



USAF Center for Unconventional Weapons Studies (CUWS) Outreach Journal

Issue No. 1135, 03 October 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 resource 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. **All of our past journals are now available at http://cpc.au.af.mil/au_outreach.aspx.**

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FEATURE ITEM: "Nuclear Force Adaptability for Deterrence and Assurance: A Prudent Alternative to Minimum Deterrence". Dr. Keith B. Payne Study Director; published by National Institute Press, 2014; 81 Pages.

<http://www.nipp.org/MD%20II%20for%20web.pdf>

This monograph, Nuclear Force Adaptability for Deterrence and Assurance: A Prudent Alternative to Minimum Deterrence, is the second in a series examining the U.S. goals of deterrence, extended deterrence and the assurance of allies, and how to think about the corresponding U.S. standards of adequacy for measuring "how much is enough?" It begins to address the question, "If not Minimum Deterrence, then what?" by examining the manifest character of the contemporary threat environment in which the United States must pursue its strategic goals of deterring foes and assuring allies. Fortunately, there is considerable available evidence regarding the character of the contemporary threat environment and its general directions. Noted historians have compared this threat environment not to the bipolar Cold War, but to the highly dynamic threat environments leading to World War I and World War II. The uncertainties involved are daunting given the great diversity of hostile and potentially hostile states and non-state actors, leaderships, goals, perceptions, and forces that could be involved.

From that starting point, this study identifies general U.S. force posture qualities that are likely to enable the United States to deter and assure as effectively as possible, and should, therefore, help serve as useful guidelines for the U.S. nuclear force posture. Finally, this study links specific recommendations for possible actions and policies consistent with those guidelines.

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The Wall Street Journal

U.S. Takes Asteroid Threat Seriously

Some Nuclear Warheads, Once Set for Disassembly, Are Kept in Reserve

By John R. Emshwiller

September 30, 2014

Some U.S. nuclear-warhead components, scheduled for disassembly in the next year, have gotten at least a temporary new lease on life. The reason: possible use in defending the Earth against killer asteroids.

That bit of information was tucked deep inside a 67-page Government Accountability Office report on the National Nuclear Security Administration, which manages the U.S. atomic-weapons arsenal. The warhead components,



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containing highly enriched uranium, are being retained "pending a senior-level government evaluation of their use in planetary defense against earthbound asteroids," the April report said.

An NNSA spokesman declined to comment.

Government officials and space scientists say we aren't anywhere near a real-life replay of "Armageddon," the 1998 science-fiction extravaganza in which actor Bruce Willis and friends used a nuclear weapon to smash apart a giant asteroid hurtling toward Earth. While hundreds of asteroids with a diameter of about a kilometer or bigger—the size that could "produce global devastation," according to a 2010 National Research Council report—pass relatively near the Earth's orbit, none are expected to be a worry for at least 100 years and probably much longer, they say.

However, while no such mega-space rocks are on the horizon, an estimated 100,000 or more asteroids at least 50 meters in size also pass through Earth's neighborhood, said Lindley Johnson, a program executive at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration who oversees the effort to find such "near-earth objects." Probably no more than 5% of those objects have been catalogued so far, he said.

If a 100-meter-wide asteroid hit Washington, D.C., for instance, it "could wipe out everything inside the Beltway," Mr. Johnson said.

Global upheavals from a roughly 10-kilometer asteroid or comet striking near the Yucatan Peninsula 65 million years ago are believed by many scientists to have caused the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Early last year, an asteroid exploded in the skies near Chelyabinsk, Russia. That object—estimated to be nearly 20 meters in size and carrying a force of more than 400,000 tons of TNT—injured several hundred people, mostly as a result of flying window glass and other debris.

NASA estimates that more than 100 tons worth of tiny space debris hits Earth daily, much of it burning up in the atmosphere.

NASA and others are searching the skies for more potentially dangerous objects. Mr. Johnson said he would like to launch a space telescope with infrared-detection capability, which he estimates could locate more than 90% of the 100-meter-plus asteroids within a decade. But his \$40 million annual detection budget, a tenfold increase from what it was for most of the past decade, isn't large enough to accommodate the estimated \$500 million satellite cost, he said.

One relatively low-cost new earthbound detection project—known as the Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System, or ATLAS—will use small telescopes and powerful cameras to scan the night sky. The NASA-funded effort, scheduled to be operational in Hawaii by the end of next year, aims to provide emergency planners with advance warning, ranging from a day to a few months, of an impending impact, said John Tonry, a University of Hawaii professor and head of ATLAS.

Government officials and scientists are also looking at ways to defend the planet, which is where nuclear weapons come in. A nuclear-armed craft could be sent into deep space, where the atomic explosion would aim to alter the object's course long before it got to Earth and without any fallout affecting the planet. However, some scientists say that in certain scenarios, radioactive asteroid debris from an explosion might intersect with Earth.

Back on Earth, the U.S. government has detonated underground nuclear blasts for nonmilitary purposes, such as trying to stimulate natural-gas production. But such work stopped in the 1970s, according to the Energy Department.

"Any time you talk about nuclear weapons, it's controversial," said NASA's Mr. Johnson.

In an era when the size of the atomic-weapons stockpile has been shrinking as a result of arms-control treaties and other factors, asteroid defense "may be an excuse for keeping the nuclear arsenal together," said Jay Melosh, a professor of earth, atmospheric and planetary sciences at Purdue University. But he thinks there are better, nonnuclear ways for defending the planet.

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Among possible options: a "gravity tractor" or an "impactor." The former involves using the thrusters and the gravitational tug from the mass of a large space vehicle to change an asteroid's course. The impactor, as its name suggests, would crash at high speed into the asteroid with the same purpose.

However, some argue that such approaches would only work if the asteroid is small enough and seen soon enough. For larger objects and shorter response times, a nuclear explosion, because of the huge amount of energy it can deliver, "is the only option," said Bong Wie, a professor and director of Iowa State University's Asteroid Deflection Research Center.

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/u-s-takes-asteroid-threat-seriously-1412119610>

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Want China Times – Taipei, Taiwan

US Confident of Countering Nuclear Threat of PLA's Type 94 Sub

Staff Reporter

September 28, 2014

China's Global Times says the United States has studied various ways to counter the nuclear threat of China's Type 94 Jin-class submarine. The report comes after a satellite image indicated three of the ballistic missile submarines had been deployed to Yalong Bay in Hainan province.

The Type 094 has a displacement of 8,000 tons surfaced and 11,000 tons submerged. With a top speed of over 20 knots, the submarine is powered by a nuclear reactor can remain submerged for 90 days. Designed as a ballistic missile submarine, a Type 094 can carry between 12 and 16 JL-2 second-generation intercontinental submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

Though the Type 094 is noisy compared to its US counterparts, its other specs are on a par with other advanced ballistic missile submarines around the globe. The Tokyo-based Ships of the World magazine said that with a range of 8,000 kilometers the JL-2 missile is capable of striking the continental United States even when fired from waters close to the China coast.

The US Office of Naval Intelligence predicted China will be capable of operating 75 ballistic missile submarines by 2020.

Saying that the Type 094 allows China to have a reliable second-strike capability to deter a American nuclear attack, the Global Times said the US Navy has studied various methods to counter the submarine. Christian Conroy, an expert in nuclear arms from Washington, said the Type 094 makes a very loud sound when launching the JL-2 missile underwater that can help the US Navy locate the sub and intercept the missile.

Conroy said US warships equipped with the Aegis Combat System operating in the Western Pacific can intercept a JL-5 missile in just five seconds. Japanese, South Korean and Australian air defense systems could also be brought into play. Air defense systems in Hawaii or the continental US would provide further backups.

However, Andrew Erickson from the US Naval War College said the Type 094 submarine allows the PLA Navy more freedom to navigate in the open sea, even though it is not as advanced as US submarines. Erickson said the successor of the Type 094 will certainly be harder for the US Navy to counter and China is demonstrating its determination to upgrade.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20140928000038&cid=1101>

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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

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U.S. Considering Sending THAAD Battery to S. Korea: Deputy Defense Secretary

By Chang Jae-soon
October 1, 2014

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30 (Yonhap) -- The United States is considering deploying a THAAD missile defense battery to South Korea to better cope with threats from North Korea, a top American defense official confirmed Tuesday.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work also said that Washington and Seoul are in talks about the possible deployment of a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile system.

"As you said, we are considering sending a THAAD to South Korea," Work said in response to a question from Yonhap News Agency. He spoke at a forum organized by the Council on Foreign Relations on U.S. policy in the Asia-Pacific region.

The U.S. has already moved one THAAD battery to Guam "in response to North Korean provocations," he said.

"We are considering very carefully whether or not to put a THAAD in South Korea. We're doing site surveys. We're working with the government of South Korea now to determine if that is the right thing to do," he said.

The remark contrasts with what South Korean officials have insisted so far that the U.S. neither officially asked to deploy a THAAD system to South Korea nor did the two sides hold any discussions on the issue.

Work emphasized that it is very difficult to move a THAAD battery because of the work involved in setting up the complicated system in a new place. But once moved, such systems "become an important part of the regional defense," he said.

"These batteries are strategic assets. Moving them is a very, very important national-level decision," he said.

The THAAD deployment plan is a sensitive issue because it is seen as U.S. pressure on Seoul to buy a new THAAD system. It could also inflame tensions with China and Russia as they see the U.S. move as a threat to their interests.

Critics in South Korea have also claimed the planned deployment is part of a broader U.S. attempt to get the Asian ally to join its missile defense system. Seoul has said it won't join the U.S. system, but will instead develop its own.

"We've emphasized to both China and to Russia these are not strategic anti-ballistic missiles," Work said. "They are essentially designed to address regional threats against both our allies, against U.S. territory. So we continue to work with the Russians and the Chinese to allay any concerns they have, but they both have indicated concerns."

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2014/09/30/39/0301000000AEN20140930010351315F.html>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Kerry: US to Press for Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Ratification

27 September 2014

UNITED NATIONS, September 27 (RIA Novosti) - The United States strives for the ratification of a Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by the international community, US Secretary of State John Kerry said.

"I come here to reiterate the Obama Administration's unshakable commitment to seeing this treaty ratified and entered into force," Kerry said, addressing the Friends of Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty meeting held in UN headquarters Friday.

"Though we have not yet succeeded in ratifying it for pure political, ideological reasons – not substance, I assure you – we nevertheless are pledged to live by it, and we do live by it, and we will live by it," Kerry explained Washington's stance on the issue.

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The Secretary of State concluded the address by underscoring the importance of the agreement "so that we will never again see additional nuclear powers, and so that the existing nuclear powers will continue to move to eliminate these weapons from Earth."

The CTBT, prohibiting all kinds of nuclear explosions for military or civilian purposes, has been adopted by the UN General Assembly back in 1996. However, the document failed to enter into force, as eight nations, including the United States, China, Iran and Israel, have not ratified it.

<http://en.ria.ru/world/20140927/193336655/US-to-Press-for-Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty-Ratification-Secretary.html>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Lavrov: Russia Hopes US Will Not Go Outside Scope of Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty

28 September 2014

MOSCOW, September 28 (RIA Novosti) - Moscow hopes that the United States will not go outside the scope of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in his interview with Rossiya-1 broadcaster and the RT channel.

"I would not give prognosis on beginning of the new arms race. We will definitely not participate in it," Lavrov said.

Lavrov argued that the time had come for "modernization of our strategic armed forces."

"The approved military program comes from the country's resources, and, of course, from the requirements to ensure the reliable, modern defense. Speaking about the nuclear armory, the US's is a little younger, but it is also probably time for them to modernize it," the Russian Foreign Minister explained.

"I hope that all those restrictions highlighted in the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, legally oblige the US not to go beyond them. It is possible to renew, it is possible to change the old models to the new ones. But everything is recorded there, and nobody canceled the quantitative restrictions," Lavrov concluded.

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) was first signed by the United States and the Soviet Union in 1991, leading to the largest arms control reduction in history. The document expired in late 2009.

In April 2010, Russia's then-President Dmitry Medvedev and US President Barack Obama signed the New START Treaty. The new agreement's duration is ten years and it may be extended for an additional period of up to five years.

