



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

Issue No. 1138, 24 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](http://cpc.au.af.mil/au_outreach.aspx).**

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**FEATURE ITEM: "COMBATING NUCLEAR SMUGGLING: Risk-Informed Covert Assessments and Oversight of Corrective Actions Could Strengthen Capabilities at the Border".** Report to Congressional Requesters; authored by the U.S. Government Accounting Office. Published: September 22, 2014; Publicly Released: October 14, 2014; 45 Pages.  
<http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/665998.pdf>

Preventing terrorists from smuggling nuclear or radiological materials into the United States is a top national priority. To address this threat, DHS has deployed radiation detection equipment and trained staff to use it. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) conducts covert operations to test capabilities for detecting and interdicting nuclear and radiological materials at air, land, and sea ports of entry into the United States as well as checkpoints. GAO was asked to review CBP's covert testing operations. This report assesses the extent to which (1) CBP covert operations assess capabilities at air, land, and sea ports and checkpoints to detect and interdict nuclear and radiological material smuggled across the border and (2) CBP reports its covert operations results and provides oversight to ensure that corrective actions are implemented. GAO analyzed documents, such as test summaries, directives, and planning and guidance papers and interviewed DHS, CBP, and Domestic Nuclear Detection Office officials. This is a public version of a sensitive report that GAO issued in July 2014. Information that DHS deemed sensitive has been redacted.

Outreach Journal Feedback or sign-up request: [cpc.admin@maxwell.af.mil](mailto:cpc.admin@maxwell.af.mil)

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **Obama Could Reduce Nuclear Arsenal without Harming National Security: Disarmament Expert**

20 October 2014

WASHINGTON, October 20 (RIA Novosti) - The United States could securely reduce its nuclear arsenal below the new START agreement numbers through a unilateral action by President Barack Obama, without congressional authorization and without similar actions taken by Russia, Gaukhar Mukhatzhanova at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies said Monday.

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“In terms of things the US administration could do without the Senate... President Obama could go back to the June [2013] statement about the possibility of further reductions,” said Mukhatzhanova at the annual meeting of the Arms Control Association (ACA) in Washington, DC.

“I think these are reductions that can be made unilaterally,” she told RIA Novosti.

Further, if the US were to take action without reciprocal actions by Russia, it would not affect US or its allies security, according to Mukhatzhanova. “There is absolutely no strategic reason, I think, for the United States to wait for Russia to do the exact the same type of mirror reductions.”

Referring to a recent interagency study done by the US government, she continued, “I think the United States has already decided it can guarantee the security of itself and its allies at exactly the same level with fewer nuclear weapons.”

According to statements by Mukhatzhanova and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Anita Friedt, at the ACA conference, while there are executive actions Obama could take on nuclear disarmament, the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which is closely related to disarmament and nonproliferation, must go through the “difficult political situation” of gridlock in the US Senate.

“I think most states have recognized that the treaty is a victim of domestic politics,” said Mukhatzhanova.

In a June 2013 speech in Berlin, Obama proposed a further reduction in nuclear weapons below the levels of the 2009 START treaty, calling for a US-Russian reduction to 1,500 warheads. In his speech he proposed an additional reduction by one-third of US and Russian arsenals.

<http://en.ria.ru/world/20141020/194353725/Obama-Could-Reduce-Nuclear-Arsenal-Without-Harming-National-Security.html>

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Amarillo Globe-News.com – Amarillo, TX

## **Pantex Marks Warhead Progress**

By Jim McBride

October 23, 2014

Pantex Plant and other nuclear weapons facilities reached the halfway point in the production phase of a program to extend the service life of submarine-launched nuclear warheads for decades, officials said Thursday.

Pantex Plant — where U.S. nuclear weapons are dismantled, assembled or modified — held an ice cream celebration for employees who work in the W76-1 program.

Gen. Frank Klotz, an administrator with the National Nuclear Security Administration, visited Pantex Plant on Thursday to celebrate the achievement.

“We have an awful lot of very talented, hardworking, dedicated patriots working in Pantex,” Klotz said.

“They don’t get a lot of publicity for what they do. ... When they reach a major milestone, I think it’s very important that we communicate to them how proud we are of the work that they have accomplished and to stress upon them how important the work is that they do and keep them focused on completing the other half of this particular life extension program.”

Klotz said the W76-1 Life Extension Program is expected to finish on or before the end of fiscal year 2019.

Vice Adm. Terry Benedict, director of the Navy’s Strategic Systems Programs, said in a statement Thursday that the Navy’s partnership with the NNSA on the program is vital.

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“I look forward to completion of W76-1 production before the decade is out. The combination of the Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine and the Trident II D5 Strategic Weapon System operated by our dedicated sailors forms the backbone of our nation’s nuclear deterrent,” the admiral said in a news release.

The W76-1 Life Extension Program includes engineers, scientists and technicians from Pantex, the Y-12 National Security Complex in Tennessee, the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, and New Mexico’s Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories.

The first W76-1 Life Extension Program weapon was completed in September 2008. The program remains on track to produce and deliver warheads to the Navy by no later than the end of fiscal year 2019, according to information from the NNSA.

The program has several goals, including extending the original warhead service life from 20 to 60 years, addressing aging issues, incorporating nuclear safety enhancements and maximizing the reuse of older weapons components.

<http://amarillo.com/news/local-news/2014-10-23/pantex-celebrates-milestone-nuclear-warhead-program>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

## **Russia Ready to Talk all Disarmament Issues, including Missile Defense — Lavrov**

*The US is now the only country which opposes an initiative put forward by Russia and China to draft a treaty banning bringing of weapons into space*

October 20, 2014

MOSCOW, October 20. /TASS/. Russia is ready to discuss all disarmament issues, including missile defense, strategic non-nuclear weapons, placing weapons in the outer space, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in a public lecture on Russian foreign policy affairs in the Russian capital on Monday.

“Our American partners have been proposing insistently already for several years, and [US Secretary of State] John Kerry confirmed this at the meeting in Paris, to resume talks on disarmament and to agree on further steps to cut strategic offensive weapons. I explained to my partner that we are ready to consider issues of security, disarmament and strategic stability only in interrelations,” he said.

With all circumstances taken into account these talks can be only sweeping, including missile defense issue, and certainly problems are emerging as a result of implementing the US prompt global strike program that implies production of strategic hypersonic weapons with non-nuclear warheads, but much more effective than nuclear weapons to attain strategic tasks,” the minister added, noting “The problem of US plans to bring weapons in the outer space is also among them. The United States is now the only country which opposes an initiative put forward by Russia and China to draft a treaty banning bringing of weapons into space. The whole scope of other issues related with misbalance in conventional weapons is among these problems.

“All this taken together was agreed upon for profound and professional debate within a working group of the Russia-US Presidential Commission, but Americans have frozen this work,” he said.

“Now we are offered as if nothing had happened to start talks on further reduction of nuclear weapons. This is also dishonest. We seemed to be taken for some naive ingñues,” Lavrov added.

<http://en.itar-tass.com/russia/755309>

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## New Consultations with US on INF Treaty Issues Unlikely: Russian Foreign Ministry

20 October 2014

MOSCOW, October 20 (RIA Novosti) – A renewal of consultations between the United States and Russia on decreasing the arsenal of intermediate-range nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles is not expected in the near future, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Monday.

“We’re not expecting [any consultations],” Ryabkov said.

Over the past few months, Moscow and Washington have been accusing each other of breaching the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. The 1987 treaty eliminated nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with intermediate ranges, defined as between 300-3,400 miles.

In July, Washington stated that Russia tested a prohibited ground-launched cruise missile thus violating the INF agreement.

Russia and the United States held consultations on the subject on September 11 in Moscow. According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, Washington failed to provide satisfactory answers to the questions addressed by the Russian side. In its turn, the US State Department stated that the United States is still concerned about Moscow's compliance with the INF treaty. The sides, however, agreed to continue the talks.

In September, Head of the Russian President's Administration Sergei Ivanov said that Moscow does not intend to leave the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty unless its security interests are threatened.

<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20141020/194330164/New-Consultations-with-US-on-INF-Treaty-Issues-Unlikely--.html>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## Putin: Russia Urges to Pursue Nuclear Arms Reduction Talks

24 October 2014

SOCHI, October 24 (RIA Novosti) - Russia wants to pursue negotiations on the nuclear arms reduction and is ready for a most serious talk "with no double standards", Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday.

"We insist on continuing negotiations. We are not just in favor of talks, we insist on negotiating further nuclear arms reductions. The fewer nuclear weapons there are in the world the better. And [we are also] ready for a most serious talk on the issues of nuclear disarmament," Putin pledged during the 11th annual Valdai Discussion Club meeting in Sochi, Russia.

The Russian leader stressed that the discussion should be "with no double standards."

<http://en.ria.ru/world/20141024/194542118/Russia-Urges-to-Pursue-Nuclear-Arms-Reduction-Talks.html>

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The New York Times – New York, NY

## Ebola Vaccine, Ready for Test, Sat on the Shelf

By DENISE GRADY

October 24, 2014

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GALVESTON, Tex. — Almost a decade ago, scientists from Canada and the United States reported that they had created a vaccine that was 100 percent effective in protecting monkeys against the Ebola virus. The results were

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published in a respected journal, and health officials called them exciting. The researchers said tests in people might start within two years, and a product could potentially be ready for licensing by 2010 or 2011.

It never happened. The vaccine sat on a shelf. Only now is it undergoing the most basic safety tests in humans — with nearly 5,000 people dead from Ebola and an epidemic raging out of control in West Africa.

Its development stalled in part because Ebola is rare, and until now, outbreaks had infected only a few hundred people at a time. But experts also acknowledge that the absence of follow-up on such a promising candidate reflects a broader failure to produce medicines and vaccines for diseases that afflict poor countries. Most drug companies have resisted spending the enormous sums needed to develop products useful mostly to countries with little ability to pay.

Now, as the growing epidemic devastates West Africa and is seen as a potential threat to other regions as well, governments and aid groups have begun to open their wallets. A flurry of research to test drugs and vaccines is underway, with studies starting for several candidates, including the vaccine produced nearly a decade ago.

A federal official said in an interview on Thursday that two large studies involving thousands of patients were planned to begin soon in West Africa, and were expected to be described in detail on Friday by the World Health Organization.

With no vaccines or proven drugs available, the stepped-up efforts are a desperate measure to stop a disease that has defied traditional means of containing it.

“There’s never been a big market for Ebola vaccines,” said Thomas W. Geisbert, an Ebola expert here at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, and one of the developers of the vaccine that worked so well in monkeys. “So big pharma, who are they going to sell it to?” Dr. Geisbert added: “It takes a crisis sometimes to get people talking. ‘O.K. We’ve got to do something here.’ ”

Dr. James E. Crowe Jr., the director of a vaccine research center at Vanderbilt University, said that academic researchers who developed a prototype drug or vaccine that worked in animals often encountered a “biotech valley of death” in which no drug company would help them cross the finish line.

To that point, the research may have cost a few million dollars, but tests in humans and scaling up production can cost hundreds of millions, and bringing a new vaccine all the way to market typically costs \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion, Dr. Crowe said. “Who’s going to pay for that?” he asked. “People invest in order to get money back.”

The Ebola vaccine on which Dr. Geisbert collaborated is made from another virus, V.S.V., for vesicular stomatitis virus, which causes a mouth disease in cattle but rarely infects people. It had been used successfully in making other vaccines.

The researchers altered V.S.V. by removing one of its genes — rendering the virus harmless — and inserting a gene from Ebola. The transplanted gene forces V.S.V. to sprout Ebola proteins on its surface. The proteins cannot cause illness, but they provoke an immune response that in monkeys, considered a good surrogate for humans, fought off the disease.

The vaccine was actually produced in Winnipeg, Manitoba, by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The Canadian government patented it, and 800 to 1,000 vials of the vaccine were produced. In 2010, it licensed the vaccine, known as VSV-EBOV, to NewLink Genetics in Ames, Iowa.

The Canadian government donated the existing vials to the World Health Organization, and safety tests of the vaccine in healthy volunteers have begun.

NewLink’s product is one of two leading vaccines being tested. The other, which uses a cold virus that infects chimpanzees, was developed by researchers at the National Institutes of Health and GlaxoSmithKline. The first tests of an earlier version of it, employing a different cold virus, began in 2003.

Several other vaccine candidates, not as far along, are also in the pipeline and may be ready for safety testing next year. Once any drugs or treatments pass the safety tests, they will be available for use in larger numbers of people,

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and health officials are grappling with whether they should be tested for efficacy in the traditional way, in which some people at risk are given placebos instead of the active drug.

Governments and the military became interested in making vaccines against Ebola and a related virus, Marburg, during the 1990s after a Soviet defector said the Russians had found a way to weaponize Marburg and load it into warheads. Concerns intensified in 2001 after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and anthrax mailings.

