into force, we will have legally binding framework that will stop anyone from doing nuclear test. And Korea will be no exception."

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2014/08/13/71/0301000000AEN20140813006700315F.html>

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Xinhua News – Beijing, China

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## S. Korea Urges DPRK to Accept Proposal of High-Level Talks

August 15, 2014

SEOUL, Aug. 15 (Xinhua) -- South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Friday called on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ( DPRK) to stop developing nuclear weapons and to accept Seoul's proposal of high-level talks to ease tensions.

Park delivered the message to Pyongyang in a televised speech on the Liberation Day marking the 69th anniversary of the peninsula's liberation from Japan's 35-year colonial rule.

Seoul proposed to Pyongyang on Monday to hold senior-level inter-Korean talks next week to discuss the reunion of separated families. The DPRK has yet to respond to the proposal.

Park said the DPRK should abandon its nuclear weapons following the example of Kazakhstan and select the way of reform and opening up just as what Vietnam and Myanmar have done before, which have since witnessed peace and prosperity.

"For the common prosperity of the Northeast Asia, the DPRK should break its isolation and play a responsible role in the international community," said the president.

She said the two sides should tolerate each other's defects, trying to improve relations and boost mutual understanding step by step through cooperation on soft and minor issues such as joint environment protection program on shared rivers and forest.

She invited the DPRK to join in the 12th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity which will be held in South Korea's Pyeongchang city later this year.

The three-week U.N. biodiversity conference with 20,000 attendees from 193 countries will run between Sept. 29 and Oct. 19, 2014.

Park also pressed Japanese leaders to face up to the history, changing its erroneous understanding of history, especially on the sex slave issues, and showing its wisdom and determination for the new future with South Korea.

She noted that as the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between South Korea and Japan is approaching next year, the two countries must try hard to cure the past pain.

Besides, she emphasized on boosting the country's economy with new engine and focusing more on the its safety considering the frequent accidents happened this year.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2014-08/15/c\\_133558377.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2014-08/15/c_133558377.htm)

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The New Indian Express – Chennai, India

## N Korea Suggests Missile Tests for Anniversary, Not Pope

By Press Trust of India (PTI)

15th August 2014

SEOUL: North Korea today suggested that a series of rocket tests that coincided with the arrival of Pope Francis in South Korea were actually conducted to mark the anniversary of liberation from Japanese colonial rule.

In a brief despatch, which made no mention of the pontiff's five-day visit to the South, the North's official KCNA news agency said leader Kim Jong-Un had personally supervised the testing of a high-precision tactical missile.

The test was timed to mark the 69th anniversary today of the Korean peninsula's liberation from Japanese rule in 1945, it added.



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The North fired three short-range missiles just minutes before the pope's plane touched down in Seoul yesterday morning at the start of the first papal visit to Asia for 15 years.

Another two rockets were fired later in the day.

The KCNA despatch did not specify the time or date of the test supervised by Kim, but South Korean defence ministry officials said no other rockets had been detected, indicating that it referred to yesterday's launches.

Speaking in Seoul later yesterday, Pope Francis said that peace could only be brought to the divided Korean peninsula through dialogue, not "displays of force".

According to KCNA, the testing was of an "ultra-precision high-performance tactical rocket" developed under Kim Jong-Un's guidance.

Pyongyang had trumpeted the test of a missile with a similar description in June, calling it a "cutting-edge" weapon that marked a breakthrough in national defence capability.

North Korea is not known to have a tactical guided missile, but analysis of a recent propaganda film suggested it may have acquired a variant of a Russian cruise missile, the KH-35.

The United States denounced yesterday's launches and said it was studying whether they violated UN Security Council resolutions.

"We continue to call on North Korea to refrain from undertaking such provocative actions," State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf told reporters in Washington.

Harf also voiced concern that North Korea did not give notice to alert passing ships and aircraft.

North Korea has carried out an extended series of missile tests into the East Sea in recent months, despite UN resolutions barring it from any launches using ballistic missile technology.

The North has defended the tests as a legitimate exercise in self-defence and a response to war manoeuvres involving the US and the South.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/N-Korea-Suggests-Missile-Tests-for-Anniversary-Not-Pope/2014/08/15/article2381044.ece>

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RT (Russia Today) – Moscow, Russia

## **Russia to Deploy Fifth-Gen Fighters, S-500 Missiles in 2016**

August 10, 2014

In 2016, the Russian military will start deploying two advanced weapons, the fifth-generation fighter jet PAK FA and the long-range surface-to-air missile systems S-500, chief of the Russian Air Forces said.

Lieutenant General Viktor Bondarev gave an outline of his branch's modernization plans, including the build-up of Arctic infrastructure, in a radio interview with the Russian News Service station on Sunday.

The flight trials of PAK FA (T-50) will soon be over, and in 2016 the Air Force is planning to start commissioning the aircraft into service, the general said.

PAK FA is Russia's first fifth-generation fighter jet built by the Sukhoi Corporation. So far five prototypes have been completed and are undergoing various tests. The fighter is scheduled to eventually replace Sukhoi Su-27s.

*"It took part in the [international pilot competition] Aviadarts twice and performed aerobatic flights in pair. I believe the aircraft has a brilliant future,"* the general said.

**Issue No.1128, 15 August 2014**

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Another new addition to the ranks planned for 2016 is S-500, a state-of-the-art long-range air defense system developed by Almaz Antei, Bondarev said. The producer is finalizing new missiles for the system, which would have advanced homing electronics.

*"The missiles will have a build-in intelligence system, which will analyze the aerial and radar environment and take decisions about its altitude, speed and direction of the flight,"* the general said.

S-500 is an advanced version of S-400 with dedicated components designed to intercept ballistic missiles at a height of up to 200 km. The system is expected to be able to shut down up to 10 incoming ballistic missiles simultaneously. It also has an extended radar range compared to S-400.

Gen. Bondarev confirmed the previously reported schedule for the development of PAK DA, a new Russian strategic bomber. So far little has been made public about the aircraft, which is to replace Tupolev Tu-95s and Tu-160s as the backbone of Russia's aerial nuclear capability. It's rumored to be a sub-sonic flying wing design and may have a new nuclear-capable cruise missile developed for armament.

The general confirmed that the Air Forces expect Tupolev to produce first prototypes of PAK DA by the end of the decade and launch series production in 2021-2022. In the meantime, modernization programs for Tu-95s and Tu-160s are enough to keep the Russian strategic bomber fleet in good shape and sufficient for the renewed long-range flight missions, he said.

Arguably the biggest modernization effort required from the Air Forces is focused on the Arctic infrastructure. Back in Soviet times the military maintained a massive network of airfields and radar stations in the north, but they were neglected in the years following the USSR's collapse. With rich Arctic resources becoming more accessible and a potential for a conflict in the area growing, the Russian military are rebuilding the Arctic bases.

*"We don't see any rivals in the Arctic now, but if a challenge comes, we must be prepared to defend this region. The presence in the Arctic will be increased,"* General Bondarev said.

Russia this year reopened the Temp airfield on Kotelnny Island north of eastern Siberia, the general announced. There are plans to enlarge the bases in Tiksi, Alykel, Vorkuta and Anadyr. In the future, full-strength divisions and regiments of the Russian Air Force will be deployed in the north.

<http://rt.com/news/179256-russia-deploy-s500-missiles/>

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ITAR-TASS News Agency – Moscow, Russia

## **Russian, Foreign Inspectors to Make TOS Observation Flights**

*Joint mission of Norway and Finland will carry out maneuvers in Russia's skies*

August 11, 2014

MOSCOW, August 11. /ITAR-TASS/. Under the Treaty on Open Skies (TOS), Russian inspectors are going to make an observation flight over Britain and Northern Ireland while a joint mission of Norway and Finland will carry out similar maneuvers in Russia's skies, Sergey Ryzhkov, head of the National Nuclear Risk Reduction Center, told journalists.

A Russian An-30B observation plane will make a flight along a route fixed with the side subject to observation. British specialists on board the plane will monitor the procedure for the application of instrumentation.

