



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

Issue No. 929, 1 August 2011

Articles & Other Documents:

Featured Article: [Nuclear-Detection Effort Is Halted as Ineffective](#)

1. [U.S., Saudis to Discuss Nuclear Agreement](#)
2. [Iran Lagging in Enrichment Plan](#)
3. [Commander: West's Sanctions Consolidate Iran's Move towards Progress](#)
4. [N. Korea, U.S. End 'Constructive' Talks in New York](#)
5. [DPRK to Hold Six-Party Talks Without Preconditions](#)
6. [SKorean Envoy Calls for NKorean "Concrete Action" before Restarting Nuke Talks](#)
7. [Vietnam Supports Nuclear Non-Proliferation](#)
8. [US Thinktank Raises Concerns over Pak Nuke Threat to India](#)
9. [India Cannot Meditate When Others Are Making Nuclear Weapons: Kalam](#)
10. [India to Get Russian Nerpa Submarine by Yearend](#)
11. [Russian Inspectors to Make Aerial Surveillance Flight in US](#)
12. [Argentina Planning a "Nuclear Powered" Submarine with Conventional Weapons](#)
13. [Nuclear-Detection Effort Is Halted as Ineffective](#)
14. [Pantex Plant Intends to Continue Nuclear Weapons Work for Decades](#)
15. [Super Sensitive Small Missile Detector](#)
16. [White House Adviser: Time Is Now to Take Out Terror](#)
17. [Xinjiang Attackers Trained in Pakistan, Says China](#)
18. [KAHLILI: Iranian Missiles Could Soon Reach U.S. Shores](#)
19. [Nuclear Zero? Why Not Nuclear Infinity?](#)
20. [Killing of Scientist](#)
21. [Afghan Analyst: US Seeking to Find Control over Pakistan's N. Installations](#)
22. [The Coming Cyber Wars](#)
23. [The Decoding of Pyongyang](#)

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Wall Street Journal

Issue No. 929, 1 August 2011

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MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

July 30, 2011

U.S., Saudis to Discuss Nuclear Agreement

By JAY SOLOMON

WASHINGTON—The Obama administration plans to resume talks with Saudi Arabia about nuclear cooperation, according to senior U.S. officials, in a move aimed at boxing in Iran and keeping an eye on Riyadh's strategic ambitions.

A team of State Department and Department of Energy officials is expected to visit Riyadh as early as next week to discuss with senior Saudi officials their plans for pursuing nuclear power, according to people briefed on the trip.

The White House's decision is already facing opposition from members of Congress who worry about sharing nuclear technologies with countries in today's increasingly unstable Middle East. The concerns were further fueled by recent comments made by a senior member of the Saudi royal family that their country would seek to develop nuclear weapons if Iran did.

"I am astonished that the Administration is even considering a nuclear-cooperation agreement with Saudi Arabia," said Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R., Fla.), chairwoman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, on Friday. "Saudi Arabia is an unstable country in an unstable region, with senior officials openly proclaiming that the country may pursue a nuclear-weapons capability."

A spokesman for the Saudi Embassy in Washington declined to comment Friday. The Saudi government has repeatedly said that it is against the development of nuclear weapons.

The U.S. and Saudi Arabia signed a tentative agreement in 2008, during the George W. Bush administration, to cooperate on developing civilian nuclear technologies, but no formal treaty has been negotiated. U.S. companies need a treaty before they can sell nuclear equipment.

"We have offered to send a team to discuss with Saudi officials the kinds of nuclear activities that would be allowed" under the memorandum of understanding, said a senior U.S. official.

The official added that the Obama administration hasn't yet entered into formal negotiations with Saudi Arabia about nuclear cooperation, but that the U.S. wants to gain a better understanding of Saudi plans and intentions.

The Obama administration, like the Bush administration, has sought to promote nuclear-cooperation agreements with allies as a way to better control the flow of nuclear technologies and isolate Tehran by highlighting its violations of nuclear accords.

President Barack Obama signed such a deal with the United Arab Emirates in 2009 that is now viewed by the White House as a model because the U.A.E. committed not to produce its own nuclear fuel. U.S. officials say the commitments guaranteed the U.A.E. wouldn't be able to divert fissile materials for a nuclear-weapons program.

So far, the Obama administration has found no other country willing to make the same commitments, and similar negotiations with Jordan and Vietnam have stalled.

In its 2008 agreement, Saudi Arabia hinted it might be willing to make commitments similar to those agreed by the U.A.E., particularly as a way to pressure Iran. Still, officials briefed on the talks said they were doubtful Riyadh would agree to the same level of restrictions.

But concerns in Washington have mounted as a regional rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran has intensified, fueled by the political rebellions that have broken out across the Middle East. Saudi Prince Turki al-Faisal, a former ambassador to Washington, last month told a meeting of British and U.S. servicemen that his country might be forced to develop nuclear weapons in response to Iran's actions.

"It is in our interest that Iran does not develop a nuclear weapon, for their doing so would compel Saudi Arabia...to pursue policies that could lead to untold and possibly dramatic consequences," Prince Turki said.

Issue No. 929, 1 August 2011

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CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

The Saudi government said at the time that Prince Turki doesn't speak on its behalf.

U.S. relations with Saudi Arabia have been strained by the political uprisings in the Mideast. Saudi officials have argued that Washington's press for democratic reforms in the region has weakened key allies such as Egypt and Bahrain, while allowing Iran to take advantage of the instability to spread its influence.

Saudi Arabia has also been pursuing nuclear-cooperation agreements with South Korea, Japan, France and Russia. Riyadh could move to build nuclear reactors without any U.S. involvement.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111903635604576476420977860608.html>

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

Khaleej Times – U.A.E.

Iran Lagging in Enrichment Plan

Associated Press (AP)

30 July 2011

VIENNA — Iran is lagging on equipping a bunker with centrifuges that will enrich uranium closer to weapons-grade but plans to boost output by using more machines than originally planned, diplomats tell The Associated Press.

The diplomats say Iranian officials recently told the International Atomic Energy Agency half of the approximately 3,000 centrifuges to be installed at the underground Fordow site will churn out uranium enriched to near 20 percent.

The rest, they said, will produce less sensitive low-enriched material at around 3.5 percent. Iran's higher-grade enrichment efforts are of particular concern because material at 20 percent enrichment can be turned into fissile warhead material much more quickly than that at 3.5 percent.

The diplomats said no centrifuges had been installed by July 23, the last time that IAEA experts inspected the site, indicating that Tehran was behind on plans to set up the machines by the end of July. Still, the diplomats said, preparations were well under way, with most electrical wiring, pipe work and other preliminary installations completed.

The reason for the delay was unclear. One of two diplomats who discussed confidential information on condition of anonymity suggested it could reflect temporary technical problems with expanding production of higher-enriched material.

He said that to his knowledge, the Iranians also planned to install only present-generation centrifuges currently in use elsewhere instead of more efficient centrifuges they have been developing — another sign that the program may be experiencing short-term technical difficulties.

While Iran insists that it does not seek nuclear arms and is enriching only to make reactor fuel, the United States and other nations worry that Tehran could turn its enrichment program toward making weapons-grade material.

"Enrichment from natural uranium to 20 percent is the most time-consuming and resource-intensive step in making the highly enriched uranium required for a nuclear weapon," British Foreign Secretary William Hague wrote recently in Britain's Guardian newspaper. "And when enough 20 percent enriched uranium is accumulated at the underground facility at Qom, it would take only two or three months of additional work to convert this into weapons grade material."

Beside expanding its low-enrichment program in recent years, Iran has been producing higher-enriched uranium for over a year and is now using 328 centrifuges at its facility in the central city of Natanz for that purpose.



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CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

It originally announced that it planned to move all 20-percent production to Fordow and triple output — which would have meant that about 1,000 centrifuges would have been harnessed to make uranium purified to near 20 percent.

Based on the information provided by the diplomats, however, Iran now wants to use 1,500 centrifuges for that purpose, adding to international concerns about the process.

The Islamic Republic disclosed Fordow's existence two years ago, shortly before Western intelligence services were to go public with the secret site.