The New START Treaty obligates the parties to reduce the number of deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) and heavy bombers to 700, the number of deployed nuclear warheads to 1,550 and the number of deployed and non-deployed launchers and heavy bombers to 800.

<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20140928/193389809/Lavrov-Russia-Hopes-US-Will-Not-Go-Outside-Scope-Of-Strategic.html>

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The Washington Free Beacon – Washington, D.C.

China Conducts Flight Test of New Mobile ICBM

DF-31B is Beijing's sixth road-mobile nuclear strike system

By Bill Gertz

October 2, 2014

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China's military has conducted the first flight test of a new variant of one of its road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles in a sign that Beijing is increasing its strategic strike capability against the United States.

The test of a new DF-31B missile was conducted Sept. 25 from a missile test range in central China.

A Pentagon spokeswoman declined to provide details of the test.

"We continue to monitor China's military modernization, including its missile tests," Cynthia O. Smith, the spokeswoman, told the *Washington Free Beacon*.

No details of the missile test could be learned, but the test was believed to have been carried out from China's Wuzhai test facility.

Nongovernment military analysts said the new missile likely is an increased-range or improved performance weapon, and possibly a multi-warhead version of the ICBM.

A Chinese military enthusiast website has identified the DF-31B as a mobile missile variant designed specifically for travel on rugged terrain or other difficult road conditions.

Mobile missiles are considered a greater strategic threat because tracking their location and targeting them in a conflict is very difficult. The missiles can be hidden in garages or caves to avoid detection by satellites and other sensors.

China has made clear in its state-run media that its nuclear forces are being developed for use against the United States. The *Global Times* reported Oct. 28 that a submarine-launched missile attack on the United States would kill between 5 million and 12 million Americans.

The new DF-31B is the latest addition to China's rapidly growing nuclear missile arsenal that includes older silo-based missiles and five other road-mobile missiles. They include the long-range DF-31, DF-31A and DF-41 ICBMs, intermediate-range DF-26Cs, and medium-range DF-21s—a missile the Chinese have developed into a dual, nuclear-conventional weapon that includes an anti-ship variant. A DF-21 variant also is believed to be used as China's anti-satellite missile system.

China has some 40 DF-31s and DF-31As, and the DF-41, which is expected to carry multiple-nuclear warheads, is said to be near deployment.

China also has deployed new submarine-launched missiles called the JL-2 that are based on new missile-firing nuclear-powered submarines that the U.S. Navy has said will begin their first sea patrols this year.

China also is working a high-technology hypersonic strike vehicle that is launched atop a missile and travels at extremely high speeds along the edge of the earth's atmosphere. The glide vehicle is being designed to deliver a nuclear warhead through U.S. strategic missile defenses.

"They have an extraordinary selection of cruise missiles, and a ballistic missile force that they developed," Adm. Jonathan Greenert, chief of Naval Operations, told a security forum in August, adding that in a future conflict, China's missiles pose the most serious threat.

"If [a conflict is] in their backyard, I'm a little worried about their ballistic missile [force] because of its reach," Greenert said.

China in late July conducted a flight test of a DF-31A, the fourth known flight test of that new missile in the past two years.

The latest missile test, which was not announced by the Chinese government, highlights Beijing's largely secret strategic nuclear forces buildup.

Rick Fisher, an analyst who closely monitors the Chinese military, said the testing of a new DF-31 variant should be a worry for U.S. security officials.

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“The emergence of a third version of the DF-31 raises the question of whether there is a multiple warhead version,” said Fisher, with the International Assessment and Strategy Center.

Fisher said the DF-31B also might be a silo-based missile or one designed specifically for China’s so-called “Great Underground Wall”—a network of 3,000 miles of tunnels and underground nuclear facilities that was first revealed several years ago.

“China has a track record of using warhead systems on multiple missile programs,” he said. “The advent of multiple warheads on the DF-41 may indicate new versions of the DF-31 may be so equipped. If real, this would accelerate China’s warhead growth.”

The testing of a third DF-31 variant, along with Moscow’s nuclear weapons modernization program “places greater pressure on Washington to proceed with modernizing America’s nuclear deterrent,” Fisher said.

Mark Stokes, a specialist on Chinese strategic forces, said the new ICBM variant could be a technically improved weapon.

“A DF-31B would most likely be an incremental, phased improvement on the DF-31A,” said Stokes, with the Project 2049 Institute.

“As a matter of PLA defense industrial process, R&D on an improved variant would have begun after the DF-31A entered full rate production,” Stokes said.

The Pentagon’s most recent annual report on the Chinese military states “The Second Artillery continues to modernize its nuclear forces by enhancing its silo-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and adding more survivable mobile delivery systems.”

“In recent years, the road-mobile, solid-propellant [DF-31A] ICBM has entered service,” the report said, adding that “China also is developing a new road-mobile ICBM known as the Dong Feng-41 (DF-41), possibly capable of carrying multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles (MIRV).”

<http://freebeacon.com/national-security/china-conducts-flight-test-of-new-mobile-icbm/>

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International Business (IB) Times – Sidney, Australia

U.S. To Launch New Generation Submarines to Counter Threats from the Bulging Fleet of Russia and China

By Kalyan Kumar

September 27, 2014

A submarine race is in the making. The U.S. has announced its new generation Ohio class submarines to address new threats from Russia and China. In an insightful assessment, the U.S. Navy expresses its concerns about the rapidly expanding submarine fleet of Russia and China while defending the new submarine push of U.S.A.

Vice Adm. Michael Connor, the U.S. Navy’s Atlantic Submarine Force commander, notes that the fast-paced development of ballistic missile submarine by Russia and China’s will require a matching deployment of U.S. submarine fleet, reported Fox News.

What is worrying the U.S. is Russia’s significant nuclear arsenal that it bequeathed from the Soviet days. Thus Russia retains all the nuclear capabilities. They are regrowing those capabilities, and Russia showing aspirations for more territory and influence, reminiscent of the erstwhile Soviet Union.

Russian Upgrade

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Last week, Russia announced its decision to upgrade its submarine fleet and released photos of the Akula II-class nuclear submarines getting ready for upgrades. Alongside Russia, the U.S. Navy also looks at China's expanding submarine fleet with concern and its advancement towards global strike capabilities.

China has many ballistic missile submarines, but Connor observed that China is showing a penchant for adding more nuclear ballistic missile submarines. The Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) in its assessment noted that China's navy has evolved from a littoral force to capable force for a wide range of missions with the capability to strike targets hundreds of miles from the Chinese mainland.

ONI noted that China's plan to include the Jin-class ballistic nuclear submarines was a force multiplier, and the deterrent patrols will start soon. The operational deployment of the Jin SSBN would enhance China's at-sea-second-strike nuclear capability, said the report. According to the report China now possesses 5 Nuclear attack submarines; 4 Nuclear ballistic missile submarines and 53 Diesel attack submarines.

China's Decade

The ONI report noted the rapid expansion of Chinese submarines of offensive weapons technology in the past decade. Before that, China had only a few submarines with the capability to fire modern anti-ship cruise missiles. Now, half of China's conventional attack submarines of China are configured with fire anti-ship cruise missiles.

When the undersea nuclear deterrence started in the 1960s, U.S. was the leader with 41 submarines. Now the U.S. Navy's fleet shrunk to 14 nuclear armed submarines. Connor added that the new scenario will be strategically addressed when the U.S. Navy releases the new-generation Ohio-class, nuclear-armed ballistic missile submarines by 2021. It is also known as the Ohio Replacement programme. In a report, the Market Watch carried the news that the U.S. Navy awarded a million contract to General Dynamics Electric Boat, towards planning the yard work and engineering of its new nuclear submarines.

<http://au.ibtimes.com/articles/567798/20140927/russia-china-ohio-class-submarine-anti-ship.htm#.VCxexixARDx>

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The Japan Times – Tokyo, Japan

North Korea Defends its Nuclear Program at the U.N., Blames America

Kyodo

September 28, 2014

UNITED NATIONS – North Korea, in the first speech at the U.N. General Assembly in 15 years by its foreign minister, defended its nuclear development on Saturday, saying the program is necessary to counter a hostile U.S. policy.

Ri Su Yong, North Korea's foreign minister, also criticized the U.N. Security Council for rejecting a proposal to discuss what it saw as a threat from U.S. military maneuvers. There was no mention of issues related to Japan in his 15-plus minute speech at the U.N. General Assembly.

"The nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula is a matter of sovereignty and right to life of a U.N. member state before peace and security," Ri said.

The hostile policy and nuclear threat by the United States "inevitably resulted in the decision of nuclear weapons state of the DPRK," Ri said, using the acronym of North Korea's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"The nuclear issue will be resolved" if the United States drops its hostile policy, Ri added.

Ri also lashed out at the U.N. Security Council for failing to meet Pyongyang's call to take up joint military exercises by the United States and South Korea.

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North Korea said the military drills helped raise tensions around the Korean Peninsula and endangered peace and security there. "However, the Security Council turned its back," Ri said.

The foreign minister said as South Korea has given its military command to the United States, various types of weapons of mass destruction "that can destroy the Korean nation more than hundreds of times over are now deployed and hidden on its own soil."

The North Korean diplomat also slammed a ministerial meeting hosted Tuesday by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry about the issue of North Korea's violations of human rights.

"It is all the more preposterous to talk about human rights dialogue while preventing to the last ditch the DPRK as the direct party from participating in the meeting," Ri said.

Kerry invited his counterparts from Japan and South Korea — Fumio Kishida and Yun Byung Se — to the meeting on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly but rejected a call by North Korea to join the event.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/09/28/asia-pacific/north-korea-defends-nuclear-program-u-n-blames-america/#.VCxmNCxARDx>

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Global Post.com – Boston, MA

N. Korea Shows Increasing Resistance to Nuclear Deal: U.S. Official

Kyodo News International

September 29, 2014

North Korea has increased its resistance to international attempts to convince it to abandon its nuclear weapons program, a senior U.S. diplomat said Monday following a meeting with his Chinese counterpart.

"There are troubling further signs that the DPRK is even more directly rejecting its responsibilities to live up to its obligations to denuclearize," Glyn Davies, special representative for North Korea policy, told reporters in Beijing, pointing to a speech the North Korean foreign minister gave at the U.N. General Assembly in New York on Saturday.

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

North Korea continues to blame others, particularly the United States "for the fact that they continue to pursue these weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles," Davies said.

Washington remains open to "responsible dialogue" with Pyongyang, Davies said.

Davies arrived in Beijing on Sunday for consultations with Wu Dawei, China's special representative for Korean Peninsula affairs. He will also meet with China's executive vice foreign minister, Zheng Yesui.

In response to a reporter's questions, Davies said the United States supports ongoing efforts by Japan to resolve the issue of Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea.

Washington, he said, hopes Tokyo will be successful in talks with Pyongyang taking place in the northeastern Chinese city of Shenyang on Monday and that he looked forward to being briefed on the results.

Davies' trip is part of a three-country tour intended to discuss options for restarting the long-stalled six-party talks on denuclearizing North Korea.

The trade-for-disarmament talks, which also include Japan and South Korea, have been deadlocked since 2008.

Davies was accompanied on the trip by Sydney Seiler, who was appointed by Washington as the U.S. special envoy to the talks earlier this month, filling a position which had been vacant for almost a year.

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Davies and Seidler head to Seoul on Tuesday for talks with Hwang Joon Kook, special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, before ending their trip in Tokyo where they will meet the head of the Foreign Ministry's Asian and Oceania Affairs Bureau, Junichi Ihara.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/140929/n-korea-shows-increasing-resistance-nuclear-deal-us-of>

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The Diplomat – Tokyo, Japan

Kim Jong-Un's Sister Takes Control in North Korea

According to a new report by a Seoul think tank, Kim Jong-un's younger sister is in charge during his absence.

By Tae-jun Kang for *The Diplomat*

October 01, 2014

Kim Yo-jong, the younger sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, might be leading the hermit kingdom instead of her brother, a recent report from Seoul-based think tank, North Korea Intellectuals Solidarity (NKIS) revealed.

According to NKIS on October 1, Kim Jong-un — who has failed to appear at official events since early September — is getting medical treatment at Bonghwa Clinic from both domestic and foreign medical teams. Meanwhile, in his absence, Kim Yo-jong is charged with handling important government decisions.