Ryzhkov said, "The observation flight will be made within a period from August 11 to 15 from Open Skies airfield Brize Norton, with a maximum range of flight being up to 2,400 km". To Russian specialists this flight over the territories of Parties to the Treaty will be a 24th one this year.

The joint mission of Norway and Finland will make an observation flight over Russia aboard a Romanian plane An-30 within a period from August 11 to 15. "Russian specialists on board the plane will monitor strict compliance

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with the agreed parameters of the flight and the use of the observation equipment provided for by the TOS," Ryzhkov pointed out.

The An-30 observation plane belongs to a type of aircraft that does not carry any armament, he emphasized.

<http://en.itar-tass.com/russia/744356>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **Russia Builds New \$28Mln Fighter Jets**

12 August 2014

MOSCOW, August 12 (RIA Novosti) – Russia's new Sukhoi fighter jets cost more than 1 billion rubles (\$28 million), Col. Gen. Viktor Bondarev, the Russian Air Force commander-in-chief, said Tuesday.

"New aircrafts appear, and their cost is enormous. Each plane costs more than 1 billion rubles: Su-30, Su-35, Su-34," Bondarev told Rossiya-24 television channel.

The jets need contemporary airfields to work their best, he said. Russia has 150 airfields in use, most of them constructed during the Soviet Union.

The multipurpose Su-30 of the 4+ generation is a modification of the Su-27 and is intended to lead group combat actions in gaining air superiority, to cover ground troops and objects, eliminate assault forces, as well as conduct aerial surveillance and engage surface targets.

Multifunctional Su-35 fighters, with their medium-range missiles, are used to gain air superiority by eliminating manned and unmanned flying vehicles.

Su-34 fighter-bomber is capable of performing high-precision missile strikes, including with nuclear weapons, at land and sea targets at any time of the day.

[http://en.ria.ru/military\\_news/20140812/191940990/Russia-Builds-New-28Mln-Fighter-Jets.html](http://en.ria.ru/military_news/20140812/191940990/Russia-Builds-New-28Mln-Fighter-Jets.html)

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ITAR-TASS News Agency – Moscow, Russia

## **Bulava Missile to Be Launched in Autumn — Source**

*The missile will be launched from Borei-class strategic missile submarines Alexander Nevsky and Vladimir Monomakh*

August 13, 2014

MOSCOW, August 13. /ITAR-TASS/. The intercontinental submarine-launched ballistic missile Bulava will be launched in September or October, a source in the Russian naval headquarters familiar with the process said on Wednesday.

The missile will be launched from Borei-class strategic missile submarines Alexander Nevsky and Vladimir Monomakh, the source told ITAR-TASS.

Vladimir Monomakh was initially planned to shoot Bulava in August or September, the lead vessel Yuriy Dolgorukiy - in November, while Alexander Nevsky was not planned to participate this year. Alexander Nevsky is the first serial Borei-class submarine and began service in 2013. Vladimir Monomakh is planned to join the fleet in late 2014.

Alexander Nevsky and Vladimir Monomakh were earlier reported to make three test Bulava launches from the Sea of Okhotsk in the summer or autumn of 2015. For this, the submarines would follow the Northern Sea Route with 16 missiles each, said a source in the governmental military-industrial commission.

The military planned a total of five test launches, Deputy Defense Minister Yuriy Borisov said.

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Bulava R-30 is the Russian state-of-the-art three-stage solid-fuel missile that carries up to 10 independent warheads and has a range of 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles).

The missile aimed to equip two strategic submarines Shark and Borei has been developed since 1998.

On September 6, 2013, Alexander Nevsky launched Bulava in the White Sea at the Kura test range in Kamchatka. The rocket left the launch container but a malfunction occurred in the second minute of flight. According to the governmental commission, the failure resulted from a mistake in nozzle material production. Bulava launches would be resumed in the autumn of 2014, Borisov said later.

<http://en.itar-tass.com/russia/744733>

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The London Guardian, London, U.K.

## **Trident Missiles 'Could Be Relocated to Plymouth from Independent Scotland'**

*Devonport is obvious alternative to Faslane for Britain's nuclear missiles, says Rusi thinktank, despite risk of 'accidental ignition'*

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Wednesday, 13 August 2014

There would be no insurmountable technical or financial obstacle to relocating Britain's Trident nuclear missile base to England out of an independent Scotland, a report by a leading thinktank says on Thursday.

Any local opposition might delay but not stop relocation, and the favoured site would be Devonport in Plymouth, it says.

Some opponents of Scottish independence have suggested it would mean the end of the Trident nuclear weapons system and that the cost of moving the submarine base at Faslane and the nuclear warhead depot at Coulport would be prohibitive.

The study by the Royal United Services Institute (Rusi) says that relocating Trident would add up to £3.5bn to the cost of retaining the UK's nuclear forces. The cost of the overall nuclear deterrent programme over 25 years is estimated to be £80bn.

It says that while any relocation could not be completed by the 2020 target date currently proposed by the Scottish government, it could be put off until 2028, the date the new fleet of Trident submarines is due to start entering service.

Devonport, the base for conventionally-armed nuclear submarines, would be the most obvious alternative to Faslane, says the report.

The option "given most credence to date" for storing the submarines' nuclear warheads is the Fal estuary to the north of Falmouth which offered "good shelter and a comparatively isolated location", the report notes.

Milford Haven, cited in the 1960s as a possible Trident base, would be ruled out as 25% of the UK's liquefied natural gas passes through its terminals.

The study acknowledges there would be safety concerns: "Introducing nuclear-armed [submarines] to Devonport will unavoidably introduce a new risk that an accidental ignition of one or all of a submarine's Trident D5 missiles could spread radioactive material over some of Plymouth's 260,000 inhabitants."

Though there would be opposition on safety grounds, it notes that the Ministry of Defence is reported to have waived safety requirements at Coulport in the 1970s to allow that base to continue operating.

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It notes: "The secretary of state has the power to restrict the examination of plans to only those with suitable clearance in a case that 'may involve the interests of national security'. Furthermore, if a planning application is likely to be refused, any urgent development 'of national importance' can be submitted directly to the secretary of state for communities and local government for planning approval."

Basing Trident submarines in the US would not be a credible long-term option, according to the report, since what is said to be one of the primary purposes of the UK nuclear force is to provide some insurance against a scenario where, for whatever reason, the US is not willing to come to the UK's defence.

"A decision to rely on a US operating base would clearly undermine the credibility of the UK nuclear force in this scenario."

Furthermore, the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) bans nuclear-armed states from directly or indirectly transferring control of nuclear weapons to "any recipient", the report notes.

It adds: "The various challenges of relocation would probably trigger a wider national discussion in the [rest of the UK] on whether or not the strategic benefits of retaining nuclear weapons exceeded the costs involved."

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/aug/14/trident-missiles-relocate-plymouth-independent-scotland-rusi-report>

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Al Arabiya – Dubai, U.A.E.

## **Iran Says Won't Accept 'Toy' Enrichment Program**

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Sunday, 10 August 2014

Tehran -- Iran will not accept a weak uranium enrichment program which world powers might be willing to grant the Islamic republic like a "toy" in nuclear negotiations, a top official said Sunday.

The size and scale of the Islamic republic's enrichment activities remain the biggest stumbling block in efforts to clinch a long-term agreement over Iran's disputed atomic activities.

Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Iran's deputy foreign minister for American and European Affairs, made the remarks on returning to Tehran from Geneva, after five hours of talks with US officials.

"We said to the other party ... we will not accept that our uranium enrichment program becomes something like a toy," he said, referring to last week's discussions.

"Our enrichment program has a specific framework and we cannot accept anything outside of this framework," he added.

Iran and six world powers failed to clinch a comprehensive agreement by a July 20 deadline, which has now been extended to Nov. 24.

The next round of nuclear talks will be held before the UN General Assembly, which starts on September 16.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the US -- plus Germany, want to render Iran incapable of developing an atomic weapons capability.

