



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

Issue No. 1020, 17 August 2012

Articles & Other Documents:

Featured Article: [Feds Authorize Restart of Y-12 Nuke Operations](#)

1. [U.S. Arms Manufacturer Sees Gulf Missile-Defense Demand](#)
2. [Four Arrested in Germany over Iran N-Export](#)
3. [UN May Lower Estimate of 'Missing' Iran Uranium](#)
4. [Satellite Images Show N. Korea's Nuclear Reactor Progress](#)
5. [U.S., Japan Said Discussing Missile-Defense Ship Upgrades](#)
6. [N. Korea may Own 48 Nuclear Weapons by 2015: Report](#)
7. ['NK may be Preparing Nuke, Missile Test'](#)
8. [Pakistan's Nuclear Weapons may Fall into Hands of Terrorist: Leon Panetta](#)
9. [Pakistan's Nuclear Assets in Safe Hand under Strong Command and Security: FO](#)
10. [Attack on Pakistan Base Raises Fear about Nuclear Arsenal](#)
11. [Nuclear Submarine to Serve Decade After Refit](#)
12. [Skyrocketing Costs of Launching 'New' Nuclear Submarine Flex Muscles Russia Does Not Have](#)
13. [New Cruise Missiles for Russian Yasen-Class Sub](#)
14. [Russian Sub Goes Undetected in U.S. Waters for Weeks](#)
15. [New Ballistic Missile Sub to Join Fleet in September](#)
16. [Poland Wants to Build Own Missile Defence](#)
17. [Missile Defense Remains Priority in Plans to Reduce Military's Size, Spending, Say Officials](#)
18. [U.S. Hypersonic Aircraft Crashed Early in Test Flight, Military Says](#)
19. [Feds Authorize Restart of Y-12 Nuke Operations](#)
20. [Pentagon Denies Reports of Russian Sub near U.S.](#)
21. [Dugway Plans Bio-Warfare Testing Center Expansion](#)
22. [Iran's Ties to Latin America Worry U.S.](#)
23. [Preventing Catastrophe: Time for a National EMP Awareness Day](#)
24. [Japan Playing Nuclear Roulette](#)
25. [KAHLILI: Iran Admits Giving WMDs to Terrorists](#)
26. [VIEW: The Price of Deterrence](#)
27. [Exclusive: North Korea Threatens to Reconsider 2005 Agreement with U.S.](#)
28. [US, Russia Resume Hypersonic Race](#)
29. [All Talk and No Action is Critical for an Iran Free of Nuclear Weapons](#)

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Issue No.1020, 17 August 2012

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The USAF CPC Congratulates and Welcomes New USAF/CSAF Gen Mark A. Welsh III

Al Arabiya – U.A.E.

U.S. Arms Manufacturer Sees Gulf Missile-Defense Demand

Wednesday, 15 August 2012

By Reuters

WASHINGTON: Saudi Arabia and its closest regional partners have shown interest in buying the most advanced Lockheed Martin Corp missile-defense system to counter perceived threats, executives of the Pentagon's top supplier said on Tuesday.

"Look, all of the (Gulf Cooperation Council) nations have an interest," Dennis Cavin, a company vice president for army and missile-defense programs, told a teleconference.

Lockheed, the top seller to the Pentagon, received an initial \$1.96 billion contract in December for two of its Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) weapon systems for the United Arab Emirates.

This marked the first foreign sale of the system, coming as tensions with Iran have risen over its disputed nuclear program. Such foreign sales are increasingly important to U.S. arms makers as the Pentagon's budget flattens because of U.S. deficit-reduction requirements.

The United States has been working with Gulf regional states on a bilateral basis, not as a group, to boost the range of radar coverage and related capabilities across the Gulf for the earliest possible defense against any missiles that Iran might fire.

"It's not us sitting down with the GCC. It's not us sitting down with NATO," said a U.S. military official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter. "It's us working out agreements with individual countries."

The Wall Street Journal reported last month that the United States is putting a high-powered Raytheon Co AN/TPY-2 X-Band radar station in Qatar, an add-on to similar existing arrays, one in Israel's Negev Desert and one in Turkey. Together, the three radar sites form an arc that can detect missile launches from northern, western and southern Iran, the paper quoted officials as saying.

U.S. push

THAAD is a U.S. Army system designed to shoot down short-, medium- and intermediate-range ballistic missiles with an interceptor that slams into its target. It can accept cues from Lockheed's Aegis weapons system, satellites and other external sensors and work in tandem with the PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 terminal air-defense missile. THAAD includes its own radar along with interceptors and communications and fire control units.

Fueling the interest in THAAD, Cavin said, was a U.S. military push to stitch together an integrated air and missile defense architecture across the region as well as what he called a recognition by GCC states that "they need the best capability they can get against the threat set that's there."

Mat Joyce, Lockheed's vice president for THAAD, said it was premature to discuss specific potential buyers "but as they notify the U.S. government officially of their interest we'll be happy to provide that information to you."

Cavin and Joyce spoke from Huntsville, Alabama, during a space and missile-defense conference. THAAD is part of a layered missile shield being built to defend the United States and its friends and allies against ballistic missiles of all ranges and in all phases of flight. The system is being optimized against Iran and North Korea.

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A major U.S.-led effort is under way to protect NATO's European territory against ballistic missiles that could be fired by Iran, for instance, in retaliation for any preemptive strike against Iranian nuclear facilities. Iran is suspected by many of secretly developing atomic arms, although it insists that its program is dedicated entirely to peaceful power generation.

Lockheed describes THAAD as the only system with the flexibility to intercept targets both inside and outside the earth's atmosphere. Other leading missile-defense contractors include Boeing Co., Raytheon and Northrop Grumman Corp.

President Barack Obama's administration notified Congress last month of a possible sale to Kuwait of 60 PATRIOT PAC-3 missiles and associated gear in a deal worth up to \$4.2 billion.

Such a sale would help deter regional threats, among other things, the Pentagon's Defense Security Cooperation Agency said in the notice to lawmakers.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/08/15/232331.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Khaleej Times – U.A.E.

Four Arrested in Germany over Iran N-Export

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

15 August 2012

BERLIN - German prosecutors said four men were arrested on Wednesday, suspected of delivering equipment to Iran for use in a nuclear reactor the West fears could be used as part as a covert weapons programme.

Three men with joint Iranian-German nationality, identified only as Kianzad Ka., Gholamali Ka. and Hamid Kh., and German national Rudolf M. were picked up early on Wednesday by a force comprising 90 officers.

"The accused are believed to have contributed in 2010 and 2011 to the delivery of special valves for the construction of a heavy water reactor in Iran and thereby contravened the Iran embargo," prosecutors said.

The four are accused of breaking both an arms embargo and export restrictions on goods that can be used for both civil and military purposes.

Western powers suspect that Iran wants to develop nuclear weapons, an accusation Tehran denies.

Iran is currently building a heavy water plant in Arak, central Iran. Iran says the plutonium the plant will produce is for medical research.

But the West fears the plant could be used to produce plutonium for a potential bomb.

In order to circumvent the export ban, the four men arrested are believed to have said the parts were for companies based in Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Authorities raided their homes and businesses as well as those of a fifth suspect, who was not named.

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/displayarticle.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2012/August/middleeast_August236.xml§ion=middleeast&col=

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Jerusalem Post – Israel

UN May Lower Estimate of 'Missing' Iran Uranium

Diplomats say discrepancy partially explained; missing substance could be used for nuclear experiments, experts say.

Issue No. 1020, 17 August 2012

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By REUTERS
August 16, 2012

VIENNA - The United Nations' atomic watchdog may decide that less uranium is missing at an Iranian research site than it had previously thought, diplomats say, and that may go some way to easing concerns that it may have been diverted for military use.

UN inspectors have asked Iran to explain a "discrepancy" after an inventory they made last year of natural uranium metal and process waste at the Tehran facility showed there was 19.8 kg less than the Iranian laboratory's own count.

The United States is concerned the material may have been diverted to suspected weapons-related research activity. Iran, which says its nuclear program is entirely peaceful, dismissed the reported discrepancy as "absolutely not an issue."

One Western diplomat said it had since been partly "explained" during talks between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Vienna-based UN watchdog, and that discussions on the issue were continuing.

But the details would only become clear in the IAEA's next quarterly report on Iran's disputed nuclear program, expected towards the end of August.

"I've heard that the agency could be revising the figure lower," another diplomat said, referring to the report prepared ahead of a Sept. 10-14 meeting of the UN agency's 35-nation board, when Iran is again likely to dominate the agenda.

A third envoy said it was also his understanding that the IAEA's investigation had resulted in a reduction of the discrepancy, but he said the research was not yet complete.

There was no immediate comment from the IAEA or Iran's diplomatic mission in the Austrian capital.

Missing stocks becoming less of an issue

Experts say such a small quantity of natural uranium could not be used to make a bomb, but that the metal could be relevant to weapons-linked tests.

In November last year, the IAEA presented a stash of intelligence indicating that Iran has undertaken research and experiments that could be relevant for developing atomic arms, prompting Western states to ratchet up sanctions on Tehran.

The IAEA said in previous reports that the discrepancy at Jabr Ibn Hayan Multipurpose Research Laboratory (JHL) concerned uranium metal conversion experiments from 1995 to 2002.

Iran has suggested the discrepancy may have been caused by a higher amount of uranium in the waste than had been measured by the UN inspectors.

The IAEA said in May that Iran had offered to process the waste material and extract the uranium, but that the agency had offered an alternative way to address the problem.

A senior US official said late last year the issue required "immediate" resolution, citing information indicating that "kilogram quantities" of natural uranium metal had been made available to Iran's military program.

But a European diplomat told Reuters it now seemed to have become less of an issue, unlike the issue of Iran's uranium enrichment program and Western suspicions that Tehran is seeking to develop a capability to make nuclear weapons.

The uranium discrepancy was likely to be "buried more than it is at the moment," another diplomat said.

<http://www.jpost.com/IranianThreat/News/Article.aspx?id=281493>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Issue No. 1020, 17 August 2012

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Voice of America (VOA)

August 15, 2012

Satellite Images Show N. Korea's Nuclear Reactor Progress

By VOA News

A U.S. research institute says satellite images show North Korea could complete construction on a light-water nuclear reactor by the end of next year. But analysts say there is no consensus on what it means for the future of Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program.

The Washington-based Institute for Science and International Technology says imagery taken in May and June shows new construction material has been placed on and near the reactor building at the Yongbyon nuclear complex. It said major external work on the reactor appears to be complete, though the building itself still lacks a dome.

Pyongyang says the new light-water reactor will generate electricity for civilian purposes. However, it could also be used to make the weapons-grade plutonium that North Korea is believed to have used for two nuclear tests.

RAND security analyst Bruce Bennett says there is reason to doubt that North Korea intends to use the facility for electricity, since it failed to connect power lines to its original nuclear reactor after having made similar promises.

"It was very clearly for producing nuclear materials as opposed to producing power," says Bennett. "What would be really interesting as this facility gets closer to completion, is to see whether they actually do try to hook it up to the power grid."

Ben Habib, a Korean analyst at Australia's Latrobe University, says a bigger concern may be the nearby uranium enrichment plant, which scientists say could give Pyongyang a second way to make nuclear weapons.

