



**USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER**  
**CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL**  
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**Issue No. 1033, 16 November 2012**

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Times of Israel – Israel

## **Only ‘the Nuclear Option’ Can Work Against Iran, Former IDF Chief Says**

*But, Dan Halutz tells the Sunday Times, ‘I hope Bibi is not mad enough to think about it’*

By Aaron Kalman

November 11, 2012

Israeli leaders have concluded that conventional air strikes would be insufficient in curbing Iran’s nuclear program, leaving only a deployment of either tactical nuclear weapons or ground forces, according to a report in the British Sunday Times.

Western “defense experts” quoted by the report pointed at the Iranian Fordo facility, which is located deep underground near the city of Qom, as a site that was immune to conventional air strikes.

“The only way to finish off Iran’s nuclear program is by using the nuclear option,” said IDF Chief of General Staff Dan Halutz, the only named source quoted by the report. “But I hope Bibi [Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu] is not mad enough to think about it.”

According to foreign reports, Israel is in possession of a significant arsenal of nuclear weapons, including tactical weapons such as neutron bombs, along with long-range Jericho missiles to deliver them.

Israel also possesses GBU-28 bunker-buster bombs that could be deployed by the Israel Air Force’s F-16 bombers. However, according to assessments, these bombs would not prove sufficient to penetrate the Fordo facility.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/only-the-nuclear-option-can-work-against-iran-former-idf-chief-says/>

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Daily Star – Lebanon

## **IAEA Says Iranian Cleanup of Suspect Parchin Site Ongoing**

November 11, 2012

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

BAGHDAD: Possible cleanup activities at an Iranian military base where the U.N. atomic agency wants to probe evidence of suspected nuclear weapons research are “ongoing,” the watchdog’s head said Sunday. International Atomic Energy Agency chief Yukiya Amano nevertheless expressed guarded optimism on a visit to Baghdad about talks with Iran next month, ahead of the expected release Friday of the IAEA’s latest report on the Islamic Republic’s controversial nuclear activities.

Western powers believe the nuclear program is at least in part aimed at developing atomic weapons, but Tehran insists it is for peaceful purposes.

“Yes, the activities at Parchin are ongoing, but I am not in a position to discuss the details today,” Amano told reporters after being asked whether Iran was continuing its cleanup of the sprawling military site near Tehran.

Western nations have accused Iran of removing evidence of past suspected weapons research activities at Parchin.

The IAEA wants Iran to grant access to Parchin, which it visited twice in 2005 but wants to examine again.

Since the summer, some buildings at the base have been covered in massive tarpaulins to prevent surveillance by Western satellites.

Amano also said he believed there was “good reason” that Iran would cooperate with the IAEA over the issue of Tehran’s nuclear program.

“I am very much convinced that ... the IAEA has an essential role to play in solving this issue, Iran nuclear issue, through diplomatic means,” the IAEA chief said at a joint news conference with Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari.



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"It is in the interests of Iran, and for the international community, and that is why I believe that there is some good reason that Iran will get cooperative for us. At the same time, the situation is very difficult and worrying. I do not want to speculate."

The IAEA said Friday that after a four-month hiatus, caused in part by the U.S. presidential election campaign, that it would hold talks with Iran in Tehran on Dec.13.

The agency wants to press Iran to address what the watchdog calls "credible" evidence suggesting that until 2003, and possibly since, Iran conducted research work "relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device."

Iran denies working or ever having worked on a nuclear weapon, and says that the IAEA's evidence, set out in a major report a year ago, is based on forgeries.

In particular the IAEA wants Tehran to give inspectors access to the Parchin base.

Western nations have accused Iran of removing evidence there and the IAEA said in August that activities spotted from space would "significantly hamper" its ability to inspect the site.

A parallel diplomatic push by six world powers has been aimed at persuading Iran to scale back parts of its current nuclear program, in particular uranium enrichment.

Efforts on both "tracks," however, were effectively put on hold because of campaigning for the U.S. presidential election that incumbent Barack Obama won last Tuesday.

The last high-level talks between Iran and the P5+1 – Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States and Germany – were held in Moscow in June.

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Nov-11/194665-un-nuclear-chief-clean-up-ongoing-at-iran-site.ashx#axzz2C2DMp5wM>

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Xinhua News – China

## **Iran Lawmaker Says Change of U.S. Policies Prerequisite for Talks**

November 11, 2012

TEHRAN, Nov. 11 (Xinhua) -- A senior Iranian lawmaker said Sunday change of U.S. policies toward Iran and Muslim's interests is the prerequisite for the initiation of talks with the United States, local media reported.

"We have problems with the U.S. policies against the interests of the Islamic republic of Iran and the Muslim world, and as long as these policies do not change, no talks will be held with the U. S.," Chairman of National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of Iran's Majlis (parliament) Alaeddin Boroujerdi was quoted as saying by Press TV.

"Before the recent U.S. presidential election, the U.S. president had expressed his willingness to hold negotiations with Iran through different channels," said Boroujerdi, adding that "We believe we cannot negotiate with the U.S., which hatches plots, adopts budgets, and imposes sanctions against our national interests."

Earlier this month, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast said that recognition of the nuclear rights of the Islamic republic by the United States would build trust in bilateral relations.

Attempts are recently underway by some Iranian expatriates and politicians to restore relations with Washington in order to alleviate the pressures on the country's economy, which has been hit significantly by the Western sanctions over the country's controversial nuclear program.

The United States cut diplomatic relations with Iran in 1980 after a group of Iranian students captured some 60 U.S. diplomats in 1979 and 52 of them were held in captivity for 444 days.

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[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2012-11/12/c\\_131966484.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2012-11/12/c_131966484.htm)

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The Nation – Pakistan

## **Khamenei Approval Must For Direct US Talks: Salehi**

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

November 13, 2012

TEHRAN - Iran stressed on Monday that any decision to hold direct talks with the United States on Tehran's disputed nuclear programme would have to be taken by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The two arch-foes have previously held indirect discussions within regional forums on subjects such as the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq but holding direct bilateral talks would be "different," Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi told reporters.

"A decision on comprehensive, bilateral political talks between the two countries ... is up to the supreme leader," Salehi said when asked about Russia's expressed backing of any one-on-one meetings between Tehran and Washington.

Deputy Russian foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov told the Financial Times at the weekend that Russia would support direct US-Iran talks. "We will not have a word against this. Of course, we would hope we would be informed on the content of these arrangements," Ryabkov said. "We want something that will bring everyone out of this morass," he said.

Speculation about possible direct talks between Tehran and Washington surfaced after Iran, reeling from international sanctions over its nuclear programme, found itself facing four more years with Barack Obama as leader of the United States. Iran has not ruled out direct talks with Washington but says these will not come overnight.

Meanwhile, Iran on Monday denied it is sanitising a suspect military base where the UN atomic watchdog wants to probe evidence of possible weapons research. "Clean-up of such places is not possible," Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi told AFP.

His remarks came a day after International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Yukiya Amano said in Baghdad possible efforts to dismantle traces of possible weapons research at the Parchin site near Tehran were "ongoing."

"Yes, the activities at Parchin are ongoing, but I am not in a position to discuss the details today," Amano told reporters. Salehi rejected the remarks. "These words have no technical basis—if he has actually made such remarks," Salehi said.

Western nations have accused Iran of removing evidence of past suspected weapons research activities at Parchin. The IAEA wants Iran to grant access to the site, which it visited twice in 2005 but wants to examine again. Iranian officials have previously emphasised that Parchin is an off-limits military base and that the IAEA's focus on it is overblown and based on "false" Western intelligence.

Since the summer, some buildings at the base have been covered in massive tarpaulins to prevent surveillance by Western satellites. Western and other governments suspect Iran has been trying to develop a nuclear weapons break-out capability. Tehran denies any such ambition, insisting its nuclear programme is exclusively for power generation and medical purposes.

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/international/13-Nov-2012/khamenei-approval-must-for-direct-us-talks-salehi>

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The Daily Star – Lebanon

## **Middle East Nuclear Talks Face Likely Delay: Diplomats**

November 13, 2012

By Fredrik Dahl, Louis Charbonneau, Reuters

VIENNA/UNITED NATIONS: Potentially divisive talks planned for next month on banning nuclear weapons in the Middle East may be postponed, diplomats said on Tuesday, a development likely to anger Arab states but please Israel.

No formal decision has yet been announced to delay the mid-December conference on creating a zone free of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), but U.N. officials said the talks might now not happen before 2013.

Given the situation in the Middle East, a Vienna-based diplomat said, there seemed to be little prospect for a successful conference this year. "The idea will be that it is postponed, not cancelled," the diplomat said.

Asked what the reaction from Arab states would be if it was not held as planned, an Arab diplomat said: "Negative."

The plan for a meeting to lay the groundwork for the possible creation of a WMD-free Middle East was agreed at a May 2010 conference of 189 parties to the 1970 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

But the United States fears the conference, due to be held in Finland, could be used as a forum to bash Israel.

Iran and Arab states often say Israel's presumed nuclear arsenal poses a threat to Middle East peace and security. Israel and Western powers see Iran as the main nuclear proliferation threat. Tehran denies any atom bomb ambitions.

U.S. and Israeli officials have said a nuclear arms-free zone in the Middle East could not be a reality until there was broad Arab-Israeli peace and Iran curbed its nuclear programme.

Like nuclear-armed India and Pakistan, Israel has never signed the NPT. It neither confirms nor denies having nuclear arms, although non-proliferation and security analysts believe it has several hundred atomic weapons.

Israel has yet to say whether it would attend the proposed meeting and the senior Finnish official organising it, Jaako Laajava, underlined at the weekend the importance of all Middle Eastern countries taking part.

"All the signs are that they are going to end up postponing it," the envoy in Vienna said, referring to Laajava and the three powers which have tried to make the conference happen - the United States, Britain and Russia.

But diplomats stressed that efforts would continue to organise the conference at the earliest possible date. It is a case of "when rather than if," another envoy said.

Even if the talks were to be organised eventually, Western diplomats and others expect little progress any time soon due to the deep-rooted animosities in the region.

Iran used a seminar in Brussels also attended by officials from Israel last week to announce it would go to the proposed meeting and "participate actively."

The Islamic state is in a stand-off with world powers over suspicions it is seeking the means to produce nuclear weapons. Israel has not ruled out military action against Iranian nuclear sites.

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Nov-13/194920-middle-east-nuclear-talks-face-likely-delay-diplomats.ashx#axzz2C7ikYKbt>

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Xinhua News – China

## **Iran Plans to Launch New Homemade Satellite in 3 Months**

November 14, 2012

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TEHRAN, Nov. 14 (Xinhua) -- President of Iran's Amirkabir University of Technology Alireza Rahaei announced on Wednesday the country is preparing to launch a new homemade satellite, called Nahid (Venus), into orbit in the next three months, semi-official Fars news agency reported.

Researchers at the university have completed the industrial phases of the project and now are working on the launch phase, said Rahaei without elaborating on the mission or type of the satellite.

On Monday, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Commander, Mohammad-Ali Jafari, said that the Islamic republic would test a new satellite-carrier rocket in the near future, Tehran Times daily reported.

Jafari said that IRGC experts had managed to complete the project to manufacture the rocket which could carry 100 kg of solid fuel and could be used to send satellites into geostationary orbits 35,786 km above the equator.

In March, Iran's Aerospace Industry Organization Director Mehdi Farahi announced that Iran planned to send satellites into geostationary orbits after the end of Iran's Fifth Development Plan in 2015, according to the daily.

Iran's Fifth Five-Year Development Plan (2010-2015) is part of the 20-Year Outlook Plan (2005-2025), which is the country's main blueprint for long-term sustainable growth.

Iran, a founding member of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, launched its first domestically-made data-processing satellite the Omid (Hope) into space in 2009.