In exchange, Iran wants an end to extensive sanctions that are choking its economy as well as sufficient enrichment capacity to guarantee fuel for its sole nuclear power plant in Bushehr after a current supply contract with Russia expires in 2021.

The process of enriching uranium can produce fuel for reactors but also the core of a nuclear bomb if purified to higher levels.

Iran has always denied that it is pursuing an atomic bomb.

**Issue No.1128, 15 August 2014**

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<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/08/10/Iran-says-won-t-accept-toy-enrichment-program-.html>

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Monday, August 11, 2014

## Rouhani Terms Iran's Nuclear Issue Unreal Crisis

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani underlined that Tehran is not in a rush to strike a deal with the six world powers (the US, Russia, China, France and Britain plus Germany), and said the crisis stirred over Iran's nuclear activities is fake.

"We consider the nuclear issue as a fabricated crisis as we see no trouble in our nuclear case," President Rouhani said, addressing a convention of Iran's diplomatic corps abroad here in Tehran on Monday.

The Iranian president noted that Iran is not in a haste to strike a final comprehensive agreement with the West.

President Rouhani reiterated that Iran is working on breaking the sanctions concurrent with making progress in the negotiations with the world powers.

"We deem the sanctions as oppressive and inhumane," the Iranian president said, adding, "We have told them (the western countries) that your sanctions are wrong and inhumane as you have boycotted supply of medicine to our patients that will be remembered in the history."

President Rouhani underlined that Iran has and will never look for weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), and said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran has never been, is not and will not be after the acquisition of WMDs, no matter there is a 5+1 or not, no matter there is a body like the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) or not, no matter there is any NPT or not."

He underlined that the world should know Iran is seriously pursuing negotiations to resolve the problem and it does not want the negotiations just for the sake of negotiation. "The negotiations should lead to an acceptable solution in a logical timespan and we are ready to talk in this regard with logic and reasoning."

President Rouhani reminded that it was Iran itself that invited the IAEA to mount its cameras at Iranian nuclear sites, and added, "The world should accept and feel the existing reality and know that we will by no means withdraw from our rights."

On Saturday, Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht Ravanchi voiced satisfaction in the progressive trend of the nuclear talks between Iran and the six major world powers, and described the one-on-one talks with the Sextet members as a productive plan to narrow down differences before the scheduled high-level meeting in September.

"Iran will definitely hold bilateral talks with the Group5+1 (the US, Britain, France, Russia and China plus Germany) ahead of the scheduled (high-level) meeting between (Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad) Zarif and (EU Foreign Policy Chief) Catherine Ashton on the sidelines of the (annual gathering of the) UN General Assembly," Takht Ravanchi said.

"The exact timetable and venue of the meetings have not been determined yet," he added.

Last month, Iran and the G5+1 had over two weeks of negotiations in Vienna with no final agreement between the two sides, but they extended their July 20 deadline for a few more months.

During the talks, a senior member of the Iranian team of negotiators stressed that the excessive demands made by the other side are the root cause of the differences between Tehran and the world powers.

At the end of their talks, the two sides agreed to extend the talks till November 24 for brokering a final deal.



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Zarif and Ashton in a joint statement after over two weeks of talks stressed the need for more efforts and time to reach an agreement with the world powers over Tehran's nuclear program.

Due to certain differences over some fundamental issues the two sides agreed to extend the Joint Plan of Action by November 24, they added.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13930520000561>

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Tehran Times – Tehran, Iran

## Iran Needs to Talk to U.S. on Sanctions: Nuclear Negotiator

Political Desk

Monday, 11 August 2014

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian nuclear negotiator has said it is not enough just to hold talks with the European Union and it is necessary that Tehran hold talks with the U.S. which is leading sanctions on Iran.

Majid Takht-Ravanchi made the remarks in an interview with IRNA published on Sunday.

Iran and the United States held nuclear talks in Geneva on Thursday at deputy ministerial level. The two sides called the talks “constructive”.

The issue of sanctions is one of the points of differences between Iran and the 5+1 group (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany), Takht-Ravanchi said.

The deputy foreign minister said Iran is seeking a complete lifting of sanctions.

Takht-Ravanchi went on to say that according to the interim deal sanctions imposed on Iran by the U.S., European Union and UN Security Council should be removed.

Iran and the major powers clinched an interim nuclear deal last November in Geneva, under which Iran agreed to scale down parts of its nuclear program for six months in exchange for limited sanctions. Under the deal known as the Joint Plan of Action, the two sides set a July 20 deadline to clinch a long-term comprehensive nuclear deal. However the negotiating partners failed to meet the self-imposed July 20 deadline to work out a comprehensive deal. In their last round of talks in Vienna the sides agreed to extend the talks until November 24.

The negotiator said an extension of the talks was predicted in the Geneva deal.

He also said it is “difficult” to predict the future of the talks.

The fact is that the direction of the talks is not “predictable”, he said.

The diplomat added that Iran is showing goodwill in the talks and makes every effort that the talks bear fruit, “but not at any cost”.

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/politics/117566-iran-needs-to-talk-to-us-on-sanctions-nuclear-negotiator>

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Al-Monitor – Washington, D.C.

## Rouhani Says 'To Hell' with Nuclear Critics

By Arash Karami

August 11, 2014

At a meeting of Iran’s ambassadors, President Hassan Rouhani defended his administration’s performance on the nuclear negotiations, using harsh language to remind critics of the nuclear deal that his administration has the support of the different branches of government and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final

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say in the negotiations between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany (P5+1).

Fars News reported that in response to criticism over some Iranian officials appearing to get close to Western officials, Rouhani said, "Some who are politically timid and cowardly do not have confidence and they assume everyone is like them." He said, "Whenever negotiations start, they say that they are shaking — To hell, go and find a warm place for yourself."

"The administration has done something big," Rouhani said. "One of these examples is the Geneva agreement and if some are not thankful for these efforts, sooner or later they will be and history will have its own judgment."

Rouhani said that the nuclear issue, which afflicted Iran with a number of sanctions, is in reality "an artificial crisis," and that Iran is "not in a hurry in the nuclear discussions, but we do not see a delay as advisable."

"The foundations of sanctions have broken and I have no doubt in this and we should know that the previous situation will not return," he said. "In the negotiations with the P5+1, we are in the process of breaking the sanctions, and they know how we break the sanctions."

"We know the sanctions to be oppressive and inhumane and we told them that your sanctions were wrong and inhumane," Rouhani said. "You sanctioned our medicine, and this will remain in history." While the various United States and UN Security Council resolutions against Iran did not target medicine specifically, sanctions against Iranian banks and the transfer of money created obstacles in obtaining medicine from foreign markets.

Rouhani also said that after a final nuclear deal is reached, the P5+1 countries will say, "We stopped Iran from making a nuclear bomb." But he compared Iran to Israel, which, according to Rouhani, after the recent Gaza war and the destruction and death it inflicted on Gaza, "made clear which country is after weapons of mass destruction and which is not." He also attributed to social media the change in public opinion against Israel.

In regard to the nuclear inspection body, the International Atomic Energy Agency, which reports to the UN, Rouhani said, "Whether the agency is there or not, the Islamic Republic has not, is not and will not be after weapons of mass [destruction]."

"The world has to accept the present reality and know that we have a serious intention to resolve this issue and we will not retreat from our rights," he continued. "This administration is not an administration that will retreat from the rights of the people. It is an administration that has the highest and best support of the people and in the best situation, in unity with the leaders of other branches."

Rouhani said, "The other branches of government are also with us and all of us are next to the guidance of the supreme leader and we are a single unit in the country and we will not give permission for anyone to create differences between the branches of the government and, God forbid — God be praised this doesn't exist — that there would be an insult to the supreme leader."

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/08/rouhani-says-to-hell-nuclear-critics.html#>

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Tasmin News Agency – Tehran, Iran

## Chance for Interaction with Iran Not Everlasting: President

August 12, 2014

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran's president on Tuesday recommended the international community to seize the opportunity to secure a deal with Iran on its peaceful nuclear work, since the window is not going to stay open forever.

