



**USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER**  
***CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL***  
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

**Issue No. 930, 5 August 2011**

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*Welcome to the CPC Outreach Journal. As part of USAF Counterproliferation Center's mission to counter weapons of mass destruction through education and research, we're providing our government and civilian community a source for timely counterproliferation information. This information includes articles, papers and other documents addressing issues pertinent to US military response options for dealing with chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats and countermeasures. It's our hope this information resource will help enhance your counterproliferation issue awareness.*

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International Business Times

## **Massive Cyber Attack Adds to Suspicions of Concerted Chinese Hacking**

August 3, 2011

Hackers stole data from more than 70 international organizations and businesses in a sweeping five year cyber attack that could offer fresh evidence of a broad Chinese hacking offensive.

Hackers infiltrated organizations that ranged from international entities like the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee to U.S. defense firms to the Associated Press, according to an analysis conducted by the security firm McAfee. 49 of the 72 cyberattack targets were in the U.S. Dmitri Alperovitch, McAfee's vice president of threat research, said evidence pointed to "a nation-state" having carried out the attacks but declined to specify further. "After painstaking analysis of the logs, even we were surprised by the enormous diversity of the victim organizations and were taken aback by the audacity of the perpetrators," Alperovitch wrote in the report.

Outside experts said that the attacks appear to have emanated from China. James A. Lewis, a cybersecurity expert, pointed to Taiwan's prominence among targeted countries and the hack of the International Olympic Committee shortly before the 2008 games in Beijing.

"This isn't the first we've seen," Lewis told the Washington Post. "This has been going on from China since at least 1998."

If the allegation proves true, the attack would be the latest skirmish in what is increasingly appearing to be a cyber war with China. A 2008 Pentagon report that warned of "state-sponsored computer network exploitation," did not explicitly accuse China of sponsoring cyber attacks but emphasized that a spate of attacks against government agencies reflected evolving military strategy there. Earlier this year, Google accused China of hacking into its networks and stealing source code, and diplomatic cables released by Wikileaks suggested that the attack was orchestrated by the government, calling it "100% political."

Beijing has consistently denied that it has any involvement in cyber warfare, calling accusations that it has "groundless."

The intent of the cyberattacks detailed by the McAfee investigation was unclear, but regardless of their aim hackers were able to make off with a valuable haul, said Alperovitch. They stole data from U.S. military systems, as well as information from satellite communications, electronics and natural gas companies.

"We're facing a massive transfer of wealth in the form of intellectual property that is unprecedented in history," Alperovitch said, also writing in the report that "If even a fraction of it is used to build better competing products or beat a competitor at a key negotiation (due to having stolen the other team's playbook), the loss represents a massive economic threat."

The warning is not an abstract one: cyber attacks have cumulatively cost between \$6 billion and \$20 billion annually as hackers steal trade secrets like the energy industry's information on oil fields, according to Scott Borg, chief economist at the U.S. Cyber Consequences Unit.

The report's release coincides with an intensifying push by the U.S. government to fortify its cyber security. The Pentagon announced in July that it had suffered its most significant cyber attack, a theft of some 24,000 classified files that was also believed to have originated in a nation-state.

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<http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/191690/20110803/cyber-attack-china-cyber-warfare-china-massive-cyber-attack-china-hacking-mcafee-hacking.htm>  
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Reuters

## **White House Unveils Plan to Combat Domestic Militancy**

By Molly O'toole  
August 3, 2011

(Reuters) - The White House, citing concerns al Qaeda militants were actively recruiting Muslim Americans to carry out attacks, unveiled a strategy on Wednesday to combat home-grown extremism by reaching out to local communities.

The strategy includes enhancing engagement with relevant local communities, building law enforcement expertise in preventing violent extremism and countering messages that promote militancy.

"Protecting American communities from al Qaeda's hateful ideology is not the work of government alone," said an introduction to the strategy signed by President Barack Obama.

"Communities - especially Muslim American communities whose children, families, and neighbors are being targeted for recruitment by al Qaeda - are often best positioned to take the lead."

The strategy, which promises to protect civil liberties and avoid stigmatizing any community, said the threat of militancy in the United States was not new and that the government was working to prevent all types of extremism, regardless of its source.

But the plan focused primarily on al Qaeda, labeling the global Islamic militant network as the "preeminent terrorist threat" to the country.

Concerns that al Qaeda militants could recruit U.S. Muslims rose to prominence after a deadly 2009 shooting rampage in which a Muslim American military psychiatrist was accused of killing 13 people and wounding 32 others at Fort Hood, Texas.

Another Muslim American soldier was arrested last week and charged with illegal possession of a firearm. He told the FBI he planned to attack Fort Hood and blow up a local restaurant, according to an FBI affidavit.

### **AVOIDING BLAME**

The strategy said that more U.S. citizens or residents had been persuaded in recent years to support al Qaeda, whether through financing or active militancy, including some who traveled overseas to train or fight .

"The number of individuals remains limited, but the fact that al Qaeda and its affiliates and adherents are openly and specifically inciting Americans to support or commit acts of violence - through videos, magazines, and online forums - poses an ongoing and real threat," the strategy said.

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"Rather than blame particular communities, it is essential that we find ways to help them protect themselves," it said.

It added that the federal government was often ill-suited to intervene "in the niches of society where radicalization to violence takes place" but could work with community partners to help combat such extremism.

The government also highlighted its security successes, namely the assassination of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in Pakistan earlier this year by U.S. special forces.

At home, the best defenses are "well informed and equipped families, local communities and institutions," the plan said, citing a National Security Strategy statement.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations issued a statement of support for the president's plan.

"Any effective strategy must avoid viewing the relationship between the American Muslim community and government agencies solely through the prism of national security," CAIR National Director Nihad Awad said.

"(It) should recognize Muslims as partners in projecting the best of American principles and values to the world."

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/04/us-usa-extremism-idUSTRE7730G620110804>  
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ABC News

## **Alleged Norway Shooter Considered WMD Attack, Jihadi Alliance**

By Lee Ferran  
July 24, 2011

The man suspected of killing more than 90 people in a bombing and separate shooting spree in Norway had considered a plan to obtain a weapon of mass destruction through a truce with extreme Islamists, despite his online anti-Muslim rants.