In February 2012, Iran launched an observation satellite into orbit. The spacecraft, named Navid (Herald), weighed 50 kg and could take pictures in low attitudes of about 250 to 375 km.

[http://big5.xinhuanet.com/gate/big5/news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2012-11/14/c\\_131974583.htm](http://big5.xinhuanet.com/gate/big5/news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2012-11/14/c_131974583.htm)

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National Post – Canada

## **Iran Could Have Enough Uranium for a Nuclear Weapon in Three Months: Officials**

By George Jahn, Associated Press

November 15, 2012

Iran is on the threshold of being able to create weapons-grade uranium at a plant it has heavily fortified against Israeli attack, diplomats told The Associated Press on Thursday, calling into question an Israeli claim that Iran had slowed its nuclear time table.

One of three diplomats who discussed the issue said Iran was now technically ready within days to ramp up its production of 20 percent enriched uranium at its Fordo facility by nearly 700 centrifuges. That would double present output, and cut in half the time it would take to acquire enough of the substance needed to make a nuclear weapon, reducing it to just over three months.

Such a move would raise the stakes for Israel, which has said it believes the world has until next summer to stop Iran before it can get nuclear material and implied it would have time to decide whether to strike Fordo and other Iranian nuclear facilities.

The two other diplomats who spoke to the AP could not confirm the 700 number. But both agreed that Tehran over the past few months had put a sizeable number of centrifuges at Fordo under vacuum. It takes only a few days to begin enrichment with machines that are under vacuum.

While experts agree that the Islamic Republic could assemble enough weapons-grade uranium to arm a nuclear weapon relatively quickly, they point out that this is only one of a series of steps need to create a working weapon.

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They say that Tehran is believed to be years away from mastering the technology to manufacture a fully operational warhead.

All three diplomats are from member nations of the IAEA, which is scheduled to release its latest report on Iran's nuclear program as early as Friday. They demanded anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss restricted information with reporters.

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak's assertion earlier this month that Iran has "essentially delayed their arrival at the red line by eight months," is in line with the timeframe laid out by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in September, when he spoke at the U.N. General Assembly.

IAEA officials said they would have no comment. A phone call to Ali Asghar Soltanieh, Iran's IAEA representative, went to voice mail.

Based on intelligence from the United States and other IAEA member nations as well as its own research, the agency suspects that Tehran has done secret work on developing nuclear weapons. Washington and its allies also fear that Iran is enriching uranium to reach the ability to make such arms. But Tehran denies any interest in atomic arms, dismisses allegations that it has conducted weapons experiments and insists it is enriching only to make nuclear fuel and for research.

In Washington, President Barack Obama told reporters there is still time for the United States and Iran to reach agreement on Iran's nuclear program.

Obama said there should be a way for Iran to enjoy "peaceful nuclear power" while still meeting international obligations and providing assurances that they are not developing nuclear weapons.

The Vienna-based IAEA, in its last report in August, said that Tehran had doubled the number of centrifuges at Fordo within three months to more than 2,000. Diplomats since then have told reporters that hundreds more have been installed, bringing the total to nearly 2,800, or full capacity for Fordo. But the number operating – about 700 – has not changed from early this year.

Iran has a far larger enrichment plant at Natanz, in central Iran, which churns out uranium enriched below 4 percent. But the 20-percent material being produced at Fordo is of greater concern to the international community because it can be turned into weapons-grade uranium of 90 percent purity much more simply and quickly – and because the facility, near the holy city of Qom, is well protected against attack.

Barak's comments appeared prompted by the IAEA's August report, which said Iran had turned much of its 20-percent uranium into reactor fuel plates that are difficult to retool into warhead material. As a result, it is still far short of the amount of more highly enriched uranium it would need to progress to weapons-grade levels.

But depending on how many more centrifuges it activates, it could quickly replace the converted material and reach the 140 kilograms – about 300 pounds – needed for at least one warhead.

Tehran "should be in a position to produce enough (material) for two or three" nuclear warheads by the summer, if it does decide to double output in the next few weeks, said Olli Heinonen, the International Atomic Energy Agency's deputy director general in charge of the Iran file until 2010.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/11/15/iran-nuclear-program/>

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New York Times

## **Pentagon Says 75,000 Troops Might Be Needed to Seize Syria Chemical Arms**

By DAVID E. SANGER and ERIC SCHMITT



Published: November 16, 2012

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WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has told the Obama administration that any military effort to seize Syria's stockpiles of chemical weapons would require upward of 75,000 troops, amid increasing concern that the militant group Hezbollah has set up small training camps close to some of the chemical weapons depots, according to senior American officials.

The estimated size of the potential effort, provided to the White House by the military's Central Command and Joint Staff, called into question whether the United States would have the resources to act quickly if it detected the movement of chemical weapons and forced President Obama, as he said in August, to "change my calculus" about inserting American forces into Syria. So far Mr. Obama has avoided direct intervention into the most brutal civil conflict to emerge from the Arab Spring uprisings, and the Pentagon assessment was seen as likely to reinforce that reluctance.

The White House on Thursday declined to comment on the Defense Department's assessment.

The Pentagon has not yet been directed to draft detailed plans of how it could carry out such a mission, according to military officials. There are also contingency plans, officials say, for securing a more limited number of the Syrian chemical weapons depots, requiring fewer troops.

The discovery that Hezbollah has set up camps close to some of the depots, however, has renewed concern that as the chaos in Syria deepens, the country's huge chemical weapons stockpiles could fall into the wrong hands. Hezbollah fighters have been training at "a limited number of these sites," said one senior American official who has been briefed on the intelligence reports and spoke on the condition of anonymity. "But the fear these weapons could fall into the wrong hands is our greatest concern."

So far, there is no evidence that Hezbollah, which is based in Lebanon but has become increasingly active in protecting the government of President Bashar al-Assad, is making any effort to gain control over the chemical weapons. Its decision to train fighters close to the major chemical sites, some officials speculate, could be rooted in a bet that their camps will not be bombed if the West believes there is a risk of hitting the stockpiles.

Mr. Assad has openly threatened to retaliate beyond his country's borders if outside forces try to break the current stalemate to unseat him, and there is renewed concern about whether he or his proxies might use the chemical weapons as their last shield. Officials say that attacks along the borders with Turkey and Israel have forced the administration to consider the risks of Syria's troubles spreading in the region.

Mr. Obama has been clear for more than a year that he would resist direct American intervention, but in August he said one circumstance would cause him to revisit that position. "A red line for us is we start seeing a whole bunch of chemical weapons moving around or being utilized," he said at a news conference. "That would change my calculus."

Mr. Obama brought those concerns up again in a news conference on Wednesday, saying that the United States was in close contact with Turkey and Jordan "and obviously Israel, which is having already grave concerns as we do about, for example, movements of chemical weapons that might occur in such a chaotic atmosphere and that could have an impact not just within Syria but on the region as a whole."

The American concerns have been heightened by another sign that Mr. Assad may be arming himself to strike out — Syria's continued imports of missile technology, even at a time when the Assad government is reeling under sanctions.

Syria already has a vast arsenal of missiles able to reach Turkey or strike Israel, and in the past it has provided Hezbollah with missiles. But American officials voice concern over even modest improvements in Syria's missile stockpiles.

American intelligence and security officials, in interviews in recent days, said that the United States had picked up evidence that North Korea had resumed providing Syria with some missile technology, including assistance with Scud missiles.





A shipment of graphite cylinders that could be used in missiles and are suspected to have come from North Korea were found in May aboard a Chinese ship en route to Syria, Reuters reported Wednesday. North Korean technicians and engineers stationed in Syria have recently increased their efforts on a joint program to improve the Scud D missile's accuracy and the warhead's ability to defeat interceptors, IHS Jane's International Defense Review reported in June.

Given the chaos in Syria, and Mr. Assad's daily effort to survive, it is not clear what condition the Syrian missile program is in. The Turkish military has expressed worry about Syria's ballistic missiles and its chemical weapons stocks. Concerned about this potential threat, Turkey and NATO nations have informally been discussing the possibility that some of the alliance's Patriot antimissile system could be sent to Turkey, which has no Patriot batteries of its own.

Independent analysts expressed concern that if Mr. Assad is backed into a corner, he could use or threaten to use missiles tipped with chemical weapons against the rebels, despite the threat of Western intervention if he did.

"There is credible information that the Assad regime has been upgrading and expanding its chemical weapons arsenal, which needs to be maintained," said Emile Hokayem, a Middle East analyst at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "A credible delivery capability is also needed, hence the North Korean angle."

The estimation that it would take 75,000 troops to neutralize the chemical weapons grew out of what Mr. Obama, in his August news conference, referred to as extensive contingency planning for how the United States would respond if the chemical weapons were on the move or appeared vulnerable.

"The problem is that you can't just pick this stuff up and ship it out of the country," said one senior military official who has studied the problem. The chances of contamination of nearby Syrian towns, and of attacks on the effort to move the weapons, were simply too high. Because many of the containers holding the material are old, or of unknown reliability, the risk of leakage is high.

As a result, the official said, much of the chemical stockpiles might have to be destroyed in place. That is a lengthy, dangerous job, and would require enormous force protection around the sites. When the United States went through similar efforts to destroy its own stockpiles — under strict environmental regulations that would likely not apply in Syria — the process took years.

A second official familiar with the plans disputed the idea that all of the stockpiles would have to be destroyed in place. Some, he suggested, could be airlifted out for destruction elsewhere or burial at sea. "There are several options," he said, "but all carry varying degrees of risk."

That official said that rebel groups receiving nonlethal help from the United States have been asked to mark and secure any chemical weapons sites they come across.

The United States has varying estimates of how many sites exist, with the C.I.A. estimating about three dozen and the military using figures in the high 40s.

Officials said that the United States military had quietly sent a task force of more than 150 planners and other specialists to Jordan to help the armed forces there, among other things, to prepare for the possibility that Syria will lose control of its chemical weapons.

*Elisabeth Bumiller and Michael R. Gordon contributed reporting.*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/16/world/middleeast/pentagon-sees-seizing-syria-chemical-arms-as-vast-task.html?pagewanted=all>

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Seattle Times  
November 12, 2012

## **Satellite Imagery Shows NKorea Missile Activity**



By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Satellite imagery indicates North Korea has been testing rocket engines, a sign it continues to develop its long-range ballistic missiles, a U.S. academic institute said Monday.

The analysis provided to The Associated Press is based on satellite images taken as recently as late September of the Sohae site on the secretive country's northwest coast. In April, the North launched a rocket from there in a failed attempt to propel a satellite into space in defiance of a U.N. ban.

The analysis on the website of the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, which is called "38 North," said it remains unclear whether the North is preparing another rocket launch but predicted it may embark on new rocket and nuclear tests in the first half of 2013.

The analysis underscores the challenges posed by the North's weapons programs to the United States and its allies as President Barack Obama heads into his second term. Washington's most recent attempt to negotiate a freeze in the North's nuclear program and a test moratorium in exchange for food aid collapsed with the April launch that the U.S. regarded as a cover for testing ballistic missile technology.

In 2009, North Korea tested a long-range missile and its second nuclear weapon within months of Obama taking office, and the 38 North analysis says North Korea may conduct new tests in the aftermath of presidential elections recently completed in U.S. and due in December in South Korea. That could be viewed as a tactic to exert more pressure on the close allies as the North seeks recognition as a nuclear power.

Last month, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said North Korea continues to prepare for such tests, and the North, angered by Washington's recent agreement to let Seoul possess missiles capable of hitting all of its territory, has recently claimed that the U.S. mainland is within range of its missiles.

According to South Korea's Defense Ministry, North Korean missiles are believed to have a range of up to about 4,160 miles, putting parts of Alaska within reach. But the North is not believed to have mastered the technology needed to hit a distant target and miniaturize a nuclear warhead to mount on a missile. The North has a spotty record in test launches, raising doubts about whether it is truly capable of a long-distance attack.

