



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

Issue No. 935, 26 August 2011

Articles & Other Documents:

Featured Article: [China Expanding Its Nuclear Stockpile](#)

1. [Iran to Form Task Force to Confront Unconventional Threats](#)
2. [Russia Urges Resumption of Iran Nuclear Talks](#)
3. [NKorea Reported Ready to Halt WMD Tests](#)
4. [NKorea Supplied Nuclear Software to Iran-German Paper](#)
5. [US: DPRK's Offer on Nuclear Talks Not Enough](#)
6. [N. Korea in Usual 'Nuclear Co-Operation Dance'](#)
7. [DPRK Top Leader: DPRK Ready to Resume Six-Party Talks Without Preconditions](#)
8. [China Seeking to Bolster Nuclear Force: US](#)
9. [Chinese State TV Alludes to U.S. Website Attacks](#)
10. [China Admits 'New' Missile Equipment but Calls Pentagon Report 'Cock and Bull' Story](#)
11. [China Expanding Its Nuclear Stockpile](#)
12. [Nuclear Experts Warn of Libya 'Dirty Bomb' Material](#)
13. [US Says Libya's Yellowcake, Mustard Agent Secure](#)
14. [Next Test of Russia's Bulava Missile Set for Aug. 27 - Source](#)
15. [Research Could Lead to Ebola Countermeasures: Army](#)
16. [Inhofe Details Threats to National Security](#)
17. [Al Qaeda Militants 'Escape Libyan Jails' as Gaddafi Regime Falls](#)
18. [Qaeda Firmly Rooted in Pakistan Tribal Fiefdom: Report](#)
19. [J. KARL MILLER: U.S. Nuclear Arms Are an Unfortunate but Necessary Deterrent](#)
20. [Kim Jong-il Ready to Talk and to Agree](#)
21. [A Still-Open Nuclear File](#)
22. [... Weapons Bazaar](#)

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Issue No. 935, 26 August 2011

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MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

FARS News Agency – Iran
Wednesday, 24 August 2011

Iran to Form Task Force to Confront Unconventional Threats

TEHRAN (FNA) - A senior Iranian civil defense official underlined that the committee in charge of nationwide civil defense has adopted proper civil measures to lower the nation's vulnerability in the face of enemies' hard and soft threats, including the unconventional ones.

Speaking to FNA, Undersecretary-General of the Standing Committee of Civil Defense Payman Falsafi underlined the significance of boosting civil defense capabilities which include non-military measures to lower vulnerability and boost the country's deterrent power and its resistance against hard, semi-hard and soft threats.

As regards microbial, biological and chemical threats, Falsafi stated that Iran plans to form rapid reaction teams for confronting such mass destruction weapons as well as nuclear radiation.

"The teams will start operation in 1390 (current Iranian year that started on March 21) within Iran's Red Crescent Society. The needed bill has already been approved by the standing committee of the civil defense and the necessary funds have been received," he noted.

As regards cyber threats, he stated that the committee has adopted proper measures to confront enemies' cyber war.

Earlier, Iran's Armed Forces Chief of Staff Major General Hassan Firouzabadi had underlined the necessity and need for Iran to draw a comprehensive roadmap for civil defense.

Firouzabadi warned about enemies' plot to undermine Iran's progress in civil defense techniques and knowledge that include different technical and scientific fields, and called on all Iranian elites, researchers and intellectuals to pick up an active role in drawing a comprehensive roadmap for Iran's civil defense.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=9006020068>

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

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Russia Urges Resumption of Iran Nuclear Talks

25 August 2011

Russia on Thursday called for an end to the deadlock in the international talks over Iran's nuclear program.

Talks between Iran and six world powers including Russia and the United States broke down in December last year.

The country is subject to UN Security Council sanctions over its refusal to halt uranium enrichment amid fears that Iran is trying to acquire nuclear weapons.

"Now, as never before, it is politically important to break the prolonged deadlock in the negotiation process between the Iran six and Tehran," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich told reporters in Moscow.

