



**USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER**  
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MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

**Issue No. 1061, 07 June 2013**

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Bloomberg Businessweek

## China Nuclear Stockpile Grows as India Matches Pakistan Rise

By Robert Wall

June 03, 2013

China, which has the world's second-largest military budget behind the U.S., expanded its nuclear-weapons arsenal last year, with India and Pakistan also bolstering their stockpiles, a research institute said.

The three added an estimated 10 warheads each to their inventories, with China's arsenal now reaching 250 devices, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said today in releasing a new yearbook. Pakistan holds 100 to 120 units and India 90 to 110, while North Korea may have as many as eight warheads with an uncertain operational status, it said.

As efforts have intensified among nuclear states to curb the proliferation of the weapons, the international focus has shifted to stopping Iran from joining the ranks. At the same time the U.S. and others are working to update even if not expand their warheads and the ability to deliver them.

"The long-term modernization programs underway in these states suggest that nuclear weapons are still a marker of international status and power," said Shannon Kile, a senior researcher at the organization. "All are making qualitative improvements."

In Iran, which the U.S. and European countries are trying to block from gaining such weapons, "we are seeing a steady expansion in the scope and also the pace of its nuclear program," Kile said.

### Shrinking Arsenal

The global nuclear weapon arsenals shrank to about 17,265 warheads at the start of the year from 19,000 a year earlier as the U.S. and Russia continue eliminating them under bilateral arms control agreements, Sipri said. Russia retains the largest inventory, with 8,500 warheads, ahead of 7,700 held by the U.S.

Russia and the U.S. have embarked on large renewal programs, Kile said. Both countries have committed to developing new long-range bombers to replace aging aircraft.

"Russia is moving to a smaller force, but a more capable force," Kile said.

The U.S., with the world's largest defense budget, is set to spend \$214 billion in the next decade on related activities, he said. "The irony is that with President Obama's Prague address in 2009 calling for the gradual elimination of nuclear weapons, in fact the U.S. is determined to retain its triad of nuclear forces for the indefinite future," Kile said in reference to the mix of long-range bombers, missiles, and submarine-launched capabilities the Pentagon maintains.

### French Nukes

China, too, is pursuing a "qualitative" improvement of its inventory, Kile said. U.S. spending, including on long-range conventional strike capabilities, is driving China to make its own missiles more mobile and harder to attack, he said.

"We have always kept our nuclear capability at the lowest level commensurate with the need for national security," China Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said at a briefing in Beijing today. "China hopes the outside world does not make groundless speculation about China's limited nuclear capability."

India is similarly working on expanding its capabilities to use nuclear weapons through new ballistic missiles in development. "With India we see the gradual expansion of its longer-range ballistic missile capabilities which are not really targeted at Pakistan but rather at China," Kile said.

The French nuclear warhead inventory, the world's third largest, remained unchanged at 300 units with the U.K. also maintaining a level stockpile at 225 devices. Israel, which has never publicly acknowledged its stockpile, is estimated to remain at 80 warheads, Sipri said.

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“There was an extraordinary number of tests of nuclear-capable launch systems conducted in 2012,” Kile said. “That really is a good indicator of the commitment of all of these countries to modernize or expand their arsenals.”

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-06-02/china-nuclear-weapons-stock-grows-as-india-matches-pakistan-rise>

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Press TV – Iran

## **Iran among Top 10 Nuclear States in World: Jalili**

Saturday, June 1, 2013

Presidential candidate Saeed Jalili says despite all pressures on Iran over its peaceful nuclear energy it has become one of the top 10 world countries in this field.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran, despite all pressures [against it] in the field of peaceful nuclear technology, is today among the top 10 countries in the world and we have made considerable progress in this field,” the Principlist candidate said Saturday on radio.

He emphasized that achievements are made through resistance

The secretary of the Supreme National Security Council said that certain Western governments asked Iran to suspend its 3.5 percent uranium enrichment activities for two years in exchange for nuclear fuel plates.

*“However, we (Iran) did the production [of fuel] ourselves and achieved progress,” Jalili stated.*

Iran decided to enrich uranium to 20-percent level to provide fuel for the Tehran Research Reactor, which produces medical isotopes for cancer patients, after potential suppliers failed to provide the Islamic Republic with the required uranium.

The US, Israel, and some of their allies have repeatedly accused Iran of pursuing non-civilian objectives in its nuclear energy program.

Tehran has categorically rejected the allegation, arguing that as a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, it is entitled to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Meanwhile, in another radio speech on Saturday, Tehran Mayor Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf said foreign policy is designed to protect national interests, stressing that this objective cannot be achieved in the absence of national unity and efficient administration.

*“We all know that foreign policy seeks to protect the country’s interests and defend our ideals and beliefs in the world but we must know that unless we have solidarity at home and a strong and efficient administration is not in power... it will be impossible for us to find any success in our foreign policy,” the Principlist candidate stated.*

Iranians will go to the polls in the country’s 11th presidential election on June 14.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/06/01/306592/iran-among-top-10-nuclear-states-jalili/>

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Times of Israel – Israel

## **Saudis, Gulf States ‘Unnerved by US Pivot Away from Middle East’**

*Obama administration seeking to calm Arab allies’ fears with arms sales and trade agreements, expert says, but that won’t be enough if Iran gets the bomb*

By Haviv Rettig Gur

June 2, 2013

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WASHINGTON – In a bid to calm regional concern that the United States is withdrawing from a troubled Middle East, the Obama administration is working to strengthen ties with several Persian Gulf states, according to experts.

Many of America's staunchest regional allies believe the Obama administration is seeking to focus less on the Middle East and its troubles and more on other regions with greater geopolitical clout, like East Asia. Several Middle Eastern countries have read American behavior — the so-called strategic "pivot" to Asia, cuts in the defense budget, and the unwillingness to intervene in Syria — as signs of growing American reluctance to shoulder the burden of regional security.

"We're seeing the Obama administration trying desperately to have it both ways. They believe we're over-invested in the Middle East and want to diminish our investment, but they're starting to understand it's terrifying to people in the region," according to Kenneth Pollack, a veteran Middle East analyst at Brookings' Saban Center for Middle East Policy.

That fear is focused on the ongoing Iranian nuclear crisis, which Israel and many Arab states view as the single greatest threat to their security.

The tensions in the region are on the rise. Saudi Arabia recently announced it has captured at least 28 members of an alleged Iranian spy ring in two waves of arrests in March and May, and Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal warned last week that the Iranian nuclear program was a "danger" to the "security of the whole region."

The UAE has also seen a ratcheting up of tension with Iran. In mid-2012, the UAE, together with the tiny island kingdom of Bahrain, reported to the UN that they were enforcing UN sanctions against Tehran more strictly.

"The fact that these two countries are now taking steps to enforce the sanctions, and reporting those steps to the UN, is remarkable by itself," a senior Security Council diplomat told UAE's The National newspaper in September 2012. "It shows that the UN sanctions regime can work. UAE has been one of Iran's enablers. Iran's becoming more isolated."

And in May, the UAE protested Iran's threats against nearby Bahrain over its crackdown on Shi'ite leaders in the tiny kingdom. UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed called the Iranian threats — in which an Iranian deputy foreign minister warned Bahrain to "expect an unexpected reaction" — "a serious problem with our neighbor."

Similarly, Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary-General Abdullatif Al-Zayani last month blasted what he called "Iranian systematic interference" in the Arab states of the area.

While tensions with Iran are on the rise, America's allies are questioning the Obama administration's desire to stay the course in the region.

"The Saudis are feeling uncertain about the future of the US-Saudi relationship, which has been a cornerstone of Saudi security since World War II," according to Pollack, who is a noted former CIA Iran analyst and a former director for Persian Gulf affairs at the National Security Council.

The concern: America's regional allies are reading clear signs of the superpower's desire to disentangle itself from the region. Despite criticism, the US has done little to affect the course of battle in the Syrian civil war. And despite repeated requests from allies like Israel and Saudi Arabia, the Obama administration has declined to order military action to curtail Iran's nuclear program, instead opting for continued diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis. Middle Eastern allies have also noted the administration's much-discussed strategic "pivot" away from what many administration officials view as the distractions of the Middle East to the more geopolitically weighty issues related to the growing influence of China.

"This administration believes that the US has over-invested in the region in the past 40 years," Pollack says. Pollack fears "the Middle East has gotten much worse because of that belief. The Saudis in particular are increasingly uncomfortable with the Obama administration's approach, and we're beginning to see the Saudis take a stronger role in their security," including strengthening ties with China.

In order to calm these fears, the US has sought heightened security and economic ties with regional allies, including a series of major arms sales and trade agreements.



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The most recent example: The State Department announced this week the signing of a US-Saudi Open Skies agreement in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. It was signed Tuesday by the US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia James B. Smith and Saudi Arabia's deputy director of the General Authority of Civil Aviation, Faisal bin Hamad Al-Sugair.

The agreement loosens government regulation and interference in air traffic between the two countries, "eliminating restrictions on how often the carriers fly, the kind of aircraft they use and the prices they charge," the State Department said in a statement. The agreement is intended to strengthen business ties between the two countries "by expanding opportunities for air services and encouraging vigorous price competition by airlines."

Meanwhile, efforts to cement the US-Saudi security relationship have reached unprecedented levels.

A State Department spokesman praised US-Saudi counterterrorism cooperation, telling a Saudi journalist in Washington this week that "Saudi Arabia has been a key counterterrorism partner and a country that we work with very closely and effectively on counterterrorism issues."

The US has also worked to upgrade regional militaries that might be called upon to counter Iran in any future crisis. In 2010, the US signed a massive \$30 billion sale of 84 F-15 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia. Last month, it announced another massive defense deal, selling 26 F-16s to the United Arab Emirates and advanced missiles to both Gulf states capable of being launched in friendly territory and penetrating with great accuracy far behind an opponent's borders.

The reported May air strikes by Israel on Syrian weapons stockpiles destined for Hezbollah were reportedly carried out using a similar maneuver.

The new sales enhance the deterrent power of the Saudi and UAE militaries, as their responses to potential Iranian aggression could include air strikes on targets far behind the front lines without the two countries' pilots having to penetrate Iranian airspace.

While the Saudis have been "concerned" about a US withdrawal from the region, these new initiatives mark "an effort by both parties to reaffirm their commitment to each other," says Pollack

But it may not be enough, Pollack fears. If the US fails to prevent Iran's attainment of a nuclear weapons capability, "the Saudis would have to reassess" their security dependence on the US.

The Saudis might opt to use the threat of launching their own nuclear weapons program – a scenario that could lead to a domino effect of nuclear proliferation in an unstable region – to obtain stronger US security guarantees.

According to Pollack, if the Obama administration's policy of prevention fails, as the Saudis and other US allies in the region now believe to be likely, the US will likely find itself drawn into far greater investment in the region.

The US may have to offer "a defense treaty where we explicitly say that an attack on the Saudis is an attack on the United States. The US would have to say that there won't be an Iranian-Saudi crisis or an Iranian-Kuwaiti crisis or an Iranian-Israeli one. Any crisis, any aggression by Iran, would create an Iranian-US crisis. That would be the best answer."

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/saudis-gulf-states-unnerved-by-us-pivot-away-from-middle-east/>

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The Times of Israel – Israel

## Israel Speeding up Development of Anti-Nuke Missile Defense

*Col. Aviram Hasson, head of the Arrow 3 project, says Israel's aerial defense program is focused on Iran's nuclear threat*

By Times of Israel staff

June 3, 2013

Israel is speeding up its development of the Arrow 3 long-range missile interception system, a military official who heads the project said Monday at a lecture in Tel Aviv.

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The Arrow 3 would be able to target incoming nuclear or conventional missiles at a higher altitude than its shorter-ranged predecessor, the Arrow 2. Col. Aviram Hasson said at the Institute for National Security Studies conference entitled “Aerial Threats in the Modern Age.”

“We’re thinking mostly about the nuclear threat,” he said. The Arrow 3’s high-altitude capability makes it an ideal counter to nuclear missiles and to minimize the threat of fallout.

Hasson described Israel’s four-layered missile defense strategy: Iron Dome, protecting against smaller, short-range threats (up to 70 kilometers); David’s Sling, covering mid-range threats (70-200 kilometers); Arrow 2, for long-range attacks; and Arrow 3, for up to 2,500 kilometers away.