"We both share one common goal. They want control over their own countries in the Middle East and we want control of our own countries in Western Europe," reads part of a 1,500-page manifesto reportedly posted online by Anders Behring Breivik, apparently identifying himself with other right wing extremists. "An Islamic Caliphate is a useful enemy to all Europeans as it will ensure European unity under Christian cultural conservative leadership."  
*READ: Norway Shooting and Explosion Suspect Admits Firing Weapons on Youth Camp Island*

The manifesto said it would be possible to obtain "one million USD worth of anthrax" and describes the necessary steps to convince Islamic terrorist groups to cooperate.

"Cultural conservatives" in Europe would carry out the attack, possibly in England, the manifesto says, claiming,

"Both groups win if the attacks are successful."

However, Breivik eventually discounts the plan because he says the attacks would be extremely difficult and might be seen by Europeans as "traitorous and hypocritical," considering that cultural conservatives already criticize other groups for "cooperating with Muslims."

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"An alliance with the Jihadists might prove beneficial to both parties but will simply be too dangerous (and might prove to be ideologically counter-productive)," the manifesto says.

National Security Director James Clapper told a Senate hearing in 2010 that at the time there was no information that any nations were providing assistance to terrorist groups in obtaining WMDs, but said "terrorists or insurgent organizations acting alone or through middlemen may acquire nuclear, chemical and/or biological weapons and may seek opportunistic networks as service providers."

According to the FBI's Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate, the U.S. intelligence community considers a chemical attack to be the most likely future "WMD scenario."

"Brevik's WMD idea is not realistic," former FBI agent and ABC News consultant Brad Garrett said. "Plus it's not something that he can control. Obviously in his horrendous act on Friday, he acted alone. It's pretty easy for him to control when it's just him...Of course it would not work."

<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/anders-breivik-alleged-norway-shooter-considered-wmd-attack/story?id=14148151>

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FARS News Agency

## **President: Iran Needs No N. Weapons**

4 Aug 2011

TEHRAN (FNA)- Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad reiterated Tehran's opposition to the acquisition of military nuclear capability, stressing that his country does not need nuclear weapons.

"Iran is among the few countries in the world that all their [nuclear] activities are under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and when it has declared that it is not after producing nuclear weapons, it really does not plan to do so," the Iranian president stated.

"We believe if someone is after nuclear weapons at this era is not right in the head," Ahmadinejad pointed out.

"People who say Iran is moving toward the production of nuclear weapons are not Western scientists; they are Western politicians," Ahmadinejad said in interview with Euronews tv channel on Wednesday.

The president said Iran's production of 20-percent enriched uranium is for purely peaceful purposes and is used to produce radio medicines.

"Twenty percent is good for nothing else...it can only be used for medicine and agriculture," he stated.

The president further scoffed at attempts by some Western powers to expand their nuclear arsenals.

Ahmadinejad argued that nuclear arms not only are against humanity but also endanger those countries who wield such weapons more than other nations.

"The nuclear bomb is no use anymore," he added, recalling Israel's failure to achieve its goals in the 22-day Gaza war in December 2008-January 2009, and its heavy losses in the 2006 war against Lebanon despite the nuclear warheads Tel Aviv possesses.

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Nuclear bombs did not save the former Soviet Union from collapse, Ahmadinejad said and described nuclear weapons as a factor that would give its wielder the upper hand in political equations more than 60 years ago.

He stressed that nuclear weapons are of no use today, noting, "Today, thoughts and humans are the factors that can affect the global equations."

"We believe that no one will be able to use the nuclear bomb in the future. It is finished," he concluded.

Iran, an NPT-signatory, has repeatedly called for the removal of all weapons of mass destruction from across the globe.

The UN General Assembly approved a draft resolution proposed by Iran on nuclear disarmament in October amid strong opposition by the US, Britain, France, Israel and a number of western countries.

The resolution ratified in the first committee of the UN General Assembly calls on all nuclear countries to annihilate their nuclear weapons under the supervision of international bodies.

More than 100 countries, including non-nuclear members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), voted for the resolution.

The resolution also urges Israel to join the NPT and allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its nuclear installations.

Also in pursuit of global nuclear disarmament, Tehran held a conference on nuclear disarmament on April 18-19, 2010, with officials from different world countries in attendance.

During the two-day conference, world officials and politicians put their heads together to address issues and concerns in connection with nuclear disarmament.

Foreign ministers, representatives and nuclear experts from 60 world countries participated in the event to discuss challenges on nuclear disarmament, countries' commitment to nuclear dismantlement and disarmament and aftermaths of inaction in the destruction of the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs).

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=9005130282>

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The Washington Post

## **Iran sanctions failing**

By Jennifer Rubin

August 4, 2011

A report on Iran's nuclear program in the Wall Street Journal has alarmed lawmakers and outside analysts: Moves by Iran to deploy more-advanced centrifuge machines for the production of nuclear fuel are raising new concerns that Tehran could significantly shorten the time it would need to produce nuclear bombs.

In recent weeks, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran has notified United Nations inspectors that it has begun deploying what are described as second- and third-generation centrifuges at its uranium-enrichment facility in the city of Natanz, according to diplomats briefed on the correspondence.

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Tehran has also said that it plans to set up these advanced machines at an underground uranium-enrichment site run by Iran's elite military unit, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, near the holy city of Qom, said these officials. Iran denies it seeks to develop nuclear weapons.

The more-advanced centrifuges, called IR-2Ms and IR-4s, are believed to be capable of enriching uranium at rates three times as fast as those Tehran currently uses, the IR-1s.

The Obama administration for months has been arguing that sanctions are "working." But if the purpose of sanctions is to slow or halt Iran's nuclear weaponization plans then the sanctions approach is an abysmal failure. A senior congressional aide tells me: "Despite the U.S. significantly ratcheting up sanctions, the Iranian nuclear project now appears dangerously close to rocketing forward. If Teheran begins installing advanced centrifuges at Fordo, it represents a major, non-incremental advance by the Iranians — and thus demands a major, non-incremental response by the U.S. and the allies." He suggests: "One obvious option would be sanctioning the Central Bank of Iran. Sooner than we had hoped, however, the President may indeed face the choice whether to accept a nuclear-armed Iran, or to take military action to set back this threat."

A Republican aide authorized only to speak on background for his boss warns that this will impact Israel's calculations. "This is a serious development because it means the United States, Europe, Israel and others will have a shorter response window if Iranian leaders decide to 'break-out' and produce weapons-grade uranium. Since the

White House knows reports like this only speed up the Israeli clock — something the President doesn't want to deal with before next November — this may force the Administration to actually try to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons by imposing crippling economic sanctions."