"It's probably unlikely that this light-water reactor is going to be used to make plutonium for nuclear weapons," says Habib. "What is a significant development is what is happening next door at the uranium enrichment facility. It's easier and cheaper to get fissile material through uranium enrichment because it doesn't have to be burned through a reactor like plutonium does."

Habib says ultimately, it may be difficult to know the status of North Korea's nuclear weapons capability unless it conducts a third nuclear test - a step many observers say could come soon.

North Korea is already under numerous international sanctions for its missile and nuclear programs. It reached a deal with the United States in February to suspend those programs in exchange for badly needed food aid. But Washington scrapped the deal after Pyongyang ignored international warnings and launched a rocket in April.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/satellite-images-show-north-koreas-nuclear-reactor-progress/1486382.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Chicago Tribune

U.S., Japan Said Discussing Missile-Defense Ship Upgrades

By Jim Wolf, Reuters

August 15, 2012

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States and Japan are discussing system upgrades for a pair of Japanese destroyers to boost defenses against a ballistic missile attack, an executive at the Pentagon's top contractor said Wednesday.

The potential multimillion-dollar updates to two Atago-class guided-missile destroyers would provide cutting-edge "Aegis" ballistic missile defenses equivalent to those being added to U.S. Navy ships, said Nick Bucci, who heads such maritime programs at Lockheed Martin Corp.

Issue No. 1020, 17 August 2012

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Japan, rattled by North Korean nuclear arms and ballistic missile tests, has emerged as the most important U.S. partner in crafting a layered shield against missiles of all ranges and in all phases of flight.

The United States has been spending roughly \$10 billion a year on the overall project, a reflection of concern chiefly about North Korea and Iran.

Lockheed Martin's Aegis combat system weaves in radar, computers, software, displays, weapons launchers and weapons to defend against a range of surface, aerial and underwater threats.

Named for the mythological shield of Zeus, the Aegis system is to be deployed ashore in Romania and Poland starting around 2015 to defend Europe from ballistic missile threats from countries such as Iran, as well as on a growing number of U.S. ships.

Japan decided in 2003 to upgrade all four of its Aegis-equipped Kongo-class destroyers to be capable of shooting down ballistic missiles using Raytheon Co Standard Missile-3 interceptors.

The work now under discussion would modernize the Aegis systems aboard the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's Atago and Ashigara to a more advanced setup than the Kongo-class, Bucci said in a telephone interview with Reuters. He declined to cite a potential value for such upgrades other than millions of dollars.

Included would be new brains for the Aegis system's radar, designed to be able to thwart ballistic missiles at the same time as defend against other airborne attacks.

Also included would be new computing infrastructure, displays, consoles and sensors, Bucci said from Huntsville, Alabama, where he was attending an Army-supported conference on space and missile defense.

With such a modernization, the Atago and Ashigara would be capable of firing an updated SM-3 missile that Japan is co-developing with the United States. Kongo-class destroyers would need a separate upgrade of their own to achieve this.

The updated SM-3 interceptor, known as Block IIA, is a cornerstone of the penultimate phase of President Barack Obama's roadmap for defending NATO's European territory against missile attack.

The interceptor's larger rocket motors and advanced "hit-to-kill" warhead are meant to defend a greater area. The warhead works by colliding with its target. The program is on track for a 2018 delivery, Raytheon, the U.S. partner, said in March. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd is the Japanese contractor.

The cooperative research effort on the updated interceptor been carried out under a U.S.-Japanese memorandum of agreement signed shortly after North Korea's surprise August 31, 1998, launch of a three-stage Taepo Dong-1 missile that overflew Japan before falling into the Pacific.

Bucci in the interview said he was "pretty sure" that South Korea, which has three Aegis-equipped destroyers, has been talking to the U.S. Navy about similar ship upgrades to ballistic missile defense configuration.

The U.S. Defense Department and the Navy had no immediate comment on any such possible programs for Japan or South Korea.

The U.S. Navy's own fleet of ballistic missile defense-capable Aegis ships is schedule to grow from 24 at the end of fiscal 2011 to 36 by the end of fiscal 2018, according to an August 10, 2012, report by the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, a Library of Congress arm.

Reporting By Jim Wolf; Editing by M.D. Golan.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-japan-usa-missilebre87e18z-20120815,0,6037356.story>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Yonhap News Agency – South Korea

Issue No. 1020, 17 August 2012

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August 17, 2012

N. Korea may Own 48 Nuclear Weapons by 2015: Report

By Lee Chi-dong

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16 (Yonhap) -- North Korea may build up to 48 nuclear weapons, both based on plutonium and uranium, by 2015 or 2016 unless negotiations and other proper measures are implemented to head off such a potential threat, a U.S. think tank report said Thursday.

The Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS) admitted the difficulty in obtaining accurate information on the secretive communist nation's nuclear capability.

It used scientific and statistical data to estimate Pyongyang's nuclear weapons arsenal under various scenarios.

If North Korea operates only one centrifuge plant, it is projected to have 28-39 nuclear weapons by the end of 2016, or an increase of 16 weapons since the end of 2011, according to the report.

The 40-page report was co-authored by David Albright, head of the Washington-headquartered ISIS, and Christina Walrond, a research associate.

"If North Korea has two centrifuge plants, however, it could produce a much larger quantity of WGU (weapons-grade uranium). It could have 37-48 nuclear weapons, or an increase of 25 weapons, most of which would be produced in 2015 and 2016," they said.

North Korea has worked on a plutonium-based nuclear program for decades and it conducted underground nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009.

The international community suspects Pyongyang is now pushing for another method -- uranium enrichment.

In a report published earlier this week, based on satellite imagery, the ISIS said it expects North Korea to complete the construction of a new light-water reactor at Yongbyon as early as in the latter half of 2013.

North Korea is widely believed to have six to 18 plutonium-based nuclear weapons.

"North Korea is not thought to be currently making weapon-grade plutonium," Albright and Walrond said, adding it could resume such production in 2015 and 2016.

They stressed talks remain a useful way to cap North Korea's uranium enrichment program and block the use of the light-water reactor (LWR) to make weapons-grade plutonium.

"If negotiations resume, the issue of the experimental LWR should be taken up," they said.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2012/08/17/26/0401000000AEN20120817000200315F.HTML>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Korea Times – South Korea

August 17, 2012

'NK may be Preparing Nuke, Missile Test'

By Kim Young-jin

North Korea could be preparing to carry out a nuclear or missile test in the near future, the defense ministry said in a report Friday, according to lawmakers.

The report was submitted by the ministry during a meeting between Defense Minister Kim Kwang-jin and lawmakers of the ruling Saenuri Party.



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"The defense ministry claimed that the communist country was prepared to carry out tests with little preparation time," a senior Saenuri official said on condition of anonymity.

The nuclear-armed North raised international ire in April with its failed rocket launch. But it held back on carrying out a third nuclear test under heavy pressure from the international community.

At the meeting, Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin added that the North is meddling with the presidential election process here in a bid to ramp up its hostile stance.

"While maintaining a harsh phase of confrontation, North Korea seems to be trying to interfere with the presidential elections," he said.

He said North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has ratcheted up tensions with recent moves such as visiting a military unit, in what was seen as a response to joint U.S.-South military drills later this month.

Seoul and Washington maintain that the annual Ulchi Freedom Guardian drills beginning Aug. 20 are to bolster military readiness but Pyongyang alleges they are rehearsals for invasion.

The North's moves are often interpreted as attempts to sway South Koreans toward liberal candidates who support engagement with Pyongyang.

Recent examples include accusing Seoul and Washington of hiring a North Korean defector to slip back across the border to destroy statues of the Stalinist state's founder, Kim Il-sung. It also threatened to attack conservative media outlets for insulting its regime.

Meanwhile, Unification Minister Yu Woo-ik attempted to tamp down expectations of reform in the North, which in recent weeks has shown signs of pursuing economic reforms.

Reports last week said that the regime had passed down instructions to implement new management policies to loosen the tight control of output and allow production units to distribute wealth themselves.

The new system is said to involve factory enterprises setting their own prices for their goods, rather than the state, and giving them more leeway to decide on matters such as production and distribution of profits. Farmers would take 30 percent of the total harvest and the government 70 percent. Officials here say it remains to be seen whether the measures will result in a significant shift.

Kim, reportedly born in either 1983 or early 1984 took over in December, has departed from the isolationist tendencies of his father, with state media showing images of Kim with his wife or watching a concert with unmistakably Western themes.

"It's still early to conclude that (actual) changes are taking place based on a few signs," Yu said. "However, there's no reason to ignore those signs either."

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2012/08/116_117620.html

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Economic Times – India

Pakistan's Nuclear Weapons may Fall into Hands of Terrorist: Leon Panetta

By Press Trust of India (PTI)

15 August 2012

WASHINGTON: US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta fears that there is a danger of Pakistan's nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorists if terrorism is not controlled in the country.

Issue No. 1020, 17 August 2012

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MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

"The great danger we've always feared is that if terrorism is not controlled in their country, than those nuclear weapons could fall into the wrong hands," Panetta told reporters at a Pentagon news conference here yesterday.

Panetta was responding to questions on a recent Congressional report which said Pakistan is increasing its nuclear capabilities, which are mainly targeted towards India.

"When I talk to the Pakistanis, I've always stressed the fact that we should have common cause with regards to confronting terrorism; that terrorists not only represent a threat to our country, terrorism represents a real threat to their country as well," he said.

"A lot of Pakistanis have died as a result of terrorism. A lot of members of their military have died as a result of terrorism. And it's important for them to recognize that threat and to act against that threat. And in particular, it's important because they are a nuclear power," Panetta said.

In a recent report, the Congressional Research Service had said that Pakistan is increasing its production of nuclear weapons and improving the delivery mechanism of nuclear weapons, which is mainly targeted towards India.

The multiple attacks on Pakistani military facilities in recent years by terrorists heightened the fears in the West that nuclear weapons can fall into the hands of terrorists.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics/nation/pakistans-nuclear-weapons-may-fall-into-hands-of-terrorist-leon-panetta/articleshow/15503123.cms>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) – Pakistan
Thursday, August 16, 2012

Pakistan's Nuclear Assets in Safe Hand under Strong Command and Security: FO

ISLAMABAD, Aug 16 (APP): Pakistan Thursday once again cleared that its strategic nuclear assets are safe under a robust command and control system. Commenting on the remarks of US Defense Secretary that Pakistan's nuclear assets could fall into the hands of extremists, Foreign Office spokesman Moazzam Ahmad Khan in weekly briefing said the world should not have concerns about safety of Pakistan's nuclear assets. The spokesman said elaborate measures are in place to secure these nuclear assets. Referring to any military action in North Waziristan with the cooperation of US, the spokesman said Pakistan will not compromise on its sovereignty adding that no foreign troops will be allowed to conduct operation into its territory.

http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=205273&Itemid=1

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Los Angeles Times

Attack on Pakistan Base Raises Fear about Nuclear Arsenal

August 16, 2012

By Alex Rodriquez

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- A militant raid early Thursday on a northern Pakistan air force base with suspected links to the country's nuclear weapons program has renewed questions about Islamabad's ability to safeguard its nuclear arsenal in the face of an insurgency that shows no signs of waning.