Tehran refuses to cease enrichment despite U.N. Security Council sanctions. Also of international concern are indications it might have experimented with components of a nuclear weapons program — something Tehran denies.

After initially cooperating with an IAEA probe of intelligence-based allegations of secret nuclear weapons work, Iran stopped answering questions on the issue about three years ago, saying it considers the investigation closed.

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticleNew.asp?section=middleeast&xfile=data/middleeast/2011/july/middleeast_july608.xml

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

FARS News Agency – Iran
1 August 2011

Commander: West's Sanctions Consolidate Iran's Move towards Progress

TEHRAN (FNA) - A senior Iranian military commander dismissed western sanctions policy against Iran as a worn-out move, saying that such pressures have just consolidated the country's resolve towards progress.

"Sanctions have motivated progress in the country. Every sanction against the country is a step or sometimes more than a step forward," Iranian Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff Brigadier General Amir Hatami told FNA on Monday, reminding that the sanctions imposed on the country since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 have always backfired.

He further said that the country's Armed Forces are capable and self-sufficient in manufacturing all weapons needed for confronting the enemies.

Iran is under four rounds of UN Security Council sanctions for turning down West's calls to give up its right of uranium enrichment, saying the demand is politically tainted and illogical.

Despite the hostile policies and moves of the United States and its European allies, Iran has shown a promising trend of growth in science, economy and military.

In a recent case last year the US and the European Union approved a set of extra unilateral sanctions against the Islamic Republic over its nuclear program, mostly targeting the country's energy and banking sectors, including a US boycott of gasoline supplies to Iran.

Iran says that western sanctions and pressures have only consolidated the Iranians' national resolve and encouraged them to reach self-sufficiency in many economic and military fields.

The Iranian Armed Forces recently test-fired different types of newly-developed missiles and torpedoes and tested a large number of its home-made weapons, tools and equipments, including submarines, military ships, artillery, choppers, aircraft, UAVs and air defense and electronic systems, in a series of massive military drills.

Issue No. 929, 1 August 2011

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Iranian officials have always underlined that its armed development and self-sufficiency program serves defensive purposes.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=9005100931>

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

Yonhap News – South Korea
July 30, 2011

N. Korea, U.S. End 'Constructive' Talks in New York

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, July 29 (Yonhap) -- North Korea and the United States have completed this week's talks in New York, which both sides called "constructive."

Speaking to reporters separately, North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan and Stephen Bosworth, the U.S. special representative for North Korea policy, gave no details on whether substantial progress was made in their two-day discussions.

"Talks were very constructive and business-like," Kim said, leaving the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in the afternoon. "(I) will try to continue momentum down the road."

In a brief statement, Bosworth stressed that Washington is open for dialogue with Pyongyang as long as it is serious about denuclearization.

"We reiterated that the path is open to North Korea towards the resumption of talks on improved relations with the United States and greater regional stability if North Korea demonstrates through its actions that it supports the resumption of the six-party process as a committed and constructive partner," he said.

The Kim-Bosworth talks this week, their first in 19 months, were aimed at exploring ways to restart the multilateral nuclear negotiations that also involve South Korea, China, Japan and Russia.

The U.S. has tried to limit media expectations, characterizing the meetings as "exploratory and preliminary" to see if the unpredictable communist nation is ready for full-scale dialogue on bilateral ties and the long-troubled denuclearization work.

In Washington, the State Department announced that Robert King, special envoy for the improvement of North Korea human rights, joined the second-day session.

King traveled to Pyongyang in late May to determine if it needs imminent food aid.

"I can't preclude that food aid may come up (in the New York meeting), but no decisions have been made about food aid," department spokesman Mark Toner said about an hour before the end of the talks.

He strongly indicated that the U.S. will take some time to decide whether to continue talks with the North.

"We're going to consult with our partners, certainly South Korea, but also our other six-party talk partners, and I think that we will assess next steps following these meetings," he said.

He refused to confirm how long the North Korean official will stay in the U.S. Kim is reportedly scheduled to attend an academic seminar in New York on Monday and fly out of the country the following day.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2011/07/30/26/0401000000AEN20110730000200315F.HTML>

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

China Daily – China

DPRK to Hold Six-Party Talks Without Preconditions



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CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

August 1, 2011
(Xinhua)

PYONGYANG, August 1 (Xinhua) -- The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is ready to hold six-party talks without preconditions, the official KCNA news agency reported on Monday.

The country remains unchanged in its determination to "resume the six-party talks without preconditions at an early date" and comprehensively implement the September 19 joint statement on the principle of simultaneous action, a spokesman of the DPRK Foreign Ministry told the KCNA Monday following the recent DPRK-U.S. high-ranking talks.

The two sides had "an in-depth discussion" on the issues of improving the DPRK-U.S. relations, ensuring stability on the Korean Peninsula and resuming the six-party talks in a sincere and constructive atmosphere, the spokesman said.

During the talks, both sides recognized that the improvement of bilateral relations and the negotiated settlement of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula serve their interests and agreed to further dialogue, the spokesman said.

The DPRK delegation led by First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kim Kye Gwan held high-ranking talks with U.S. Special Representative for DPRK Policy Stephen Bosworth on July 28-29 in New York, the KCNA reported.

The DPRK said in March that the country would like to join the six-party talks on nuclear disarmament unconditionally and wouldn't reject discussions on uranium enrichment.

Russian Vice Foreign Minister Aleksei Borodavkin arrived in Pyongyang on March 11. He is also Russia's chief representative in the six-party talks, which also involve the United States, Japan, South Korea, the DPRK and China.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/xinhua/2011-08-01/content_3365819.html

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

Washington Post

SKorean Calls for NKorean "Concrete Action" before Restarting Nuke Talks

By Associated Press (AP)
Monday, August 1, 2011

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea must show it is serious about abandoning its atomic weapons programs before long-stalled disarmament negotiations can resume, South Korea's lead negotiator said Monday.

The comments by Wi Sung-lac came as North Korea's foreign ministry reiterated its call for the aid-for-disarmament talks to start soon and without preconditions.

The diplomatic maneuvering by the rival Koreas follows recent discussions between North Korean officials and their counterparts in Seoul and Washington that have led to hope that negotiations to end North Korea's nuclear aspirations could begin again.

Trying to settle the North's push to expand its arsenal of nuclear weapons has become especially urgent after bloodshed over the past year saw the two Koreas threatening war. In the 2 1/2-year break since the last round of disarmament talks, alarm has risen over two deadly attacks on South Korea that Seoul blamed on Pyongyang and a continued advancement in North Korea's nuclear work.

Issue No. 929, 1 August 2011

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Wi, speaking with foreign reporters in Seoul, indicated that despite recent cordial talks between him and his North Korean counterpart, there's still a long way to go before negotiators from the six nations involved in the formal nuclear talks can sit down again. Asked if the talks might resume this fall, he said such a timetable was "too aggressive, too ambitious."

Wi wouldn't discuss specifically what nuclear measures North Korea must take, but said "concrete action" by Pyongyang must precede a return to nuclear negotiations.

Wi said recent talks with North Korea are a positive sign. But his comments suggest that it is not clear whether North Korea is willing to give negotiators what they've wanted since the talks began in 2003: Real evidence that Pyongyang will walk away from its nuclear programs in exchange for aid and better ties with the United States and the North's neighbors.

North Korea said Monday it is prepared to carry out a past agreement to dismantle its nuclear program in exchange for aid, and called for a quick resumption of talks without preconditions. Although it is the first official word from Pyongyang since a senior North Korean diplomat visited New York last week for rare talks with U.S. counterparts, the comments repeat a long-standing North Korean call for new disarmament negotiations.

North Korea is pushing for nuclear talks ahead of celebrations next year to mark the centennial of the birth of late President Kim Il Sung, who founded the country and is the father of current leader Kim Jong Il. Pyongyang is seen as wanting a diplomatic breakthrough with the United States, its wartime adversary, as well as a peace treaty to formally end the Korean War. The country has also faced a dramatic drop in outside aid and exports due to sanctions.

After last week's talks in New York, the United States said it would consult with South Korea and other countries involved in six-nation talks. Washington characterized the meetings as exploratory, and officials from both countries described them as "constructive and businesslike."