The 38 North analysis concludes that since the failed launch on April 13 of the Unha-3 rocket that disintegrated shortly after takeoff, the North has conducted at least two, and possibly more, tests of large rocket motors at a test site about a half mile away. The tests are critical for the development of new rockets.

"Pyongyang's large motor tests are another clear sign that its missile program is moving forward. Whether there will be another long-range missile test this spring remains unclear but is a distinct possibility," said Joel Wit, a former U.S. State Department official and editor of 38 North.

An April 9 satellite image shows what appear to be dozens of fuel tanks near a stand used for conducting tests of rocket engines. A Sept. 17 image shows the tanks are no longer there, and a flame trench has been stained orange and surrounding vegetation has been burned from the exhaust of an engine. An image from Sept. 28 indicates a further test has taken place.

The analysis was written by Nick Hansen, a retired expert in imagery technology with a 43-year experience in national intelligence.

He concludes the tests were likely of the first-stage engines of the Unha-3 or the new, bigger KN-08 long-range missile first viewed in a military parade in Pyongyang shortly after the April launch attempt.

The capabilities of the KN-08 and whether it could pose a potential threat to the continental United States remains unclear. Some analysts have also questioned whether the half-dozen of KN-08 missiles shown at that parade were genuine or just rigged up for show.



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The analysis by 38 North says the Sept. 28 images also show construction work on the upper platform of a launch tower at Sohae to enable it to accommodate even larger rockets than the Unha-3 or KN-08.

[http://seattletimes.com/html/politics/2019669767\\_apususkoreamissiles.html](http://seattletimes.com/html/politics/2019669767_apususkoreamissiles.html)

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Yonhap News Agency – South Korea  
November 14, 2012

## **Report: N. Korean Missile Parts Heading to Syria Seized in May**

By Lee Chi-dong

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, Nov. 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korea intercepted a Chinese ship in May bound for Syria carrying parts that could be used for missile production, a news report said Tuesday.

The case, included in a U.N. report, came amid lingering concerns over North Korea's ties with Syria -- and China's commitment to U.N. sanctions on Pyongyang, according to Japan's Kyodo News Service.

Citing U.N. diplomats, Kyodo said the Chinese-registered freighter, based in Shanghai, was seized by South Korean authorities in Busan. The ship was carrying 445 graphite cylinders, which are convertible to ballistic missile components, bound for a Syrian company with North Korean ties, it added.

The goods are believed to be made in North Korea, the report said.

Kyodo's article has not been independently confirmed.

The U.S. State Department said Tuesday it "cannot comment" on the issue.

A U.N. diplomat also pointed out that it is a matter that relates to a U.N. report neither finalized nor released publicly.

North Korea is subject to tough U.N. resolutions that ban the secretive communist nation from exporting and importing any materials associated with nuclear and missile technology.

The U.N. Security Council has a panel of experts to assess the implementation of sanctions on North Korea for its missile and nuclear tests.

The panel submits reports to the council on a regular basis.

While strong sanctions on the North are in place, many question their effectiveness without China's active cooperation. Beijing, the last remaining ally of Pyongyang, provides food, energy and other assistance to its impoverished neighbor.

Meanwhile, a security think tank in Washington suggested the North is continuing long-range missile development after a failed launch in April.

Citing an analysis of satellite imagery, the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University said Pyongyang appears to have conducted "at least two, and possibly more, tests of large rocket motors," the most recent in mid-September.

The institute added that construction activity on a launch pad was also detected.

"In the aftermath of the U.S. and South Korean presidential elections, Pyongyang may embark on a new round of activities in the first half of 2013, including rocket and nuclear tests that will contribute to further development of its nuclear deterrent," the institute said on its blog specializing in North Korea.

But it added, "Whether the testing of large rocket motors or construction at the launch pad are in preparation for such activities remains unclear at this point."

The State Department would not talk about the institute's report.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2012/11/14/26/0401000000AEN20121114000200315F.HTML>

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China Daily – China

## China Pledges to Follow UN Resolutions

November 15, 2012

By Zhao Shengnan (China Daily)

China on Wednesday pledged to strictly follow the United Nations resolutions and the country's own non-proliferation export controls in response to previous reports of Pyongyang violating UN sanctions by exporting suspected missile parts onboard a Chinese-registered ship to Syria in May.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said China opposes proliferation and the delivery of weapons of mass destruction.

"We will deal with activities which violate UN Security Council resolutions and Chinese laws and regulations," he told a regular news conference.

Republic of Korea authorities seized a shipment of 445 graphite cylinders — disguised as lead pipes — that can be used in missiles in a Chinese-registered vessel called Xin Yan Tai at the ROK port of Busan, Reuters quoted diplomats from UN Security Council as saying.

Analysts said the export, if confirmed, means Pyongyang may receive further sanctions as it violated UN bans on trading materials related to nuclear and missile technology. The Northeast Asian country has been sanctioned because of its nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009.

But the case, which involved many parties amid the 20-month Syrian crisis and instability on the Korean Peninsula, needs to be scrutinized before more sanctions are issued, they added.

The shipment to Syria was arranged by a trading company in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the Syrian company Electric Parts, which was to receive the cylinders, may be a subsidiary of the DPRK firm, according to Reuters.

On Oct 24 Seoul briefed the UN Security Council's DPRK sanctions committee about the seizure, and China offered to help investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident, the report said.

"It's possible that the crew of the Chinese ship had no idea what this shipment really was. It's good that China has expressed a willingness to investigate," Reuters quoted an UN diplomat as saying.

The ship, registered in Shanghai, was built in 2005 and is owned by a Shanghai shipping company, China Classification Society, Kyodo News Agency reported.

China, a key coordinator in the DPRK nuclear issue, will absolutely work with related parties to thoroughly investigate the case as a responsible permanent member of the Security Council, said Wang Junsheng, a researcher of East Asian studies with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

But the investigation is not an easy task, said Zhang Liangui, an expert on Korean studies at the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. "The UN sanctions imposed have prohibited Pyongyang from exporting weapons of mass destruction, but they have no specific regulations on exports of regular weapons. The so-called missile parts fall in the gray zone since they can be used for military and civilian purposes," Zhang said.

The severe shortage of foreign exchanges from chronic sanctions has propelled Pyongyang to develop and export military technologies, he added. The export in May came after Pyongyang's failed launch of a satellite in April, which the West believed was a missile test. The Security Council adopted a presidential statement calling for tougher sanctions against the country shortly after the attempt.

[http://europe.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-11/15/content\\_15929536.htm](http://europe.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-11/15/content_15929536.htm)



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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **N.Korea Builds Dome Over Nuclear Reactor - Reports**

15 November 2012

TOKYO, November 15 (RIA Novosti) - North Korea has built a dome-shaped roof covering a light water reactor in Yongbyon, South Korea's KBS TV channel reported on Thursday.

KBS said it "exclusively secured" recent satellite photos that show North Korea's reactor in Yongbyon has a diameter of 22 meters and is 40 meters high, and the outer walls of its turbine building "appear to be organized."

The North has also apparently completed construction of the outer part of a new light water reactor with a capacity of 25 to 30 megawatts in its Yongbyon complex, after first breaking ground in 2010, KBS said.

Compared to photos taken in April, the latest photos show signs that the amount of sand and earth around a newly-dug tunnel has increased.

KBS also said it had recent satellite photos of the nuclear test facility at Punggyeri but did not provide other details.

Under deals reached in 2007, the North began disabling a nuclear reactor and other facilities at Yongbyon under US supervision in exchange for economic aid and political incentives.

However, in April 2009 the reclusive communist regime expelled IAEA and U.S. nuclear specialists from the country and pulled out of talks with Russia, Japan, China, the United States and South Korea after the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution condemning North Korea's missile tests.

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20121115/177487097.html>

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Manila Times – Philippines

## **Signing of Asia Nuke-Free Zone Protocol Delayed Anew**

November 16, 2012

PHNOM PENH: There will be no signing on the protocol to the treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

(Asean) and the five recognized nuclear-weapon states (P5) during the 21st Asean Summit later this week because three out of the P5 are not ready to do that, said a Cambodian senior official on Thursday.

The P5 are the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China.

"As the signing day approaches, Russia, France and the United Kingdom have expressed their reservations, so we postpone the signing to later date in order to continue further negotiations," deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said in a press briefing.

"Their reservations are against the article 17 of the SEANWFZ agreement," he said.

Kao Kim Houn, secretary of state at Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said in July during the Asean Foreign Ministers' meeting that France voiced its reservations on the right of self-defense, United Kingdom on new threat and development, and Russia on the right of foreign ships and aircraft to pass into the nuclear free zone.

Asean leaders signed the SEANWFZ Treaty in Bangkok, Thailand on December 15, 1995 and it took effect two years later. The negotiations between the Asean and the P5 on the protocol that have been held since May 2001.

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Founded in 1967, Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

<http://www.manilatimes.net/index.php/news/top-stories/35443-signing-of-asia-nuke-free-zone-protocol-delayed-aneu>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **Russia Will 'React Sharply' to US Aegis Ships – Deputy PM**

12 November 2012

MOSCOW, November 12 (RIA Novosti) – Russia will “react in the sharpest manner” to any US ships equipped with the Aegis combat system attempting to sail by its shores, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin told RIA Novosti in an interview.

Rogozin did not elaborate on Russia’s possible reaction, but lambasted the US missile defense system – part of which involves ships equipped with the Aegis integrated naval weapons system – for fuelling “an arms race.”

Russia is developing new S-500 interceptor missiles and does not rule out stationing radar stations outside its territory.

But the country has no plans to station its missiles in other countries, unlike the United States, Rogozin said.

“We have never placed our interceptor missiles near US borders on ridiculous fabricated pretexts such as ‘protecting our American friends from Canada and Honduras.’ But they do, on the pretext of protecting us and Europe from ‘bad guys in Iran and North Korea,’” Rogozin said.

The United States plans to place elements of its missile defense, intended to protect itself from “rogue states” like Iran and North Korea, in Eastern Europe. Russia vehemently opposes the plan, claiming that its own ballistic missiles would also be covered by the US shield, disrupting the nuclear parity between the countries.

[http://en.rian.ru/military\\_news/20121112/177392816.html](http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20121112/177392816.html)

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **New Russian Bomber 'Will Not be Hypersonic'**

14 November 2012

MOSCOW, November 14 (RIA Novosti) - Russia's future PAK-DA manned bomber project will not have hypersonic speed capability, Russia's bomber force commander said on Wednesday, in an apparent contradiction of claims by Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin earlier this year.

"PAK-DA, currently under development, will not be hypersonic," Lt. Gen. Anatoly Zhikharev told RIA Novosti on Wednesday.

The first prototype PAK-DA is due to enter service around 2020, he added.

Hypersonic speeds are high supersonic, usually referring to Mach five and above, which can usually only be generated using advanced propulsion technology such as ramjet or scramjet engines. No manned aircraft has yet been flown using such technologies, which are on the cutting edge of aerospace know-how.

Zhikharev's statement follows a protracted exchange in the media between senior air force officers, including himself, and Rogozin, who has special responsibility for the arms industry, over what shape PAK-DA should take.

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Rogozin repeated in August an earlier appeal for Russia to develop a hypersonic aircraft for its PAK-DA long-range bomber requirement.

"I think we need to go down the route of hypersonic technology and we are moving in that direction and are not falling behind the Americans," he said on Rossiya 24 TV. "We will use this technology when developing a new bomber."

In June, President Vladimir Putin ordered initial development of the new long-range bomber for strategic aviation. Speaking during a conference on defense orders, Putin said: "We have to develop work on the new PAK-DA long-range bomber aircraft for Long-Range Aviation. The task is not easy from a scientific-technical standpoint, but we need to start work."