An unnamed source told NKIS that a decision to give Kim Jong-un extended medical treatment was made at a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on September 6. The meeting was reportedly held at Kim Yo-jong's suggestion.

As a result of the meeting, Pyongyang decided four things. First, to give special and extended medical treatment to Kim Jong-un in order to quickly restore his health. Second, all North Korean high level officials and party members should be responsible in following Kim's previous orders. Third, the party and army should be on wartime-like alert while Kim Jong-un is out of commission. Lastly, all the important matters related to government administration should be reported to Kim Yo-jong, so that Kim Jong-un can concentrate on getting better.

Kim Yo-jong is the daughter of the former North Korean leader Kim Jong-il and his wife, Kim Yong-hui. She was first spotted at a photo session for participants at the 3rd Conference of the Workers' Party of Korea in September 2010, when she stood next to her father's personal secretary.

She was officially mentioned for the first time on March 9, 2014, as she accompanied her brother in voting for the Supreme People's Assembly. She was identified as a "senior official" of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. She is widely seen as having taken over the role of her aunt, Kim Kyong-hui, the wife of the executed Jang Song-thaek. Kim Kyong-hui supported her elder brother Kim Jong-il during his rule.

"Some say Hwang Byong-so, director of the General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army, may have assumed new No. 2 status, but given what has been confirmed this time, we can say Hwang is just a shadow, and Kim Yo-jong is the second-in-command of North Korea," said Kim Heung-gwang, the head of NKIS.

Meanwhile, speculation over Kim Jong-un's sustained absence continues unabated.

South Korea's *Yonhap News Agency* reported, citing an unnamed source, that he is suffering from gout.

A *Daily Mirror* report said that Kim Jong-un is addicted to Swiss cheese, which may have contributed to his health problems.

Curtis Melvin, a researcher with the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University, told *Foreign Policy* that Kim Jong un spends much of his time at the family compounds in Wonsan and Kangdong. The family compound in Kangdong is where Kim Jong-il recovered from his stroke.

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In addition, *Free North Korea Radio (FNK)* reported on September 29 that Kim had surgery on his ankle. The surgery was reportedly successful.

However, the South Korean government has refused to confirm that Kim is suffering from any health problem.

"I think it is hard to relate Kim's absence to his health since there used to be a time when Kim disappeared from official events [for] over ten days," said Lim Byeong-chul, a spokesman of the Ministry of Unification.

<http://thediplomat.com/2014/10/kim-jong-uns-sister-takes-control-in-north-korea/>

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Xinhua News – Beijing, China

U.S., S. Korea Says Differently on Missile Deployment in S.Korea

October 1, 2014

SEOUL, Oct. 1 (Xinhua) -- The United States and South Korea showed different responses to the alleged U.S. plan to deploy its advanced missile-defense battery to the Korean Peninsula as a senior U.S. defense official confirmed the two allies are in discussions on the deployment.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work was quoted by Yonhap News Agency as saying on Wednesday that "We are working with the government of South Korea now to determine if that (the deployment) is the right thing to do."

Work said the United States is considering sending a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile battery to South Korea, noting his country has already moved one THAAD battery to Guam "in response to provocations" from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

His remark contrasted with what the South Korean Defense Ministry said that the United States neither has requested the THAAD deployment nor have the two countries held any discussions on the issue.

Local newspaper Donga Ilbo reported on Sept. 5 that talks about bringing a THAAD battery into South Korea "are at the final stage," and the result could be officially announced as early as in October when defense chiefs of the two countries hold their annual Security Consultative Meeting in Washington.

"We are considering very carefully whether or not to put a THAAD in South Korea. We're doing site surveys," said Work.

Donga Ilbo reported that a THAAD missile battery was highly likely to be deployed to a U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) base in Pyeongtaek, some 70 km south of Seoul.

The United States reportedly has been under internal review on whether to deploy the THAAD in South Korea since former USFK commander James Thurman proposed it in 2011. Current USFK commander Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti said in early June that he called for Washington to bring the THAAD into the peninsula.

Former South Korean Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin, who now serves as top national security adviser to President Park Geun-hye, told lawmakers in mid-June that it would be "no matter" if the United States forces deploy the THAAD.

The THAAD is an advanced missile-defense system, with one battery composed of six mobile launchers and 48 missiles striking targets at an altitude of 40-150 km. A battery is valued at about 2 trillion won (some 2 billion U.S. dollars).

The United States has claimed that the South Korean missile defense is not enough to defend the DPRK's missile threats as the PAC-2 interceptors, held by the South Korean military, can strike targets at an altitude of around 20 km. The PAC-3, held by the USFK, can strike targets at an altitude of less than 40 km.

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The Korea Air and Missile Defense, South Korea's own missile defense system which would be established by 2020, aims at intercepting missiles at an altitude of 20-40 km.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2014-10/01/c_133687326.htm

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The Korea Times – Seoul, South Korea

NK Completes Upgrade of Rocket Launch Pad, Conducts ICBM Engine Test

October 2, 2014

North Korea has completed the expansion of its main rocket launch site on the country's northwest coast and a new rocket launch could come before the end of the year, a U.S. think tank said Wednesday.

Since late last year, the North has worked to upgrade the Sohae Satellite Launching Station to accommodate larger rockets with heavier payloads. Recent satellite imagery shows that the project has been completed, according to the website 38 North.

"North Korea is now ready to move forward with another rocket launch. Should a decision be made soon to do so in Pyongyang, a rocket could be launched by the end of 2014," said the website run by the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

According to the report, the garrison and support base for the main construction unit, which was built in the summer of last year, was completely dismantled between Aug. 11 and Sept. 4. Beginning in August, 21 small shelters were also removed, it said.

In December 2012, the North put a satellite into orbit on an Unha-3 long-range rocket, fired from the Sohae launch pad in a surprise move that demonstrated to the world that it has moved closer to developing a nuclear missile that can reach the U.S. mainland.

The most likely candidate for a new launch is still the Unha-3 rocket because a much larger rocket reportedly under development is at least several years from becoming operational, according to the website.

"Continuing activities on the ground at Sohae merit close watching. Imagery from mid-September spotted tanks near the propellant storage buildings at the launch pad for the first time since the 2012 launch," it said, adding the exact purpose of the activity is unclear.

Earlier in the day, the website released a separate photo of the launch site, saying the North is believed to have carried out yet another engine test of its new intercontinental ballistic missile, the KN-08.

The test of the missile's first-stage engine took place in mid-August, adding to a series of KN-08 engine tests Pyongyang has carried out since late 2013, said Joel Wit, a security expert who now serves as editor of the website specializing on North Korea issues.

"If we see these tests being completed and there's no more, that tells us that the North Koreans may be moving on to possible full-scale tests of the KN-08 in the future because this is a stepping stone to missile tests of that particular weapon," Wit said during a forum on North Korea at the university.

The missile is believed to have a range of at least 5,500 km, which puts Alaska at risk.

Wit said he believes that Adm. Samuel Locklear, commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, was referring to the progress the North has made in the development of the KN-08 in a media interview last week.

Locklear told the Bloomberg Government news service that the North is taking steps to deploy the KN-08. He also expressed concern the missile is harder to keep an eye on as it can be launched from mobile launchers, stressing that building a missile defense system for such weapons is a priority.

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"They are moving forward, as Adm. Locklear said, with the development of a road-mobile ICBM," Wit said. (Yonhap)

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2014/10/485_165598.html

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AsiaOne News.com – Singapore

Exclusive: N. Korea Envoy Says Door is Open on Nuclear Issues, Rights, Abductees

Reuters

Friday, October 03, 2014

GENEVA - North Korea is ready to resume six-party talks on its nuclear programme but must maintain its readiness in the face of joint US-South Korean military exercises, a senior envoy in Geneva said on Thursday.

So Se Pyong, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, told Reuters that his country was not planning a nuclear or missile test.

In a wide-ranging interview, he said that reports about the ill health of its leader Kim Jong Un were "fabricated rumours" and that it was not clear whether the United States was willing to negotiate the release of three detained Americans.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said after talks with North Korea's foreign minister in Moscow on Wednesday that he saw a possibility that stalled talks on Pyongyang's nuclear programme could resume, but it would take time.

"For the six-party talks we are ready, and as far as I think, China and Russia and the DPRK are ready," So said in the rare interview in the DPRK's mission overlooking Lake Geneva. "But America, they don't like that kind of talks right now.

Because America does not like that, so that's why the countries like South Korea, Japan also are not ready for those talks." North Korea promised to abandon its nuclear programme in 2005 but appeared to renege on the agreement when it tested nuclear devices in 2006 and 2009.

Already heavily sanctioned by the world body for its missile and nuclear tests, it has completed a major overhaul of its rocket launch site, a US thinktank said on Thursday, enabling it to fire larger, longer-range rockets.

So, without being specific, linked North Korea's military preparations to "very serious" US-South Korean exercises earlier this year that he said had deployed nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, submarines and B-52 bombers.

"We have to be alert also, we have to be prepared to make counter measures against that military exercise which are against us."

Asked specifically whether North Korea was preparing a nuclear test or to fire a missile, he replied: "No, no. "In case, in case, if they do that kind of joint military exercise, the joint nuclear military exercise against my country continuously, we have to, also."

North Korea's nuclear weapons programme protected it from the United States, So said. "In case if we give (the weapons) up like other countries, then of course I think they would have attacked us already," he said.

North Korea is not believed to have mastered the technology to miniaturise a nuclear warhead small enough for any of its existing rockets, although analysts say subsequent nuclear tests increase the chance of refining its existing nuclear technology.

It has previously threatened to turn Seoul and Washington into a "sea of flames".

"PARTY POLICY"

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Asked whether North Korea's leader Kim was committed to denuclearisation, So said: "It is the party's policy." Kim failed to appear at the Supreme People's Assembly last month and state media said he was suffering from "discomfort".

He had been seen walking with a limp since an event in July.

Asked about the nature of his ailment, So said: "That is rumours, fabricated rumours." He said that media reports Kim may have had surgery on his ankles were wrong.

Three Americans are currently being held in North Korea on charges of crimes against the state. A pro-North Korean daily published in Japan on Thursday quoted one of them appealing to the US government to help to secure their freedom.

"It is true that three Americans are detained in my country now...They came into my country illegally and also they committed some crimes against my country, that is why they are on trial and then they were sentenced," So said.

He added: "I was told that they asked for the government of America to have negotiations on those problems, but I don't know whether America is ready or not to release them or have some understandings or the recognition of those crimes they made."

US special representative for North Korean policy Glyn Davies said on Monday that North Korea has rejected US efforts to discuss the detentions, adding that the secretive state was missing a chance to build relations with Washington.

So disclosed that North Korea has sought closer cooperation on human rights, first with the United Nations for technical assistance, and also through dialogue with the European Union.

"Actually we just gave a hint to have that kind of dialogue to one of the EU member countries, but still they don't give us any feedback, any answer," So said, noting that the EU has taken the lead in criticising North Korea at UN rights forums.

A report by UN investigators this year denounced its system of labour camps holding political prisoners. US Secretary of State John Kerry, speaking in New York last week, called on North Korea to close its camps.

"Of course every country has prisons. That is true. We have also prisons. But not labour camps they are talking about," So said.

"That is a totally fabricated discrimination." On the politically-charged issue of Japanese nationals abducted by North Korea over the years, So said that he did not know how many abductees there had been, but noted there had been recent contacts on the issue.

"Whether it is a hundred, or 200 or 500, I don't know exactly. We don't know the exact numbers, those are very difficult problems there," So said.

In 2002 North Korea admitted kidnapping 13 Japanese citizens in the 1970s and 1980s to help train spies. Five abductees and their families later returned to Japan.

Officials from North Korea and Japan have met in China on the issue, and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has made resolution of the dispute a top priority, said this week that North Korea had invited Japanese representatives to Pyongyang.

So said he did not know if a trip would take place. "I was told also there were some more contact last week," So said. "So anyway, we are ready to solve that problem because we are very frank."

<http://news.asiaone.com/news/world/exclusive-n-korea-envoy-says-door-open-nuclear-issues-rights-abductees>

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RT (Russia Today) – Moscow, Russia

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Lavrov: High Time to Rearm, Moscow's Military Upgrade Long Overdue

September 28, 2014

Russia's investment in its military is not a sign of a looming new arms race but rather a long-overdue modernization, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with RT and the VGTRK media corporation.