Israel in November conducted its first successful interception of a target missile by the new David’s Sling missile defense system, which is expected to come online in 2014.

Current Defense Minister Moshe Ya’alon said two years ago at the Herzliya Conference that Iran was developing an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) with a range of 10,000 kilometers — capable of striking the United States.

Iran contends that its unsanctioned nuclear program is for peaceful, not military, purposes.

“We want to reach a situation in which Israel has a ready defense for any threat, present or future,” said Hasson.

*With reporting by Mitch Ginsburg.*

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-speeding-up-development-of-anti-nuke-missile-defense/>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **No Guarantees That Iranian Nuclear Program Peaceful - IAEA**

3 June 2013

VIENNA, June 3 (RIA Novosti) – Iran has not provided the International Atomic Energy Agency with sufficient information to substantiate its claim that its nuclear program is peaceful, IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano said Monday. An Iranian official in Moscow later called the allegation “unfounded.”

In his introductory speech to the IAEA Board of Governors, delivered in unusually strong language, Amano accused Iran of noncompliance with requests for information on its controversial nuclear program and for inspections of its nuclear sites.

According to the latest IAEA report on Iran, published on the agency’s website and dated February 21, 2013, the country has declared to the IAEA 16 nuclear facilities and nine locations outside facilities where nuclear material is customarily used.

“Iran is not providing the necessary cooperation to enable us to provide credible assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities. The agency therefore cannot conclude that all nuclear material in Iran is used in peaceful activities,” Amano said in his address to the 35-nation body, adding that talks with Iran “have been going around in circles.”

A spokesman for the Iranian Embassy in Moscow fired back on Monday, saying the IAEA director’s allegation was baseless.

“The production of nuclear material and the enrichment of uranium in Iran is monitored via IAEA video cameras, at all stages of production, 24 hours a day,” said Moslem Chenari, head of the Iranian Embassy’s press service. “Many of the claims [by the IAEA] lack clear evidence and are completely unfounded.”

“Iran has openly cooperated with the IAEA,” the diplomat added.

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The IAEA director general, in his speech, also accused Iran of violating IAEA and UN Security Council resolutions by boosting its reserves of enriched uranium and the number of centrifuges.

According to the IAEA report, the country has installed 12,669 centrifuges to enrich uranium at its biggest nuclear enrichment plant in Natanz as of February 19, 2013, up 2,255 since the previous report. In addition, 180 advanced centrifuges were also installed in the reported period, but are not yet operational. The number of centrifuges at another facility, Fordow, has remained constant since February last year, at 696.

The Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS), a nonprofit organization reporting on nuclear security issues, said 13,555 centrifuges were installed in Natanz as of May 15, up 886 since February.

“The number of centrifuges installed by Iran also continues to increase, as does the amount of enriched uranium it holds. These activities are in clear contravention of resolutions adopted by the [IAEA] Board of Governors and the United Nations Security Council,” Amano said.

The United Nations Security Council adopted six resolutions as part of international efforts to address Iran’s nuclear program between 2006 and 2010.

Amano also reiterated his call to Iran “to provide access to the location at the Parchin site of interest to the agency,” where the IAEA has tried in vain to get access in the past years.

The IAEA believes that a large explosives containment vessel was built at the Parchin site southeast of Tehran in 2000, and that it might be used to conduct experiments related to a nuclear weapons program. These activities are “strong indicators of possible nuclear weapon development,” the agency said. Iran maintains that the base in Parchin is a defense object and is therefore of no interest to the IAEA.

The IAEA chief told reporters later in the day that because of suspected cleanup work at Parchin, it may no longer be possible for IAEA inspectors to obtain the required data even if they were granted access. He said “massive removal of soil, asphaltting and possible dismantling of infrastructure” were spotted at the site after the agency requested access there in January 2012.

“Because of the extensive activities by Iran it may no longer be possible to find anything [at Parchin],” he said. “However, I still believe it is necessary for us to have access to the site because by visiting the site we can learn a lot of things.”

Western powers say Iran is attempting to build an atomic weapon, but Tehran insists its program has entirely peaceful purposes and has decried international pressure as unacceptable interference in its sovereign affairs.

So far, negotiations with Iran have focused largely on uranium enrichment issues. However, analysts warn that another nuclear facility – the Arak Heavy Water Production Plant – may provide Iran with weapons-grade plutonium, an alternative ingredient for a nuclear bomb.

The Islamic Republic says that Arak was designed to produce isotopes for medical and agricultural use, and that it has no intention to reprocess spent fuel from the reactor into plutonium for weapons.

Amano also mentioned Arak in his speech.

“The lack of up-to-date design information on the IR-40 Reactor at Arak is having an increasingly adverse impact on our ability to effectively verify the design of the facility and to implement an effective safeguards approach,” he said.

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20130603/181487982/No-Guarantees-That-Iranian-Nuclear-Program-Peaceful--IAEA.html>

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RT (Russia Today) – Russia

## **US Discloses Israel's Top-Secret Military Base Outraging Tel-Aviv**



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June 4, 2012

The US government has inadvertently revealed the details of a top-secret Israeli missile base in published bid requests, leaving military officials in Tel-Aviv in the state of shock.

Israel has turned to the US government with its plans to build a state-of-the-art facility to host the new ballistic-missile defense system, the Arrow 3, McClatchy's Washington Bureau reports.

In accordance with its usual procedure, the US Defense Department has published the details of the \$25 million project on a federal business opportunities website so that contractors could bid on it.

Over 1,000 pages of specifications included a thorough description of the future base from the depth of the underground complex to building materials to be used in construction.

The information on the facility at Tel Shahar is classified in Israel, with the local military even refusing to officially confirm its location between the cities of Jerusalem and Ashdod.

*"If an enemy of Israel wanted to launch an attack against a facility, this would give him an easy how-to guide. This type of information is closely guarded and its release can jeopardize the entire facility," an unnamed Israeli military official commented, refusing to say if the plans for the base will be altered as a result of the disclosure.*

*"This is more than worrying, it's shocking," he added.*

According to the bid requests, the Arrow 3 system will include six interceptor missiles in vertical launch positions to be placed at the base, with a gantry crane to be erected for further missiles.

High-grade concrete reinforced with steel mesh grids will be used to build the structures encasing the interceptor system, which will have steel blast doors and a system to protect electrical wiring from the pressure during the launch.

The Arrow 3 is a defense system designed to intercept ballistic missiles outside the Earth's atmosphere. It's expected to become operational in 2015-16 to tackle possible threats from the alleged nuclear weapon program of neighboring Iran.

*"We're thinking mostly about the nuclear threat," Col. Aviram Hasson, who heads the Arrow 3 project, is cited as saying by UPI.com. "We want to reach a situation in which Israel has a ready defense for any threat, present or future."*

Earlier, the head of the bidding process at Israel's Defense Ministry, Lt. Col. Peleg Zeevi, told Reuters that the project was given to the Americans as the IDF needed "a player that has the knowledge, ability and experience" in the field.

Since 1998, the US had built military facilities worth \$500 million for the Israeli army, which, according to Zeevi, was "aware of the security issues that arise in deals with foreign firms." But it seems that the scale of the disclosure of a top-secret facility was too much to handle for the Israeli officials.

<http://rt.com/news/israel-secret-base-us-232/>

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The Windsor Star – Windsor, Ontario, Canada

## **Putin Says Russia Hasn't Sent S-300 Air Defence Missile Systems to Syria yet**

By Vladimir Isachenkov, Associated Press

June 04, 2012

MOSCOW - President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday that Russia hasn't yet fulfilled a contract to send sophisticated S-300 air defence missile systems to Syria to avoid tilting the balance of power in the region.

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Russian officials have acknowledged that Moscow signed a deal for the delivery of the powerful missiles a few years ago, but have been coy about whether any of them have been delivered.

Syrian President Bashar Assad told the Lebanese TV station Al-Manar last week that Russia has fulfilled some of its weapons contracts recently, but he was vague on whether this included the advanced S-300s. Israel's defence minister told a parliamentary committee Monday that according to "Russian talk," the weapon has not yet been delivered.

Speaking after a Russia-European Union summit in the Ural Mountains city of Yekaterinburg, Putin defended the S-300 deal, saying it complies with the international law, but added that Russia hasn't yet fulfilled it.

"It's perhaps the best such weapon in the world," Putin said at a news conference. "It's indeed a serious weapon. We don't want to throw the region off balance."

"The contract has been signed a few years ago. It hasn't been fulfilled yet," Putin said.

The U.S. and Israel have warned Russia against delivering the missiles, which would dramatically increase Syria's air defence potential. Israel has carried out several airstrikes in Syria in recent months that are believed to have destroyed weapons shipments bound for Hezbollah militants in Lebanon.

Britain's U.N. ambassador, Mark Lyall Grant, asked about Putin's announcement at a news conference Tuesday at U.N. headquarters in New York, said: "We would certainly urge Russia not to supply these weapons to the Syrian regime."

The S-300 missile system, which has a range of up to 200 kilometres (125 miles) and the capability to track down and strike multiple targets simultaneously, could significantly limit the Israeli air force's ability to act. Israel has threatened to attack the missiles if they are delivered.

Russia has been a key supporter of Assad, protecting his regime from U.N. sanctions and providing it with weapons, despite the two-year civil war in which more than 70,000 people have been killed.

Putin on Tuesday also criticized the EU's decision to lift its weapons embargo for Syrian rebels, saying that Russia was "disappointed" by the move, which he said ran contrary to international law.

He said that Russia would continue to push for a peace conference on Syria, but added that the prospects for convening it have been clouded by the "lack of goodwill on behalf of the armed opposition."

*Edith M. Lederer contributed to this story from the United Nations.*

<http://www.windsorstar.com/technology/Putin+says+Russia+hasnt+sent+S300+defence+missile+systems+Syria/8475399/story.html>

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Xinhua News – China

## **French FM Says All Options on Table after Sarin Use in Syria**

June 5, 2013

PARIS, June 4 (Xinhua) -- France has "no doubt" that the Syrian regime had used the deadly nerve agent sarin in conflicts with rebels and "all options are on the table" to end the conflicts in the violence-torn country including military actions, Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said Tuesday.

"There is no doubt that it was the regime and its accomplices because we are aware of the entire chain from when the attack took place, to when the people were killed and when the sample was taken," Fabius said.

In an interview with the state-run TV channel France 2, the French top diplomat stressed that Syrian officials have "undoubtedly" crossed a "red line" and that France, the United States and Britain were discussing how to react.



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"All options are on the table. That means either we decide not to react or we decide to react including by armed actions targeting the place where the gas is stored," the minister said.

France was testing samples of suspected chemical weapon elements used against Syrian rebel fighters and which were obtained by reporters with Le Monde newspaper.

In a separate statement, Fabius unveiled that the analysis showed that "the sarin gas was used in Syria several times and with localized manner."

Earlier on Tuesday, the United Nation also said there are "reasonable grounds" to believe that chemical agents have been used as weapons in Syria, citing a report of the International Commission of Inquiry on Syria as the source.

The UN report said that Syrian government possessed a number of chemical weapons, while "it is possible" that anti-government armed groups may access and use chemical weapons as well. "In some instances, anti-government armed groups have also employed this tactic," said the report, while indicating that further investigation is undergoing.

As to the United States, President Barrack Obama has previously declared that the use of chemical weapons would "change the rule of the game," while hitting the "red line" would make it possible for forceful U.S. intervention in Syria.

French radio RTL noted in its report on Tuesday that the White House has said more evidence is needed to formally establish that sarin gas had been used in Syria although the French authorities had expressed their "certainty" in the matter.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-06/05/c\\_124811852.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-06/05/c_124811852.htm)

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The Oman Tribune – Muscat, Oman  
Wednesday, June 5, 2013

## **8 Iran Presidential Hopefuls Vow to Go Ahead with N-Plans**

By Agencies

Teheran The eight candidates standing for president this month may differ on several issues, but when it comes to Iran's nuclear drive they are united in pursuing what they see as its peaceful atomic ambitions.

Whoever is elected president on June 14 to succeed Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the Islamic republic is unlikely to alter the course of its controversial programme of uranium enrichment.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei takes the key decisions in Iran, including on the nuclear issue.