“The National Institutes of Health came up with a program called Partnerships in Biodefense that partnered researchers like me with companies, usually small companies,” Dr. Geisbert said.

The government money led to major advances in the laboratory, Dr. Geisbert said, but was insufficient to cover the huge costs of human trials. Nor could the small companies that were involved in the early studies in animals afford to pay for human trials. No finished product came to market.

Dr. Geisbert moved on, working on treatments for Ebola and another version of the V.S.V. vaccine. For the vaccine work, his main collaborator has been Dr. Heinz Feldmann, the chief of virology at the Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton, Mont., part of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The newer version of the vaccine uses a slightly different form of V.S.V., one that Dr. Geisbert said he thought might be less likely to cause side effects, and more likely to gain quick approval because it has been used as the basis for an H.I.V. vaccine and is known to the Food and Drug Administration. But the new version, VesiculoVax, made by Profectus Biosciences in Baltimore, has not yet been tested in humans.

The V.S.V. products are live vaccines, with replicating viruses that may cause a reaction. It is not clear what level of side effects will be considered acceptable.

Chills and nausea are possible, Dr. Geisbert said, but he added, “Who cares, if you survive Ebola?”

Most vaccines are given to prevent disease before people are exposed to it, and the plan is to use Ebola vaccines that way. But the V.S.V. vaccines have also been shown to protect monkeys even after the animals have been exposed to a heavy dose of Ebola — if given soon after exposure.

Researchers hope that they will work that way for people, too. If they do, health workers and family members who have been in contact with a patient might be protected, instead of having to spend 21 days of dread, waiting to see if they get sick.

Dr. Geisbert spends much of his time working with Ebola and other deadly viruses in a Biosafety Level 4 laboratory at the Galveston National Laboratory, where the researchers wear spacesuits that each come with an independent air supply, and visiting journalists are required not to report which floor the labs are on.

This month, one of his tasks is to test the Profectus vaccine and an experimental treatment against the Ebola strain that is causing the current epidemic. The virus is from a species called Ebola Zaire, against which the products have already been shown to work. But different strains within a species can vary genetically by 2 percent to 7 percent, Dr. Geisbert said.

Most of the time, those small variations do not matter, and a drug or treatment that works against one strain will work against all. But once in a while, the difference matters.

“We don’t know for 100 percent certainty until we prove it in animals,” Dr. Geisbert said. “The companies I work with are smart. They want that answer sooner rather than later, before they go investing millions of dollars to put this into humans.”

*Andrew Pollack contributed reporting from Los Angeles.*

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/24/health/without-lucrative-market-potential-ebola-vaccine-was-shelved-for-years.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/24/health/without-lucrative-market-potential-ebola-vaccine-was-shelved-for-years.html?_r=0)

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## North Korea Gets New Submarine

20 October 2014

MOSCOW, October 20 (RIA Novosti) - North Korea has added a 67-meter submarine to its naval fleet, according to newly-analyzed commercial satellite imagery.

Joseph Bermudez, a US intelligence analyst specializing in North Korea, commented that "if the design is successful and enters production as a patrol submarine, the new boat will have greater range, patrol time and weapons capability than the existing KPN fleet of coastal submarines."

The submarine was identified at the Sinpo South Shipyard, the main manufacturing facility for North Korea's submarines and the headquarters of the Maritime Research Institute, which is responsible for the research and development of maritime technology, naval vessels and submarines, as well as naval- related armaments and missiles.

The boat is said to weigh in the region of 900-1,500 tons, but judging by the imagery lacks missile capability. The KPN has in the past built experimental submarines in order to test design parameters and equipment, and it is possible that the boat falls in this category. The size and shape of the submarine bears a resemblance to old Yugoslav models, the designs of which North Korea gained in the 1970s.

[http://en.ria.ru/military\\_news/20141020/194350315/North-Korea-Gets-New-Submarine.html](http://en.ria.ru/military_news/20141020/194350315/North-Korea-Gets-New-Submarine.html)

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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

## N. Korea Urges U.S. to End 'Hostile' Policy

October 21, 2014

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- North Korea called on the United States Tuesday to terminate its "hostile policy" toward the communist country, saying it is the root cause of the failed talks on ending Pyongyang's controversial nuclear weapons program.

Tuesday marks the 20th anniversary of the 1994 signing of a landmark bilateral deal, known as the Agreed Framework, which called for Pyongyang to freeze and ultimately drop its nuclear program in exchange for two proliferation-resistant light water reactors for power generation, and the normalization of ties with Washington.

But the landmark deal fell apart in 2002, when it was revealed that Pyongyang had pursued a secret uranium enrichment program.

"It has become clear who is responsible for the collapse of the North Korea-U.S. agreement and why the (North Korea) nuclear issue was not resolved," the Rodong Sinmun, an organ of the country's governing party, said in an editorial. "All the blame should be put on Washington's hostile policy toward North Korea."

The U.S. did not sincerely follow through with the agreement and eventually dumped it, the newspaper claimed, adding "it is because malicious (U.S.) calculation lay in the agreement that our system may collapse by itself soon."

The 20-year-old agreement only shows that U.S. pressure and threats do not work on North Korea and only talks can solve the issue, the editorial said, calling President Barack Obama's so-called strategic patience policy a failure.

"The U.S. should repent for its wrongdoings and start to take a proper attitude before taking issue with our nuclear deterrence capacity," it said.

In 2003, the two Koreas, the U.S., Japan, and China launched the so-called six-party talks to persuade Pyongyang to scrap its nuclear weapons program, but the negotiations have been stalled since the last meeting in 2008.

North Korea carried out underground nuclear tests in 2006, 2009 and 2013.

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Voice of America (VOR) – U.S.

## **Exclusive: North Korean Ambassador Says His Country Will Keep Nuclear Program**

Baik Sungwon

October 21, 2014

NEW YORK — North Korea will keep its nuclear program and could review its policy toward the United States completely if Washington continues to press Pyongyang on human rights, a senior North Korean official said on Monday.

Jang Il Hun, North Korea's deputy U.N. ambassador in New York, told VOA that his country already declared itself a nuclear-armed state in its constitution and adopted a new policy calling for expansion of nuclear weapons. In a rare interview, he stated his country's positions on the nuclear issue, human rights, and American detainees.

"If America continues to press us on the human rights issue, we have no option but to review our policy toward America completely," warned Jang.

He did not elaborate on what a review of policy meant specifically.

North Korea agreed to a nuclear deal where it promised to abandon its nuclear program, but seemed to back-peddle efforts on denuclearization when it subsequently conducted nuclear tests. Recently, the country signaled renewed interest in resuming the stalled nuclear talks.

However, Jang raised doubts about the prospect of resuming the talks.

"I do not see the point of having the six-party talks at this point," he said.

He accused the U.S. of masterminding international criticism of his country's human rights records to launch a smear campaign against the country's political system.

Asked whether the North will allow a visit by an investigator from outside to probe the human rights situation inside the country, the North Korean envoy replied: "It is a subject for discussion as long as the matter is handled in a positive manner."

Three Americans are being detained in the North on charges of committing hostile acts against the country. Recently, U.S. officials made repeated calls for the release of the Americans, stressing the issue poses a serious impediment to better ties with Washington. So far, Pyongyang has not responded positively to the call.

On the possibility of negotiating the release of the three Americans, Jang said it would be difficult, saying "it is a matter of enforcing law."

Despite the standoff over the nuclear issue and American detainees, Washington and Pyongyang appear to be keeping dialogue open through the so-called New York channel.

Asked whether there is regular communication between Washington and Pyongyang, Jang, who serves as Pyongyang's point man for talks with Washington, said: "We meet with U.S. officials and discuss issues of mutual concern on a regular basis."

<http://www.voanews.com/content/north-korean-ambassador-say-country-will-keep-nuclear-program/2490558.html>

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Yonhap News Agency – Seoul, South Korea

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## Kerry: U.S. Ready to Reduce Military Presence in Asia if N. Korea Gives Up Nuclear Program

October 22, 2014

By Chang Jae-soon

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Wednesday the United States is prepared to reduce its military presence in Asia if North Korea rejoins nuclear negotiations and follows through on its denuclearization commitment.

Kerry made the remark in Berlin during a joint news conference with German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, expressing hope for restarting the long-stalled six-party nuclear talks "in the next weeks, months perhaps."

"We've said from day one that if North Korea wants to rejoin the community of nations, it knows how to do it. It can come to the talks prepared to discuss denuclearization," Kerry said, according to a transcript provided by the State Department.

"And the United States is fully prepared -- if they do that and begin that process, we are prepared to begin the process of reducing the need for American force and presence in the region because the threat itself would then be reduced," he said.

The six-party talks, which bring together the U.S., North and South Korea, China, Japan and Russia, have been stalled since the last meeting in 2008. The North has called for an unconditional resumption of the negotiations, but the U.S. demands that Pyongyang first take concrete steps demonstrating its commitment to denuclearization.

That stance reflects deep skepticism the U.S. has about North Korea, a country that has a track record of starting a crisis, coming to negotiations and reaching an agreement in exchange for economic and other concessions, then ditching the deal.

"We hope to get back to talks, but we need some indication from Kim Jong-un, and the regime, that they are, in fact, prepared to talk seriously about the central topic of the talks, which is the issue of denuclearization. We do not want to return to talks just for the sake of talks," Kerry said.

Kerry also said that he had "long talks about North Korea" when he hosted Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi in his hometown of Boston over the weekend.

In Washington, State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf played down Kerry's remarks about the possibility of the U.S. reducing its military presence in the region, saying the top American diplomat was not indicating anything new.

"He was restating our long-standing policy that we are focused on denuclearization of the peninsula, and obviously ... over the long term, this is part of the discussion," she said. "But he was not, in any way, going beyond what we've said for a very long time about what has the potential to happen here."

North Korea has made a lot of promises in the past, but haven't lived up to them, Harf said.

"So the ball is in their court in terms of that. And we'll see what they choose to do," she said. "They are in violation of numerous U.N. Security Council resolutions. They need to live up to their own obligations. We will keep working with our partners, whether it's China, others, to help get them back in line here."

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/search1/2603000000.html?cid=AEN20141023000200315>

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China Daily.com – Beijing, China

## China Criticises US Missile Defense Radar in Japan

Issue No.1138, 24 October 2014

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By Xinhua

Thursday, October 23, 2014

BEIJING - China on Thursday criticized countries involved in anti-missile system deployment in the Asia-Pacific region, pointing specifically at a US X-band radar deployment in Kyoto, Japan.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the move damages peace and stability in the region.

She made the comment after media reports said US military has delivered X-band radar to the Kyogamisaki military base in Kyoto on Tuesday.

The radar, reportedly used to scan for missile launches from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is expected to start operation within this year.

"Some countries have pushed forward anti-missile system deployment in the Asia-Pacific region to seek unilateral security, which runs against regional stability and mutual trust as well as peace and stability in Northeast Asia," Hua said at a regular news briefing.

"This move causes even more concerns, under the backdrop of complex and sensitive regional situation," she said.

She called on relevant countries to proceed from the broader picture of regional peace and stability, be committed to maintaining regional security through political and diplomatic means.

"Relevant countries should not take (their own security concerns) as excuses for damaging others' security interests," the spokeswoman added.

[http://www.chinadailyasia.com/nation/2014-10/23/content\\_15181975.html](http://www.chinadailyasia.com/nation/2014-10/23/content_15181975.html)

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The Wall Street Journal – New York, NY

## **China's Submarine Fleet Adds Nuclear-Strike Capability, Altering Strategic Balance Undersea**

*With far-ranging new nuclear subs, China is rattling Asia's balance of power, challenging the U.S. and risking an undersea contest with echoes of Tom Clancy and the Cold War*

By Jeremy Page

October 24, 2014

One Sunday morning last December, China's defense ministry summoned military attachés from several embassies to its monolithic Beijing headquarters.

To the foreigners' surprise, the Chinese said that one of their nuclear-powered submarines would soon pass through the Strait of Malacca, a passage between Malaysia and Indonesia that carries much of world trade, say people briefed on the meeting.

Two days later, a Chinese attack sub—a so-called hunter-killer, designed to seek out and destroy enemy vessels—slipped through the strait above water and disappeared. It resurfaced near Sri Lanka and then in the Persian Gulf, say people familiar with its movements, before returning through the strait in February—the first known voyage of a Chinese sub to the Indian Ocean.

The message was clear: China had fulfilled its four-decade quest to join the elite club of countries with nuclear subs that can ply the high seas. The defense ministry summoned attachés again to disclose another Chinese deployment to the Indian Ocean in September—this time a diesel-powered sub, which stopped off in Sri Lanka.