"I don't think we are on the verge of a new arms race. At least, Russia definitely won't be part of it," the minister said. *"In our case, it's just that the time has come for us to modernize our nuclear and conventional arsenals."*

Lavrov was commenting on the US plan to overhaul its nuclear arsenals, which was announced by President Barack Obama this week.

"The US nuclear arsenal is somewhat younger than ours, but perhaps it is also time for them to upgrade it. I just hope that the US will abide by the provisions of the New START treaty, which are legally binding," Lavrov said. *"It is fine to upgrade your stockpile, replacing old weapons with new ones, but there are certain restrictions on how many weapons you can have, and all these restrictions are still in place."*

Moscow needs a strong defensive force because it sees hostile actions by NATO, an organization rooted in the past that never ceased to see Russia as an enemy, Lavrov said.

"Look how quickly NATO switched to confrontation over the Ukraine crisis and started hurling serious, yet completely unfounded, and biased accusations at us. They immediately terminated all of our cooperation programs, including the ones that served their interests. They did this so quickly and so brusquely that it becomes clear that NATO still has a Cold War mentality," he said.

The current situation is reminiscent of what happened in 2008, when Georgia attacked its breakaway region of South Ossetia, killing Russian peacekeepers in the process and provoking a military response from Russia. In the first days of the conflict West blamed Russia and suspended many cooperation programs, but later acknowledged its mistake. Now it is making the same mistake all over again, Lavrov said.

The minister said he doubts that the current period of tension with the West will reach the level of the old Cold War. But Western politicians are trapped in their own anti-Russian rhetoric, he said.

"If a Cold War starts today, I think it will be different. It will be primarily a media war," Lavrov said. *"In my contacts with [US Secretary of State] John Kerry and with the foreign ministers of Germany, France and many other European countries, I can see that they don't particularly enjoy the current situation but they simply can't abandon the position they've taken – namely, that it's all Russia's fault, that it was Russia who brought about the Ukraine crisis."*

Still there is significant damage being done to ties, because Moscow is beginning to see the West as untrustworthy, Lavrov said. In a number of recent instances, solutions to crises in Syria and Ukraine that were initially backed by Western countries were later thrown away without a second thought on the pretext that the situation had changed, the foreign minister said.

"They even violate the agreements we have, which makes us wonder whether it is even possible to have any agreements with them at all," Lavrov said.

This lack of reliability has proven to have negative long-time consequences, Lavrov asserted. In Syria, the West's insistence on ousting President Bashar Assad left little chance to stop the confrontation between the government and the Western-backed rebels, ultimately contributing to the rise of the radical Islamists such as the Islamic State (also known as ISIS, or ISIL). In Ukraine, the free trade deal with the EU was de facto put on hold until 2016 to review the impact on Ukraine's trade with Russia – which is exactly what President Viktor Yanukovich wanted last year.



“Our partners have been clearly engaged in moving the goalposts, as they say, when the terms are changed time and again. It’s dishonest and utterly ineffective,” Lavrov said.

The confrontational stance toward Russia is hurting cooperation on many levels, including in the UN Security Council, the minister said. There were calls recently to revoke the right of veto of the permanent members of the UNSC on issues involving large-scale violations of human rights. Lavrov warned that even if it were possible to pass such a reform, it would only serve to undermine the Security Council’s authority.

“[The veto right] is not a privilege, it’s a responsibility for maintaining peace and security,” Lavrov said. *“The authors of the UN Charter were wise enough to incorporate this requirement. They realized that consensus was vital to resolving issues in a collective and efficient way. We must put an end to the UN being exploited in someone’s narrow egoistic interests.”*

Lavrov called on the West, and particularly the US, to stop trying to do everything their own way with no consideration for the bigger picture and the interests of other nations.

“I very much hope that the US will finally see the light and realize that they can no longer act as the prosecutor, judge and executioner in every part of the world, and that they need to cooperate to resolve issues,” he said.

<http://rt.com/news/191268-lavrov-interview-arms-race/>

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The London Independent – London, U.K.

Isis Could Become 'World’s First truly Terrorist State' and Bomb UK with Nuclear and Chemical Weapons, Theresa May Warns

By Nigel Morris, Deputy Political Editor

Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Isis could acquire nuclear and biological weapons to launch attacks on Britain, the Home Secretary warned today as she set out new measures to clamp down on extremist groups.

In a speech to the Tory party conference that concentrated almost entirely on the threat from terrorism at home and abroad, Theresa May warned that the jihadist group could become the “world’s first truly terrorist state” in Iraq and Syria.

“If [Isis] succeed in firmly consolidating their grip [on the land they occupy in Syria and Iraq, we will see the world’s first truly terrorist state established within a few hours flying time of our country,” she said.

“We will see terrorists given the space to plot attacks against us, train their men and women, and devise new methods to kill indiscriminately.”

“We will see the risk, often prophesied but thank God not yet fulfilled, that with the capability of a state behind them, the terrorists will acquire chemical, biological or even nuclear weapons to attack us.

“We must not flinch. We must not shy away from our responsibility. We must not drift towards danger and insecurity. While we still have the chance, we must act to destroy them.”

In a bid to counter the threat of home-grown terrorism, Ms May said the next Tory manifesto would include a renewed commitment to the Communications Data Bill – the so-called “snoopers’ charter”.

The measure, first championed by Ms May two years ago, would have required phone and internet companies to maintain records of people’s internet, email and mobile phone activity – though not the content of the calls or messages.

It was finally abandoned after running into strong resistance from the Liberal Democrats, a roadblock which Ms May slammed today as “outrageously irresponsible”.



She told the conference: "The lesson of history tells us that when our enemies say they want to attack us, they mean it.

"Innocent people are in danger right now. If we do not act, we risk sleepwalking into a society in which crime can no longer be investigated and terrorists can plot their murderous schemes undisrupted.

"We have to give the police and the security services the powers they need to keep us safe, and that is what the next Conservative government will do."

She warned there had been a "rapid and dangerous" decline in detectives' ability to access online communications, with the police forced to abandon 20 investigations, including 13 in which a child was at risk of harm.

The Tories are also promising a ban on so-called hate preachers and other extremists being interviewed on television or speaking at public meetings, Ms May said, as well as an extension of ministers' authority to outlaw groups suspected of encouraging terrorism or violence.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/isis-could-become-worlds-first-truly-terrorist-state-and-bomb-uk-with-nuclear-and-chemical-weapons-theresa-may-warns-9765049.html>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Russian Army to Deploy Three More Iskander Missile Brigades by 2016

01 October 2014

MOSCOW, October 1 (RIA Novosti) - The Russian army will bring the number of brigades armed with Iskander-M theater ballistic missile systems to seven by 2016, Commander-in-Chief of the Land Force, Col.Gen. Oleg Salyukov, said Wednesday.

"There are four Iskander-M brigades in service with the army," Salyukov told reporters.

"One more brigade in the Central Military District will be equipped with Iskander systems by the end of 2014, while the Southern and Eastern military districts will each receive an Iskander brigade in 2015," the general said.

The Iskander-M is a missile system equipped with two solid-propellant single-stage guided missiles.

The supply of the system is carried under a contract signed in 2011 between the Russian Defense Ministry and military industrial corporation Mashinostroyeniya.

Iskander is one of the country's most powerful missile strike systems used by the Russian Ground Forces. The systems were successfully tested in 2007. The Russian Army currently uses its Iskander-M and Iskander-K variants.

<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20141001/193496275/Russian-Army-to-Deploy-Three-More-Iskander-Missile-Brigades-by.html>

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Pravda.Ru – Moscow, Russia

Russia Achieves Nuclear Parity with US for the First Time since Soviet Era

Source: Pravda.Ru

03 October 2014

Russia caught up with the United States on the number of nuclear weapons. For the first time since the beginning of the century, Russia caught up with the United States on the number of all carriers of nuclear weapons, Zvezda TV and radio company said. The information was originally revealed by the US State Department.

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Moscow provided the information on the number of nuclear weapons to Washington with the scope of the Russian-American treaty on strategic offensive arms.

Parity has thus been achieved by putting into service nuclear submarines of Project 955, equipped with Bulava missiles with multiple warheads. At the end of 2014, the second submarine of this type of, Alexander Nevsky was put into service at the Russian Navy. The sub is armed with 16 missiles, each of them is equipped with six warheads. In addition, intercontinental ballistic missiles Topol-M a single warhead were replaced with Yars missiles that had three warheads.

The Russian-American treaty on strategic offensive arms was signed in 2011. In accordance with the document, the United States and Russia should reduce the total number of nuclear warheads to 1,550, of which no more than 800 can be used on combat duty. The amount of deployed strategic carriers, intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and heavy strategic bombers should be reduced to 700 units.

In September, Russia successfully tested ballistic missile Bulava that precisely hit the conditional target.

http://english.pravda.ru/news/russia/03-10-2014/128708-russia_usa_nuclear_parity-0/

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

Russia to Launch New Missile Attack Warning Satellites Next Year

Russia is currently developing a space system that is set to become a space echelon of the missile warning system designed to detect and track launches of ballistic missiles around the world

October 03, 2014

YALTA, October 3. /TASS/. The first satellites of the future orbital grouping of Russia's missile warning system's space-based echelon are expected to be launched in 2015, the director general of Mintz Radio-Technical Institute and the chief designer said on Friday.

Russia is currently developing a space system that is set to become a space echelon of the missile warning system designed to detect and track launches of ballistic missiles around the world. "Test launches will be made next year," Sergey Boyev said, giving no details on the number of satellites in the future grouping.

The results obtained by designers of the single space system in the Kometa corporation "fuel confidence that the first tests and the first launches will be successful," he added. "In the end, we will boost the grouping to the needed number," Boyev stressed.

The Western sanctions against Russia are unlikely to seriously affect the terms of the project's implementation and the quality of the system, the director general said. "We have been developing a digital and component base for a long time, and I expect that a whole range of imported decisions will be replaced by our own," Boyev explained.

In April, Russia lost the last geostationary satellite of the country's Oko (Eye) orbital missile early warning network, established in 1990s to survey countries possessing nuclear-capable ballistic missiles and detect possible launches.

Russia's military officials said out of six satellites working on the high-elliptical orbit, only two continue performing tasks just three hours per day. The loss of the satellite is not expected to affect the efficiency of the missile warning system, which is mainly based on ground radar stations.

Russia has been developing a new system of air and space defense that will incorporate components for air space reconnaissance, a source from the Russian Defense Ministry told TASS.

The air reconnaissance component will provide information about detected targets to air defense troops and monitor air defense and space defense facilities, the source said.

<http://en.itar-tass.com/non-political/752584>

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Trend News – Baku, Azerbaijan

N-Talks End in New York, No Significant Progress Achieved

By Umid Niayesh, Trend
27 September 2014

Baku, Azerbaijan -- The recent round of talks between Iran and the group P5+1 on the Islamic Republic's disputed nuclear program ended in New York without any significant progress, Mehr news agency reported Sept. 27 citing Tehran's diplomatic sources.

The sides decided to restart a new round of talks in the new future, according to the report.

Negotiators from Iran and the P5+1 comprised of Great Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States plus Germany opened a new round of talks on Sept. 19 with only two months left to reach a comprehensive deal on Tehran's nuclear program.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif held two hours of three-way talks with his U.S counterpart John Kerry and EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton on Sept. 26.

The parties discussed various technical, legal and political aspects of Iran's nuclear program as well as the issue of sanctions, Iran's diplomatic source said.

The official also emphasized that the negotiations only included a nuclear issue. Such topics as extremism and anti-terrorism were not discussed.

Zarif is scheduled to accompany Iranian President Hassan Rouhani during his visit to Russia on Sept. 27.

Iran and the P5+1 sealed an interim deal for a six-month period in Geneva on Nov. 23, 2013.

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

The deal took effect on Jan. 20 and expired on July 20. However the two sides agreed to extend their talks for four months until Nov. 24, 2014 to reach a permanent deal on Tehran's disputed nuclear program.

The U.S. and its western allies suspect Iran of developing a nuclear weapon - something that Iran denies. The Islamic Republic has on numerous occasions stated that it does not seek to develop nuclear weapons, using nuclear technology for electricity generation and medical purposes instead.