Lukashevich said Russia suggested its solution to Iran's nuclear dispute to the other five members.

Last month, Moscow proposed a phased process in which Iran would take steps to ease global tension over its nuclear program and be rewarded by a gradual easing of sanctions.

Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad has welcomed the scheme.

MOSCOW, August 25 (RIA Novosti)

Issue No. 935, 26 August 2011

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<http://en.rian.ru/world/20110825/166171016.html>

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

San Francisco Chronicle

NKorea Reported Ready to Halt WMD Tests

By MANSUR MIROVALEV and FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

MOSCOW—North Korean leader Kim Jong Il says his country is ready to impose a nuclear test and production moratorium if international talks on its atomic program resume, in Pyongyang's latest effort to restart long-stalled, aid-for-disarmament talks.

It remains to be seen, however, whether Kim's reported gesture at a summit Wednesday with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev will satisfy the most skeptical of the five other nations at talks meant to end the North's nuclear weapons ambitions—the United States, South Korea and Japan.

Kim, at the summit in eastern Siberia, reportedly made no mention of an issue that lies at the heart of negotiators' worries: North Korea's recently revealed uranium enrichment program.

Medvedev spokeswoman Natalya Timakova was quoted by the ITAR-Tass news agency as saying that Kim expressed readiness to return to the nuclear talks without preconditions, and, "in the course of the talks, North Korea will be ready to resolve the question of imposing a moratorium on tests and production of nuclear missile weapons."

The North promised to freeze its long-range missile tests in 1999, but has since routinely tested short-range missiles and launched a long-range rocket in April 2009. It has also conducted two nuclear tests, most recently in 2009, and last year it shelled a South Korean front-line island, killing four, and allegedly torpedoed a South Korean warship, killing 46.

Kim and Medvedev met at the hotel of a military garrison near the city of Ulan-Ude in Buryatia, a predominantly Buddhist province near Lake Baikal. It is Kim's first trip to Russia since 2002, and it follows a marked easing in tensions between North and South Korea.

Nuclear envoys from the Koreas met last month on the sidelines of a regional security summit for what were described as cordial talks. A senior North Korean official then traveled to New York for talks with his U.S. counterparts.

The North has repeatedly said it wants the so-called six-party nuclear talks to resume. Washington and Seoul, however, have been wary, calling first for an improvement in the abysmal ties between the Koreas and for a sincere sign from the North that it will abide by past commitments it has made in previous rounds of the nuclear talks.

South Korea's Yonhap News Agency said in an editorial that many had hoped the summit would signal change for the tense Korean peninsula, but the results instead seemed a "'storm in a teacup,' lacking any new content."

"The communist country has a track record of alternately using provocations and dialogue with South Korea, the United States and other regional powers to try to wrest concessions before backtracking on agreements and quitting the nuclear talks," the editorial said of the North.

Yonhap quoted an unnamed South Korean official as saying the results fell short of the expectations of South Korea, the United States and Japan. The official raised the need for the North to address its uranium enrichment program.

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The six-sided nuclear talks involving North Korea and the United States, China, Japan, Russia and South Korea have been stalled since December 2008. But faced with deepening sanctions and economic trouble, North Korea has pushed to restart them.

Yang Moo-jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, hailed the North's willingness to freeze its missile and nuclear tests, but noted there was no clear mention of the North's uranium enrichment program, which can also make nuclear weapons.

"The North already has weaponized plutonium, and enriched uranium is something that can be proliferated in an easier manner," Yang said.

On another subject, Medvedev said Russia and North Korea moved forward on a proposal to ship natural gas to South Korea through a pipeline across North Korea.

North Korea had long been reluctant to help its powerful archenemy increase its gas supply, but recently has shown interest in the project. The South wants Russian energy but is wary of North Korean influence over its energy supply.

Medvedev, in televised comments, said the two countries will create a commission on "bilateral cooperation on gas transit."