China's increasingly potent and active sub force represents the rising power's most significant military challenge yet for the region. Its expanding undersea fleet not only bolsters China's nuclear arsenal but also enhances the country's capacity to enforce its territorial claims and thwart U.S. intervention.

**Issue No.1138, 24 October 2014**

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China is expected to pass another milestone this year when it sets a different type of sub to sea—a “boomer,” carrying fully armed nuclear missiles for the first time—says the U.S. Office of Naval Intelligence, or ONI.

China is hardly hiding its new boomers. Tourists could clearly see three of them at a base opposite a resort recently in China’s Hainan province. On the beach, rented Jet Skis were accompanied by guides to make sure riders didn’t stray too close.

These boomers’ missiles have the range to hit Hawaii and Alaska from East Asia and the continental U.S. from the mid-Pacific, the ONI says.

“This is a trump card that makes our motherland proud and our adversaries terrified,” China’s navy chief, Adm. Wu Shengli, wrote of the country’s missile-sub fleet in a Communist Party magazine in December. “It is a strategic force symbolizing great-power status and supporting national security.”

To naval commanders from other countries, the Chinese nuclear sub’s nonstop Indian Ocean voyage was especially striking, proving that it has the endurance to reach the U.S. Pacific Fleet’s headquarters in Hawaii.

“They were very clear with respect to messaging,” says Vice Adm. Robert Thomas, a former submariner who commands the U.S. Seventh Fleet, “to say that, ‘We’re a professional navy, we’re a professional submarine force, and we’re global. We’re no longer just a coastal-water submarine force.’ ”

In recent years, public attention has focused on China’s expanding military arsenal, including its first aircraft carrier and stealth fighter. But subs are more strategically potent weapons: A single one can project power far from China and deter other countries simply by its presence.

China’s nuclear attack subs, in particular, are integral to what Washington sees as an emerging strategy to prevent the U.S. from intervening in a conflict over Taiwan, or with Japan and the Philippines—both U.S. allies locked in territorial disputes with Beijing.

And even a few functional Chinese boomers compel the U.S. to plan for a theoretical Chinese nuclear-missile strike from the sea. China’s boomer patrols will make it one of only three countries—alongside the U.S. and Russia—that can launch atomic weapons from sea, air and land.

“I think they’ve watched the U.S. submarine force and its ability to operate globally for many, many years—and the potential influence that can have in various places around the globe,” says Adm. Thomas, “and they’ve decided to go after that model.”

China’s nuclear-sub deployments, some naval experts say, may become the opening gambits of an undersea contest in Asia that echoes the cat-and-mouse game between U.S. and Soviet subs during the Cold War—a history popularized by Tom Clancy’s 1984 novel “The Hunt for Red October.”

Back then, each side sent boomers to lurk at sea, ready to fire missiles at the other’s territory. Each dispatched nuclear hunter-killers to track the other’s boomers and be ready to destroy them.

The collapse of the Soviet Union ended that tournament. But today, as China increases its undersea firepower, the U.S. and its allies are boosting their submarine and anti-sub forces in Asia to counter it.

Neither China nor the U.S. wants a Cold War rerun. Their economies are too interdependent, and today’s market-minded China doesn’t seek global revolution or military parity with the U.S.

Chinese officials say their subs don’t threaten other countries and are part of a program to protect China’s territory and expanding global interests. Chinese defense officials told foreign attachés that the subs entering the Indian Ocean would assist antipiracy patrols off Somalia, say people briefed on the meetings.

Asked about those meetings, China’s defense ministry said its navy’s activities in the Indian and Pacific Oceans “comply with international law and practice, and we maintain good communication with all relevant parties.”

**Issue No.1138, 24 October 2014**

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Submarines help Beijing fulfill international duties without changing its defense policy, says China's navy spokesman, Sr. Capt. Liang Yang. "If a soldier originally has a handgun, and you give him an assault rifle, you've increased his firepower, but his responsibilities haven't changed." He declines to comment on boomer patrols.

Still, the U.S. has moved subs to the forefront of its so-called rebalancing, a strategy of focusing more military and diplomatic resources on Asia. Sixty percent of the U.S. undersea force is in the Pacific, U.S. naval commanders say, compared with half the U.S. surface fleet. The U.S. Navy plans to station a fourth nuclear attack sub in Guam next year, they say.

Since December, the U.S. has positioned six new P-8 anti-submarine aircraft in Okinawa, Japan. The U.S. has also revitalized an undersea microphone system designed to track Soviet subs and is testing new technologies such as underwater drones to search for Chinese subs.

Several nearby countries, including Australia, have said they plan to expand or upgrade their submarine and anti-sub forces. Vietnam, which is embroiled in a territorial dispute with China, has since December received at least two of the six Russian-made attack subs it has ordered.

Australia's navy chief, Vice Admiral Tim Barrett, told a parliamentary committee on Wednesday that the 12 subs his country is buying to replace its six-strong current fleet would need to operate far afield, potentially in contested areas of the South China Sea. "There are other nations in the area that are building their submarine forces as well," he said. "The issue for us is to be able to consider that we may need to counter those things."

Rear Adm. Phillip Sawyer, the commander of U.S. submarine forces in the Pacific, says that many more submarines are now operating in the region than during the Cold War. "One of my biggest concerns truthfully is submarine safety," he says on a recent dive aboard the USS Houston, a nuclear-attack sub based in Hawaii. "The more submarines you put in the same body of water, the higher the probability that they might collide."

China now has one of the world's biggest attack-sub fleets, with five nuclear models and at least 50 diesel models. It has four boomers, the ONI says.

Beijing's quest for a nuclear-sub fleet dates to the 1960s, say Chinese historians. Mao Zedong once declared, "We will build a nuclear submarine even if it takes us 10,000 years!"

China has used diesel subs since the 1950s, but they have proved easy to find because they must surface every few hours. Nuclear subs are faster and can stay submerged for months. China launched its first nuclear sub on Mao's birthday in 1970 and test-fired its first missile from underwater in 1988, although its first boomer never patrolled carrying armed nuclear missiles, U.S. naval officers say.

Adm. Liu Huaqing, the founder of China's modern navy, outlined the role of nuclear attack subs in his overall strategy in the 1980s, Chinese historians say. He saw China as constrained by U.S. forces aligned in both a "First Island Chain" stretching from southern Japan to the Philippines and a "Second Island Chain" from northern Japan via Guam to Indonesia. He argued that China should establish naval dominance within the first chain by 2010, within the second chain by 2020 and become a global naval power by 2050.

China officially unveiled its nuclear undersea forces in October 2013 in an unprecedented open day for domestic media at a nuclear-sub base. Its capabilities aren't close to those of the U.S., which has 14 boomers and 55 nuclear attack subs.

The U.S. concern is how to maintain that edge in Asia when the Navy projects that fiscal constraints will shrink its attack-sub fleet to 41 by 2028.

Beijing isn't likely to try matching the U.S. sub force, having studied the way the Cold War arms race drained the Soviet Union's finances. "We're not that stupid," says retired Maj. Gen. Xu Guangyu, a former vice president of the People's Liberation Army Defense Institute.

"But we need enough nuclear submarines to be a credible force—to have some bargaining chips," he says. "They must go out to the Pacific Ocean and the rest of the world."

**Issue No.1138, 24 October 2014**

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China's hunter-killers pose the immediate challenge to the U.S. and its partners. Adm. Sawyer has tracked them for more than a decade, first as a commander of U.S. subs in Japan and Guam and now from his headquarters in Pearl Harbor.

On his desk is a glass-encased naval chart with white labels marking China's submarine bases. Drawn on the map are two lines marking "First Island Chain" and "Second Island Chain."

Over the past few years, Chinese attack subs have broken beyond the first chain to operate regularly in the Philippine Sea and have started patrolling year-round, Adm. Sawyer says. Penetrating the second chain is the next logical step, he adds: "They are not just building more units and more assets, but they're actually working to get proficient with them and understand how they'd operate in a far-away-from-home environment."

Adm. Sawyer declines to say whether China has sent a sub as far as Hawaii but says the December Indian Ocean expedition shows that it has "the capability and the endurance" to do so.

That was a Shang-class sub, a type naval experts say China first launched in 2002 that can carry torpedoes and cruise missiles. In peacetime, China would probably use these hunter-killers to protect sea lanes, track foreign vessels and gather intelligence, naval experts say. But in a conflict, they would likely try to break through the First Island Chain to threaten approaching vessels and disrupt supply lines.

Still, the two recent sub voyages highlighted a weak point for China. Its subs must use narrow straits to reach the Pacific or Indian Oceans. Those chokepoints—among them, the Malacca, Sunda, Lombok, Luzon and Miyako Straits—can be relatively easily monitored or blockaded.

Moreover, China's anti-sub capabilities remain relatively weak. U.S. subs can track their Chinese counterparts even near China's shores, where U.S. ships and planes are vulnerable to Chinese aircraft and missiles, American naval officers say.

Adm. Sawyer declines to say whether the U.S. tracked the Shang or how close U.S. subs get to China, saying only: "I'm comfortable with the U.S. submarine force's capability to execute whatever tasking we're given."

The USS Houston returned recently from a seven-month deployment to the Western Pacific. Its commanding officer, Cmdr. Dearcy P. Davis, declines to say exactly where the sub went but adds, "I can say that we went untracked by anyone. We have the ability to break down the door if someone [else] can't. That's not trivial."

China's missile-carrying boomers present a longer-term challenge.

From the Lan Sanya beach resort in Hainan, guests can easily make out the matte-black hulls of what naval experts say are three of China's new boomers, known as the Jin-class, and one Shang-class attack sub. As he threw open a hotel room's curtains, a bellboy beamed with pride and pointed out the vessels across the bay. "Better not go that way," joked a Jet Ski guide on a recent ride. "They might shoot at us."

China hasn't said when it might launch boomer patrols. But Western naval officers saw the October nuclear-sub event as a signal that the Jin subs and their JL-2 missiles were ready to start.

Adm. Jonathan Greenert, a former submariner who is now the U.S. chief of naval operations, says that the U.S. is waiting to see how China will use its new boomers. "Is it an occasional patrol they're going to choose to do? Is it going to be a continuous patrol? Are they going to try to be sure that this patrol is totally undetected?" he says. "I think that's all going to be in the equation as to our response."

Soviet boomers ventured far into the Pacific and Atlantic into the 1970s because their missiles couldn't reach the U.S. from Soviet waters. As missile ranges increased, Soviet subs retreated to so-called bastions, such as the Sea of Okhotsk. The U.S. deployed hunter-killers around those bastions.

Similar dynamics are at play as China decides whether to send its own boomers into the Pacific. Their JL-2 missiles can travel about 4,600 miles—possibly enough to strike the U.S. West Coast from East Asia, the ONI says. To strike more U.S. targets, they would need to lurk throughout the Pacific.

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But China's boomers probably couldn't pass undetected through many straits, say U.S. officers and Chinese experts. "The Jin class is too noisy: It's probably at the level of the Soviets between 1970 and 1980," says Wu Riqiang, a former missile specialist who studies nuclear strategy at Beijing's Renmin University. "As long as you are noisy, you won't even go through the chokepoints."

Early in the Cold War, the U.S. built a network of seabed microphones to listen at chokepoints leading to the Pacific and Atlantic. In recent years, the U.S. has revitalized parts of that network, called the Sound Surveillance System, or Sossus. The U.S. is also now adding mobile networks of sensors—some on underwater drones—and seeking surveillance data from Asian countries.

Meanwhile, China is trying to replicate Sossus, say several naval experts. A government-backed scientific journal reported last year that China had built a fiber-optic acoustic network in the South China Sea.

Over the short term, Prof. Wu says, China will probably keep its boomers near its coast, possibly in the South China Sea, which is deepest and furthest from U.S. bases. That, say some naval officers, may explain why China keeps its Jin-class subs in Hainan and why it is pressing territorial claims and hindering U.S. surveillance there.

Last November, China declared an "air-defense identification zone" over the East China Sea and warned of measures against aircraft that entered without identifying themselves in advance. Many U.S. officials expect China to do the same over the South China Sea, although Chinese officials say they have no immediate plans for that.

In August, the Pentagon said a Chinese fighter had flown dangerously close to a U.S. P-8 near Hainan. China's defense ministry publicly said that its pilot flew safely and asked the U.S. to cease such operations.

The problem with confining boomers to the South China Sea is that Beijing fears that missiles fired from there could be neutralized by the next stages of a U.S. regional missile-defense system, Chinese nuclear experts say.

Prof. Wu, who has taken part in nuclear-strategy negotiations with the U.S., predicts that over the next two decades, China will make quieter boomers that can patrol the open sea even as the U.S. pursues a global missile-defense system.

"I hope the U.S. and China can break this cycle," he says, "but I'm not optimistic."