Pyongyang pulled out of the disarmament talks in April 2009 after being condemned for launching a long-range rocket considered a violation of a ban on nuclear and missile-related activity.

The Korean peninsula remains in a technical state of war because the three-year Korean War ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, in 1953.

Tensions have been high since conservative South Korean President Lee Myung-bak took office in 2008 seeking to link aid to nuclear disarmament.

The animosity reached a peak after the North bombarded a front-line South Korean island with artillery in November, killing four people. The South also holds the North responsible for the deaths of 46 sailors on a warship that sank in March 2010, but North Korea denies the allegations.

Associated Press writer Sam Kim contributed to this report.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia-pacific/north-korea-says-it-wants-to-see-nuclear-disarmament-talks-resume-soon-without-preconditions/2011/07/31/gIQAULtQmI_story.html

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

Voice of Viet Nam News (VOV) – Viet Nam
July 30, 2011

Supports Nuclear Non-Proliferation

Vietnam persists in supporting efforts against proliferation of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction towards full disarmament, said Ambassador Le Hoai Trung.



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CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

Ambassador Trung, Head of the Delegation of Permanent Representatives of Vietnam to the UN, was speaking at the July 27-28 UN General Assembly plenary meeting on revitalising the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in New York.

As an active member of the UN, Vietnam has participated in and seriously fulfilled its obligations to significant international treaties on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the ambassador said.

In Southeast Asia, Vietnam is closely cooperating with ASEAN countries and other partners in implementing Treaty on Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, contributing to maintaining regional peace and security.

The diplomat praised CD's previous contributions and recognised recent progress in disarmament, naming the effectiveness of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) between Russia and the US in February this year and the success of the conference reviewing the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapon in May 2010.

Ambassador Trung called on CD members to early approve a working programme and set up a negotiating mechanism for four major pillars of the agenda: nuclear disarmament, ensuring nuclear security for nations without nuclear weapons, cutting down the production of nuclear fission substance and preventing an arm race in the universe with priority giving to nuclear disarmament.

The strengthening of peace and international security will create an essential environment for disarmament to progress, Trung said.

<http://english.vovnews.vn/Home/Vietnam-supports-nuclear-nonproliferation/20117/128829.vov>

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

Times of India – India

US Thinktank Raises Concerns over Pak Nuke Threat to India

By Sachin Parashar, Tamil News Network (TNN)

July 31, 2011

NEW DELHI: Congressional Research Service (CRS)), the US Congress's bipartisan thinktank for legal and political analysis, has warned in its latest report on Pakistan's nuclear programme that growing asymmetry in Indo-Pak conventional military capabilities could lead Islamabad to lower the threshold for using nuclear weapons.

The report says the Pakistani government may consider fielding lower-yield nuclear weapons to increase the credibility of its nuclear deterrent vs. Indian conventional military operations.

"In addition to making qualitative and quantitative improvements to its nuclear arsenal, Pakistan could increase the number of circumstances under which it would be willing to use its nuclear weapons," says the report titled, Pakistan's Nuclear Weapons: Proliferation and Security Issues.

As it is, Pakistan's nuclear posture is deliberately unclear with ill-defined red lines.

The intent is to keep India - and the world - guessing about under what circumstances the nuclear button will be pressed - the imminent collapse of the Pakistani state, a massive attack on its cities or even reverses near the border.

The report says, Pakistan's nuclear arsenal consists of 90-110 warheads "although it could be larger" as against India's 60-100. While acknowledging that Pakistan has taken a series of steps to prevent proliferation of nuclear technologies and material, leading to improvement in nuclear security, it says instability in the country has raised a question mark over the "extent and durability" of these reforms expressing fear of proliferation by radical sympathizers in Pakistan's nuclear establishment.

"While US and Pakistani officials continue to express confidence in controls over Pakistan's nuclear weapons, continued instability in the country could impact these safeguards," it says.

Issue No. 929, 1 August 2011

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CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
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The report goes on to say that Pakistan is not just producing more fissile material but also deploying additional delivery vehicles.

"Pakistan continues to produce fissile material for weapons and appears to be augmenting its weapons production facilities, as well as deploying additional delivery vehicles - steps that will enable both quantitative and qualitative improvements in Islamabad's nuclear arsenal," it says.

Only a few months ago, Pakistan had shocked the world as satellite images revealed that it was on the verge of completing work on the fourth reactor at Khushab, a plutonium-producing military facility. This has led to concerns in India that Pakistan is following the Chinese model of developing low-yield, tactical nuclear weapons which will provide it a "flexible" response in case of skirmishes at the border with India.

While the report says Pakistan's nuclear warheads use an implosion design with a solid core of approximately 15-20 kg of highly enriched uranium, it adds that Pakistan is also actively producing plutonium for weapons. "It appears that Islamabad is constructing two additional heavy water reactors, which will expand considerably Pakistan's plutonium production capacity, at the same site (Khushab)," it says.

Indian officials believe that the speed with which Pakistan has carried out work on the fourth reactor, a plutonium-producing facility, at Khushab could only have been made possible through a steady supply of uranium from China. There was no sign of this reactor in Khushab until 2009.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/US-thinktank-raises-concerns-over-Pak-nuke-threat-to-India/articleshow/9426112.cms>

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

The Hindu – India
Coimbatore, August 1, 2011

India Cannot Meditate When Others Are Making Nuclear Weapons: Kalam

Press Trust of India (PTI)

Justifying India's manufacture of nuclear weapons, former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on Monday said, when the countries around India were making such weapons, the nation "cannot sit and meditate".

He, however, said India was not for first use of such weapons and if anyone attempted to use one against us, the country should be prepared to face it.

"We cannot keep quiet, if anybody attacks with a nuclear missile," Mr. Kalam said.

The former President was responding to a question by a student at a youth meet.

Asked by a girl student on the steps that could be taken to prevent increasing sexual attacks on women in the country, he said there was a need to have a value system in education.

"There should be good teachers to teach high morals and build a fine character, so that such incidents gradually decrease." Mr. Kalam replied.

Addressing over 3,000 students from various colleges in and around Coimbatore and nearby Kerala, Mr. Kalam said the over 600 million youth in India have a "lot to contribute" in making the country a superpower by 2020.

Of all resources, youth was the most powerful resource for a nation, he said.

"You should have the confidence. I can do it, we can do it and India will do it," Mr. Kalam said.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/article2313530.ece>

Issue No. 929, 1 August 2011

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

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

India to Get Russian Nerpa Submarine by Yearend

1 August 2011

Russia will transfer the K-152 Nerpa attack submarine to India on a 10-year lease by the end of 2011, Navy commander Adm. Vladimir Vysotsky said on Friday.

"We will hand this submarine to the client by the year's end," Vysotsky said and emphasized that the Indian crew is completely trained to operate the submarine.

The lease contract, estimated at some \$900 million, was drawn up after an agreement between Moscow and New Delhi in January 2004, in which India agreed to fund part of the Nerpa's construction.

The Nerpa was scheduled to be introduced into the Indian Navy as INS Chakra by mid-2008 but technical problems stalled the process.

Then, shortly after the start of sea trials in November 2008, 20 sailors and technical workers were killed onboard the submarine due to a toxic gas leak when the automatic fire extinguishing system malfunctioned. After repairs, the Nerpa is now fully operational.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 1 (RIA Novosti)

http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20110701/164947339.html

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

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Russian Inspectors to Make Aerial Surveillance Flight in US

30 July 2011

A group of Russian air inspectors will make an aerial observation flight over the territory of the United States in line with the Open Skies Treaty, Russia's Defense Ministry said on Saturday.

It would be the 20th observation flight of the Russian inspectors in the states, members of the Open Skies Treaty in 2011.

"The Tupolev Tu-154M Lk-1 aircraft with a group of Russian inspectors on board will make an observation flight over the territory of the United States under the international Open Skies Treaty from July 31 to August 8," the ministry said in a statement.

According to the ministry, the Russian aircraft will take off from the Travis Air Force Base, located in California, while the maximum range of the flight will total 4,250 kilometers.

The ministry added that both the Russian and the U.S. inspectors would be on board and would control the use of the equipment and surveillance systems in accordance to the existing agreements.