Mark Dubowitz of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies has been intimately involved in helping to craft sanctions efforts. But he, too, recognizes that sanctions alone are insufficient. He e-mailed me: "[Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali] Khamenei and his Revolutionary Guards are not distracted by debt-ceilings, Arab awakenings and re-election campaigns. They are driving ruthlessly forward on their nuclear weapon program while we delude ourselves into thinking that sanctions are a silver bullet that will stop them." He contends, "Sanctions are an important part of a comprehensive Iran policy that needs to include the real threat of force. But where's our Iran policy, how is it comprehensive, and who is in charge?"

In fact, with the departure of sanctions czar Stuart Levey from the Treasury Department and the administration's lackadaisical stance toward everything from Syria to an increasingly aggressive Russia, it's fair to say there is no one in charge of this or any other critical national security initiative.

As far as Iran goes, Dubowitz cautions that "if our Iran policy was truly comprehensive, we'd be doing everything possible to bring Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad down as Khamenei does all he can to keep Assad in power. If Assad crushes the democratic uprising, he will be like a wounded animal, even more dependent on Tehran for his survival. And we would have lost an enormous opportunity to weaken the Iranian regime."

For now, it seems we lack an effective policy for halting Iran's march toward status as a nuclear power. As Dubowitz puts it, "When it comes to countering Iran, we like to give the impression that we are further ahead than we are. But is the progress we're making rhetorical or real?" The answer at this point is obvious.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/right-turn/post/iran-sanctions-failing/2011/03/29/gIQAVP06tl\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/right-turn/post/iran-sanctions-failing/2011/03/29/gIQAVP06tl_blog.html)  
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Global Security Newswire

## Japan Warns of New North Korean Missile

August 2, 2011

The Japanese Defense Ministry warned on Tuesday that North Korea is continuing work on a medium-range missile that could put Japan and the U.S. territory of Guam within striking range.

The ministry's annual white paper for the first time singles out the Musudan ballistic missile by name as a national security concern. The weapon is a variant of the Soviet submarine-launched R-27 missile and is intended to be fired from movable platforms.

Japanese defense officials placed the Musudan's flight range at between 1,500 and 2,500 miles. Previous news reports have estimated the missile's range at 1,860 to 3,100 miles. It is not known if the missile has ever been test-fired.

The United States has roughly 50,000 military personnel in Japan. It also has a significant military outpost on Guam, which is about 2,000 miles from North Korea.

The Musudan's flight range is shorter though than the North's long-range Taepodong 2, which reportedly is designed to reach the West Coast of the United States. There are continuing concerns that Pyongyang might ultimately prove able to wed a nuclear warhead to a ballistic missile.

"Because of the secretive nature of the North Korean regime, it is extremely difficult to confirm its military intentions," the white paper says, continuing that the Stalinist state's underground and movable missile launch installations are thought to have been designed to evade initial detection.

The ministry paper did not specify when it anticipated the Musudan would go online or if it is presently in active service (Eric Talmadge, Associated Press/Google News, Aug. 1).

The Japanese Defense Ministry asserted that Pyongyang's ballistic missile and nuclear development activities were jeopardizing security in North Asia, Reuters reported.

"In particular, North Korea's nuclear tests ... are a serious threat to the safety of our country, and markedly harm the peace and stability of Northeast Asia and the international community. They can never be tolerated," the document states (Kiyoshi Takenaka, Reuters, Aug. 2).

Tokyo also singled out China's heightened maritime operations in waters close to Japan as a source of worry. The Defense Ministry said these worries are exacerbated by a lack of clear information from Beijing regarding efforts to update its armed forces, AP reported (Talmadge, Associated Press).

Beijing recently announced it was refurbishing an outmoded Soviet aircraft carrier and informed insiders said China was also constructing two more carriers, Reuters reported.

Japan believes that China is adopting strong-arm tactics to respond to regional disputes.

"Given the modernization of China's naval and air forces in recent years, its sphere of influence is likely to grow beyond its neighboring waters," the white paper states (Takenaka, Reuters).

[http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw\\_20110802\\_2037.php](http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20110802_2037.php)  
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Sky News

## **N Korea tested Missile Rocket- Report**

July 24, 2011

North Korea last year tested a rocket to carry long-range missiles in an apparent attempt to show off its weapons capability to the US, a report said Sunday.

It conducted the rocket engine test at the new Tongchang-ri missile base on the west coast in October, Yonhap news agency said, citing a senior Seoul official.

'We believed that the test, carried out at an hour when the US military satellite could detect it, was aimed at showcasing its missile threats,' Yonhap quoted the official as saying.

Satellite images taken in January showed North Korea had completed a launch tower at the base, which was bigger and more advanced than the older Musudan-ri base on the east coast.

The North launched long-range missiles at Musudan-ri in 1998, 2006 and 2009, sending its Taepodong-2 missile to land 3200km in the Pacific in April 2009.

Analysts said the new base in Tongchang-ri, whose construction was believed to be almost complete, was seen as vital to the North's quest for an intercontinental ballistic missile that could possibly strike the US.

The North has started to build new railways to transport materials needed to complete the new base, said the official quoted by Yonhap, adding Seoul saw no immediate signs that the North was about to launch long-range missiles at the site.

Seoul intelligence believe the North's Taepodong-2 missile, whose maximum range is estimated at 6700km, could reach the US west coast within about 20 minutes if successfully launched at the new base, Yonhap said.

<http://www.skynews.com.au/world/article.aspx?id=642011&vld>  
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CBS news

## **N. Korean missiles could hit Guam, Japan warns**

August 2, 2011

By Pamela Falk

North Korea is developing a new mid-range ballistic missile that could reach as far as the U.S. territory of Guam, according to report released by Japan's Defense Ministry.

The annual report, widely known as the 2011 White Paper, also highlights North Korea's atomic bomb testing as "a significant threat to Japan's security when the North is boosting capabilities of ballistic missiles that could carry weapons of mass destruction."

The report, released Tuesday, does not bode well for progress in the talks between the U.S. and North Korea.

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Japan also is concerned about China's growing naval reach in the Pacific and what it called Beijing's "opaque" military budget.