*Rob Taylor in Canberra contributed to this article.*

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/chinas-submarine-fleet-adds-nuclear-strike-capability-altering-strategic-balance-undersea-1414164738>

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TASS Russian News Agency – Moscow, Russia

## **Yuriy Dolgoruky Submarine to Fire Bulava Missile October 29-30**

*The Yuriy Dolgoruky nuclear-powered submarine will fire the Bulava missile from the White Sea in Russia's north-west*

October 20, 2014

MOSCOW, October 20. /TASS/. The launch of the Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile from the Yuriy Dolgoruky nuclear-powered submarine is scheduled for October 29-30, a source in the Russian General Staff told TASS on Monday.

"The single launch of the Bulava missile from the submerged position is planned to be held on October 29-30," the source said.

The submarine will fire the Bulava missile from the White Sea in Russia's north-west. The missile is planned to hit the Kura test range in the Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia's Far East, the source said.

<http://en.itar-tass.com/russia/755267>

**Issue No.1138, 24 October 2014**

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The London Guardian – London, U.K.

## Sweden Calls Off Hunt for Submarine

*Reports of foreign underwater activity in the Stockholm archipelago triggered week-long search*

By David Crouch in Gothenburg

Friday, 24 October 2014

Sweden's navy has cancelled its week-long operation in the archipelago off Stockholm after finding no trace of the Russian submarine widely anticipated by military specialists and the media.

"Our assessment is that in the inner archipelago there was a plausible foreign underwater operation," Rear Adm Anders Grenstad said. "But we believe that what has violated Swedish waters has left."

Whatever was there could not have been a conventional submarine, Grenstad said, but a "craft of a lesser type". It was not possible to state how big it was or to what country it belonged, he added. "The operation is substantially complete. The vessels and amphibious units have gone to port and resumed normal preparedness," he said.

The hunt began last Friday after a member of the public contacted the armed forces with substantial and credible information, he said. The public reported 250 sightings during the ensuing week, with the navy taking five of them seriously.

Some reports given prominence in the media turned out to have innocent explanations, such as the "man in black" allegedly hunted by special intelligence who was revealed to be a pensioner fishing for sea trout. There was also a media focus on possible Russian "mother ships" in the Baltic that were linked to the Russian president, Vladimir Putin.

For seven days, Sweden's navy criss-crossed a vast expanse of water dotted with 30,000 islands, in what specialists likened to a search for a needle in a haystack.

Critics complained of a media circus surrounding the hunt, as several newspapers hired helicopters to follow the navy, whose specialist submarine-hunting helicopters were sold off in 2008. "In comparison with the newspapers' reporting, Star Wars seems to be a social-realist documentary," columnist Peter Kadhammar wrote in Aftonbladet, a popular tabloid.

Russia's defence ministry consistently denied that one of its vessels was in Swedish waters, and dismissed the operation as a "tragicomedy".

The fevered atmosphere of the past week recalled the cold war fears that gripped the country after a Russian nuclear-armed submarine became grounded on rocks in southern Sweden in 1981. For more than a decade, the navy conducted frequent searches of Swedish waters, sometimes dropping depth charges on suspect objects. But no Russian submarine was identified.

This week's naval operation cost about SEK20m (£1.7m), or about the same sum that was spent on fighting forest fires in Sweden over the summer, Grenstad said.

Sweden elected a minority "red-green" government in September, which has faced pressure on defence spending after Russian incursions into the country's airspace and heightened fears about Sweden's defence capabilities in the worst crisis in east-west relations for a generation.

Before the submarine hunt, the government had agreed to implement the recommendations of a cross-party parliamentary committee to increase defence spending and proceed with the SEK900m purchase of 10 fighter aircraft and a submarine.

Announcing its first budget on Thursday, the government confirmed the additional SEK300m each year for the next five years, but the centre-right opposition claimed it amounted to a cut in real terms.





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A conspiracy theory that the submarine scare was manufactured to strengthen the navy's case for greater finance was widely discussed on social media. "The timing is almost too good to be true," according to Aftonbladet.

Maj Gen Igor Konashenkov, official spokesperson for Russia's ministry of defence, told Russian reporters on Friday that Sweden's submarine hunt threatened the future free movement of shipping in the Baltic.

"Such uncorroborated actions by the Swedish armed forces, inflamed by rhetoric in the spirit of the cold war, lead only to an escalation of tension in the region. Their consequence is likely to be not a strengthening of security in the country, but an undermining of the basis of maritime economic activity in the waters of the Baltic sea."

He said Sweden had adopted Napoleon's principle to "get stuck in and then we'll see" without thinking about where it would end, opting to drag out the "fiasco" for as long as possible.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/24/sweden-calls-off-hunt-submarine-stockholm-archipelago>

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Tasnim News Agency – Tehran, Iran

## Iran: Extension of Nuclear Talks Not on Agenda

October 19, 2014

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Neither of the parties engaged in negotiations over Tehran's peaceful nuclear program are interested in the extension of talks beyond a deadline of November 24, a top Iranian nuclear negotiator announced on Sunday.

In a strong hint that an extension was not under consideration in the course of nuclear talks between Tehran and six world powers, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said all sides are determined to clinch a deal as a November 24 looms.

"None of the negotiating parties are willing to extend the talks. All are resolved to reach an agreement before the deadline, so that extension is not on the agenda of any of the parties," the senior negotiator told reporters in Tehran on Sunday.

Araqchi also announced that experts representing Iran and the Group 5+1 (Russia, China, the US, Britain, France and Germany) are slated to hold a meeting in the Austrian capital of Vienna on coming Wednesday and Thursday.

The date for the next round of negotiations will also be decided on soon, he added.

Earlier this week, top diplomats from Iran, the US, and the EU held trilateral meetings in Vienna to iron out differences and secure an agreement between Tehran and the G5+1 (alternatively known as the P5+1 or E3+3) in a bid to put an end to the West's 12-year-old standoff on Tehran's nuclear case.

On November 24, 2013, Iran and the G5+1 signed an interim nuclear deal in the Swiss city of Geneva.

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

In July, Tehran and the six countries agreed to extend negotiations until November 24 in the hope of clinching a final deal.

<http://www.tasnimnews.com/English/Home/Single/532915>

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FoxNews.com – New York, NY

## 'Dragon's Egg': Marines who Guarded Saddam's Mysterious Bunker Fear Weapons Unleashed

Issue No.1138, 24 October 2014

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By Paul Alster, FoxNews.com

October 19, 2014

The U.S. Marines who guarded the sprawling complex in northwest Iraq where Saddam Hussein's 1980s war machine churned out some of the most deadly chemical and biological weapons known to man had a name for one especially mysterious bunker: The Dragon's Egg.

Although the Americans assigned to the Al Muthanna facility until 2008 were forbidden by superiors from peering inside the bunker, they knew the larger complex's history. From 1983 to 1990, the brutal dictator's scientists worked there, developing mustard, sarin, VX and Tabun gases for use on Iranian soldiers and Iraqi Kurds. And although it was under the control of U.S. and Iraqi military forces for most of the last decade, the entire facility - and whatever it held - is now firmly in the grasp of the Islamic State, the terrorist army that has claimed a vast swath of Iraq and Syria and allegedly used chemical weapons against Kurds this summer.

The X-shaped bunker, encased in cement and shrouded in mystery, was one of two that were handled differently from the many other bunkers that made up the facility, according to Lt. Joshua Hartley, who was stationed there in 2008. It was off-limits.

"We were made aware of a particular bunker on the north side [of Al Muthanna] which we were informed was sealed and remotely monitored," Hartley, who served in the weapons company of the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, told FoxNews.com. "We were not to approach, and definitely not to attempt to enter."

An Iraqi Army outpost was positioned immediately next to the Dragon's Egg bunker, which was under constant observation. It was an open secret that the bunker contained vast amounts of Hussein's most dangerous nerve agents, according to Hartley.

"We became aware that there were two particular bunkers - one of which had reportedly been sealed up some time before - that held potentially devastating contents," said Hartley, who went on to serve in Afghanistan and achieved the rank of captain before being discharged from the military. The Georgia native now lives in New York.

On Nov. 2, 2008, the Iraqi troops guarding the Dragon's Egg were suddenly pulled from the outpost. Hartley's platoon was ordered to clear the compound and members found 40 shells simply lying around outside of the bunker. They alerted superiors, but as they waited for specialized chemical weapons disposal units to arrive, Hartley recalled, one Marine "picked [a shell] up and could literally hear the liquid sloshing around inside of it."

Marine Lance Cpl. Kevin Fanning, who served in Hartley's platoon and corroborated the account, described other ominous discoveries made by the Marines as they cleared the area around the top-secret bunker.

"When we began searching, we discovered a huge stockpile of 105-millimeter artillery shells that were filled with mustard gas," Fanning told FoxNews.com. "I have always wondered why it never became big news, as well as other incidents. I never doubted the existence of chemical and biological weapons in Iraq."

Their account was similar to a separate one reported by *The New York Times* earlier this week, in which U.S. service members guarding Al Muthanna said a toxic agent used in mustard gas leaked out of a shell when a soldier picked it up. According to the Times, more than a dozen U.S. soldiers were injured by chemical weapons but the incidents were not made public.

Gen. Jack Kean, chairman of the Institute for the Study of War, former Army vice-chief of staff and a Fox News contributor, told Fox News' 'The Kelly File' on Wednesday that it was known in high military circles that Hussein's old weaponry was still around, although it was believed to be in poor condition.

"It was common knowledge in the chain of command that these storage sites existed and occasionally our soldiers would 'bang into these things,'" Kean said.

Al Muthanna was known to be the nerve center of Hussein's chemical weapons program, which was reportedly aided by western nations long before Operation Desert Storm. An October, 2000, report by the Federation of American Scientists identified it as a testing ground for Anthrax and Ricin. Although the chaos following the fall of

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Hussein in 2003 would seem to have made it essential that the secret bunker known as Dragon's Egg be de-commissioned by specially-trained chemical weapons experts, it wasn't until much later that international leaders took up the issue, according to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Discussions were held in November 2011, hosted by the U.S. in Aberdeen, Maryland, with 38 experts from around the world.

"All experts present during the roundtable agreed that bunker 13 at Al Muthanna represents a special case and that an entry into the bunker would expose personnel to explosive, chemical, and physical hazards," the OPCW reported. "The potential for an explosion occurring is the most serious factor due to the presence of scattered fuses and warhead components."

It is believed that the "bunker 13" referenced at the meeting is the one Hartley and his men called Dragon's Egg.

A U.S. State Department report last February indicated that administration officials were fully aware of the potentially huge dangers the bunker and another one like it at Al Muthanna presented.

"The [Chemical Weapons] destruction plan is dependent on the assessment of the contents of the [Chemical Weapons Storage Facilities], bunkers 13 and 41 at Al Muthanna," the State Department reported. But efforts to neutralize the bunkers appear not to have been carried out, and now Kean and Hartley fear it could be too late. Al Muthanna was overrun by Islamic State militants in July.

"Frankly, the weapons could be used by ISIS," Kean said. "Our troops' mission was not to clean this up; that was something the Iraqis were supposed to do, and obviously they didn't do a very good job of it," the general added. "I know from talking to people who were involved, that the Sunni insurgents used some of these weapons as IED's against us."

With reports that Islamic State fighters may have used chemical weapons to attack the Syrian city of Kobani earlier this summer, Hartley also wonders if the contents of the mysterious bunker known as Dragon's Egg have been unleashed.

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/10/19/dragon-egg-marines-who-guarded-saddam-mysterious-bunker-fear-weapons-unleashed/?intcmp=latestnews>

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran  
Monday, October 20, 2014

## **Araqchi Terms High-Velocity Centrifuge Machines Iran's Bargaining Chip in N. Talks**

TEHRAN (FNA) - Senior Iranian nuclear negotiator Seyed Abbas Araqchi underlined the country's rapid progress in nuclear technology, including the building of high-velocity centrifuge machines, and said Tehran would use the achievement as a Bargaining Chip in the upcoming talks with the world powers.

Araqchi, who is also the deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs, said on Sunday that production of high-velocity centrifuge machines by the Iranian nuclear scientists are the country's latest achievement in this arena.

He stated that all achievements of the Islamic Republic will provide a strong backup for the Iranian team of negotiators during their talks with the six world powers. "This new achievement will produce positive effects in the negotiations as the Iranian team will continue the talks with more power by relying on these achievements."

He further added that despite the wide differences still existing between the two sides, a final sum-up will be possible by November 24 provided that the other side of the talks shows good-will and focuses more on Iran's ideas.

He stressed that there has been no kind of agreement yet because of divergences.

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Tehran and the Group 5+1 (the US, Russia, China, Britain and France plus Germany) are due to hold experts talks in Vienna on Wednesday and Thursday.

According to Araqchi, there will also be a trilateral meeting among Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, his US counterpart John Kerry and the EU foreign policy chief in the next two weeks.