Rogozin initially said in June he saw no need for PAK-DA to replace the air force's aging Tu-95MS cruise-missile carriers and Tu-160 supersonic bombers.

"These aircraft will not get anywhere. Not ours, not theirs," he said in an interview with Izvestia that month. He later clarified his statement by saying he was in favor of developing a future bomber, but it should not just be a copy of the serving US Northrop B-2 and should employ hypersonic technology.

In May, he called on Russia's defense industry to develop hypersonic air-breathing weapons as a future strike system. He cited American development work in the X-51, Falcon, HiFire and HyFly hypersonic programs as examples of what he described as the perspective threat posed by U.S. hypersonic development work.

Some aerospace analysts RIA Novosti has previously spoken to say Rogozin's comments are more likely to be relevant to a future air-launched missile, rather than the bomber that launches it.

[http://en.rian.ru/military\\_news/20121114/177455565.html](http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20121114/177455565.html)

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Voice of Russia – Russia

## **Russia Ready to Discuss Missile Defense with NATO**

By Olga Denisova

November 15, 2012

Moscow is ready to discuss missile defense with NATO, Russia's NATO envoy Alexander Grushko said on Thursday. He added that the two sides' failure to reach a consensus on the issue may damage bilateral cooperation.

Grushko mentioned a current pause in the Russia-NATO talks. He declined to elaborate. "Meanwhile, we expect our partners to provide us with guarantees that the European missile defense system is not directed against Russia," Grushko said.

"These guarantees, he said, should be given in the form of clear-cut military and political criteria confirming that the missile defense system will be directed against the risks that are being generated outside the Euro-Atlantic region. Getting such guarantees will make it possible to start dealing with possible parameters of this system. Its creation could herald a new stage of relations between Russia and NATO. If we fail to implement this project due to political reasons, it will mean that the sphere of common interests is divided into demarcation lines and the Cold War stereotypes are still in place."

The beginning of December will see a session of the Russia-NATO Council in Brussels, where the Foreign Ministers are due to discuss European security and the development of the European missile defense shield.

The US missile shield is expected to be high on the agenda of negotiations between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Barack Obama. In a telephone conversation earlier this month, the two men agreed to sit down for parleys in Moscow in the immediate future. The exact date is yet to be announced. Russian Presidential aide Yuri Ushakov said that the talks will focus on the whole complex of bilateral relations. In this sense, Russia may opt to hope

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for decisive steps to be taken by Barack Obama, says Pavel Zolotarev of the Moscow-based Institute for US and Canadian Studies.

"During his first presidential term, Obama was concentrating on his possible re-election, which is why he trod carefully on reaching a consensus with Russia. Moscow, in turn, referred to a wait-and-see tactics, something that finally bore fruit," Zolotarev said.

In March 2012, Obama met then-Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul, where the US leader promised more flexibility on missile defense. Right now, Moscow wants Obama to confirm his pledge, believes Fyodor Lukyanov, editor-in-chief of the Russia in Global Affairs magazine.

"I think, Lukyanov said, that such a flexibility will mean that Obama may postpone the implementation of a final stage of the European missile defense system, something that especially dismays Moscow. Additionally, Russia wants more transparency related to the US side developing the missile shield in Europe."

Experts point to Obama's restricted possibilities to show flexibility in his country's relations with Russia. First and foremost, such a drive will be contained by the US Congress, analysts say, referring to the House of Representatives, where Republicans retain control. They are loath to arrive at a political accommodation with Russia on missile defense, a topic that Moscow insists may be resolved if Washington shows a political will and resolve to break the Cold War stereotypes.

Russia's envoy to NATO Alexander Grushko has said Moscow is ready to resume the dialogue with NATO on the US-led anti-missile shield but will only agree to it if the alliance meets its terms.

He said Moscow has been waiting for a response from NATO ever since the talks were put on hold.

Mr. Grushko added that Russia hasn't changed its stand on ABM in that it expected certain legal guarantees from allies that the shield wouldn't target its nuclear facilities.

[http://english.ruvr.ru/2012\\_11\\_15/Russia-ready-to-discuss-missile-defense-with-NATO/](http://english.ruvr.ru/2012_11_15/Russia-ready-to-discuss-missile-defense-with-NATO/)

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Russia Beyond the Headlines – Russia

## **With the U.S. Presidential Election Over, Missile Defense Returns**

*Experts and policy makers gather in Moscow to discuss the pitfalls and potential for progress in nuclear arms reduction.*

November 16, 2012

By Alexey Dolinskiy

Talks between the United States and Russia over missile defense and nuclear arms reductions have essentially stalled since May 2012 when Barack Obama--with his microphone on-- whispered to Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev that he wouldn't be free to act until after the presidential campaign.

Well the election is over, and Obama won. Now comes the hard part, so a group of experts and decision-makers from the U.S., Russia, France, Pakistan, Israel and Iran gathered in Moscow this month to discuss the prospects for global arms reduction.

Russian officials once again expressed concern about a U.S.-led anti-ballistic missile defense system. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin said nuclear weapons have long played a crucial deterrence role as they "equalized the chances of different powers" and prevented them from engaging in a military confrontation.

But Rogozin told the Moscow Nuclear Weapons and International Security in the 21st Century conference that such stability is threatened. Rogozin argued that an anti-ballistic missile defense system created by the U.S. is potentially capable of intercepting intercontinental ballistic missiles and would limit Russia's ability to maintain strategic parity with the United States.





Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Ryabkov also spoke at the Nov. 8 conference, which was sponsored the Russian Council on International Relations (RIAC), the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and the Global Zero project.

“Strategic stability means preventing a first strike through the threat of retaliation causing unacceptable damage,” said Ryabkov. “Despite all the reductions, U.S.-Russian stability is still based on the notion of mutually assured destruction. Russia sees a threat in foreign countries’ attempts to acquire military domination by developing high-tech military capacity and forming a global anti-ballistic missile defense system.”

Richard Burt, the former U.S. ambassador in Germany and the head of the Washington-based Global Zero project, which advocates for the elimination of all nuclear weapons, said the U.S. and Russia should redesign rather than reset their relations. He said the two countries have an opportunity to cooperate in resolving nuclear proliferation issues all over the world, especially in Iran and North Korea.

“Strategic stability now depends on a larger number of variables than whether or not the United States and the Soviet Union can destroy each other,” said Burt. “The Iranian nuclear program and its implication for the region or the situation in the Far East are now a far greater threat to stability.”

Opening the conference, Igor Ivanov, the head of RIAC and former Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, said “nuclear weapons have a serious impact on the whole global political system, spreading far beyond Russia-U.S. relations. They cannot be used as a military tool, but they are an important tool in politics.”

The development of missile defense by the U.S. and its allies, as well as hypersonic weapons and sophisticated precision-guided munitions, reduce the need for nuclear weapons. But these technological breakthroughs also increase the sense of insecurity in other powers. A number of countries see nuclear weapons as a hedge against the gap in military capabilities of their rivals and other powers.

But shifting the environment from a “zero-sum game” to an environment of international cooperation requires a level of trust that is still lacking 20 years after the end of the Cold War.

Russian government officials insist that American statements that any missile system will not be aimed against Russia are inadequate. “We do not trust words even when they are put on paper. We need guarantees not on paper but in metal” said Rogozin, meaning that U.S. missile defense development reduces the impetus to reduce stocks of nuclear warheads. If anything, it makes Russia more determined to keep them.

Rogozin did say that the two countries should continue to pursue trust-building measures that would contribute to enhancing international security, including increased military cooperation between Russia and NATO as well as changing military planning.

Vyacheslav Nikonov, the first deputy head of the international relations committee in the Russian parliament, said “realistically speaking, we are still very far from a world without nuclear weapons.”

“U.S. leaders officially never offered the total abolition of nuclear arms,” he noted. “In the arms reduction talks, Russia suggested significantly lower levels of nuclear arsenals than the U.S. while other members of the nuclear club, Britain, France and China--did not even express an interest in joining the talks on arms reduction, not to mention [pursuing] actual reductions. Besides, there are unofficial nuclear powers, like India, Pakistan and Israel that are not even discussing their nuclear weapons with anyone.”

[http://rbth.ru/articles/2012/11/16/with\\_the\\_us\\_presidential\\_election\\_over\\_missile\\_defense\\_returns\\_20155.html](http://rbth.ru/articles/2012/11/16/with_the_us_presidential_election_over_missile_defense_returns_20155.html)

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Nextgov.com

## **DHS Tries Monitoring Social Media for Signs of Biological Attacks**

By Aliya Sternstein



November 9, 2012

The Homeland Security Department has commissioned Accenture to test technology that mines open social networks for indications of pandemics, according to the vendor.

The \$3 million, yearlong “biosurveillance” program will try to instantaneously spot public health trends among the massive amount of data that citizens share online daily, company officials said in announcing the deal Thursday.

The business case for the new DHS program has not been proved yet, Accenture officials acknowledged. “Our pilot program seeks to prove this case,” said John Matchette, Accenture managing director for U.S. public safety. “In theory, social media analytics would have shown timely indicators for multiple past biological and health-related events.”

In July, President Obama issued a national strategy for biosurveillance that directs federal agencies to think outside the box in detecting incidents. “Consider social media as a force multiplier that can empower individuals and communities to provide early warning and global situational awareness,” the guidelines stated.

The strategy cites a number of recent threats to underscore the need for innovative biosurveillance, including the 2001 anthrax letters, 2003 SARS outbreak, 2009 bird flu pandemic and 2011 Japan nuclear emergency.

Arlington, Va.-based Accenture and DHS will develop a model to “manage, link and analyze data from social media networks in real time to better inform and protect the public in the event of a national health emergency such as an infectious disease outbreak or a biological attack,” company officials stated. Homeland Security will examine information available through various outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and blogs, company officials added.

All information “channels are yet to be defined,” Matchette said later.

This is not the first time Homeland Security has tracked social media in the interest of public safety. One ongoing project has sparked a lawsuit and vexed some House members.

The Electronic Privacy Information Center has sued DHS for records on search terms and technical tools that officials are using to scour social networks, blogs and online comment threads for terrorist threats. The effort is expected to be undertaken “by individuals who established fictitious usernames and passwords to create covert social media profiles to spy on other users,” the center’s website states. At a February congressional hearing, House Homeland Security Committee members told DHS officials they worried about the program violating citizens’ free speech and constitutional protections against unreasonable searches.

Written testimony from DHS officials stated the department enforces standards to safeguard privacy. Using publicly available search engines and content aggregators, the department reviews information already “accessible on certain heavily trafficked social media sites” for data to establish a common operating picture, without monitoring individuals’ comments or collecting personal information -- “with very narrow exceptions,” the officials said.

<http://www.nextgov.com/defense/2012/11/dhs-tries-monitoring-social-media-signs-biological-attacks/59406/>

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Los Angeles Times

## **Anti-Terrorism Expert Advises Against BioWatch Upgrade**

*A Homeland Security Department undersecretary has told Janet Napolitano she has doubts about a new version of the nation's troubled system for detecting a biological attack.*

By David Willman, Los Angeles Times

November 13, 2012,

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano's top expert on anti-terrorism technology has privately advised her to spike a long-planned, multibillion-dollar upgrade of BioWatch, the nation's troubled system for detecting a biological attack.

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Dr. Tara O'Toole, the department's undersecretary for science and technology, doubts that the so-called Generation 3 version of BioWatch could be relied on to detect anthrax, smallpox, plague or other deadly germs in the event of a biological attack, scientists familiar with the matter said.

O'Toole is also concerned that the cost of the upgrade — \$3.1 billion for the initial five years — would divert money from measures she considers more beneficial, such as establishing computer links between hospitals, large HMOs and public health agencies to speed the distribution of medicine after an attack, the scientists said.