A team of eight militants climbed over a perimeter wall at the base in Kamra, about 25 miles northwest of Islamabad, and exchanged gunfire with Pakistani security forces for more than two hours, said air force spokesman Tariq

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Mahmood. All eight attackers were eventually shot to death, but not before they fatally shot a Pakistani security officer and damaged an aircraft with a rocket-propelled grenade, officials said.

The base at Kamra abuts the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, which assembles fighter jets and other weapons systems, and is a major research hub for the country's air force. Experts have long believed that the compound at Kamra is also used to store some of Pakistan's nuclear weapons, though the military has always denied this.

"Questions will be raised about nuclear weapons -- though the militants were stopped, they entered a high security area and kept security forces engaged for more than two hours," said security analyst Hasan Askari Rizvi. "That means the government of Pakistan and the military will have to address the lapses and weaknesses that exist in their security systems."

The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was aimed at avenging the 2009 U.S. drone missile attack that killed Taliban leader Baitullah Mahsud, as well as last year's U.S. commando raid that killed Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. In recent years, the Pakistani Taliban, the country's homegrown insurgency, has been responsible for waves of suicide bombings and other terror attacks on military installations as well as markets, mosques and other civilian targets.

The attack on the base began at about 2 a.m. The militants, wearing explosives-filled suicide vests and armed with automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, were fired on shortly after clambering over the wall and were unable to reach any of the base's hangars, Mahmood said. The base's commander, Air Commodore Muhammad Azam, was shot in the shoulder but was not critically injured. Security forces later found two homemade bombs that the attackers had brought into the compound but were unable to detonate, officials said.

Pakistani authorities touted the deaths of the militants as ample evidence of the country's ability to keep its military installations secure. "Everyone did what they were supposed to do," Defense Minister Naveed Qamar told reporters in Islamabad on Thursday. "The security forces challenged the militants and eliminated them."

Nevertheless, the security of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal remains a major concern for the U.S., given the continued presence of Al Qaeda and other allied militant groups in the country's volatile tribal areas along the Afghan border. U.S. experts say Pakistan is expanding its arsenal, which is estimated to number about 100 nuclear weapons.

"The great danger we've always feared is that if terrorism is not controlled in their country, then those nuclear weapons could fall into the wrong hands," U.S. Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta told reporters at a Pentagon news conference Wednesday.

Pakistan's history of militant attacks on military and security facilities has reinforced Western fears about Islamabad's ability to secure its nuclear program. The base at Kamra has been the scene of two previous attacks, one in 2009 when a suicide bomber on a bicycle killed seven people at a checkpoint outside the base, and the other in 2007, when a suicide bomber injured five children on a Pakistani air force bus as they were heading to a school near the base.

Last year, a team of militants scaled the perimeter wall of a naval base in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, and launched a 17-hour siege on the compound that killed 10 Pakistani security personnel and destroyed two U.S.-supplied maritime surveillance aircraft. In October 2009, militants stormed the army headquarters in the garrison city of Rawalpindi and took hostages, setting off a 22-hour standoff that ended in the deaths of 23 people, including nine militants.

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world_now/2012/08/raid-on-air-force-base-raises-fears-about-pakistans-nuclear-arsenal-security.html

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Nuclear Submarine to Serve Decade After Refit

13 August 2012

Issue No. 1020, 17 August 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
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USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

The Russian Navy's submarine Novomoskovsk has been refitted and returned to service with the Northern Fleet, and will serve another ten years before being decommissioned in 2022, Fleet Spokesman Captain First Rank Vadim Serga said on Monday.

The Project 667 type boat (NATO Delta 4) arrived at its base in the port of Severomorsk on Monday after the refit at the Zvezdochka shipyard at nearby Severodvinsk.

"The boat's life after refit and modernization will be extended by another ten years," Serga said.

The refit of the Novomoskovsk included hundreds of improvements, "making the boat quieter, increasing its ability to detect other submarines, increasing its survivability and nuclear safety," he added.

Novomoskovsk is the second Northern Fleet 667 boat to be refitted. Last year, the Verkhoturys underwrote a similar refit at Zvezdochka and was returned to service.

The Novomoskovsk's refit began in 2007. The boat was originally built at Sevmas in June 1987 and entered service in 1990. The boat was the first to launch a scientific satellite into orbit with a ballistic missile in 1998. In its life, the boat launched 14 missiles, travelled over 100,000 nautical miles and made over 20 long patrols.

The 667 class boats displace 12,000 tons, have a maximum diving depth of 400 meters, a cruising speed of 24 knots and a crew of 140 men. They are armed with 16 intercontinental ballistic missiles.

MOSCOW, August 13 (RIA Novosti)

http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20120813/175182664.html

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Bellona – Norway

Skyrocketing Costs of Launching 'New' Nuclear Submarine Flex Muscles Russia Does Not Have

The Severodvinsk, the flagship for the new Yasen class of large scale Russian submarines, has failed sea trials in the White Sea, revealing reactor power problems, noisy operation, untested missile equipment, faulty components and huge cost overruns that will cause further problems and setbacks for the vessel's scheduled serial production.

By Charles Digges

14 August 2012

A military source told Russian papers that the navy was laying most of its chips on the table with the Yasen design, saying its status as a multipurpose nuclear sub means it will be a first alert "against missile cruisers from western countries."

But an anonymous Ministry of Defense source cited by the Russian newsire interfax said the Severodvinsk is hardly up to that task after the results of its sea trials were known.

"The Severodvinsk tests revealed that its nuclear power unit did not reach the rated capacity, and the submarine produced too much noise," the defense Ministry source told Interfax.

"It is impossible to commission the submarine with such serious shortcomings," he said.

Designed during Soviet times, the Severodvinsk is outfitted with 24 supersonic Onyx anti-ship missiles that can destroy an aircraft carrier in one blow, and 10 torpedo tubes for launching self-guided torpedoes – topping its closest American competitor by six. The sub is also expected to have an undersea speed of 30 knots and a maximum submersion depth of 600 meters. It is designed to sustain autonomous voyages of up to 100 days and will be crewed by 90, 32 of whom will be officers, said Interfax.

All of this begs the question: What kind of conflict is Russia anticipating?

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One hint might lie in President Vladimir Putin's visit to Russia's northern shipyards in July, where he stumped for increased Arctic sub patrols to protect Russia's continental shelf oil and gas recovery projects – a kind of paranoid overkill to protect the resources on which the Russian economy is built.

But military analysts and observers are saying this kind of firepower will place an extreme weight on Russia's limited military coffers.

"President Putin loves toys with price tags surpassing the size of Russia's wallet. But this is the problem of Russian taxpayers who should draw certain conclusions when they cast their votes," said Igor Kudrik, a Bellona expert on nuclear submarines and the Russian Navy. "Our concern is planned militarization of the Arctic which not only is not going to make it safer, but pose additional dangers with respect to the environment as well."

Constructed by the Sevmash shipyard near Arkangelsk, the Severodvinsk– designated by the identification number K-329, and the first of the project 885 Yasen Class – was to have been passed to the Russian Navy by Sevmash in 1998, after first construction began on it in 1993. Several missed deadlines later, the boat was to be launched in 2010. That was then delayed until 2011.

Now, according to reports in business daily Kommersant and official mouthpiece Izvestia, the latest sea trial indicates the sub likely will not be ready until summer of 2013.

One of the problems, according to an anonymous source cited by Interfax, is that the reactor not only doesn't deliver enough power for the vessel, but that the vessel's operation is also noisy – something undesirable in the stealth mode in which submarines are to operate.

Defense Ministry sources refused to comment on either issue, so details on the reactor's integrity are sketchy.

The enormous submarine represents something of a return to big Cold War thinking: With a water displacement of 13.8 tons, it is twice as large as the US Navy's Virginia Class attack submarines. But the US has backed off mega-submarine projects comparable to the Yasen since the end of the Cold War out of simple economic considerations. Russia, notes Izvestia, is pressing on – delays and drying wallets be damned.

Another unnamed military source that spoke with Izvestia blamed spiking costs in metal, electricity to power the Sevmash shipyard, and rising salaries for qualified welders and metal workers for the Severodvinsk's cost overruns.

The source said the Severodvinsk has so far cost the Ministry of Defense some 50 billion roubles (\$1.5 billion) – the equivalent cost of two Borei class nuclear subs, the first of which was launched in 2008, or 50 SU-35 fighter planes.

The second Yasen class sub after the Severodvinsk, the Kazan, is projected to be over twice as expensive, weighing in at 110 billion roubles, the source told Izvestia. The military had been counting on paying something more on the order of 70-80 billion roubles per sub, eight of which are planned to be built by 2020.

The Yasen class is therefore projected to cost 700-800 billion roubles, or five percent of Russia's defense budget over the next 10 years, Izvestia said.

But does this cost justify protecting the untapped Arctic oil and gas reserves on which Putin so relies for Russia's economic growth?

The Yury Dolgoruky – the first of the Borei Class to take to sea – and the Soviet built Delta and Typhoon class subs the Borei Class was meant to replace – will, for the time being, have to shoulder that burden. Three more Borei class subs are currently under construction and due to take to sea by 2015.

That Sevmash was having problems getting the Severodvinsk to perform to standard after so many delays was greeted in Russian headlines as a failure.

But Igor Korotchenko, head of the Defense Ministry's public council, told Kommersant that failure was too harsh a characterization.



"[...] we are for the first time beginning to build and test vessels of this generation – and correspondingly this is a new product, advanced, and therefore certain deficiencies and problems are revealed at the stage of testing for delivery, which will then be eliminated by industrial production," he said.

Korotchenko refused to comment on the Interfax reports of reactor power problems and noisy operation of the Severodvinsk because the information had come from an anonymous source, he told the paper.

"If this had been done in an official announcement from, let's say, a representative of the military industrial complex, or the Sevmash factory, or anybody from the Defense Ministry, we could at least say the information was trustworthy," he said. "For now, I can only say that the Severodvinsk is a low-noise submarine."

He repeated that he was sure any kinks would be worked out at the level of industrial production.

"The sub contains many innovations," he said. "We've never had a sub like this."

Ironically, noted Kudrik, the so-called innovations that are holding up the Severodvinsk's completion are based on blueprints that are over 20 years old.

"Soviet and Russian submarines have always being noisy due to the poor quality of building materials," said Kudrik. "The reactor plant installed on this submarine is of newer design and it seems to be suffering from not being properly tested. Russian industry has been in shambles ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union and recovery is protracted and painful," he said, adding, "This new submarine is an example of how bad things are."

Other analysts suggested that scaling back on the Yasen Class's military hardware could lessen the strain on the Russian military budget.

"The high cost of the Yasen is justified by the highest military capabilities of the vessel," Captain 1st Rank Konstantin Sivkov, and vice-president of the Academy of Geopolitical Problems, told Izvestia. "If they can bring the price down, it will cost not much more than the Virginia Class sub, but will nonetheless be more powerful than the American vessel."

But Kudrik says that bringing the price down remains a pipe dream in today's Russia. The problems with corruption and the wasteful handling of resources are endemic in Russia's current regime - and those problems will never escape this single submarine project.

http://www.bellona.org/articles/articles_2012/severdinsk_delay

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Voice of Russia – Russia

New Cruise Missiles for Russian Yasen-Class Sub

14 August 2012

Source: TASS

The Russian Yasen-class nuclear-powered submarine Severodvinsk will be equipped with unique sophisticated cruise missiles, a source in Russia's military-industrial complex said on Tuesday.