He said two-thirds of the 700-mile (1,100-kilometer) pipeline would traverse North Korea to stream up to 10 billion cubic meters of gas a year to the South. Russia's state-controlled gas monopoly, Gazprom, said the pipeline is likely to carry gas from the giant offshore fields near the Pacific island of Sakhalin.

The two leaders also discussed restructuring North Korea's Soviet-era debt to Russia, said a Kremlin official, speaking on condition of anonymity. That debt totals about \$11 billion, according to a top Russian official.

The North's launching of a long-range rocket in April 2009 drew widespread international sanctions and condemnation, and an angry North Korea retaliated by pulling out of the six-party nuclear talks.

North Korea is believed to have enough weaponized plutonium for at least six atomic bombs and last November it revealed a uranium enrichment program. North Korea has carried out two nuclear tests, in 2006 and 2009, and is believed to be working toward mounting a bomb on a long-range missile.

In March, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexei Borodavkin traveled to Pyongyang and urged North Korean officials to impose a moratorium on nuclear and ballistic missile tests and to allow international monitors back into its main nuclear complex near the capital.

Kim was expected to return to North Korea following his meeting with Medvedev.

The itinerary for Kim's visit has been largely kept secret due to security worries. Some photos of Kim emerged during his visit Sunday to a Russian hydroelectric plant—whose power lines might be extended to North Korea—but heavy police cordons have kept the media and onlookers in Ulan-Ude away from the train station.

Kim also reportedly visited a major aircraft factory that produces the Sukhoi attack planes and the town of Skovorodino, the starting point for an oil pipeline that links eastern Siberian oil fields to China.

At their summit, Medvedev greeted Kim, who stepped out of an armored Mercedes limousine saying he was "having a fun trip." Kim, however, looked frail as he limped to a chair in a meeting hall—a possible consequence of a stroke he reportedly had in 2008.

Klug reported from Seoul. Hyung-jin Kim and Sam Kim in Seoul and Jim Heintz in Moscow contributed to this report.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2011/08/23/international/i200833D45.DTL&ao=all>

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



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MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

Sunday Times – Sri Lanka

NKorea Supplied Nuclear Software to Iran-German Paper

By Reuters

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

BERLIN, Aug 24 (Reuters) - North Korea has intensified its cooperation with Iran this year and supplied it with a computer programme that could help the Islamic Republic build nuclear weapons, a German newspaper reported on Wednesday, citing western intelligence sources.

The Sueddeutsche Zeitung said North Korea had in the spring delivered software, originally developed in the United States, that could simulate neutron flows.

Such calculations, linked to identifying a chain reaction, are vital in the construction of reactors and also in the development of nuclear explosives.

With the help of the programme, Iran could gain important knowledge of how to construct nuclear weapons, reported the newspaper which quoted no individual source.

If confirmed, it could add to Western suspicions about Iran's disputed nuclear activities and its links with North Korea, a secretive Asian state whose pursuit of nuclear weapons worries the world.

A confidential U.N. report earlier this year said North Korea and Iran appeared to have been regularly exchanging ballistic missile technology in violation of U.N. sanctions.

Iran rejects Western accusations it is seeking to develop atomic arms but its refusal to halt sensitive work has drawn gradually tightening U.N. and Western sanctions since 2006.

The Sueddeutsche said the programme, called Monte Carlo N-Particle Extended, or MCNPX 2.6.0., was used widely for civilian purposes but is subject to strict export controls because it can also be used to develop atomic weapons. It is unclear how North Korea got hold of the software.

The deal could be part of a comprehensive cooperation between the two states for which Iran has paid more than \$100 million, said the Sueddeutsche.

The paper also said a delegation from North Korea travelled to Iran in February to train 20 Defence Ministry employees of the defence ministry in the software.

The U.N. nuclear watchdog has voiced growing concern in the last year about possible military links to Tehran's nuclear programme, saying it has received new information adding to those concerns.