<http://en.trend.az/iran/politics/2316363.html>

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Global Post.com – Boston, MA

Iran Nuclear Talks to Resume in less than 2 Weeks: Iran Negotiator

Kyodo News International
September 28, 2014

Iran and six world powers will resume their nuclear talks in a European city in less than two weeks, with "differences on major issues" still remaining, Iran's chief negotiator said Sunday.

"We have been able to have a much better understanding in a constructive atmosphere but there are differences on major issues," Deputy Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in an interview with Kyodo News.

Iran and the six powers -- Russia, France, China, Britain, the United States and Germany -- had 11 days of nuclear talks on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York, which produced "little progress."

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"Some of the ideas which (were) proposed in the New York meeting are still hopeful but none of them can provide us with a common understanding on key issues and we could not to make substantive progress in negotiations," he added.

After missing a "golden opportunity" to clinch a deal on July 20, the initial deadline set, Iran and the six powers agreed to extend their talks to Nov. 24, a second deadline which the deputy foreign minister believes the two sides would not find it useful to extend.

"If it would be a deal, let's do it now, an extension would be useless and difficult," Araghchi said.

He indicated that the nuclear talks will resume in Vienna or Geneva in less than two weeks.

President Hassan Rouhani was elected last year with campaign pledges that included moving the nuclear talks to a higher level from deputy ministers, and the two sides agreed in Geneva in November last year that Iran would curb some of its nuclear activities in return for sanctions relief.

Accepting that Iran will continue to run centrifuges and a comprehensive lifting of all sanctions are the "two main key differences between Iran and the 5+1," Iran's chief negotiator said.

Thirty-five years after Iran and the United States broke diplomatic relations following the Iranian Revolution in 1978, U.S. President Barak Obama and the newly elected Rouhani spoke on the phone at the time of last year's General Assembly meeting. The contact was followed by bilateral talks between the two countries' foreign ministers.

There remain no signs of progress and trust in mutual ties, however, according to Araghchi.

"The point is we are not in a position yet to say trust has been improved between two sides. No, I don't believe that," he said.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/140928/iran-nuclear-talks-resume-less-2-weeks-iran-negotiator>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Netanyahu: Iran's Nuclear Weapons Capability Must Be Destroyed

29 September 2014

UNITED NATIONS, September 29 (RIA Novosti) - Iran's nuclear military capabilities must be fully destroyed as they pose greater threat to the world than the spread of radical Islamist groups, including Islamic State, across the Middle East, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in his UN speech on Monday.

"Make no mistake, ISIS (Islamic State) must be defeated," Netanyahu said. "But to defeat ISIS and leave Iran as a threshold nuclear power is to win the battle and lose the war."

"There's only one solution. Iran's nuclear military capabilities must be fully dismantled," he stressed.

The West accuses Tehran of working on nuclear weapons under the guise of a civilian nuclear program, the claim that has been repeatedly denied by Iranian authorities. At a meeting held in November 2013 in Geneva, Iran and the so-called P5+1 group comprising representatives from Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, and Germany, agreed to reach a long-term nuclear agreement by July 2014. The deadline was later moved to November 2014.

Last year, following the meeting in Geneva, Netanyahu severely criticized the agreement between Iran and six world powers and called it a "historic mistake", as the pact curbs, but does not prohibit Iranian nuclear program.

Earlier on Monday, Kyodo news agency reported that the next round of talks between Iran and the P5+1 group will take place in less than two weeks.

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The Jerusalem Post – Jerusalem, Israel

Iranian Nuclear Physicist Killed by Revolutionary Guard, Not Israel, Relative Claims

Sister of slain scientist says Iran killed him because he would not agree to help weaponize peaceful nuclear activities.

By FELICE FRIEDSON/THE MEDIA LINE

September 30, 2014

The sister of a leading Iranian nuclear physicist widely believed to have been assassinated by Israel as part of an effort to derail the Islamic Republic's drive to create nuclear weapons says her brother was murdered by Iran's Revolutionary Guard (IRI) because he wouldn't cooperate with the effort to divert nuclear activities from peaceful purposes.

When Iranian scientist Dr. Ardeshir Hosseinpour was killed in February 2007, the cause of death was reported to be "gassing" and most presumed the act was carried out by Israel. That belief stood, largely because of Iranian accusations to that effect; and because of Israeli policy to neither confirm nor deny such acts. But now, seven years later, Mahboobeh Hosseinpour has come forward with the claim that the IRI was behind her brother's death because of his refusal to be involved in Iran's nuclear enrichment program whose use was for atomic purposes.

If Hosseinpour's account can be confirmed, it could have an impact on the next round of talks between Iran and the P5+1 -- the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany.

Speaking to The Media Line from Turkey via Skype in a conversation arranged by the Iranian opposition group The New Iran, 52-year old Mahboobeh Hosseinpour said that she learned through her sister-in-law, Sara Araghi, of her brother's secret research, and particularly about a DVD which contained research and formulas for building an atomic bomb 12 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb and methods for neutralizing it.

Mahmoobeh Hosseinpour learned that her brother was contacted in November 2004 by three special agents of IRI's Defense Department with a personal message from IRI's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, enlisting him to work on increasing IRI's uranium enrichment capabilities for the purpose of building atomic weapons; and with a secondary goal of teaching and supervising Russian and North Korean scientists in order to accelerate the project. Speaking about her brother, Hosseinpour said that "he was offered a two star rank in the Revolutionary Guard and ownership of factories," if he agreed.

Mrs. Hosseinpour told The Media Line that Israel did not kill her brother but the IRI did, allegedly because he would not co-operate with them, claiming those projects would result in serious financial damage for the people of Iran as well as the international community.

Noted Iranian journalist Dr. Alireza Nourizadeh supports Hosseinpour's allegations, telling The Media Line that one of the reasons the IRI killed Dr. Hosseinpour "was because of an email communication he had with me about the sensitivities of his work. They were aware of it, even if they did not have the content."

Upon Ardeshir Hosseinpour's death on February 15, 2007, Sara Araghi told Mahboobeh that she went to her husbands' university office and removed the hidden DVD, the location of which she knew, taking note of displaced items including a missing photo of her brother with President Khatami. The DVD was eventually stolen.

Hosseinpour's mother, who died in 2011, was also warned to be careful. She was told that Ayatollah Khamenei had issued a fatwa, an Islamic religious decree, demanding that scientists had to work toward the benefit of the Islamic Republic's 20 percent enrichment.



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Dr. Iman Foroutan, chairman of The New Iran, a non-profit organization that describes its mission as “accelerating the downfall of the Islamic regime via non-violent means,” said that Western countries have long held suspicions regarding the IRI’s nuclear weapon ambitions, and Mrs. Mahboobeh Hosseinpour’s claims could help support these suspicions.

Although she has recently told her story through interviews on Arabic and Farsi stations, her goal is now exposure in the Western media.

Ardeshir Hosseinpour was born December 1962 in Tehran. He completed his army service in 1984 with special commendation, and enrolled in Shiraz University where he graduated with four scientific degrees in four years including a degree in electrical engineering. After receiving his Masters in condensed matter physics, Dr. Hosseinpour became the first Iranian to earn a Doctorate in the field of atomic physics and began working as an associate professor at Shiraz University. He published approximately 48 papers and articles in respected scientific journals.

<http://www.ipost.com/Middle-East/Iranian-nuclear-physicist-killed-by-Revolutionary-Guard-not-Israel-relative-claims-376656>

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Tehran Times, Tehran, Iran

Nuclear Deal Possible if 5+1 is Resolved: Iranian President

Thursday, 02 October 2014

TEHRAN - Iran and the 5+1 group can reach a final agreement on the Iranian nuclear program before the end of the year provided that the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany show the necessary resolve, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani says.

Iran is earnestly committed to reaching a consensus and if the other side is committed as firmly as Iran, “we can come to an agreement”, Rouhani told the Rossiya 24 television on Monday.

The Iranian president also urged the negotiating parties to act more resolutely, addressing particularly the United States, which he said has been dragging its feet more than others do, even though all parties understand the importance of reaching an agreement as soon as possible.

“Today, all the involved countries in the 5+1 group are eager to settle the remaining issues. The only country that is proceeding a little slower than the rest is the United States. We hope that the U.S. will think twice about its long-term interests as well,” he asserted.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran” is a signatory to “the Non-Proliferation Treaty and has accepted all international regulations... thus, negotiation can resolve any remaining small issues regarding Iran’s nuclear program.”

Rouhani says 5+1 group needs to take ‘braver stance’

Rouhani also added that the six world powers engaged in nuclear talks with Iran should take “braver stance” in the nuclear negotiations.

“We have already shown our absolute resolve in reaching an agreement and now it is the other side’s turn to take a braver stance so that an agreement is reached in the remaining time,” he said.

The interim nuclear deal signed between Iran and the 5+1 group in November last year in Geneva called for taking the first step of reciprocal actions to prove good faith in a six-month period to be followed by negotiations for a comprehensive agreement. The agreement went into force on January 20, 2014. However, the sides failed to achieve a final nuclear deal by the self-imposed July 20 deadline.

In July, Tehran and the six countries agreed to extend negotiations until November 24.

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If clinched, the long-awaited comprehensive nuclear agreement will resolve any concerns about the Iranian nuclear energy program and, on the other hand, lift economic sanctions imposed against Iran.

Rouhani describes New York talks as ‘certain steps forward’

In the latest round of talks in New York on September 18-26, the sides failed to resolve their disagreements and agreed to continue the consultations so that they could work out the final agreement by the November 24 deadline.

“During these talks [in New York], certain forward steps, however small, have been taken. But we must make attempts to reach a comprehensive agreement in the remaining time, which we believe will benefit all and improve Iran’s conditions, particularly in trade,” Rouhani stated.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Friday described the nuclear talks in New York as “serious, intense, and very frank.”

“Time is short, but issues are not that difficult to resolve,” Zarif told reporters in New York.

“Everything is very far and very close, it depends on how you look at it and what time of the day you start looking at this question. We are still apart, there are still quite a bit of differences on all these issues.”

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov also told the Bloomberg Television in New York that the nuclear talks between Iran and the 5+1 group were on the right track and that both sides have agreed on “some 95 percent” of a final deal.

Lavrov noted that the remaining five percent consists of “two or three very difficult issues” that need to be settled in the coming months.

Senior Iranian nuclear negotiator, Seyyed Abbas Araqchi, who is also Iran’s deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs, also said on Sunday that the nuclear talks in New York were “constructive”, although differences on major issues still remain to reach a deal before the deadline.

‘Call for Tehran-Moscow energy cooperation’

Rouhani also underlined the importance of energy cooperation between Iran and Russia.

“The best approaches are consultation, cooperation, and healthy competition among gas exporters so that the interests of all are met.

“Iran has one of the largest gas reserves in the world and its official policy is to provide gas for the nation and to export it to neighboring countries,” he noted.

‘Blind and arbitrary sanctions must be halted’

On sanctions imposed by Washington against Moscow over the Ukraine crisis, President Rouhani said, “Sanctions will benefit no one. Each country under sanctions must do its best to resist them and in doing so, receive aid from other countries.”

“Blind and arbitrary sanctions against countries must be halted,” he noted. “If countries do not take a definitive stand against imposing sanctions, it will be used as an instrument to exert pressure on them.”

Emphasizing the need for enhanced Tehran-Moscow partnership in resisting sanctions, Rouhani said, “In the current circumstances, Iran will support the government and people of Russia. As soon as trade facilities are provided, Russian people will see Iranian brands in their markets.”

‘Caspian Sea should be utilized for development’

On the 4th summit of the leaders of the Caspian Sea littoral states, Rouhani said, “The Caspian Sea is very important for countries sharing it, and must become a reliable source for these countries’ development. Several agreements have been signed, indicating that we are able to resolve issues.”

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'Campaign against terrorism'

"Those speaking of forming a coalition against ISIL are those who had provided financial and military aid for this terrorist group in the past. Iran, however, has been countering ISIL since three years ago when Syria and Iraq requested us to do so," Rouhani said in response to a question on the campaign against terrorism and terrorist groups, particularly ISIL.

"Terrorism threatens the whole world and every country must provide aid to stop it," he asserted.