"Definitely the result of the presidential election will not have any influence on the nuclear issue," the country's atomic chief Fereydoun Abbasi Davani has said.

The presidential hopefuls -- including Iran's top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili -- have all insisted that the nuclear project will proceed.

"Regardless of who is elected president in June, uranium enrichment activities will be pursued without fear against the enemy," Jalili said. "The president must demonstrate this in a practical manner to the supreme leader," Jalili, who has been negotiating with world powers on the issue since October 2007, said on his campaign website.

Sanctions have devalued the Iranian rial by around 70 per cent and sent inflation soaring above 30 per cent, economic woes that formed the crux of a Friday televised presidential debate between the candidates.

None of them appeared to have any clear solution.

On Friday, US Secretary of State John Kerry said the election would be unlikely to change Teheran's nuclear policy. "I do not have high expectations that the election is going to change the fundamental calculus of Iran," he said.

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On Sunday, French President Francois Hollande said there was an “urgent and imperative need to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons”.

Presidential candidate and former foreign minister Ali Akbar Velayati believes the controversy can be resolved “without giving up nuclear technology”.

“The supreme leader said he is committed to keeping nuclear technology, and whoever becomes president should carry out this policy,” said Velayati, who advises Khamenei on international affairs.

Another candidate, Hassan Rowhani who was chief nuclear negotiator under reformist ex-president Mohammad Khatami, has asserted that “enrichment is our legitimate right”.

Security forces, meanwhile, arrested several supporters of Rowhani after pictures of detained opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi were displayed at a meeting, websites reported.

Opposition website Kaleme.com reported seven arrests of participants in a ceremony in the Jamaran mosque in northern Teheran on Saturday, with relatives saying “they were taken to Teheran’s Evin prison”.

<http://www.omantribune.com/index.php?page=news&id=145471&heading=Middle%20East>

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Business Insider

## **US: Russian Warships in the Mediterranean Are Resupplying the Syrian Regime**

Michael Kelley

June 6, 2013

U.S. intelligence agencies believe three Russian amphibious warships in the eastern Mediterranean are carrying weapons shipments to resupply the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, a Pentagon official told Barbara Starr of CNN.

The Kremlin recently upped the ante off the coast of Syria by sending sent its only aircraft carrier to join its Pacific Fleet — which entered the Mediterranean waters for the first time since the Cold War in May — and sent six warships from its Black Sea Fleet.

"The Russian Defense Ministry started setting up a special force of warships in the Mediterranean in order to protect Russia's interests in the region," Syria's state-run news agency reported last month, citing a spokesman for Russia defense ministry.

From CNN:

U.S. satellites were able to see some indications of containers being loaded onto the ships. Although it's not confirmed, it's believed the ships may be carrying some components of the controversial Russian S-300 air defense missile system and other weapons for the regime.

In December Michael Weiss, co-chair of the London-based foreign policy think tank Russian Studies Center, told U.S. News & World Report that **the presence of the navy ships has three purposes**: Russia wants to run weapons and materiel into Syria, take Russian nationals out of the country, and send a signal to the U.S. that it still backs Assad.

During the 26-month Syrian conflict Russia has provided the embattled leader with supplies including guns, grenades, tank parts, fighter jets, advanced antiship cruise missiles, long-range air defense missiles, military officers as advisors, diplomatic cover, and lots of cash.

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The U.S. hasn't been sitting idly by, as seen by the decision to place a Patriot missile defense system and personnel in Jordan (meaning there are Patriot missiles on Syria's northern and southern borders) after Russia said it would send S-300 missile batteries to Syria.

In November the U.S. began to increase the American military presence in the east Mediterranean, and Starr notes that "the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower will also be in the region [this month] on a scheduled rotation as it returns to its home port on the East Coast."

<http://www.businessinsider.com/us-russian-warships-are-resupplying-assad-2013-6>

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Bloomberg News

## **Iran Open to Plutonium Checks as IAEA Defers Action to September**

By Jonathan Tirone

June 6, 2013

Iran encouraged United Nations nuclear monitors to use powerful new detection technologies to dispel international concern that the Persian Gulf country is seeking to build atomic weapons.

The International Atomic Energy Agency's 35-member board of governors will conclude its quarterly meeting today in Vienna without raising pressure on Iran. World powers reiterated their concerns in a statement about Iran's nuclear program while highlighting "deep concern" about the planned startup of a plutonium-producing reactor next year.

"We always welcome the agency to have more sophisticated equipment, to have more accuracy in their measurements, so that technical matters will not be politicized," Iranian envoy Ali Asghar Soltanieh said late yesterday in Vienna. The Islamic republic won't object to IAEA monitors using new technologies to determine whether plutonium is being extracted from spent fuel at its new reactor in Arak.

Detecting noble gas traces left by plutonium production is as old as the nuclear age itself. During the Cold War, the U.S. used planes and measuring stations to look for Krypton-85, the isotopes released when spent-uranium fuel is reprocessed for atomic-bomb material. Today, Krypton-85 and other gas traces are monitored by a network run by the UN's nuclear-test-ban treaty organization.

While Iran says it has no intention of extracting plutonium from fuel, the IAEA reiterated in a report last month that they can verify Iran's claim "only with respect" to the sites inspectors' visit. The agency, entering the second decade of its Iranian investigation, has information showing Iran may be hiding "military dimensions" to its atomic program.

### **Plutonium Path**

"What the reactor does is create what is referred to as a plutonium path to potential weapons-grade material for a nuclear device," U.S. IAEA envoy Joseph Macmanus said yesterday in Vienna. Iran already possess the ability to pursue a separate path toward nuclear weapons by enriching uranium.

The IAEA currently doesn't look for noble gas traces that would indicate plutonium production in Iran or elsewhere. The agency considers detection techniques to be "novel technologies" that are being looked into, according to its 82-page Safeguards Implementation Report published this week.

While the agency hasn't yet tried to bolster its conclusions on plutonium processing in Iran, inspectors may begin to request noble gas data, a senior international official with knowledge of the investigation said. The official requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.

Iran's Arak reactor will begin testing in the fourth quarter and be loaded with nuclear fuel in the first quarter of 2014. When operational, it will produce enough plutonium to produce two nuclear bombs a year, according to the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security.



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"I don't think the U.S. has determined what the best next step would be," Macmanus said, responding to whether a fifth Security Council report would be sought among IAEA members. "I think we have dealt with this issue and will continue to in an incremental fashion. We'll be back here in September."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-06-06/iran-open-to-plutonium-checks-as-iaea-defers-action-to-september.html>

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Washington Times

## **New U.S. Bunker Bombs Take Out Replica Underground Nuclear Site**

By Cheryl K. Chumley, The Washington Times

Friday, June 7, 2013

The Pentagon has successfully destroyed a replica of an underground nuclear facility using advanced bunker-buster bombs, military officials said Friday.

The underground bombing was part of a series of military field exercises, and U.S. officials said it went better than expected, Ynet News reported.

U.S. officials spread the good news among friendly nations, Ynet reported, as a means of reassuring them about America's ability to take out Iran's nuclear technology, if needed.

The experiment used bunker-buster bombs that were developed in July 2012 by Defense Department experts, Ynet reported. The test involved dropping a GBU-57B bomb from a B-2 bomber to see if it could penetrate the concrete ceilings of the underground site.

The cost to manufacture each bomb is about \$3.5 million. The cost of the new weapon technology — which is six times larger than any other existing bunker buster — was \$500 million, Ynet reported. It weighs 13 tons and is twice as fast as the speed of sound, Ynet reported.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/jun/7/new-us-bunker-bombs-take-out-replica-underground-n/>

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Asahi Shimbun – Japan

## **Japan, U.S., S. Korea Reaffirm Cooperation against N. Korea**

June 02, 2013

By KOJI SONODA, Staff Writer

SINGAPORE--Defense ministers of Japan, U.S. and South Korea remained wary as they reaffirmed their trilateral cooperation against North Korea, which has been showing signs of moving toward dialogue and scaling back its provocative activities.

Japanese Minister of Defense Itsunori Onodera, U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and South Korea Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin, who were participating in the Asia Security Summit, sponsored by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies and supported by The Asahi Shimbun, met on the sidelines on June 1. In a joint statement following their meeting, the three ministers affirmed that they will continue their collaboration to deter North Korean threats of nuclear and missile development and further provocative acts.

In their joint statement, the three defense ministers said that North Korea's nuclear and missile program and continued acts of provocation, including launching a long-range ballistic missile in December 2012 and conducting a nuclear test in February, pose serious threats to undermining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, in the region and around the world.

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In the statement, the three ministers strongly called on North Korea to comply with the U.N. Security Council mandate to abandon all nuclear weapons and programs. They also supported the council's expressed determination to take further significant measures in the event of an additional North Korean missile launch or nuclear test.

They also reaffirmed the importance of trilateral cooperation, based on common values and shared security interests, and their nations' cooperative efforts to work toward peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and around the globe.

In the statement, the three ministers also expressed their agreement to expand mutual efforts in counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief cooperation, in search-and-rescue exercises and in counter-proliferation efforts.

The trilateral meeting of the defense ministers marked their first in three years. Amid the stagnated relationship between Japan and South Korea over the row over the Takeshima islets and so-called historical issues, the United States had acted as an intermediary to coordinate the meeting.

After the meeting Onodera told reporters that Japan and South Korea agreed to continue discussing the proposed General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), a bilateral agreement that would have a significant impact on their coordinated response to North Korea.

Onodera and Hagel also met with Australian Minister for Defense Stephen Smith on the sidelines of the summit on June 1.

In a joint statement following the meeting, the three outlined strategic goals for trilateral cooperation. Keeping in mind China's maritime expansion moves in the East and South China Sea, which are causing disputes in the region, the goals include: building a "community of interest" in the Asia-Pacific region that promotes peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law and that establishes defense cooperation as a regional norm; promoting freedom of navigation and maritime security in the region's sea lanes; and other international rights.

[http://ajw.asahi.com/article/asia/korean\\_peninsula/AJ201306020021](http://ajw.asahi.com/article/asia/korean_peninsula/AJ201306020021)

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The Economic Times – India

## **China Maintains No-First-Use Nuclear Pledge: Lieutenant General Qi Jianguo**

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

June 2, 2013

SINGAPORE: China is maintaining its pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons in a conflict, a top Chinese general said Sunday.

Omission of the "no-first-use" pledge in a recently released defence white paper had created ripples in military circles and sparked speculation that China may have dropped the policy.

"I want to make a solemn statement that the Chinese government will never discard our pledge of no first-use of nuclear arms," Lieutenant General Qi Jianguo told the Shangri-La Dialogue security forum in Singapore.

"We have been sticking to this policy for half a century, and its facts have proven that it is not only in the interest of the Chinese people but also of the people of all the world."

Qi, deputy chief of the general staff of the People's Liberation Army, was queried about the omission after giving a speech at the two-day conference that ended Sunday.

He said the white paper released in April did not go into details which was why the pledge was not explicitly mentioned.

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Qi however said that a portion in the paper referring to the tasks of the Second Artillery Corps, China's strategic missile force, referred to the no-first-use pledge.

"I want to clarify that," he said.

After testing its first nuclear weapon in 1964, China promised to never be the first one to use atomic weapons.

China does not disclose the size of its nuclear arsenal, but the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said the rising world power had an arsenal of about 200 operational nuclear weapons for delivery mainly by ballistic missiles.

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-06-02/news/39690999\\_1\\_pledge-top-chinese-general-no-first-use](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-06-02/news/39690999_1_pledge-top-chinese-general-no-first-use)

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Chosun Ilbo – South Korea

June 3, 2013

## **U.S. to Bolster Missile Defense Against N.Korea**

U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has vowed to bolster U.S. missile defense and thwart any attempts by North Korea to attack American soil.

Hagel said the U.S. will "not sit idly by" as North Korea tries to develop nuclear-tipped missiles capable of reaching the continental U.S. He vowed to take "all necessary steps" to create a missile defense system in the Pacific that can protect the U.S. mainland and its allies.

Hagel made the comments at the Shangri La Dialogue in Singapore on Saturday. He urged other countries to join efforts to deal with North Korea's missile threat and added Washington, Seoul and Tokyo are working closely to bolster their defenses.