"More information is coming and we are assessing it," Yukiya Amano, director general of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency told Reuters last week, without giving detail.

For several years, the IAEA has been investigating Western intelligence reports indicating Iran has coordinated efforts to process uranium, test explosives at high altitude and revamp a ballistic missile cone so it could take a atom warhead.

Iran rejects the allegations as forged and baseless.

<http://www.sundaytimes.lk/world-news/10151-nkorea-supplied-nuclear-software-to-iran-german-paper.html>

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

Xinhua News – China

US: DPRK's Offer on Nuclear Talks Not Enough

August 25, 2011

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(Xinhua)

WASHINGTON - The US State Department said on Wednesday that the offer by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to suspend its nuclear program at some point if the Six-Party Talks resumed is a "welcome first step, but far from enough."

"I think you hit it on the head when you said 'familiar offer,' " State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland told reporters at a regular briefing.

"Obviously, if, in fact, they are now willing to refrain from nuclear tests and missile launches, this would be welcome, but it would be insufficient," she said.

During a visit to Moscow on Wednesday, DPRK leader Kim Jong-il told Russian President Dmitry Medvedev that the DPRK was ready to impose a moratorium on testing and production of missile and nuclear weaponry only in the course of the Six-Party Talks.

Nuland said DPRK's disclosure last November of uranium enrichment facilities "remains a matter of serious concern" to the US, describing these activities as "a clear violation of their obligations under UN Security Resolutions 1718 and 1874, and contrary to the commitments that they made in 2005."

US envoy for DPRK policy Stephen Bosworth and DPRK Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan met in late July in New York over a possible resumption of the long-stalled Six-Party Talks on the Korean Peninsular denuclearization. A DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman said early this month that his country is ready to hold the talks without preconditions.

The Six-Party Talks, involving China, the DPRK, the United States, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Russia and Japan, began in 2003. Six rounds were held before the talks stalled in December 2008.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2011-08/25/c_131071876.htm

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

Russia Today (RT) – Russia

N. Korea in Usual 'Nuclear Co-Operation Dance'

25 August 2011

By Lucy Kafanov

Despite North Korea stating it is ready to restart the talks on nuclear problem with no conditions from its side, there may be conditions from the US and South Korea, a professor on East-Asian economics and society told RT.

The resumption of Six-Party talks without preconditions is "a slap in the face of South Korea," which expects apologies from the North for this year's attacks on Yeonpyeong Island and alleged sinking of the Cheonan warship by a Northern torpedo, believes Dr. Patrick Fullick, founder of the Capital Science Connections innovation agency.

It means some concession shall be made from the South and its allies to get the talks started, he told RT.

The six-party negotiations are fruitful for all the parties, but the North Korean nuclear program weighs too much for the Kim regime for it to be abandoned so easily, Fullick says.

"It goes even beyond the peace treaty. The program serves a number of purposes for North Korea: domestic purposes, prestige...it's a means of defense, it gives Kim Jong-il international attention. As long as they have no alternative for all those reasons, it's unlikely they would give up their nuclear program," Fullick maintains.

As for the US position, it uses North Korea as a pretext for its military presence in the Asian Pacific, Fullick says, but keeps in mind its main rival in the region – China.

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"North Korea is just a proxy, the real problem from the US perspective, is China. North Korea is very useful for explaining pretty strong US military presence in the region", he stresses.

Speaking about the importance of resuming the talks with North Korea, Fullick believes the recent negotiations and visible opening of the North Korean leadership for international co-operation is nothing but a cycle in its diplomatic gaming.

And this positive change, although it is highly important for the world community, may not bring any development, he says.

"From the long-term perspective we've seen this coming and going, good signs, opening up and then you have some negative signs, even military clashes. This is more-or-less like a dance. We are now just watching as it takes place again," Fullick believes.

Pyeongyang abruptly pulled out of the Six Party Talks on April 14, 2005, saying it would resume its nuclear enrichment program in order to boost its nuclear deterrent. The isolated communist country also expelled all nuclear inspectors from its territory.

