



**USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER**  
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**Issue No. 1014, 13 July 2012**

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Press TV – Iran

## **Pentagon Admits Lethality, Effectiveness of Iran Missile Systems**

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

The Pentagon has admitted that the “lethality and effectiveness” of Iran’s missile systems has improved and Tehran would present a “formidable force” while defending its territory.

*According to a June 29 report by the Pentagon, “Iran has boosted the lethality and effectiveness of existing systems by improving accuracy and developing new submunition payloads” that “extend the destructive power over a wider area than a solid warhead,” Bloomberg reported on Wednesday.*

The report, signed by US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, was presented to the four US congressional defense committees last week to comply with a 2010 directive to provide an annual classified and unclassified assessment of Iran’s military power.

It noted that improvements in Iran’s missile capability are occurring in parallel with regular ballistic-missile training that “continues throughout the country” and the addition of “new ships and submarines.”

Iran is “developing and claims to have deployed short-range ballistic missiles with seekers that enable the missile to identify and maneuver toward ships during flight,” the report added.

“This technology also may be capable of striking land- based targets.”

Congressional Research Service Iran analyst Kenneth Katzman said previous reports by the US government “always downplayed the accuracy and effectiveness of Iran’s missile forces.”

*The report [however], seemed pretty sober and respectful of Iran’s capabilities, crediting Iran with improving survivability,” Bloomberg quoted Katzman as saying.*

Early in July, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) test fired domestically-produced missiles during a three-day military drill codenamed *The Great Prophet 7*.

The tested missiles included Shahab (Meteor) 1, 2, 3, Khalij Fars (Persian Gulf), Tondar (Lightning), Fateh (Victor) and Zelzal (Quake) as well as Qiam (Uprising).

Iran has repeatedly stated that its military might poses no threat to other countries, reiterating that its defense doctrine is based on deterrence.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2012/07/11/250467/pentagon-admits-iran-missile-might/>

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Daily Star – Lebanon

## **Lift Sanctions for Nuclear talks to Go Forward, Says Iran MP**

July 11, 2012

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

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TEHRAN: World powers must lift sanctions imposed on Iran if talks over its controversial nuclear program are to go forward, an influential lawmaker said Tuesday. The remarks by Aladin Borujerdi, chairman of parliament’s foreign policy committee, come just days after Iran said it wanted the sanctions eased.

“Iran stresses that, in the nuclear negotiations, the sanctions must be lifted,” Borujerdi was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency.

“It is the condition set by the Majlis [parliament] that, for negotiations to continue, the sanctions must be lifted.”



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It was not immediately clear whether Borujerdi's statement reflects an official hardening of Tehran's stance, or whether it is purely his own view.

It was also not clear what steps parliament could and would take to block talks if the sanctions are not lifted.

On July 1, the EU imposed an oil embargo on Tehran, adding to U.S. financial sanctions aimed at gutting Iran's vital oil exports, which account for half of government revenues.

In addition, Iran is under several sets of U.N. sanctions, imposed to force it to halt sensitive uranium enrichment, the most controversial part of Tehran's nuclear drive.

So far, Iran and the P5+1 group of powers – the five permanent U.N. Security Council members plus Germany – have failed to reconcile their views on the nuclear issue.

Two days of talks in Moscow last month produced no progress and were followed by a meeting of experts in Istanbul in early July aimed at avoiding a total breakdown of diplomacy.

A statement from EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton after the Istanbul talks said the two sides continued to discuss the call for Iran to immediately stop enriching uranium to the high level of 20 percent in exchange for some forms of economic assistance.

The Islamic Republic insists on its right to enrich uranium and has sought an end to oil sanctions.

Tehran has previously called for the sanctions to be eased, dubbing them as "hostile act against Iran."

Borujerdi also repeated Tehran's insistence that uranium enrichment is its irreversible right.

"Iran will go forward [with enrichment] based on its requirements at the time," he said, adding that there is "a possibility that in the future instead of 20 percent we may have higher needs, and this right should exist."

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Jul-11/180115-lift-sanctions-for-nuclear-talks-to-go-forward-says-iran-mp.ashx#axzz20QOy5SfH>

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San Francisco Chronicle

## **Iran's Ballistic Missiles Becoming Deadlier, Pentagon Finds**

By Tony Capaccio, Bloomberg News

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

July 11 (Bloomberg) -- Iran's military continues to improve the accuracy and killing power of its long- and short-range ballistic missiles, including designing a weapon to target vessels, according to a Pentagon report to Congress.

"Iran has boosted the lethality and effectiveness of existing systems by improving accuracy and developing new submunition payloads" that extend the destructive power over a wider area than a solid warhead, according to the June 29 report signed by U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta.

The improvements are in tandem with regular ballistic-missile training that "continues throughout the country" and the addition of "new ships and submarines," the report found.

The report obtained by Bloomberg News was provided to the four congressional defense committees last week to comply with a fiscal 2010 directive to provide an annual classified and unclassified assessment of Iran's military power. The unclassified version provides the latest snapshot of Iran's so-called asymmetric capabilities designed to counter the strengths of western militaries.

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The report summarizes what's been said publicly about the status of Iran's nuclear program and its aid to Syria, Lebanese Hezbollah, Hamas, and Iraqi Shiite groups. It repeats the long-standing U.S. assessment that Iran with "sufficient foreign assistance may be technically capable of flight-testing" an intercontinental ballistic missile by 2015.

Two analysts who follow Iranian military developments said the report provides new details and emphasis on the nation's conventional ballistic missiles.

### **Accuracy Improvements**

"There was a theme that Iran is improving the accuracy and lethality of its missiles," said Congressional Research Service Iran analyst Kenneth Katzman. "U.S. government reports have previously always downplayed the accuracy and effectiveness of Iran's missile forces."

"The report seemed pretty sober and respectful of Iran's capabilities, crediting Iran with improving survivability," Katzman said.

The Pentagon report was delivered as a European Union embargo on buying Iranian crude took effect on July 1, adding to a series of trade and financial sanctions the U.S., EU and United Nations imposed on the second-biggest producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries in an effort to pressure the Persian Gulf nation over its nuclear activities.

### **'Formidable Force'**

Iran "would present a formidable force while defending Iranian territory," the Pentagon said in the report. "We assess with high confidence" that over 30 years Iran "has methodically cultivated a network of sponsored terrorist surrogates capable of targeting U.S. and Israeli interests," it said. "We suspect this activity continues."

Iran also continues to develop ballistic missiles with range to reach regional adversaries, Israel and Eastern Europe, including an extended-range Shahab-3 and a 2,000 kilometer (1,240 mile) medium-range ballistic missile, said the report.

Citing the Iranian threat, the Obama administration shifted from the Bush administration's plans to place missile-defense sites in Poland and radar in the Czech Republic to an approach that would in four phases place closer to Iran some Aegis-class Navy missile defense vessels, ground radar and eventually land-based Navy Standard Missile-3 interceptors.

Lockheed Martin Corp., and Raytheon Co. are among beneficiaries of the envisioned systems.

### **Missile Emphasis**

The report appears to confirm Iran has actively deployed a new solid-fuel intermediate-range ballistic missile and that the Shahab-3 has improved accuracy and submunitions, said Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

The report also disclosed that Iran is seeking to improve its missile counter-measures against U.S. and Gulf Cooperation Council missile defenses and poses a potential new threat to Gulf shipping, said Cordesman, who this week is publishing CSIS updates to his reports on Iran and the Gulf military balance.

Iran, like China, is "developing and claims to have deployed short-range ballistic missiles with seekers that enable the missile to identify and maneuver toward ships during flight," the report found.

"This technology also may be capable of striking land-based targets," the Pentagon said.

Katzman said the language about Iran possessing a "formidable force defending Iranian territory" seemed to be a "signal to advocates of military action against Iran, suggesting any action on Iranian soil will carry risk."

The Pentagon highlighted three early 2012 war exercises by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps ground resistance forces "meant to show offensive and defensive capabilities."



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The maneuvers “were the first significant exercises” conducted by this branch of the Iranian military since 2008, the Pentagon said.

*Editors: Terry Atlas, Larry Liebert*

<http://www.sfgate.com/business/bloomberg/article/Iran-s-Ballistic-Missiles-Becoming-Deadlier-3697630.php>

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London Daily Telegraph – U.K.