The Open Skies Treaty, signed in 1992 at the initiative of U.S. President George H.W. Bush, established a regime of unarmed aerial observation flights over the territories of its 34 member states to promote openness and the transparency of military forces and activities.

The treaty entered into force on January 1, 2002 and its regime covers the national territories (land, islands, and internal and territorial waters) of all the treaty signatory states. It is an important element of the European security structure.



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MOSCOW, July 30 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20110730/165467398.html>

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

Merco Press – Uruguay
Monday, August 1st, 2011

Argentina Planning a “Nuclear Powered” Submarine with Conventional Weapons

Argentina is considering the development of “nuclear propulsion” for its diesel-engine submarines, according to Defence minister Arturo Puricelli. The initiative follows a request from President Cristina Fernandez and is closely linked to Brazil’s construction of a first nuclear powered submersible with French technology.

“President Cristina Kirchner has requested us to come up with a nuclear propulsion development project for our submarines” revealed Defence minister Puricelli during a conference. He added that Argentina has the “capacity to develop nuclear propulsion for submarines”.

“This means that when the submarine ARA Santa Fe, which has been waiting for some years leaves the shipyard she will not do it with its original propulsion but with nuclear propulsion developed in Argentina”, pointed out the Ministry in an official release following the minister’s announcement.

Puricelli also revealed that another submarine, ARA San Juan is already half re-furbished, “after spending years virtually idle and non operational”.

The Argentine project for a “Submarine with nuclear propulsion and conventional weapons” was actually launched a year ago when it was anticipated that Argentina was working on the possibility of developing a nuclear reactor to install in submarines.

Argentina’s National Atomic Energy Commission and the National Institute for space and nuclear technology apparently have already finished designing the CAREM reactor so that it can be adapted to the prototype of the future submarine, the TR model, one of the three that were purchased by Argentina in the eighties from Germany’s Thyssen.

Still partly in crates in the Domecq García shipyard, the ARA Santa Fé apparently has been 75% assembled after spending over two decades “resting” in dozens of containers. Latest estimates are that it should be ready as a conventional platform for 2015, and from then on efforts will be concentrated in the instalment of the nuclear reactor.

However there have been warnings from undisclosed Argentine naval sources which consider the project ‘pharaonic and disproportionate’ given current budget resources for Defence plus the fact that the TR hull is “unviable in space and density to lodge a nuclear reactor”.

Nuclear power allows submarines to move faster and have greater autonomy than those propelled by the conventional diesel-electric engines.

In mid July Brazil formally announced the beginning of the construction in Rio shipyards of the first of four conventional French Scorpones submarines, at a cost of 565 million dollars each, which should be operational by 2016.

Following on the conventional units Brazil will begin the construction of its first nuclear powered submarine with French technology, as a result of the nuclear cooperation agreement signed by President Nicholas Sarkozy with his peer then, Lula da Silva.

Issue No. 929, 1 August 2011

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Brazil is beefing up its naval (surface and submersible) and air resources in anticipation of the development of its massive offshore hydrocarbons resources.

<http://en.mercopress.com/2011/08/01/argentina-planning-a-nuclear-powered-submarine-with-conventional-weapons>

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

New York Times

July 29, 2011

Nuclear-Detection Effort Is Halted as Ineffective

By DAVID E. SANGER

ASPEN, Colo. — The Obama administration has quietly canceled a much-criticized billion-dollar program to equip ports across the United States with detectors to pick out radioactive material and nuclear weapons being shipped into the country, after acknowledging that the devices did not work.

The decision amounts to a major setback for an effort begun by the Bush administration after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, to ease fears that terrorist groups could easily slip nuclear weapons or the parts to build them into one of the millions of cargo containers that enter the country each year.

While the Obama administration has not publicly announced the decision, Warren Stern, the director of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, a branch of the Department of Homeland Security, said in Congressional testimony this week that the program “will not proceed as originally envisioned.”

On Friday, speaking at the Aspen Security Conference in Colorado, Mr. Stern went considerably further, confirming that the development of the devices, the Advanced Spectroscopic Portal monitors, had been halted after a blistering report from the National Academy of Sciences in January declared that the technology was not working and that its development had been badly handled by the government. The New York Times is a media partner of the conference.

President George W. Bush, visiting ports around America, would often hail the program as an example of how a new focus on domestic security was making it harder for terrorists to smuggle in radiological material or weapons.

But the physics of detecting materials inside metal containers turned out to be far more difficult than many experts expected. The first rather crude radiation detectors installed at ports were incapable of detecting materials that were only lightly shielded. In Los Angeles, one of the nation’s busiest container ports, there were hundreds of false alarms each day, set off by Chinese toilets, granite countertops and even bananas.

The next step was an effort to develop detection equipment that the containers could be driven through. But the program chosen by the Bush administration and inherited by the Obama administration was enormously costly — each new machine cost \$800 million — and the results were no better.

The program came under withering criticism from Senator Joseph I. Lieberman of Connecticut, who held hearings showing that the hundreds of millions of dollars being spent by the government were largely wasted. “The bottom line is that the A.S.P. program has cost the department five years in the race to strengthen the nation’s domestic defenses against nuclear terrorism,” Mr. Lieberman said this week.

Mr. Stern said the United States would be more dependent on hand-held wands to scan cargo. But it can take hours to scan a container using a wand, and if all cargo was inspected, shipments into the United States would slow to a near halt.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/30/us/30nuke.html>

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



Star-Telegram – Ft. Worth, TX

Pantex Plant Intends to Continue Nuclear Weapons Work for Decades

Saturday, July 30, 2011

By Anna M. Tinsley

AMARILLO -- Deep in the Texas Panhandle, farmland sprawls as far as the eye can see, dotted by the occasional wind farm and herd of cattle.

It feels like the heart of the middle of nowhere.

Tucked away in the vastness is one of the nation's most heavily secured facilities, an 18,000-acre complex that houses thousands of the most dangerous weapons ever made.

The Cold War is long over, but hundreds of employees still toil at the nation's only nuclear weapon assembly and disassembly facility, Pantex, about 17 miles northeast of Amarillo.

"The work we do is important, and there's a demand for it," said Greg Cunningham, a Pantex spokesman. "We help ensure the nation's defense."

Through the years, workers at this plant have dismantled and assembled thousands of nuclear weapons, handling some of the most hazardous materials, including uranium and plutonium, key ingredients in making atomic bombs. They've worked with weapons ranging from U.S. B-61 nuclear gravity bombs to W56 Minuteman II warheads.

Numerous weapons and nuclear materials are stored in this remote area, including plutonium in bunkers covered by mounds of earth.

Security at this remote facility -- a matter of national security -- is at a premium.

Pantex has its own paramilitary force, which protects and monitors the facility. Warning signs hang on barbed-wire fences that surround the plant's land, which is constantly monitored. "Danger. Deadly force is authorized beyond this point," reads one sign near an entrance.

"Our security force is one of the best-trained, best-equipped in the world," Cunningham said. "They are here 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They never shut down, and they are supplemented by dozens of security systems.

"This really is one of the most secure facilities in the country and probably in the world," he said. "Our neighbors demand that of us."

Information about the work that goes on behind these walls, at the facility managed and operated for the Energy Department/National Nuclear Security Administration by B&W Pantex, is as tightly guarded as the plant.

Opened in World War II

Pantex -- shorthand for Panhandle of Texas -- opened in 1942 with workers loading and packing artillery shells and building bombs for the Army during World War II.

After the war, the facility closed, and the land was used for several years by Texas Technological College in Lubbock (now Texas Tech University) for cattle feeding.

By 1951, the facility was reopened, this time as a place to handle nuclear weapons, high explosive and non-nuclear component assembly operations. But people didn't talk much about what happened at the plant.

The work was kept so much under wraps that many neighbors in nearby communities, including Amarillo, didn't know what was happening. At one point, area residents called Pantex the "soap factory" -- during a period when



the facility was operated by Procter & Gamble -- even though they knew workers were making something other than soap.

"Back then, they didn't talk about what happened here," plant historian Monica Graham said.