"Airstrike is at best a showoff move, but to counter terrorism in the field certain practical measures such as preventing these terrorist groups from getting their hands on financial and military aid should be taken," Rouhani noted.

Rouhani noted that Islam preaches human dignity, respect for others' rights and peaceful coexistence.

"ISIL has nothing to do with Islamic culture. We condemn this anti-Islamic movement that demands governing people's lives through terror and coercion of their distorted ideology."

'Iran attaches great importance to ties with Russia'

In a meeting on Monday with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Astrakhan on the sidelines of the Caspian Sea summit, Rouhani said the importance of Russia in Iran's "regional and strategic" ties has been increased.

Rouhani said common interests in the Caspian Sea are important factors in deepening cooperation between Iran and Russia.

The Russian president praised Rouhani's administration for its efforts to strengthen bilateral ties.

Putin went on to say that Iran and Russia share similar views on many regional and international issues.

He added that expansion of Iran-Russia ties is an important issue which will positively affect the Mideast and Central Asia.

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/politics/118640-nuclear-deal-possible-if-51-is-resolved-iranian-president>

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Business Insider – New York, NY

Pakistan is Building Smaller Nukes, but they just Might Be More Dangerous

By Pierre Bienaimé

September 26, 2014

Pakistan is likely working to create tactical nuclear weapons, which are smaller warheads built for use on battlefields rather than cities or infrastructure. These weapons are diminutive enough to be launched from warships or submarines, which makes them easier to use on short notice than traditional nuclear weapons.

Developing tactical nuclear weapons calls for miniaturization of current weaponry (the "Davy Crockett," developed by the US in the '50s, was designed to launch from a simple tripod). But as The Washington Post reports, analysts are divided on whether Pakistan will be able to make warheads tiny enough for sea-launching.

There's less uncertainty about the military advantage gained with such weapons. A warhead-toting navy would allow Pakistan to stay nuclear-capable regardless of what happens to its homeland, where its nuclear infrastructure is spread out.

The trade-off there, for both Pakistan and the world, is that nuclear missiles become more likely to fall into rogue hands, whether those of a maverick military commander or extremist groups. At a land-based facility, a hijacker would need "to commandeer two separate facilities, with two separate security procedures and local

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commanders," Jonah Blank, a political scientist with the RAND Corporation, wrote in an email to Business Insider. "For a sea-based nuclear device, a rogue operator would need only to commandeer one asset: A submarine or surface vessel." Other safeguards exist — US submarines, for instance, require complex codes before permitting a nuclear offensive — but faster access still simplifies one factor in a high-stake equation.

Historically, deterrence and the stability it brings is often the salutary result of rivals with equal nuclear capability. It's also Pakistan's stated goal. Last September a statement from a meeting of the National Command Authority (which directs nuclear policy and development) said Pakistan is developing "a full-spectrum deterrence capability to deter all forms of aggression." The meeting was presided by Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

"India has what's called the triad, the ability to launch nuclear weapons from air, land, and now soon by sea. Pakistan is looking for the same," Arif Rafiq, a researcher at the Middle East Institute, told Business Insider. He believes nuclear parity between the countries has achieved deterrence. "Since India and Pakistan tested nuclear weapons in 1998, there has been a greater level of restraint in terms of the behavior of both countries when it comes to war," Rafiq said. "They've advanced their nuclear arsenal but they've also taken significant steps towards normalizing relations."

While nuclear weapons can be beneficial, Rafiq doesn't exactly applaud them: "Having one nuclear warhead is something that's terrible enough for this world," he said.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/pakistan-is-working-to-create-tactical-nuclear-weapons-2014-9>

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USA TODAY.com – Tysons Corner, VA

U.S. Troops Head to Africa for Ebola Mission

By Andrew Tilghman, Patricia Kime and Michelle Tan, *Military Times*

October 2, 2014

About 1,400 soldiers will head to Liberia this month to help support the fight against the Ebola virus that is spreading across West Africa, a Pentagon official said Tuesday.

The Army's 101st Airborne Division, based at Fort Campbell, Ky., will provide about 700 of those soldiers, while the other 700 will be mostly combat engineers culled from Army units across the force, Defense Department spokesman Rear Adm. John Kirby said.

The soldiers will be among the total 3,000 U.S. troops whom the Pentagon plans to send into West Africa this fall.

About 300 of the troops from the 101st Airborne will come from the division headquarters, and they will serve as the Joint Force Command for the mission. They are expected to arrive by the end of October.

"Operation United Assistance is a critical mission," said Maj. Gen. Gary Volesky, commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division, in a statement. "We will coordinate all of the Department of Defense resources in Liberia to support USAID and the government of Liberia to contain the Ebola virus and, ultimately, save lives."

The U.S. military mission will include building 17 100-bed hospital facilities and a health care facility for infected physicians and health care workers.

U.S. troops will not provide direct care to patients infected with the Ebola virus, according to the Pentagon.

More than 3,000 people have died in the current Ebola epidemic and at least 6,574 have been infected, according to the World Health Organization.

Dr. Steve Monroe, deputy director of the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Disease at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said during a conference call Tuesday that the outbreak is considered nearly contained in Nigeria and Senegal, which saw just 20 and 1 case, respectively.

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But in the most affected nations, including Liberia, where troops are heading, and Sierra Leone, the number of cases are doubling roughly every three weeks, he added.

"The most important thing we can do right now is get cases in isolation so we can stem this outbreak," said Monroe.

The CDC estimates the disease could affect up to 1.4 million people by January if it's not contained.

On Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed the first case of Ebola in a critically ill patient diagnosed in a U.S. hospital. The unnamed man, who traveled from Liberia on Sept. 19, is being treated in the intensive care unit at Texas Health Presbyterian hospital in Dallas. A second person, who had close contact with the Dallas patient, is being monitored for Ebola.

Josh Michaud, associate director of global health policy for the Kaiser Foundation, said more than 300 U.S. government workers are in the affected countries, including 28 employees of the U.S. Agency for International Development, more than 100 CDC workers and roughly 200 military personnel.

Those troops include Army Maj. Gen. Darryl Williams, commander of U.S. Army Africa and Operation United Assistance, as the deployment is being called, and dozens of Navy Seabees who are laying the foundations for construction of the new Ebola care facilities.

When the 101st Airborne Division soldiers deploy, Volesky will take over for Williams, who will return to his duties as commander of U.S. Army Africa.

About 300 soldiers from the division headquarters will deploy to Monrovia, said Lt. Col. Brian DeSantis, the 101st Airborne's spokesman. The rest of the soldiers will come from the division's sustainment brigade and the 86th Combat Support Hospital.

The remaining 700 or so soldiers, as announced by Kirby, will come from across the Army.

"It will be very humanitarian-assistance focused," said DeSantis.

Deploying units will include lift aviation, field hospital assets, transportation soldiers and engineers, he said.

While deployed, the soldiers will be responsible for building some Ebola treatment units and providing logistical support to USAID.

"We also have the responsibility of setting up the training for approximately 500 aid workers per week that will go out and actually staff the (Ebola treatment units)," DeSantis said.

Another priority is force protection, he said.

"We're making sure all the soldiers who deploy, not just from Fort Campbell but across the Army, get all the training required to protect themselves from Ebola," he said.

Deploying soldiers should have a "very, very low" risk of contracting Ebola, DeSantis said.

"If anything, there are other health risks we're more concerned about, and we'll mitigate those," he said.

One example is malaria, which is more prevalent in Liberia than Iraq or Afghanistan, he said.

"Protecting the health of our Soldiers is our number one priority," Volesky said in his statement. "Before our Soldiers deploy they will be trained on how to protect themselves from Ebola and all other potential health risks found in Liberia."

A Department of Defense spokeswoman said last week the department will make "every effort to ensure that U.S. personnel on the ground and all health care workers" are protected.

Troops will receive regionally specific training on Ebola prevention, malaria prevention and other medical threats and also are required to have immunizations ranging from chickenpox, influenza and hepatitis to yellow fever and pneumococcal vaccines, according to a DoD official.

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The department has been involved in research on Ebola treatments and preventives for more than two decades.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said last week the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research received approval to begin safety testing of a potential vaccine.

However, health experts, including Monroe and Sophie Delaunay, executive director of Medecins Sans Frontieres, or Doctors Without Borders, have cautioned that an effective vaccine is still months from development.

"In the meantime, we need to increase the access to isolation units," Delaunay said during a Web seminar for reporters Tuesday sponsored by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

The soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division will form a headquarters element for the 3,000-troop mission that is estimated to last about six months.

Contributing: Liz Szabo, USA TODAY

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/10/01/military-goes-to-africa-ebola-mission/16526873/>

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The Interpreter.org – Lowery Institute, Sydney, Australia
OPINION/Commentary

Cyberwar and War in Space: Making SSBNs More Dangerous

Brendan Thomas-Noone

29 September 2014

This post is part of a debate on Sea-based nuclear weapons and strategic stability

Post 14 Of 15

As several participants in our debate have argued, nuclear ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) can have a positive effect on strategic stability in Asia and globally. But they do not exist in a vacuum. New military capabilities, and strategies that take advantage of them, are being developed and deployed in the Indo-Pacific that make the gradual proliferation of sea-based nuclear weapons dangerous rather than stabilising.

These novel weapons, such as cyber and electronic warfare, anti-satellite missiles and hypersonic technology, add new dimensions to both conventional warfare and nuclear deterrence. Their development, along with their roles in comprehensive strategies, such as the US's Air-Sea Battle concept, requires us to ask whether the introduction of Chinese and Indian sea-launched nuclear weapons will only create instability and the risk of escalation in conflict.

The role of SSBNs is to provide an assured second-strike capability to a nation's nuclear deterrence. Essentially, a second strike capability acts as a kind of fail-safe by ensuring that any aggressor takes on the risk of being attacked by nuclear weapons in-kind. Thus, theoretically, SSBNs and assured second strike should lead to a more stable strategic system in the Indo-Pacific by deterring any potential disabling first strike.

As Rod Lyon has argued, the SSBN can make an aggressor think twice, as long as the threat of the platform is credible. It is mobile, quiet and difficult to track. Once professional crews, reliable communication technology and effective command and control are established, the SSBN can act as a credible deterrent. But if the SSBN is to play a positive role in strategic stability, communication with state leadership must be guaranteed.

Communications with submerged submarines, both conventional and nuclear, are established through very low frequency and extremely low frequency programs. These involve large antenna installations that are part of a state's military communications network. Thus for example India, conducting sea-trials of its first SSBN, has started construction of its own very low frequency station.

But what happens to deterrence and stability if such communications come under attack?

In the Cold War, the main way to neutralize an adversary's submarine-launched nuclear weapons was through anti-submarine warfare; detecting and tracking enemy SSBNs and, in the event of war, destroying them before they launched.

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There was, of course, the risk that during a conflict anti-submarine warfare could induce 'use it or lose it' decisions on a state's leadership. That destabilising factor is now amplified by another possibility raised by new technologies: the prospect that a state's communications with its nuclear deterrent force could be cut in times of crisis.

What would happen in a future conflict in which the opening attack involved the use of cyber and other capabilities to disrupt or destroy military communication systems? How could we be certain that SSBN commanders, cut off from political authority, would not launch their weapons?

This goes to wider questions about vulnerability of communications, including satellites, in conflict. The head of US Air Force Space Command recently said that if one of the Advanced Extremely High Frequency satellites, a backbone of US military communication, was taken out 'we could potentially have a situation where the president can't communicate with forces in that part of the world.'

There is no guarantee that striking another power blind or dumb in the midst of crisis would add to stability. Thus the US Air-Sea Battle concept has an uneasy relationship with nuclear deterrence. Designed to counter Chinese anti-access and area-denial capabilities, Air-Sea Battle requires the integration of all 'interdependent warfighting domains (air, maritime, land, space and cyberspace)' in order to 'disrupt, destroy and defeat' enemy forces. The strategy calls for the disruption of enemy 'command, control, communication, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance' systems before attacking their weapon systems and capabilities.