## **MI6 Chief Sir John Sawers: 'We Foiled Iranian Nuclear Weapons Bid'**

*MI6 agents have foiled Iran's attempts to obtain nuclear weapons but the Middle Eastern state will succeed in arming itself within the next two years, the head of the Secret Intelligence Service has warned.*

By Christopher Hope, Senior Political Correspondent

12 July 2012

Sir John Sawers said that covert operations by British spies had prevented the Iranians from developing nuclear weapons as early as 2008.

However, the MI6 chief said it was now likely they would achieve their goal by 2014, making a military strike from the US and Israel increasingly likely.

Sir John gave a secret briefing to the Cabinet in March about Iran's growing military threat but this is the first time his views on the issue have been made public.

It is extremely rare for the head of MI6 to disclose details of operations by the intelligence service.

Sir John made the remarks at a meeting of around 100 senior civil servants in London last week in only his second public speech since he was appointed to the post in 2009.

Speaking at the *Civil Service Live* event in Olympia he said that Iran was now “two years away” from becoming a “nuclear weapons state”.

He said that “when that moment came” Israel or the United States would have to decide whether to launch a military strike.

“The Iranians are determinedly going down a path to master all aspects of nuclear weapons; all the technologies they need,” he said. “It's equally clear that Israel and the United States would face huge dangers if Iran were to become a nuclear weapon state.”

Sir John said that without MI6's work dealing with the threat, “you'd have Iran as a nuclear weapons state in 2008 rather than still being two years away in 2012.”

Sir John said it was up to MI6 to “delay that awful moment when the politicians may have to take a decision between accepting a nuclear-armed Iran or launching a military strike against Iran.”

When that moment came, he said: “I think it will be very tough for any prime minister of Israel or president of the United States to accept a nuclear-armed Iran.”

Iran has previously accused Israel and the US of trying to disrupt its nuclear programme through covert operations by Mossad, MI6 and the CIA.

Several Iranian nuclear scientists have been apparently assassinated in recent years while a powerful computer virus known as Stuxnet attacked the computer systems of their nuclear facilities.

Britain and America denied the allegations but Israel has remained silent on the issue.

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Sir John disclosed that MI6 has “run a series of operations to ensure that the sanctions introduced internationally are implemented, and that we do everything we can within the Middle East to slow down these remaining problems.

“I take great pride in the fact that, in the last ten years, over a number of jobs, I’ve been involved in an issue of global concern, and I feel that I as an individual [have made] an impact in the outcome of events.”

The session – which was open to visitors to the event – was titled “Unclassified chat: Sir John Sawers CMG” and was reported in *Civil Service World*, a publication which is dedicated to senior Whitehall officials.

Disclosure of his remarks came as the US stepped up their sanctions against front companies suspected of supplying apparent nuclear materials to Iran after an international oil embargo started earlier this month.

His warning of a nuclear Iran in 2014 could throw the Coalition into turmoil just before the next general election.

The Liberal Democrats have ruled out supporting any military action against the regime but David Cameron has repeatedly said that “all options” are on the table.

Senior Conservatives believe that the issue could finally cause the Coalition to split as Britain would be forced to support any American action.

In March, Sir John spoke to more than 20 ministers about the latest intelligence on the growing fear that Israel is poised to launch a pre-emptive strike against Tehran.

The secrecy around the briefing was so high that ministers were ordered to leave their mobile phones outside the Cabinet room.

There are claims that basic mobile phones, without specialist anti-eavesdropping security, can be converted into “listening devices” by foreign intelligence agencies.

The highly unusual briefing was thought to have raised questions about Israel’s military capacity to destroy Iranian nuclear sites, which are buried deep underground.

The MI6 chief was also understood to have warned about the potential threat to Britain from a nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

That came after Foreign secretary William Hague warned that Iran’s pursuit of nuclear weapons threatened to trigger a “new Cold War” that posed an even greater threat of nuclear conflict than the stand-off between the USSR and the West.

In an interview with *The Daily Telegraph*, Mr Hague said that Iran was threatening to spark a nuclear arms race in the Middle East which could be more dangerous than the original East-West Cold War as there are not the same “safety mechanisms” in place.

“It is a crisis coming down the tracks,” he said. “Because they are clearly continuing their nuclear weapons programme...”

“If they obtain nuclear weapons capability, then I think other nations across the Middle East will want to develop nuclear weapons.

“And so, the most serious round of nuclear proliferation since nuclear weapons were invented would have begun with all the destabilizing effects in the Middle East.

“And the threat of a new cold war in the Middle East without necessarily all the safety mechanisms ... That would be a disaster in world affairs.”

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/9396360/MI6-chief-Sir-John-Sawers-We-foiled-Iranian-nuclear-weapons-bid.html>

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Denver Post  
Friday, July 13, 2012

## Iran Reports: War Games Showed Missile Accuracy

By ALI AKBAR DAREINI, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran—War games this month showcased missiles with improved accuracy and firing capabilities, Iranian media reports said Friday, an apparent response to stepped up Western moves against Iran's nuclear program.

Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards conducted the exercise in the central desert, firing ballistic missiles including a long-range variety meant to deter an Israeli or U.S. attack. The targets were models of foreign military bases, and the stated goal was to show that Iran's missiles can hit Western bases and Israel.

The U.N. Security Council has imposed several rounds of economic sanctions on Iran, aimed at persuading Iran to halt its uranium enrichment program. The sanctions have hit Iran's economy, but its leaders have refused to scale down the nuclear program.

In the latest step, The European Union put a ban against purchase of Iranian oil in force on July 1. EU purchases accounted for 18 percent of Iran's oil exports.

Several Iranian news websites reported Friday that 90 percent of the missiles hit their targets and said this showed their increased accuracy.

Another achievement, the reports said, was Iran's capability of firing multiple missiles within seconds. The media reports said this would create a challenge for the U.S. or Israel to intercept incoming missiles should a war break out.

Iran has a variety of missiles including a Shahab-3 variant with a range of 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) that can reach Israel and southern Europe. The missiles, which can carry a nuclear warhead, are also capable of hitting U.S. bases in the region.

Some of the missiles used during the war games used solid fuel, the reports said, improving the accuracy of the missiles.

The elite Revolutionary Guard's Aerospace Division is in charge of Iran's missile program.

"Within 10 minutes, a considerable number of missiles were fired at a single target. The achievement, called high firing density, makes it impossible for anti-missile systems to intercept and destroy them. In the end, the target is definitely hit," said a report on [irannuc.ir](http://irannuc.ir).

Iranian news media are tightly controlled by the regime.

The Pentagon released a report June 29 noting significant advances in Iranian missile technology. The report was prepared before the latest Iranian missile tests.

The report to Congress, signed by U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, acknowledged that Iran has improved the accuracy and power of its missiles. Up to now, U.S. reports have downplayed the accuracy and effectiveness of Iran's missiles.

Iranian lawmaker Ismaeil Kowsari, a former Revolutionary Guard commander, said Iran has upgraded its missile deterrence.

"Our missiles are more accurate and lethal than ever," Kowsari told The Associated Press on Friday. "These achievements send clear signals to the West that Iran is a formidable force, making enemies think twice before making any decision to attack us."

Iran's Revolutionary Guard commanders said during the war games that the tests were a "response to the political impoliteness of those who talk about all options being on the table."

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That was a reference to U.S. and Israeli hints of a military attack if diplomacy fails to stop Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. Iran insists its nuclear program is peaceful, aimed at producing electric power and radioisotopes to treat cancer patients.

The commander of the Revolutionary Guard's Aerospace Division, Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, threatened earlier this month that Israel would disappear from the Earth if it attacks Iran. Israel considers Iran a dangerous enemy because of its nuclear and missile programs, support for violent anti-Israel groups and frequent references by its leaders to Israel's destruction.

Hajizadeh also warned that 35 American military bases in the Middle East are within Iran's missile range and would be destroyed within seconds after any U.S. attack on Iran.

[http://www.denverpost.com/war/ci\\_21067479/reports-iran-war-games-showed-missile-accuracy](http://www.denverpost.com/war/ci_21067479/reports-iran-war-games-showed-missile-accuracy)

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Wall Street Journal  
July 13, 2012

## **U.S. Concerned as Syria Moves Chemical Stockpile**

By JULIAN E. BARNES, JAY SOLOMON and ADAM ENTOUS

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WASHINGTON—Syria has begun moving parts of its vast arsenal of chemical weapons out of storage facilities, U.S. officials said, in a development that has alarmed many in Washington.