Through the years, the facility gained responsibilities, and by the 1960s, the Atomic Energy Commission became involved, moving various weapons and high-explosive missions here.

Pantex workers assembled thousands of nuclear weapons during the Cold War. The last brand-new nuclear weapon was finished in 1991, but workers have dismantled thousands of weapons retired by the military since then.

Officials say the plant today has three basic missions: ensuring the safety of the stockpile of nuclear weapons, nonproliferation (which includes dismantling weapons, storing plutonium pits and extending the life of some weapons); and safeguarding and securing the weapons and the plant where they are stored.

They say their goal is to make sure that as long as nuclear weapons exist, the U.S. keeps "a safe, secure and effective arsenal to deter any adversary, and guarantee that defense to the nation's allies."

"This is serious work, and we take it seriously," Cunningham said.

Workers dismantle surplus nuclear weapons and store materials such as plutonium on an interim basis. They periodically pull weapons from the stockpile to do inspections and tests to see how they function. And through a "life extension program," they take weapons apart weapons, perform maintenance on them and refurbish them to extend their life span.

Since a sister plant in Burlington, Iowa, closed in 1975, Pantex has been the only plant of its type.

"We have a mission that's going to continue for a very long time," Cunningham said. "Just the decommissioning of the weapons is a long-term commitment.

"The work is going to be there, we are confident, for decades."

Watchdogs galore

Incidents at Pantex, ranging from water contamination to a temporary lockdown after hunters got too close, tend to draw national attention because of the facility's mission.

One of the more notable occurred in 1977, when three workers died during an accidental detonation of plastic explosives.

Within a few years, the Red River Peace Network started protesting outside the Pantex gates, followed by the nuclear watchdog group Peace Farm, which set up camp near the facility in the late 1980s.

In the early 1990s, chemical pollution from Pantex's weapons plant allegedly seeped into a domestic well on a ranch that draws water from the Ogallala aquifer, the underground water supply for Amarillo. The Environmental Protection Agency named the plant a Superfund site, signaling that the pollution needed a nationally mandated cleanup. Pantex officials say the contamination has been addressed.

After 9-11, security was increased. Officials don't say what the increase in security detailed, but armed soldiers patrol the perimeter, the grounds are marked by warning signs, and messages to employees are posted inside, warning workers that if they misplace credentials, they may give a "potential terrorist" easy access to the plant.

In recent years, Energy Department reports cited problems such as workers risking an explosion by taping together cracked pieces of high explosives being removed from a nuclear warhead, grenade launchers being tossed out and an aircraft-detection system giving off false alarms.



At one point, hundreds of union guards were on strike after contract negotiations failed amid concerns about the facility being vulnerable to an attack. Supervisors and workers from other federal sites helped secure the area until the workforce was back in place.

Last year, two goose hunters inadvertently caused a lockdown at the facility. It turned out the hunters -- Energy Department employees assigned to the plant who were not on plant property -- were reported to security by employees heading in to work at Pantex. After an investigation, Pantex officials said the security issue had been resolved and they were simply responding to workers' concerns.

Nuclear concerns

"I'm concerned about the materials out there," said state Rep. Lon Burnam, D-Fort Worth, and a critic of nuclear proliferation. "Something possibly could happen out there. They could be vulnerable."

More than that, Burnam said he believes that building new nuclear bombs is "a huge waste of money."

"I have spent days over decades trying to redirect the efforts of what's going on at Pantex," he said. "People are talking about the national debt. Let's talk about ending the unnecessary production of really expensive nuclear weapons that we can never use and should never use."

Mavis Belisle, a former director of the Peace Farm in Amarillo who has moved to Dallas, said she is troubled by the Pantex facility and its mission.

"I'm concerned by the fact we are maintaining and improving, modifying and upgrading, our nuclear weapons arsenal at a time when it doesn't make the world any safer," said Belisle, who served as director of the Peace Farm for 17 years.

Even though she no longer is setting up camp near Pantex, she said she remains worried about everything from environmental contamination at the plant to wildfires in the hot, dry Panhandle that could reach the nuclear weapons stored at Pantex.

"The concerns are real," she said.

Cunningham said the facility is safe.

"There is no credible situation where there could be a nuclear explosion," he said.

'A normal part of life'

Pantex officials say their security force keeps the facility safe, as do the Pantex Fire Department and ambulance service.

These employees, especially the Fire Department and ambulance service, also help out with emergencies that arise in the Panhandle.

Officials say they are trying to be a positive presence in Panhandle communities, employing about 3,300 people, pumping \$1 billion a year in economic impact into the region and becoming involved in community efforts such as United Way. The company encourages employees to volunteer in communities, sponsors dozens of educational programs and funds a scholarship program, among other activities.

"It has been out here for decades and no one thinks about it, other than it's there and it's a good place to look for jobs," said Tristan Sutterfield, 29, who has lived in Amarillo all his life. "It's far enough out of town that it doesn't bother anyone. It's a normal part of life."

Some say there was a lot of talk after 9-11 about rumors that the facility might have been on a terrorist target list.

"That's the only time it really came up," said Carmen Garza, 50, of Amarillo. "We don't know how much nuclear [materials] there are out there."



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"So far, thank the Lord, we haven't had any big concerns."

<http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/07/30/3258291/pantex-plant-intends-to-continue.html>

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

Strategy Page

Super Sensitive Small Missile Detector

August 1, 2011

Two years ago, the United States put into orbit a pair of experimental STSS (Space Tracking and Surveillance System) satellites. These have better heat sensors and are there to provide earlier warning of ballistic missile launches, so that anti-missiles to hit ballistic missiles earlier, and with a higher probability of destroying them. STSS can also track other satellites, making it easier to destroy enemy satellites in wartime. STSS recently demonstrated an ability to detect short range, air-launched missiles.

STSS is another component of the BMEWS (ballistic missile early warning system). The half century old system uses radars and satellites to monitor the planet for ballistic missile launchers (specifically ICBMs, but any large missile launch is detected.) If STSS passes more tests, it will become part of a new generation of BMEWS satellites.

Early on, BMEWS consisted of long range radars that could spot warheads coming over the North Pole (from Russia). When SSBNs (ballistic missile carrying nuclear subs) entered the Russian arsenal in the 1970s, BMEWS was augmented by satellites equipped with heat sensors that could detect the enormous amount of heat generated by a ballistic missile launch (or any large explosion, like an above-ground nuclear weapons test). These satellites cover the entire planet, while the radars only cover part of the Middle East. In all, 23 of these DSP (Defense Support Program) satellites have been launched (the latest four years ago). The 2.3 ton DSP birds are being replaced by SBIRS (Space-Based Infrared System), a network of four stationary orbit (like DSP) and 24 low orbit, heat sensing (infrared) satellites that will provide more detail than the DSP birds. SBIRS should be fully operational in another few years.

The United States has agreed to provide Israel with access to its BMEWS. Twice before, in 1991 and 2003, the U.S. allowed Israel to plug into BMEWS (to get warning of Iraqi missile launches). This time around, BMEWS will give Israel warning about any Iranian ballistic missiles headed west.

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htspace/articles/20110801.aspx>

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

The Colorado Independent

White House Adviser: Time Is Now to Take Out Terror

By Troy Hooper

August 1, 2011

Small-scale terrorism attacks may be here to stay but with al Qaeda reeling from Osama bin Laden's death, the United States could deliver a "knockout" blow to the terror group if several of its senior leaders are captured or killed, according to homeland security experts who spoke in Aspen last week.

Douglas E. Lute, the White House's top national security adviser on Pakistan, told an audience at the Aspen Security Forum on Friday, "This is a period of turbulence for our arch enemy. ... In this succession period there are three to five key leaders of al Qaeda that if they were removed from the battlefield ... it would seriously degrade al Qaeda's ability to regenerate. This is the time to double down on the opportunity to defeat al Qaeda. We need to go for the knockout punch."

Issue No. 929, 1 August 2011

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Over the next six months, the retired three-star Army general declared “we have a chance of a lifetime” to cripple the world’s most infamous terror organization. He said that the United States has shared with Pakistan the names of the senior al Qaeda leaders it is targeting, but other than Ayman al-Zawahri, bin Laden’s longtime deputy and successor, Lute declined to identify the terrorists for the Aspen audience.