The new defense secretary said cooperation between the U.S. and China is necessary for a peaceful resolution to the North Korean nuclear crisis.

He pledged cuts in U.S. defense spending will not impact policies that center on Asia and tried to calm nerves by saying 60 percent of U.S. troops stationed overseas, including tactical bombers and aircraft, are based in the Asia-Pacific region.

[http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2013/06/03/2013060301636.html](http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2013/06/03/2013060301636.html)

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AsiaOne News.com – Singapore

## **Don't Make Wild Guesses about China's Limited Nuclear Capacity**

By China Daily/Asia News Network

Tuesday, June 04, 2013

Beijing hopes the outside world will not make wild guesses about China's limited nuclear capacity, and believes that countries with the largest nuclear arsenals should bear the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei told reporters at a daily news briefing on Monday.

He was speaking in response to a newly released report from a Sweden-based think tank, which stated that China has added 10 nuclear warheads to its stockpile, bringing its total to 250.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute released the report on Monday, saying China, India and Pakistan had increased their nuclear arsenals over the past year.

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Pakistan has added about 10 warheads for a total of between 100 and 120, and India has increased its supply by about 10 for a total of 90 to 110, the institute said.

Observers said the report only demonstrates academic research and cannot be seen as an authorized source for judging a country's nuclear capability.

Hong said China's nuclear weapons are firmly committed to self-defense, and China has never used such weapons to threaten other countries.

"China has never deployed nuclear weapons in other countries, and China does not participate in any form of the nuclear arms race and has always kept its nuclear capabilities at the minimum level required for national security."

China's nuclear policy is one of the most transparent of all the nuclear powers, and the country has continuously supported and advocated the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons, he added.

China consistently upholds that it will never be the first to use nuclear weapons under any circumstances, and unconditionally promises not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states or nuclear-weapon-free zones, he said.

According to the SIPRI report, only Russia and the United States have reduced their warheads. Russia cut its number from 10,000 to 8,500, and the number of nuclear warheads from the United States decreased from 8,000 to 7,700.

The number of warheads in France, the United Kingdom and Israel remained at the same level as the previous year, with 300 in France, 225 in the UK and 80 in Israel.

The institute acknowledged that the figures were to a large extent estimates due to different levels of transparency by the nuclear powers.

The figures in SIPRI's report cannot reflect the level of nuclear power of a country, because the sources for the study lack authority, said Li Qinggong, deputy secretary-general of the China Council for National Security Policy Studies.

He said just having a large number of nuclear warheads does not mean a high level of nuclear power, as it also depends on how modern the country's nuclear-related technologies are.

The report can be a reference for researchers, but the figures cannot be confirmed by the governments involved, said Zhai Dequan, deputy secretary-general of the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association.

Although the report showed that the global total of warheads was down, it did not mean a significantly diminished nuclear threat, Shannon Kile, SIPRI Senior Researcher, told AFP.

<http://www.asiaone.com/News/AsiaOne%2BNews/Asia/Story/A1Story20130604-427263.html>

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Yonhap News Agency – South Korea

June 4, 2013

## **S. Korea, U.S. Fail to Bridge Gaps on Reprocessing, Uranium Enrichment**

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States failed Tuesday to narrow differences on whether Washington would allow Seoul to enrich uranium and reprocess spent nuclear fuel for the South's civil nuclear energy program, a senior Seoul official said.

The official at Seoul's foreign ministry, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, made the remarks as the allies wrapped up two days of talks in Seoul aimed at revising a bilateral nuclear accord.

The agreement, last revised in 1974, bans Seoul from reprocessing spent fuel because it could yield plutonium that could be used to build atomic bombs.



Seoul wants Washington to allow it to use a proliferation-resistant technology for enriching uranium and reprocessing spent atomic fuel, but Washington has been reluctant to do so apparently because of proliferation concerns.

"We did not narrow differences on key issues," the official said, adding that the two nations still remained far apart, despite Seoul's bid to win U.S. permission to enrich uranium and reprocess spent nuclear fuel.

This week's talks, led by Ambassador Park Ro-byung, Seoul's chief negotiator, and Thomas Countryman, U.S. assistant secretary for international security and non-proliferation, were first of their kind since the allies agreed in late April to extend the current agreement by two more years until March 2016.

South Korea and the U.S. will hold another round of negotiations in September in Washington, the official said.

"We will continue to make efforts to persuade the U.S. side to revise the agreement in an advanced and mutually beneficial manner," the official said.

In the face of growing nuclear waste stockpiles and its ambition to become a global power in the civilian nuclear industry, South Korea hopes to adopt the so-called pyroprocessing technology, which leaves separated plutonium, the main ingredient in making atomic bombs, mixed with other elements.

South Korea wants the U.S. to allow it to use the new technology because it has to deal with more than 10,000 tons of nuclear waste at storage facilities that are expected to reach capacity by 2016.

Some nonproliferation experts say pyroprocessing is not significantly different from reprocessing, and the plutonium could quickly be turned into weapons-grade material.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2013/06/04/1/0301000000AEN20130604007700315F.HTML>

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The Japan Times – Japan

## **North Korea 'Close to Reactor Restart'**

*Pyongyang may be one to two months from reactivation*

Associate Press (AP), Bloomberg News

June 5, 2013

WASHINGTON – North Korea may be just one to two months away from following through on its threat to restart a plutonium reactor that can produce fissile material for nuclear bombs, a U.S. research institute said Monday.

But the North's ability to put the 5-megawatt reactor back to work will depend on the availability of fresh fuel rods to power it, and that remains uncertain.

The U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies is basing its conclusions on analysis of commercial satellite images, the latest taken May 22.

North Korea announced it plans to restart the reactor at Yongbyon in early April, amid a litany of threats toward the U.S. and South Korea after it faced tougher international censure over its latest nuclear and rocket tests. The reactor was shuttered in 2007 under the terms of a disarmament agreement.

South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok told reporters in Seoul on Tuesday that the one-to-two month forecast for restarting the reactor was "a bit too early," adding the military continued to monitor the Yongbyon site with help from the United States.

Threats by the North have subsided in recent weeks, and under pressure from ally China, Pyongyang has said it is willing to restart international negotiations but has not recommitted to a previous goal of abandoning atomic weapons. It's among the issues expected to be taken up by President Barack Obama and China's leader, Xi Jinping, when they hold a summit in California later this week.



“North Korea may not be testing long-range missiles or nuclear weapons right now but its WMD program is moving ahead,” said former State Department official Joel Wit, who is editor of the institute’s website, 38 North. The abbreviation WMD stands for weapons of mass destruction.

“The purpose of restarting the 5-megawatt reactor is crystal clear: the production of more plutonium for more bombs,” Wit said.

An analysis being published by 38 North says a new system to provide cooling for the reactor appears almost finished, and two underground water tanks are now in place next to a building that would hold spent fuel. External activity suggests that work is continuing inside the reactor building.

North Korea is believed to have a supply of fuel rods, but many of them may need adapting for use in the reactor, making it uncertain whether the North is indeed in a position to restart the reactor. Once the reactor is up and running, it is capable of producing 6 kg of plutonium a year — enough for one or two bombs.

Analysts now put the North’s arsenal at four to eight plutonium bombs. They also suspect it is making fuel for uranium bombs, but they don’t know how much.

The North has conducted three underground nuclear tests since 2006.

It is believed to seek the capability to target the United States, but experts say it probably has yet to miniaturize a nuclear warhead to mount on a long-range missile, and still also has a ways to go before it has a missile that can target mainland America.

[http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/06/05/asia-pacific/north-korea-close-to-reactor-restart/#.Ua\\_TfZQo5Dx](http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/06/05/asia-pacific/north-korea-close-to-reactor-restart/#.Ua_TfZQo5Dx)

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The Korea Times – South Korea

June 5, 2013

## **S. Korea, China Oppose Nuclear-Armed N. Korea**

South Korean and Chinese military leaders called for denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula during their bilateral talks, Seoul officials said Wednesday, delivering a stark message to North Korea regarding its nuclear programs.

South Korean JCS Chairman Gen. Jung Seung-jo visited China for a two-day trip to push for stronger military ties as part of efforts to set the tone before South Korean President Park Geun-hye and China's leader Xi Jinping have their first meeting later this month.

On the second day of his two-day visit to China, Jung met Chinese counterpart Fan Changlong, the vice chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission, to discuss the current security situation on the peninsula.

During the closed meeting, Jung said North Korea's development of nuclear weapons is a grave threat to the regional stability, and Fan agreed with the need to make the communist nation surrender its nuclear weapons, according to JCS officials who attended the meeting.

Jung also delivered a personal letter from South Korean Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin to the Chinese official, they noted.

"They also reached an agreement to expand defense cooperation and person-to-person exchanges that level to the strategic cooperative relationship," a JCS official said.

The Chinese official met North Korean Vice Marshal Choe Ryong-hae when he visited China last month as Pyongyang's chief envoy as part of Pyongyang's efforts to mend ties with its long-lasting ally.

Their meeting took place amid high tensions on the Korean Peninsula following the communist nation's nuclear test in February and their saber-rattling rhetoric against Seoul and Washington in recent months.



According to China's official Xinhua News Agency, Fan told Choe that his country is willing to work with all sides to reduce regional tension through dialogue.

During a bilateral defense meeting on Tuesday, Gen. Fang Fenghui, chairman of the People's Liberation Army General Staff, also stressed denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula for regional peace and stability in Northeast Asia, officials said, which suggests his opposition to Pyongyang's nuclear program.

China, North Korea's longtime ally and financial supporter, has been under intense pressure from Washington to push Pyongyang into lowering tensions and resuming disarmament talks involving regional players.

The six-party talks - involving the United States, Japan, Russia, China and the two Koreas - have been on hold for more than four years.

After the Beijing meeting, Jung flew to the eastern port city of Qingdao to visit China's North Sea Fleet, which is responsible for waters surrounding the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

Jung visited the operation divisions of the fleet's headquarters where a hotline directly connects the South Korean Navy's Second Fleet. It is the first time Chinese authorities disclosed the inside of the fleet's operation division to a South Korean JCS Chairman, which officials cite as evidence of close relations.

The two nations set up direct telephone lines between their navies and air forces in 2008 to help prevent accidental clashes at sea and in the air, and working-level consultations are currently underway to set up a hotline between defense chiefs within the year.

During the bilateral meeting, South Korean JCS Chairman and his Chinese counterpart agreed to add a telephone line for closer communication between armed forces.

All nuclear submarines are concentrated in the northern fleet, and China's first aircraft carrier Liaoning has been deployed there since February.

The fleet has strategic importance as it is known to carry out reconnaissance and submarine drills when South Korea and the United States jointly conducting naval training in the Yellow Sea.

The Yellow Sea is the scene of several deadly naval skirmishes with North Korea, and minor clashes between South Korean authorities and Chinese fishermen in past years. (Yonhap)

[http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2013/06/116\\_137008.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2013/06/116_137008.html)

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Yonhap News Agency – South Korea  
June 7, 2013

## **Park Says S. Korea's Strong Defense Capabilities Led to N. Korea's Dialogue Proposal**

SEOUL, June 7 (Yonhap) -- South Korean President Park Geun-hye called Friday for strong defense capabilities, saying North Korea's recent proposal of official inter-Korean talks is the product of Seoul maintaining firm deterrence against Pyongyang's threats and provocations.

Park made the remark during a lunch meeting with top military commanders, a day after North Korea made a surprise offer to hold government-level talks with the South in a dramatic about-face by a regime that has made near-daily war threats for several months while refusing any official talks with Seoul.

"Yesterday, North Korea proposed inter-Korean government-to-government talks that it has opposed so far," Park said during the meeting. "This was possible because of all the hard work of our troops and commanders who have maintained a firm security posture."



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Park reiterated that she is ready to push actively for her "Korean Peninsula trust process" policy, a vision that calls for dialogue and exchanges with the communist nation so as to build trust and reduce tensions, if Pyongyang gives up its nuclear programs.

"I shared the view of this with President Barack Obama during the Korea-U.S. summit and if I visit China late this month, I will discuss this with President Xi Jinping too," she said.