The country's undeclared stockpiles of sarin nerve agent, mustard gas and cyanide have long worried U.S. officials and their allies in the region, who have watched anxiously amid the conflict in Syria for any change in the status or location of the weapons.

American officials are divided on the meaning of the latest moves by members of President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

Some U.S. officials fear Damascus intends to use the weapons against the rebels or civilians, potentially as part of a targeted ethnic cleansing campaign. But other officials said Mr. Assad may be trying to safeguard the material from his opponents or to complicate Western powers' efforts to track the weapons.

Some said that Mr. Assad may not intend to use the weapons, but instead may be moving them as a feint, hoping the threat of a chemical attack could drive Sunnis thought to be sympathetic to the rebels from their homes.

Whatever the motivation, the evidence that the chemical weapons are coming into play could escalate the conflict in Syria, some fear. "This could set the precedent of WMD [weapons of mass destruction] being used under our watch," one U.S. official said. "This is incredibly dangerous to our national security."

The Obama administration has begun to hold classified briefings about the new intelligence. U.S. officials are particularly worried about Syria's stocks of sarin gas, the deadly and versatile nerve agent. The officials wouldn't say where weapons have been moved.

The new intelligence comes as the U.S. and its allies step up pressure on Russia to join an international drive to dislodge Mr. Assad from power. But the new information could cut both ways, officials said: It could bolster calls for international action to remove Mr. Assad, but also underline the risks of intervening against a military armed with weapons of mass destruction.

"This shows how complex this is," a second official briefed on the matter said.

The Syrian government denied the chemical stockpiles have been moved.





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"This is absolutely ridiculous and untrue," said Syria's foreign ministry spokesman, Jihad Makdissi. "If the U.S. is so well-informed, why can't they help [U.N. envoy] Kofi Annan in stopping the flow of illegal weapons to Syria in order to end the violence and move towards the political solution?"

The White House, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Pentagon declined to comment.

Damascus is believed to possess one of the largest stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons in the Middle East. Syria never signed the 1992 Chemical Weapons Convention, the arms-control agreement that outlaws the production, stockpiling and use of such weapons.

Despite the new intelligence, U.S. officials said they believe that the weapons remain under Syrian government control.

The State Department reiterated U.S. warnings: "We have repeatedly made it clear that the Syrian government has a responsibility to safeguard its stockpiles of chemical weapons, and that the international community will hold accountable any Syrian officials who fail to meet that obligation," said spokeswoman Victoria Nuland.

Syrian opposition leaders said that rebels have confiscated equipment from Syrian forces apparently meant to protect them during a chemical weapons attack.

Syria has long had the capability of placing its chemical agents in artillery shells and Scud missiles, U.S. officials have said. But chemical and biological weapons are difficult to deploy effectively. Sarin, for example, can be used either as a gas or to poison water supplies because it is heavier than air, but is hard to control when used as a weapon against a crowd of people.

The weapons are a danger not only to opponents, but also to the government's own forces. In 2007, an accident at a chemical-weapons facility involving mustard gas killed several Syrians.

U.S. officials have held discussions with the Jordanian military, working on plans to have Jordan's special operations forces secure the chemical and biological sites in the event that Assad's government falls.

Because of the faulty intelligence about Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction that were used to justify the Iraq war, U.S. officials are extremely cautious about using reports of Mr. Assad's chemical stockpiles to support military intervention.

Some U.S. officials briefed on the matter said the information isn't conclusive on what Mr. Assad's forces intend to do with the weapons. These officials said the moves may be aimed at safeguarding the materials from enemies, rather than a sign Mr. Assad is preparing to use them.

Officials point out that Mr. Assad remains in power today largely because of international disagreement over how to handle the crisis. If he used a chemical weapon, they said, Western allies would likely rally around plans to more aggressively intervene and topple him from power.

But some American officials, who hold the view that the U.S. needs to do more to protect the Syrian population, fear that the chemical weapons have been moved in so they can be available for government-allied forces to use, should the rebels make further gains or the Syrian state begin to fall apart.

"The regime has a plan for ethnic cleansing, and we must come to terms with this," the first U.S. official said. "There is no diplomatic solution."

Some analysts and U.S. officials believe that if the Assad government is forced to abandon power, it would retreat to the Mediterranean coast, where the country's Allawite population is concentrated. The Syrian regime since 2011 has attacked Sunni enclaves in the coastal areas otherwise dominated by the pro-government Allawite minority.

As the rebels continue to gain in key areas and the Assad regime is increasingly threatened, it could resort to chemical weapons, said Joseph Holliday, a former Army intelligence officer and an analyst at the Institute for the Study of War.

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"We can't discount him using this, we just can't," Mr. Holliday said. "If we believe the Assad regime and their closest allies view this as an existential struggle, we have to assume they could use chemical weapons against their population at some point in the conflict."

Opposition leaders maintain there are increasing indications that the Damascus regime is trying to cleanse strategic areas, such as Hama and Homs, of Sunnis in order to set up an ethnic state that could be defended by the Assads' Allawite ethnic minority.

A delegation from the umbrella Syrian opposition group, the Syrian National Council, visited Moscow this week and pressed the Russian government to use its leverage with the Assads to quell the violence, according to members of the group.

Qassim Saadaldin, spokesman for the rebels' military leadership in the Syrian city of Homs, said the opposition has intelligence that the regime is readying biological or chemical weapons. "Assad is prepared to use these weapons should he consider his authority to be in jeopardy," Mr. Saadaldin said.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303644004577523251596963194.html>

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Korea Times – South Korea

July 10, 2012

## **S. Korea Missile Range to Increase**

By Chung Min-uck

Seoul and Washington are nearing a compromise to extend the former's ballistic missile range which is now restricted to 300 kilometers, sources said Tuesday.

The South Korean government reportedly asked to increase the missile range to at least 800 kilometers or to scrap the range-restriction agreement made with Washington.

Seoul is banned from developing ballistic missiles with a range of more than 300 kilometers under the agreement revised in 2001. Before then it was 180 kilometers.

"Our military has conveyed the view that the extended limit of the ballistic missile should be over 800 kilometers. The United States side is checking it now," a high-ranking government official said. "Though the issue is not finalized, we expect to make an agreement that brings a drastic stretch in the range (of ballistic missiles)."

Calls for the extension have been mounting here after North Korea allegedly developed a missile with a range of 1,300 kilometers.

The Korean Peninsula stretches about 1,030 kilometers from north to south and between 175 and 300 kilometers from west to east.

Regarding the issue, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, after the "two-plus-two" talks held in Washington from June 13 to 14, gave a positive sign, saying the two nations "are making good progress, and our hope is that we can arrive at an agreeable solution soon."

However, some experts have been critical of such move as an extension could provoke China and North Korea, consequently increasing tensions in the region.

"There have been views that the extension should be limited to 550 kilometers due to concerns of China," said the official. "But the consideration is needless as China already has intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capabilities."

Meanwhile, some say the extension of the ballistic missile range could push Seoul to participate in the regional missile defense led by the U.S.



U.S. President Barak Obama's regional missile defense system is similar to the Theater Missile Defense (TMD) system under the George W. Bush administration, a U.S.-initiated missile defense program accompanied by its allies and partners in different regions in relation to U.S.' security interests.

Washington currently has missile defense cooperative programs with a number of allies including Japan in Northeast Asia.

[http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2012/07/116\\_114861.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2012/07/116_114861.html)

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AsiaOne News – Singapore

## **N Korea Tells Asia Meet it Needs Nukes to Deter US**

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Friday, July 13, 2012

PHNOM PENH - North Korea insisted Thursday it needs atomic weaponry to deter a US nuclear threat, and vowed never to give up its right to launch rockets as part of what it called a peaceful space programme.

Washington's aim is to "eliminate the political ideology and system our people have opted for", Foreign Minister Pak Ui-Chun told a regional Asian gathering in Cambodia, according to a summary given to reporters by his delegation.

North Korea's launch of a long-range rocket on April 13 heightened regional tensions and sank a deal with the United States reached on February 29.

Under that agreement, the North had agreed to freeze its uranium enrichment plant and suspend nuclear and missile tests, while the US promised 240,000 tons of food aid.

The US and its allies described the rocket launch as a disguised missile test, while the North said its aim was only to put a satellite into orbit. The rocket failed soon after takeoff.

Pak, according to the summary, told fellow foreign ministers at the ASEAN Regional Forum that it was the US which scuppered the February 29 deal and was to blame for tensions on the Korean peninsula.