The source said that the Kalibr supersonic high-precision missile is capable of targeting aerial, submarine and coastal targets, and is effective up to an operational range of 375 kilometers.

In a sub-sonic modification, the missile's operational range amounts to more than 2,500 kilometers.

The operational range of the US sub-sonic cruise missile Tomahawk stands at about 1,150 kilometers.

http://english.ruvr.ru/2012_08_14/New-cruise-missiles-for-Russian-Yasen-class-sub/

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)



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The Moscow Times – Russia

Russian Sub Goes Undetected in U.S. Waters for Weeks

16 August 2012

The Moscow Times

A Russian nuclear-powered submarine operated in restricted U.S. waters for up to a month without U.S. Navy officials raising the alarm, a news report said.

The Akula-class submarine, an attack warship capable of carrying long-range ballistic missiles, traveled in the Gulf of Mexico in June and July, the Washington Free Beacon reported Tuesday.

That Russian bombers made incursions into strategic U.S. airspace over Alaska and California at the same time was taken as a sign of Moscow's growing military assertiveness by the authors of the report.

The submarine patrol comes at a time when President Barack Obama is planning defense cuts of up to \$487 billion over the next 10 years, and Russian analysts speculated that the news leak was a means of applying pressure on the Obama administration to maintain defense spending.

Igor Korotchenko, a member of the Defense Ministry's Public Council, stressed that the notion of a Russian military threat was being used to persuade U.S. officials that budget cuts to the defense industry would harm the United States' national security.

U.S. officials consulted by the Washington Free Beacon, on the other hand, took the Akula's stealth voyage through the Gulf as a signal of Russian intent.

“Sending a nuclear-propelled submarine into the Gulf of Mexico-Caribbean region is another manifestation of President Putin demonstrating that Russia is still a player on the world’s political-military stage,” naval analyst Norman Polmar told the Washington-based newspaper.

“The Russian Navy provides him with a means of ‘showing the flag’ that is not possible with Russian air and ground forces,” Polmar said.

Senator John Cornyn, a Republican Party member who sits on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said the incursion showed that Obama's much-touted “reset” policy with Russia had failed.

On Wednesday, Korotchenko, who also edits *Natsionalnaya Oborona* (National Defense) magazine, reacted with pride to news of the Russian craft's undercover operations off the U.S. coast.

“This tells us that Russia still has potential and that the country is capable of missions that cover our fleet in prestige and respect,” Korotchenko told the *Vzglyad* newspaper.

In a message posted on social-networking site Twitter, Korotchenko added that after State Department complaints, the Foreign Ministry explained that the Akula's voyage was as a means of combatting international terrorism.

The Akula, which differs from older submarine models by its greater stealth capabilities, is the main submarine class employed by the Russian fleet, Interfax reported.

It was not clear whether the undetected Russian vessel was an Akula-I, or a more sophisticated Akula-II. In total, 15 such submarines have been produced.

According to the Washington Free Beacon, a Russian attack submarine last penetrated U.S. strategic waters in 2009.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/russian-sub-goes-undetected-in-us-waters-for-weeks/466617.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

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New Ballistic Missile Sub to Join Fleet in September

17 August 2012

Russia's newest ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), the Project 955 Borey class boat Yury Dolgoruky, will be handed over to the fleet in September, a source in United Shipbuilding Corporation said on Friday.

"The formal signing of the handover of the Yury Dolgoruky boat to the Defense Ministry will take place in September," the source said.

Previously, the navy had said the boat would enter service in July, and then August.

The boat has completed a range of sea trials including a firing of a Bulava ballistic missile in December 2011.

Its sister ship, the Alexander Nevsky, will carry out a further Bulava test launch in November "as part of its state trials," he said.

The Borey class will become the mainstay of the Russian Navy's strategic nuclear deterrent force, replacing older Project 667 (NATO Delta 4) boats. The class will consist of eight boats, all armed with Bulava missiles.

Meanwhile, the head of the fleet, Admiral Viktor Chirkov, said the Project 885 Yasen class hunter-killer submarine Severodvinsk may also enter service by the end of this year.

"Yasen is undergoing tests in accordance with the program. We hope it will raise the flag this year," he said.

Several Russian media have recently claimed that the boat's entry into service will be delayed until 2013 due to problems with its nuclear power plant. Its maker United Shipbuilding Corporation, has insisted the boat will enter service on schedule and there are no problems with it.

MOSCOW, August 17 (RIA Novosti)

http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20120817/175267609.html

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

New York Daily News

Poland Wants to Build Own Missile Defence

Saturday, August 11th 2012

Warsaw, Aug 11 (IANS/RIA Novosti) Poland wants to build its own missile defence system with help from France and Germany, the Polish press agency reported Saturday.

"We want it (missile defence system) to happen in cooperation with France, Germany and other our allies. NATO welcomes the initiatives of the countries to build up their joint defence capabilities. This is so-called smart defence," Polish Defence Minister Tomasz Siemoniak told the agency.

The minister estimated the planned Polish missile defence system at \$3-6 billion.

In early August, Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski said that Warsaw needed its own missile defence shield that would be a part of the NATO missile defence system.

The US scrapped plans in September 2010 for an anti-ballistic-missile defence system in the Czech Republic and Poland.

Moscow welcomed the move, and Russia's then president Dmitry Medvedev said later that Russia would drop plans to deploy Iskander-M tactical missiles in its Kaliningrad region, which borders NATO members, Poland and Lithuania.

-- IANS/RAI Novosti

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<http://india.nydailynews.com/business/f02dc98032b6bd6663295c78ea714ed7/poland-wants-to-build-own-missile-defence>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Huntsville Times

Missile Defense Remains Priority in Plans to Reduce Military's Size, Spending, Say Officials

Tuesday, August 14, 2012

By Kenneth Kesner, *The Huntsville Times*

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama -- Missile defense programs, to protect the U.S. homeland as well as American allies and troops around the world, remain a priority in Department of Defense plans to restructure and reduce forces and rein in spending after a decade of war on two fronts.

"Missile defense is definitely a part of the strategy," said Frank Kendall, undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, one of the speakers today at the 15th Annual Space & Missile Defense Conference at the Von Braun Center.

"The combatant commanders can't get enough of these systems," said Rear Adm. Randall Hendrickson, deputy director of the Missile Defense Agency, during another part of the conference.

Kendall outlined how defense officials devised a new strategy to create a smaller, agile, more "joint" force that retains key capabilities in part by leveraging technology. The strategy was crafted to avoid the drastic cuts in training programs, arms and supplies that followed the Vietnam and Cold wars and left the nation unprepared for a fight.

"I refer to this as more of a 'correction'" than a reduction of force or the American industrial base, Kendall said. "There is a strong desire to not have a 'hollow' force."

The defense budget submitted to Congress was built around this new strategy, he said, and it's very tight.

But among its features is the replacement of some Missile Defense Agency funds which Kendall said he was himself involved in cutting last year.

Hendrickson gave an update on MDA activities, where he said homeland defense continues to be the No. 1 priority, followed by the regional defense capabilities in Asia, Europe and elsewhere to counter threats by North Korea, Iran and others.

He pointed to a number of improvements to the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system which primarily protects the U.S. by intercepting incoming enemy ballistic missiles while in space: A third interceptor missile field has been completed at Fort Greely, Alaska, early warning radars are updated, an in-flight data terminal is being built on the East Coast to counter growing threats from that direction, and more.

Hendrickson acknowledged there have been design and quality challenges with elements of the ground-based interceptor missiles that have caused MDA to stall production.

A flight test in December is planned to "shake, rattle and roll" a GBI to see if the problems have been solved. If so, a test in March or April will pit the GBI against a target and, if successful, could get the product line going again.

"These are truly Rolls Royces," Hendrickson said of the interceptors, in that they are sophisticated and basically hand-built.

MDA has a busy test schedule, he said.

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In a few months there will be a flight test over the Pacific that will integrate targets and layers of defense systems to counter them, including the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense ships, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense - or THAAD - missiles, advanced radars, and Army Patriot missiles.

It will be a very complex event, he said, to mirror the complexity of the environment in which these systems must cooperate.

The defense officials' messages were at least partially reassuring to the industry representatives at the conference, which runs through Thursday.

Many of these programs aren't just managed by MDA and Army offices on Redstone Arsenal, but are also bread-and-butter jobs for area defense contractors.

Boeing manages the GMD program from offices in Huntsville; Lockheed Martin builds ballistic missile targets for MDA tests in Courtland, and the popular THAAD missiles in Troy; Raytheon will soon produce the Standard Missile 3 family of interceptors at a plant under construction on Redstone Arsenal.

Planned reductions in defense spending and the looming specter of sequestration - the \$600 billion across-the-board in defense cuts that will be triggered in January if Congress doesn't act - have certainly been on the minds of everyone at the conference.

"There's very little flexibility on our part" if sequestration occurs, Kendall said.

Money will come out of every account, he said, though they will protect troops that are "forward" in Afghanistan and elsewhere and will try not to break existing contracts.

http://blog.al.com/huntsville-times-business/2012/08/missile_defense_remains_priori.html

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Chicago Tribune

U.S. Hypersonic Aircraft Crashed Early in Test Flight, Military Says

By Alex Dobuzinskis, Reuters

August 15, 2012

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - An unmanned experimental hypersonic military aircraft called the Waverider broke apart over the Pacific Ocean seconds into a test flight due to a faulty control fin, the U.S. Air Force said on Wednesday.

The problem with the fin was identified 16 seconds after a rocket booster on the X-51A aircraft was ignited to increase its speed in a test flight on Tuesday morning, the Air Force said in a statement.

Fifteen seconds later, when the X-51A separated from the rocket booster, it lost control due to a "faulty control fin," the statement said. The 31 seconds of flight fell far short of the military's goal for the X-51A to fly for five minutes.

The aircraft broke apart immediately and fell into the Pacific Ocean near Point Mugu northwest of Los Angeles, said Daryl Mayer, a spokesman for the 88th Air Base Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

The Waverider was designed to reach speeds of Mach 6 or above, which is six times the speed of sound and fast enough to zoom from New York to London in less than an hour. The military has its eye on using the Waverider program to develop high-speed cruise missiles.

The cost of the experimental aircraft has not been disclosed because many details of the program are classified.

This was the third of four X-51A aircraft built for the military. The Air Force said in a statement that one of the aircraft remains and that a decision has not been made "when or if that vehicle will fly at this time."

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Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne designed the X-51A's "Scramjet" engine, which uses the forward motion of the craft to compress air for fuel combustion, according to a description of the project from the military.

"It is unfortunate that a problem with this subsystem caused a termination before we could light the Scramjet engine," Charlie Brink, X-51A Program Manager for the Air Force Research Laboratory, said in a statement.

"All our data showed we had created the right conditions for engine ignition and we were very hopeful to meet our test objectives," Brink said.

Reporting By Alex Dobuzinskis; Editing by Cynthia Johnston and Cynthia Osterman.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-usa-hypersonic-flightbre87e0j4-20120815,0,7833289.story>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Knoxville News Sentinel

Feds Authorize Restart of Y-12 Nuke Operations

By Frank Munger

Wednesday, August 15, 2012

OAK RIDGE — Nearly three weeks after a stunning security breach shut down the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant, the government on Wednesday authorized the restart of nuclear operations.