*"The world needs to know that the opportunity given by the Iranian nation is not endless, and we have already formulated our economic plans according to the status quo," President Hassan Rouhani said in an address to an economic conference in Tehran on Tuesday.*

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Commenting on the consequences of a long-awaited, comprehensive agreement between Iran and major world powers on Tehran's peaceful nuclear program, Rouhani noted that the final deal will serve the interests of all parties.

*"An agreement will be in everyone's favor, because continuation of sanctions is detrimental to all and because the removal of sanctions would benefit all," the president pointed out.*

On November 24, 2013, Iran and the Group 5+1 (the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany) signed a six-month deal on Tehran's nuclear program in Geneva.

Based on the interim deal, the world powers agreed to suspend some non-essential sanctions and to impose no new nuclear-related bans in return for Tehran's decision to freeze parts of its nuclear activities.

Such relief included suspension of some restrictions on trade in gold, precious metals and petrochemicals, and in the auto industry.

According to the Geneva deal, \$4.2 billion in oil revenues were also transferred to Iran.

Later on July 18 and after more than two weeks of intensive diplomatic negotiations in Vienna, Iran and the six nations agreed to continue talks for another four months after missing a July 20 deadline for signing a long-awaited accord.

The two sides decided to extend the nuclear talks until November 24 in the hope of clinching a final deal. The four-month extension of the talks began on July 21.

<http://www.tasnimnews.com/English/Home/Single/458911>

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The Daily Star – Beirut, Lebanon

## **Iran: Interaction with US Limited to Nuclear Talks**

Reuters

August 13, 2014

DUBAI: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Wednesday that nuclear talks with world powers would continue, but added there was no point in holding negotiations with the United States on other issues.

Khamenei, who has the last word on all matters in Shiite Muslim Iran, appeared to give a nuanced message on the country's often fraught relationship with Washington.

The nuclear talks, which involve the United States, have resulted in an interim deal under which Tehran has curbed some atomic activity in exchange for limited sanctions relief.

"There are no benefits in having relations or negotiations with the United States, except in certain specific cases," Khamenei told a gathering of Iranian diplomats, according to a statement on his website.

"Of course, on the nuclear front, talks will continue. What (Foreign Minister Javad) Dr. Zarif and his team started and has been going well until now, will continue," he said.

Six major powers and Iran failed to meet a July 20 deadline to negotiate a comprehensive nuclear agreement. The six - Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States - agreed to extend the deadline until November 24.

"We will not ban them (the negotiations). But this has become yet another invaluable experience that interaction and talks with Americans have absolutely no effect in easing their animosity (towards Iran)," Khamenei said.

"Some people were under the impression that sitting down to talk with America would solve all our problems. I knew that wouldn't be the case, but gave it a try due to the sensitive nature of the nuclear issue," he said.

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"Now the events of the past year have proved this hunch to be true. Not only did we gain nothing out of these interactions, but the tone of American officials has become harsher and more insulting," he said.

Last year, Khamenei had called for "heroic flexibility," giving cautious support to the talks after many years of Iranian refusal to discuss any curbs on the nuclear work it says is for peaceful purposes, but which Tehran's critics believe is aimed at developing weapons capability.

The interim nuclear deal has also come under attack by some Iranian hardliners who are unsettled by the shift to a more moderate foreign policy since Iranian President Hassan Rouhani took office a year ago.

Earlier this week, Rouhani called critics of his nuclear policy "cowards."

Concerned by a raging Sunni Islamist insurgency in Iraq, U.S. and Iranian officials discussed the crisis on the sidelines of separate negotiations about the Iranian nuclear program in Vienna in June.

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Aug-13/267103-iran-interaction-with-us-limited-to-nuclear-talks.ashx#axzz3AJnwZunl>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **84.3% of Chemical Weapons Removed From Syria Destroyed - OPCW**

14 August 2014

BRUSSELS, August 14 (RIA Novosti) - The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) said Thursday that 84.3 percent of chemical weapons, removed from Syria earlier this year, have been destroyed.

According to the organization's destruction data, that includes 94.8 percent of Category 1 chemicals and 43.1 percent of Category 2 chemicals.

OPCW previously reported about the destruction of 31.8 percent of chemical weapons.

On Wednesday, OPCW said that "all 581 metric tons of a precursor chemical for sarin gas that were removed from the Syrian Arab Republic and trans-loaded onto the US Maritime Vessel Cape Ray in early July, have been destroyed with neutralization technology aboard the ship while sailing in international waters of the Mediterranean Sea."

A team of OPCW inspectors on the Cape Ray continuously monitored and verified the destruction operations.

After a deadly chemical weapons attack on a Damascus suburb in August 2011, Russia made a proposal to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons arsenal that was later supported by the United States. Following the deal, Syria agreed to hand over its estimated 1,000-metric-ton arsenal to international control and joined the United Nations Chemical Weapons Convention.

<http://en.ria.ru/world/20140814/192013207/843-of-Chemical-Weapons-Removed-From-Syria-Destroyed---OPCW.html>

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Press TV – Tehran, Iran

## **Early Iran-P5+1 Nuclear Deal Unlikely: Iranian FM**

Friday, August 15, 2014

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says it is unlikely that Tehran and the P5+1 will reach a final nuclear deal before the four-month extension period for talks between the two sides expires.

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"If a general agreement is reached on different issues in the nuclear talks, we still need more time to negotiate the details. Therefore, it is unlikely that we will reach a final deal earlier than the four-month deadline of the talks," Zarif said on Friday.

He said that Iran and the P5+1 group have made overall progress in the course of nuclear negotiations over the past seven months, adding, however, that the six countries have taken a more "cautious" approach to the talks.

*"From the very beginning, we have been of the contention that if there is a strong willpower on the side of the West, nuclear negotiations can bear fruit very soon," he added.*

Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council – the US, France, Britain, Russia and China – plus Germany have been holding talks to sort out their differences and achieve a final deal that would end the decade-old dispute over Iran's nuclear energy program.

They sealed an interim deal in Geneva, Switzerland, on November 23, 2013. The deal came into force in January and expired six months later.

In July, the two sides agreed on the extension of their discussions until November 24 in an effort to achieve a permanent nuclear deal.

Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham said earlier this month that the two sides will meet ahead of this September's UN General Assembly meeting in New York.

<http://www.prestv.ir/detail/2014/08/15/375380/early-nuclear-deal-unlikely-iran-fm/>

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U.S. News & World Report

## WHO: Ebola Toll may 'Vastly Underestimate' Outbreak; Warns that Crisis could Last for Months

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH and SARAH DiLORENZO, Associated Press (AP)

August 14, 2014

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — There is evidence the numbers of dead and sickened by Ebola in West Africa may "vastly underestimate the magnitude of the outbreak," the World Health Organization said Thursday. The U.N. health agency said it was prepared for the crisis to continue for months.

With more than 1,060 deaths and 1,975 sickened, the Ebola outbreak is already the deadliest ever.

Liberian officials faced a difficult choice Thursday: deciding which handful of Ebola patients will receive an experimental drug that could prove life-saving, ineffective or even harmful.

ZMapp, the untested Ebola drug, arrived in the West African country late Wednesday. A day later, no one had yet received the treatment, which officials said would go to three people.

The outbreak, which was first identified in March in Guinea and since spread to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, has overwhelmed the already strained health systems in West Africa and raised questions about whether authorities are doing enough to respond.

There is no licensed treatment for Ebola, a virus transmitted by contact with bodily fluids, so doctors have turned to the limited supply of untested drugs to treat some cases.

The Liberian government had previously said two doctors would receive ZMapp, but it was unclear who else would. Information Minister Lewis Brown said Thursday it would probably be another health care worker.

These are the last known doses of ZMapp left. The San Diego-based company that developed it has said it will take months to build up even a modest supply.

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The outbreak has sparked an international debate over the ethics of giving such untested drugs to the sick and of deciding who should get the drugs. So far, only two Americans and one Spaniard have received ZMapp. The Americans are improving — but it is unclear what role the drug has played. The Spaniard died within days.