The United States, Japan and South Korea held a joint meeting on Thursday which warned that "any provocation by North Korea... will be met with a resolute and coordinated response from the international community."

It also expressed "deep concern about the well-being of the North Korean people and the grave human rights situation in North Korea".

Pak, in his comments to the gathering in Phnom Penh, cited the use of a North Korean flag as a target during a major US-South Korean live-fire exercise in the South as a "clear proof of the hostile intent of the US"

It said the North would never give up its sovereign right "to explore and utilize the outer space and to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purpose" by building light water reactors to generate electricity.

Pyongyang says its uranium enrichment plant is intended to fuel light water reactors to generate power. Scientists say the plant could easily be reconfigured to produce bomb-making material, supplementing its current plutonium programme.

Pyongyang's atomic deterrent had helped maintain the regional nuclear balance and reduced the risk of atomic war, it said. "We need to safeguard our sovereignty from constant nuclear threats of the US"

The paper reiterated calls for a peace treaty with the United States to replace the armistice which ended the 1950-1953 Korean War.



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Six-party talks, which envisage a peace treaty and other benefits if the North scraps its atomic weaponry, have been stalled since December 2008.

<http://www.asiaone.com/News/AsiaOne%2BNews/Asia/Story/A1Story20120713-358838.html>

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Economic Times – India

13 July 2012

## **Successful Test-Firing of Indigenously Developed Nuclear Capable Agni-I Missile**

Press Trust of India (PTI)

BALASORE: Giving a fillip to its missile capability, India today successfully test fired the indigenously developed nuclear capable Agni-I ballistic missile with a strike range of 700 km as part of the Army's user trial from a test range off Odisha coast.

"The trial of Agni-I missile conducted from the Integrated Test Range at Wheeler Island was successful. It met the mission objectives," ITR Director M V K V Prasad said.

The surface-to-surface single-stage missile, powered by solid propellants, was test fired from a mobile launcher at about 10.10 AM from launch pad-4 of the ITR at Wheeler Island, about 100 KM from here, a defence scientist said.

Describing the launch as a routine user's trial by the strategic force command of the Indian Army, he said the main objective was to train the user team to launch the missile.

"It was a practice drill. The user-team picked a missile at random from the production lot and fired it with logistic support provided by Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) at ITR," he said.

Agni-I has a specialised navigation system which ensures it reaches the target with a high degree of accuracy.

The trajectory of the missile, with an operational strike range of 700 km, was tracked by sophisticated radars and electro-optic telemetry stations located along the sea coast and ships positioned near the impact point in the downrange area.

Weighing 12 tonnes, the 15-metre-long Agni-I, which can carry payloads up to 1000 KG, has already been inducted into the Indian Army.

The last trial of the Agni-I missile was successfully carried out on December 1, 2011 from the same base.

Since the missile has already been inducted into the armed forces, it is important to conduct user trials to train defence personnel and improve their skills.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics/nation/successful-test-firing-of-indigenously-developed-nuclear-capable-agni-i-missile/articleshow/14861311.cms>

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Pakistan Observer – Pakistan

Friday, July 13, 2012

## **Pak Adheres to Non-Expansion of Nuclear Arms**

Islamabad—Advisor to Prime Minister on interior affairs, Rehman Malik has said Pakistan strictly adheres to the policy of non-expansion of nuclear arms.

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Addressing the conference on non-proliferation of nuclear arms Thursday and talking to media afterwards, Rehman Malik said some powers have wrong conception about Pakistan's nuclear program.

He stated Pakistan's nuclear program is in safe hands and no one has access to its nuclear assets.

Pakistan is fully capable to defend itself, he added.

He mentioned Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto laid the foundation of Pakistan's nuclear program and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto secured it.

He asked the world community to end discrimination against Pakistan and accept the country's role in international affairs.

He said war on terror was imposed on Pakistan and the nation sacrificed a lot fighting against terrorism.

Pakistan lost lives of its 39,000 valuable citizens as a consequence of the war, he maintained.

He said no nation has offered more sacrifices combating terrorism than the Pakistani nation.

The economy of the country has been badly affected due to the ongoing war against terrorism and furthermore, foreign investment in Pakistan has fallen immensely, he stated.

He said Pakistan is a victim of terrorism and the world community should acknowledge its responsible regional role.

The interior advisor denied alleged Pakistan's alliance with the Haqqani network, saying that it is being operated from Afghanistan.

He accused India of inconsiderate allegations it levels against Pakistan from time to time.

He said that the Mumbai attacks were planned in Italy, Russia and the US and even these states have not been successful in discovering facts about the attacks.

He noted Pakistan has never been involved in any terrorist incident adding that Indian citizens came out to be involved in terrorism against their own country.

He said Pakistan and India should sit for the resolution of the conflicts.

He said the need of the hour is to cautiously progress forward not ignoring the recent unrest in the region.

He observed Pakistan has not provided any secret information to anyone.

He urged countries of the world to formulate laws against cyber crimes.

Inviting the Interpol to Pakistan for controlling cyber crimes, he observed such activities are a threat to international peace.

He said no one wants to interfere in privacy of the people but it is also a fact that cyber crime is gradually becoming a dangerous sign for the region.

To a question about terrorism in Lahore, he said it saddened him but the government of Punjab, instead of facilitating terrorists from the banned organizations, should jail them or detain them in their homes.

He said he has asked for the report on Achra incident.

He appreciated the work of Pakistani scientists and paid a tribute to all of them.

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=164611>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency



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## Russia, Kazakhstan to Combine Air Defense

11 July 2012

Russia hopes to complete talks soon with Kazakhstan on establishing a joint air defense network by 2013, Deputy Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Pavel Kurachenko said on Wednesday.

"We will discuss the relevant agreement with our Kazakh colleagues at a session of CIS Air Defense Coordinating Committee which opened in Cholpon-ata [on Wednesday]," Kurachenko said, adding he hoped the agreement could be signed either by the end of 2012 or the beginning of 2013.

Russia has long been leading the efforts to build a joint air defense shield for the CIS, a loose association of former Soviet republics.

An integrated air defense network was set up by 10 CIS-member countries in 1995 and currently comprises some air defense units and elements from Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan.

However, negotiations on a fully-fledged joint air defense network in Central Asia have been suspended due to serious disagreements with Uzbekistan, and Russia has opted to gradually set up joint air defense networks with individual CIS states.

So far, Russia has an agreement on the joint protection of common airspace and the creation of a joint regional air defense network with Belarus, which was signed in 2009.

An agreement with Kazakhstan would be followed by similar pacts with Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, Kurachenko said.

Russia's air defenses will be strengthened by the delivery of a fifth regiment of cutting-edge S-400 Triumf air defense systems by the end of 2012.

The S-400 Triumf medium- to long-range surface-to-air missile system can effectively engage any aerial target, including aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, and cruise and ballistic missiles at up to 400 kilometers and an altitude of up to 30 kilometers.

Russia currently has two S-400 regiments in the Moscow region, one in the Baltic exclave of Kaliningrad, and one in the Eastern Military District. By 2020, Russia is planning to have 28 S-400 regiments, each comprised of two battalions, mainly in maritime and border areas.

CHOLPON-ATA, July 11 (RIA Novosti)

[http://en.ria.ru/military\\_news/20120711/174548551.html](http://en.ria.ru/military_news/20120711/174548551.html)

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Business Insider

## Raytheon's Exoatmospheric Kill Vehicle Is Reagan's 'Star Wars' On Earth

By Robert Johnson

July 10, 2012

Before anyone knew the Cold War was drawing to an unceremonious close, Ronald Reagan pushed for an orbiting missile defense system called "Star Wars" or the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), to protect the U.S. from Soviet nuclear missiles.

The idea of Mutually Assured Destruction, where the two superpowers would keep from annihilating each other only to prevent from being annihilated, failed to appeal to Reagan's Hollywood sensibilities.

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His idea, back in 1983, was to place satellites above the earth capable of shooting down missiles sent America's way with some sort of space based weapon. Laser, rail-gun, slingshot, it didn't matter because the technology for achieving the goal was decades away.

Reagan didn't care, and while his call to the nation's scientists to build SDI may have helped in the demise of the Soviet Union, efforts at building Star Wars didn't stop when the Cold War ended — it just took a while to put a system in place.