Park said the most basic element for the trustpolitik is "strong national defense capabilities."

"If national security is shaken, neither dialogue nor peace can stand, just like we cannot build buildings on a shaking foundation," she said. "Only when we have perfect military readiness and deterrence against North Korea can we make the North not dare think of provocations, and induce a genuine change."

South Korea has immediately accepted the North's dialogue offer and proposed to hold a Cabinet minister-level meeting in Seoul next Wednesday. But on Friday, Pyongyang made a counter-proposal that the sides hold working-level talks first before a Cabinet-level meeting.

Pyongyang's surprise offer came the day before Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in the U.S. for a two-day summit with U.S. President Barack Obama, where North Korea is expected to be a key topic. Analysts say Pyongyang could be trying to project a softer image ahead of the meeting.

"Through government-level talks, we hope to build the groundwork for trust and set inter-Korean relations in a desirable direction," senior presidential press secretary Lee Jung-hyun told reporters.

The South's suggestion of Seoul as the venue for the possible meeting raised speculation that North Korean officials could pay a visit to President Park Geun-hye if the proposed talks take place. But Lee declined to comment on such a possibility.

The North's dialogue offer was seen as a victory for Park's "trust process" policy. Under the policy, she has pledged to stick to the principle of dealing sternly with North Korean threats and provocations while at the same time leaving the door open for dialogue.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2013/06/07/60/0401000000AEN20130607002051315F.HTML>

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The News International – Pakistan

## **US Appreciates Pakistan for Nuclear Safety Steps**

By Wajid Ali Syed

Saturday, June 01, 2013

WASHINGTON: Officials from the Pakistan-US Security, Strategic Stability, and Non-proliferation (SSS&NP) Working Group concluded their fifth round of talks here on Friday.

The Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations Ambassador Zamir Akram who is leading the delegation, met with Acting Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Rose Gottemoeller. The delegation briefed the US on the steps to promote nuclear security in the region.

According to the joint statement issued by the Pak Embassy in Washington, the delegations had a "cordial and productive exchange of views on issues of mutual importance, including international efforts to enhance nuclear security and peaceful applications of nuclear energy."

The statement repeats the same lines from last year's meeting in Pakistan: "The participants also shared views on nonproliferation challenges, as well as on the multilateral regimes on chemical and biological weapons, export controls, and the importance of regional stability and security."

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An embassy official who asked not to be named told The News that the US team appreciated the steps taken by Pakistan for nuclear security and declared that the steps “meet the highest standards.” The meeting also highlighted “the export control measures undertaken by the government of Pakistan, certainly regarding the non-proliferation,” the official said, adding, Pakistan also briefed the State Department on Confidence Building Measures (CBM) vis a vis India.

The meeting was part of an ongoing series of senior level engagements between the United States and Pakistan on a range of issues related to the bilateral relationship. The next meeting will be held in Islamabad by the end of this year. These working groups were initiated as part of the strategic dialogue on various issues between the two countries. The groups were interrupted a few times in the past due to soured relations.

According to a source familiar with the meeting procedures of the SSS&NP, Pakistan usually also furnishes its demands to maintain the supplies of its military equipment. Lately, the US has been pushing for conclusive actions against terrorist groups operating along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-23224-US-appreciates-Pakistan-for-nuclear-safety-steps>

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The Hindu – India

## **Long-Range SAMs, Cruise Missiles for All Platforms: Avinash Chander**

*DRDO seeks inter alia to achieve a self-reliance of more than 70%*

HYDERABAD, June 3, 2013

By Y. Mallikarjun

Achieving a self-reliance of more than 70 per cent, equipping ballistic missiles with multiple and manoeuvrable re-entry warheads, developing long-range surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) and long-range cruise missiles that could be launched from land, air and sea, are among the major thrust areas of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the coming years.

Stating this in an interview with *The Hindu* here on Sunday, Avinash Chander, DRDO’s new Director-General and Scientific Advisor to Defence Minister, expressed confidence that Tejas Light Combat Aircraft would achieve final clearance for induction by 2014 end. Besides LCA, the induction of long-range surface-to-surface ballistic missiles — Agni-IV and Agni-V — in two years was top on the agenda.

### **‘Ambience just right’**

Mr. Avinash said that DRDO was rightly poised to convert its technological potential into momentum for delivery of weapons. The ambience was just right to ensure that a higher than 70 per cent self-reliance was achieved. “This should happen in the next few years,” he added.

Referring to the schedule for induction of LCA, he said: “It is a major challenge and we are gearing up for it. From today, we have to do 40 flights per month.” He also cited the Ballistic Missile Defence programme, Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile, Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile projects taken up with Israeli collaboration and air-to-air Astra missile as the other important focus areas.

### **‘Product-oriented’**

Declaring that DRDO was transforming itself from a mere design agency into a product-oriented organisation, he said it was simultaneously getting ready for new higher end technological challenges. Developing manoeuvring warheads was vital for future strategic deterrence capability. The aim was to reach world-class capabilities in various fields, including having ballistic missiles with manoeuvring warheads and long range cruise missiles for all platforms.

The other thrust areas would be the development of the fifth generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft, unmanned combat aerial vehicle, solar-powered higher range Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, short-range quick reaction SAMs and high-precision warheads that could be launched from aircraft or missiles.



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## Vying with the best

Mr. Avinash said DRDO would like to compete with the best in the world and develop long-range SAMs of 300 km range and air-to-air missiles with more than 100 km range. In addition, high-end, intelligent and highly agile futuristic missiles would be designed and developed as also capabilities to protect space assets.

He said DRDO would set up four or five technology centres in collaboration with academic institutions to take up cutting-edge research and develop products. Industry capabilities would also be harnessed fully and the new defence procurement procedure had created the right environment for expanding the technology base of the industry. Another activity would be to develop export capability of Indian defence products.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/longrange-sams-cruise-missiles-for-all-platforms-avinash-chander/article4775965.ece>

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RT (Russia Today) – Russia

## Russian Nuke Subs to Patrol Southern Seas for First Time since Soviet Era

June 01, 2013

Russia is planning to deploy nuclear ballistic missile submarines to the southern seas for the first time since a 20-year break that followed the collapse of the USSR, sources told Russian media.

Starting from 2014, Russia is going to expand its strategic submarine patrol area of the World Ocean, a source in the Russian General Staff told Itar-Tass agency. The statement comes as the Russian Northern Fleet – the country's most powerful – is celebrating the 80th anniversary since its foundation in 1933.

Once the nuclear-powered Borei-class submarines are put into service, the Russian Navy "will not only continue the patrolling of the Arctic, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans," but also return to the regions in the southern hemisphere which were patrolled by Soviet subs until the dissolution of the USSR in the 90s.

"This would serve to solve the tasks of strategic nuclear deterrence not only across the North Pole but also the South Pole," the source pointed.

Former Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Viktor Kravchenko, said that if there is a necessity to launch missiles across the South Pole, "it is technically possible" to do so.

Russia's first and head Borei submarine, the Yury Dolgoruky, was put into service in January this year. By the end of 2013, the Russian Navy will receive two more vessels of the class, the Aleksandr Nevsky and the Vladimir Monomakh, which are currently undergoing sea trials.

A Borei-class undersea boat is a state-of-the-art 170-meter long vessel which is capable of carrying 16 Bulava SLBMs, has a crew of 107, including 55 officers, can dive to a depth of 450 meters and has a submerged speed of about 29 knots (54 km/h). The sub can spend up to three months in autonomous navigation and, thanks to the latest achievements in the reduction of noise, it is almost silent compared to previous generations of submarines.

Construction of the first missile carrier – the Yury Dolgoruky – is approximately estimated at around US\$770 million, while other submarines of the class are believed to cost less.

It is planned that by 2018, the Russian Navy will have eight Borei vessels, which will form the core of the country's strategic submarine fleet.

Apart from Boreis, the Navy will receive seven Yasen-class nuclear powered multipurpose attack submarines. The design is comparable to the US Seawolf class submarine in terms of purpose and characteristics. The first ship of the series, Severodvinsk, was launched in 2010 and will be put into service by the end of 2013, Russia's Deputy Defense Minister Yuri Borisov said earlier.

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<http://rt.com/news/submarines-nuclear-partol-seas-116/>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## Russia's New Nuclear Sub in Sea Trials

3 June 2013

MOSCOW, June 3 (RIA Novosti) – Russia's Project 885 Yasen-class attack submarine, the Severodvinsk, has embarked on its latest series of official tests in the White Sea, the manufacturer said Monday.

Sevmash shipyard spokeswoman Yekaterina Pilikina said the tests had started several days ago, without providing details on their time frame or scope.

The shipyard had earlier said the submarine would continue tests that had started in 2011. The Severodvinsk has spent a total of 137 days at sea.

The submarine, whose construction began in 1993, is due to be delivered to the Navy later this year. It was to have been handed over by the end of 2012.

The Severodvinsk carried out a series of cruise-missile test-firings in November, including the test-launch of a supersonic cruise missile at a land target.

The multirole attack submarine has a submerged displacement of 13,800 tons, length of 119 meters, speed of 31 knots, and can dive to 600 meters. It has a crew of 90, including 32 officers.

It is armed with 3M55 Oniks (SS-N-26) and 3M54 (SS-N-27) Kalibr cruise missiles, torpedoes and mines.

[http://en.rian.ru/military\\_news/20130603/181486215/Russias-New-Nuclear-Sub-in-Sea-Trials.html](http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20130603/181486215/Russias-New-Nuclear-Sub-in-Sea-Trials.html)

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Bloomberg Businessweek

## Putin Endorses Permanent Russian Navy Presence in Mediterranean

By Ilya Arkhipov

June 06, 2013

President Vladimir Putin endorsed a plan by the Russian navy to keep a permanent presence in the Mediterranean Sea, where the Syrian crisis is adding to the region's instability.

Russia's Mediterranean fleet of 16 ships will visit ports in Syria, which hosts the country's only military base outside the former Soviet Union, during a mission that will include missile practise, commander Yuri Zemskoy told Putin via video link during a news conference in Moscow today.

"This is a strategically important region," Putin said today at a meeting with military commanders. "We have our national interests here, linked to the need to maintain national security. Resuming a permanent Russian military naval presence in the Mediterranean sea isn't saber rattling."

Russia stepped up patrols in the Mediterranean in 2010 amid escalating unrest in Syria. In January, the country held its biggest naval maneuvers in the region in more than two decades. The defense ministry decided to make the fleet a standing force in March, the same month Putin ordered a large-scale unplanned exercise on the Black Sea involving 36 warships and almost 7,000 personnel.

The navy's Mediterranean presence, becoming permanent in for first time since the collapse of the Soviet Union more than two decades ago, will be modeled on the Soviet fleet stationed in the region during the Cold War to balance U.S. deployment, according to the defense ministry. The force will draw on Russia's Black Sea, Baltic and North Sea fleets.

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“The group is ready to respond to unexpected tasks as the situation in the region is changing,” Zemskoy said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-06-06/putin-endorses-permanent-russian-navy-presence-in-mediterranean>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **Russia Tests New Ballistic Missile**

7 June 2013

MOSCOW, June 7 (RIA Novosti) – The Russian Strategic Missile Forces have tested a prototype of a new intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), the Defense Ministry said.

The test launch was carried out at 09.45 pm Moscow time (17:45 GMT) on Thursday from the Kapustin Yar testing site in the Astrakhan region. The missile was fired from a mobile launcher, the ministry said in a statement.

“The test launch was a success as the [simulated] warhead hit a designated target within the set time frame,” the statement said.

“This test launch was intended to confirm technical characteristics of the missile, as well as to check the safety of the launch procedures and equipment,” the document said.

Russia announced the development of a new solid-fuel ICBM, which will eventually replace the existing Topol-M and Yars missiles, in 2012.

At least three test launches have been carried out previously in line with the testing program, and the new missile could be put into service by the end of this year, the SMF earlier said.

According to open sources, the SMF currently operates at least 58 silo-based SS-18 Satan ballistic missiles, 160 road-mobile Topol (SS-25 Sickle) missile systems, 50 silo-based and 18 road-mobile Topol-M (SS-27 Sickle B) systems, and 18 RS-24 Yars systems.

Two missile divisions have been fully rearmed with Topol-M and Yars systems, while the rearmament of three more divisions will start later this year, according to SMF.