"Considering the recent modernization of China's maritime and air forces, the areas affected by the capabilities will likely expand beyond its nearby waters," the report said.

Japan's report comes at the same time that North Korea begins as president of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament. The new president, North Korean Ambassador So Se Pyong, appointed in July, told the diplomats in Geneva, that he was "very much committed to the Conference." Canada is the first nation to protest the appointment.

Meanwhile, the official and subsequent "unofficial" talks between the U.S. and North Korea did not produce tangible results, but all sides appeared to be happy that they were talking.

U.S., North Korea hold rare talks

"We are probably as far apart on some of the fundamental issues as we've ever been," said Evans J.R. Revere, senior director of Albright Stonebridge Group, (whose principals include former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright) after discussions with North Korean officials, which followed two days of official talks between the Obama administration and Pyongyang. Revere, who was acting assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs during the George W. Bush administration said the "take-away" was that "there is a value of continuing contact and dialogue if, for no other reason, than to understand the thinking on the other side."

The official meetings, between North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan and U.S. Ambassador Stephen Bosworth, the Obama administration envoy on North Korean affairs, which took place last week, were described by the State Department as "constructive."

The idea of having non-government representatives from two countries meet has been called Track II, and in this case it was former U.S. government officials meeting with current officials of North Korea. Stephen J. Del Rosso, Jr., program director of International Peace & Security at the International Program of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, said that they have been the major sponsor of Track II diplomacy on North Korea over the past decade, to do what governments can't or won't, "that is to provide a forum for a candid, frank exchange of views."

Why now?

"I don't think most people realize how close we came to military conflict on the Korean Peninsula last year," said Professor Donald Zagoria, who served during the Carter administration as a consultant to the National Security Council and the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the State Department. Emphasizing that it was his view "not those of the negotiators." he said that "both sides have come to the conclusion that after two years of non-contact, this has become more dangerous, more unsatisfactory, on a number of grounds, for both sides"

"On the North Korean side," Zagoria said, "this is just my speculation, I don't have any inside information, I think they are uncomfortable with becoming globally dependent on China; They have very great economic difficulties at home, including food problems; I think they are undergoing a succession problem that is very sensitive, and nobody knows what might be the outcome."



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He added that his impression was that the Chinese played a constructive role in telling them, warning them against any provocation, "So, in a sense, they have a lot of challenges on their side and opening up to the United States under these circumstances makes some sense."

"On our side," Zagoria said, "after two years of non-contact, we still have an unrestrained North Korean nuclear and missile program. That's not good."

Pyongyang's official news agency, Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), reported after the official talks that North Korea wishes to "resume the six-party talks without preconditions at an early date" and "comprehensively implement a 2005 denuclearization deal."

U.S. negotiator Stephen Bosworth was more cautious, as was Mark Toner, Obama's State Department deputy spokesman on Monday. Toner said, "in terms of next steps, we're looking at consulting with our other six-party partners."

"We thought that ... these were good meetings, that they were constructive, and we're going to consult with our partners on the way forward," he added.

"But it's important to remember that this is the first meeting we've had with North Korea in 18 [or] 19 months. We've said from the very start that these were exploratory, and we went in with our eyes wide open in what to expect out of them. So did we expect any major earth shattering breakthroughs? Not really, but we did find them constructive, and we're going to consult on next steps."

In response to North Korean negotiator Kim Kye Gwan's statement that their uranium enrichment program is for peaceful purposes, to produce electricity, Toner said, "Then they need to live up to their international obligations and transparently show the world what their nuclear program is."

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503543\\_162-20086875-503543.html](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503543_162-20086875-503543.html)  
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Israel Today Magazine

## **Gaza Missiles Strike Deeper Into Israel**

August 4, 2011

By Ryan Jones

Palestinian terrorists operating out of the Gaza Strip late Wednesday night fired two long-range GRAD missiles into southern and central Israel.

The first missile exploded on the outskirts of the town of Kiryat Gat, which is at the southern end of Israel's densely populated central region.

The second landed within the city limits of the southern port of Ashkelon.

The attacks caused no injuries, but a road was damaged in Ashkelon.

Israeli officials said they view the attacks as an escalation of violence, as GRAD missiles are far more accurate than the Palestinians' locally-produced Kassam rockets, can travel much further, and carry a larger payload.

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In response, Israeli forces attacked several terrorist installations in Gaza on Thursday morning, reporting direct hits on their targets.

Despite the mounting violence, Israel continues to go out of its way to aid the local Palestinian population by improving economic conditions.

Late last month, the Israeli army stressed its ongoing efforts to help Palestinian farmers export their produce to European markets.

When some of that produce failed to meet the standards of European importers, the Israeli army set up a seminar for Palestinian strawberry growers with an expert in that field.

The expert taught the Palestinians how to more properly prepare their soil, make use of pesticides and fertilizers and handle the picked fruit.

"We want to help Palestinian farmers...in hope of increasing exports to Europe and thus improving profits and the Palestinian economy at the Gaza Strip," said Lt.-Col. Kobi Gertzvolf, head of the Directorate of Financial Coordination and Liaison in Gaza.

<http://www.israeltoday.co.il/NachrichtenHeute/tabid/178/nid/22900/language/en-US/Default.aspx>  
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Bloomberg

## **Nuclear Bomb Material Cutoff Plan Pits U.S. Against Pakistan**

By Viola Gienger

Wednesday, Aug 3, 2011

The Obama administration is leading a new push for negotiations on a global treaty halting production of nuclear bomb material, a move further aggravating tensions with Pakistan, which has blocked the start of talks.

The U.S. won support for the action from China and three other declared nuclear-weapons powers -- France, Russia and the U.K. -- during a meeting June 30-July 1 in Paris. The group is seeking agreement, by September's start of the United Nations General Assembly session in New York, on a way of starting talks on the Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty.

The treaty has been stalled in the Geneva-based UN Conference on Disarmament for 12 years, where Pakistan has become the sole holdout against negotiations.

"Our preference is to negotiate an FMCT within the Conference on Disarmament, but that body has been deadlocked by Pakistan," Undersecretary of State Ellen Tauscher told Commonwealth Club audience July 28 in Lafayette, California, near San Francisco. "Thus, the United States is joining with other key countries to start preparations for a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty elsewhere until the conference can get down to work."

The maneuver may allow President Barack Obama to make progress on one item of his nuclear arms control agenda while Russia and the U.S. political calendar hinder progress on others.