Many of these communication systems, like the low frequency installation India is building, are dual-use in the sense that they could network with conventional and nuclear forces. Thus it is possible to foresee a situation where a 'blinding' campaign like that envisioned in Air-Sea Battle could involve attacks on an installation that also communicates with SSBNs, radically disrupting a state's control over its sea-based nuclear arsenal. Presumably, India would face a similar problem if Pakistan or China ever planned to target its communications at the outset of a conflict.

These are some of the complexities and scenarios that will need to be thought through if the introduction of Chinese and Indian nuclear-armed submarines is to reduce risks of conflict rather than heighten them.

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<http://www.lowyinterpreter.org/post/2014/09/29/Cyberwar-war-in-space-making-SSBNs-more-dangerous.aspx?COLLCC=276182826&COLLCC=2396623743&>

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Aviation week.com – Arlington, VA

OPINION

Opinion: Nuclear Deterrence Back On the Policy Menu

Nuclear investments will be a hard sell

September 29, 2014

Bill Sweetman, *Aviation Week & Space Technology*

Four years ago, a North American Aerospace Defense Command officer sang the praises of a joint exercise with Russian forces, named Vigilant Eagle. "This exercise is one milestone in working together. Our folks are proud to be a part of such an important event and are passionate about partaking in efforts to protect our borders," said Lt. Col. John Oberst, the 176th Air Control Sqdn. operations officer.

It seemed like a good idea at the time, but lessons learned from Vigilant Eagle likely aided in the execution of a more-recent exercise, its name unknown. Russian Mikoyan MiG-31 Foxhound long-range fighters (photo)—a type that Russian forces flew in Vigilant Eagle—accompanied two Tupolev Tu-95MS bombers to a point 55 nm from the



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Alaskan coast on Sept. 17. Two Ilyushin Il-78 tankers supported the formation, which turned back when it was intercepted by a pair of Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptors.

The nuclear-attack drill was part of an escalation in long-range Russian operations worldwide, and showed a developing tactic in which MiG-31s escorted Tu-95s and Tu-142 reconnaissance aircraft. The change follows the introduction of the modernized MiG-31BM, now due to be flying until 2029. Also entering service is the Tu-95MSM, armed with the new Kh-101/102 cruise missile that has a reported range of up to 2,700 nm (*AW&ST* Sept. 15, p. 47). This weapons mix offers the attacker new tactical options—including a reconnaissance-strike complex with the MiGs as shooters—and poses corresponding challenges for the defender.

Along with Russia's persistence in the development of the Bulava sea-launched ballistic missile, the replacement of older intercontinental ballistic missiles by the road-mobile RS-26 and the apparent breach of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces treaty by the testing of the Iskander-K truck-mobile cruise missile, these developments have (to put it mildly) weakened the argument that if the U.S. led the way in cutting its nuclear forces, the rest of the world would follow.

A U.S. administration that started out showing sympathy with the Global Zero movement has quietly made decisions that point in a very different direction. Notably, the future of the nuclear-deterrence triad seems more assured than it has for many years.

Between Barack Obama's first election and inauguration, the first significant contract for what is now the Ohio Replacement Program submarine project was signed, and the administration has continued to support it. The controversial issue of whether, when and how the Long-Range Strike Bomber will be nuclear-capable has been put to bed: Every LRS-B will be nuclear-capable and will be nuclear-certified two years after it enters service.

The LRS Family of Systems definitively includes a new cruise missile and at a symposium in Washington earlier this month, Lt. Gen. Stephen Wilson, commander of U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command, said the nuclear-tipped version will take priority over a conventionally armed missile.

The new submarine and the LRS-B are "uploadable" systems that can carry more warheads if strategic requirements change. A senior air force official last week said the LRS-B would be designed with hardpoints—suggesting it could be a cruise-missile carrier.

Also recently revealed is a new ICBM to replace the Minuteman III, the first such weapon since the short-lived Peacekeeper. Many analysts had expected the Minuteman to soldier on like Washington's hatchet, with every piece being replaced from time to time, if the land-based ICBM survived at all. Now, the Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent missile will replace the Minuteman in existing silos after 2030.

But these plans are fiscally and politically difficult. The nuclear establishment is returning from a long procurement holiday, and finding what you usually find: leaky faucets, blown fuses, weed-ridden yards and a pile of bills.

The Ohio replacement will eat one-third of the U.S. Navy's shipbuilding budget (strained by the well-above-expectations cost of Ford-class carriers and Littoral Combat Ships) and the service is calling for "top-line relief"—the technical term for "some of the Air Force or Army's money."

While it now seems accepted that the National Nuclear Security Administration can do a Washington's-hatchet trick on the nuclear stockpile, its infrastructure is heavy with Cold War and even World War II hardware; not only will this not last forever, but it is not an environment that attracts the best talent.

But the longest holiday of all has been philosophical: Most people, even in the armed forces, have been able to spend a long time not thinking about deterrence, and the world in which such matters are discussed remains small and somewhat isolated. As the world moves into an era of multiple, sometimes unstable nuclear players and as the bills come due, that is a luxury we can't afford.

A version of this article appears in the September 29 issue of Aviation Week & Space Technology.

Bill Sweetman is the Senior International Defense Editor for Aviation Week & Space Technology

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

OPINION/Article

Sarmat, Rubezh, Bulava and other Missiles to Modernize Russia's Strategic Forces

Viktor Litovkin

October 01, 2014

MOSCOW, October 1. /TASS/. Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov have called, almost unanimously, for upgrading Russia's Strategic Forces.

In a live television broadcast, Rogozin said "we are ahead of schedule in creating the technical basis for the Strategic Nuclear Forces and we will renovate them entirely, not just by 70%" by 2020.

He stressed at the same time, that Russia will not engage in saber rattling or surprise anyone. "We should keep some things secret and make a surprise at the very critical moment," he said.

A short while later, Sergey Lavrov told reporters that "Russia will renovate its weapon stocks, both conventional and nuclear" and emphasised that "this is not an arms race. But the time has come... to modernise our strategic capabilities and armed forces in general".

In the middle of August, President Vladimir Putin, speaking at a meeting in Yalta with political parties' factions in the State Duma, said that the Russian defense industry's developments would surprise its Western partners.

"We need modern compact armed forces. We have adopted a program to this end. It sets an ambitious goal and requires an enormous amount of money - up to 20 trillion roubles - which has yet to be invested. What we are talking about is modern weapons," he said.

Putin said something had already been done in terms of nuclear deterrence but made it clear that this was an issue to be discussed at the proper time.

New strategic missile Rubezh

Much of what Vladimir Putin hinted at and what Dmitry Medvedev and Sergey Lavrov spoke about is well known to specialists. Colonel General Vladimir Zarudnitsky, former head of the Main Operational Directorate in the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces and now the commander of the Central Military District, told the supreme commander-in-chief at a Kremlin reception at the end of last year that a new strategic missile called Rubezh (Frontier) was about to be adopted by the army in the very near future.

Many of its characteristics are a deep secret, but it is known that the missile will most likely have its own multiple independently targetable reentry vehicle (MIRV), like Yars and Bulava. Its capacity (in TNT equivalent) is yet unknown.

There is no need for Russia's modern strategic missiles to have a megatonne or half-a-megatonne warhead as their predecessors did but lacked accuracy. Since the warheads used on modern missiles such as Topol-M, Yars or Bulava hit the mark, many experts say that the capacity of their MIRVS can range from 100 to 250 kilotonnes. This would be enough to deter a possible aggressor and cool the hotheads among overly excited politicians, especially since Rubezh systems will have a range of 10,000-11,000 kilometres.

Any inquisitive person can place a pair of compasses anywhere in Russia, for example beyond the Urals, and draw a circle of 11,000 kilometres to see what falls within their range.

Sarmat missile system

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Another new strategic missile system called Sarmat is expected to become available by about the same time - 2020 - and replace Voevoda missiles which are classified in the West as Satan (SS-18).

Voevoda is the biggest and most formidable missile ever created. It weighs 210 tonnes and carries ten nuclear warheads, 700 kilotonnes each. The Soviet Union used to have 308 of them. Russia has 52 and they are still on combat duty in the Orenburg Region and Altai. They were made in Ukraine's Dnepropetrovsk, but Russia can no longer count on further cooperation with it because of the complicated relations with Ukraine. The military say that the systems currently on combat duty will most likely have to be replaced with Sarmat missiles sooner.

According to open sources, a Sarmat missile will weigh over 110 tonnes and its multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles will be able to manoeuvre when approaching the target.

This will allow them to pierce the missile defense the United States is building on our border and the ones it will create in the future. No system will be able to track a missile or its warheads flying along their individual ballistic trajectories if they suddenly veer off their paths and travel on at supersonic or even hypersonic speed keeping close to the surface, changing the course and altitude. Such missiles cannot be destroyed.

Deputy Defense Minister Yuri Borisov told journalists that Sarmat would have a range of more than 11,000 kilometres.

The timeline for putting the new missiles on combat duty is linked to the end of the Russian-US New START Treaty signed in Prague, under which the parties are required to have 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads, 700 deployed strategic missiles and 100 such missiles in stock by 2021 when the treaty expires.

As of January 1, 2014, Russia's Strategic Missile Forces had 489 deployed strategic missiles armed with 1,494 nuclear warheads, which is far below the levels set in the New START.

The US has about 798 deployed missiles and 2,150 warheads on them.

In the next six years, Russia will have to put on combat duty Rubezh, Sarmat and Yars systems and the sea-launched Bulava missile, deployed on Project 955 Borei-Class nuclear submarines, without any haste or arms race. It will have eight such missile carriers by 2020, each carrying 16 or 20 missiles with 6-10 MIRVs.

At a time when the state is earmarking enormous amounts of money (2.3 trillion roubles this year compared to 600 billion roubles in 2003) for rearmament, failing to fulfill one's obligations to the country and other "interested" global actors would be improper, to say the least.

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<http://en.itar-tass.com/opinions/1930>

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The Interpreter.org – Lowery Institute, Sydney, Australia

OPINION/Commentary

Strategic Stability and SSBNs: Arms Control may be the Answer

Peter Dombrowski

2 October 2014

This post is part of a debate on Sea-based nuclear weapons and strategic stability

Post 16 Of 16

From a strategic perspective, the bottom line attraction for states seeking to acquire nuclear ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs) is survivability. States possessing SSBNs cannot be victims of a disarming first strike. They will always possess the ability to strike back with submarine launched ballistic missiles armed with nuclear weapons in order to inflict unacceptable damage on the attacking state. If this logic is correct, bilateral relationships will be stable because neither side will have an incentive to strike first.

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Given some of the assertions in this Interpreter exchange on Indo-Pacific regional stability and SSBNs, it is worth revisiting two assumptions necessary to believe in SSBN survivability:

1. That they remain continuously at sea and;
2. They are very difficult to find once deployed.

Both assumptions are largely derived from the way the US and, to a lesser extent, the other powers possessing SSBNs — the British, French and Soviets — theorized about and operated SSBNs during the Cold War.

Yet for a SSBN force to operate continuously at sea requires at least three, but likely even more, of the platforms (depending on possible attrition during actual war) given deployment patterns. Neither India nor China are likely to possess sufficient numbers of SSBNs in the immediate term to operate continuously; in a simple sense, one vessel prepares to go to sea while another deploys and the third refits after its deployment. And of course, both countries must develop the training, tactics and procedures, not to mention maintenance and personnel policies, that would allow for this cycle over time.

There are also reasons to doubt the assumption that SSBNs will be largely undetectable by adversaries in context of the Indo-Pacific. Indian and Chinese submarines, at least for the foreseeable future, are likely to be noisier than Russian, British, and French SSBNs, much less their American counterparts. Moreover, operational and doctrinal features of both navies may ease the inherent difficulties of detecting SSBNs. Both countries have a limited and well-known number of bases capable of housing them. Absent a larger number of hulls, both countries are likely to operate SSBNs in ways detectable to intelligence collection at the strategic and tactical levels.

Indian and Chinese SSBN deployments are likely to spur greater efforts to develop anti-submarine warfare capabilities in many countries in the Indo-Pacific region. With a limited number of platforms, limited ability to spend time at sea, as well as command and control constraints (the importance of which has been raised in Ravi N. Ganesh's post), operational doctrine may derive from a modified version of the bastion concept used by the Soviets in the Cold War. Indian and Chinese SSBNs may remain in port until they 'surge' to pre-designated undersea bastions protected by anti-submarine warfare techniques and surface ships during crises.