The SMF will also deploy in the near future a new automated battle management system (ASBU), which will allow rapid retargeting of ICBMs.

[http://en.rian.ru/military\\_news/20130607/181546726/Russia-Tests-New-Ballistic-Missile.html](http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20130607/181546726/Russia-Tests-New-Ballistic-Missile.html)

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Russia & India Report – India

## **Russian Missile Forces to Hold 200 Drills in next 6 Months**

7 June 2013

RIA Novosti

Russia’s Strategic Missile Forces will conduct over 200 exercises in the next six months, the Defense Ministry said.

“During the summer training period, the SMF is planning to hold over 200 exercises, including tactical drills at the division-regiment level as well as command post exercises at the army level,” spokesman Col. Igor Yegorov said Thursday.

Russia's SMF plans by 2016 to modernize its command-and-control systems in order to improve their ability to overcome missile defenses and increase the survivability of delivery vehicles.

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At present, six types of silo-based and mobile ICBM systems are on combat duty with the SMF, including the heavy Voyevoda (SS-18 Satan), capable of carrying 10 warheads, the Topol-M (Stalin) and RS-24 Yars systems.

On Thursday, SMF successfully tested a prototype of a new solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), which is expected to replace Topol-M and Yars in the future.

The missile was fired from a mobile launcher at the Kapustin Yar testing range in the Astrakhan region and hit its designated target at the Sary Shagan testing range in Kazakhstan.

[http://indrus.in/news/2013/06/07/russian\\_missile\\_forces\\_to\\_hold\\_200\\_drills\\_in\\_next\\_6\\_months\\_25915.html](http://indrus.in/news/2013/06/07/russian_missile_forces_to_hold_200_drills_in_next_6_months_25915.html)

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Russia Beyond the Headlines (RBTH) – Russia

## **U.S. Shields Won't Stop Russia's New Missiles from Reaching their Targets - Russian Deputy Premier**

June 7, 2013

Interfax

U.S. missile defense shields will not be able to stop Russia's new intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), which was test launched successfully on June 6, from reaching its target, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin said in his lecture as part of the Civil University project on Friday.

"We closely watched last night's events. They were successful. We tested an intercontinental ballistic missile, which I call 'a missile defense killer.' Neither modern nor future American missile defense means will be able to stop this missile from hitting its target directly," he said.

Russia will continue enhancing its potential "that will allow us to ensure our absolute freedom of action, should our country encounter any aggression," Rogozin said.

"The Russian Federation's state weapons procurement program will set such parameters of weapons and military hardware that will only be linked with responding to the threat of sixth-generation wars," the deputy premier said.

Russia will develop appropriate aerospace systems and techniques that will be able to defeat any missile defense systems and will help maintain peace and balance in the world, he said.

The new ICBM prototype was successfully test launched from the Kapustin Yar site in Russia's southern Astrakhan region on Thursday.

[http://rbth.ru/news/2013/06/07/us\\_shields\\_wont\\_stop\\_russias\\_new\\_missiles\\_from\\_reaching\\_their\\_targets\\_-\\_26827.html](http://rbth.ru/news/2013/06/07/us_shields_wont_stop_russias_new_missiles_from_reaching_their_targets_-_26827.html)

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **US Missile Shield Threatens Balance in Asia-Pacific Region**

1 June 2013

SINGAPORE, June 1 (RIA Novosti) – The United States move to send a missile shield to the Pacific island of Guam could upset the strategic balance of power in the Asia-Pacific Region, a Russian defense official said on Saturday.

Speaking at the security conference Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Russian Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov said: "We are concerned about the unilateral deployment of anti-ballistic missile defense elements [in the Asia-Pacific Region]. We believe such actions could undermine the foundation of the strategic balance and lead to a polarization of powers in the region."



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Antonov said “firm guarantees” were needed to prove that “the missile shield potential is adequate to the declared goals and will not upset global and regional balances.”

In April, the Pentagon said it was deploying a missile defense shield to the western Pacific island of Guam, a US territory, to protect the US and its allies in response to increasingly hostile rhetoric from North Korea.

The Russian defense official said Russia believes peace in the region should be based on a dialogue, cooperation and confidence, and warned against a military buildup.

“Russia calls for fulfilling the principle of integrity of security in the region when security of each country goes hand in hand with everyone’s security, when all the participating countries stop strengthening own security at the expense of the security of others,” he said.

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20130601/181459299/US-Missile-Shield-Threatens-Balance-in-Asia-Pacific-Region.html>

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Seattle Times

## **Nuke Missile Crews Cite Morale-Sapping Pressures**

*Officers with a finger on the trigger of the Air Force's most powerful nuclear missiles are complaining of a wide array of morale-sapping pressures, according to internal emails obtained by The Associated Press.*

By Robert Burns, Associated Press (AP) National Security Writer

June 4, 2013

WASHINGTON - Officers with a finger on the trigger of the U.S. Air Force's most powerful nuclear missiles are complaining of a wide array of morale-sapping pressures, according to internal emails obtained by The Associated Press.

The complaints shed fresh light on dissatisfactions roiling this critical arm of the Air Force, an undercurrent that has captured the attention of the service's leaders.

Key themes among the complaints include working under "poor leadership" and being stuck in "dead-end careers" in nuclear weapons, one email said. The sentiments were expressed privately by members of the 91st Missile Wing at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, in an unpublished study for the Air Force. The complaints also said there was a need for more experienced missile officers, a less arduous work schedule and "leaders who will listen."

Taken together, the complaints suggest sagging morale in arguably the most sensitive segment of the American military. The 91st at Minot operates 150 intercontinental ballistic missiles — one-third of the entire ICBM force. The missiles stand in underground silos on constant alert for launch within minutes of a presidential order.

In the nuclear missile business, morale is not a trivial matter. Mental state is treated as a vital sign — like physical health, criminal record and technical knowhow — that must be monitored to indicate whether an individual is fit to be trusted with weapons of such destructive power.

The question of morale at Minot coincides with trouble inside the ranks of the 91st. The Associated Press reported on May 8 that 17 launch crew members — representing about 10 per cent of the launch crew force — had been taken off duty for remedial training following a poor showing in a key portion of an inspection. The story was based on an April 12 internal Air Force email that said the 91st suffered from "rot" within its ranks, including tolerance of weapons safety rules violations. Air Force leaders told Congress the problem was less about poor performance than about poor attitude.

Last week the Air Force said two additional launch officers at Minot had been sidelined, for a total of 19. An Air Force spokesman, Lt. Col. Ronald Watrous, said that 10 of the 19 had completed the two-month process of regaining certification. Most of the rest are expected to do so by the end of this month.

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The AP obtained a second internal Air Force email describing morale issues at Minot, which were hinted at broadly in the first email. Both notes were written by Lt. Col. Jay Folds, deputy commander of the unit in charge of the 91st's three missile squadrons at Minot.

The second Folds email, dated March 21, said complaints were registered in a confidential study initiated by the Air Force's most senior officer, Gen. Mark Welsh, who was considering "solutions to our problems." The study was done between December 2012 and February 2013 by the Rand Corp., a federally funded think-tank that Welsh enlisted to study workforce issues inside the three missile wings, including the one at Minot.

The email briefly summarized complaints at Minot; it did not refer to what people at the other two missile wings — at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, and Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana — told the researchers.

The Air Force confirmed to the AP that Folds and his immediate superior, Col. Bryan Haderlie, are leaving their posts, but Watrous, spokesman for the Air Force Global Strike Command, said both are being moved in a "normal rotation."

In a telephone interview about the Rand study and the Folds emails, Maj. Gen. Michael J. Carey, who as commander of the 20th Air Force is responsible for all three missile wings, acknowledged a degree of discontent at Minot but said more study is required before he and Welsh can pinpoint all the dimensions of the issue.

Asked about the complaints about weak leadership, Carey said on May 31, "I certainly take it to heart."

Carey, who was briefed on Rand's findings on March 20, said that despite the various complaints, morale at Minot is "not bad." He said that on a recent visit to the 91st he found missile crews optimistic and upbeat.

"They are not unhappy," he said. Carey said some complaints are rooted in a lack of communication from higher headquarters about plans for modernizing the nuclear force even as the Air Force faces tighter budgets.

Carey said he could not provide a copy of Rand's findings because they have not yet been presented to Welsh. The study was based on interviews with missile launch officers as well as enlisted airmen who support that work.

In the earlier email obtained by the AP, Folds said there was "such rot" within the force that launch officers tolerated weapons safety rule violations, possible violations of missile launch codes and other failings deemed unacceptable. The AP story based on that email triggered strong responses from some in Congress, including Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., who wondered aloud what lay behind the turmoil inside the missile force.

Part of the answer, in the view of many experts, is the shrinking role and size of the U.S. nuclear force and, consequently, a reduced sense of purpose among launch crews who do 24-hour shifts in control centers buried deep below ground.

The U.S. has 450 deployed ICBMs, down from about 1,000 at the end of the Cold War, and current projections call for only 420 within five years. Some have argued for eliminating the missiles altogether.

Hans Kristensen, a nuclear weapons expert at the Federation of American Scientists, said that ICBM launch crew officers have told him over a period of years that morale has been on the decline.

"You can't take away the fact that the mission they sit and wait for" - to launch a nuclear attack - "is very unlikely to ever happen," Kristensen said. "That affects career choices and morale because they talk to their other Air Force buddies who come home after flying B-52s over Afghanistan or Iraq and it's very exciting to be in that part of the Air Force" while the ICBM launch crews "sit in a hole in the Midwest and wait for nothing."

A Pentagon advisory panel report two years ago cited multiple aspects of a morale problem within the nuclear force. It said the Air Force's traditional emphasis on fighter and bomber operations leaves nuclear officers feeling marginalized, all the more because their work is out of public view and veiled in secrecy.

"They perceive a lack of knowledge of and respect for their mission from within the larger Air Force," the panel reported.



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Robert L. Goldich, a military affairs expert formerly with the Congressional Research Service, said the Air Force faces a difficult task in attracting and keeping high-quality officers to fill the missile launch crew positions.

"They can of course assign new second lieutenants involuntarily, as any service does, but that wouldn't exactly create high esprit de corps in a component of the Air Force that just seems less and less relevant - and, importantly, is virtually unknown to the American public," Goldich said in an email exchange.

[http://seattletimes.com/html/politics/2021118847\\_apusnuclearmisssteps.html](http://seattletimes.com/html/politics/2021118847_apusnuclearmisssteps.html)

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Defense News

## **HASC Green-Lights East Coast Missile Shield**

June 6, 2013

By JOHN T. BENNETT

WASHINGTON — A Republican-controlled House panel on Wednesday evening voted to give the Pentagon the green light to erect a missile defense system on the East Coast of the United States, moving the controversial site one step closer to becoming reality.

The site is the product of a plan hatched last year by House Armed Services Committee Republicans, who believe the system is needed to guard against potential missile launches from Iran and North Korea.

Skeptical Senate Armed Services Committee Democratic leaders shot down the missile plan last year, but after North Korean saber rattling early this year, the proposal picked up renewed steam on Capitol Hill. Even some prominent Democrats, such as the No. 3 Senate Democrat, Chuck Schumer of New York, have recently discussed the proposal as if it is headed toward becoming reality.

One day after the House Appropriations Defense subcommittee unveiled a 2014 Pentagon spending bill that would allocate just more than \$70 million to begin erecting the shield, the HASC voted 33-27 during its mark up of its version of the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) — following a rousing partisan debate — to green-light the proposed project.

If eventually built, the project could provide a boost to US missile interceptor makers, radar manufacturers and their suppliers, while also giving an economic boost to the states in which it would be erected.

"The Missile Defense Agency shall construct and make operational in fiscal year 2018 an additional homeland missile defense site capable of protecting the homeland, designed to complement existing sites in Alaska and California, to deal more effectively with the long-range ballistic missile threat from the Middle East," states the amendment, offered by GOP Rep. Mike Turner of Ohio.

The amendment does not approve a specific funding level for the project, but it does order the Missile Defense Agency to deliver Congress a report that includes "a description of the current estimate of the funding to be required for construction and deployment of the missile defense site, including for advance procurement, engineering and design, materials and construction, interceptor missiles, and sensors."