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## Pakistan Balks

Pakistan's acting representative to the UN, Raza Bashir Tarar, last week told a General Assembly meeting in New York on the impasse that he would "strike a note of caution against taking" the treaty talks outside the Conference on Disarmament.

"Pakistan will not join any such process nor would it consider accession to the outcome of any such process," Tarar said. The 65-member Conference on Disarmament "cannot negotiate through cherry picking issues that some states consider to be ripe."

Pakistan's objections reflect its existential fear of nuclear archrival India, which has enough plutonium for about 140 bombs, according to the Washington-based Arms Control Association. Pakistan has enough plutonium and uranium for 100 bombs, according to the ACA.

"The CD's work or inactivity is a reflection of prevailing political realities," Tarar said. "No treaty can be negotiated in the CD which is contrary to the security interests of any of its member state."

Pakistan's opposition to taking negotiations outside the Conference on Disarmament have become irrelevant because it has blocked the start of talks anyway, said Daryl Kimball, the Arms Control Association's executive director.

## Nuclear Firepower

"The sad thing is that both India and Pakistan have more than enough nuclear firepower to render the other country a total wasteland," Kimball said. In similar cases in the past, countries that didn't participate in a treaty's negotiations or didn't sign eventually joined, he said.

Ending production of fissile material might serve as another base for further reductions in nuclear weapons and reduce the risk of material falling into the hands of terror groups. The U.S., Russia, the U.K. and France have all declared a halt to fissile material production for weapons, and experts believe China also has halted production, Kimball said.

"We do not need more fissile material that could be used to make more bombs," Tauscher said. "We know terrorist groups are seeking to get their hands on such material any way that they can."

## 'Big Chess Game'

Still, the U.S. and its partners in the new effort should try to involve India, Israel and Pakistan, countries with facilities to produce uranium or plutonium that aren't covered by international safeguards, Kimball said. Nations with safeguarded facilities such as Japan, the Netherlands, Brazil and South Africa, also should be included, he said.

China and Pakistan previously had conditioned negotiations for a fissile material treaty on starting similar talks toward a treaty to prevent an arms race in outer space, Kimball said. The U.S. had objected to that kind of treaty.

"It was like a big chess game, and it's been stalemated since 1998," he said.

China in 2007 backed off its insistence on negotiating an outer-space treaty, and the United Nations General Assembly unsuccessfully tried to find a way forward at last year's annual meeting.



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Rose Gottemoeller, the top U.S. negotiator on arms-control treaties, told last week's UN meeting that calls for another UN General Assembly special session "are a distraction at best."

"Unless we have agreed objectives for such a session," she said, "we should better direct our efforts where progress can be made."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-08-03/nuclear-bomb-material-cutoff-plan-pits-u-s-against-pakistan.html>  
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United Press International

## Disarmament like chess, expert says

August 3, 2011

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3 (UPI) -- Pakistan objects to a measure to curtail nuclear proliferation though it has enough nuclear weapons to lay the region to waste, an arms expert said.

Islamabad remains the last opponent to a treaty stalled in the United Nations on disarmament. Washington has the backing for disarmament measures from nuclear powers China, France, Russian the United Kingdom though

Pakistan continues to object to any such initiative.

Raza Bashir Tarar, the acting Pakistani envoy to the United Nations, was quoted by Bloomberg News as telling the United Nations that Islamabad was adamant on its nuclear position.

"Pakistan will not join any such process nor would it consider accession to the outcome of any such process," he said.

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, was quoted by Bloomberg as expressing lament over Pakistan's refusal. Islamabad and India, he said, have enough nuclear weapons on hand to "render the other country a total wasteland."

Kimball said Washington could make some headway by involving other countries like Israel and Japan though nuclear-related diplomacy is a sticky foreign policy subject.

"It was like a big chess game and it's been stalemated since 1998," he said.

[http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/Special/2011/08/03/Disarmament-like-chess-expert-says/UPI-80561312389165](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Special/2011/08/03/Disarmament-like-chess-expert-says/UPI-80561312389165)  
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Global Security Newswire

## U.S. Prepared to "Snatch" Pakistani Nukes, Report Claims

August 4, 2011

U.S. military and intelligence operatives are debating, strategizing, gaming and potentially even conducting drills on entering Pakistan and seizing the unstable nation's nuclear weapons during a crisis, NBC News reported on Wednesday (see GSN, July 29).

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Relying on official congressional remarks, military documents and interviews with present and ex-U.S. officials, NBC News said this planning is taking place amid repeated statements by senior U.S. military officials that they have confidence in the security of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal.

"It's safe to assume that planning for the worst-case scenario regarding Pakistan nukes has [already] taken place inside the U.S. government," ex-White House Deputy Counterterrorism Director Roger Cressey said. "This issue remains one of the highest priorities of the U.S. intelligence community ... and the White House."

The specifics of the planning for any potential "snatch-and-grab" scenario, including if U.S. special forces would try to dismantle or eliminate the weapons, are a tightly held government secret, NBC reported.

A U.S. Congressional Research Service report last month concluded that terrorists would have the best chance of acquiring a Pakistani nuclear weapon following the collapse of the government in Islamabad.

The United States has worried about the security of the South Asian nation's atomic assets since before the September 11 attacks and has provided advice to Islamabad in the years since on best practices for protecting the arsenal, which is thought to number between 90 and 110 warheads.

Militants in 2007 and 2008 reportedly attempted assaults on three Pakistani installations that house nuclear-weapon storage and production facilities.

Fears about the ability of the Pakistani security establishment to guard its nuclear arsenal and materials increased following the early May U.S. Navy SEAL raid on al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden's hideout in the town of Abbottabad. The Pakistani military was further humiliated this spring by a Taliban attack on a naval base in Karachi.

Current and ex-U.S. officials said that scenarios have been developed for responding to any major crises that could affect nuclear security in the South Asian state.

Former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said in an interview with NBC that any U.S. move to steal his country's nuclear weapons would result in a "total confrontation by the whole nation against whoever comes in." "These are assets which are the pride of Pakistan, assets which are dispersed and very secure in very secure places, guarded by a corps of 18,000 soldiers," the former general said.

Pakistani physicist and human rights activist Pervez Hoodboy, who typically disagrees with Musharraf, said a U.S. attempt to seize the nuclear weapons would backfire. "They are said to be hidden in tunnels under mountains, in cities, as well as regular army force and army bases," Hoodboy said. "A U.S. snatch operation could trigger war; it should never be attempted."