“Taking out this last core element of al Qaeda is also in Pakistan’s interests,” he added.

Lute’s statements are among the most candid yet regarding the nation’s counterterrorism strategy since President Obama ordered commandos to take out bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan, on May 2.

But even if U.S. forces were to “strategically defeat” al Qaeda, the specter of terrorism will not end, according to Michael E. Leiter, the recently retired director of the National Counterterrorism Center.

Speaking publicly for the first time since resigning his post last month, Leiter at the Aspen Security Forum said there is “an element of violent extremists that we don’t have a perfect way of defeating.”

He pointed to the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, which tried and failed to bomb Times Square last year, as one such organization independent of al Qaeda. He also cited groups in Somalia and Yemen, as well as homegrown extremists in the United States, as enemies that “we need to have in our crosshairs.”

“The threat we saw in 2001 is not the threat we face today,” Leiter said.

Whereas bin Laden obsessed with the spectacular when plotting attacks against the Western world, the new engineers of terrorism are satisfied with small-scale attacks that can yield massive results.

“You don’t need a 9/11 to have an enormous emotional impact on a country. ... You don’t need a 9/11 to have enormous geopolitical impacts,” he said, recalling how the coordinated bombings and shootings in Mumbai in November 2008 nearly provoked a war between India and Pakistan.

While other experts at the Aspen forum maintained that the consensus among those in security intelligence is that the United States faces no greater or urgent danger than an attack with a nuclear weapon, Leiter said chemical or biological weapons are more likely to kill Americans. Using an easy-to-concoct poison such as ricin, he said, would be an effective way for terrorists to galvanize fear.

“Is it going to kill many people? No. Is it going to scare people? Yes,” he said.

Leiter, who spent five years directing the National Counterterrorism Center, said that both President Bush and President Obama in his experience “were unbelievably focused on” homeland security.

He predicted that despite the nation’s best efforts, terrorists will strike the United States again.

“The American people do need to understand that at least the smaller-scale terrorist attacks are with us for the foreseeable future,” Leiter said. “The way that we fundamentally defeat that threat, which is very difficult to stop in its entirety, is to maintain a culture of resilience. Although this threat of terrorism is real and there will be tragic events that lead to the deaths of innocent people, it is not, in my view, an existential threat to our society unless we respond to this threat in an unhealthy way.”

<http://coloradoindependent.com/95190/white-house-adviser-time-is-now-to-take-out-terror>

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

The Hindu

BEIJING, August 1, 2011

Xinjiang Attackers Trained in Pakistan, Says China

By Ananth Krishnan

Issue No. 929, 1 August 2011

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The Chinese government on Monday blamed a group of extremists trained in terror camps in Pakistan for orchestrating this weekend's violence in the far-western Xinjiang region that left at least 20 people dead.

An initial probe into the violence had found the attackers "had learned skills of making explosives and firearms in overseas camps of the terrorist group East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) in Pakistan", the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The revelation of Pakistani links to the weekend's violence, the worst to hit Xinjiang since the riots in July 2009, came as the Pakistani media reported that the chief of Pakistan's ISI, Lieutenant-General Shuja Pasha, had arrived in Beijing on Monday on a "secret visit".

Asked if the ISI chief was on a visit to Beijing, Pakistan military spokesman Athar Abbas told The Hindu in Islamabad: "Not to my knowledge".

Officials in Beijing neither confirmed nor denied reports of the ISI chief's trip, though Chinese analysts told The Hindu that the two countries would certainly discuss counterterrorism cooperation in the wake of the Xinjiang attacks.

In Islamabad, the Pakistan Foreign Office said it would "continue to extend its full cooperation and support" to China against the ETIM.

Pakistani officials, however, said no official communication had been received from Beijing over the attacks.

An official in the Xinjiang government's regional information office told The Hindu that an investigation into the involvement of overseas terrorist groups in the attacks was still under way.

The official added that the government was focused on strengthening security arrangements in coming weeks, ahead of a China-Eurasia fair that would be held in Urumqi, Xinjiang's regional capital, on September 1. Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari is expected to attend the event, though his attendance has not yet been confirmed. Rong Ying, vice-president of the China Institute of International Studies, a think-tank affiliated to the Foreign Ministry, said cooperation between China and Pakistan on counterterrorism was "one of the priority areas" for the relationship.

"A visit by Lieutenant-General Pasha will provide a very good opportunity to strengthen cooperation in the wake of these terrorist attacks," he said. "There are terrorist camps, though we are not sure whether in Afghanistan or Pakistan, so it very important for China and other countries in [the] region to strengthen cooperation, particularly if there is any evidence that these activities can be traced to these camps."

Knife attacks and blasts on Saturday and Sunday rocked the city of Kashgar, which is a few hours' travel from China's border with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) along the Karakoram Highway.

On Sunday, six people were killed and 15, including three policemen, injured, when attackers armed with knives targeted a restaurant in downtown Kashgar. Five of the reported attackers were shot dead by the police. The state-run Global Times newspaper, citing an eyewitness, said the attackers were armed with guns.

Sunday's violence came after eight people were killed and 27 injured on Saturday night when two armed suspects hijacked a truck and rammed pedestrians before attacking them with knives near a street market. Two blasts were also reported on Saturday, near the scene of the attack.

The incidents followed a July 21 attack on a police station in Hotan, also in Xinjiang, which killed at least 18 people. The government initially put the blame on "rioters" but later described the incident as "a severely violent terrorism case".

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/article2312879.ece>

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



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Washington Times
OPINION/Commentary

KAHLILI: Iranian Missiles Could Soon Reach U.S. Shores

Mullahs' navy equips ships for attacks from Atlantic

By Reza Kahlili, Washington Times

July 29, 2011

While America focuses on its internal problems and its involvement in three wars and the world focuses on the global economy, Iran is progressing on three dangerous fronts: nuclear weapons, armed missiles and naval capability.

Despite four sets of United Nations sanctions and pressure by the United States and Europe, Iran has chosen not only to continue its nuclear program but to expand it. Iran's leaders, dominated by fanatical mullahs, announced in mid-July that the installment of faster centrifuges had begun and that they will soon triple the production of enriched uranium to 20 percent at the Fardo nuclear facility deep in the mountain near the city of Qom. It is estimated that Iran will have enough highly enriched uranium for one nuclear bomb within two months and currently has enough low-enriched uranium for three nuclear bombs.

Iran is also perfecting its missile-delivery systems. Recently, the Revolutionary Guards held war games in which they launched several long-range ballistic missiles from missile silos. They also successfully tested two long-range ballistic missiles, capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, into the Indian Ocean. The guards' ballistic missiles have a range of 1,200 miles, covering all U.S. bases in the Middle East and all of Israel, and now they possess missiles from North Korea with a range of 2,000 miles, which covers most of Western Europe.

The Iranian navy has also been busy expanding its operation on the orders of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has emphasized the navy's strategic importance in protecting the Islamic republic's interests and confronting its enemies.

In February, for the first time in three decades, two Iranian naval vessels passed through the Suez Canal en route to Syria. Iran's navy then successfully expanded its mission in the Indian Ocean, and its submarines completed a two-month-long mission in the Red Sea.

In an alarming July 18 statement, Rear Adm. Habibollah Sayyari said the Iranian navy plans on deploying warships in the Atlantic Ocean as part of a program to ply international waters, although he did not say where in the Atlantic the ships would be sent. Two days later, Rear Adm. Seyed Mahmoud Mousavi revealed for the first time that the Iranian navy has equipped a number of its logistic vessels and units with long-range surface-to-surface missiles. He stated, "Missile frigates and destroyers have been equipped with these missiles since a long time ago, and the surface-to-surface missiles of the logistic vessels were successfully tested and assessed during the recent naval war games, dubbed as Joushan."

More ominous is the warning by the chief commander of the Revolutionary Guards, Mohammad Ali Jafari: "Currently, we are seeking to utilize our defensive capabilities in open seas. And it means that if the enemy plans to pose a threat to the Islamic republic, Iran is capable of taking reciprocal action, and this strategy is currently on our agenda."