Now Liberian officials are facing those questions. In this outbreak, over 50 percent of those sickened with Ebola have died, according to the U.N. health agency.

"The criteria of selection is difficult, but it is going to be done," said Dr. Moses Massaquoi, who helped Liberia obtain the drug from Mapp Biopharmaceutical. "We are going to look at how critical people are. We are definitely going to be focusing on medical staff."

He added people past the "critical phase" who looked likely to survive would not be chosen.

Massaquoi said there was only enough of the drug to treat three people. Treatment will be staggered, so doctors can observe the effects in one patient before moving on to the next. Late Thursday, he said the treatment had not yet started.

Arthur Caplan, director of medical ethics at NYU Langone Medical Center, said the choice of who to treat would have to balance helping the largest number of people with learning the most from the treatments.

He said the question is not "whose life do we save?" but "who gets the chance to be experimented on?"

For that reason, recipients need to be good experimental subjects — people who have recently contracted the disease and are more likely to respond to treatment or perhaps younger patients, he said. In order to study the long-term effects, doctors will likely prefer people who can be observed for months, which might eliminate those living in remote places, he added.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department ordered families of embassy personnel to leave Sierra Leone on Thursday because of concerns that the crisis would make it difficult to get treatment for even routine health problems.

President Barack Obama spoke by phone Thursday about the Ebola outbreak with Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and in another call with President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone. The White House said Obama expressed his condolences for the hundreds who have died in both countries and underscored the U.S.'s commitment to work with West African nations and U.N. agencies to contain the outbreak.

Also, Nigeria announced Thursday that another person had died from Ebola, bringing the country's death toll to four. The Health Ministry said the person was a nurse who helped treat the country's first Ebola case, Liberian-American Patrick Sawyer who flew in last month and died.

The ministry corrected its total number Ebola cases to 10 instead of 11 as it had reported earlier in the day.

*DiLorenzo reported from Dakar, Senegal. Wade Williams and Abbas Dulleh in Monrovia, Liberia; Bashir Adigun in Abuja, Nigeria and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.*

<http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2014/08/14/nigeria-confirms-1-more-ebola-case>

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The National Interest.com

OPINION/Feature

## **Should America Fear China's Nuclear Weapons?**

*As Washington worries about problems in Iraq and Ukraine, does it have a much bigger—and atomic—challenge on its hands?*

By Robert Farley

August 10, 2014

The presumably accidental revelation of the PLA's DF-41 road-mobile ICBM is only the latest indication that China is modernizing and reorganizing its nuclear arsenal. Over the past decade, China has worked to modernize its

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nuclear delivery systems, both on land and at sea. This work has helped narrow the gap between China and the US-Russia superpower tandem, although Chinese capabilities remain far behind.

This article tracks the most important recent developments in China's nuclear posture, then discusses some of the political implications of these developments for Asia, the United States, and the rest of the world.

***Nukes by Land, Nukes by Sea***

*The DF-41 Arrives*

The apparent confirmation of the existence of the much-rumored DF-41 ICBM has some very interesting implications for the future of Chinese nuclear weapon policy. In the simplest terms, the development of the new ICBM ensures that China's nuclear deterrent can reach the entire continental U.S., as well as a variety of other potential foes. It also gives the Second Artillery MIRV capable ICBMs for the first time, although reports suggest that the PLA is also working on MIRVing its older missiles.

China has long been dependent on the ancient DF-5 for its ICBM needs, recently supplemented by the DF-31A. The DF-41 represents a major modernization, as well as an expansion of China's overall deterrent capability. Its development suggests that China is moving definitively away from minimal deterrence, and toward a more robust, survivable second-strike capability. This indicates a significant change in how China views its nuclear arsenal.

*The Boomer Fleet Grows*

The development of an effective submarine deterrent also helps revise the nuclear equation between China and the United States. The commissioning of five boats of the Type 094 class over the past decade has radically increased China's nuclear capabilities at sea, which less than a decade ago depended on a single, unreliable submarine.

Although Chinese boomers cannot yet effectively hide from American hunters, and the Chinese have yet to achieve the basic requirements of the Soviet "bastion" strategy of the 1970s, the Chinese SSBNs nevertheless significantly increase the reach of China's nuclear deterrent. However, they do not yet represent a practical threat to the mainland United States, as the missiles lack of range and the boats lack of quiet makes them sketchy to deploy in tense circumstances.

Reports indicate that China has already moved on the construction of the Type 096 SSBN, which will carry more missiles and presumably operate more quietly. Given the undersea advantages of the United States, it will still be some time before China's SSBN fleet poses a major threat to the United States.

***The Political Implications***

*Arms Control*

One of the biggest questions with respect to China's changing nuclear posture involves arms control. For four decades, the key nuclear arms control agreements have been conducted in bilateral terms between Washington and Moscow. The increasing size and sophistication of the Chinese arsenal may make this approach obsolete.

If China's increases the size of its nuclear arsenal, and the sophistication of its delivery systems, then arms control agreements that focus only on the United States and Russia will become quaint. Of course, Moscow and Washington can still make considerable progress reducing warheads and delivery systems before the Chinese arsenal becomes comparable, but the PLA is closing the gap. It's also worth noting that because China is not party to the bilateral agreements, it has considerably more freedom to explore the technical frontiers of ballistic and cruise missiles than either the US or Russia.

*India*

Chinese nukes matter not just for the United States, but also for India. Even if the arsenal serves only as a deterrent to the United States, it can loom as a much more serious threat to New Delhi. India is developing an increasingly formidable nuclear force, but it does not yet match China's in size or sophistication. When China takes

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steps to close the gap with the United States (and Russia), it expands the gap with India. This (as well as the ongoing expansion of the Pakistani nuclear arsenal) has spurred India on the greater efforts, such as the recent commissioning of its first nuclear ballistic missile submarine, and a series of improvements to its ballistic missile arsenal.

### *Missile Defense*

Has the US focus on missile defense spurred China to greater efforts with respect to its long-range nuclear strike capabilities? Perhaps, but it's just as easy to read China's activities as a long overdue modernization of its nuclear forces.

We can expect that, as China's missile capabilities become more formidable, proponents of missile defense in the United States will take heart. However, if China is serious about supplying the Second Artillery with new ICBMs in significant numbers, it is very difficult to envision a scenario in which a National Missile Defense system could threaten to fully defeat China's deterrent. Given that national missile defense has become more of a signifier in U.S. domestic politics than a potential strategic capability, however, this probably won't matter much.

### **Conclusion**

Historically, the People's Republic has adopted a policy of minimal deterrence, using the threat of intolerable damage to convince both Moscow and the United States that an attack was not in their interest. This has meant maintaining a deterrent nuclear arsenal distinctly, and intentionally, inferior to that of Russia and the United States. It has matched this arsenal with delivery systems generally inferior to those of the two superpowers.

The second part of this is beginning to change, with the caveat that the boomer fleet remains substantially behind Russia or US standards. However, it's not yet certain that the first part is changing. For example, there's no indication that tactical nuclear warheads have become relevant to China's conventional warfighting plans, as remains the case with the Russian military. Indeed, China has concentrated on developing the conventional capabilities of systems often associated with nuclear weapons, such as ballistic and cruise missiles. The achievement of secure second strike, especially in context of the arsenal reduction by the two nuclear superpowers, does not require a massive expansion in the number of Chinese weapons. It simply requires making them more survivable.

We probably aren't headed back to the reality of the 60s and 70s, when the US and the USSR faced off with thousands of tactical and strategic warheads apiece. But much depends on how China approaches the expansion, apart from the modernization, of its nuclear arsenal.

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<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/should-america-fear-chinas-nuclear-weapons-11046?page=show>

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Cato Institute - Washington, D.C.

OPINION/Cato Liberty

August 11, 2014

## **Maybe U.S. Should Defend South Korea by Letting it Develop Nuclear Weapons**

By Doug Bandow

U.S. foreign and defense policy long has been brain dead. 'Whatever has been must ever be' seems to be the Pentagon's mantra. That's the typical response to the idea that Washington should bring home its troops and allow South Korea to defend itself.