O'Toole, a physician and presidential appointee, has voiced her opinion to department scientists and directly to Napolitano, according to people familiar with the matter.

"Her position is, 'Kill it,'" said a federal scientist with knowledge of O'Toole's discussions about Generation 3. The scientist and others interviewed spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment on BioWatch.

Napolitano has been weighing whether to approve plans for the five-year Generation 3 contract. Some officials within the Homeland Security Department want to go ahead with the upgrade, and private contractors, notably Northrop Grumman Corp., say they are eager to build the new system. Napolitano has given no public indication how she will decide.

O'Toole referred a request for an interview to Homeland Security's chief spokesman, Matthew Chandler. He said O'Toole would not be permitted to be interviewed. He declined to say why.

The chairmen of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and its investigative subcommittee have asked the Homeland Security Department for emails or minutes of meetings reflecting O'Toole's views on BioWatch. The department, citing a desire to keep internal deliberations confidential, has denied congressional investigators access to the documents, federal officials said.

The committee leaders made their request in response to a July 8 article in the Los Angeles Times about deficiencies in BioWatch, including prototypes for Generation 3.

President George W. Bush unveiled BioWatch during his 2003 State of the Union address, saying it would provide "the nation's first early-warning network of sensors to detect a biological attack."

In more than 30 major cities, BioWatch units placed atop buildings and in other public places suck air through composite filters around the clock. The filters are removed daily and delivered to public health laboratories, where technicians search for the DNA of anthrax, smallpox and a handful of other pathogens.

Repeated false alarms have soured many state and local public health officials on the system. A September report by the Government Accountability Office, an investigative arm of Congress, said there had been more than 100.

The alarms have triggered tense, high-stakes deliberations over whether to order mass evacuations, distribute emergency medicine or shut down major venues. In each case, health authorities decided, sometimes with great trepidation, to disregard BioWatch.

No evidence of an intentional release of a pathogen has ever been found.

The false alarms stem from BioWatch's inability to distinguish between harmful pathogens and genetically similar but benign organisms that are abundant in the environment, according to scientists who have worked with the system.

In the Generation 3 version of BioWatch, automated "lab in a box" units would sift the air and report findings electronically. In theory, Generation 3 could detect an attack in four to six hours — compared with 12 to 36 hours with the present system.

That would enable authorities to dispense emergency medicine more quickly after an attack. It could also reduce costs because fewer laboratory personnel would be needed, say proponents of the automated technology.



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But lab and field tests have found that Generation 3 prototypes were neither durable nor sensitive enough to reliably detect an attack.

O'Toole has supervised scientists responsible for tracking the testing of Generation 3 prototypes at the Army's Dugway Proving Ground in Utah, at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Washington state and in Chicago and the New York City subways.

In Chicago, the units could not function for more than a week at a time without maintenance — although the goal is for the units to operate autonomously for at least a month.

In New York, the prototypes repeatedly generated false readings, prompting officials there to demand their removal.

The tests in Utah and Washington found that the automated units could detect a pathogen only if exposed to concentrations far exceeding the levels that can sicken or kill.

Before President Obama nominated her in 2009 to be a Homeland Security Department undersecretary, O'Toole studied BioWatch as the founder and chief executive of the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Biosecurity. She told a House Homeland Security subcommittee on March 29, 2007, that "different and more useful" biodefense spending was needed to protect the nation.

Building digital links among hospitals, HMOs and local public health agencies "would be far more cost-effective than funds spent on future generations of BioWatch," she testified.

Though she has not spoken publicly for or against Generation 3 since joining the Obama administration, O'Toole told the same House subcommittee on Feb. 25, 2010, that it was "imperative" that the automated system "be carefully evaluated and ... tested in realistic field conditions before large technology acquisition investments are made."

O'Toole said scientists under her supervision would "continue to work collaboratively to conduct and oversee rigorous developmental and operational tests of the proposed Gen 3."

Her reservations notwithstanding, enthusiasm for Generation 3 has persisted within the Homeland Security Department. On March 29, the department's chief medical officer, Dr. Alexander Garza, told a House subcommittee that deploying Generation 3 would be "imperative to saving lives."

On Sept. 13, Garza told a congressional hearing that the department would not follow the Government Accountability Office's recommendation to halt contracting activities for Generation 3 so the technology and potential alternatives could be reassessed.

Chandler, the Homeland Security spokesman, said a unit headed by Garza would "pursue rigorous operational testing and evaluation of candidate Generation 3 technologies to make an informed decision before deployment."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-biowatch-dissent-20121113,0,4250744,full.story>

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New York Times

## **Electric Industry Is Urged to Gird Against Terrorist Attacks**

By MATTHEW L. WALD

November 14, 2012

WASHINGTON — Terrorists could black out large segments of the United States for weeks or months by attacking the power grid and damaging hard-to-replace components that are crucial to making it work, the National Academy of Sciences said in a report released Wednesday.

By blowing up substations or transmission lines with explosives or by firing projectiles at them from a distance, the report said, terrorists could cause cascading failures and damage parts that would take months to repair or replace. In

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the meantime, it warned, people could die from the cold or excessive heat and the economy could suffer hundreds of billions of dollars of damage.

While the report is the most authoritative yet on the subject, the grid's vulnerability has long been obvious to independent engineers and to the electric industry itself, which has intermittently tried in collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security, to rehearse responses.

Of particular concern are giant custom-built transformers that boost the voltage of electricity to levels suited for bulk transmission and then reduce voltage for distribution to customers. Very few of those transformers are manufactured in the United States, and replacing them can take many months.

In a preparedness drill in March, technicians shipped three specially designed transformers from St. Louis to Houston and rapidly installed them in a marathon effort. The transformers were the electric equivalent of a Swiss Army knife, with multiple attachments so that they could be used in a variety of jobs.

They are functioning well, said one of the experiment's supervisors, Richard J. Lordan, a senior technical expert at the Electric Power Research Institute, a nonprofit consortium based in Palo Alto, Calif. But follow-up steps, like figuring out how many such transformers should be stockpiled, developing storage depots, financing purchases of the equipment and planning how to allocate it in an emergency, have yet to be taken.

Changes in the electric industry have made the grid more vulnerable in recent years, experts say. The grid was mostly built to serve the needs of individual utilities, but regulators have cut the generation companies loose from the companies that transport and distribute power to foster a competitive market. That has resulted in far more electricity being shipped much greater distances and in difficulty winning consensus to build new lines. Meanwhile, the Sept. 11 attacks and weather catastrophes like Hurricane Sandy have underlined the need for ever more vigilant monitoring and technological upgrades.

"I don't think we pay quite enough attention to the technology fixes that would allow us to make the power system more resilient," said Clark W. Gellings, a researcher at the Electric Power Research Institute who is one of the report's authors.

For example, the report broaches the development of submersible electric switches that could be operated after a terrorist attack or a hurricane that left switches inoperable elsewhere. Some of the other technologies suggested, like more sensors to help operators determine the status of transformers and transmission lines, would also help the grid on an average summer day.

The report urges that cheaper ways be found to put power lines underground, which would protect them from some effects of storms, and also calls for changes in infrastructure that would reduce the kind of mutual dependencies that result in wider blackouts. For example, more traffic lights could run on high-efficiency L.E.D. lamps and be equipped with batteries; and small generators could be placed in spots where power is needed for pumping water. The natural gas system could be equipped with pumps that run on natural gas instead of electricity so that the system would survive an extended blackout.

The notion of a looming attack on the grid has gained a conservative political following recently, with Newt Gingrich, who sought the 2012 Republican presidential nomination, championing a novel that imagines the crippling of the nation and the starvation of millions by unidentified enemies using high-tech methods to fry components of the grid by using an electromagnetic pulse. The report does not discuss that possibility but the appendix does include "electromagnetic pulse" among other technical terms.

The National Academy report mainly refers to less sophisticated attacks but also warns of cyberattacks or infiltration of the grid's transmission operators. "Even a few pernicious people in the wrong place are a potential source of vulnerability," it said.



The report was completed in 2007, and after reviewing it the Department of Homeland Security decided to classify its contents. The version released on Wednesday is redacted to avoid handing terrorists a “cookbook” on how to disrupt the grid, the report said.

Mr. Gellings said that despite the delay, most of the points it makes made are still valid, although a chapter on cyberattacks is out of date.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/15/science/earth/electric-industry-is-urged-to-gird-against-terrorist-attacks.html>

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Baltimore Sun

## **Congress Urged to Probe Chinese Cyber-Espionage**

By Jim Wolf, Reuters

November 14, 2012

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Congress should conduct an in-depth assessment of Chinese cyber spying and consider imposing tougher penalties on companies that benefit from industrial espionage, a federal advisory group said Wednesday.

The recommendations by the bipartisan U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission reflect its stated concern that China has become "the most threatening actor in cyberspace."

In its annual report to Congress, the commission said the most notable trend in Chinese cyber-espionage over the past year had been "increasingly creative and resourceful targeting" across government, industry and civil society.

Among these are stepped-up efforts to defeat so-called two factor authentication, it said, referring to the use of a security token in addition to a traditional password.

Separately, Beijing appeared to be within two years of putting nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles on submarines as it continues to modernize and expand its nuclear stockpile, the report said, citing U.S. Defense Department estimates.

Congress should require the State Department to spell out steps to bring China into existing and future nuclear arms control efforts, the group said.

The report included 32 recommendations for congressional action on ties between the United States and China, the world's No. 1 and No. 2 economies.

The pair also are the top spenders on their militaries, although Washington spends about five times as much as Beijing, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, which tracks the figures.

The commission's report did not address U.S. espionage involving China, whose rise as a global competitor has helped frame a U.S. geo-strategic "pivot" toward the Pacific, announced a year ago after a decade of land wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The report was written before China's 18th Party Congress that will bring in a new generation of leaders. So the commission did not analyze the change in leadership, perhaps the most significant political event in China in a decade.

After the political transition, the same issues that complicate the bilateral relationship are expected to continue in the near term, Dennis Shea, a Republican appointee who is the commission's chairman, told reporters ahead of the report's release.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei condemned the report.

"The relevant commission has not let go of its Cold War mentality. We hope the relevant commission can discard its prejudice, respect facts, and cease its interference in China's internal politics and making of statements that are harmful to China-U.S. relations," he told reporters in Beijing.



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"Regarding Internet security, we have repeatedly pointed out that China resolutely opposes internet attacks and has established relevant laws," Hong added.

"Actually China and the United States have already engaged in cooperation on Internet security. The content of the relevant report is not helpful in building trust and respect between China and the U.S., or in conducting further cooperation."

#### STATE-OWNED

Some recommendations could add to bilateral strains. The commission said Congress should consider tougher screening laws for investments made by China's state-owned enterprises because of their allegedly unfairly subsidized challenges to U.S. corporate competitors.

The commission was set up by Congress in 2000 to study the national security implications of U.S.-China trade and economic relations after President Bill Clinton's administration granted China permanent trading status and approved its accession to the World Trade Organization.

Many U.S. entities lag in their ability to deal effectively with the growing sophistication of Chinese computer-launched espionage, the commission reported.

"China's cyber capabilities provide Beijing with an increasingly potent tool to achieve national objectives," it said. "A diverse set of Chinese hackers use pilfered information to advance political, economic and security objectives."

In response, relevant congressional committees should conduct an "in-depth assessment of Chinese cyber-espionage practices and their implications," then report the findings in an unclassified format so the public will be aware, the group said.

Congress also should conduct a review of existing legal penalties for companies found to engage in, or benefit from, industrial espionage, it recommended.

The call for congressional assessments is reminiscent of work carried out over the past year by the House of Representatives intelligence committee.