"An American attack on Pakistan's nuclear production or storage sites would be extremely dangerous and counterproductive," the physicist said. "By comparison the bin Laden operation [into Abbottabad] involved only minor risks. Even if a single Pakistani nuke (out of roughly 100) escapes destruction, that last one could be unimaginably dangerous."

Princeton University Pakistan academic Zia Mian, though, was not unduly alarmed by the reported U.S. planning for such an effort, pointing out that the CIA and Defense Department frequently conduct advance preparations for theoretical operations.





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"The U.S. exercised global nuclear wear. They've exercised attacking Iran. You've got to be ready," Mian said. "It suggests to me there are people whose job is to be worried. So when someone asks you, you say you're worried. But when you're reading the WikiLeaks disclosure, when you read the embassy talking points, the nuclear weapons barely figure."

In his 2009 book "Defusing Armageddon" intelligence scholar Jeffrey Richelson wrote that then-U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Peter Pace five years ago outlined two kinds of situations -- "elimination operations" and "interdiction operations" -- by the United States to secure another nation's nuclear weapons from terrorist acquisition.

Elimination activities were described in the U.S. military's National Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction" as "operations systematically to locate, characterize, secure, disable and/or destroy a state or nonstate actor's WMD programs and related capabilities." Interdiction activities were described as locating and capturing nuclear material or systems after they have been taken from a state weapons depot but not yet handed over to extremists.

While the document and a similar PowerPoint report did not name Pakistan as the focus of the strategy, Richelson said it was evident that the emphasis was on the South Asian state.

"The focus on Pakistan is the result of its being both the least stable of the nine nuclear-weapon states and the one where there has been significant support for Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, not only among the general population but also within the military and intelligence forces," Richelson stated in his book.

While Islamabad in the last decade is estimated to have received roughly \$100 million in U.S. aid for atomic safety and security, the Pakistani government has never allowed U.S. officials to tour its weapon depots or to check how the U.S.-provided security technology was operating.

Hoodboy noted that safeguards equipment cannot guarantee the security of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal. "Ultimately it depends upon the men who have control over nuclear weapons. ... Governments come, governments go. But all nuclear matters are controlled by the army. The important question is whether the army has total, absolute control over its nukes. I have no idea whether this control is absolute, and doubt how anyone can know for sure" (Robert Windrem, NBC News, Aug. 23).

[http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw\\_20110804\\_7784.php](http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20110804_7784.php)  
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Global Security Newswire

## **New START Implementation Proceeding "Smoothly": U.S.**

August 2, 2011

Implementation of the New START nuclear arms control treaty has proceeded "smoothly" since the pact took effect in February, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller told the Russian newspaper *Kommersant* last week (see *GSN*, July 28).

The New START pact entered into force on February 5. It requires the United States and Russia to each reduce deployment of strategic nuclear warheads to 1,550, down from a cap of 2,200 mandated by next year under an older treaty. It also limits the number of fielded warhead delivery platforms to 700, with an additional 100 strategic systems permitted in reserve.

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"The pace of communication has been very precise, very efficient, and furthermore, in terms of the inspections, we're pretty much keeping pace with each other, with inspections going on in both the Russian Federation and also here in the United States at various missile and bomber bases," Gottemoeller said. "So all in all, I would say the implementation's going forward smoothly, and it's going forward in a very businesslike and positive way."

The treaty allows the former Cold War rivals to carry out inspections of the other nation's launch-ready nuclear weapons, the official noted.

"Those are the most famous measures, but it's not very well known that we pass back and forth notifications all the time about the status of those nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons systems. That's very important because it helps us to have a very good day-to-day idea, day to day, what's going on here in the United States," she said, adding either government would notify the other if it deployed nuclear-capable bomber aircraft.

"In addition, every six months we exchange a comprehensive database. So we have a full accounting every six months of exactly what weapons systems are located, whether they are out of their deployment or operational bases and gone to maintenance, or perhaps they're being retired. So it's very important to have regular updates," Gottemoeller said.

"Every six months, we do get a comprehensive update. But I will also stress that those notifications I mentioned a moment ago are used in the interim period so that, day in, day out, we have a good sense of what's going on in each other's strategic nuclear arsenals.

"I think of the database as a living document, really. The database is updated constantly, and then every six months we do a comprehensive update just to make sure that the notifications have been keeping up with the overall activity in each of our nuclear arsenals," she said.

The three types of monitoring activities "are backed up then with our own national systems, so-called National Technical Means of Verification," according to Gottemoeller.

"The United States and Russia both have systems of overhead satellites that keep track of what's going on in each other's countries. And so that is considered our own national technical means. And that's one of the important rules in the New START treaty that has its roots back in the 1970s, in the first strategic arms limitation treaties: that both sides do not take any steps to interfere with those national technical means, to interfere with those satellite assets," she said.

Washington does not expect Moscow to reciprocate the Obama administration's disclosure last year of the exact size of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, Gottemoeller added.

"The U.S. has always taken the view that more transparency is a good thing. Of course, every country has sensitive, classified information that it can't reveal. But that decision that you just spoke about a moment ago was made pursuant not to the New START Treaty negotiations, but it was made pursuant to the [Nuclear] Nonproliferation Treaty review conference in May of 2010," she said.

Addressing Moscow's demand for written U.S. assurances that planned missile defense deployments would not target Russia, she said: "We were very clear that the New START treaty is not about limiting missile defenses. Our presidents agreed in London in April of 2009 before the negotiations were launched that the New START treaty was to be about limits in strategic offensive forces, and so that's the basis on which we worked in Geneva, and that's the basis on which this treaty was concluded" (see *GSN*, July 29).



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"We have also been very, very clear, and I have said it in testimony as the New START treaty was being ratified, and it's also part of our national policy, part of our national law, that we do not build missile defense systems to undermine the strategic offensive capabilities of any country; that is simply not the case," Gottemoeller said (Kirill Belyaninov, *Kommersant*/U.S. State Department release, July 26).

[http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw\\_20110802\\_2741.php](http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20110802_2741.php)  
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National Journal

## **Qaeda WMD Threat Remains After Bin Laden's Death, Ex-Official Says**

By Global Security Newswire Staff

Jul 29, 2011

The death of Osama bin Laden has not eliminated the danger that al-Qaida or an affiliated terrorist group will seek to carry out a strike using a biological or chemical weapon, the recently retired director of the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center said on Thursday.