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The Republic of Korea has grown up and surged past the North. The ROK should use its abundant wealth and larger population to close the military gap. Just as most Americans expect those on welfare to get a job to take care of themselves and their families, the ROK should step up and take care of itself.

There may be good arguments against the proposal. But I have yet to hear them. Instead, what dominates is the tyranny of the status quo.

Perhaps the best, or at least most interesting, counter is that America must babysit the ROK lest a frightened Seoul go nuclear in response to the DPRK. In fact, Washington's conventional forces do nothing to forestall a North Korean nuclear bomb.

But will the ROK believe in America's nuclear umbrella without a conventional guarantee? Washington has risked war on Seoul's behalf for six decades. If that's not enough, the problem might be the weak case for Washington to turn other nations' nuclear wars into America's nuclear wars.

If Pyongyang eventually develops a miniaturized nuclear warhead and reasonably accurate ICBM, what risks would Washington take on South Korea's behalf? Why should the United States turn a peripheral geopolitical problem into an existential threat?

Nonproliferation is a political sacred cow which can cause greater problems than proliferation. In Northeast Asia, for instance, nonproliferation has become the international equivalent of gun control: only the bad guys have guns.

Russia, China, and North Korea all are nuclear powers. Therefore, Washington is supposed to defend Japan and South Korea, at least, and maybe some other nations, such as Australia and Taiwan, from nuclear attack.

One might hope that rationality would constrain any Asian confrontation, but a number of years ago, a Chinese general challenged a U.S. official: you won't risk Los Angeles for Taipei. And America's president *shouldn't* risk Los Angeles for Taipei—or Seoul, Tokyo, Sydney, or any other foreign city.

The alternative is to allow, if not encourage, Washington's allies to build countervailing nuclear weapons. The mere possibility would create a powerful incentive for the People's Republic of China to take a more active role in preventing North Korea from proceeding along the nuclear path.

Even if Pyongyang moved ahead there is no guarantee that the South and Tokyo would follow. Nevertheless, not long ago assemblyman and past presidential candidate Chung Mong-joon, who founded the Asan Institute, argued that the ROK should be "given this leeway as a law-abiding member of the global community who is threatened by a nuclear rogue state."

The possibility also is periodically mooted in Tokyo. Would possession of nuclear weapons by South Korea and Japan be so bad for America?

More nations would have The Bomb, expanding possibilities for leakage. But the new nuclear states would be more responsible than the DPRK and more reliable than China and Russia.

Beijing, especially, would be more constrained in challenging either Japan or South Korea. Moreover, the South no longer would be in the uncomfortable position of subcontracting out its security to Washington.

No one wants North Korea to have The Bomb. But virtually no one believes that the North will give up its atomic arsenal. If Pyongyang moves ahead, then what?

As I argue on *Forbes* online: "Leaving Seoul free to develop nuclear weapons might be the best way to respond to the DPRK's persistent threat to turn most everything everywhere into a 'lake of fire'."

There are worse things than nuclear weapons spreading to responsible, democratic allies—like leaving Pyongyang with a small state nuclear monopoly. It's time to think the unthinkable rather than enshrine the tyrannical status quo as Washington's Korea policy.

**Issue No.1128, 15 August 2014**

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<http://www.cato.org/blog/maybe-us-should-defend-south-korea-letting-it-develop-nuclear-weapons>

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China Daily – Beijing, China

OPINION/Op-Ed Contributors

## Nuclear Policy a Gift to World Peace

By Hu Yumin (China Daily)

August 12, 2014

To dispel doubts over its defensive defense policy, China is making its military more transparent, and the recent unveiling of China's new ballistic missile submarine was part of that effort. But the Western media reacted by saying that China's ballistic missile submarines are a destabilizing factor in the West Pacific region. It's ironic that China is singled out for criticism for developing ballistic missile submarines while the other nuclear powers are not.

Generally speaking, ballistic missile submarines can be regarded as a destabilizing factor only if they have the potential of triggering a new nuclear arms race or a new round of nuclear proliferation. Apparently, China's ballistic missile submarines will trigger neither.

The primary mission of ballistic missile submarines is nuclear deterrence and they maintain the threat of a second strike. They could also be seen as a stabilizing factor if they are used to replace some nuclear weapon systems with low viability and low reliability (especially if it reduces the nuclear arsenal).

Since nuclear powers are focusing on "extended nuclear deterrence" and developing missile defense systems that could undermine strategic stability in the Asia-Pacific region, developing ballistic missile submarines to maintain the effectiveness of China's self-defense nuclear power should be seen as a stabilizing, not destabilizing, factor.

Strategic "stability" cannot and should not be static. But the changes that take place should always be predictable and controllable, and take some positive or constructive directions, including achieving a new strategic balance. It is thus preposterous to ask China to give up its legal right to strengthen its self-defense capability, especially because some countries and blocs are upgrading or expanding their military with an eye to China.

Interactions among nuclear powers play a vital role in maintaining strategic stability. To eliminate the possible incentive of using nuclear weapons first is not equal to "mutually assured destruction". The most feasible strategic choice is to unilaterally promise not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and, at the same time, strengthen one's counterattack ability. China will not deviate from this principle while improving its nuclear strategy.

Some people say strategic stability means striking an overall balance between two nuclear powers, while others argue that strategic stability means allowing the nuclear superpower to play the dominant role across the world. The world today is more multi-polar than ever and it demands a new type of strategic stability that favors peaceful development. China has been playing a constructive role in the global security structure by according the highest priority to strategic stability, which is based on low-level but effective defensive self-armament.

China has never followed the nuclear strategy of "mutually assured destruction" or participated in a nuclear arms race. Ever since China became a nuclear power it has vowed not to be the first to use a nuclear weapon no matter what the situation is. It has also announced that it would never use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon countries or regions.

China is developing nuclear weapons to guard against nuclear blackmail, maintain strategic stability and establish a security environment that will not have any use for nuclear weapons. The new type of strategic stability that China is promoting is a special contribution to the security environment and conducive to peaceful development in Asia and the world beyond.

Issue No.1128, 15 August 2014

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RT (Russia Today) – Moscow, Russia

OPINION/Op-Edge

12 August 2014

## Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty: Setting the Record Straight

By Dr Alexander Yakovenko

The issue of the implementation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) has recently been thrust into the focus of international attention.

As is known, this treaty, formally titled the Treaty on Elimination of the Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, is an agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union signed in 1987. The treaty prohibits the nuclear and conventional ground-launched missiles with ranges between 500 and 5500 kilometers. By the treaty's deadline of June 1991, a total of 2692 such weapons had been destroyed: 842 by the United States and 1846 by the Soviet Union.

The recently published report of the US State Department on "*Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments*" for 2013 accuses Russia of violating the INF Treaty. However, no specific allegations are made, and no evidence is presented. These accusations should be considered groundless. The report rather casts doubt on the compliance with the obligations on this treaty by the US.

The problems related to the INF are not new and well-known to both parties, and it is not a secret that the main problems with its implementation occurred many times because of the United States. In dialogue with US partners we have repeatedly raised our concerns, including on the usage by the US of target-missiles of missile defense with characteristics similar to those of intermediate-range missiles, armed drones evidently covered by the treaty definition of ground-launched cruise missiles, and the Mk-41 launch systems capable of launching intermediate-range cruise missiles that the US intend to deploy in Poland and Romania within the framework of the implementation of their "*adaptive approach*" to the deployment of a global missile defense. Their ground-launched version would be a serious violation of the INF Treaty.

However, Russia has not yet received any response from the US regarding these issues. I hope to see the US prepared to work jointly to increase the viability of the treaty. Russia, on its part, champions the idea to make the INF multilateral so as to include all the countries possessing the relevant technology.