The Oak Ridge plant will resume work on nuclear warhead parts and the handling and processing of highly enriched uranium, but it won't be — a federal spokesman emphasized — a return to normal.

"It won't be normal at all," said Steven Wyatt of the National Nuclear Security Administration's Oak Ridge office. There will be greatly enhanced security oversight, with additional federal personnel on site to review the contractor operations and planning activities, he said.

B&W Y-12, the managing contractor, ordered a "security stand-down" on Aug. 1, soon after the unprecedented intrusion July 28 by three Plowshares protesters, who reportedly scaled a ridge on the north side of Y-12 and walked all the way to the plant's high-security inner core. The protesters — Sister Megan Rice, an 82-year-old Catholic nun; Michael R. Walli, 63; and Greg Boertje-Obed, 57 — used bolt-cutters to pass through a series of sensor-laden security fences and reach the fortresslike uranium storehouse, which they defaced with spray-painted protest messages and human blood. The breach raised deep questions about site vulnerabilities and prompted multiple investigations, which are still under way.

All of the plant's working uranium stocks were placed in vaults for the past 2½ weeks while workers focused their attention on security. Thousands of people who work at the site underwent refresher training on the do's and don'ts of nuclear security, while others evaluated what went wrong and began the job of restoring confidence in the plant's once-vaunted protective systems.

"The authorization to resume operations was made possible through the completion of numerous improvements in security at Y-12 and completion of security training," the NNSA said in the Wednesday announcement.

The approval to restart nuclear operations has no bearing on the "show cause" notice that the National Nuclear Security Administration sent to B&W Y-12 last week, Wyatt said.

In the Aug. 10 letter to the contractor, the NNSA said security concerns raised by the break-in and the response to it were so severe as to potentially harm the ability to carry out the Y-12 contract. The federal agency, which is a semiautonomous part of the U.S. Department of Energy, said additional problems were found in the days following the incident and gave B&W 30 days to respond to the letter and show why its management contract should not be terminated.

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It wasn't clear how long it would take Y-12 to get the uranium operations and other activities, including the dismantlement of old warhead parts, up and running or restart manufacturing programs.

One of Y-12's missions is to produce new parts for old warheads that are brought out of active deployment and refurbished to extend their lifetime. On July 27, the day before the break-in by Plowshares protesters, Wyatt confirmed that Y-12 was working on only one life-extension project and that was for the W76 (Trident) warhead. At the time, he noted that the Oak Ridge plant was anticipating future life-extension work on the B61 bomb.

Meanwhile, Wyatt also confirmed that all of the plant's surveillance-and-assessment cameras have been fixed and are fully operational.

In its "show cause" letter to B&W, the NNSA said a "high number" of cameras associated with the plant's PIDAS (Perimeter Intrusion Detection and Assessment System) were inoperable at the time of the July 28 intrusion in the predawn hours. "All of these cameras have been fixed and checked and are 100 percent operable," Wyatt said in an email response to questions.

As part of the effort to reestablish faith in Y-12's security systems, the government has brought in security experts from around the country.

Wyatt confirmed that additional personnel have arrived in Oak Ridge from other sites in the U.S. nuclear weapons complex, as well as from NNSA headquarters in Washington, D.C. He declined to be specific in identifying the individuals or their home sites. In addition, the NNSA has said it plans to bring in an as-yet-unnamed senior official who will work in the agency's site office at Y-12 and oversee the security work of contractors.

Over the past couple of weeks there has been an upheaval in contractor management, with three top executives at B&W Y-12 and two at WSI-Oak Ridge, the protective force contractor, relieved of their duties. The security contracting plans has also been revamped, with WSI now reporting directly to B&W as a subcontractor. In the past, both of the companies held prime contracts and reported directly to the NNSA, coordinating their security roles.

The contracting change was made "to strengthen the chain of command" and reduce the layers of management, NNSA. The change also gives more the plant's managing contractor more control over the security police force, which was criticized for its response to July 28 security breach.

<http://m.knoxnews.com/news/2012/aug/15/feds-authorize-restart-y-12s-nuke-operations/>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Pentagon Denies Reports of Russian Sub near U.S.

16 August 2012

Pentagon denied on Thursday media reports that a Russian nuclear powered submarine cruised unnoticed for several weeks in the Gulf of Mexico near the shores of the United States.

"I don't know what that information was based on, but it was not correct," Wendy Snyder, a spokeswoman for the Pentagon, said.

The Washington Free Beacon reported earlier that Russia's Akula class nuclear powered submarine (Project 971) freely traveled in June and July in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico undetected by the U.S. Navy.

A spokesman for the Russian Defense Ministry neither confirmed nor denied media reports on Thursday saying only that all information on the movement of Russian submarines around the world is classified.

The Akula is the main class of submarines employed by the Russian Navy. It has greater stealth capabilities than earlier models and is capable of carrying long-range ballistic missiles.



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MOSCOW, August 16 (RIA Novosti)

http://en.ria.ru/military_news/20120816/175258313.html

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

BioPrepWatch.com

Dugway Plans Bio-Warfare Testing Center Expansion

August 14, 2012

By Paul Tinder

The Dugway Proving Center in Tooele County, Utah, is planning to expand a facility where biological agents and toxins are tested.

Big-D Construction, a Salt Lake City-based company, received a \$22.6 million contract to expand Dugway's 33,150-square-foot Lothar Salomon Life Sciences Test Facility by an additional 41,000 square feet. The expansion will enable the military to develop and test protection, identification, detection and decontamination equipment for first responders and the armed forces, the Tooele Transcript Bulletin reports.

The project is anticipated to begin next spring and be completed by May 2015.

"The Department of Defense is concerned about the threat to the security of the United States by hostile nations and terrorist organizations that could pose a significant danger to both civilian populations and the Armed Forces of the United States," Bonnie Robinson, the public information officer for Dugway, said, according to the Tooele Transcript Bulletin. "The concern is the threat of biological warfare. Our job at Dugway Proving Ground is to help protect our service members, first responders and the American citizens from a biological attack by ensuring that warfighters and the responders both have the best protective gear and testing and decontamination equipment to ensure a quick and successful response."

The facility is the only Department of Defense facility certified to test developmental equipment with such agents as biological toxins, viruses and bacteria. The lab space after the expansion will be approximately 60 percent biosafety level 2 and 40 percent biosafety level 3.

"One significant advantage of the addition is that it will allow us to designate specific labs for molecular biology only, and allow us to facilitate better work flow and recommended standard practices," Douglas Anderson, the chief of the Life Sciences Division, said, according to the Tooele Transcript Bulletin. "The expansion will allow us to conduct concurrent tests using BSL 3 containment aerosol chambers, which had been somewhat restricted by space prior to the addition."

http://www.bioprepwatch.com/us_bioterror_policy/dugway-plans-bio-warfare-testing-center-expansion/324942/

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

My San Antonio

Iran's Ties to Latin America Worry U.S.

By Stewart M. Powell

Saturday, August 11, 2012

WASHINGTON — Ever since Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad struck a deal with Venezuelan leader Hugo Chávez for weekly air service between the nations' distant capitals, American officials have worried that Iranian-backed terrorists could reach to the rim of Latin America, pick up fake Venezuelan passports and sneak into the United States.

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Now, with growing talk of a pre-emptive attack by Israel to slow Iran's suspected nuclear-weapons program, Iran has threatened that it would retaliate across the globe. And Iran's easy access to the Western Hemisphere has U.S. officials particularly concerned.

The commercial service between Tehran and Caracas by Iran Air and Conviasa Air Venezuela, including a stop in Damascus, Syria, is so secretive that there's confusion among intelligence agencies about whether the flights are continuing. Israeli experts believe they are; U.S. officials aren't so sure.

Elevated fears

Nevertheless, the current climate has elevated U.S. fears.

"Some Iranian officials — probably including Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei — have changed their calculus and are now more willing to conduct an attack in the United States in response to real or perceived U.S. actions that threaten the regime," James Clapper, director of national intelligence, warned the Senate Intelligence Committee in his latest worldwide threat assessment.

If that attack comes, experts see it being staged by Iranian operatives who entered the U.S. through Latin America.

"There's pretty much of a general consensus within the intelligence community that Iranian-backed cells providing financial support to Hezbollah could easily convert to operational cells and light up the place," said U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Austin.

McCaul, the chairman of investigations for the House Committee on Homeland Security, led a seven-day fact-finding mission across Latin America last week.

"From our observations on this trip, the Iranian threat to the United States is very real, and it would be difficult to defend against all of these operatives."

Iranian retaliation would likely fall to pre-positioned operatives drawn from the ranks of the 15,000-strong Iranian Revolutionary Guards Quds Force or 10,000-member, Iranian-backed Hezbollah, based in southern Lebanon.

Raising money

McCaul said Hezbollah is fundraising with impunity in the tri-border area surrounded by Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil, where an estimated 30,000 Lebanese expatriates and immigrants live among a population of 800,000.

He said enterprising businesses there, some importing counterfeit products from China for resale in Latin America, are being required to tithe as much as 2 percent of gross revenue to the terrorist organization.

Yet the suspected terrorist safe haven is largely ignored by law enforcement from the three adjacent countries.

"Authorities downplay the threat," McCaul said. "They talk about trans-national crime. But they don't want to talk about terrorism. If you use the T-word, they pucker up."

The suicide bombing of an Israeli tourist bus in Bulgaria on July 18, killing five Israelis and wounding 30, is the latest sign that Tehran remains prepared to strike abroad. The suspected Hezbollah bombing coincided with the 18th anniversary of the organization's 1994 attack on a Jewish community center in Argentina that killed 85 people. A similar attack two years earlier in Argentina killed 29 civilians.

"Iran has methodically cultivated a network of sponsored terrorist surrogates capable of conducting effective, plausibly deniable attacks against Israel and the United States," the Pentagon's latest assessment of Iran's military power said.

Forging ties

At the same time, there are signs that Iranian agents are forging ties with murderous, multibillion-dollar Mexican drug cartels.



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“Iranian operatives are stepping into power vacuums,” said Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo, a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security who made the trip.

Federal authorities unmasked an alleged Iranian Quds Force plot last fall that featured attempts by a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Iran to enlist a member of the Mexican narco-terrorist organization Los Zetas in a \$1.5 million scheme to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to the United States.

Facing trial

Manssor Arbabsiar, a Texas resident arrested Sept. 29 at John F. Kennedy International Airport, faces trial in New York in October on multiple charges stemming from the alleged plot to kill Adel Al-Jubeir by bombing his favorite restaurant in Washington, D.C.

McCaul said Iranian operatives planned to synchronize the bombing in Washington, D.C., with simultaneous attacks on the Saudi and Israeli embassies in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

“We have to presume that Hezbollah cells are present and being fortified while awaiting orders from Iran,” retired Marine Col. Timothy Geraghty warned Congress last fall after the assassination plot came to light.

Congressional investigators working for the GOP majority estimate that there are “at least hundreds of Hezbollah operatives” within the United States, according to Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., the chairman of the Republican-led House Committee on Homeland Security.

“In light of last year's bomb plot, in light of the 20 Hezbollah cases prosecuted since 9/11 and in light of Hezbollah attacks overseas, we have a duty to prepare for the worst,” King added.