"We still have pockets of al-Qaida around the world who see this as a key way to fight us," the Associated Press quoted Michael Leiter as saying. "The potential threat from [Yemen-based] al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula is very real."

"The most likely ... are simple forms of chemical or biological weapons" instead of a nuclear strike, Leiter said. He cited the lethal toxin ricin, which is fairly easy to produce, as one bioweapon that might be used. Ricin is derived from commercially available castor beans and can be lethal in very small doses. There is no known antidote.

"Is it going to kill many people? No. Is it going to scare people? Yes," the ex-NCC director said. Leiter told attendees of the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado that younger generations of violent extremists recognize that causing the deaths of a handful of U.S. citizens can cause the same amount of panic as the much larger-scale plots favored by bin Laden.

"Bin Laden was really prioritizing the big attack," Leiter said. "Some of them may have fantasies about pulling off another 9/11"; however, al-Qaida offshoots understand they can affect U.S. policy and the country as a whole with lower-level strikes.

"Anwar al-Awlaki gets that," Leiter continued, referring to a leader of al-Qaida's Yemen franchise. The Pakistani Taliban, which provided training to the failed 2010 Times Square bomber, also understand that, he said. Leiter said that the U.S. populace would do well not to blow out of proportion future low-level terrorist attacks,

*The New York Times* reported.

"The American people need to understand that at least the smaller-scale terrorist attacks are with us for the foreseeable future," he said in Colorado.

"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," he said.

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Bin Laden's replacement, Ayman al-Zawahiri, is believed to "probably favor smaller targets," ex-CIA Deputy Deputy Director John McLaughlin said at the Aspen event.

The two former officials agreed that al-Qaida's central operation saw its strength reduced following the early May shooting death of bin Laden by U.S. commandos who surprised him at his hideout in Abbottabad, Pakistan, AP reported.

"I think it is now possible ... to actually visualize, to imagine its collapse," McLaughlin said of the organization responsible for plotting the September 11 attacks. He cautioned, though, that Zawahiri and his adherents should not be counted out.

"He's not as charismatic ... but he may be more disciplined," McLaughlin said, noting the longtime Qaida deputy's interest in acquiring and using unconventional weapons.

Leiter appeared skeptical of recent U.S. assessments that the central Qaida leadership in Pakistan was on the brink of elimination, saying those contentions were without "accuracy and precision," *The Times* reported.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta earlier this month said that U.S. forces were "within reach of strategically defeating al-Qaida."

While allowing that the al-Qaida operation in Pakistan was "on the ropes," Leiter argued that "the core organization is still there and could launch some attacks" and that "Pakistan remains a huge problem."

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/nationalsecurity/qaeda-wmd-threat-remains-after-bin-laden-s-death-ex-official-says-20110729>

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Foreign policy

## **The Lessons of Aum Shinrikyo**

By David E. Hoffman

August 1, 2011

In 2008, a congressional commission warned of the threat that terrorists could acquire biological weapons. The technical obstacles would be large, probably beyond the capability of any existing terrorist group, the commission said in its report, "A World At Risk." But terrorists could recruit biologists. "In other words, given the high level of know-how needed to use disease as a weapon to cause mass casualties, the United States should be less concerned that terrorists will become biologists and far more concerned that biologists will become terrorists."

A fresh examination of the Aum Shinrikyo cult in Japan offers some insights into just how difficult it might be to use pathogens for terrorism. The Center for a New American Security has published a case study on the 1990s quest for biological and chemical weapons by the group. The report shows how cult leaders struggled to create a biological weapon and failed, and only then turned to a chemical weapon, which they managed to create, launching a sarin attack on the Tokyo subway in March 1995 which killed 13 people and injured many scores. The sarin attack--and reports that Aum experimented with biological substances--shocked the world, and is one of the events, along with the 2001 anthrax letters, which ramped up attention and public spending to combat biological terrorism. Billions of dollars have been spent in the last decade to defend and protect against a possible attack.

The new study, led by former Navy Secretary Richard Danzig, chairman of the board of the think tank, is based on prison interviews with some but not all of the Aum members. While the Japanese police investigations focused on

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developing court evidence about the sarin attacks, Danzig and his team sought to understand Aum as a terrorist organization and the choices they made about biological and chemical attacks. One thing they discovered was that Aum turned to chemicals because they were more accessible and easier than biological methods for mass killing.

The report shows how the cult slid into violence under the leadership of founder Shoko Asahara. After losing a parliamentary election bid in February, 1990, Asahara ordered his deputies to obtain some *Clostridium botulinum*, the bacterium that produces the dangerous botulinum toxin. In keeping with the cult's belief in self-reliance, rather than purchase it under the guise of research, which was possible, the cult member overseeing the effort, Seiicho Endo, attempted to harvest the bacterium from soil. He tried to propagate it in cube-shaped fermenters. While it is not known exactly how much was made, apparently there was a large supply of the yellow liquid, comprised mostly of growth media. No attempt was made to separate the toxin from the media. (Endo refused to be interviewed by the authors of the study.)

All signs are that the "weapon" didn't work. The cult used three trucks and tried to spray the stuff at two U.S. Naval bases, Narita airport, the Japanese Diet, the Imperial Palace and the headquarters of a rival group. No one died in their attacks. The attacks went entirely unnoticed. One member of the cult slipped and fell into a fermenting tank, and nearly drowned--but did not die of the disease.

Why did Aum fail? According to the report, there are many possible factors. Among them: they may not have acquired the right strain of the bacteria; they may have screwed up the culture conditions; they may not have fermented it properly to produce the toxin. All of this means that, thankfully, the Aum Shinrikyo biological "weapon" was no weapon at all.

After a pause, the cult resumed seeking a bioweapon in 1992. This time, Endo turned to *Bacillus anthracis*, the bacterium that causes anthrax. It is not known exactly how Endo acquired it, but he wound up with an extremely common and benign vaccine strain, perhaps from a university. The Danzig team speculates that he may have been attempting to add a plasmid necessary to make it an effectively virulent anthrax bacterium. This also failed. Some cult members inadvertently inhaled some of the product and did not fall ill. The cult attempted to disseminate what they had created using a homemade sprayer. At one point, mechanical difficulties made it "spout like a whale," one cult member recalled. The mixture was a foul-smelling brown liquid slurry. The cult members tried to add perfume to kill the putrid odor. No one died from it.