*Dr Alexander Yakovenko, Russian Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Deputy foreign minister (2005-2011).*

*The statements, views and opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of RT.*

<http://rt.com/op-edge/179744-intermediate-range-nuclear-forces-treaty/>

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Real Clear Defense.com

OPINION/Article

August 12, 2014

## Why America Still Needs Nukes

*U.S. Allies View Nuclear Deterrence as Indispensable*

Issue No.1128, 15 August 2014

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By Evan Moore

In a highly anticipated report, a bipartisan group of former civilian and military leaders recently concluded that U.S. security could face grave dangers if Washington fails to quickly reverse a decade's worth of deep cuts to defense spending. Known as the National Defense Panel (NDP), they urge immediate and sustained investments to improve the readiness, capacity, and capability not only of America's conventional forces, but also of the nation's nuclear arsenal.

Amid Russia's violations of a key nuclear arms control pact, and China's efforts to grow the size and scope of its nuclear arsenal, it's critical that policymakers and lawmakers act on the NDP panel's recommendations, especially on America's offensive and defensive strategic forces.

The NDP panel predicts that the "the next two decades will pose a range of serious threats" to American security and global stability. These rising threats—which include the spread of weapons of mass destruction, the resurgence of international terrorism, and the return of great power rivalry—are creating a world that is "more challenging than defense planners are accustomed to." The panel warns that, in the absence of more resources, the U.S. military "may not be robust enough to meet these challenges within an acceptable margin of risk."

Since 1945, America has sustained a far-reaching system of alliances with its military power in order to deter major aggression. In turn, this strategy of U.S. global engagement and leadership has yielded seven decades without another World War, as well as a new rules-based order that has governed many aspects of international relations. Even now, the NDP panel notes, "American military strength remains central to an effective foreign policy."

In particular, the NDP report emphasizes that America's offensive and defensive strategic forces "continue to play an essential role in deterring potential adversaries and reassuring U.S. allies and partners around the world." The report adds that our nuclear arsenal plays "a unique and crucial role"—not only as the "credible guarantor" of the sovereignty of the United States and our allies, but also as "a cornerstone" in "broader U.S. defense strategy."

Moreover, the NDP concludes that "[n]uclear force modernization is essential," given the U.S. nuclear arsenal's "looming obsolescence." The report added that "America's nuclear arsenal will need life extension programs and some modernization if its deterrent value is to be preserved." For instance, the growth of more sophisticated air defense systems around the world will put America's B-2 bomber, a stealthy long-range aircraft that can carry both nuclear and conventional weapons, "increasingly at risk" in the middle of the next decade. The NDP panel urges the United States to field a new bomber that can sneak into heavily-defended airspace and deliver "a broad array of operationally useful payloads," including nuclear payloads.

It is unfortunate, then, that while the Defense Department seeks to update and replace the "triad" of U.S. nuclear forces—intercontinental ballistic missiles, ballistic missile submarines, and nuclear-armed bombers—it still lacks the funds to do so. For example, the Navy's most recent 30-year shipbuilding plan warns that the service can afford the costs of a next-generation ballistic missile submarine only "with significant increases in our top-line."

Amid an increasingly unstable world, many of America's allies continue to view a strong U.S. nuclear arsenal as indispensable to collective security. Indeed, the 2009 Strategic Posture Commission co-chaired by former Secretaries of Defense William Perry and James Schlesinger noted that some allies "believe that their needs can only be met with very specific U.S. nuclear capabilities." The Perry-Schlesinger commission elaborated:

*"Some allies located near Russia believe that U.S. non-strategic forces [that is, short-range or 'tactical' nuclear weapons] in Europe are essential to prevent nuclear coercion by Moscow and indeed that modernized U.S./NATO forces are essential for restoring a sense of balance in the face of Russia's nuclear renewal. One particularly important ally has argued ... that the credibility of the U.S. extended deterrent depends on its specific capabilities to hold a wide variety of targets at risk."*

Some may find it odd that nuclear weapons still play such a central role in U.S. strategy two decades after the Cold War's end. However, America's offensive and defensive strategic forces are, in many respects, the binding tie of its system of alliances and partnerships. As the U.S. nuclear arsenal atrophies, so may our allies' confidence in the

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strength of America's commitment to their security. In turn, potential aggressors may become more willing to press the boundaries of what was once considered to be risky or unacceptable behavior. As a result, the peaceful rules-based order that the United States has labored so hard to establish and maintain over many decades could come unraveled.

As the NDP report makes clear, the world of the 21st century is increasingly volatile. The U.S. military, including America's offensive and defensive strategic forces, could be called to decisively secure America's vital interests across the globe. That's why the NDP panel strongly reaffirmed the Defense Department's continuing emphasis on "a safe, secure and effective nuclear force," and "regional and homeland missile defenses."

America's nuclear arsenal, along with its growing homeland and regional missile defense systems, play a central—and often overlooked—role in maintaining the peace. If the United States is to continue upholding an international order that advances its security, interests and values, then it must devote sufficient resources to reverse and restore the military's eroding readiness, capacity, and capabilities in all domains, including strategic forces. That's why policymakers and lawmakers in Washington must give the National Defense Panel's call to action the attention that it deserves.

*Evan Moore is a Senior Policy Analyst for the Foreign Policy Initiative.*

[http://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2014/08/12/why\\_america\\_still\\_needs\\_nukes\\_107359.htm](http://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2014/08/12/why_america_still_needs_nukes_107359.htm)

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Korea JoongAng Daily – Seoul, South Korea  
OPINION/Columnist

## **North Korea Policy on Ice**

*It's time to be honest. Complete abandonment of the North's nuclear program is an unattainable dream.*

By Bae Myung-bok

August 13, 2014

"At this moment, U.S. President Barack Obama cannot afford to think about and has no interest in North Korea as the United States is involved in various complicated situations in the Israel-Palestine conflict, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Iran and Ukraine. It is more important not to lose any more points in foreign policy as well as domestic politics than scoring additional points. Therefore, Washington is not likely to take a risk and deviate from the existing North Korea policy of 'strategic patience.' As long as North Korea remains quiet, that is enough."

A Korea expert in Washington sent me a long email. According to the well-connected insider, there is no place for North Korea in the mind of National Security Advisor Susan Rice. Sydney Seiler, who is in charge of Korea policy at the National Security Council, cannot implement a policy shift on his own. As no one with sufficient accountability and authority is willing to initiate a strategic shift in North Korea policy, the issue has languished at the White House. The situation is not much different at the State Department.

"As soon as Ambassador Sung Kim returns to Washington, he will take over James Zumwalt's position of Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs and also serve as the Special Representative of the Secretary of State for North Korea policy, currently held by Glyn Davies. Sung Kim is a flexible figure knowledgeable in North Korean affairs, but there is little room for him to try something new unless the White House initiates a move. Moreover, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Russel is skeptical of North Korea and is not likely to back up Sung Kim even if he attempts a policy change."

Before U.S. President Barack Obama leaves for a two-week summer vacation, he spoke with New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman for an hour about international politics and foreign policy. The International New York Times also published the interview. I patiently read through it, but there was no mention of North Korea. Not just the White House but also mainstream American media are paying little attention to the North. Robert Einhorn, who served as the State Department's special advisor for nonproliferation and arms control in the first term of the Obama Administration, raised the need to resume talks between Pyongyang and Washington, but his voice is not

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reverberating. While North Korea launched a series of short-range missiles, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said in an interview that North Korea has become “quieter.” However, North Korea is not trying to be silent. That only reflects Kerry’s wishful thinking.

And North Korea is not guaranteed to remain as quiet as Washington might desire. In the near future, Pyongyang will probably make headlines on CNN, stir up Congress and keep the UN Security Council busy by making various kinds of trouble: conducting nuclear experiments or launching long-range missiles. Treating North Korea like an invisible man is an invitation for Pyongyang to make provocations. And that’s an invitation it rarely turns down.