Just as the 19 suicide hijackers who carried out the 9/11 attacks arrived at U.S. airports with valid travel documents, most suspected Iranian operatives are believed to have entered the U.S. through the 327 ports of entry, including airports, border crossings and maritime ports.

A handful may have surreptitiously crossed the 1,969-mile southwestern border, smuggled into the United States with tens of thousands of undocumented immigrants from Mexico and other countries who cross the boundary every year.

Of 59,017 non-Mexican citizens who were arrested crossing the U.S.-Mexico border in 2010, 14 came from Iran and 11 from Lebanon, Hezbollah's base of operations.

http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/grace_of_giving/article/Border-terror-3781689.php

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

The Heritage Foundation
OPINION/Report

Preventing Catastrophe: Time for a National EMP Awareness Day

By Michaela Bendikova and Jessica Zuckerman
August 13, 2012

An electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack on the U.S. would have devastating effects. On August 15, 2003, a major blackout occurred throughout the northeastern U.S. and Canada, offering a glimpse of what life would be like after an EMP attack. More than 55 million people were affected, but most services were restored within a day.

That would not be the case after an EMP. Damage to lives and property would be immense, and the ensuing devastation would continue for years, if not decades. Yet despite this substantial threat, the U.S. remains largely vulnerable to such an attack. In order to raise recognition of the threat and begin a national dialogue, Congress should establish August 15 as National EMP Awareness Day.

When the Lights Go Out

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A successful EMP attack—a high-intensity burst of electromagnetic energy caused by a rapid acceleration of charged particles—would fundamentally change the world:

- Airplanes would fall from the sky;
- Most cars would be inoperable;
- Electrical devices would fail;
- Water, sewer, and electrical networks would fail simultaneously; and
- Systems of banking, energy, transportation, food production and delivery, water, emergency services, and even cyberspace would collapse.

It would take years—possibly decades—to restore the U.S. electricity supply. Recovery abilities would be critically limited, and the country would be challenged to support current population levels. Millions would likely die.

Launching an Attack

One of the most effective means of delivering an EMP attack is detonating nuclear weapons at a high altitude. Energetic particles released during the explosion would disable, damage, or destroy all unhardened electronic devices within the line of sight of the detonation.

A rogue state would not need a long-range ballistic missile to deliver a nuclear warhead. Even short-range ballistic missiles carrying an EMP device or a nuclear warhead launched from a ship off the U.S. coast could impact millions. Today, over 30 countries, including Iran and North Korea, possess ballistic missile capabilities.

An EMP can also be created by a radio-frequency weapon. While comparatively easier and cheaper than a nuclear weapon mounted on a missile, a radio-frequency device must be detonated close to the target and does not produce as much damage.

Additionally, an EMP can be generated during a Carrington event, or space weather. In 1859, British astronomer Richard Carrington observed an unusually large solar flare. It reached earth minutes later and had a significant impact on telegraphs, which shocked their operators unconscious. A solar flare of this magnitude today would have a much more devastating impact, as modern society depends heavily on electronic devices.

Rejected Warnings and Failures in Preparedness

While the U.S. government has been aware of the threat of an EMP effect since its 1962 Starfish Prime nuclear weapons test, little has been done to harden civilian infrastructure. Key military systems were hardened during the Cold War, but interest in the EMP threat dropped precipitously after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Recommendations of various congressionally mandated commissions, such as the EMP Commission and the Quadrennial Defense Review Panel, have not fully materialized, despite increasing U.S. civilian and military reliance on electronic devices. Today, comprehensive threat assessments and scenario planning for EMP attacks remain underdeveloped. At the federal level, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) continues to lack a national recovery plan in the event of an EMP attack.

Similarly, an EMP event has not been included within the National Planning Scenarios. These high-consequence scenarios form the basis of federal, state, and local disaster response exercises that are intended to help determine response and recovery capabilities and needs and address problems before a disaster occurs. Given the potentially catastrophic consequences of an EMP attack and the unique nature of the threat, an EMP event should be added to the list of scenarios.

At the same time, state and local governments also remain poorly prepared for an EMP attack. These vulnerabilities are magnified by the fact that the federal government also remains unprepared and would likely be unable to render assistance in the event of an EMP attack.

Take Action Now



Bringing attention to the threat with a National EMP Awareness Day would help, but awareness should be joined with action. In order to prevent and mitigate the effects of a potential EMP attack, the U.S. government should:

- **Improve and restructure U.S. missile defense programs.** Improved command-and-control features and interceptors tied to forward-deployed radar would give the Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) interceptor the ability to counter long-range ballistic missiles in the late midcourse stage of flight. Additionally, the government should improve the SM-3's ability to intercept short-range ballistic missiles in the ascent phase of flight. Ultimately, the U.S. should develop and deploy space-based missile defense, the best way to protect the U.S. and allies from a ballistic missile threat.
- **Demand that the Administration develop a National Recovery Plan.** The EMP Commission emphasized that the nation should first improve the infrastructure on which all other sectors are dependent, specifically citing electrical power and telecommunications. This risk-based approach recognizes that certain infrastructure is key to post-EMP attack recovery. EMP should also be added to the list of 15 National Disaster Scenarios.
- **Determine which countries could attack.** The U.S. should produce a national intelligence estimate on which countries are pursuing EMP weapons and associated delivery systems and platforms or are already capable of launching an EMP attack. Preparing for an attack means understanding one's opponents and how they are incorporating EMP weapons into their strategic postures. It is essential that policymakers have the most recent intelligence at their hands so that they can determine how best to respond to EMP threats as they arise.
- **Prepare and protect the nation's cyber infrastructure.** Cyber infrastructure is dependent on the power grid—which makes it a unique challenge in an EMP scenario. Thus, contingency planning should explore ways to keep the cyber system functioning without primary power; it should also explore ways to protect cyber circuit boards from the deleterious effects of a large burst of energy in the network. As such, Congress should direct the Department of Defense and DHS to review their cyber systems, incorporating the recommendations of the EMP Commission, including identification of the most critical elements of the cyber system that must be hardened against an EMP attack. The commission also recommends that preparedness planning account for the interdependency between the nation's cyber infrastructure and other elements of the broader infrastructure. Overall, the key to countering an EMP is to put barriers in place to prevent cascading failures in the nation's infrastructure.
- **Require more research.** In addition to raising national awareness, more research is needed on the risk associated with an EMP attack to ensure that the nation understands the full scope of the threat and how to close critical vulnerability gaps.

Protect the Nation

The U.S. has the technology to protect itself from the effects of a deliberate attack or space weather. It is a no-brainer that the government should pursue these options and "provide for the common defense." The nation should not continue to underestimate the threat of an EMP attack.

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<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2012/08/preventing-catastrophe-time-for-a-national-emp-awareness-day>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

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Japan Playing Nuclear Roulette

By KEVIN RAFFERTY, Special to *The Japan Times*

HONG KONG — J. Robert Oppenheimer, one of the prominent fathers of the atomic bomb, had read the Bhagavad Gita, and when he saw the first test of the weapon, he quoted the terrifying line from the Hindu scripture: "Now I am become Death, destroyer of worlds." It is hard to imagine the horror of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima 67 years ago. It seared the sky and instantaneously wiped much of the city and tens of thousands of people, and left a trail of misery that continues today, but which should not be forgotten.

Sadly, leading Japanese politicians today seem to have forgotten the lessons of the war and its savage end. Powerful politicians are hard at work trying to scrap Article 9 of the Constitution — which renounces war — and some of them want to go all-out to build a Japanese nuclear weapon.

What are they thinking about? It beggars belief that a country that has suffered so much, first from being the only victim of nuclear war, and then from bungling over the use of nuclear energy, should be contemplating building nuclear weapons.

It is almost a game of Chinese roulette. Japan does not know how to cope with the rise and rise of an increasingly assertive and muscular China. It is also obviously concerned about nuclear-armed North Korea that is wont to making bellicose threats in spite of its small size and its impoverished economy. But Chinese roulette is more suicidal than the Russian version: If Japan built nuclear weapons for first-strike capability against an overbearing China, it would be committing national suicide; second-strike, or retaliatory, capacity might be too late if China had done its job properly. Using nuclear weapons against North Korea, whatever the provocation, seems unthinkable.

That is without considering the suicidal economic costs. France and the United Kingdom have discovered that keeping up with the latest nuclear weapons technology is prohibitively expensive. For already heavily indebted Japan, it could be the final straw to economic ruin.

Any decision to build nuclear weapons would be a red rag to China, far more serious than the Tokyo government or Japan buying the Senkaku Islands. Even so, hawkish Japanese politicians claim that flaunting the bomb option will give Japan greater diplomatic clout.

The nuclear option is very much part of shadow politics, going on outside the public arena, but linked to the obvious reluctance of the government and bureaucrats to give up nuclear energy. Japan has years of expertise in production of nuclear energy, but, even so, it is questionable, especially in the light of the lessons of the Fukushima disaster, whether any part of a country sitting on so many earthquake fault lines is safe to host a nuclear plant.

However, the ability to produce nuclear power gives obvious material and technological advances toward weapons production. Former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba, from the opposition Liberal Democratic Party, said, "Having nuclear plants shows to other nations that Japan can make nuclear weapons."

"Fukushima Project," a book by anti-nuclear experts, claims that, "A group is starting to take a stand to assert the significance of nuclear plants as military technology, a view that had been submerged below the surface until now." In June, without fanfare, Japan's Diet changed the 1955 Atomic Energy Basic Law to add "national security" as a reason for using nuclear technology along with people's health and wealth.

The debate on Article 9 of Japan's Constitution has also been going on largely behind closed doors. The LDP sees itself as poised to sweep Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's fractious government from power. It is demanding early elections as the price for supporting Noda's controversial doubling of the consumption tax.

The party has been busy designing a nationalist campaign that, according to *The Economist*, "looks likely to border on emperor-worship." In April the LDP published proposals for a constitutional amendment, which would eviscerate Article 9, the key to Japan's peace Constitution. Article 9 famously renounces war and the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes.

Issue No. 1020, 17 August 2012

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Its second paragraph pledges that Japan will not maintain land, sea or air forces or other war potential. Some supporters of the peace clauses agree that the time has come to revise Article 9, especially given that Japan's Self-Defense Forces are armed forces in all but name and defense spending of \$61 billion makes Japan the world's fifth or sixth largest in the global league, vying with France. The Self-Defense Forces have also contributed, controversially, to international peacekeeping efforts.

So there is a plausible case that the new realities be recognized and careful limitations and strict rules and conditions be set. Professor Craig Martin set out the arguments for updating Article 9 without destroying it in *The Japan Times* recently. The essential core of the first paragraph of Article 9 should be preserved as Japan's contribution to humanity.

The danger is that Japan's rightwing will set the terms of the debate and provide a *fait accompli* of a changed constitution and a new more militaristic agenda. You can see how the approach will be made. China is growing daily more assertive, undoubtedly true. Japan is highly vulnerable, also true. But a bright guy facing a bully needs to use brains, not to slug it out and get mashed up. Japan should be making friends, especially in the Asian region. It should also try to disarm the bully by friendship and point out — also undoubtedly true — that no one wins in a fight, least of all in the 21st century when the miseries of war would threaten the whole world's existence.