The Revolutionary Guards have successfully test-launched long-range ballistic missiles from a ship before, so the statement that they are arming some of the vessels with such missiles should worry the United States. An Iranian navy ship or any commercial vessel operated by the Iranians could easily launch a missile from outside the Gulf of Mexico and essentially cover most of the United States. Much more alarming is the fact that once in possession of a nuclear bomb, Iran could successfully carry out its promise to bring America to its knees by a successful electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack on America.

Issue No. 929, 1 August 2011

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"One nightmare scenario posed by the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States From Electromagnetic Pulse [Attack] was a ship-launched EMP attack against the United States by Iran, as this would eliminate the need for Iran to develop an ICBM to deliver a nuclear warhead against the U.S. and could be executed clandestinely, taking the U.S. by surprise. Because an EMP attack entails detonating a nuclear weapon at high altitude, in space, it leaves no bomb debris for forensic analysis, no fingerprints identifying the attacker. We might never figure out who hit us, assuming the nation survives and recovers from an EMP attack," warns Peter Vincent Pry, president of EMPact America, who served on the congressional EMP commission.

The West has tried for years to negotiate with the radicals ruling Iran with the hope that they would halt their nuclear-weapons program. However, the Islamic regime has turned down every incentive offered, and its officials have openly stated that there is nothing the West can do to stop their nuclear program.

With the world's economy on the line and terrorism a major concern, global stability and security should be the top priority for world leaders. For that reason alone, the Iranian regime, which supports worldwide terrorism, not to mention the many Iranian officials wanted by Interpol, should not be allowed to have nuclear weapons.

A nuclear-armed Iran will change our world with horrific consequences.

Reza Kahlili is a pseudonym for an ex-CIA spy who requires anonymity for safety reasons. He is the author of "A Time to Betray," about his double life as a CIA agent in Iran's Revolutionary Guards (Simon & Schuster, 2010).

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jul/29/iranian-missiles-could-soon-reach-us-shores/>

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

Wall Street Journal

OPINION/Notable & Quotable

July 30, 2011

Nuclear Zero? Why Not Nuclear Infinity?

The world would not be safer if the U.S. had no nuclear weapons.

By MATTHEW KROENIG

The international Global Zero movement has captured the imagination of people around the world. Proponents argue that by cutting its nuclear arsenal dramatically, the U.S. can lead the way to a "world free of nuclear weapons."

In response, many of the world's leading strategic thinkers—both those skeptical of, and hopeful for, eventual global nuclear disarmament—have invested great time and energy imagining the possible advantages and disadvantages of living in a world with zero nuclear weapons.

To reframe the debate, I propose an alternate number as a possible size for the U.S. nuclear arsenal: infinity.

Imagining a world in which America possesses infinite nuclear weapons—just as advocates of nuclear zero imagine the opposite—it's hard not to conclude that having infinite weapons is preferable to having none.

The primary purpose of the U.S. nuclear arsenal is to deter our enemies and assure our friends. No adversary would be restrained by the fear of attack from a nonexistent nuclear arsenal. But the prospect of fighting an adversary with unlimited nuclear firepower would induce much more caution even in our most reckless enemies.

Many of our allies today worry that if we continue to cut the size of our arsenal, we won't have enough nuclear forces to extend the nuclear umbrella to them and retain a large enough reserve capacity to simultaneously deter challenges against ourselves. Drawing down to zero would greatly exacerbate those fears. Building to infinity would put them to rest.

Issue No. 929, 1 August 2011

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Some claim that the primary reason to reduce our nuclear weapons is to convince leaders in other capitals that if we don't need nuclear weapons, they don't either. But building to infinity could also dissuade proliferation by convincing countries that they have no hope of ever achieving nuclear parity with the U.S.

Of course, building to infinity would strain the national budget, and maintaining the arsenal could present real security problems, especially regarding command and control. Nevertheless, if forced to choose, the United States would be more secure with infinite nuclear weapons than with none.

Let me be clear. I'm not advocating that the United States build an infinite number of nuclear weapons. That is an absurd and arbitrary goal. But so is zero.

Having dispensed with the extremes of the debate, it is time for serious strategists to get back to the hard work of deciding what roles and missions nuclear weapons ought to have in U.S. defense policy, and what nuclear force structure is appropriate for achieving them.

Mr. Kroenig is professor of government at Georgetown University and an affiliate with the Project on Managing the Atom at Harvard's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. He is the author of "Exporting the Bomb: Technology Transfer and the Spread of Nuclear Weapons" (Cornell University, 2010).

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111903554904576464571545999158.html>

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

Pakistan Observer – Pakistan

OPINION/Comment

Sunday, July 31, 2011

Killing of Scientist

By Dr. Abid Rauf Orakzai

The assassination of Iranian nuclear physicist is condemned in all possible terms. Nobody would have ever imagined that American and Zionist lobby will degrade themselves to such level. Killing human being that too a scientist mercilessly by the guardian of so called civilized world is sufficient to prove that the worst terrorist on earth is American and their adopted son Israel. It is surprising that Muslim world is silent spectator in watching Iran isolation. The only fault of Iranians is that they have established a system of Islam in their territory.

Secondly Iran is always active against Israel in favour of Palestinian. But it is the duty of every Muslim state to provide assistance to Palestinian, who are being estranged in their own homeland. America and Israel are sure once Iran will acquire nuclear weapon that day would be the last day of Israel on earth. Therefore they are targeting Iranian scientist. Iran will have to provide foolproof security to its scientists like Pakistan did for Dr AQ Khan and his team to achieve practical mile stone in nuclear technology.

—Hangu

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=106224>

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

FARS News Agency – Iran

OPINION/Analysis

Sunday, July 31, 2011

Afghan Analyst: US Seeking to Find Control over Pakistan's N. Installations

Issue No. 929, 1 August 2011

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
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USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
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TEHRAN (FNA) - A senior Afghan analyst warned that the US attempt to place the name of the Pakistan's Taliban group in the UN Security Council's blacklist is aimed at gaining control over Pakistan's nuclear installations.

"The US intends to exaggerate the danger of Islamic fundamentalism in Pakistan by registering the name of the Pakistani Taliban in the (UNSC) blacklist in a bid to pave the ground for dominating Pakistan's nuclear installations," Vahid Mojdeh told FNA on Sunday.

He further downplayed the possible effects of blacklisting the Pakistani Taliban on the promotion of security in Pakistan, and said the measure will merely widen the military presence of the US in the region.

Earlier reports had also indicated that Washington is seeking to sabotage and damage Pakistan's nuclear facilities in a bid to undermine the country's security and sovereignty and prolong its military presence in the region.

"We have precise information that the US is seeking to sabotage Pakistan's nuclear facilities in a move to weaken the Pakistani nation and government to dominate that country," Ahmadinejad said in a press conference in Tehran in June.

He also underlined that Americans also want to use the UN Security Council and other international bodies and organizations as a leverage to pave the way for their extended military deployment in the region and also to weaken Pakistan's national sovereignty.

Ahmadinejad's remarks came after NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said that security of Pakistan's nuclear weapons is a matter of concern.

"I feel confident that Pakistan's nuclear arsenal is safe and well protected," said Rasmussen late May, but meantime added, "But of course it is a matter of concern and we follow the situation closely."

Senior officials in Islamabad have repeatedly dismissed such concerns, saying Pakistani nukes are in safe hands.

Analysts say the US and its Western allies are preparing the grounds for widespread military presence in Pakistan.

They also believe the US is looking for an excuse to expand its military operations in the troubled Southern and Central Asian regions to secure its bases near Russia and China.

This comes as India and Pakistan have been locked in intense rivalry since they gained independence from Britain in 1947.

India and Pakistan have occasionally tested conventional and unconventional weapons over the past years.

New Delhi conducted its first nuclear test in 1974, followed by five more in 1998. Islamabad conducted its sixth nuclear tests in 1998.