House and Senate Republicans say the new site is needed to protect population centers in the eastern United States as Iran and North Korea continue long-range missile work. Some GOP members also say allegedly increasingly sophisticated Chinese naval vessels equipped with ballistic missiles could launch against the East Coast.

But Democrats, especially influential ones such as Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, counter that the Pentagon has no requirement for such a site.

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Levin and other Democrats also say the lack of a DoD requirement, when coupled with the billions it would take to erect the site, stock it with interceptor missiles, and operate and maintain it, make it a highly questionable federal expenditure in an era of deficit-reduction.

The East Coast amendment was approved along with a slew of other GOP-crafted measures on a range of missile and other projects that experts say could bring a White House veto threat.

“Administration will surely recommend veto of NDAA if it includes GOP strat forces amendments currently being added to bill,” Kingston Reif of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation tweeted Wednesday evening.

<http://www.defensenews.com/article/20130606/DEFREG02/306060011/HASC-Green-Lights-East-Coast-Missile-Shield>

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The Korea Herald – South Korea

OPINION/Commentary

## **N. Korea could Fall Faster than We Think**

June 2, 2013

By Bruce Bennett

On Oct. 7, 1989, members of the East German Politburo looked on approvingly as sharply dressed soldiers and shiny military hardware paraded by them in a gaudy display of military might to mark the 40th anniversary of the German Democratic Republic.

To the world, the 1989 celebration may have looked no different than any of the countless East German military parades that had come before it. But inside East Germany, this one was different. That night, demonstrations demanding political reform spread to the capital for the first time. Whispered calls for democracy were becoming shouts. Whether the rest of the world knew it or not, the days of the German Democratic Republic were numbered.

Within weeks, the Berlin Wall fell. Less than a year later, agreements for the reunification of East and West Germany were signed. And just like that, there was one fewer communist nation threatening Europe.

When it comes to ostentatious displays of military might these days, no one outdoes North Korea, where parades are only the beginning. When leader Kim Jong-un wants a macho show of military strength, he’s likely to order nuclear tests, or rocket launches, or the firing of short range missiles into the sea as he did this week.

What the former East Germany and North Korea have in common is that they both have relied on shows of military might to divert domestic dissent while propping up regimes that face enormous challenges, both internal and external. Could North Korea collapse with as little warning as East Germany did 24 years ago? It’s possible.

When analysts look at the Korean Peninsula, they often talk of the reunification of the two Koreas as a long-off goal that should be planned for over the span of decades. But in the 1980s, the reunification of Germany seemed equally distant.

The United States, South Korea and their allies would be well advised to factor in the possibility that North Korea could collapse in a fit of revolt and economic decay at any time, just as East Germany did.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye has made clear her hopes for talks at some point between Seoul and Pyongyang to prepare for peaceful coexistence and perhaps even unification over the coming decades. But she has said little about how South Korea might deal with an early collapse of the North. A sudden collapse is possible in the coming years and could create regional chaos and impossible burdens on the road to reunification unless South Korea and its allies are better prepared.

Should Kim Jong-un be assassinated and a successor government fail to arise from the likely factions, South Korea and its neighbors would find themselves dealing with a humanitarian crisis of historic proportions. In the aftermath of a collapse, hunger would likely be the immediate urgency and food the most valued commodity. South Korea should make

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it clear to North Koreans that it is creating stockpiles of food that will be available in the event of a collapse, just as the West German's offered "greeting money" to East Germans during the unification process.

At the same time, South Korea will have to deal with a broad range of other issues, like securing North Korean weapons, keeping its massive military appeased, and dealing with the remnants of Kim Jong-un's regime.

How these huge issues are resolved will depend largely on how invested the North Korean people are in becoming one with the south. In the divided Germany of the late 1980s, virtually all Germans thought they would be better off if unification occurred. South Korea should be working toward creating this same kind of feeling of solidarity between its people and those of North Korea. If the North Korean people oppose unification, it may be impossible to secure the North, aborting the unification process. Once aborted, unification may never happen — there may only be one chance.

South Korea has been successful in recent years in establishing a national brand that is cultural, economic and political. It includes music and technology and all the things South Korea is known for around the world. Making this brand more inclusive of all Koreans would be a good place to start creating a shared view of Korean success.

South Korea should seek to communicate to the North Korean people, and especially the elites, how life after unification will be in their best interest. They will share in the Korean economic plenty, have broad access to education including college, and only those guilty of serious human rights violations will be subjected to judicial punishments. While such offers may seem overly generous, they may be necessary to secure North Korean support for unification.

South Korea also should resume humanitarian aid to North Korea, something President Park has endorsed. But aid should be targeted at specific counties suffering serious starvation, and delivered in ways that make South Korean assistance very clear. In doing so, the South should communicate to the North Koreans that it is not an enemy, but instead a brother who is providing help. Resumption of humanitarian aid could go a long way toward warming the discourse and could lead to negotiations on key issues like reopening the shuttered Kaesong Industrial Park.

At the same time, South Korea should be talking more about the human rights principles it respects to drive home to North Koreans another advantage of unification under democratic principles.

Some of this kind of unifying language found its way into the joint declaration issued by the United States and South Korea during President Park's recent summit with President Obama in Washington: "We pledge to continue to build a better and more secure future for all Korean people ... (and to work toward) peaceful reunification based on the principles of denuclearization, democracy and a free market economy."

It could happen sooner than the world thinks.

*Bruce Bennett is a senior defense analyst at the nonprofit, nonpartisan RAND Corporation and a professor at the Pardee RAND Graduate School.*

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20130602000197>

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Breaking Defense.com

OPINION/ Intel & Cyber, Strategy & Policy

## **Fund East Coast Missile Defense Now, Says Former Missile Defense Director**

June 4, 2013

By Trey Obering and Rebeccah Heinrichs

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced in March that the administration would deploy more Ground-based Interceptors or "GBIs" to better defend American cities from North Korean ballistic missiles. He also said it would begin studying sites on the East Coast in the event the administration decided to build a third missile defense facility. But one

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item in the Secretary's announcement failed to garner significant attention: the fact that the administration is canceling its own missile defense system, the SM-3 IIB.

The administration is on record as saying the SM-3 IIB was necessary to increase security of the American people against Iranian missiles. In fact, it was so important to that added protection that the Congress required the administration to develop a hedge strategy in the event that the SM-3 IIB program experienced development problems.

With that system's demise, the administration should execute that hedge strategy immediately.

Given the geometry of the flight path taken by an Iranian missile fired on the U.S., an East Coast missile defense site would significantly improve protection against such an attack when combined with additional sensors. This will improve the overall performance of the system and will increase the "battle space," a phrase used to describe the time operators have to hit an incoming warhead before it hits its intended target. These benefits are not realized by just adding GBIs to Alaska.

The concept of placing more GBIs in the two existing sites in Alaska and California is not new. Neither is the idea of a third site.

During the Bush administration, the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) supported emplacing more GBIs in Alaska and it examined building a third site on the East Coast in order to increase the effectiveness of the current system. The two sites, in Alaska and California provided defense of the West Coast, and some defense of the East Coast. In 2007 the Bush administration formally announced the decision to work with U.S. allies to deploy an additional site in Poland and the Czech Republic. Placing the third site there would be a two-fer: defense of Europe and additional protection of our East Coast. Shortly after President Obama took office he canceled the third site, at least in part because of Russian objections.

The need to provide added protection of the U.S. homeland remained. This is why President Obama's European Phased Adaptive Approach included a phase that would emplace a new missile, the SM3-II B, in Poland. Because this missile had yet to be developed, it bought the administration time to try to alleviate Russian concerns about U.S. long-range missile defense and acted as an assurance to lawmakers who understood the need to increased homeland defense.

But when Secretary Hagel's recently announced the administration would "restructure" (Washington speak for "cancel") the SM3-IIB, instead of offering up a replacement, the administration says only "maybe."

Not only does the current system require additional interceptors, the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system needs a new exo-atmospheric kill vehicle (EKV), the component that collides with the incoming warhead. It also requires a greater ability to discriminate the enemy warhead from debris or non-lethal elements of the system meant to confuse the missile defense system. The MDA intended a new warhead to do this, called the Multiple Kill Vehicle, but the Obama administration canceled this program.

The goal has always been to stay ahead of the rogue nation state threat, and we need to spend the resources and time to do so. Meanwhile, the threat from our enemies has only increased.

Pyongyang now has a road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), which means it could roll out and deploy missiles on a moment's notice, making it much more difficult for the U.S. to predict where and when a threat may materialize. Pyongyang has also shown it has improved its long-range capability by successfully orbiting a satellite on a Taepo-Dong2 missile.

Similarly, Iran is also improving its missile program. A Pentagon Fact Sheet provided to Congress, said, "Iran also continues to advance its space-launch and longer-range ballistic missile capabilities. Iran has used a space-launch vehicle, the Safir-2, to place a satellite in orbit, demonstrating some of the key technologies required for ICBM development."

The U.S. Strategic Command head, Gen. Robert Kehler, told Congress that "I am confident that we can defend against a limited attack from Iran, although we are not in the most optimum posture to do that today...it doesn't provide total



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defense today.” Gen. Charles Jacoby, head of Northern Command, has agreed with the description of our defensive posture being “sub-optimum.”

Americans must be optimally defended against a possibly nuclear tipped missile from rogue nations. An East Coast site, combined with a new kill vehicle, increased deployment of GBIs, and the deployment of other mobile missile defense interceptors will significantly improve America’s missile defenses capabilities.

Specifically, MDA should be given the direction and funding this year to promptly conduct site evaluations on the East Coast of the United States to deploy a third missile site. The site should include the upgrade and relocation of the X-band radar currently at Kwajalien Atoll in the Pacific. The time for prolonged deliberations is over. The U.S. should take the necessary steps now to provide greater protection of the American people.

*Trey Obering, a senior vice president at Booz Allen, was director of the Missile Defense Agency. Rebecca Heinrich, a defense analyst at the Heritage Foundation, was a House staff member for Rep. Trent Franks.*

<http://breakingdefense.com/2013/06/04/fund-east-coast-missile-defense-now-says-former-missile-defense-director/>

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The Japan Times – Japan  
OPINION/Commentary

## **Debunking Five Myths about Chemical Weapons**

By Amy E. Smithson, *The Washington Post*

June 5, 2013

The exact nature of what is going on inside Syria is tough to determine. The United States, Britain, France and Israel have focused on the question of whether forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad have used chemical weapons. To answer that question and understand its implications, some myths need to be dispelled.

### **1. Witness reports can establish the use of chemical weapons.**

Because Syria has blocked United Nations inspectors from entering the country, much of the “evidence” in play is from witness reports. The most detailed of those came this past week from France’s Le Monde newspaper: “No odor, no smoke, not even a whistle to indicate the release of a toxic gas. And then the symptoms appear. The men cough violently. Their eyes burn, their pupils shrink, their vision blurs. Soon they experience difficulty breathing, sometimes in the extreme.”

The problem with such reports is that while they may suggest exposure to toxic gas, they can’t identify which chemicals were present, who used them or whether they were intended as weapons. That information isn’t just nice to know — it’s critical for figuring out how to respond.

The State Department is reportedly working to bring medical professionals who have seen evidence of chemical attacks in Syria to meet with U.N. investigators in Turkey. Far more telling would be blood and urine from the victims and soil and munitions from the attack areas. Analysis of those samples could nail down what brought on the symptoms. Traces of nerve agents would point to deliberate use by Assad’s forces, which have access to Syria’s chemical weapons stash. Traces of industrial chemicals would make it harder to determine what happened. For example, explosions near industrial facilities could have ruptured chemical tanks and released toxic gasses.

### **2. The use of chemical weapons is a “game-changer.”**

President Barack Obama has been criticized for not following through on his declaration in March that the use of chemical weapons in Syria would be a game-changer. In April he tried to clarify his remarks by saying that he meant “not simply for the United States but for the international community, and the reason for that is that we have established international law and international norms.”

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Yes, there are laws. The 1925 Geneva Protocol outlaws the use of chemical and biological weapons, and the Chemical Weapons Convention, implemented in 1997, bans the development, production, stockpiling and use of poison gas.