Raytheon has been working on a missile killer for years, and was first successful in its efforts back in 1999 when it scored its first Exoatmospheric Kill Vehicle (EKV) force of impact or "hit-to-kill" engagement.

The dream of an orbiting missile defense interceptor system was scrapped, but EKVs are aboard about 30 ground-based interceptor missiles that have been deployed in Alaska and California beginning in 2004.

And a couple weeks ago the defense contractor signed a seven-year \$636 million contract to provide the EKV to The Boeing Company, which is the prime contractor for the Missile Defense Agency's Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) program.

So now the EKV will be the centerpiece of the GMD as the intercept component of the Ground Based Interceptor (GBI), working to engage high-speed ballistic missile warheads in space.

Each EKV has an infrared seeker used to detect and discriminate the incoming warhead from other objects as well as its own propulsion, communications link, discrimination algorithms, guidance and control system and computers to support target selection and intercept.

The impact from the 18,000 mile-per-hour intercept packs enough kinetic punch to knock out the mightiest of ballistic missiles and would do Reagan proud.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/raytheons-exoatmospheric-kill-vehicle-is-the-new-star-wars-2012-7>

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Space.com

## **US Military to Launch Hypersonic Rocket Plane by 2016**

By SPACE.com Staff

11 July 2012

The U.S. military aims to fly a full-scale rocket plane at 20 times the speed of sound by 2016, officials announced last week.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, laid out its plan to develop and test-fly the hypersonic vehicle in a press release issued Friday (July 6). The so-called X-plane would travel at Mach 20 — roughly 13,000 mph (20,900 kph) — allowing the military to reach any spot on the globe in less than an hour.

Further, the vehicle would be "recoverable," according to the release — meaning the government could get it back.

To help make all this happen, DARPA has started up a new program called Integrated Hypersonics. IH will build off previous Defense Department research into ultra-fast flight but will need to make some major strides of its own, officials said.

"We do not yet have a complete hypersonic system solution," said Gregory Hulcher, director of strategic warfare at the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, in a statement. "Programs like Integrated Hypersonics will leverage previous investments in this field and continue to reduce risk, inform development and advance capabilities."





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The Integrated Hypersonics program will focus primarily on five areas: thermal protection; aerodynamics; guidance, navigation and control (GNC); range/instrumentation; and propulsion.

Thermal protection systems are a key requirement for hypersonic flight, which is traditionally defined as anything above Mach 5. Vehicles zooming through the atmosphere at Mach 20 experience temperatures in excess of 3,500 degrees Fahrenheit (1,927 degrees Celsius), DARPA officials said — hot enough to melt stainless steel.

Desired advances in aerodynamics and GNC technology will allow the X-plane to make real-time, in-flight adjustments to account for changing conditions — such as wind gusts — and let it glide safely to its destination.

As far as propulsion goes, IH won't simply adapt an existing rocket designed for space missions. Rather, DARPA is working on a new launch vehicle that would insert the X-plane into its desired trajectory, officials said. The hypersonic vehicle would also have its own integrated rocket to give it a boost during flight, they added.

DARPA has had an active hypersonics research program for years. For example, the agency has conducted two flight tests of a prototype rocket-launched glider, called the Hypersonic Technology Vehicle 2 (HTV-2), in the last two years.

In the more recent test, launched in August 2011, HTV-2 reached Mach 20 but stayed aloft for only nine minutes. HTV-2 is part of the advanced Conventional Prompt Global Strike weapons program, which aims to develop a bomber capable of reaching any target on Earth within an hour.

<http://www.space.com/16524-darpa-hypersonic-rocket-plane-2016.html>

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National Journal

## **Senior General: U.S. Atomic Arsenal Could Deter a Nuclear-Armed Iran**

July 12, 2012

By Elaine M. Grossman

WASHINGTON -- The top U.S. military commander for strategic combat on Thursday said Washington's atomic weapons could serve as the ultimate tool for deterring a nuclear-armed Iran (see *GSN*, June 21).

Asked at a public event whether the U.S. nuclear umbrella would be extended to non-nuclear Persian Gulf nations such as Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates in the event that Iran moves to build its own atomic bomb, Gen. Robert Kehler cited Washington's roughly 2,150 deployed warheads as one of several means to ensure that Tehran does not threaten its regional neighbors.

"Strategic deterrence vis a vis any country -- Iran, for example -- would involve a number of different assets, to include partnerships with friends and allies in the region," said Kehler, who heads U.S. Strategic Command, the military organization responsible for any wartime use of nuclear weapons.

Speaking at a breakfast forum on Capitol Hill, the Air Force four-star general also noted "the presence of our strong conventional capabilities in the region [and] the positioning that we are doing for missile defense assets.

"And then ultimately," Kehler said, "the president always has available the strategic nuclear deterrent to provide both a deterrent from an attack on the United States standpoint, but also an attack on our allies and friends."

In recent months, the United States has beefed up non-nuclear naval forces and other conventional military capabilities in the region in an effort to deter Iran from closing off the Strait of Hormuz -- a key transit point for Middle East oil shipments -- or from taking other provocative action in response to new international sanctions (see *GSN*, July 10).

The punitive economic measures, including restrictions on Iran's oil industry, are aimed at curbing the country's nuclear program. Tehran insists that its atomic projects are solely for civil power generation, medical applications and

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research. However, the U.N. nuclear watchdog organization has found indications of past military efforts to build a bomb and has said the Iranian regime has not fully complied with international safeguards (see *GSN*, July 11).

Washington is also collaborating with its NATO allies to build a missile intercept system in Europe that would be aimed at defending against a future Iranian ballistic missile capability (see *GSN*, May 21).

In his remarks on Thursday, Kehler said U.S. military assets offering strategic deterrence capability have expanded since the Cold War to include more than simply nuclear weapons, and these forces are now aimed at addressing a wider range of global threats.

For four decades leading up to the early 1990s, the dominant focus of U.S. nuclear plans and targeting was the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies.

Strategic deterrence of adversaries and assurance of friends and allies “remain relevant concepts today, but today we are shaping these concepts for a broader array of individual actors, each with their own unique context,” said the general, whose headquarters are based in Omaha, Neb.

This emerging form of “tailored deterrence” is “about what the U.S. and our allies as a whole can bring to bear in both a military and a nonmilitary sense,” Kehler said. “Its practice encompasses a wider range of tools today, both nuclear and strong conventional offensive forces, nonkinetic capabilities, limited missile defenses, theater missile defenses [and] unfettered access and use of space and cyberspace.”

Beyond nuclear-armed nations such as Russia or China, strategic threats facing Washington include “the proliferation of nuclear weapons and delivery systems,” he said, also citing “the danger of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of violent extremists.”

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/nationalsecurity/senior-general-u-s-atomic-arsenal-could-deter-a-nuclear-armed-iran-20120712>

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Times of India – India

## **Cyber War on Iran Has only Just Begun: Experts**

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

July 13, 2012

WASHINGTON: A US cyber war against Iran's nuclear program may have only just begun and could escalate with explosions triggered by digital sabotage, experts say.

Although the Iranian regime remains vulnerable to more cyber attacks in the aftermath of the "Stuxnet" worm that disrupted its uranium enrichment work, Tehran may be receiving help from Russian proxies for its digital security, some analysts say.

The nuclear program is "really not that well protected" from more digital assaults and Iran will be hard-pressed to safeguard its uranium enrichment efforts from tainted software, said David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security.

"With Stuxnet, they lost about a year. And it caused a lot of confusion. They really didn't know what hit them," he said. "It looks like a viable way to disrupt their program."

The United States, which reportedly masterminded the Stuxnet operation along with Israel, has every incentive to press ahead with a cyber campaign to undermine Iran's atomic ambitions, according to analysts.

The next cyber attack, possibly in combination with more traditional spycraft, could shut off valves or issue incorrect orders that might cause an explosion at a sensitive site.

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"I think that it could get more violent," Albright told AFP. "I would expect more facilities to blow up."

A major explosion at a missile plant in Iran in November sparked speculation that the incident was the result of sabotage.

"There is of course the possibility of sending in a team to modify a system in a way that would make it vulnerable, and then use a cyber weapon at a later date as a trigger event," said David Lindahl, research engineer at the Swedish Defense Research Agency.

A new wave of cyber attacks could involve inserting hardware with infected chips into the industrial process, possibly through an agent or a duped employee, or penetrating diagnostic software used to gauge uranium enrichment or other work, Lindahl said.