The panel's top Republican and Democrat, reporting on the findings of an 11-month investigation, warned last month that Beijing could use for spying equipment made by Huawei Technologies Co HWT.UL], the world's second-largest maker of routers and other telecom gear, and rival Chinese manufacturer ZTE Corp, the fifth largest.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday on the sidelines of the Party Congress, China's commerce minister, Chen Deming, said the United States was exhibiting a "Cold War mentality" with its fears that Huawei posed a security risk because of its ties to the Communist Party.

Tom Collina, research director of the Arms Control Association, a nonpartisan advocacy group in Washington, said China should be more transparent about its forces, but the United States has a 20-to-1 edge in nuclear weapons that can span the Pacific.

"The United States should continue to pursue consultations with China, but Washington and Moscow need to draw down their forces significantly before expecting others to participate in formal negotiations," he said.

*Additional reporting by Michael Martina in Beijing, Editing by Jonathan Thatcher.*

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/business/sns-rt-us-china-usa-cyberbre8ad08a-20121113,0,3592973.story>

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Washington Post

## **Obama Signs Secret Directive to Help Thwart Cyberattacks**

By Ellen Nakashima

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November 14, 2012

President Obama has signed a secret directive that effectively enables the military to act more aggressively to thwart cyberattacks on the nation's web of government and private computer networks.

Presidential Policy Directive 20 establishes a broad and strict set of standards to guide the operations of federal agencies in confronting threats in cyberspace, according to several U.S. officials who have seen the classified document and are not authorized to speak on the record. The president signed it in mid-October.

The new directive is the most extensive White House effort to date to wrestle with what constitutes an "offensive" and a "defensive" action in the rapidly evolving world of cyberwar and cyberterrorism, where an attack can be launched in milliseconds by unknown assailants utilizing a circuitous route. For the first time, the directive explicitly makes a distinction between network defense and cyber-operations to guide officials charged with making often-rapid decisions when confronted with threats.

The policy also lays out a process to vet any operations outside government and defense networks and ensure that U.S. citizens' and foreign allies' data and privacy are protected and international laws of war are followed.

"What it does, really for the first time, is it explicitly talks about how we will use cyber-operations," a senior administration official said. "Network defense is what you're doing inside your own networks. . . . Cyber-operations is stuff outside that space, and recognizing that you could be doing that for what might be called defensive purposes."

The policy, which updates a 2004 presidential directive, is part of a wider push by the Obama administration to confront the growing cyberthreat, which officials warn may overtake terrorism as the most significant danger to the country.

"It should enable people to arrive at more effective decisions," said a second senior administration official. "In that sense, it's an enormous step forward."

Legislation to protect private networks from attack by setting security standards and promoting voluntary information sharing is pending on the Hill, and the White House is also drafting an executive order along those lines.

James A. Lewis, a cybersecurity expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, welcomed the new directive as bolstering the government's capability to defend against "destructive scenarios," such as those that Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta recently outlined in a speech on cybersecurity.

"It's clear we're not going to be a bystander anymore to cyberattacks," Lewis said.

The Pentagon is expected to finalize new rules of engagement that would guide commanders on when and how the military can go outside government networks to prevent a cyberattack that could cause significant destruction or casualties.

The presidential directive attempts to settle years of debate among government agencies about who is authorized to take what sorts of actions in cyberspace and with what level of permission.

An example of a defensive cyber-operation that once would have been considered an offensive act, for instance, might include stopping a computer attack by severing the link between an overseas server and a targeted domestic computer.

"That was seen as something that was aggressive," said one defense official, "particularly by some at the State Department" who often are wary of actions that might infringe on other countries' sovereignty and undermine U.S. advocacy of Internet freedom. Intelligence agencies are wary of operations that may inhibit intelligence collection. The Pentagon, meanwhile, has defined cyberspace as another military domain — joining air, land, sea and space — and wants flexibility to operate in that realm.





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But cyber-operations, the officials stressed, are not an isolated tool. Rather, they are an integral part of the coordinated national security effort that includes diplomatic, economic and traditional military measures.

Offensive cyber actions, outside of war zones, would still require a higher level of scrutiny from relevant agencies and generally White House permission.

The effort to grapple with these questions dates to the 1990s but has intensified as tools and weapons in cyberspace become ever more sophisticated.

One of those tools was Stuxnet, a computer virus jointly developed by the United States and Israel that damaged nearly 1,000 centrifuges at an Iranian nuclear plant in 2010. If an adversary should turn a similar virus against U.S. computer systems, whether public or private, the government needs to be ready to preempt or respond, officials have said.

Since the creation of the military's Cyber Command in 2010, its head, Gen. Keith Alexander, has forcefully argued that his hundreds of cyberwarriors at Fort Meade should be given greater latitude to stop or prevent attacks. One such cyber-ops tactic could be tricking malware by sending it "sleep" commands.

Alexander has put a particularly high priority on defending the nation's private-sector computer systems that control critical functions such as making trains run, electricity flow and water pure.

But repeated efforts by officials to ensure that the Cyber Command has that flexibility have met with resistance — sometimes from within the Pentagon itself — over concerns that enabling the military to move too freely outside its own networks could pose unacceptable risks. A major concern has always been that an action may have a harmful unintended consequence, such as shutting down a hospital generator.

Officials say they expect the directive will spur more nuanced debate over how to respond to cyber-incidents. That might include a cyberattack that wipes data from tens of thousands of computers in a major industrial company, disrupting business operations, but doesn't blow up a plant or kill people.

The new policy makes clear that the government will turn first to law enforcement or traditional network defense techniques before asking military cyberwarfare units for help or pursuing other alternatives, senior administration officials said.

"We always want to be taking the least action necessary to mitigate the threat," said one of the senior administration officials. "We don't want to have more consequences than we intend."

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/obama-signs-secret-cybersecurity-directive-allowing-more-aggressive-military-role/2012/11/14/7bf51512-2cde-11e2-9ac2-1c61452669c3\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/obama-signs-secret-cybersecurity-directive-allowing-more-aggressive-military-role/2012/11/14/7bf51512-2cde-11e2-9ac2-1c61452669c3_story.html)

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DefenseNews.com

## **Report: DoD Could Save Billions With New Military Strategy**

November 15, 2012

By MARCUS WEISGERBER

The U.S. Defense Department could save hundreds of billions of dollars if it revamps its military strategy and makes its forces more expeditionary, according to a new think tank report.

The nonpartisan Stimson Center released the strategy on Nov. 15 at a time when lawmakers and the White House are trying to come up with a plan to lower the U.S. deficit. The study's authors — a group that includes a handful of retired general and flag officers — have made suggestions of areas where DoD could make cuts and contribute to a debt-reduction plan.

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“This strategy was developed and supported by a diverse group of very knowledgeable people and can provide a roadmap for defense’s contribution to resolving our overall fiscal situation, while protecting our national security,” said Barry Blechman, co-founder and distinguished fellow at Stimson, in a Nov. 14 interview.

Retired officers that were part of the report’s advisory committee included Marine Corps Gen. James Cartwright, Adm. Bill Owens, Army Gen. B.B. Bell, Air Force Lt. Gen. David Deptula and Army Lt. Gen. Daniel Christman. A number of other former high-level diplomats and strategists also contributed to the report.

For the past year, senior DoD officials have said the Pentagon would need to develop a new military strategy should the Pentagon have to weather spending reductions above the \$487 billion in cuts already planned over the next decade.

The Stimson strategy — which the authors call “Strategic Agility” — focuses on protecting the United States, protecting U.S. allies and assuring access to the global commons. It is structured to allow DoD to intervene in intra-state conflicts and stabilizing a nation to avoid a threat, such as the establishment of terrorist camps.

Strategic Agility calls for maintaining air, space and naval forces stronger than any potential adversary and maintaining advanced technology and special operations forces. It calls for a greater amount of defense-related research and development, which could be used in next-generation weapons.

The strategy calls for maintaining “competent ground forces as a deterrent.” It also calls for revising what it calls Cold War planning assumptions.

The study recommends the Air Force and Army structure themselves more like the Navy and Marine Corps. The panel urges a greater use of rotational deployments, much like the Navy and Marine Corps are already structured, particularly as the Pentagon focuses more on the Asia-Pacific region.

“In an evolutionary way, we should move away from the kind of static, big garrisons that characterized [our deployments] in the Cold War — and still characterize us to a degree — and move toward a more expeditionary model,” Blechman said.

Marines are already conducting rotational deployments to Australia, and the Navy is preparing to do the same with some of its smaller ships in Singapore.

“We certainly should avoid deployments in the Middle East and only use rotational deployments there,” Blechman said. “We can make further reductions in Europe over time as well.”

The strategy could be implemented at “whatever level of resources that eventually goes to the department,” Blechman said.

### **Applying the Strategy to Sequestration**

The group also looked at ways to make DoD more efficient without cutting end strength and major weapons programs. The panel examined a vast number of official studies and expert recommendations and concluded DoD could save about \$1 trillion if it implemented these suggestions.

By instituting “better manpower utilization” measures and compensation system acquisition system reforms, DoD could save \$1 trillion over the next decade, according to the report.

“No one thinks you could implement all of them, but when we looked at the implications of our strategy at alternative budget levels, we assumed either we got 20 percent of those savings or 40 percent of those savings,” Blechman said. “We used it to illustrate how much less difficult the choices would be if you’re forced to reduce defense spending if you were able to implement these efficiency measures.”

Since the panel focused on achieving only 40 percent or 20 percent of the \$1 trillion of potential savings, additional defense spending cuts would be needed should sequestration — about a \$500 billion Pentagon budget reduction over the next decade — go into effect Jan. 2.



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However, the panel looked at phasing in the mandated cuts gradually over several years and not cutting all accounts evenly at 10 percent. The group calls this plan a “smooth sequester.”

If DoD achieved \$400 billion — or 40 percent of the \$1 trillion in efficiencies — it would still need to cut about \$150 billion.

To reach that goal, the panel looked at cutting the Army budget by 2 percent per year, reducing brigade combat teams from 45 to between 35 and 40. The Navy could accelerate its retirements of Ticonderoga-class cruisers.

It also looked at a 1 percent cut to the Air Force budget each year and retiring 13 active-duty F-16 fighter squadrons. The report recommends keeping lower-end F-16 in the Air National Guard and placing high-end aircraft, such as the F-35 joint strike fighters, in active-duty squadrons.

Lastly, DoD could choose between cutting missile defense spending or reducing nuclear forces and modernization forces.

Even with these cuts, DoD could double its funding of basic applied research, increase special operations forces, increase cyber warfare capabilities and increase funding for space systems, the report states.

Assuming the lower level of efficiency savings — \$200 billion — DoD would need to make deeper cuts to its force.

It could include cutting the Army budget 5 percent and the number of brigade combat teams to 30, according to the report.

In the Air Force, the service could choose between active-duty F-16 cuts or reducing F-35 development. For the Navy, it could mean reducing F-35 development. The Marine Corps could cut its budget by 1 percent, reduce end strength by 7 percent and reprioritize its procurement plans.

Lastly, as in the other first scenario, DoD could choose between cutting missile defense or reducing nuclear forces and modernization forces.

<http://www.defensenews.com/article/20121115/DEFREG02/311150001/Report-DoD-Could-Save-Billions-New-Military-Strategy-More-Expeditionary-Forces?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE>

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Gulf News – U.A.E.

## **Saudi Student in US Gets Life in Prison**

*Student sought a scholarship in the US to wage holy war on ‘infidel Americans’*

By Warren Richey, Christian Science Monitor

November 14, 2012

A Saudi student who had spent four years in the US on an academic scholarship from his government was sentenced to life in prison on Tuesday for attempting to assemble an improvised explosive device.

The bomb, prosecutors said, was meant as a means to wage jihad against the US government and its citizens on American soil. According to a journal seized by federal agents, he sought the scholarship to facilitate his travel to the United States and help him fund the attacks.