The report concludes that "this unbroken string of failures with botulinum and anthrax eventually convinced the group that making biological weapons was more difficult than Endo was acknowledging." That's when they turned to chemicals and the sarin, which was placed in small bags which the cult members punctured on the Toko subway in March, 1995, leading to deaths and panic.

It seems clear from the Danzig study that the cult was limited by the capabilities of its members. They were a gang that couldn't shoot straight when it came to biology. Their intentions were evil but in the end, despite funds and determination, they could not make a biological weapon. Instead, they killed with chemicals. Al Qaeda also looked into anthrax, but was never able to create a weapon. The Danzig study is about events of the past, but raises anew a question for today: whether terrorists can or will eventually succeed where the Aum Shinrikyo could not. It is a sobering thought.

[http://hoffman.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/08/01/the\\_lessons\\_of\\_aum\\_shinrikyo](http://hoffman.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/08/01/the_lessons_of_aum_shinrikyo)  
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Global Security Newswire

## Obstacles Seen to Ebola Treatment

August 3, 2011

The United States has backed efforts to develop a vaccine for Ebola, but specialists said scientists must look into a number of areas in pursuing defenses against the potential bioterrorism agent.

Weaponizing the Ebola virus appears to be a daunting task, the magazine said; the virus dies rapidly when exposed to sunlight, and the high speed with which it kills carriers minimizes opportunities for its spread.

Still, the Defense Department has provided \$291 million for the development of two potential countermeasures for the Ebola and Marburg viruses at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Ft. Detrick, Md. Each of the highly lethal agents causes hemorrhagic fever in humans.

"There have been quite a few promising vaccine candidates in post-exposure treatment strategies that have successfully protected nonhuman primates," said Thomas Geisbert, an expert with the University of Texas at Austin who led a research group that determined one such treatment was 100 percent effective in animal testing.

A vaccine would be useful to laboratory personnel and to medical workers in areas where the virus exists in nature, according to the magazine.

"I would think we're years away from a licensed product and bringing the kinds of vaccines or therapeutics into the regions that actually need them", said Heinz Feldmann, an official with the U.S. National Institutes of Health. High manufacturing expenses for such countermeasures could lead to significant procurement costs, according to the magazine.

Preventive efforts would be "cheaper and likely to be more effective in the long-run," Feldmann said.

Further study is necessary. "One of the biggest challenges is to understand how the virus is being transmitted from the putative reservoir species to humans; or to other wildlife which then transmit it to humans," the official said. "It's a totally understudied subject."

Also of concern is "that diagnosis, and confirmation of diagnosis, takes too long," according to Feldmann.

There have been situations in which diagnostic findings were not delivered for 10 days while Ebola spread through a population, said Esther Sterk of Doctors Without Borders. "We're lacking a biochemical and hematological test adapted to the field situations in which outbreaks usually occur," she said (Talha Khan Burki, *The Lancet*, July 30).

[http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw\\_20110803\\_8976.php](http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20110803_8976.php)  
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Dawn.com

## Somalia, Pakistan most at risk from terror attacks

August 4, 2011

LONDON: Somalia is most at risk from terrorist attack, followed by Pakistan, Iraq and Afghanistan and the new nation of South Sudan, according to a ranking by global analysts Maplecroft.

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The consultancy's latest Terrorism Risk Index also assesses threats to be rising in Yemen, Iran, Uganda, Libya, Egypt and Nigeria.

A Maplecroft statement said increased dangers seen in Yemen and Uganda were caused by al Qaeda-associated violence, those in Iran stemmed from attacks by rebel group Jundullah and those in Egypt and Libya originated in terrorist and criminal attempts to exploit Arab Spring political unrest.

Nigeria is beset by militant raids in the Niger Delta, by sectarian violence and by Islamist attacks in the north. The top four rankings were unchanged from Maplecroft's previous survey issued in November 2010 but South Sudan, which came into being last month on secession for the north, replaced the Palestinian Territories at number five due to the high average number of people killed per attack in violence there.

The UK-based company's index rates 198 countries on the number, frequency and intensity of terrorism attacks, plus the likelihood of mass casualties occurring. While based on historical data, it is intended as a forward-looking assessment.

The survey's reporting period of April 2010 to March 2011, partly overlaps with the June 2009 to June 2010 data used in its previous ranking.

It defines terrorism as the calculated and purposeful use of violence employed to influence the attitudes and behaviour of people and governments, and takes its raw data from the US.

Maplecroft sees 20 states at 'extreme risk'. Apart from the top five, these are Yemen 6, Palestinian Territories 7, Democratic Republic of Congo 8, Central African Republic 9, Colombia 10, Algeria 11, Thailand 12, Philippines 13, Russia 14, Sudan 15, Iran 16, Burundi 17, India 18, Nigeria 19 and Israel 20.

There was an increased risk from regional offshoots of Al Qaeda, including Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, the survey said, adding that a spate of revenge attacks by militants in Pakistan following the killing of Osama bin Laden there in May showed his death had not led to a short-term fall in militancy.

On Somalia, Maplecroft said that despite suffering some losses in Mogadishu, the militant group Al Shabaab continued to hold much of south and central Somalia and "launch some of the most devastating attacks in the capital" in its fight against a western-backed interim government.

South Sudan got its rating "primarily due to the intensity of terrorist attacks, with an average of 6.59 fatalities per terrorist incident, almost three times that of Somalia at 2.23."

Despite its elevated risk ranking, the statement said, "South Sudan's death toll of 211 from terrorist attacks pales in comparison to the top four countries. Over the same period Somalia suffered 1,385 deaths, Pakistan 2,163 deaths, Iraq 3,456 deaths and Afghanistan 3,423 deaths, which together account for over 75 per cent of the world's 13,492 fatalities.

Iran continued to experience a small but lethal number of mass-casualty attacks, including a twin suicide bombing in Zahedan in July 2010, which collectively killed at least 28.

The survey period did not cover an attack in Norway by anti-Muslim zealot Anders Behring Breivik, who killed 77 people in Oslo and a nearby island. The survey rated Norway at a lowly 112.





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<http://www.dawn.com/2011/08/04/somalia-pakistan-most-at-risk-from-terror-attacks.html>  
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