But chemical weapons don't always change the game politically. Consider the Iran-Iraq war. U.N. investigators found traces of mustard gas in soil and bomb fragments and examined dozens of soldiers with symptoms of mustard gas exposure. They concluded that Iraq had repeatedly used poison gas against Iran. When photographs of streets littered with bodies in the Kurdish town of Halabja appeared in 1988, the world suspected Iraq had gassed Kurdish civilians as well. In the wake of the Iranian hostage crisis, however, Washington's sympathies were with Iraq. At a 1989 conference on chemical weapons, world powers did not even censure, much less punish, Iraq.

Of course, chemical weapons were cited as one justification for going to war with Iraq in 2003. Flawed intelligence then has clearly made the United States more hesitant today to declare a game changed.

### **3. Chemical weapons are not weapons of mass destruction.**

Pundits and experts alike play down the danger of chemical weapons by noting that the 1995 sarin attack on Tokyo's subway killed only 13 people and that poison gas caused just 1 percent of World War I deaths.

Let there be no confusion: People who inhale or touch even a minuscule quantity of a nerve agent such as sarin will die within minutes unless antidotes are administered. Mustard gas, meanwhile, sears the lungs and skin, killing if the exposure is great enough or leaving lifelong debilitation.

While chemical weapons are not nearly as ruinous as nuclear weapons, the potential for mass destruction is real. Iraq's 1988 attack on Halabja killed approximately 5,000 Kurds and injured more than 7,000.

Low casualty rates usually have logical explanations. Widespread use of gas masks in World War I undercut the lethality of chemical weapons, which nonetheless caused 90,000 fatalities. In other cases, attacks may be poorly executed. In Tokyo's subway, for instance, attackers crudely released small amounts of low-strength sarin.

Why haven't there been more chemical weapons deaths in Syria? Perhaps only small amounts of poison gas have been released so far and quickly blew away in the wind, or Syria may have shoddy chemical agents that have lost their potency.

### **4. The best response to the threat of chemical weapons is a military response.**

With diplomatic efforts to convene a peace conference in Geneva faltering, calls for arming Syria's rebels and establishing a no-fly zone have intensified. The European Union this past week lifted its embargo on weapons shipments. But providing lethal assistance to rebels risks handing advanced conventional weaponry to the al-Qaida operatives fighting with them. And a no-fly zone would take aerial bombs out of the equation but wouldn't address Assad's poison-gas-tipped missiles or rockets.

Better would be to negate Assad's unconventional military advantage by outfitting Syrian civilians and opposition forces with chemical defenses. The model here is Israel, which equipped its entire population with gas masks before the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Pointing to the Chemical Weapons Convention obligation to assist nations imperiled by chemical attacks, Washington could rally states to equip Syrian doctors with nerve-agent antidotes and opposition soldiers with chemical detectors. Gas masks, which Syrians would need to carry at all times, would need clear Arabic instructions for fitting, wearing and maintaining them.

### **5. Chemical weapons are not much of a threat beyond Syria.**

With 80 percent of the world's declared stockpiles of chemical weapons destroyed since the mid-1980s, only a few pariahs remain in the dirty business of chemical weapons.

Yet future chemical weapons threats will be more sinister and difficult to detect. Advanced mind- and body-control weapons are within reach of proliferators. New processing technologies and the spread of multipurpose production



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facilities make it easier to hide poison gas programs. This may tempt states to recalculate the desirability of a covert chemical weapons capability.

Terrorist groups and lone-wolf actors are drawn to the horror and harm that chemicals can generate, and their attempts to acquire and use poison gas are on the rise. Japan's Aum Shinrikyo cult, which built a \$10 million, state-of-the-art factory to produce 70 tons of sarin, is the most eye-opening case to date. The FBI is investigating yet another letter sent to Obama that may contain ricin. By no means has the world seen the last of chemical terrorism.

*Amy Smithson is a senior fellow at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies and the author of "Germ Gambits: The Bioweapons Dilemma, Iraq and Beyond."*

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2013/06/05/commentary/debunking-five-myths-about-chemical-weapons/#.Ua-wnJQo5Dw>

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The Statesman – India  
OPINION/Analysis

## **China's Self-Defence Argument Rings Hollow**

6 June 2013

As part of its efforts to appear transparent about its intentions, to dispel its image as a reclusive regime shrouded in secrecy, and to foster confidence among its neighbours, the Chinese government has been issuing White Papers on national defence every two years since 1998. The eighth in the series, entitled "The Diversified Employment of China's Armed Forces", was published on 16 April, 2013.

The crux of China's national defence policy is to ensure a stable security environment so as to permit the unrestricted development of its economy and the modernisation of its military. Its defence policy relies on military power as a guarantor of China's strategic autonomy and is designed to ensure that China continues to enjoy unfettered access to critical strategic resources like oil and natural gas as well as rare minerals. China has apparently decided that its interests lie in projecting a positive, balanced and cooperative image to the international community. Its growing economic and military power is gradually giving it the leverage to turn the perceived instability in its security environment into a newfound strength through bilateral and multilateral strategic partnerships and mutually beneficial trade.

However, China is still hesitant to join cooperative regional security arrangements. In fact, over the last few years, China has behaved rather assertively to stake its claims to disputed islands in the South China Sea and in the Sea of Japan. China's military assertiveness has shaken the confidence of its Asian neighbours in its ability to resolve disputes peacefully.

China stresses that its national defence policy is essentially defensive in nature and that it is subordinate to the higher goal of building a prosperous China. The White Papers emphasise that China launches only counter-attacks in self-defence. This is contrary to China's fairly aggressive military posture and incursions into India, Russia and Vietnam over the last few decades. A significant recent development is China's pro-active regional posture in diplomatic, strategic, economic and cultural spheres in parallel with China's increasingly global posture. This is contrary to the country's claim that it "plays an active part in maintaining global and regional peace and stability." Recent posturing on the Spratly Islands has been criticised all across South East Asia.

While China stresses the "purely defensive" nature of its defence policy, perceptive observers have noted the power projection capabilities that are inherent in China's growing strategic outreach plans. Also noteworthy is the increasing role that military power is playing in enhancing China's comprehensive national power. Roy Kamphausen is of the view that the PLA is currently "projecting military power throughout Asia by responding to crises, contributing to deterrence and enhancing regional stability using current capabilities. These efforts derive from and contribute to the building of

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comprehensive Chinese national power, which, in turn, serves to increase China's stature in Asia, advance China's foreign policy goals and even check US influence."

China continues to proclaim that it follows a "no first use" (NFU) nuclear doctrine. However, the improvements in the quality of its nuclear-tipped missiles and the progressive increase in their quantity are conferring new options and spurring new thoughts among China's national security analysts about the efficacy of its nuclear doctrine. Several of them have expressed the view that "under certain circumstances – such as an all-out attack against the country by conventional forces – China should use nuclear weapons." As more sophisticated ICBMs like DF-31A and SLBMs like JL-2 enter service in larger numbers, China may be emboldened to review its NFU policy. Any Chinese move to discard the no first use policy will be inherently destabilising.

There are still many gaps in what is known about China's defence policy and military power. There is much more that needs to be learnt about China's ideas of statecraft, its approaches to the use of force, its perceived vulnerabilities and its preferred operational methods, as well as the political and military organisations that work on military assessments and plans. Not enough is known about China's actual military doctrine, command and control and capabilities such as military logistics. Although its growing interest in coercion and pre-emption strategies and emerging methods of warfare ~ particularly the employment of missiles and information warfare ~ are now better understood, it is difficult to accurately assess how these developments will shape China's overall military capability.

China is increasingly concerned with the increasing US influence in Asia and the planned US pivot to the Indo-Pacific. According to the 2013 White Paper, "The US is adjusting its Asia-Pacific security strategy, and the regional landscape is undergoing profound changes...[The US] has strengthened its Asia-Pacific military alliances, expanded its military presence in the region, and frequently makes the situation there tenser." Clearly, US-China rivalry is growing and countries in the Indo-Pacific region will eventually be forced to choose the side they wish to support. It is in India's interest to maintain its strategic autonomy while watching out for China's growing power and influence.

*Gurmeet Kanwal is a Delhi-based strategic analyst*

[http://www.thestatesman.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=459802&catid=39](http://www.thestatesman.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=459802&catid=39)

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Huffington Post  
OPINION/The Blog

## **Susan Rice on Nuclear Weapons**

By Joe Cirincione  
June 6, 2013

Susan Rice does not speak very often on nuclear policy, but behind the scenes she played a major role in shaping Barack Obama's nuclear weapons positions in the 2008 campaign.

Her appointment as national security adviser completes the assembly of a team of Cabinet members, including Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Secretary of State John Kerry, dedicated to reinvigorating President Obama's nuclear policy efforts and finally giving the nation a posture suited to the demands of this century and no longer shackled to the obsolete policies of the past.

Rice was the head of the national security team for the President's successful 2008 campaign. I was part of the nuclear policy group that reported to her. She, with the help of a number of experts who later joined her in key positions in the administration, including Greg Craig and Ivo Daalder, shaped a tough, visionary nuclear policy for the 21st Century. It was enshrined in the 2008 Democratic Party Platform and advocated, among other positions:

### **A World without Nuclear Weapons**

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America will seek a world with no nuclear weapons and take concrete actions to move in this direction. We face growing threats of terrorists acquiring nuclear weapons or the means to make them with more countries seeking nuclear weapons, unsecured nuclear materials in many countries, and of the potential spread of nuclear technologies. As George Shultz, Bill Perry, Henry Kissinger and Sam Nunn have warned, current measures are not adequate to address these dangers. We will maintain a strong and reliable deterrent as long as nuclear weapons exist, but America will be safer in a world that is reducing reliance on nuclear weapons and ultimately eliminates all of them. We will make the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons worldwide a central element of U.S. nuclear weapons policy.

### **End Cold War Nuclear Postures**

To enhance our security and help meet our commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, we will seek deep, verifiable reductions in United States and Russian nuclear weapons and work with other nuclear powers to reduce global stockpiles dramatically. We will work with Russia to take as many weapons as possible off Cold War, quick-launch status, and extend key provisions of the START Treaty, including their essential monitoring and verification requirements. We will not develop new nuclear weapons, and will work to create a bipartisan consensus to support ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which will strengthen the NPT and aid international monitoring of nuclear activities.

Ambassador Rice also supported these positions as a core member of the National Security Advisory Group headed by former National Security Advisor Sandy Berger and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. I was also a member of this group and help draft its 2007 report, "Reducing Nuclear Threats and Preventing Nuclear Terrorism," endorsed by Rice, that foreshadowed the positions she help develop as part of the campaign the following year.

Other Advisory Group members who endorsed these positions included former Undersecretary of Defense Michele Flournoy, current Deputy Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and Tom Donilon. As I pointed out in an article for *The Atlantic* defending Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel's nuclear policy positions, the group's report detailed a comprehensive plan for reducing nuclear threats that include the recommendation that "the U.S. and the other NPT nuclear weapons states ... should commit themselves to the goal of a world without nuclear weapons and to pursuing practical steps that would lay the groundwork for moving toward that goal."

The Advisory Group report also called for the rapid Senate approval of the nuclear test-ban treaty; suggested the U.S. "explore means of increasing warning and reaction times including by lowering alert rates of their strategic systems;" and consider "an operationally deployed force of fewer than 1,000 nuclear weapons."

This level is very close to force of 900 total weapons recommended by the Global Zero report that Hagel co-authored with former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General James Cartwright, former Supreme Allied Commander General Jack Sheehan, and former Reagan nuclear arms negotiator Richard Burt, among others.

Many had expected Rice to be appointed national security advisor in 2009. When she was chosen as UN ambassador instead, it meant that her nuclear policy work would focus primarily on Iran and North Korea and the strengthening of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, all major issues before the United Nations.

Now, she will return to Washington with a broader portfolio and will merge with a national security team completely in sync with the policy positions she championed earlier. Her appointment sets the stage perfectly for a major new presidential policy initiative.

Joe Cirincione is President, Ploughshares Fund; Author, 'Bomb Scare: The History and Future of Nuclear Weapons'.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joe-cirincione/susan-rice-on-nuclear-wea\\_b\\_3390019.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joe-cirincione/susan-rice-on-nuclear-wea_b_3390019.html)

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