The student, Khalid Al Dossary, was convicted in June after a federal trial in Amarillo, Texas. Until his arrest in February 2011, Al Dossary was a business student at South Plains College, near Lubbock, Texas. He had also studied chemical engineering at Texas Tech.

“I excelled in my studies in high school in order to take advantage of an opportunity for a scholarship to America,” he wrote in his journal.

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He said he applied for a particular scholarship because its recipients were sent immediately to the US and were given the largest amount of financial assistance, “which will help tremendously in providing me with the support I need for jihad, God willing.”

The journal continues: “And now, after mastering the English language, learning how to build explosives, and continuous planning to target the infidel Americans, it is time for jihad.”

Al Dossary first came under suspicion in February 2011 when he ordered 10 bottles of concentrated phenol from a chemical company in North Carolina. The company became suspicious when the buyer was unable to provide a business or university address for delivery of the chemicals.

He later cancelled the order. By then, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation had opened an inquiry.

What they found is that Al Dossary had been conducting research on the internet and had downloaded a bomb-making recipe for trinitrophenol, or TNP.

In addition to phenol, the key ingredients for TNP are nitric acid and concentrated sulphuric acid. The agents confirmed that Al Dossary had already purchased 30 litres of nitric acid and three gallons of sulphuric acid.

That was more than enough to produce a bomb, explosives experts said.

During a search of his apartment, agents found a chemical set, flasks, a hazmat suit, a soldering kit, a battery tester, alarm clocks, and a stun gun. They said it appeared he’d purchased a strand of Christmas tree lights to wire a detonator.

According to court documents, Al Dossary used the internet to obtain instructions to mix the chemicals into an explosive, as well as instructions to modify a cellphone into a remote detonation device.

One e-mail offered a simplified lesson in how to booby-trap a vehicle with common household materials. The lesson, the e-mail said in part, was directed especially to the brothers in America and Europe. It noted that “one operation in the land of infidels is equal to ten operations against occupying forces in the land of the Muslims”.

Agents also discovered that Al Dossary had sent himself e-mails listing potential targets for his planned attacks.

An e-mail entitled “NICE TARGETS 01” listed 12 reservoirs and dams in Colorado and California. Agents also found information about three US citizens who had served in the military at Iraq’s Abu Ghraib prison. And there were indications he was considering a rush-hour attack in New York City.

Agents also found an e-mail message with the Dallas address of former president George W. Bush. The e-mail was titled: “Tyrant’s House.”

In a disguised Web posting in March 2010, Al Dossary expressed his desire to become a martyr for Islam. “You who created mankind and who is knowledgeable of what is in the womb, grant me martyrdom for Your sake and make Jihad easy for me only in Your path,” he wrote under the blog name “fromfaraway90.”

Federal prosecutors said the key to the Al Dossary case was the role played by alert citizens who contacted officials to investigate suspicious activities.

“Khalid Al Dossary, acting as a lone wolf, may well have gone undetected were it not for the keen observations of private citizens,” Sarah Saldaña, US attorney for the Northern District of Texas, said in a statement.

“This case serves as a reminder to all private citizens that we must always be observant and vigilant, as there are some who intend to cause great harm,” Saldaña said.

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/saudi-arabia/saudi-student-in-us-gets-life-in-prison-1.1104848>

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Washington Post  
OPINION/Fine Print

## Cutting the U.S. Nuclear Arsenal Can Help Cut the Deficit

By Walter Pincus  
November 12, 2012

One way President Obama could help reduce the deficit is to trim funds planned for the next 10 years for building, maintaining and operating the U.S. nuclear weapons program.

That could save up to \$100 billion over that period. Would it solve our deficit problem? No, but it would help. Such savings add up.

More than three years ago in Prague, Obama said that he wanted “to put an end to Cold War thinking . . . [and] reduce the role of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy.” He and Russian President Vladimir Putin took a first step when they signed the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty on April 8, 2010, in Prague. The Senate approved it that December.

It called for reducing, by 2018, the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads to 1,550, and the number of deployed and non-deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and bombers to 800. It did not limit the number of non-deployed nuclear warheads or bombs; the United States has more than 2,500. Nor did it deal with shorter-range tactical nuclear weapons or cruise missiles.

One of the ironies in Obama’s negotiations with Republicans to get support for the treaty was his agreement to spend up to \$200 billion to modernize the nuclear weapons manufacturing complex and build a new generation of strategic submarines, bombers and ICBMs that would last at least another 30 years. To cut nuclear weapons in the short run, he had to promise to be able to build more in the future. That also requires spending more than \$150 billion over 10 years to operate and maintain them.

While Republicans have criticized Obama’s declaration in Prague that the United States seeks “a world without nuclear weapons,” they have left out what he added after the applause died. “I’m not naive,” he said. “This goal will not be reached quickly — perhaps not in my lifetime.”

The U.S. nuclear program bears that out.

As of Sept. 1, according to the State Department, the United States had 1,722 deployed warheads, 806 deployed ground- and sub-launched ICBMs and strategic bombers, and 228 non-deployed delivery systems. The Russians had far fewer: 1,499 deployed warheads, 491 deployed delivery systems and 393 non-deployed delivery systems.

The Cold War contest over who was stronger, based on strategic nuclear warheads, is over. As a new Rand Corp. report says, it is time “to rethink U.S. defense strategic direction.” While most of this thought-provoking study discusses defense reductions relative to ground, naval and air forces, it points out that “Russia is less and less a factor in the choice and pursuit of U.S. defense strategy or in U.S. defense spending.”

It also describes Russia’s nuclear forces as in “decline . . . which it is trying to arrest.”

China, the report says, is different. “Its goals, strategy, and conduct will increasingly constrain U.S. choices and shape U.S. defense requirements,” Rand notes.

But China has only 50 ICBMs that can reach the United States; most of its 250 or so nuclear-armed missiles are shorter-range, with many aimed at Taiwan. Its handful of submarines capable of launching missiles are also short-range, though ones that could hit the United States are expected within two years.

Apart from China and Russia, according to the nonprofit Arms Control Association, “no other nuclear-armed country has the ability to deliver nuclear weapons on ballistic missiles that can reach the United States. North Korea’s arsenal is limited in size (it has enough fissile material for about 10 bombs) and range.”

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The cold fact is that during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, both U.S. and Soviet leaders feared the use of a single nuclear weapon. Robert McNamara, defense secretary at the time, told me later that he always thought 500 nuclear weapons was enough, even when Moscow had thousands.

So why do we need 1,000 or more warheads? Why have three types of delivery systems — the triad of subs, bombers and land-based missiles — that all need to be modernized? Originally, the triad was meant to deter a first strike by the Soviets — an attack that we now know they never contemplated and never could have executed.

Cold War thinking is the only justification for the United States having more than McNamara's preferred 500 weapons. They are terror weapons, used more for political and diplomatic prestige than for war.

If we cut the numbers of nukes, we could reduce the triad to a duo — bombers and sub-launched delivery systems — and eliminate land-based ICBMs.

Twenty-one years ago, President George H.W. Bush unilaterally announced the elimination of thousands of land-based tactical nuclear weapons stationed in Europe and an end to the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons on surface ships, attack submarines and land-based naval aircraft. Billions had been spent over the years on such weapons, but there were never real plans for how to use them. Most have since been dismantled, and the United States is no weaker.

Obama has a chance to do a reduction, too — not to zero, or even close. But he could take a major step to 500.

The purpose of U.S. nuclear forces is "to deter nuclear attacks not only on our own country but also on our forces overseas, as well as on our friends and allies," according to President Jimmy Carter's declassified July 25, 1980, presidential directive on "Nuclear Weapons Employment Policy."

The U.S. stockpile does not deter terrorists, nor Iran in its quest for a weapon. Obama is free to drop the requirements for nuclear targeting, and he should. The United States needs only numbers that maintain nuclear deterrence.

His presidential guidance is due shortly. This year, it not only could deter nuclear war, it could help keep us from going over the fiscal cliff.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/cutting-the-us-nuclear-arsenal-can-help-cut-the-deficit/2012/11/12/350ddd1e-2ac2-11e2-b4e0-346287b7e56c\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/cutting-the-us-nuclear-arsenal-can-help-cut-the-deficit/2012/11/12/350ddd1e-2ac2-11e2-b4e0-346287b7e56c_story.html)

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Foreign Policy

## Red Balloon

*Is Congress inflating the China threat?*

BY TOM Z. COLLINA

November 13, 2012

You have to be pretty paranoid to see China as a direct nuclear threat to the United States, but that doesn't stop some from trying.

A report to be released Wednesday by the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, created by Congress, is just the latest in a line of studies that hype the China threat. This report, like others before it, raises concerns that China may be hiding hundreds of nuclear weapons in underground tunnels. This might be scary but for the fact that the Pentagon says it's not true -- and that even if it was, it would not directly affect U.S. national security.

Seemingly wringing its hands, the commission -- chaired by Republican appointee Dennis Shea, and vice-chaired by Democratic appointee William Reinsch -- worries that "numerous uncertainties remain about China's nuclear warhead holdings" and that Beijing could have a larger nuclear stockpile than currently believed or could "obtain additional

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warheads, if so inclined." Citing unsubstantiated claims from Taiwan, Russia, and elsewhere, the commission recommends that Congress "assess disparities in estimates of the size and disposition of China's nuclear forces."

The report goes so far as to question "the desirability of further cuts" to U.S. and Russian nuclear forces "without clearer information on China's nuclear forces." President Obama has called for another round of U.S.-Russian reductions beyond those called for in the 2010 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or New START.

But the U.S. Defense Department, for one, seems quite confident about how many bombs are in Beijing's basement. In its 2012 annual report to Congress on China's military, DOD said that China has "about 50-75" intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), "may" have an operational submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) in two years, and is upgrading its small bomber fleet.

Moreover, the commander of U.S. Strategic Command (STRATCOM) has rejected previous claims that China's nuclear arsenal is much larger than commonly thought. "I do not believe that China has hundreds or thousands more nuclear weapons than what the intelligence community has been saying," Gen. Robert Kehler said in August. "The Chinese arsenal is in the range of several hundred" nuclear warheads, he said.

Gen. Kehler is in accord with independent estimates that China has about 240 nuclear warheads.

For comparison, according to the Pentagon, the United States has about 5,000 nuclear warheads in its active stockpile - about 1,700 of which are deployed on missiles and bombers that can reach China. Of China's 240 warheads, only 50-75 could be deployed on its single-warhead missiles that could reach the United States.

So, if the United States has a 20-to-1 advantage in nuclear weapons that can reach across the Pacific, why should Congress worry about China when thinking about arms reductions with Russia? It should not.

In fact, what we do know about the Chinese arsenal should make Congress more confident about U.S. arms reductions with Russia, not less.

First, although the U.S. military and the intelligence community do not believe that China's arsenal is being undercounted, even if it was, the difference would not threaten the United States. The U.S. arsenal is survivable regardless of how many weapons China -- or Russia -- has. According to a May Defense Department report, the ability of U.S. weapons to survive an attack is more important than the number of weapons on either side. For example, the report said that Russian deployment of forces in numbers significantly above New START limits "would have little to no effect on the U.S. assured second-strike capabilities that underwrite our strategic deterrence posture."

Moscow -- and by extension, Beijing -- would not be able to achieve military advantage by "any plausible expansion of its strategic nuclear forces," the report says, because sufficient U.S. forces would survive and be able to retaliate. This second-strike survivability comes primarily from Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines, "a number of which are at sea at any given time." The report says that a nuclear first strike by Russia "will most likely not occur."

Second, although it may sound paradoxical, the United States should want China to have a survivable arsenal, too. China's nuclear force is too small to pose a first strike threat to the United States. Instead, Beijing's strategy is to field a nuclear force that could survive a U.S. first strike and respond to "inflict unacceptable damage to the enemy," as the Pentagon puts it. Thus, by being survivable, China does not need to match U.S. or Russian forces bomb-for-bomb, but needs just enough to make its adversaries think that a few missiles would be left after a first strike. So it is not necessarily a problem if China is fielding mobile missiles or SLBMs on submarines or hiding weapons in tunnels. In fact, the more survivable Beijing's arsenal is, the smaller it can be.