The bigger danger, ultimately for Japan itself, is that this small island country, highly dependent on the outside world for essential imports and for exports that provide jobs and economic growth, seems unable to see itself as the rest of the world does — largely irrelevant — and lives in its own bubble world. It should be a matter of concern, for example, that South Koreans hate Japan more than they hate the North Korean regime, that there is visceral hatred in China toward Japan.

Small island nations often have an undue pride in their own insular superiority. The U.K. is similar. But the U.K. recognizes that there is an alien world out there and you have to be active in knowing what goes on and sometimes to make concessions and occasionally sacrifice cherished interests for the greater good. The U.K.'s failure to engage Europe wisely, pretending to be aloof and not part of the eurozone problems, is costing its economy dearly.

But Japan, apart from exporters at the sharp economic end, who are increasingly taking their factories abroad, seems to wish the world outside does not exist. You can see this tragically any day on the state broadcaster NHK, which seems totally ignorant of the rest of the world.

As a small example, the main morning news of NHK on Aug. 9 devoted its first 19 minutes to the Olympics, with seven minutes for Japan's judo golds, a minute about Usain Bolt, before celebrating Japan's javelin thrower who failed to qualify for the finals, its decathlon competitor in 26th place and the vital women's field hockey match between Japan and South Africa to decide who comes ninth. Then there was a preview of the Japan-U.S. women's soccer final. There was no mention of the achievements of China or the United States, or of the world outside the Olympics.

The BBC on the same day started with the medal battle between China and the U.S., went to Jamaica to ask about the culture that produced Bolt, celebrated Japan's judo golds and found time to report on mayhem in Syria.

At 20 minutes after the hour, NHK went on to the intense political fight over the consumption tax and, very briefly, after 30 minutes, to the people of Nagasaki waiting to commemorate the dropping of the second atomic bomb on Aug. 9. Lest Japan forget: War in the 21st century would be tantamount to national suicide.

Kevin Rafferty is author of "Inside Japan's Powerhouses", a study of Japan Inc and internationalization.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/text/ea20120815a2.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Washington Times
OPINION/Commentary

KAHLILI: Iran Admits Giving WMDs to Terrorists

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Rogue state threatens Israel over Syria

By Reza Kahlili

Tuesday, August 14, 2012

Israel will be obliterated by chemical, microbial and nuclear bombs, Iran is warning, but those weapons of mass destruction will be used first on Tel Aviv by Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad at the start of a decades-old Muslim dream of destroying the Jewish state.

An alarming commentary last week in Mashregh, the media outlet of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, confirmed that the Islamic regime not only has WMDs but has armed its terrorist proxies with them. Mashregh speaks for the regime.

It warned Israel that if the fighting in Syria does not stop, an all-out attack on the Jewish state will be launched and that at zero hour, Tel Aviv will be the first city to be destroyed.

"The threat to retaliate against Israel with weapons of mass destruction is credible," said Dr. Peter Vincent Pry, executive director of the Task Force on National and Homeland Security, who previously served on the House Armed Services Committee and with the CIA. "A highly credible source in 2005 warned that a decision had been made at the highest level of the Iranian government to arm numerous ballistic missiles with chemical and biological warheads to retaliate against Israel if Iran's vital interests were endangered. The fall of [Syrian President Bashar] Assad would constitute endangerment of Iran's vital interest."

The commentary said that for 18 months, Israel, with all its power, has tried to reshape Islamic movements that have targeted the "Zionists" into a conflict between Muslims, with Syria at the center of its efforts.

The Mashregh column charged that Israel is behind the Syrian crisis in order to strategically change the geopolitics of the region and defeat one of the main players in the Islamic world's "resistance front." It warned Israel that with the direction it has chosen, "There is a dead end, and the threat of mass killing awaits."

The commentary recalled the doctrine of the founder of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini: "If they stand against our religion, we will stand against their world. If all this bloodshed is to provide a better future for Israel, we will destroy their world."

The lengthy analysis claimed that several forces are involved on both the diplomatic and military fronts to break the Syrian "resistance front."

It cited Turkish forces on Syria's border with that NATO country but also claimed there are American forces along the Golan Heights and in Jordan, and Saudi, Qatar and French forces at the Syrian border with Lebanon.

"Their defeat from the fronts within [Syria] and the movement of their forces on the borders are signs that the world's Zionists have lost hope on the capability of [anti-Assad] terrorists against Syrian forces and now are looking for an opportunity to get the armed forces of others involved," the commentary said.

A strategic look at the situation in Syria, it said, shows that in order to safeguard Damascus and Bashar Assad's regime, it is necessary to destroy "the center responsible for these destructions, which will force the enemy to retreat." To that end, Iran will break "the security of Israel by targeting Tel Aviv."

The commentary, citing the weak economies in America and Europe, said that in an all-out confrontation between the "resistance front" and Israel, the West will stay out of it, not wanting to fight Syria with a military of 220,000 military personnel and 240,000 reserves, Iran's massive forces and Hezbollah.

Should Israel and its allies succeed in unraveling Syria so the legitimate Assad regime loses control, the commentary said, there are but two scenarios:

"Groups armed with weapons of mass destruction (chemical, microbial and nuclear bombs), which have been obtained on the black market, will surely target Tel Aviv.

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“Other countries with different motivations from revenge to a change in the balance of power in the region looking for the elimination of Israel from the world’s map will use the chaos created without accepting any responsibility.” (Right below this point, Mashregh put up a picture of an atomic blast.)

“Who can guarantee that armed groups or certain countries have not already armed themselves with weapons of mass destruction or that weapons of mass destruction obtained from the former Soviet republics after the fall of Soviet Union will not find their way into Tel Aviv?” the commentary asked. “It is best to stop the violence in Syria or the order to attack will be issued.”

As I reported last October and again recently, several sources have confirmed that Iran obtained at least two nuclear bombs from former Soviet republics and several neutron bombs possibly from North Korea. Iran and Syria also hold a large stockpile of chemical weapons.

“Although I have no current factual information about a possible Iranian biological weapons program, Iranian circumstances, past behavior and policies make it virtually certain that Iran has such a program,” said Fritz Ermarth, former chairman of the National Intelligence Council. “This means that, should they choose to do so, Iran’s leaders could put biological weapons in the hands of their own commando teams or terrorist groups they trusted for covert delivery in attacks on Israel or the U.S. or other targets. Hence, the threats of such WMD attacks should be taken seriously. They may be bluster, but of the most dangerous sort.”

Reza Kahlili is a pseudonym for a former CIA operative in Iran’s Revolutionary Guards and author of “A Time to Betray” (Simon & Schuster, 2010). He is a fellow with EMPact America and serves on the Task Force on National and Homeland Security.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/aug/14/iran-admits-giving-wmds-to-terrorists/?page=all#pagebreak>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Daily Times – Pakistan

OPINION/Op-Ed

Wednesday, August 15, 2012

VIEW: The Price of Deterrence

By Mohammad Nafees

A country that has over 70 million people living on Rs 100 or less per day, its main priority remains the production of weapons of mass destruction.

Pakistan has reportedly become one of the top five countries in the world with the highest number of nuclear weapons in its possession, has already left behind its archrival India, and is now poised to beat a country like the UK that once ruled this part of the world. How an achievement of this significance went unsung by the country that very solemnly celebrates Youm-e-Takbeer every year in memory of the first nuclear explosion it carried out in response to a similar act by its foe, India, in 1998! What restrained Pakistan not to glorify a success of such significance is unknown as it never acknowledged or denied these reports. It might be an attempt to maintain a low profile lest the foreign media add a few more scary words to its title of Pakistan as the “most dangerous country of the world”. Whatever be the reason, maintaining secrecy on such an achievement deprived people of thumping their chests with a feeling of pride that comes from the level of deterrence our nuclear strength can convey to our rivals.

According to reports, Pakistan currently has 90-100 nuclear weapons while its rival, India, despite being six times larger in population and eight times higher in GDP, has a stockpile of 80-100 nuclear weapons. This equation is expected to be changed drastically by 2021 when Pakistan will have 200 nuclear weapons and India, with 150 weapons, will be struggling hard to catch up. This shows the fulfillment of the commitment our visionary premier, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, made with the nation in 1974 when India carried out its first nuclear test. With firmness in his voice he said, “If India builds the bomb, we will eat grass and leaves for a thousand years, even go hungry, but we will get one of our own.”

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Unfortunately, his successor did not let him live long enough to see his dream turn into reality. However, the vision he inculcated in the establishment remained alive with his successors even though they despised him heartily. They even became over-obsessed with it. He wanted to have one bomb of our own, they went ahead and built 100 or maybe more.

Pakistan carried out its first nuclear test in May 1998 and within 13 years after the first experiment, it has now amassed a large quantity of nuclear weapons. How long did Pakistan take to produce that many nuclear weapons? There are conflicting reports but most of them agree on the figure of 100 as the current nuclear stock of Pakistan.

All around the world, nuclear programmes are surrounded with mystery and speculations; Pakistan is not an exception. However, the contradictory reports on Pakistan's nuclear assets turn these mysteries into a puzzle. Pakistan is considered to have the fastest growing nuclear programme in the world with a production rate of 8-20 nuclear weapons in a year. With this speed, Pakistan must have produced more than 100 weapons during the last 13 years.

One hundred nuclear weapons is a big figure for a country like Pakistan when we look at the cost of an atom bomb. According to the available information, the USA spent nearly \$ two billion per atom bomb in 1945 and its current cost estimate goes up to \$ 22-25 billion.

During a meeting with Ayub Khan, the nuclear scientist, Munir Ahmed Khan, quoted him a cost estimate of \$ 150 million for the nuclear programme. It is not known whether the cost was for the facility or it included the cost of the nuclear arsenal as well. In an article published in Newsweek (May 16, 2011), Dr Abdul Qadir Khan said, "There is a total misconception about the money spent on our nuclear programme. When we started, our budget was just \$ 10 million per year, increasing to \$ 20 million per year when at full capacity including all salaries, transport, medical care, housing, utilities, and purchases of technical equipment and materials." What was estimated to cost \$ 150 million back in the 1960s came down to \$ 20 million in the 1990s. Only a miraculous negative escalation of exchange rate can make such a thing happen. If we take Dr Khan's words as true, he deserves credit for it. However, it is not clear whether or not this budget was inclusive of the production cost of nuclear warheads. Let us assume Pakistan produced 10 weapons per year. Even if 50 percent of the nuclear programme budget was spent for the production of nuclear weapons, it means we spent \$ 10 million per year for production of 10 warheads. Therefore, the 100 nuclear warheads we produced so far cost us only \$ 100 million, nearly five percent of what the USA spent in 1945 to produce one atom bomb. If proved right, it would be an unmatched achievement of this century in the field of nuclear technology. A big round of applause goes in honour of the team of our nuclear scientists who performed this miracle. Unfortunately, there seems to be a flaw in these figures.

Newsweek (May 15, 2011) has quoted the former president of Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf as saying that Pakistan keeps two divisions of the army — about 18,000 troops — to guard the nuclear assets. Make a calculation at an average of Rs 20,000 per month for salary, uniform, food, and accommodation for each soldier and officer of these troops and you get a \$ 50 million stub in your hand. Cut these expenses in half and yet the figure remains higher than the annual budget of \$ 20 million and that too for the security forces only and not for the cost of the facility and its products.