<http://rt.com/news/kim-jong-il-north-korea-nuclear-talks-111/>

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

China Daily – China

DPRK Top Leader: DPRK Ready to Resume Six-Party Talks Without Preconditions

August 26, 2011
(Xinhua)

DAQING, Heilongjiang, August 26 (Xinhua) -- Top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kim Jong Il said Friday that the DPRK is ready to resume the six-party talks without preconditions.

Kim, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission, made the remarks while meeting with Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo during his visit to northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.

The DPRK adheres to the goal of denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula and is ready to fully implement the September 19 joint statement along with all sides for maintaining and promoting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, he said.

Launched in 2003, the six-party talks on the denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula involved China, the DPRK, the United States, the Republic of Korea, Japan and Russia.

The 9.19 Joint Statement was signed on September 19, 2005, in which the DPRK promised to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs.

The talks have been suspended since December 2008.

Kim arrived in northeast China on Thursday after his Russian tour.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/xinhua/2011-08-26/content_3615298.html

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

Lahore Times – Pakistan

China Seeking to Bolster Nuclear Force: US

Issue No. 935, 26 August 2011

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CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
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By Agence France-Presse (AFP)
August 24, 2011

WASHINGTON: China's military is seeking to improve its nuclear arsenal by acquiring more mobile ballistic missiles that could survive a possible attack, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

"China is modernizing its nuclear forces by adding more survivable delivery systems" and may be developing a new "road-mobile" ballistic missile, an annual report to Congress on Chinese military power said.

The improvements are "intended to ensure the viability of China's strategic deterrent in the face of continued advances" in the United States as well as, to a less extent, in Russia, it said.

State media have reported that China's Second Artillery Corps has carried out training exercises that emphasized camouflage and maneuver tactics, which the report said would be designed to "increase survivability" of the country's atomic arsenal.

China has consistently held to a "no first use" policy, saying it would use nuclear weapons only in response to a nuclear attack against China.

<http://www.lhrtimes.com/china-seeking-to-bolster-nuclear-force-us.html>

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

Wall Street Journal
August 25, 2011

Chinese State TV Alludes to U.S. Website Attacks

By JEREMY PAGE

BEIJING — Chinese state television has broadcast footage of what two experts on the Chinese military say appears to be a military institute demonstrating software designed to attack websites in the U.S.

Although it could be a decade old or a mock-up, the 10-second segment—part of a longer report on cybersecurity—appears to be a rare example of an official source contradicting China's repeated assertions that it doesn't engage in cyberattacks, according to Andrew Erickson and Gabe Collins of the China SignPost analytical service, which specializes in military matters.

The slightest suggestion that the Chinese military has attacked U.S. websites is highly sensitive, especially since the Pentagon published a new cyberstrategy in July that laid the ground for the U.S. to potentially respond with traditional military force to crippling cyberattacks from abroad.

That move followed a string of cyberattacks over the past few years on U.S. targets including Google Inc., Lockheed Martin Corp. and the Pentagon itself, which many U.S. officials believe originated in China, though they haven't so far offered evidence publicly to prove this.

The change also reflected mounting concerns in the Pentagon that insufficient resources have been invested in defense against cyberattacks—which were inflicted on Georgia during its brief war with Russia in 2008 but are still unregulated by international law and are likely to be a key element of future wars.

China's Foreign and Defense Ministries didn't respond to requests for comment Wednesday. Nor did China Central Television Channel 7, known as CCTV-7, where the footage was shown. In the past, China's government has repeatedly denied any involvement in cyberattacks and has said that China itself is one of the biggest victims of hacking.

The brief footage—the relevant segment runs no more than 10 seconds—didn't attract much domestic or international attention when it was first screened last month as part of a 20-minute report on cybersecurity broadcast on CCTV-7, which covers military affairs.