Aggressors may thus have incentives to attack adversary SSBNs in their home ports preemptively, as well as to find and neutralize undersea bastions. Unless China or India invests in large scale hardening — think U-boat pens in World War Two adapted to withstand nuclear and deep-penetrating conventional weapons — SSBNs will be vulnerable in their home ports, when transiting to and from those ports and likely, their bastions.

Protecting bastions will be costly: China and India will have to improve their own anti-submarine warfare capabilities as well as devote a large percentage of their existing undersea and surface fleets to defensive measures. There are also opportunity costs; those parts of the fleet devoted to protecting SSBNs will not be available for offensive operations during crises.

Further, if a nuclear state wants to protect against a disarming first strike, there are other potentially less costly ways of doing so. Existing or newly developed missile delivery systems (leaving aside air-launched weapons here) can be either mobile or hardened. Mobility and hardening at the very least introduce uncertainty into an adversary's calculations at, debatably, less cost and while leaving expensive and flexible naval assets available for other missions.

Which brings me back to my original point about naval arms control.

For those interested in strategic stability, not to mention peace, arms control remains attractive. In practical terms, there are remote prospects in the Indo-Pacific of achieving broad based disarmament for the three potential possessors of operational SSBNs, or in the case of Pakistan, diesel electric submarines armed with nuclear tipped cruise missiles. Yet even during the Cold War, the US and the Soviet Union found ways to limit the riskiest forms of military competition. India, China, and Pakistan each possess sophisticated strategic communities well aware of the dangers of nuclear proliferation.

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Thinking carefully about arms control measures for SSBNs — one of the most expensive and riskiest forms of proliferation — could begin the path toward reducing military tensions across the entire region. Third party states like Australia and Japan affected by the nuclear rivalries at sea might provide good offices and perhaps even incentives to initiate arms control negotiations.

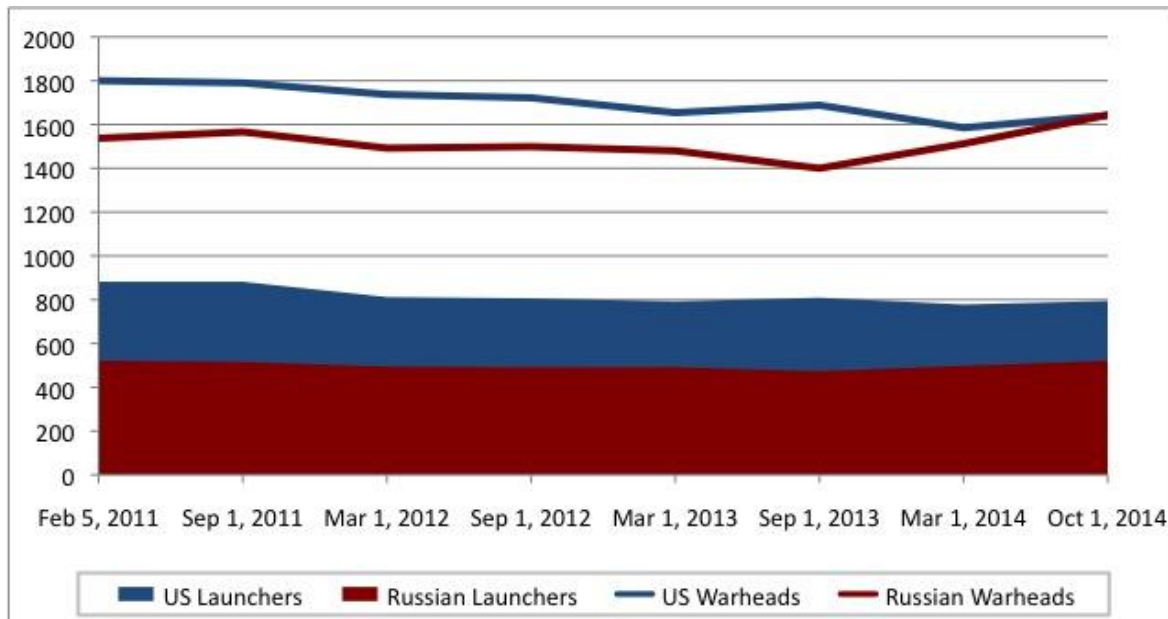
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<http://www.lowyinterpreter.org/post/2014/10/02/Strategic-stability-and-SSBNs-Arms-control-may-be-the-answer.aspx?COLLCC=3723616956&>

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Federation of American Scientist.org – Washington, D.C.
 OPINION/Blog

New START: Russia and the United States Increase Deployed Nuclear Arsenals



Russia and the United States have recently increased their deployed nuclear arsenals, New START Treaty data shows.

By Hans M. Kristensen
 Posted on October 02, 2014

Three and a half years after the New START Treaty entered into force in February 2011, many would probably expect that the United States and Russia had decisively reduced their deployed strategic nuclear weapons.

On the contrary, the latest aggregate treaty data shows that the two nuclear superpowers both *increased* their deployed nuclear forces compared with March 2014 when the previous count was made.

Russia has increased its deployed weapons the most: by 131 warheads on 23 additional launchers. Russia, who went *below* the treaty limit of 1,550 deployed strategic warheads in 2013, is now back *above* the limit by 93 warheads. And Russia is now counted – get this – as *having more strategic warheads deployed than when the treaty first went into force in February 2011!*



Before arms control opponents in Congress get their banners out, however, it is important to remind that these changes do not reflect a build-up the Russian nuclear arsenal. The increase results from the deployment of new missiles and fluctuations caused by existing launchers moving in and out of overhaul. Hundreds of Russian missiles will be retired over the next decade. The size of the Russian arsenals will most likely continue to decrease over the next decade.

Nonetheless, the data is disappointing for both nuclear superpowers – almost embarrassing – because it shows that neither has made substantial reductions in its deployed nuclear arsenal since the New START Treaty entered into force in 2011.

The meager performance is risky in the run-up to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference in April 2015 where the United States and Russia – together with China, Britain, and France – must demonstrate their progress toward nuclear disarmament to ensure the support of the other countries that have signed the NPT in strengthening the non-proliferation treaty regime.

Russian Deployments

The data for Russia is particularly interesting because it now has 106 warheads *more* deployed than when the New START Treaty went into force in February 2011. The number of deployed launchers is exactly the same: 106.

This does not mean that Russia is in the middle of a nuclear arms *build-up*; over the next decade more than 240 old Soviet-era land- and sea-based missiles are scheduled to be withdrawn from service. But the rate at which the older missiles are withdrawn has been slowing down recently from about 50 missiles per year before the New START treaty to about 22 missiles per year after New START. The Russian military wants to retire all the old missiles by the early 2020s, so the current rate will need to pick up a little.

At the same time, the rate of introduction of new land-based missiles to replace the old ones has increased from approximately 9 missiles per year to about 18. The net effect is that the total missile force and warheads deployed on it have increased slightly since 2013.

The new deployments include the SS-27 Mod 2 (RS-24) ICBM, of which the first two regiments with 18 mobile missiles were put in service with the Teykovo division in 2010-2012, replacing SS-25s (Topol) previously there. Deployment followed in late-2013 at the Novosibirsk and Nizhniy Tagil divisions, each of which now has one regiment for a total of 36 RS-24s. This number will grow to 54 missiles by the end of this year because two divisions are scheduled to receive a second regiment. And because each RS-24 carries an estimated 4 warheads (compared with a single warhead on the SS-25), the number of deployed warheads has increased.



Introduction of the SS-27 Mod (RS-24) road-mobile ICBM is underway at the 42nd Missile Division at Nizhniy Tagil in central Russia.



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Also underway is the deployment of SS-27 Mod 2 (RS-24) in silos at the Kozelsk division, where they are replacing old SS-19s. The first regiment of 10 RS-24s was scheduled to become operational by the end of this year but appears to have fallen behind schedule with only 4 missiles expected. It has not been announced how many missiles are planned for Kozelsk but it might involve 6 regiments with a total of 60 missiles (a similar number of SS-27 Mod 1s (Topol-M) were installed at Tatishchevo between 1997 and 2013). Since each RS-24 carries 4 warheads compared with the 6 on the SS-19, the number of silo-based warheads will decrease over the next decade.

Another reason for the increase in the latest New START data is probably the long-awaited introduction of the new Borei-class of ballistic missile submarines. The precise loadout status of the first submarines is uncertain, but the first might have been partially or fully loaded by now. The first two boats (Yuri Dolgoruy and Alexander Nevsky) entered service in late-2013 but have been without missiles because of the troubled test-launch performance of their missile (SS-N-32, Bulava), which has failed about half of its test launches since 2005. After fixes were made, a successful launch took place on September 10 from the third Borei SSBN, the Vladimir Monomakh. The Yuri Dolgoruy is scheduled to conduct an operational launch later this month. A total of 8 Borei SSBNs are planned, each with 16 Bulavas, each with 6 warheads, for a total of nearly 100 warheads per boat.



A new Borei-class SSBN at missile loading pier by the Okolnaya SLBM Depot at Severomorsk on the Kola Peninsula.

United States

For the United States, the data shows that the number of warheads deployed on strategic missiles increased slightly since March, by 57 warheads from 1,585 to 1,642. The number of deployed launchers also increased, by 16 from 778 to 794.

The reason for the U.S. increase is not an actual increase of the nuclear arsenal but reflects fluctuations caused by the number of launchers in overhaul at any given time. The biggest effect is caused by SSBNs loading or offloading missiles, most importantly the return to service of the USS West Virginia (SSBN-736) after a refueling overhaul with a load of 24 missiles and approximately 100 warheads.

More details will become available in December when the State Department is expected to release the detailed unclassified breakdown of the U.S. aggregate data for October.

Overall, however, the U.S. performance under the treaty is better than that of Russia because the data shows that the United States has actually *reduced* its deployed force structure since 2011: by 158 warheads and 88 launchers. In addition, the U.S. military has also destroyed 124 non-deployed launchers including empty silos and retired bombers.

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The better U.S. performance does not indicate that the Pentagon has embarked upon a program of unilateral disarmament. Rather, it reflects that the U.S. nuclear forces structure is much larger than that of Russia and that the U.S. therefore has more work to do before the treaty enters into effect in February 2018.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The increase in Russian and U.S. deployed strategic nuclear weapons shown by New START aggregate data is disappointing because it illustrates the degree to which the two nuclear superpowers are holding on to excessively large nuclear arsenals. While there is no doubt that the two countries will eventually implement the treaty by 2018, they have been exceedingly slow in doing so.

The fact that Russia now has *more* warheads deployed than when the treaty first entered into force in 2011 is particularly disappointing. And it illustrates just how modest the New START Treaty is.

The increase in U.S. deployed warheads and launchers is also disappointing especially when considering that the Nuclear Employment Strategy issued by the White House in June 2013 concluded that the United States has one-third more strategic nuclear weapons deployed than it needs to fulfill its national and international security commitments.

The United States currently has 273 deployed strategic launchers *more* than Russia, as well as a reserve of several thousand non-deployed warheads that are not counted by the treaty but intended to increase the loadout on the launchers if necessary.

Faced with the planned retirement of Soviet-era missiles within the next decade, Russia appears to be compensating for the disparity by accelerating deployment of new land-based missiles with multiple warheads to maintain parity with the larger U.S. missile force structure.

Russia and the United States each has over four times more nuclear weapons than all the seven other nuclear-armed states in the world – combined! Clearly, the large Russian and U.S. arsenals exist in a bubble justified predominantly by the large size of the other's arsenal.

Russia and the United States need to do more to reduce their nuclear arsenals faster. The lackluster performance in implementing and following up on the New START Treaty, as well as the extensive nuclear weapons modernization underway in both countries, mean that the two nuclear superpowers will have very little to show at next year's nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference in New York to demonstrate how they are meeting their obligations and promises made under the treaty to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons.

Neither Russia nor the United States can afford the expensive nuclear weapon modernization programs currently underway to sustain their large arsenals. And they certainly cannot afford to weaken the support of the non-proliferation treaty regime in strengthening efforts to halt and curtail the proliferation of the nuclear weapons.

<http://fas.org/blogs/security/2014/10/newstart2014/>

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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 .

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

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

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

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