Like the nuclear programme, the cost of nuclear warhead is also kept secret. It leaves us with no option other than to use the cost incurred by the US in 1945 as a baseline for our calculation. In other words, it must be at least \$ 2.0 billion per nuclear warhead if not more. Building one hundred warheads at this cost means Pakistan must have spent at least \$ 200 billion so far. For a country that faced several internal disasters during the last decade like the war on terror, an earthquake, IDPs and floods, an expense of \$ 200 billion on a destructive device make one wonders as to what we consider as our basic priority. A country that has over 70 million people living on Rs100 or less per day, whose population of extreme poverty has gone up from 47 million to 72 million within the last four years, and whose people, civilians and security officials both, are dying every day with the growing acts of terrorism and target killings, its main priority remains the production of weapons of mass destruction. Unbelievable!

In a Newsweek article, Dr Khan said, "If we had had nuclear capability before 1971, we would not have lost half of our country." This is partially true. We have created an effective deterrence to external threats but left the internal threats



unattended because we still consider the events of 1971 as an external conspiracy. If China, with a GDP of about \$ 5.6 trillion, can consider 40 nuclear weapons enough for its deterrence policy, why can 100 of them not make us feel the same way? Are we into the same mad arms race that led the USSR to collapse despite having a huge quantity of nuclear weapons? Internal threats are equally dangerous to the integrity of a country as external threats, especially when we hear reports that insiders from the armed forces are conspiring against the country and its military installations. Is it not time to think internally instead of externally?

The writer is a freelance journalist and researcher.

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012%5C08%5C15%5Cstory_15-8-2012_pg3_5

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Foreign Policy
OPINION/The Cable

Exclusive: North Korea Threatens to Reconsider 2005 Agreement with U.S.

By Josh Rogin
Thursday, August 16, 2012

North Korean officials threatened to reconsider existing agreements with the United States in a recent meeting in Singapore, two sources familiar with the discussions told *The Cable*.

The North Korean warning comes as analysts speculate that Pyongyang may be preparing a fresh nuclear test, a development that could raise tensions in Asia and embarrass U.S. President Barack Obama in the middle of a closely fought re-election campaign.

Top U.S. experts held a "track two" meeting in the island nation in late July, during which the North Koreans hardened their negotiating position and rejected any return to the latest deal struck between the two sides, but nevertheless left the door open to further talks with the United States and the international community.

The meeting was the first of its kind since North Korea tried and failed to launch a rocket into space in April, which precipitated a U.S. withdrawal from the Feb. 29 bilateral agreement to give North Korea food aid in exchange for concessions on the country's nuclear and missile programs.

At the secret meetings in Singapore, the North Koreans told two U.S. experts they were no longer interested in resurrecting that arrangement and said they were reconsidering their previous agreements to eventually denuclearize as well.

On the North Korean side of the table were Han Song-ryol, North Korea's deputy ambassador to the United Nations and Choe Son Hui, the deputy director-general of the North American affairs bureau in the DPRK foreign ministry. On the American side were six experts led by Joel Wit, a former U.S. nuclear negotiator, and including Corey Hinderstein, vice president of the international program at the Nuclear Threat Initiative. Some reports said that there was also a July meeting in New York between Han and Clifford Hart, the U.S. special envoy to the defunct Six-Party Talks.

"The agenda [in Singapore] focused on a variety of issues. One important topic was the future of U.S.-North Korean relations," said one source familiar with the meeting. "The other topics were nuclear safety, nuclear security, cooperative ways of monitoring denuclearization, and the whole raft of issues people discuss at nuclear summits."

When the conversation was on the future of bilateral relations, the North Korean side made clear it was no longer interested in the Feb. 29 agreement, which included a moratorium on nuclear and missile testing, a return of international inspectors, and 240,000 tons of food aid, both sources said.

The North Koreans now want the United States to make concessions up front.



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"Their position has shifted. Whereas before, under the Leap Day deal, it was simultaneous actions, as with the September 2005 joint statement, simultaneous actions were one of the key aspects. There is now emphasis on unilateral action by the U.S. and then the North Koreans may respond," one source said.

The North Koreans told their American interlocutors they were thinking internally about whether or not to scuttle the September 2005 joint statement altogether. That statement committed North Korea to eventually getting rid of its nuclear weapons program.

An Aug. 9 article in the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists written by Frank Pabian and Sigfried Hecker speculated that North Korea may be only weeks away from completing the preparations necessary to conduct a third nuclear test using either a plutonium or highly-enriched uranium (HEU) device or both. At the Singapore meeting, the North Koreans didn't broach the topic.

"They didn't make any explicit statements about their nuclear program," one source said, "but I think it's very clear that their program is moving forward. That doesn't necessarily mean nuclear tests. It's quite likely their HEU program is also moving forward."

The source noted that as part of their formal presentation, the very first point the North Korean officials made was that their new leadership is not changing the late leader Kim Jong Il's line that North Korea has no eternal enemies or eternal friends.

"That's a very clear signal that they still want to make continuing efforts to improve relations with the U.S. and are indeed are interested in that. But they are toughening their position and that's in part because they are feeling pretty good about where they are," the source said.

The North Koreans believe they have weathered the Obama administration's policy of "strategic patience" -- waiting for Pyongyang to make the first move while strengthening ties with U.S. allies in Asia.

"The North Koreans feel pretty confident in their position. They are still keeping the door open to improving ties with the U.S. but the price is getting higher and it's becoming more difficult," the source said. "At some point somebody will be back to the table with them. They are getting ready for that with a much tougher negotiating position. They think they're sitting pretty."

Of course, North Korea still faces a food crisis, devastating floods, and an economic crisis. Pyongyang might seek to trade nuclear concessions in exchange for aid, as it has in the past. But as long as the country continues to get assistance from China, its motivation to make concessions is low.

"They probably can continue to progress economically while avoiding making concessions on the nuclear front with the support of China and that seems to be the option that they've chosen," the source observed.

Josh Rogin reports on national security and foreign policy from the Pentagon to Foggy Bottom, the White House to Embassy Row, for The Cable.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/08/16/north_korea_threatens_to_reconsider_2005_agreement_with_us

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Voice of Russia (VOR) – Russia
OPINION/Op-Ed

US, Russia Resume Hypersonic Race

August 16, 2012

By Ilya Kramnik

Issue No. 1020, 17 August 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education / Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
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The US carries on its hypersonic projects in a bid to create hypersonic weapons. The US Air Force's experimental X-51A Waverider could someday lead to weapons that would be able to strike targets anywhere in the world in as little time as one hour.

The research is part of the Prompt Global Strike (PGS) program. But the Pentagon is not alone – Russia doesn't stop its hypersonic military efforts either and has already implemented some of them.

It should be noted, that new warheads are quite heavy and large, thus a ballistic missile is capable of carrying a single warhead only. This means greater anti-missile shield penetrating chances but a less efficient strike.

Russia believes anti-missile penetrators to be more efficient, thus hypersonic boost-glide missiles can possibly be used but not commonly, as the US anti-missile defense system has rather limited capacities.

Russia's efforts to upgrade penetrators will allow the country to timely respond to any changes in the US defense if it potentially threatens the current strategic balance, for example deploys its Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System near Russia's strategic missile carriers in the North and The Pacific.

So let's wait and soon we'll see whether this scenario turns into practice.

Ilya Kramnik is a frequent contributor to VOR and RIA Novosti as a recognized Russian military and defense policy expert.

http://english.ruvr.ru/2012_08_16/US-Russia-resume-hypersonic-race/

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Canberra Times – Australia

OPINION/Political Opinion

All Talk and No Action is Critical for an Iran Free of Nuclear Weapons

August 17, 2012

By Nicholas Burns

Is the United States on a collision course to war with Iran? With negotiations flagging, sanctions inconclusive, and an intransigent Iran speeding boldly ahead with its nuclear enrichment program, the US government appears determined to stop Iran one way or another.

My Harvard colleague, Graham Allison, calls it "a Cuban missile crisis in slow motion". Iran and the US are like two trains hurtling towards each other on the same track in a breakneck game of diplomatic chicken.

This arresting scenario was the major take-away from the meeting of the non-partisan Aspen Strategy Group (of which I am the director) last week.

Few of the former senior government officials, the journalists, and academics present were clamouring for a fight with Iran, especially after the bitter wars we have fought in Muslim countries since September 11, 2001. But many believe an attack by the US is likely in the next year or two unless something alters our calculus.

I came away from the Aspen meeting with one conclusion - the US should do all it can to avoid war and look for another way to stop Iran's drive for a nuclear weapon. And it must insist Israel not attack this northern autumn - as the Israeli press is predicting - and let the US lead the international response against Iran. With that in mind, there are three steps the US can take before electing to fight.

First, the winner of November's election should do what every president since Jimmy Carter has failed to do: create a direct channel between Washington and Tehran and begin an extended one-on-one negotiation with all issues on the table. The US should aim for the sustained and substantive talks it has not had in the three decades since American diplomats were taken hostage in Tehran.

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Once elected, either Barack Obama or Mitt Romney could ask his secretary of state to lead talks with Iran or choose a distinguished former cabinet official such as James Baker, one of America's most accomplished negotiators. We should exhaust diplomacy before we consider war. To attack a country before we have had our first meaningful discussions since 1979 would be shortsighted, to say the least.

Second, the US must for the first time put far-reaching proposals on the table if diplomacy and negotiations are to succeed. Obama has rightly followed essentially the same policy on Iran as his predecessor George Bush. Both offered to negotiate but also placed increasingly tough sanctions on Iran and threatened force if necessary. But the negotiating channel we have tried for six years now - a multilateral forum with the US as one of six countries under European Union leadership - has produced no results and tied the hands of American negotiators. A new US-Iran channel would reinforce those talks. To be successful, however, the US must be ready to compromise by offering imaginative proposals that would permit Iran civil nuclear power but deny it a nuclear weapon.

Third, the US needs to take the reins of this crisis from Israel to give us more independence and protect Israel's core interests at the same time. Israel's concern that an Iranian nuclear weapon would pose an unacceptable risk is completely understandable. We should reaffirm our determination to protect Israel's security.

But the US, not Israel, must lead on Iran during the next year. It is not in America's interest to remain hostage to Prime Minister Netanyahu's increasingly swift timetable for action. We need the freedom to explore negotiations with Iran on our own slower timeline before we consider force.

Despite partisan rhetoric, there is a rough bipartisan consensus in Washington, including between Obama and Romney, that talks make more sense now than war. Should negotiations fail, we would have a more convincing case for force. But we should learn from Iraq by proceeding carefully before unleashing war and its dangerous and unpredictable consequences in a region already in turmoil.

In the decade after September 11, 2001, we reflexively turned to the military in Iraq and Afghanistan. Shouldn't we now restore diplomacy as our first responder to face our greatest international challenges? There is no guarantee that diplomacy will work. But before we launch a third Middle East war, we would be well advised to consider first how we might defeat the Iranian leadership by other means - at the negotiating table.

Nicholas Burns is professor of the practice of diplomacy and international politics at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, a former diplomat of 27 years and a columnist with The Boston Globe.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/opinion/politics/all-talk-and-no-action-is-critical-for-an-iran-free-of-nuclear-weapons-20120816-24bk3.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

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