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But it was highlighted Wednesday in a report published by Dr. Erickson, an associate professor at the U.S. Naval War College's China Maritime Studies Institute, and Mr. Collins, a commodities and security specialist focusing on Russia and China.

The footage, which could still be seen on CCTV's website as of late Wednesday, features Senior Col. Du Wenlong, a researcher at the Chinese army's Academy of Military Sciences, giving a detailed analysis of cybersecurity issues around the world.

At one point, as a narrator discusses various forms of cyberattack, a cursor is shown moving on a computer screen with a software application that is identified in Chinese characters as a "distributed denial-of-service" attack. Also known as DDOS, such attacks are relatively unsophisticated tools of cyberwarfare that involve bombarding websites with data to disable them.

The next screen says at the top, in Chinese, "Attack system..PLA Electronic Engineering Institute." PLA stands for People's Liberation Army.

Below, it asks the user to "Choose the attack target" from a drop-down list of websites related to the Falun Gong spiritual movement, which China's government banned in 1999 and which has been the object of a sustained crackdown ever since.

The cursor highlights one, called Minghui.org, and then clicks on a large button below saying "Attack."

The IP address given for the selected website—which is currently unavailable in China but accessible in the U.S.—is 138.26.72.17 and is registered to the University of Alabama in Birmingham, according to at least two websites that trace IP addresses.

Dr. Erickson and Mr. Collins said that if the footage was real, it was probably a decade old, because of the rudimentary nature of the DDOS attack depicted, and because there was a spate of such attacks on Falun Gong targets 10 years ago.

They also said it was unclear whether the footage—which might also have depicted a civilian hacker—was included to reassure a domestic audience about China's cybercapability, or simply because it suited CCTV-7's need for some relevant imagery.

But they argued that, even if it were a symbolic representation, it was significant all the same because it was shown on CCTV, one of the government's main official mouthpieces, and depicted as an attack on a foreign website.

"It appeared to show dated computer screenshots of a Chinese military institute conducting a rudimentary type of cyberattack against a U.S.-based dissident entity," they wrote. "However modest, ambiguous—and, from China's perspective, defensive—this is possibly the first direct piece of visual evidence from an official Chinese government source to undermine Beijing's official claims never to engage in overseas hacking of any kind for government purposes."

They added later: "It certainly looks like a 'smoking cursor,' albeit a relatively modest one. China undoubtedly has far superior capabilities at its disposal today."

China's Defense Ministry revealed for the first time in May that it had formed a 30-strong cyberdefense unit, called the "Blue Army," but insisted that it was for defensive purposes only.

However, foreign security officials and Internet-security experts continue to allege that a significant proportion of military and corporate cyberattacks originate from China.

The cybersecurity company McAfee Inc said in February that hackers who appeared to be based in China had conducted a "coordinated, covert and targeted" campaign of cyberespionage against five multinational energy firms since at least since 2009 and possibly since 2007.

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CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
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McAfee released another report this month suggesting that an unidentified "state actor" was behind a massive years-long cyberattack on organizations including United Nations agencies, the government of Taiwan and the International Olympic Committee.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904009304576528363095538754.html>

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

Times of India – India

China Admits 'New' Missile Equipment but Calls Pentagon Report 'Cock and Bull' Story

By Saibal Dasgupta, Tamil News Network (TNN)
August 25, 2011

BEIJING: China has said that Pentagon's charges about Beijing's efforts towards a missile build-up on the Indian border and cause instability in the Asian region as both baffling and a "cock and bull story".

"The allegation is an utterly cock-and-bull story about the Chinese military based on a wild guess and illogical reasoning," the official Xinhua news agency said. Xinhua claims runs counter to a report in the State-owned People's Daily, which told a different story on Wednesday."

In mid-August, a Chinese missile battalion which has just armed itself with new equipment in the past half-year, maneuvered to the Gobi desert thousands of kilometers away and carried out a combat drill in which the anti-aircraft missile Red Flag 9 accurately destroyed distant targets at a very low altitude, setting a new record in this area for the PLA Air Force," the paper said.