Iran and the six major world powers ended their 8th round of nuclear negotiations in Vienna on Thursday.

The 7th round of the talks between Iran and the Group 5+1 was held in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting last month.

The two sides held six rounds of negotiations in Vienna to reach a comprehensive deal after they inked an interim agreement in Geneva on November 24.

The Geneva agreement took effect on January 20 and expired six months later on July 20. In July, Tehran and the six countries agreed to extend negotiations until November 24 after they failed to reach an agreement on a number of key issues.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13930728000764>

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Press TV – Tehran, Iran

## **IAEA Confirms Iran's Commitment to Interim Nuclear Deal**

Monday, October 20, 2014

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has released a new report, confirming Iran's commitment to an interim nuclear deal it signed with six world powers last year.

The monthly update report by the IAEA indicated on Monday that the Islamic Republic is continuing to meet its commitments under the interim accord that came into effect in January.

The report added that Tehran has taken an additional step under the deal and diluted over 4,100 kg of uranium enriched to a fissile concentration of up to 2 percent down to the level of natural uranium.

Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council - China, Russia, Britain, France, and the United States - plus Germany clinched a landmark interim deal in the Swiss city of Geneva on November 24, 2013.

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

As part of the interim deal, Iran suspended 20-percent uranium enrichment as of January 20 when the agreement came into force. Iran then started to dilute and oxidize its 196-kg stockpile of 20-percent-enriched uranium.

The UN body has been publishing monthly reports on Iran's commitments under the comprehensive deal.

In July, Iran and the six countries agreed to extend their discussions until November 24 in an effort to achieve a permanent nuclear deal.

The two sides are expected to discuss ways of reaching a final agreement over Tehran's nuclear energy program. Iran's right to enrich uranium is among the bones of contention between the two sides.

<http://www.presstv.com/detail/2014/10/20/382990/iaea-confirms-iran-commitment-to-ndeal/>

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

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## Iran, Russia Finalizing Contract to Construct 2 New N. Power Plants

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iran's nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi announced on Monday that Tehran and Moscow are taking the final steps in preparing a deal on the construction of two more nuclear power plants in the Southern Iranian port city of Bushehr.

"The capacity of each of the two power plants whose construction is under negotiation by Iran and Russia now will be 1,000-megawatt," Salehi said on Monday.

The Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) further added that one of the power plants will be built in the current Iranian year (ends March 20, 2015) and the construction of the second one will start after two years.

Salehi has on different occasions announced that Iran is ready to continue its mutual cooperation with Russia in peaceful nuclear energy.

Salehi had first announced on February 3 that Iran is in talks with Russia on the construction of new nuclear power plants to produce 4,000 megawatts of electricity.

On January 16, Zarif said he had exchanged views with senior Russian officials on the construction of new nuclear power plants in Iran during his visit to Moscow.

In March, Russia's Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation and the AEOI reached an agreement to construct at least two more nuclear power plants in Bushehr.

Under the agreement, the new facilities will be built next to the first unit of the Bushehr nuclear power plant and each will have the capacity to produce at least 1,000 megawatts of electricity.

The Islamic Republic signed the Bushehr contract with Russia in 1995 and the nuclear power plant reached its full capacity by August 2012. It is located about 18 kilometers South of the provincial capital.

Last month, AEOI Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi announced that Iran will start building two new nuclear power plants in Bushehr this year.

"We reached agreements in our (recent) talks with the Rosatom (the Russian contractor) Chief on the construction of two power plants with a minimum capacity of 1,000-megawatt and equipped with water sweetening systems beside Bushehr's first nuclear power plant," Kamalvandi said.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13930728000798>

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Egypt Independent – Cairo, Egypt

## UN Nuclear Chief Suggests Progress Slow in Iran Investigation

Reuters

October 20, 2014

Iran has still not implemented all the nuclear transparency measures it had agreed to carry out by late August, the head of the UN atomic energy agency said on Monday, suggesting little headway in an inquiry into suspected bomb research.

Western officials say Iran must cooperate more with United Nations nuclear sleuths if it wants to settle a protracted dispute with six world powers over its nuclear program and be rid of crippling financial sanctions.

Nearly two months after an 25 August deadline for answering questions about alleged activity that might be used to develop atomic arms, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) made clear that Iran had not yet fully done so.



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"In order to resolve all outstanding issues, it is very important that Iran implements, in a timely manner, all practical measures agreed under the Framework for Cooperation," Yukiya Amano said. That accord was reached with Tehran last year to help advance the long-running investigation.

Addressing a conference at IAEA headquarters on nuclear safeguards, he said the UN agency was not in a position "to provide credible assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran".

The IAEA has been trying for years to get to the bottom of Western intelligence reports suggesting Iran was designing a nuclear warhead. Iran say the intelligence was fabricated by its foes. But it has promised to work with the IAEA since last year

Tehran said last month the IAEA lacked "substantiated" evidence. Diplomats say the United States and its Western allies as well as Israel have provided information on Iran to the IAEA.

Iran may see some support in comments by a Russian envoy, who called on the UN agency to disclose the origin of data it wants to use that is not obtained through its own inspections.

Without naming any country, Russian Ambassador Grigory Berdennikov told the safeguards conference that "some states" may wish to turn the IAEA into their intelligence branch.

Russia is one of the six world powers which are trying to negotiate a diplomatic deal with Iran to end the nuclear dispute. But Russia and China have had closer trade relations with Tehran than the United States, France, Germany and Britain and they have also criticized Western sanctions on Tehran.

The powers are seeking to limit the size of Iran's future nuclear program and thereby extend the time it would need to accumulate fissile material for a weapon. The IAEA is investigating alleged research and experiments in the past that could be used to make the bomb itself.

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/un-nuclear-chief-suggests-progress-slow-iran-investigation>

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Oman Tribune – Muscat, Oman

## **US May Okay More Centrifuges in Iran N-Talks**

Paul Richter and Ramin Mostaghim

October 21, 2014

WASHINGTON -- The Obama administration has sweetened its offer to Iran in ongoing nuclear negotiations, saying it might accept Teheran operating 4,000 centrifuges, up from the previous 1,300, according to a semiofficial Iranian news agency.

The Mehr news agency also said on Monday that Iran and the six world powers seeking to negotiate a nuclear deal remained divided over how much uranium-enrichment capacity of the nation should be allowed to maintain, and how to lift punitive sanctions from its economy.

With a deadline for negotiators a month away, the two sides still differ on how to deal with two nuclear sites that have stirred international concern, the Arak heavy-water nuclear reactor and the Fordow underground enrichment facility, according to Mehr. Mehr's account quotes conservative Iranian lawmaker Javad Qoddoushi, a member of the parliament's foreign affairs committee, which was briefed last weekend by Abbas Araqchi, a deputy foreign minister and nuclear negotiator.

The article doesn't specify when the administration unveiled its latest offer on centrifuges, which are used to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes but also potentially for nuclear weapons. It may have come last Wednesday, when US Secretary of State John Kerry met in Vienna with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton to try to end a five-month impasse in the talks.

Araqchi told the Iranian lawmakers that the US 'made concessions,' the news agency said.

**Issue No.1138, 24 October 2014**

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The White House and State Department declined to comment. Mehr's account doesn't address other potentially important details of the US offer, such as whether the administration would require Iran to dismantle other centrifuges and whether the 4,000 could include newer and more capable models.

Separately, Iranian security services have arrested several suspected spies in Bushehr where the country's first nuclear power plant is located, the Fars news agency reported.

Iran has repeatedly cited signs of what it calls foreign plots to sabotage its nuclear programme.

"Thanks to the vigilance of Intelligence Ministry forces which monitor the moves of the foreign intelligence services, some agents who intended to carry out surveillance and intelligence gathering for foreigners have been arrested," Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alawi Alawi told Fars.

He said Bushehr province was Iran's nuclear hub and therefore "has a special position at the national level". Iran currently has 9,400 operating centrifuges and another 10,000 that are installed but not in operation.

Some analysts have been predicting that the US and the other five world powers could end up with an offer of a few thousand centrifuges, a number that may be small enough to avoid strong resistance from Congress or the Mideast allies worried about the nuclear threat. Cliff Kupchan, an Iran specialist at the Eurasia Group risk-consulting firm, said the 4,000 figure 'is sellable in Washington,' because with such an inventory it would still take Iran many months to complete a 'nuclear breakout' - a sprint to gather enough enriched uranium for one weapon.

<http://www.omantribune.com/index.php?page=news&id=177148&heading=Other%20Top%20Stories>

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The Times of Israel – Jerusalem, Israel

## **'Foreign Spies' Arrested near Nuclear Facility, Iran Official says**

*Tehran says agents were collecting information in Bushehr province, which houses country's sole nuclear power plant*

By Times of Israel staff and Associated Press (AP)

October 21, 2014

An Iranian official claimed Tuesday that state security forces arrested a number of spies in the southern province of Bushehr, home to the country's sole nuclear power plant.

According to Iranian media, the Islamic Republic's Intelligence Minister, Seyed Mahmoud Alawi, claimed the suspects were engaged in surveillance and intelligence gathering, adding that the alleged agents had been serving foreign intelligence services.

"Thanks to the vigilance of the Intelligence Ministry forces who monitor the moves of the foreign intelligence services, some agents who intended to carry out surveillance and intelligence gathering for the foreigners in Bushehr province have been identified and sent to justice," Alawi said, according to the semi-official Iranian Fars News Agency.

It was not clear how many people were arrested.

Last month, Iranian authorities arrested a Ukrainian national suspected of sabotage at the Bushehr power plant, according to Iranian media.

The report in the Hamshahri daily said the "Ukrainian expert" was affiliated with a Russian contractor that works in the plant, which went online in 2011 with Russian aid.

The report did not elaborate on the timing or nature of the alleged sabotage. Iran has long accused the United States, Israel and European countries of working to sabotage its nuclear program.

International sanctions force Iran to buy Western-made parts for its nuclear program from third parties. Hamshahri suggested such parties are involved in sabotaging parts before they arrive in Iran, without elaborating.

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In 2010, the so-called Stuxnet virus temporarily disrupted the operation of thousands of centrifuges, key components in nuclear fuel production, at Iran's Natanz uranium enrichment facility. Iran says it and other computer virus attacks are part of a concerted effort by Israel, the US and their allies to undermine its nuclear program through covert operations.

The US and its allies suspect Iran is covertly seeking the ability to develop nuclear weapons. Iran denies such allegations, insisting its nuclear program is entirely peaceful and aimed at generating electricity and producing medical isotopes.

Iran and the P5+1 group of world powers — the US, Britain, France, China and Russia plus Germany — are holding talks aimed at reaching a comprehensive agreement by November that would curb Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for relief from international sanctions.

*Adiv Sterman contributed to this report.*

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/foreign-spies-arrested-near-nuclear-facility-iran-official-says/>

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The Daily Star.com – Dhaka, Bangladesh

## **Iran Offers 'Compromises' in Nuke Talks, West Unmoved**

Reuters

October 22, 2014

Ankara/New York - Iran is pushing what it portrays as a new compromise proposal in nuclear talks, but Western negotiators say it offers no viable concessions, underscoring how far apart the two sides are as they enter crunch time before a Nov 24 deadline.

In the negotiations with six major powers, the Iranians say they are no longer demanding a total end to economic sanctions in return for curbing their nuclear program and would accept initially lifting just the latest, most damaging, sanctions.

Western officials dismiss the proposal as nothing new and say the Iranians have always known that the sanctions could only end gradually - with each measure being suspended and later terminated only after Iranian compliance had been proven.

The officials say that in talks in Vienna they too have offered what they call compromises over demands that Iran limit its nuclear program, but they have been rejected by Tehran.

"The bottom line is that they do not appear willing to limit their enrichment program to a level we would find acceptable," a European diplomat said. "We may have no choice but to extend the talks past November ... It's either that or let the talks collapse."

Under their most recent offer, Iranian officials have told Reuters that Iran's leadership would be satisfied with removing crippling US and European Union energy and banking sanctions imposed in 2012.

They described this as a major stepdown from Iran's consistent calls for the removal of all sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic because of its refusal to heed UN Security Council demands that it halt uranium enrichment work.

Tehran calls the sanctions unfair and illegal.

The proposal by Iranian negotiators in talks with the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China has the backing of the Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iranian officials say.

"For the other party involved, it might be only a political issue, but for Iran what is in danger is the existence of the establishment if the economic hardship continues," a senior Iranian official said.

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Building on a UN Security Council sanctions resolution passed in 2010, the United States and EU in 2012 imposed major sanctions against Iranian oil and gas companies and strengthened restrictions on the country's central bank.

Under the US National Defense Authorization Act Section 1245, Washington also forced Iran's major oil customers to greatly reduce their purchases of Iranian oil or face having their banks cut off from the US financial system.