What the commission fails to mention, oddly, is the role U.S. missile defenses play in motivating China's modernization efforts. The 2012 Pentagon annual report says that China is developing a new generation of mobile missiles to ensure its strategic deterrent remains viable "in the face of continued missile defense advances in the United States." Ultimately, if the United States is really concerned about a Chinese nuclear arms build-up, then it needs to rethink its missile defense policy in Asia.

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Yes, it would be nice if Beijing were more transparent about its arsenal, and from a nonproliferation perspective an expanding Chinese nuclear force is a concern. But from a strategic perspective, China's nuclear force is no reason to complicate or delay the next round of U.S.-Russia arms reductions. Consultations with China are a great idea, but Washington and Moscow need to draw down their forces significantly before formally involving others in such negotiations.

*Tom Z. Collina is research director of the Arms Control Association in Washington.*

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/11/13/red\\_balloon?page=full](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/11/13/red_balloon?page=full)

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Popular Mechanics  
OPINION/Commentary

## What China's Nuclear Missile Subs Mean for the U.S.

*China is on track to field nuclear weapons on submarines in two years, according to U.S. government reports. But don't start restocking the fallout shelters just yet.*

By Joe Pappalardo  
November 13, 2012

The U.S. government is reporting that China, after decades of trying, is on the verge of fielding a true underwater leg of its nuclear deterrent, with new long-range missiles tipped with nuclear weapons on board its fleet of new long-range submarines. And that could transform the Pacific into a tense militarized zone reminiscent of the Atlantic during the Cold War.

On November 14 the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission will release its annual report to Congress, and that report will contain some sobering language about new Julang-2 missiles China plans to field in two years. (Drafts of the report, created by a Congressional mandate, have already been leaked.)

According to the report, JIN-class submarines, two of which have already been put to sea, would carry nuclear tipped missiles. Naval intelligence documents estimate five such submarines will be ready for service. The submarines and the JL-2 missile combination will give Chinese forces "a near-continuous at-sea strategic deterrent," according to the report, and Beijing is "on the cusp of attaining a credible nuclear triad of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles, and air-dropped nuclear bombs."

The Pentagon has watched warily as China has ramped up its submarine fleet, which helps the nation secure its economically vital sea lanes and protect its coastlines from incursion. China has quiet, diesel-electric submarines to lay mines and shoot missiles during combat close to their shores. But the larger, nuclear-powered subs are a newer acquisition, and arming them with nukes poses a different kind of threat to the United States and global powers such as Russia and India.

Sub-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) are hard to spot until they shoot, making them the ideal second-strike weapon in a nuclear exchange. The Pentagon knows where all of China's ICBM silos are and could wipe them out in a preemptive nuke strike if the nations came to blows. But subs need to be identified, tracked, and sunk. So, having submarines with nukes in their firing tubes makes China a more credible nuclear threat. That threat backs up every diplomatic, geopolitical, and military action of the government—a government whose goals are often at odds with those of the U.S. government.

What will the U.S. do about this new threat?

There will be some underwater cat-and-mouse games played in the Pacific. U.S. submarines will likely be waiting when American satellites spot a Chinese sub leaving the port. (Those subs will be visible in the shallows between Yulin Naval Base and deep water.) "Some U.S. attack submarines probably will follow the Chinese submarines if and when they

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deploy," says Hans Kristensen, an analyst with the Federation of American Scientists. "Part of those operations will be to learn more about noise level and operational patterns."

The range of the JL-2 is about 4500 miles. That means the sub's missiles can't target the continental United States from the Chinese coast. They could hit Los Angeles from a position 1000 miles west of Hawaii, while Washington, D.C., would be in range only if the submarine could sneak its way to a position about 1500 miles from the West Coast.

That's the trick for these subs: surviving outside Chinese waters. Japan and America have assets in the Pacific that could detect submarines; a Chinese skipper would have to hide from them to get close enough to take a shot at the continental United States. And Christensen cites Office of Naval Intelligence reports that say the JIN submarines are less stealthy than Russian submarines built two decades ago. "They are too noisy to slip through U.S. antisubmarine networks," he says. "The U.S. submarine community trained for more than 60 years to track nuclear-powered ballistic submarines . . . Given that record, I'd be surprised if China's would live for long in a war. To me, they would be sitting ducks."

However, American antisubmarine capabilities have waned since the Cold War. The United States will be decreasing its number of attack submarines, but those that remain will be operating in the Pacific—the Pentagon has already deployed more attack subs to Guam and Hawaii. The Littoral Combat Ship, a troubled Navy program, is expected to have antisubmarine capabilities, but those ships (as the name implies) are made to dominate shallow water.

Furthermore, last week news leaked that the Navy plans to cut nearly one-quarter of its highly specialized multi-intelligence aircraft in the next few years, including the P3C Orion sub-hunting airplane. It does have sub-tracking replacements coming online, such as the P-8A Poseidon, a converted 747 that can drop sonobuoys to detect subs, and torpedoes to sink them. But coverage may be thin. The Navy will have only about 50 P-8As to do the job formerly done by 200 P-3Cs.

During the Cold War, the Navy tracked Soviet subs using a network of underwater microphones called the Sound Surveillance System (SOSUS). This is still functioning, albeit with fewer sensors, in the Pacific. The Pentagon is working on next-generation tracking technology that could help mitigate the China sub threat. The Distributed Agile Submarine Hunting program, run by DARPA, is creating a maritime version of a satellite. These robotic listening posts could operate in shallow or deep water, and possibly follow enemy subs once they'd been detected.

The last-ditch defense against these missile threats are ground-based interceptors in Alaska, built to thwart an ICBM launch from North Korea. They could target the warheads fired from a submarine, Kristensen says, if the warheads were launched from far enough away.

*Joe Pappalardo is a Senior Editor at Popular Mechanics.*

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/military/missile-defense/what-chinas-nuclear-missile-subs-mean-for-the-us-14726083>

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CNN

OPINION/Security Clearance

November 14th, 2012

## **U.S. to China: Let's Talk About Your Nukes**

By Jamie Crawford

China is modernizing its military at a "remarkable rate," including its own nuclear weapons capability, says a congressionally mandated panel exploring the relationship between the United States and China.



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In its annual report to Congress, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission said China has spent the past two decades improving and advancing its military nuclear posture and could have a "triad" of land, sea and air delivery systems "within the next two years."

China's People's Liberation Army "reportedly tested a variety of new nuclear ballistic systems in 2012, including a submarine-launched intercontinental ballistic missile," Dennis Shea, chairman of the commission, told reporters Wednesday.

"We just urge Congress to get a better handle on the size of the Chinese nuclear arsenal, as well as the nuclear doctrine of China."

Estimates vary as to the exact size of China's nuclear arsenal, but most Western assessments, including those of the United States, say China possesses somewhere between 100 to 500 weapons. Members of the commission said the United States should push for more transparency and understanding from the Chinese on the size of their arsenal.

"We just don't know," Larry Wortzel, another member of the 12-person panel told reporters. "The Department of Defense seems especially stubborn about not changing its estimates."

And China's absence from the types of nuclear-arms reduction and limitation treaties the United States has with countries like Russia is another area ripe for action, the commission said.

"If the Chinese are going to go forward with all these modernization efforts which they are undertaking - road, mobile and air - they are going to upend the entire arms control regime that currently exists," C. Richard D'Amato, another commissioner on the panel, said.

"They need to be brought into some sort of dialog to develop some kind of understanding as to where we are all going together on arms control."

In addition to its nuclear arsenal, China has had a busy year modernizing other parts of its military machine, the report said.

Apart from commissioning its first aircraft carrier, China test flew a second advanced fighter with potential stealth capabilities, improved on its satellite navigation system, and expanded the scope of its military exercises and training activities.

The report sent to Congress on Wednesday also covered areas in U.S.-Chinese trade and economic capabilities, China's role in cyberespionage, and the consequences of its demand and consumption of global resources.

*Jamie Crawford is the CNN National Security Producer.*

<http://security.blogs.cnn.com/2012/11/14/u-s-to-china-lets-talk-about-your-nukes-2/>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency  
OPINION/Valdai Club

## **Vladimir Putin Tests Reliability of Russia's Nuclear Missile Shield**

15 November 2012

By Viktor Litovkin

Russia's Strategic Nuclear Forces (SNF) recently held unprecedented drills. Under the direct command of President Vladimir Putin, Supreme Commander-in-Chief, the automatic communications control system and new battle management algorithms were tested. All elements of the nuclear triad – long-range aircraft, and sea and land components of the strategic nuclear forces – were engaged and carried out combat training missions under a general plan.

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Russia's strategic triad, the Missile Strategic Forces, nuclear missile submarines and strategic missile carriers, all successfully launched their intercontinental ballistic and long-range cruise missiles, confirming the efficiency and reliability of the country's strategic nuclear forces.

The first missile to be launched was one from the Plesetsk space center in the Arkhangelsk Region towards the Kura training ground in Kamchatka: it was an RS-12M Topol (NATO reporting name SS-25 Sickle), a strategic solid-propellant single-warhead missile. Like more than 100 of its counterparts, it has been on combat duty for 24 years. The error-free process of its preparation for launch, the launch itself and the fact that it hit its designated target demonstrated the combat capabilities of the missile and the possibility of extending its safe and accident-free service by several more years.

At the other end of the country, in the Sea of Okhotsk, within minutes of the launch of the Topol, the strategic missile cruiser, registration number K-433 (Project 667BDR, Kalmar Class – NATO reporting name Delta III), launched from a submerged position an R-29P Sineva missile (SS-N-18 Stingray) with three individually targetable warheads toward the Chizha firing range on the Kanin Nos Peninsula in the Arkhangelsk Region. These warheads also hit their designated targets.

It was this year's first launch of a sea strategic missile from a submerged position. Last year there were seven of them, including five R-30 Bulava missiles.

The crews of Tu-160 and Tu-95MS strategic bombers, taking off from the Engels airfield outside Saratov, made long-range flights to Vorkuta in the Arctic and, after 15 hours of flying over featureless terrain, fired four missiles at their designated targets on the Pemboi range. By all appearances, these were Kh-555 missiles.

A unique feature of the launches was that Vladimir Putin ran the drills from a new automatic unified command post. The establishment of what is known as an anchor mobile switching center (AMSC) was briefly reported in the press on the eve of the drills.

There are also several other news items that directly concern the recent launches of strategic missiles. One of them is the information that the Defense Ministry has approved the preliminary design and performance characteristics of a new heavy liquid-fueled intercontinental missile, which is under development in Russia to replace the world's largest R-36M Voyevoda (SS-18 Satan) missile, capable of delivering on target 10 individually targetable warheads. Russia has about 50 Voyevodas left. They are to be removed from operational duty by 2020-2025, and Russian designers are now busy developing a "successor" to them. It will be twice as light (100 tons) but in terms of combat efficiency and capability of penetrating any anti-missile system as good as the Satan.

There has also been talk of re-establishing rail mobile missile systems, which used to cross the expanses of the Soviet Union. There were 12 such regiment-trains, equipped with 36-ton missiles each carrying 10 nuclear warheads.

The prospect of seeing a U.S. anti-missile system on the doorstep of Russia is clearly worrying its political and military leadership. The unprecedented launches of strategic missiles, the placement on combat duty of missiles declared in the new START Treaty and talk of developing new ones are a sort of warning to overseas comrades and colleagues.

*Viktor Litovkin is the Executive Editor of the Independent Military Review.*

<http://valdaiclub.com/defense/51400.html>

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