Both neighbors have refused to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and other international treaties that restrict the development or testing of nuclear weapons.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=9005090765>

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

Boston Globe
OPINION/Analysis

The Coming Wars

Obama's cyber strategy is missing the strategy

By Richard Clarke

July 31, 2011

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IMAGINE IF President Kennedy issued a nuclear war strategy in the 1960s that omitted the fact that we had nuclear weapons, B-52 bombers, and long-range missiles. What if his public strategy had just talked about fallout shelters and protecting the government? As absurd as that would have been, that is similar to what the Obama administration just did with regard to the nation's cyber war strategy. The strategy doesn't even admit that we have cyber weapons.

Under pressure from Congress and commentators to provide a strategy for how the new US Cyber Command will use its "cyber war fighters," the administration recently issued a strategy that was met with barely stifled yawns from cyber experts and military strategists. Apparently, that was the intent. The State Department wanted to avoid charges that the United States was "militarizing" cyberspace, or that we were the first to conduct cyber war (the attack on the Iranian nuclear facility at Natanz). And the White House wanted to avoid any public discussion of cyber war or our strategy to fight one.

What got issued were five "strategic initiatives." First, the United States will "treat cyberspace as a domain," but only for the purposes of organizing, training, and equipping. There is nothing in the initiative about treating it as a domain for war fighting.

Second, the Pentagon will employ new defense concepts "to protect" the Department of Defense. Apparently, those new concepts won't protect the rest of us.

Third, Defense will partner with other departments and the private sector "to enable a whole of government cyber security strategy." It's not a "whole country" strategy, just government.

Fourth, the Pentagon will build "robust relations" with other countries.

Finally, Defense will "leverage ingenuity" to create an exceptional workforce and make rapid technology advances.

While it may be difficult to object to those platitudes, it is also hard to call them a strategy. For one thing, they don't even mention that the United States has an offensive cyber war capability. Somehow that was omitted from the 13-page unclassified document dribbled out by the Pentagon.

Retiring General James E. Cartwright, the vice chairman of the joint staff, worked on the strategy and has since said that current approach of just trying to plug the holes in our networks does not punish attackers for their rampant cyber espionage against us. As head of US Cyber Command, General Keith B. Alexander has talked about a strategy of "active defense" that suggests that the United States engage in preemptive cyber attacks. Both generals have bemoaned the inability of the civilian departments and the private sector to defend critical US networks (like banking, electricity, and transportation) and have suggested the military may have to defend those networks.

Congress should demand answers to questions like: What is the role of cyber war in US military strategy? Is it acceptable to do "preparation of the battlefield" by lacing other countries' networks with "Trojan horses" or "back doors" in peacetime? Would the United States consider a preemptive cyber attack on another nation? If so, under what circumstances? Does US Cyber Command have a plan to seize control and defend private sector networks in a crisis? Do the rules of engagement for cyber war allow for military commanders to engage in "active defense" under some circumstances? Are there types of targets we will not attack, such as banks or hospitals? If so, how can we assure that they are not the victims of collateral damage from US cyber attacks?

That last question, about collateral damage, is no longer theoretical. The so-called Stuxnet cyber weapon, which attacked and destroyed nuclear centrifuges in Iran, escaped into cyberspace. This sophisticated cyber weapon was then captured by many computer experts around the world and is now freely available for anyone to download. It raises the specter of whether non-state actors will soon be able to engage in cyber war.

During his confirmation hearings, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta voiced concern about the possibility of a "digital Pearl Harbor" that would cripple our electric power grid, banks, and transportation networks.



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Now that he is in the Pentagon, he might want to suggest to the State Department and the White House that it is time to treat the American people like adults and have a real public discussion of our cyber war strategy.

Richard Clarke, an adjunct faculty member at Harvard's Kennedy School, is author of "Cyber War." He was special adviser on cyber security to President George W. Bush.

http://www.boston.com/news/politics/articles/2011/07/31/the_coming_cyber_wars/

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

Khaleej Times – U.A.E.

OPINION

The Decoding of Pyongyang

Sunny Lee (World View)

1 August 2011

After a rare inter-Korean nuclear meet-up in Bali, a top nuclear negotiator from North Korea arrived in the US to gauge if six-party talks can resume.

China is host to talks that aim to dissuade the North's nuclear ambition. In fact, China's role has been highlighted as much as the North's provocations in international headlines.

Pundits have long viewed China as having the capacity to contain Pyongyang's belligerence. With rumours of another North Korean nuclear test making the rounds, to engineer legitimacy of the young heir, the usual call to China to rein in its North Korean ally may not be far.

How much influence China has over Pyongyang's policy remains, to quote Winston Churchill, "a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma." Behind the mystery, there's a simple truth: China will do exactly what its long-term interest dictates and not be swayed by entreaties of any power. Popular commentary on Sino-North Korean relations suggests that China wields decisive influence on North Korea. A longtime mantra of the US State Department holds that China is the key to North Korean belligerence. How much influence China has over North Korea is still debated among experts. Chinese influence will ultimately depend on Beijing's calculation of its national interests. That's the only certainty.

This bedrock principle often eludes outside commentators' scrutiny, and, as a result, Sino-North Korean relations often mystify the international audience.

China is seen as the major culprit that props the North Korean regime, functioning as its long-time enabler, providing food and fuel aid, neutralising the UN sanctions. The international community has been perplexed by why China, a G2 member and "responsible stakeholder," is so obsessed with a blip on the world map.

However, the alarm that China doesn't do enough to contain North Korea's provocations is a manufactured reality with a strategic purpose – more a reflection of US policy frustration rather than an objective analysis of China's foreign-policy objectives, which should serve the national interests.

The Chinese national goal is to continue its rise as a global superpower. This requires a stable security environment in its neighbourhood, especially the Korean Peninsula. Simply put, China wants to keep its backyard quiet. This offers a guide in decoding China's foreign-policy logic on North Korea.

For the foreseeable future, that means China will be status-quo oriented: It needs to be prodded before it acts, as in US-led campaigns to intercept illegal arms sales by North Korea, and will be unenthusiastic to join an international initiative that attempts to radically change the status quo on the Korean Peninsula. On the other hand, China will act proactively when perceiving signs of instability in North Korea – it invited North Korean leader Kim Jong Il three times in one year.

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Four other pointers help in understanding China's foreign policy behaviour on North Korea:

Firstly, China will act in a way that fosters the stability of the North regime. By providing North Korea with economic incentives, China wants to stabilise North Korea amid a volatile transition process from Kim Jong Il to his third and youngest son, still in his 20s.

Secondly, China provides economic incentives to North Korea so that the North doesn't resort to military adventurism that can destabilise the region, for instance, arms provocations against South Korea. Chinese experts call it "buying peace" from North Korea.

Thirdly, as seen in China's behaviour during the two violent incidents last year, China is not likely to rebuke North Korea in matters that could compromise its own interests. China did not join the international community in condemning North Korea in the aftermath of the Cheonan incident involving the sinking of a South Korean navy vessel.

China judged that such condemnation would make North Korea feel cornered, prompting it to resort to further extreme provocations, even full-scale war on the Korean Peninsula. In the same context, like the US, China doesn't want a nuclear North Korea. China wants to remain the sole nuclear power in East Asia and worries that North Korea's developing nuclear weapons will spark a domino effect in neighbouring countries, including arch-Asian rival Japan. But in doing so China doesn't want to corner the North. China knows, when cornered, a mouse can bite a cat.

Fourthly, this brings us back to the question of how much influence China really has over North Korea. China's influence is an overstated premise. In 2006 and 2009, China demanded that North Korea not go ahead with nuclear experiments, North Korea didn't comply. Like a parent dealing with a spoiled child, China has learned that its influence diminishes when it criticises Pyongyang.

Chinese influence over North Korea is an assumption, strategically adopted by the US and South Korea. The two nations view China's role as helpful in solving the North Korean problem. It's recognition of China's growing stakeholder role in the region, a strategy of using China to influence North Korea. It's also a preventive measure so that China may later be part of the solution. The US and its Asian allies, including South Korea, should not expect China to adopt their positions on North Korea, in accordance to US strategy for the region. Track records show that China acts in its best interests. China is willing to shoulder outside criticism in defending North Korea when its national interests are at stake.

Seong-hyon (Sunny) Lee is a Seoul-born columnist and journalist, based in China.

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticleNew.asp?col=§ion=opinion&xfile=data/opinion/2011/August/opinion_August3.xml

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