But some cyber security experts suspect Russian proxies could be assisting Iran with its digital defenses, and possibly helped Tehran trace the origins of Stuxnet.

"The part that we probably miscalculated on in Stuxnet was the (possible) assistance of the Russians in attribution," said James Lewis, senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"The Iranians never would have figured this out on their own," said Lewis, a former senior government official with the Departments of State and Commerce.

The elaborate Stuxnet malware, which was reportedly introduced using a thumb drive, contained malicious code that caused centrifuges used to enrich uranium to spin out of control. The worm, meanwhile, sent back signals to operators indicating the centrifuges were operating normally.

After the malware was discovered in 2010, at least a thousand centrifuges had to be removed and analysts estimate Tehran's program was set back by at least a year.

By pushing the boundaries of cyber warfare, the United States has left itself open to retaliation. But US officials clearly view the risks associated with digital strikes as dwarfed by the dangers of an all-out war with Iran.

Bombing raids are "more likely to explode the region and certainly could lead to a conflict with Iran, and that would be very messy," said Lewis. "Cyber is much cleaner."

Although unnamed officials told The New York Times that the United States and Israel were behind the digital operations, cyber attacks -- unlike air strikes -- allow for "plausible deniability," he said.

The Stuxnet worm broke new ground by successfully hijacking a program designed to supervise power plants or other large industrial systems, said Sean McGurk, a consultant who previously led cyber security efforts at the Department of Homeland Security.

"Stuxnet demonstrated going from a disruptive capability to a destructive capability and that's what made it unique," he said.

The super virus also was unusual for the way it sought out a specific target while sidestepping systems that did not fit certain criteria.

"Almost all cyberattacks are 'to whom it may concern' but Stuxnet was a bullet with someone's name on it," Lindahl said.

"Repeating something like Stuxnet or (computer virus) Flame will be much more difficult, because they (the Iranians) will spend a lot more energy trying to stop those activities," he added.

"But the defender needs to plug all holes, while the attacker need only find one."

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech/news/internet/Cyber-war-on-Iran-has-only-just-begun-Experts/articleshow/14864147.cms>

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Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) – India  
OPINION/IDSA Comments

## Japan's (Un)Clear Nuclear Ambition

By Shamshad A. Khan

July 11, 2012

Japan's recent amendment to its Atomic Energy Basic Law stating that nuclear energy should contribute to "national security" has stirred a debate both inside the country and outside about its true intentions. Critics contend that the national security clause could pave the way for Japan's acquisition of nuclear weapons in the near future.

The revision in the 1955 atomic energy law was made during the process of passing a legislation backed by three main political parties, viz., the ruling Democratic Party of Japan, the Liberal Democratic Party and the New Komeito Party, to set up a new nuclear regulatory body, the Nuclear Safety Commission, on June 20. The Japanese government considered setting up a new nuclear regulatory body amid public pressure blaming the existing Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency of having cosy ties with nuclear companies and industry bodies. The new Commission would come into effect in September 2012. The revision, added by an appendix to the basic law, states that "nuclear safety should be guaranteed not only to defend lives of people's health and the environment but also to contribute to Japan's national security." Critics in Japan view the addition of the national security clause as an 'underhand deal' among the three parties, which "allows the possibility of nuclear armament open to interpretation."

Japanese anti-nuclear activists have been casting doubts about the true intention behind the alteration in the Atomic Energy Basic Law, which is considered as the constitution for Japan's nuclear energy sector. The basic law adopted in 1955 stipulates that Japan will use nuclear energy for "peaceful purposes" and identifies "democracy, independence and openness" as basic principles of the nuclear industry. The main reason for the anti-nuclear activists' wariness about the true intention behind the legislation is the hasty passing of the legislation without a proper debate in the Diet. The legislation was tabled on June 15 in the Diet and passed on June 20, which is very rare given the present political set-up wherein the opposition has a majority in the upper house.

Japanese media reports provide interesting insights into the adoption of this contentious clause. The amendment in the atomic energy law was proposed by Masayoshi Yoshino, a member of LDP in the lower house of the Diet. When a DPJ member questioned the true motive behind the clause, the LDP member explained that "the purpose is to centralize the safety of nuclear power, safeguards by International Atomic Energy Agency to prevent military use of nuclear materials and nuclear security to prevent terrorism into one Commission." Questioning the lawmaker's intention, Japanese media organisations including the *Asahi Shimbun* have argued that "the word safeguard should be used. Why say 'national security'?" Michiji Konuma, professor emeritus at Keio University and an anti-nuclear activist, viewed the inclusion of the national security clause as a "cryptic expression" that "left room for stretched interpretation" to provide cover for military use of nuclear technology.

The amendment in the basic atomic energy law has generated unease in the region as well. South Korea expressed concern over the revision saying that "we will watch the true intention behind the amendment and its future impact." *Yonhap*, the South Korean national news agency, asked Japan in an editorial to "clear up concerns over nuclear development". Stating that "the real intention of the controversial clause should be closely watched," the editorial added that "if Japan really has no intention of nuclear armament it should prove its real intention through action so as to clear suspicion." Further, the *Yonhap* editorial went on to suggest that Japan "delete" the national security clause.

In Japan, Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura and Nuclear Disaster Minister Goshi Hosono tried to shrug off these concerns. In separate remarks they said that Japan would not use nuclear power for military purposes and that Japan has not changed its three non-nuclear principles of not producing, possessing or allowing nuclear weapons on its territory.

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However, many in the Japanese media continued to question the ulterior motives behind the inclusion of the ‘national security’ clause in the atomic energy law. The thrust of the debate in Japan is selection and usage of the phrase *national security* in the clause in question. In Japan, national security has been traditionally interpreted as national defence through military force. *The Japan Times*, questioning this aspect of the clause, opined in its editorial that “the word security leaves room for stretching the meaning of the clause, thus theoretically leaving the possibility of allowing Japan to use nuclear power for military purposes.” The daily suggested revision in the law “to rule out any possibility of using nuclear power for military purposes.” Similarly, *Mainichi Daily* editorialised that “there are fears that the development of atomic energy could lead to the development and production of nuclear arms.” It suggested that Japan “draw a clear line between such energy [nuclear energy] and national defense” and urged to “delete” the national security clause. *The Asahi Shimbun* too suggested the dropping of the national security clause, adding that “those words which could provoke suspicions that Japan is planning to develop nuclear weapons should be deleted in the next Diet Session.”

In the aftermath of the Fukushima nuclear crisis, a group of Japanese media has been demanding a phase out of nuclear reactors as well as the spent fuel reprocessing facility in Rokkasho, Aomori prefecture. The *Asahi Shimbun*, in an editorial following the Fukushima nuclear meltdown, suggested that Japan stop nuclear fuel cycle policy and added that “if Japan stops the use of plutonium,<sup>1</sup> [1] it would provide the country with a card to strengthen its nuclear nonproliferation diplomacy.” Seen against this context, the reactions expressed through the latest editorials suggest that the Japanese media’s campaign to wean Japan away from nuclear power has not yielded the desired result and therefore they are venting their anger over the insertion of the national security clause.

But what does Japan want to achieve through such an amendment in the atomic energy law? The answer could be found in arguments offered by Takao Yamada, a senior columnist of the *Mainichi Shimbun*. Based on conversation with a Japanese bureaucrat, Yamada draws the conclusion that the entire exercise of including a “national security” clause is aimed at granting “legal legitimacy” to the Rokkasho reprocessing plant, which will lose meaning if the country moves toward the abandonment of nuclear power. “If it is legally granted legitimacy as a facility for the military use of nuclear materials, then it can continue to exist. I believe that there were LDP lawmakers who thought of that and bureaucrat who supported them,” Yamada quotes the bureaucrat as saying. Yamada also notes that “a section of Japanese lawmakers and the bureaucrats have revealed their off the record hopes for country’s nuclear armament.”

For long Japan kept itself away from the ongoing nuclear armament in the East Asian region; nuclear armament remained a taboo for the post war generation leadership. Instead of opting for Japan’s nuclear armament, they relied on the nuclear umbrella provided by the United States. But it seems the new generation of the Japanese leadership sense vulnerability amid North Korean nuclear armament as well as nuclear armed China’s assertiveness. Therefore, they do not want to drop the nuclear option altogether and want to maintain some ambiguity in the country’s nuclear policy. But since the Japanese people remain largely opposed to the country’s nuclear armament, an overt inclusion of such a clause was impossible. That is why they quietly included a clause in the appendix while amending the 1955 atomic energy law.