At the ASEAN Regional Forum in Myanmar last week, Korea’s foreign minister and the U.S. Secretary of State strongly urged North Korea to refrain from provocations, but that is unlikely to be very effective. Pyongyang has threatened to conduct a fourth nuclear weapons test if the annual Korea-U.S. Ulchi Freedom Guardian joint military drill is held as scheduled between Aug. 18 and 28. The Korean and U.S. authorities made no mention of the exercise and pressed Pyongyang to refrain from provocations. If they really wanted to be sincere, they should have made some minimum concessions to North Korea. South Korea and the United States are to go on with the Ulchi Freedom Guardian as a routine defense drill. This is typical megaphone diplomacy.

With midterm elections approaching in November, Obama has no reason to take a political risk with North Korea. If the Republican Party dominates the Senate in the midterm elections, Obama will be trapped as a lame duck unable to do anything through the end of his administration. By that time, North Korea will have steadily been stockpiling nuclear weapons.

It’s time to be honest. If Korea or the United States were in North Korea’s shoes, would they give up on nuclear weapons? How can we expect Kim Jong-un to abandon his nuclear program when Muammar el-Qaddafi met a miserable fate after giving up Libya’s nuclear weapons? Ukraine, which lost its nuclear weapons, now risks being trampled on by Vladimir Putin’s Russia. At least in the near future, complete abandonment of the North’s nuclear program is an unattainable dream. A realistic alternative is to freeze the program. By adhering to the unrealistic demand of abandonment, Korea is paying a high political and economic price. We cannot waste our resources keeping up with Washington, which is unwilling to and incapable of resolving the nuclear tension. It’s about time we separate the North Korean nuclear issue for the sake of improved inter-Korean relations.

*The author is an editorial writer of the JoongAng Ilbo.*

*Column first printed in the JoongAng Ilbo, August 12, Page 31.*

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=2993413&cloc=joongangdaily%7Chome%7Cnewslst2>

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Real Clear Defense.com

OPINION/Commentary

August 14, 2014

## **Why America Doesn't Need All Its Nukes**

*...And It Can't Afford Them Either*

By Kingston Reif

Earlier this week in *RealClearDefense*, the Foreign Policy Initiative’s Evan Moore made his case for “why America still needs nukes.” Moore points to the conclusions of the recently released National Defense Panel (NDP) report on defense policy as evidence of the importance of nuclear weapons to U.S. security and the need to rebuild America’s aging nuclear delivery systems and their associated warheads.

However, the panel is more nuanced and circumspect in its prescriptions for nuclear weapons than Moore would have us believe. In fact, the report reinforces the argument that the cost to rebuild the U.S. nuclear arsenal of



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approximately 4,800 warheads is unaffordable and that attempting to fund a replacement for every element of the triad may not be a wise investment.

Consisting of a who's who of former civilian defense officials and military leaders from both political parties, the NDP was mandated by Congress to review the Pentagon's 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR). Moore is right that the panel emphasizes the role played by nuclear weapons in deterring potential adversaries and reassuring U.S. allies and partners. He is also right that the panel calls for modernizing U.S. nuclear forces.

But Moore ignores key statements in the panel's report that contradict his apparent conclusion that maintaining our current archaic nuclear posture in perpetuity is the only sensible path forward.

For example, the report notes that "The U.S. nuclear arsenal could be reduced in support of the country's arms control and nonproliferation objectives."

In addition, the report states that current plans to rebuild all three legs of the nuclear triad and associated warheads "could cost between \$600 billion and \$1 trillion over a thirty year period, the costs of which would likely come at the expense of needed improvements in conventional forces." According to the panel, this price tag is "under current budget constraints...unaffordable."

Consequently, the NDP sensibly points out that "the merits of some aspects of this expensive recapitalization can be debated." Indeed, save for recommending the continuation of ongoing programs to develop a new Long-Range Strike Bomber and a new fleet of ballistic missile submarines, the panel does not make any specific recommendations about preferred delivery system or warhead modernization approaches.

The report's main recommendation is "that the impending nuclear force modernization program be subjected to a thorough review, including the assumptions and requirements of strategic nuclear deterrence in the present era." It also calls for Congress to form a commission "to study the recapitalization of America's nuclear arsenal." The clear implication is that the current "all of the above" modernization path being pursued by the administration is not only fiscally unsustainable, but politically unsustainable as well. Indeed, Congress has already begun to reject elements of the modernization program.

The need for a core U.S. nuclear deterrent will remain as long as other states possess nuclear weapons. But these weapons are increasingly irrelevant to the security threats the United States and its allies face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. These include cyber threats, weak and failing states, climate change, terrorism, energy blackmail, and smaller-scale Russian and Chinese land- and island-grabbing. Today, U.S. conventional and economic power plays a much larger role in the deterrence equation. It is impossible to conjure a believable scenario in which the United States would use 50 nuclear weapons, let alone nearly 5,000.

The only rationale for such a large force is to address Russia's similarly sized arsenal, since no other nuclear-armed state is believed to possess more than 300 weapons. Yet despite their current tensions over Ukraine, the United States and Russia aren't global ideological rivals like they were during the Cold War. U.S. nuclear forces are largely irrelevant to the current Ukraine crisis.

Given that Washington can meet its security needs with fewer nuclear weapons, last year U.S. military leaders concluded that it is possible to reduce the size of the U.S. deployed arsenal by up to one-third below the New START level of 1,550 deployed strategic warheads. While the Obama administration would prefer to pursue further reductions with Russia, an admittedly unlikely prospect in the near-term, the current budget environment could require further reductions with or without Russian reciprocity. The choice, then, is whether to wait for disarmament by financial default, or to begin molding a future arsenal that is more in keeping with the fiscal and strategic environment.

Like the NDP report, an increasing number of current government and military officials have been warning that existing nuclear modernization plans are unrealistic and unexecutable. Of particular concern is that an enormous chunk of the cost to recapitalize the triad is set to be absorbed over a short period during the early- to mid-2020s, a problem described by one former Pentagon official as "a modernization mountain in the budget." If the Air Force acquires a new ICBM, procurement would likely begin in the mid-2020s and overlap, according to current plans,

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with the Navy's ballistic missile submarine replacement program, and also the Air Force's new nuclear-capable Long-Range Strike bomber and cruise missile programs. The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is also slated to embark on an unprecedentedly large scope of work in the 2020s.

To make matters worse, the U.S. government's estimates of the costs of current nuclear weapons spending plans consistently underestimate and leave Congress in the dark about the actual costs of these plans. A recent report by the Government Accountability Office stated that the Pentagon and NNSA may be significantly underreporting their annual 10-year estimate of nuclear weapons costs.

As part of the nuclear force modernization review suggested by the NDP, the Pentagon and NNSA should provide Congress with a full cost estimate of the remaining life-cycle-costs of the existing triad and full life cycle costs for newly planned systems. Ten-year estimates are valuable, but they only capture part of the costs. It goes without saying that Congress can't make fully informed judgments about the affordability and merits of the current modernization plan when it doesn't have a clear picture of how much these plans will cost.

While the military's current budget problems cannot be solved by reducing nuclear weapons spending, there are significant savings to be found by trimming the arsenal and scaling back planned modernization programs. A December 2013 report by the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the government's current nuclear weapons spending plans will cost \$355 billion over the next decade. Of that amount, tens of billions could be saved over the next decade (and additional tens of billions over ensuing decades) by scaling back current plans, even, if necessary, without significantly reducing U.S. warhead levels below the New START limits.

The NDP recognizes that current resources don't match requirements. The longer current nuclear spending plans remain on autopilot, the more likely it will be that the budget will force suboptimal tradeoffs between nuclear and other national security programs, as well as possible reductions in nuclear forces by financial default. Fortunately, the United States can guarantee its security and that of its allies in a more fiscally sustainable manner by continuing to pursue further reductions in U.S. nuclear forces and scaling back current modernization plans.

*Kingston Reif is the Director of Nuclear Non-Proliferation at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation in Washington D.C.*

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## **ABOUT THE USAF CUWS**

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

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

**Issue No.1128, 15 August 2014**

United States Air Force Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies | Maxwell AFB, Alabama

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## **USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies**

### **CUWS Outreach Journal**

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

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

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

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