The result has been a sharp drop in Iranian oil revenues, soaring inflation and unemployment and a weak Iranian currency.

<http://bd.thedailystar.net/iran-offers-compromises-in-nuke-talks-west-unmoved-46792>

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FARS News Agency – Tehran, Iran

Wednesday, October 22, 2014

## **Iran: Major Part of N. Deal with World Powers Agreed**

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iran announced on Wednesday that the country's negotiators and their counterparts in the nuclear talks between Tehran and the Group 5+1 (the US, Russia, China, Britain and France plus Germany) have paved over 90% of the path towards a comprehensive deal.

"Given the fact that negotiations have been underway since a year ago, we can say that we have paved over 90% of the path and we are now taking the last steps which are of course important, sensitive and hard," Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Marziyeh Afkham said in Tehran today.

Asked about the Russian officials' remarks that 95% of work has been done for reaching a final agreement between the two sides, she said, "95% or 98% progress are the assessments that politicians state in their remarks and views; yet one can say that an important section of the path has been paved and the remaining part is difficult."

Afkham underlined that all sides are now focused on using the remaining 40 days (before the November 24 deadline) to reach a deal, and added, "Extension of the negotiations is on no one's agenda."

Iran and the six major world powers ended their 8th round of nuclear negotiations in Vienna last Thursday.

The 7th round of the talks between Iran and the Group 5+1 was held in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting last month.

The two sides held six rounds of negotiations in Vienna to reach a comprehensive deal after they inked an interim agreement in Geneva on November 24.

The Geneva agreement took effect on January 20 and expired six months later on July 20. In July, Tehran and the six countries agreed to extend negotiations until November 24 after they failed to reach an agreement on a number of key issues.

On Sunday, Iran's deputy lead negotiator Seyed Abbas Araqchi voiced satisfaction in the progressive trend of the talks with the six major world powers, and said a final deal before the November 24 deadline was not out of reach.

Araqchi, who is also the country's deputy foreign minister, expressed satisfaction in the "considerable" progress made in the process of the talks, and said, "We hope that we can achieve an agreement by the specified deadline, namely November 24."

"Neither of the negotiating parties is interested in extending (the deadline of) the talks. All sides are determined to achieve an agreement prior to the deadline. Therefore, extension is not on the agenda of any of the parties," Araqchi underlined.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13930730000740>

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Azeri-Press Agency (APA) – Baku, Azerbaijan

## Iranian Nuclear Deal may be Concluded on Time — Rouhani

October 23, 2014

Baku. Zumrud Pashayeva – APA. The Iranian nuclear program deal may be concluded on time, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani told a news conference late on Wednesday, APA reports quoting ITAR-TASS.

He said the negotiations with the six world powers (five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany) are on the right track, so the chances to reach the agreement by November 24 are good.

Iran's IRNA news agency said on Thursday that Rouhani admitted that the negotiations were "not easy, but initial experiences indicate that we can have a successful agreement."

Deadline for the nuclear agreement between Iran and the six powers expires on November 24, 2014.

The president said Iran needed better relations with the world for economic development. Rouhani said his government had plans to strengthen economic relations with the neighboring states and a number of world powers, which could be done even under sanctions.

<http://en.apa.az/news/218046>

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International Business (IB) Times – New York, NY

## ISIS Militants Have Chemical Weapons, Allegedly Used Chlorine Gas in Attack on Iraqi Forces: Report

By Alessandra Masi

October 23, 2014

The Islamic State group is in possession of chlorine and used it in at least one attack on Iraqi security forces last month, according to the *Washington Post*. An Iraqi Defense Ministry supported the report, making it the first documented instance of chemical weapons use by the militant group. However, it is by no means the first accusation that ISIS militants used chlorine gas in attacks in both Iraq and Syria.

When ISIS seized large portions of Iraq and Syria, it became a growing concern that militants could obtain chemical weapons; Syria has known chemical weapons, and Iraq may have some left over from the Saddam Hussein regime. Earlier this summer, ISIS seized a city in Iraq housing a former chemical weapon production plant that contained nerve gas. ISIS obtained chlorine for this particular attack from Iraqi water treatment plants in territory the militants now control.

"They use it just to create terror," an Iraqi official told the *Washington Post*. "But of course we are very concerned."

Survivors of this documented chlorine attack told the *Washington Post* that they saw yellow smoke fill the sky after an explosion. Eleven Iraqi officers were then brought to a hospital showing symptoms consistent with a chlorine attack.

"I felt suffocated," Lt. Khairalla al-Jabbouri told the *Washington Post*. "I was throwing up and couldn't breathe."

In Syria, chlorine attacks are more frequent but usually blamed on president Bashar Assad's regime. In the past three weeks, two similar reports came out of Kobani, where ISIS militants have been battling Kurdish forces for over a month. Several civilians were brought to a nearby hospital Tuesday complaining of teary eyes, headaches and burns on their skin. Doctors in Kobani said they lacked necessary equipment to confirm the cause of victims' symptoms.

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Chlorine is not banned under the Chemical Weapons Convention. The first telltale sign of a chlorine attack is usually the victims' reaction. Symptoms include a burning sensation in their throats and eyes, severe headaches, vomiting and a suffocating feeling.

"There are millions of tons of chlorine in the world. You can go out and buy it on the street perfectly legitimately. That's why it's so difficult to police it," chemical weapons expert Hamish de Bretton Gordon told Syria Deeply. "Syria was the largest producer of chemicals like this in the Middle East till the war started. As we know, chlorine is readily available in Syria and Iraq."

<http://www.ibtimes.com/isis-militants-have-chemical-weapons-allegedly-used-chlorine-gas-attack-iraqi-forces-1711856>

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Al Arabiya News – Dubai, U.A.E.

## **U.S.: Iran Responsible if Nuclear Talks Fail**

By Staff writer, *Al Arabiya News*

Friday, 24 October 2014

Iran would widely be held responsible if negotiations to curb its nuclear program in exchange for eased sanctions fail without reaching a comprehensive deal, top. negotiator U.S. Under-Secretary of State Wendy Sherman said on Thursday.

"We hope the leaders in Tehran will agree to the steps necessary to assure the world that this program will be exclusively peaceful and thereby end Iran's economic and diplomatic isolation and improve further the lives of their people," she said, she told a conference organized by the Center for Strategic and International Studies and Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

"If that does not happen, the responsibility will be seen by all to rest with Iran," Sherman added.

Iran is currently in a new round of negotiations with Britain, China, France, Germany Russia and the U.S., who are all seeking to reach a deal by a deadline set for Nov. 24.

Sherman said that the international powers negotiating with Iran offered "equitable, enforceable" ideas which are "consistent with Tehran's expressed desire for a viable civilian nuclear program."

According to Sherman, striking a deal before the deadline represent Iran's best chance to escape economic sanctions and it would be considered its fault if none were reached.

"If Iran truly wants to resolve its differences with the international community -- and facilitate the lifting of economic sanctions -- it will have no better chance than between now and November 24," she said.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif for six hours in a Vienna hotel last week.

"We have made impressive progress on issues that originally seemed intractable," Sherman said, but noted that negotiations were "the very opposite of easy."

She also noted that some U.S. allies and members of Congress did not want the talks with Iran to succeed.

She claimed the administration has sought to allay fears in Congress and among U.S. allies, including Israel and other countries in the region.

*With Agencies*

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/world/2014/10/24/Top-U-S-negotiator-Iran-responsible-if-nuclear-talks-fail.html>

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The Express Tribune – Karachi, Pakistan

## **Cross-Border Tension: ‘Nukes Enabled Pakistan to Deter Indian Aggression’**

*Speakers say western states backing Modi against Pakistan*

By Our Correspondent

October 20, 2014

LAHORE: A number of speakers addressing a seminar on Sunday claimed that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had adopted an aggressive stance against Pakistan with western backing.

They were speaking at a seminar organised by the Tech Society Club. The seminar was titled Pakistan’s Present Political Situation and Indian Aggression. They said western countries were conspiring against Pakistan as it was a nuclear power.

Qayyum Nizami, a columnist, said Narendra Modi was politically affiliated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. He said Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had said that Pakistanis would prefer eating grass to become a nuclear power than submitting to India. Nizami said the nuclear weapons programme had made Pakistan capable of challenging India’s hegemonic designs. He said Pakistan-India disputes should be resolved through diplomacy. Nizami said economic and political stability would be a powerful deterrent against Indian aggression.

Pakistan Visionary Forum president Muhammad Sadiq said India wanted to capture the country’s resources. Salman Abid, an analyst, said India had tried to sow internal discord in Pakistan through Iran and Afghanistan. He said that most political parties worldwide were supported by business conglomerates to protect their interests.

He said this was the reason behind widespread poverty in India.

Former Punjab University Mass Communication chairman Mugheesuddin Sheikh said Pakistan was lagging behind the world in intellectual development.

He said it was imperative to focus on the youth to bring about a positive change. Sheikh said most political parties in Pakistan did not respect democratic principles.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/778114/cross-border-tension-nukes-enabled-pakistan-to-deter-indian-aggression/>

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Greater Kashmir.com – Srinagar, India

October 22, 2014

## **Pak Will Never Shy of Using Nuclear Weapons against India: Musharraf**

New Delhi, Oct 22: Pakistan's former military ruler General Pervez Musharraf has said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is anti-Pakistan. He also said that Pakistan is always prepared to defend its territory against any threat from India.

In a world exclusive interview to TVTN, Gen Musharraf said; “Modi will have to change his stance. He is anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistan.”

He accused New Delhi of trying to destabilize Pakistan internally by fighting a “proxy war.”

Rejecting New Delhi's allegations of Islamabad's involvement in terror activities within the Indian territory, Musharraf said, "India has no proof of any Pakistani involvement."

**Issue No.1138, 24 October 2014**

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Instead, the former Pakistani dictator accused India of creating troubles in Pakistan. "There is absolute evidence of your consulates in Jalalabad and your RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) indulging in all kinds of activities in Pakistan's Balochistan province and other places," he said.

"Our guard on the eastern borders are never down," Musharraf said, adding, "Pakistan will never shy of using the nuclear weapons against India if the need arises." "The world should help us fight terrorism instead of blaming us for it," he said.

On the recent ceasefire violations by Pakistani troops along the international border, Musharraf said that India has instability behind its lines. "People in Pakistan are ready to sacrifice themselves but it is the Pakistani army that is holding them back," he said, referring to the pro-Kashmir sentiments in Pakistan.

<http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2014/Oct/23/pak-will-never-shy-of-using-nuclear-weapons-against-india-musharraf-37.asp>

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International Business (IB) Times – New Delhi, India

## **India Agrees to Nuclear No-First-Use Agreements, Firm on Non-Proliferation Treaty**

By Neha Singh

October 22, 2014

Going over its traditional dual policies of not using nuclear weapons first and not targeting non-nuclear weapons nations, India on Monday offered to enter into agreements incorporating the two principles. The country, however, has firmly ruled out joining the non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

"As a responsible nuclear power, India has a policy of credible minimum deterrence based on a 'No First Use' posture and non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states. We are prepared to convert these into bilateral or multilateral legally binding arrangements," IANS quoted Ambassador DB Venkatesh Varma as saying.

However, India has refused to join the NPT that prevents nuclear power and non-nuclear power nations from spreading the nuclear technology.

"There is no question of India joining the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state," Varma said, adding that if this happens, India will have to give up its nuclear weapons.

Additionally, India is not ready to surrender to Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT) which will prohibit it from further producing the fissile materials used to manufacture nuclear weapons, and has proposed negotiation.

"Without prejudice to the priority we attach to nuclear disarmament, we support the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of an FMCT that meets India's national security interests," Varma added.

Although, India is firm on continuing manufacturing nuclear weapons and fissile materials, it wants other nuclear states to agree on the draft that does not allow them to use or threaten other nations with nuclear weapons.

India has reintroduced draft resolution on a Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons and criticised nuclear power countries for repeatedly voting against it since its first introduction in 1982.

Varma said he regrets that a "sizeable minority of member states -- some of them nuclear weapon states, some with nuclear weapons stationed on their soil and others with alliance partnerships underwritten by policies of first use of nuclear weapons -- have voted against this resolution".

And, "for reasons that are difficult to understand, some member states which are today in the forefront of efforts to highlight the humanitarian impact of use of nuclear weapons have also voted against this resolution."

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The Hindu – Chennai, India

## **Nirbhay will be Backbone of ‘Cold-Start,’ say Experts**

By Dinakar Peri

October 24, 2014

New Delhi -- Nirbhay, India's first long-range subsonic cruise missile, which was test-fired on October 17, can be a game-changer in India's strategic calculus, defence analysts and strategic experts feel.