The near secrecy maintained during the insertion of the clause is not unique in Japanese politics. According to the Japanese lawmaker Ashida Hitoshi, in 1946 the war renouncing clause of the draft constitution presented by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers was intentionally amended in such a way as to enable Japan’s later gradual rearmament in the name of self-defence. Only time will tell whether Masayoshi Yoshino will also similarly admit that he had a hidden intention behind his aggressive pursuit of the inclusion of the national security clause. In any event, the ambiguity maintained by Japanese politicians points towards this direction.

#### Note

1. [1] An Asahi Shimbun report in July 2011 noted that “Japan has stockpiled about 10 tons of plutonium, enough to produce 1250 nuclear weapons.”



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[http://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/Japansclearnuclearambition\\_sakhan\\_110712](http://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/Japansclearnuclearambition_sakhan_110712)

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Institute for Defence and Studies Analyses (IDSA) – India  
OPINION/IDSA Comments

## **Should India Conduct an ASAT Test Now?**

By Ajey Lele  
July 11, 2012

India's successful test of the Agni V missile two months ago also indirectly demonstrated the theoretical capacity to undertake an ASAT (anti-satellite) test, if required. However, possessing technological ability should not be the only reason for undertaking such a test; it is more important to analyse the political necessity of carrying it out. Presently, only three countries, namely the US, Russia and China, have demonstrated this capability. Is the time ripe for India to undertake an ASAT test?

Is debating an ASAT test without any major provocation (assuming that the 2007 Chinese ASAT test was not a provocation) justifiable? Here, it is important to note that the security policy of a state is not only about responding to the prevailing geopolitical situation but also to cater for its long-term interests. It is not only about reacting to a major event but also about influencing global events to favour the state's agenda either through diplomacy or through actions that would force others to take notice of its concerns.

For the last few years the European Union (EU) has initiated a debate on the need to introduce transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities (TCBMS). In this regard, it has also prepared a draft code of conduct (CoC) for others to consider. In October 2012 global negotiations for an International Code of Conduct (CoC) for Outer Space would commence in New York. There is a possibility that a CoC mechanism would be in place by 2013. This multilateral diplomatic process to discuss and negotiate an International CoC for Outer Space is the first serious step towards negotiating on outer space issues after the launch of the first satellite Sputnik in 1957.

Against this backdrop, it is important to discuss various issues concerning space security, and ASAT is one of them. There is a need to undertake a detailed appreciation of this issue by assessing various geostrategic, geopolitical and technological factors.

The first question which India needs to ask itself is: would the states with proven ASAT capability be in a position of strength to undertake the CoC negotiations than other powers? And, if so, should India undertake such potency demonstrations before setting out for negotiations?

The second question that India must ask itself is: what is the history of non-proliferation negotiations with regard to states having an advantage if they have proven technological superiority over others? The experience in global negotiations on nuclear weapons shows that the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) is essentially about a group of five nuclear weapons states coming together and deciding the policies for the rest of the world. A hypothetical scenario exists that in future states with ASAT capability could come together and devise a treaty mechanism which could prove biased like the NPT. If India does not become an ASAT power by that time, then it could be part of a discriminated group of nations once again. In the field of chemical weapons as well, it has been seen that only the US and Russia are missing the deadline for destruction of their weapon stockpile and that too, as per the current estimates, by around 10 years. The reasons given for such lapses are technological and economic limitations and the rest of the world has meekly accepted this.

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The third question for India in this regard is: would India's ASAT start the process of space weaponisation and arms race in the region? The regional geopolitical landscape does indicate the possibility of a knee-jerk reaction from Pakistan or China. However, China has already demonstrated its ASAT capabilities and its investments and achievements in the space arena supersede those of India. Pakistan being a non-space-faring nation does not belong to the same category as that of India and China. However, it is important to note that a non space-faring nation too can develop an ASAT capability if it is a missile power. Also, knowledge of rocket science is not essential to develop jamming capabilities.

The fourth question for India is: what is the nature of the threat to India's space assets and which actors pose a probable threat? For any adversary, India's remote sensing satellites like Cartographic satellites or Radar satellites could become prime targets. China has proven capability to undertake such attacks.

The fifth question is: if India were to decide to demonstrate its ASAT capabilities, then which technology trajectory should it follow? Broadly, there are two technological routes in this regard. One, the Kinetic Kill Vehicle (KKV) method, where a missile with a metal warhead (without any munitions) is fired from the ground towards the target and the target gets disintegrated by the impact. The other option is to use jamming technologies ("softer" methods). However, jamming may not be an 'impact' weapon'. With regard to KKV, it is important to note that accurate engagement of the target is critical for success. China had used a similar technology to demonstrate its ASAT potential in January 2007 and various reports suggest that China succeeded only in its third or fourth attempt.

The sixth question is: should India behave as an irresponsible nation and increase space debris by undertaking an ASAT test the way China did? The obvious answer to this is no. Is it possible to demonstrate ASAT capability without creating debris? For this purpose India could conduct a test in the lower part of atmosphere (say in the range of 150 to 250 km altitude) where the created debris would enter the earth's atmosphere and burn off. For such a demonstration, India first would have to launch a dummy satellite as a target.

The seventh question is: "what could be the global reaction to such a demonstrative test by India? Globally, two major tests have been conducted (by China and the US) during the last five years. The Chinese test has been criticized vociferously mainly because it ended up creating massive debris, while the US test was conducted under the garb of 'transparency' and was announced beforehand. The US test was done in lower altitudes thus avoiding any major injection of debris in space. It appears that the hidden motive behind both these states was successfully achieved. Since no proper legal regime exists in the space arena, technically neither test violated any global norm. Hypothetically, if India were to conduct such a test (without creating any debris) then it should be viewed as a technology demonstrator.

These are some basic questions that India needs to ask itself. A decision to conduct an ASAT test has to be a nuanced one considering the strategic advantages such a test could offer and the diplomatic elbow room that it would give during negotiations on a space arms control mechanism.

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[http://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/ShouldIndiaConductanASATTestNow\\_alele\\_110712](http://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/ShouldIndiaConductanASATTestNow_alele_110712)

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CNN.com

OPINION/Security Clearance News Blog

July 13, 2012

## **Satellite Imagery Shows Ramped-Up Work at North Korea Reactor**

By Adam Levine

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New satellite imagery obtained by CNN's Security Clearance shows increased activity at a North Korean nuclear facility.

The imagery, provided to Security Clearance by GeoEye with analysis by Allision Pucioni at IHS Jane's, shows the extent of construction at the Yongbyon light water reactor since construction resumed this spring on the facility.

The satellite snapshot from June 24 shows components have been added to the reactor building, including across the open roof, according to Pucioni, a senior imagery analyst at IHS Jane's. A "traveling crane" can be seen and is believed to have been added in April.

"This crane can 'swing' over the top of the reactor building to facilitate construction," according to Pucioni. "It will likely assist in mounting the reactor dome."

That dome is visible on the ground beside the main reactor building.

Pyongyang claims the reactor is "intended to help solve domestic energy shortages," according to the North Korea watchers behind the blog 38 North.

"It is also an important component in its effort to build nuclear weapons," according to the blog which published images this spring after construction resumed on the facility. 38 North is run by the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Even when the dome is in place, a significant amount of work on the building will be necessary, according to Pucioni. The analysts at 38 North detailed what remains.

"The next major step in the construction of this facility will be the loading of the heavy components, such as the pressure vessel, steam generator, and pressurizer, likely through the cylindrical opening in the roof of the reactor containment building. Exactly when that process will begin is unclear; it depends on the availability of the heavy components," according to a May blog post. "Recently, the North Koreans stated that those components were being manufactured parallel to the construction of the reactor buildings. The loading process could last 6-12 months."

North Korea, which withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 2003, had agreed in February to suspend nuclear activity at Yongbyon in return for shipments of food aid from the United States.

But Pyongyang then carried out a failed long-range rocket launch in April that Washington said breached the terms of that deal.

Work on the facility had stopped in December 2011, a development which, according to 38 North, was due either to the death of Kim Jong Il or, more likely, the approaching winter weather.