The contrast in reports suggest China is prepared to admit it was upgrading its missile systems but would not accept it if it comes in the form of charges from the US defense department.

Observers said China is in the process of upgrading its missiles weapons, and replacing the older versions on the Indian border with the latest ones after they are tested in the Gobi desert.

Discussing the Pentagon report, Xinhua said, "It is more baffling when it claimed the Chinese military imposed ascendant threat to regional stability". It said that the so-called advanced weapons the report discusses are not "new faces" of military hardware and have been possessed by some countries years or even decades ago.

"China has no intention or interest to beget any enemies or antagonistic rivals in the world," it said.

Pentagon's observations on missile systems in its latest report is along the lines it had taken in its 2010 report when it said, "To improve regional deterrence, the PLA has replaced older liquid-fueled, nuclear capable CSS-3 intermediate-range ballistic missiles with more advanced and survivable solid-fueled CSS-5 MRBMs and may be developing contingency plans to move airborne troops into the region," the Pentagon said in its 2010 report.

It is not clear which parts of the long border has been chosen by the PLA to deploy its improved missiles.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/china/China-admits-new-missile-equipment-but-calls-Pentagon-report-cock-and-bull-story/articleshow/9736388.cms>

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

Washington Times

China Expanding Its Nuclear Stockpile

Pentagon discloses network of bunkers

By Bill Gertz, the Washington Times

Issue No. 935, 26 August 2011

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Thursday, August 25, 2011

China is expanding its nuclear forces with a new multiwarhead mobile missile and keeps its strategic stockpiles in deep underground bunkers, the Pentagon disclosed in its annual report to Congress on the Chinese military.

China is thought to have up to 75 long-range nuclear missiles, including hard-to-find, road-mobile DF-31 and DF-31A intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), according to the report, which was released Wednesday. China also has 120 intermediate- and medium-range missiles.

"China is both qualitatively and quantitatively improving its strategic missile forces," the report states. "Beijing will likely continue to invest considerable resources to maintain a limited nuclear force ... to ensure the [People's Liberation Army] can deliver a damaging retaliatory nuclear strike."

The report states for the first time that China appears to be developing a third road-mobile ICBM, possibly capable of carrying a multiple, independently targetable re-entry vehicle.

Additionally, the report provides new details on China's efforts to develop missile defenses and says China conducted a warhead-intercept test as part of the system.

China also has built its first Jin-class ballistic-missile submarine that "appears ready," but its missile, the JL-2, a variant of the DF-31, is still being flight-tested.

A disclosure in the annual assessment reveals China's deep-underground facilities in the north that is connected with more than 3,000 miles of tunnels. The facilities are used for storing and hiding missiles and nuclear warheads, and for command bunkers hardened against nuclear attacks.

The facilities were built on the Chinese belief that the weapons and headquarters are less vulnerable to attack. The Chinese military has been using the underground facilities since the early 1950s.

U.S. officials said most details of Chinese nuclear arms previously were kept secret.

"China's strategic missile force, the Second Artillery Corps (SAC), has developed and utilized [underground facilities] since deploying its oldest liquid-fueled missile systems and continues to utilize them to protect and conceal their newest and most modern solid-fueled mobile missiles," the report says.

The facilities include an "obscure tunnel network" stretching more than 3,000 miles.

The report said China's underground nuclear sites are based on Beijing's assumption that "it might have to absorb an initial nuclear blow prior to engaging in 'nuclear counterattack,'" the report says.

According to the newsletter the Diplomat, a recent presentation at the Naval War College disclosed that the underground facilities were made public by China's state-run CCTV in March 2008. The television network showed some of the tunneling at a location in mountainous northern Hubei province. The facilities reportedly are located hundreds of yards below ground.