Capable of flying at a tree-top altitude for over 1,000 km, Nirbhay can carry out surgical strikes and thus back up India's "cold start" doctrine that envisages limited, precise strikes across the border. The introduction of nuclear weapons in the subcontinent has virtually stalled a conventional Indian response to Pakistan's cross-border terrorism.

"India is confronted with the problem of developing a strategy to counter Pakistan's 'first-strike' and continuing proxy war," says Dr. Monika Chansoria, Senior Fellow at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies. She points out that Pakistan cites "India's conventional military threat" to maintain its own offensive strategic posture and India will have to develop a response to this.

In this context, "cold start" has been put forward as an offensive doctrine by the Indian strategic establishment. Though "officially denied," its presence is widely acknowledged in strategic circles.

In the event of an Indian offensive, a volley of missiles flying low can effectively take out key command and control centres, blunting the resistance to the advancing armoured columns.

"The successful indigenous development of Nirbhay cruise missile will fill a vital gap in the war-fighting capabilities of our armed forces," Avinash Chander, Director-General, Defence Research and Development Organisation, said after the test launch on October 17.

Defence analyst Rahul Bedi observes that Nirbhay will be a force multiplier to the in-waiting "cold start" doctrine, but the doctrine itself is a non-starter as of now for lack of critical assets such as artillery, armour and helicopters. The Army has to fast-forward acquisition and induction of these platforms.

In the short-term, experts believe that Nirbhay, along with its shorter-range supersonic sibling BrahMos, will form the backbone of the doctrine.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nirbhay-will-be-backbone-of-coldstart-say-experts/article6529087.ece?ref=sliderNews>

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USA TODAY.com – New York, NY

## **WHO says Ebola Outbreak Continues to Spread in West Africa**

*Ebola is racing ahead of efforts to contain its spread, according to the World Health Organization. There are now nearly 10,000 reported cases – a tally that clearly underestimates that true scope.*

By Liz Szabo, USA TODAY

October 24, 2014

Ebola is racing ahead of efforts to contain its spread, according to the World Health Organization.

There are nearly 10,000 reported cases -- a tally that underestimates the true scope of the epidemic as overwhelmed health workers fall behind in their record-keeping, the WHO says. About half of Ebola patients have died.



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Ebola has now reached every district in Sierra Leone and all but one district in Liberia, with "intense transmission" in these countries' capital cities, according to the WHO.

West Africa today is nowhere near goals set by the United Nations to get the outbreak under control, according to the WHO.

Even with the modest goal of meeting 70% of the region's needs by Dec. 1, affected countries would need at least 16 more labs to help medical staff quickly diagnose patients, 230 more "dead body management teams" to bury or cremate bodies in ways that don't spread Ebola; 4,388 more hospital beds; and 20,000 contract tracers to find and isolate potential cases.

Today, Liberia has enough beds for only 23% of patients, according to the WHO. That means 77% of Ebola patients are languishing and dying at home or, worse, in the street.

Infectious disease expert Michael Osterholm said he's concerned that Ebola is poised to spill over the borders to other African countries, such as Ivory Coast. Of the eight districts in Guinea and Liberia that border Ivory Coast, all but one have reported Ebola cases, the WHO said.

In August, Ivory Coast closed its borders with Ebola-affected countries and temporarily suspended flights.

Two of the four areas of Guinea with new Ebola cases this week are near the border with Ivory Coast, a country of 20 million people, according to the WHO. With a metro area population of more than 7 million, Ivory Coast's economic capital, Abidjan, is the second largest city in West Africa, behind Lagos, Nigeria.

"There is no magic boundary at the border," said Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota. "We shouldn't be surprised if we see cases."

Osterholm notes that farmers often leave home in the fall, as they finish harvesting their crops, and migrate to other countries looking for work. He fears that those seasonal migrations could help spread Ebola across Africa.

Flights between Ivory Coast and the three Ebola-affected countries -- which were suspended this summer over Ebola fears -- resumed this week.

Osterholm said migrant workers often bypass official border checkpoints because they travel on foot through the countryside.

Like Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia -- three countries hit hardest by Ebola -- Ivory Coast has weathered years of political instability and civil war, said William Moss, a professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

The WHO has blamed Ebola's spread through West Africa on poverty, lack of education and crumbling public health systems, which were battered during years of conflict. Although the first Ebola case apparently occurred in Guinea in December, local health officials didn't realize they were dealing with an Ebola outbreak until March, when there were already nearly 50 cases.

At a press conference Thursday, WHO officials addressed rumors that Ebola had been detected in other West African countries.

"At WHO, we hear about many rumors of cases in different countries. Most of these turn out to be negative," Keiji Fukuda, the WHO's assistant director-general for health security and environment, said following a meeting on Ebola.

"Ebola is one of these things that is really hard to cover up," Fukuda said. "There is reasonable confidence that we are not seeing widespread transmission into neighboring countries. ... We think it would be very difficult to miss."

The WHO is working to prepare Ivory Coast and 14 other countries with borders or strong travel ties to the Ebola-affected nations. The WHO will stage simulation drills, for example, and provide other types of technical assistance.

**Issue No.1138, 24 October 2014**

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Beginning with trips to Ivory Coast and Mali, "WHO teams will build on previous work with each country to help identify any gaps in their capacity to identify and respond" to Ebola, according to a WHO report issued Wednesday.

Even Doctors Without Borders, which has been fighting Ebola since March, has had to suspend routine care of women and children at one of its hospitals in Sierra Leone, which once admitted more than 10,000 people per year. The organization's overwhelmed staff can no longer maintain "flawless infection control" in that hospital, putting staff lives at risk.

"It is our intention to resume our activities ... as soon as possible, but for that we need to first put all of our energy in fighting Ebola," said Brice de le Vingne, director of operations at Doctors Without Borders. "We really hope that in a few months, we'll be able to focus once again on treating mothers and children."

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/10/23/who-ebola-update/17767789/>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency  
OPINION/Analysis & Opinion

## **US Nuclear Modernization Based On Political, Not Security Considerations**

20 October 2014

WASHINGTON, October 20 (RIA Novosti) - High nuclear modernization costs for the United States are based on the will to maintain parity with Russia, rather than on security needs, Tom Collina, Director of Policy at the Ploughshares Fund told RIA Novosti Monday.

"I think the United States needs to maintain its weapons as long as it has them, but it doesn't need as many and it doesn't need to spend as much on modernizations," Collina said at the Monday conference of the Arms Control Association (ACA).

Asked about what number of weapons and delivery systems would be adequate, Collina said that "right now the political answer for the United States is 'as many warheads as Russia has.' And for Russia it's the same answer. Even if there is no security rationale for that, that is the political requirement, unfortunately."

An ACA report "The Unaffordable Arsenal," released in September, explores the fiscal stresses on a shrinking defense budget of certain elements of the US nuclear arsenal.

Independent reports have estimated US nuclear modernization costs, under current trends, to reach \$1 trillion over the next 30 years. Challenging the practicality of such a substantial arsenal, the report, co-authored by Collina, states that "none of the highest priority threats facing the United States can be effectively resolved with nuclear weapons or the buildup of nuclear capabilities".

Collina concluded that the United States and Russia could work together toward diminishing their nuclear arsenals, noting that "the United States can dramatically reduce its modernization costs by not buying so many delivery systems, and not buying them so soon", which could be achieved while maintaining a parity situation with Russia.

In April 2010, US President Barack Obama and former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed the so-called New START Treaty, providing for a further reduction of deployed nuclear missiles, bombers, warheads and launchers by both parties.

<http://en.ria.ru/analysis/20141020/194348094/US-Nuclear-Modernization-Based-On-Political-Not-Security.html>

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RealClearDefense.com – Washington, D.C.  
OPINION/Commentary

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## Putting the Defense in Missile Defense

*Missile defense can prevent conflicts by providing options*

By William C. Johnson

Like all Americans, I want to feel safe at home. Yet with the growing volatility and unrest across the Middle East and parts of Europe, I am flat-out worried about our nation's security. But due to my recent experience with our nation's missile defense capabilities, I am convinced our country can and must develop and maintain that security.

At its core, U.S. missile defense has a fundamental strength in its combined use of diverse systems – specifically, spaced-based sensor systems, terrestrial and sea-based radars, short-, medium- and long-range interceptors, and the command and control systems that link them all together.

The U.S. will simply never have enough interceptors to counter the growing worldwide threats. What we must do is maintain a strong offensive capability coupled with intelligence and allied support to preserve a limited strategic capability that can and will give pause to our enemies considering launching such an attack. The key word here is limited, though many missile defense critics continue to ignore this fact.

A critical component of our defensive capability is the Ground-Based Mid-Course Defense (GMD) system. The GMD system overall has a great track record of countering test threats, considering the circumstances under which the system was developed and fielded. Further, the system makes sense economically, politically and diplomatically and has received broad support from congressional leaders over the last decade.

As any weapons engineer knows, there will be design and engineering challenges with any uniquely complex system. But with robust tests that reflect the realities of today's threats, we can stress the system and build our confidence in its ability to perform in combat conditions. Without realistic tests, there would be no critical lessons learned.

A key component that benefited from these lessons is the GMD's kinetic kill vehicle. The technological and engineering feats required to accurately hit a bullet with a bullet—what GMD's kill vehicle is tasked with—are very complex, and failed flight tests identified design flaws. While some have called for a completely new, larger, and more expensive kill vehicle, at the speeds involved in warhead intercepts, it's not the size of the vehicle, but the vehicle's velocity that matters.

A better idea is to reengineer the kill vehicle in the short-term to be common amongst our interceptors, which allows the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) to achieve budget mandated economies-of-scale with a smaller, but just as capable vehicle. On my ship, USS LAKE ERIE, I saw this approach work with the many successes of the Standard Missile-3 kill vehicle as it achieved an exceptional test record.

Today, MDA is rightfully proud of the 30 operational interceptors on duty in California and Alaska protecting the United States from missile attack. The GMD system, combined with the Aegis Combat System on Navy cruisers and destroyers and Aegis Combat System Ashore, the Army's Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) and Patriot Missile systems provide credible and layered protection for the U.S. and our allies. This capability is deployed, ready, and offers options to deescalate a potential future conflict without absorbing a first hit.

While U.S. nuclear release policy has rested on the concept of mutually assured destruction, now the capability of a truly flexible response is at hand. No longer does a missile attack on the U.S. automatically set the stage for an overwhelming conventional and/or nuclear counter-attack. Today, our ballistic missile defense systems can provide time for negotiations while still maintaining the ability to respond to an attack.

Our response can be tailored based on deployed and operationally capable missile defense systems that offer military and diplomatic avenues rather than a single and overwhelmingly destructive option. They also provide a credible defense that makes sense economically, politically, diplomatically, and are technically achievable. Although there have been some setbacks, the U.S. missile defenses deployed around the world today provide a capability that prevents conflicts.

Issue No.1138, 24 October 2014

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In any conflict, the American people expect their leaders to make wise choices. The defensive capability inherent in ballistic missile defense provides our leaders with a wider variety of options versus an unthinkable, fatalistic decision. At its core this capability is technologically feasible and although expensive, is the best insurance policy to protect our nation as well as our economy and the world economy from the effects of a limited ballistic missile attack. The consequences of not pursuing this defensive technology would be devastating, a fact that well-funded, anti-missile defense special interests conveniently ignore.

*Captain William C. Johnson is the former Commanding Officer of USS Lake Erie (CG 70) and former Deputy Commander of the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense under U.S. Strategic Command.*

[http://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2014/10/20/putting\\_the\\_defense\\_in\\_missile\\_defense\\_107500.html](http://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2014/10/20/putting_the_defense_in_missile_defense_107500.html)

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Los Angeles Times – Los Angeles, CA

OPINION/Op-Ed

## **How Big a Nuclear Arsenal Do We Really Need?**

By Joe Cirincione

October 21, 2014

If President Obama wants to use his last two years to further his agenda, here's something he could do that would both advance the cause of global security and save the country money: suspend plans to develop a new arsenal of American nuclear weapons.

Obama started his presidency with a sharp focus on reducing the world nuclear threat, and he had considerable initial success. As columnist Jim Hoagland wrote in 2010, "President Obama has turned the once utopian-sounding idea of global nuclear disarmament into a useful tool for U.S. foreign policy."

But by 2011, his plans to secure all nuclear materials from terrorists, stop new nuclear states and shrink global arsenals had slowed to a crawl. While his promised policies to reduce the role and numbers of nuclear weapons lagged, the Pentagon and Congress raced ahead with plans to buy a whole new generation of nuclear-armed submarines, bombers and missiles. Over the next few years, government actions could lock in spending on these new weapons programs for the next 50 years.

Unless something is done soon, we will lay out as much as a trillion dollars over the next few decades to replace our obsolete Cold War nuclear arsenal. We will buy thousands of new hydrogen bombs and mount them on hundreds of new missiles and planes. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that over the next 10 years alone, the government will lay out \$570 billion for new nuclear weapons and related programs such as missile defense.