*CNN's Security Clearance examines national and global security, terrorism and intelligence, as well as the economic, military, political and diplomatic effects of it around the globe, with contributions from CNN's national security team in Washington and CNN journalists around the world.*

<http://security.blogs.cnn.com/2012/07/13/satellite-imagery-shows-ramped-up-work-at-north-korea-reactor/>

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London Daily Telegraph – U.K.  
OPINION/News Blog

## **MI6 Exposes the Truth about Iran's Quest for Nuclear Weapons**

By Con Coughlin  
July 13, 2012

Something I find remarkable about Iran's nuclear programme is that they are still some naive people in this world who cling to the notion that Iran's nuclear intentions are entirely peaceful. Only last month I took part in a discussion at the House of Commons where former Chancellor Lord Lamont of Lerwick - among others – were arguing that the West

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completely misunderstood Iran's ambitions, and that all the ayatollahs were doing was conducting a few innocent experiments that might help them to improve their medical treatment of cancer patients.

When you hear a pillar of the British political establishment like Lord Lamont expressing such views you realise that something has gone very badly wrong with the Government's attempts to persuade the British people to take the threat posed by Iran's nuclear programme seriously.

Hopefully that will all change now that Sir John Sawers, the thoughtful head of Britain's MI6 foreign intelligence service, has told it how it really is – Iran is actively trying to acquire a nuclear weapon and, at its current rate of progress, will have one in two years.

Sir John's assessment, by the way, was not supposed to be made public, as it was only intended for an audience of top civil servants. But thanks to excellent work by my colleague Christopher Hope, we now know precisely what MI6 thinks of Iran's claims that its nuclear intentions are entirely peaceful, and hopefully this will come as a wake-up call to all those pro-Iranian well-wishers who want to take the ayatollahs' protestations of innocence at face value.

*Con Coughlin, the Telegraph's executive foreign editor, is a world-renowned expert on the Middle East and Islamic terrorism. He is the author of several critically acclaimed books. His new book, Khomeini's Ghost, is published by Macmillan.*

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/concoughlin/100170946/mi6-exposes-the-truth-about-irans-quest-for-nuclear-weapons/>

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National Journal  
OPINION/Analysis

## Syria's Chemical Weapons: A Perfect Storm?

*Ironically, Assad's strong hold on power has so far staved off a potential disaster.*

By Sara Sorcher

July 13, 2012

It looks like a perfect storm. Syria is believed to harbor one of the world's largest stockpiles of chemical weapons—which, for the time being, appear to be protected by well-trained Syrian troops. As violence in the country rages, however, Washington and its allies are eager for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to leave power.

With Syrian opposition groups claiming that up to 17,000 people have died in the conflict, this sentence is an uncomfortable one: Assad's strong hold on power has so far, from a chemical-weapons standpoint, staved off a potential disaster without an easy fix. The U.S. cannot rely on the deeply divided and untrained Syrian rebels to control the stockpiles; there's little appetite in Washington for military intervention to secure them; and al-Qaida is in a country that also has long-standing ties to Hezbollah in Lebanon. All this means that Syria is virtually sure to become the next major proliferation challenge in the region for years to come.

The Obama administration and the Pentagon are keeping possible contingency plans for Syria's chemical weapons under close wraps, saying publicly only that they are closely monitoring the situation. But things just got more complicated: As *The Wall Street Journal* reported on Friday, Syria has begun moving some of its massive chemical stockpiles out of storage facilities, sparking fears that Assad may consider deploying them against civilians or enemies. The U.S. still believes the weapons are under Assad's control—and some officials believe he may be trying to safeguard the material—but the latest development underscores what some worry is a fundamental lack of preparation in Washington for what might happen next.

"I am convinced that the administration needs to be much more aggressive in its contingency planning regarding chemical weapons from an operational standpoint," House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, R-Mich., told *National Journal*. "You have to go into this thinking, 'What if [Assad falls] tomorrow? Are we ready?' I can't talk

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about operational details. But I don't believe that we're ready. If the regime were to fall this week, I think we'd be in serious trouble."

Despite calls for a speedy transition in Syria, the nightmare scenario for chemical weapons would be the sudden collapse of Assad's power-- or for the security situation to quickly devolve as he gets desperate. The trained custodians of the chemical-warfare facilities scattered across the country could be called to fight more-pressing battles and abandon their posts. Or they might defect and sell the materials to the highest bidder, potentially to Hamas and Hezbollah. Potential wholesale looting means nonrational actors like al-Qaida, which Rogers affirmed already has a "significant" presence in the country, are more likely to obtain the weapons and try to use them in plots to strike Western targets.

Syria, one of the few countries that never signed the 1992 Chemical Weapons Convention, is believed to have, among other things, mustard gas, a sarin nerve agent, and even VX. Analysts and officials also believe Syria has ballistic missiles that can be fitted with chemical warheads, and tens of thousands of shoulder-fired missiles that terrorists could use to target civilian aircraft.

In February, CNN cited a military planning estimate that 75,000 ground troops would be needed to secure Syria's chemical-weapons storage and production sites scattered throughout the country. The White House does not appear inclined to support such an intervention. Officials have publicly warned about the risks posed by Syria's sophisticated Russian-made air defenses. Any full-scale military operation is virtually certain to be long and difficult, with heavy risk of both coalition and civilian casualties. There's no guarantee troops would solve the problem--or that an international consensus could be reached to deploy them, especially with the not-so-distant memory of flawed intelligence about Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Even there, 200,000 U.S. and coalition troops were unable to secure documented sites of sophisticated explosives, which were looted and used in IEDs.

An air campaign alone would be unlikely to solve the challenge. While the U.S. can destroy deeply buried targets, Charles Blair--senior fellow for state and non-state threats at Federation of American Scientists--said that "no country has the burrowing capability, even with nuclear weapons, to destroy very deep targets without creating an enormous radioactive fallout cloud." Even strikes on targets above ground would risk spreading the agent. These strikes, Blair said, would cause an "unacceptably high number of agents still in existence and still available."

Leonard Spector, deputy director of the Monterey Institute of International Studies' James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, outlined a smaller-scale military option. Surveillance assets might observe an empty truck convoy approaching one of the chemical sites, Spector said. A targeted operation with drone strikes or even special-forces troops could disrupt this activity.

The U.S. could also train its Arab League partners to secure the sites if more widespread devolution occurs. Spector said that June's Eager Lion 12 exercise in Jordan brought together 19 nations to work on various contingencies, including the possibility that chemical weapons could be taken across Syria's borders.

However, if agents are already walking away, it's too late for the best possible outcome, Blair said. As rebels (or terrorists) try to figure out how to use or even transport the different agents, there could be potentially significant casualties, Blair said. Fear alone of loose chemical weapons could spark widespread panic and devastate the global economy.

In the meantime, Spector argues the U.S. should encourage the sites' trained custodians--who may be contemplating defection--to remain in place. "You want to advise them that if they stick to their mission of protecting these sites ... that they will be treated in a special category that will get some protection," Spector said, calling on Washington to advise the Syrian opposition to get this message out. However, Syria's opposition is still disorganized, and the West retains a lingering distrust of opposition groups with possible extremist ties.

The recent past offers some tough lessons. Libya's arsenal pales in comparison to Syria's sophisticated conventional weapons systems, but the U.S. allocated some \$40 million for American and European specialists to clear the roughly 20,000 surface-to-air missiles and other weapons believed to be within that country. But the Libya mission launched



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after the violence and NATO bombing campaign left sites open to looting. The U.S. still cannot account for all the weapons thought to be missing. Loose weapons from Libya are believed to be partly responsible for rising violence in nearby Mali, where the democratically elected president was overthrown in a March coup.

Best-case scenarios for Syria's chemical weapons appear to be pipe dreams: Assad is highly unlikely to willingly leave power willingly and allow a negotiated transition; and his downfall isn't likely to come from a clean overthrow by the rebels, either. Assad's hold on power inadvertently prevents the need for a rapid response to contain the massive stockpile chemical weapons--but Washington must develop a long-term plan if its policy is truly for the strongman to leave power.

There is one outcome that could demand international action before that day comes: if Assad deploys chemical weapons against his own people. "The humanitarian consequences would be so grave, and the international outrage so severe, that could lead to a much more substantial intervention," Spector said. Even Assad's strongest ally, Russia, would be hard-pressed to argue against it. "That is an unspoken red line."

*Sara Sorcher covers national security and foreign policy as a staff reporter for National Journal. Before joining National Journal, Sorcher worked as a freelance journalist in Israel, regularly contributing print and video to ABC News, GlobalPost, and Israel21c.*

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/nationalsecurity/syria-s-chemical-weapons-a-perfect-storm--20120713>

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