Proponents claim the spending is necessary to assure the nation's security. But history shows that buildups like this trigger new arms races, inspiring other nations to match or exceed our capabilities.

Already, the Pentagon has submitted its wish list for the next budget to the president, and in coming weeks Obama will finalize the budget and submit it to Congress. This will be his "legacy" budget, as one senior defense official said. It will be his last big chance to change the country's approach to nuclear spending.

The president should submit a budget to Congress that suspends spending on new nuclear weapon programs. Congress will object, of course, but that will prompt a long-overdue public conversation on nuclear policy.

In the absence of such a discussion, we risk unnecessary spending on an arsenal. We are, for example, about to commit to spending \$350 billion to develop, produce and deploy a new fleet of 12 nuclear-armed submarines. But we have not yet determined whether we will need all — or any — of the 1,000 hydrogen bombs they will carry. And have we considered how other nations, including China, will react to the new subs?



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Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus made the case to Congress this month for additional funding to build the submarine fleet, saying that without extra money, the new subs would "gut the rest of our shipbuilding program." In making his case, he also noted that "we've got to have this debate now" over the cost of the nuclear triad. I agree with that part of his testimony wholeheartedly.

The Pentagon budget is about to be cut by tens of billions of dollars a year, as part of the fallout from the congressional budget collapse and the resulting sequester. This will begin to force choices. But contracts to update the nuclear arsenal have a head start, and unless we have a full discussion now, unnecessary programs may be locked in before the budget crunch fully hits.

Instead of blindly moving ahead with building submarines and other expensive nuclear paraphernalia, let's determine our actual needs. Let's fully examine whether modifying existing submarine designs might suffice. And while we're at it, let's talk about a range of other expensive nuclear weaponry on the drawing boards, including a new nuclear-armed penetrating bomber and a new standoff nuclear cruise missile.

Last year, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) weighed in on the issue, asserting that the nation's "nuclear forces are larger than needed for current military missions." And she offered sensible advice: "It is time to think creatively about how to maintain a much smaller nuclear deterrent at an affordable cost."

Who could disagree with that?

*Joseph Cirincione is president of Ploughshares Fund and the author of "Nuclear Nightmares: Securing the World Before It Is Too Late."*

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-cirincione-nuclear-weapons-20141022-story.html>

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RealClearDefense.com – Washington, D.C.

OPINION/Commentary

October 23, 2014

## **It's Time to Talk About Nukes Again**

*An intellectual vacuum is leading to inane conclusions*

By Robert Spalding III & Adam Lowther

Speaking to a group of children, Russian President Vladimir Putin raised a topic that has seen little attention in more than a generation—nuclear war. While many American analysts were struck when Putin broached the subject, the fact that we are still talking about nuclear war should come as no surprise. After all, the United States failed to disarm a defeated adversary at the end of the Cold War – something that usually happens when you “win” a war. More importantly, the West is complicit in creating the dangerous perception that nuclear war is a threat that lies in our past.

At the end of the Cold War, the U.S. military abandoned deterrence, the strategy that served the nation well for over four decades. In search of new missions, the military found that the world was still quite dangerous. Over the next two decades, the U.S. military worked to perfect operations in a globalized world. Just as during the Cold War, our military capabilities became dominant. This time, however, it was conventional warfare, both at the high (Desert Storm) and low (Iraq and Afghanistan) ends of the spectrum.

Along the path to conventional warfare expertise, the military raised an entire generation of military officers ignorant of both the military and political value of nuclear weapons. This generation also has a nuclear command and control problem. Conventional warfare in the Pacific is under the purview and direction of the U.S. Pacific Command Commander. Nuclear war is under the purview and direction of the U.S. Strategic Command Commander. In other words, you can have one commander fighting a conventional war, while the other is trying to prevent a nuclear war. The logical challenge such a command and control structure presents is obvious as it creates new problems we did not experience during the Cold War.

**Issue No.1138, 24 October 2014**

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While many in the military were forsaking nuclear weapons, academia and the foreign policy establishment seemingly forgot about the incredible danger posed by nuclear armed adversaries. It seemed as if the fact that a nuclear weapon has not been used since the end of World War II made their future non-use a fait accompli. Besides, it was much more interesting and relevant to study special operations or cyber war. Thus, much of the effort that went into ensuring that nuclear weapons were not used during the Cold War was not only forgotten, it became verboten.

Now whenever someone speaks about nuclear war they are considered either crazy, or worse, stupid. Never mind that over decades of thought and near catastrophes, many completely sane and incredibly intelligent people thought about the unthinkable. Over time great thinkers such as Bernard Brodie and Herman Kahn came to understand that the best way to ensure nuclear weapons are never used is to think hard about how to fight and win a nuclear war.

While Strategic Command is still carrying out the mission of nuclear deterrence, many in the Pentagon, the interagency, academia, and think tanks have abandoned the task like rats off a sinking ship. The surest way to irrelevance in today's foreign policy arena is to talk about nuclear weapons.

This must stop. In the current intellectual vacuum, some of the most inane conclusions have come to prominence. For example, the idea that we can think about conventional war against a nuclear armed foe without worrying about nuclear escalation. This reminds me of economics professors who hold all variables constant so they can isolate the variation of a single variable. The problem with this approach is that the real world does not allow U.S. to isolate one event from another. This also applies to conventional war with a nuclear armed opponent whether we choose to acknowledge it or not.

You cannot think about war with a nuclear power unless you consider it from the lowest crisis to the highest conflagration. When you fail to consider what would happen, you also fail to develop responses to what you failed to consider. Understanding the destructiveness of nuclear weapons, the ramifications are horrific. Imagine a conversation between the president and the secretary of defense, "Mr. President, we have some good news and we have some bad news. The good news is that we overwhelmed our enemy with our conventional supremacy and won the war. The bad news is that we lost Los Angeles."

Farfetched? Maybe. But consider what would happen if the United States were to fight a country like Russia or China. Can we guarantee how it would end? Presumably cooler heads would prevail, but what if they did not?

The world has changed since the Cold War. Missile defense is becoming a viable capability. Other technologies such as lasers are also becoming battlefield ready. Perhaps it will soon be possible to checkmate nuclear escalation at the start of hostilities, or perhaps we will defer hostilities due to the danger of escalation. The bottom line is that no answer can come if we do not first have the conversation—making it necessary for the Beltway intelligentsia to once again turn their gaze to nuclear war and the real prospects for a nuclear exchange.

*Dr. Robert S. Spalding III is a B-2 pilot and former military fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. Dr. Adam Lowther is a Research Professor at the Air Force Research Institute.*

[http://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2014/10/23/its\\_time\\_to\\_talk\\_about\\_nukes\\_again\\_107509.html](http://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2014/10/23/its_time_to_talk_about_nukes_again_107509.html)

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The Wall Street Journal – New York, NY  
OPINION/Article

## When Sub Goes Silent, Who Has Control of Its Nuclear Warheads?

By Jeremy Page  
October 24, 2014

BEIJING—China's growing fleet of nuclear-missile submarines poses a delicate question: Can a highly centralized communist system entrust a submarine commander to carry nuclear weapons far from China's shores?

Issue No.1138, 24 October 2014

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A Cold War episode illustrates the risks.

In October 1962, at the height of the Cuban missile crisis, Vasily Arkhipov was aboard a diesel-powered Soviet sub, the B-59, in the Sargasso Sea. The vessel was surrounded by U.S. ships that began dropping depth charges to force it to surface—unaware that it was carrying a nuclear torpedo, according to accounts in the National Security Archive of George Washington University.

Communication with Moscow was impossible unless it surfaced. The sub's commander wanted to launch its nuclear torpedo. Under Soviet navy protocol, he needed the agreement of Mr. Arkhipov, who had the same rank as he, and one other person on board: a Communist Party political commissar.

Mr. Arkhipov didn't agree to the launch. After a heated exchange, he persuaded his two colleagues to surface, averting an attack that many U.S. officials believe could have triggered nuclear war.

China's military, like the Soviet Union's, answers to the Communist Party and has a centralized command structure that doesn't traditionally allow its officers to make important decisions in the field. China's Second Artillery, which controls its nuclear forces, is especially cautious, storing missiles separately from warheads to ensure they can only be launched on Party-leadership orders, nuclear experts say.

On a nuclear-missile sub, or "boomer," however, warheads must be loaded on missiles and ready to launch. During the Cold War, British and American crews trained to be ready to launch within 15 minutes of receiving an order.

And subs must often go incommunicado. They usually receive messages by raising antennas just below the surface to pick up satellite or radio signals. But such contacts are kept to a minimum, as they make a submarine more vulnerable to detection. So submariners must train for scenarios in which they lose contact with headquarters, aircraft and surface ships—including during enemy attack.

That means Chinese submarine commanders, like U.S. counterparts, will have to be given far more autonomy than their peers in other parts of the military. Sub officers make decisions based on "command and control" protocols laid out for them long before they submerge.

"Submarines are really the last place of true autonomy in the military," says Cmdr. Darcy P. Davis, who did six deterrent patrols on a U.S. boomer and is now commanding officer of the USS Houston, a nuclear attack submarine based in Hawaii.

"With advanced telecommunications, everyone's up on chat," he says. "Not me. When I submerge, I understand the orders my chain of command has given me, but I make the decision on how to execute them."

U.S. protocol is secret, but naval experts say American boomers can launch missiles only if they receive launch codes from the president or a designated alternative, because the U.S. doesn't envision a nuclear attack in which it couldn't communicate with at least one of its 14 boomers.

Britain, by contrast, has a far smaller landmass and only one boomer on patrol at a time, so its boomer commanders are issued with a "letter of last resort" from the prime minister, only to be opened if all contact is lost with Britain and its allies, British officials have said publicly.

China provides very little public information about its command-and-control protocols for subs. But naval experts and officers say there is almost certain to be a political commissar on board each one, as there are on its surface ships and at its bases.

"For the nuclear submarine force, obeying the Party's orders is not an empty slogan," Rear Adm. Li Yanming, the political commissar of a submarine base in the eastern port of Qingdao, was quoted as saying in state media last year. "From generals to privates, only if they are loyal and reliable politically and ideologically can the Party and people give you this strategic weapon with confidence."

As in other parts of the Chinese military, the political commissars on subs are likely to be responsible mainly for ideological training and discipline.

**Issue No.1138, 24 October 2014**

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Still, for many foreign submariners, that raises questions about who has ultimate command in a crisis. On a Western boomer, “the commander is second only to God,” says one former NATO boomer commander. “He has much more authority than the commander of a surface ship. Personally, I can’t see how it would work having another person looking over your shoulder.”

The scenario that worries people most is that a rogue boomer commander—or one whose communications have been cut—could launch a missile. Another is that one could be launched through miscommunication or as the result of a power struggle back in China.

Another concern is an accident or collision would create a tense situation in which split-second decisions have to be made and each side may be unsure whether the other’s actions were hostile.

During the Cold War, U.S. and Soviet subs often came into close contact and sometimes collided, forcing their commanders to think quickly on their feet without waiting for orders from headquarters, former submariners say.

With Asian countries now buying more submarines, many of which will operate in similar areas, some U.S. naval commanders believe some kind of undersea accident is inevitable.

Rear Adm. Phillip Sawyer, commander of U.S. sub forces in the Pacific, says the U.S. manages a system through which most countries inform it of their submarine movements so that it can warn them of potential overlap—without revealing other nations’ plans. He says China isn’t included and he has no direct contact with his Chinese counterpart. “I’d like to see China take part in that system,” he says. “I equate it to air traffic control.”

Even with the best training and international coordination, events can spiral out of control in the ocean’s depths, an environment submariners often say is as hostile as outer space. Xinhua, China’s state-controlled news agency, provided rare details of conditions aboard Chinese submarines last year, saying crew members rationed drinking water and suffered from dizziness, insomnia, loss of appetite, leg pains, ulcers and low blood pressure.

“Wind and waves are basic tests,” it said. “A submariner must also be able to endure the unbearable environment of heat, humidity and noise...The air inside is fetid. Physiological and endocrine disorders are commonplace for submariners.”

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<http://online.wsj.com/articles/when-sub-goes-silent-who-has-control-of-its-nuclear-warheads-1414166741>

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## **ABOUT THE USAF CUWS**

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

The Secretary of Defense's Task Force on Nuclear Weapons Management released a report in 2008 that recommended "Air Force personnel connected to the nuclear mission be required to take a professional military education (PME) course on national, defense, and Air Force concepts for deterrence and defense." As a result, the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, in coordination with the AF/A10 and Air Force Global Strike Command, established a series of courses at Kirtland AFB to provide continuing education through the careers of those Air Force personnel working in or supporting the nuclear enterprise. This mission was transferred to the

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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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