"Although secrecy and ambiguity remain China's predominant approach in the nuclear realm, occasional disclosure of information on some missile-related [underground facilities] is consistent with an effort to send strategic signals on the credibility of its limited nuclear arsenal," the report says.

The published reports have shown images of tunnels, modern network-based security and control centers, and advanced camouflage measures, the report says.

The underground military facilities also are used to protect and hide command posts and communications sites, to store weapons and equipment and to protect people.

Richard Fisher, a China military-affairs analyst, said the report is significant for listing strategic nuclear forces that show an estimated increase of up to 25 new ICBMs, some with multiple warheads, in a year, and the first references to China's program for nationwide missile defenses.



"Taken together, a well-protected, growing ICBM force that will soon have active defenses should be of great concern to the United States," said Mr. Fisher, of the International Assessment and Strategy Center. "China will not reveal its missile-buildup plans or its [anti-ballistic missile] plans, so this simply is not the time to be considering further cuts in the U.S. nuclear force, as is the Obama administration's intention."

Mr. Fisher said China's hints and unofficial signs for decades that it does not seek large nuclear forces are not credible and are in line with similar disinformation themes, such as China's claims that it is not preparing for space warfare, not selling arms to rogue states and not seeking global hegemony.

Chinese military officials on at least two occasions since 1995 have threatened to use nuclear weapons, directly or indirectly, against the United States.

In October 1995, Gen. Xiong Guangkai said of any conflict over Taiwan that "if you hit us, we can hit back." The general then said that "in the end, you care more about Los Angeles than you do about Taipei," reported to the White House at the time as a threat to use nuclear weapons.

In 2005, Gen. Zhu Chenghu told reporters in Beijing that if the U.S. military used conventionally armed weapons on Chinese territory, "we will have to respond with nuclear weapons."

China's military in January rebuffed an appeal from Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates to hold strategic nuclear talks.

A classified State Department cable from Beijing in 2008 quoted Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister He Yafei as telling visiting U.S. officials that "China does not favor displaying the same transparency regarding nuclear-weapons holdings or delivery platforms that the United States, U.K., and France have shown, since doing so would eliminate the value of China's strategic deterrent."

On missile defenses, the report for the first time revealed that China is developing a nationwide "umbrella" of nonexplosive, high-speed interceptors that can hit missiles and other aerospace vehicles at heights of up to 50 miles.

China frequently criticizes the similar U.S. missile-defense system as undermining stability.

China also is continuing to develop anti-satellite weapons that were first tested in 2007, causing a debris field in space that continues to threaten orbiting spacecraft, the report says.

"China continues to develop and refine this system, which is one component of a multidimensional program to limit or prevent the use of space-based assets by potential adversaries during times of crisis or conflict," the report says.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/aug/25/beijing-to-expand-its-nuclear-stockpile/?page=1>

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

New York Times
August 24, 2011

Nuclear Experts Warn of Libya 'Dirty Bomb' Material

By REUTERS

VIENNA (Reuters) - A research centre near Tripoli has stocks of nuclear material that could be used to make a "dirty bomb," a former senior U.N. inspector said on Wednesday, warning of possible looting during turmoil in Libya.

Seeking to mend ties with the West, Libya's Muammar Gaddafi agreed in 2003 to abandon efforts to acquire nuclear, chemical and biological weapons -- a move that brought him in from the cold and helped end decades of Libyan isolation.



A six-month popular insurgency has now forced Gaddafi to abandon his stronghold in the Libyan capital but continued gunfire suggests the rebels have not completely triumphed yet.

Olli Heinonen, head of U.N. nuclear safeguards inspections worldwide until last year, pointed to substantial looting that took place at Iraq's Tuwaitha atomic research facility near Baghdad after Saddam Hussein was toppled in 2003.

In Iraq, "most likely due to pure luck, the story did not end in a radiological disaster," Heinonen said.

In Libya, "nuclear security concerns still linger," the former deputy director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in an online commentary.

Libya's uranium enrichment program was dismantled after Gaddafi renounced weapons of mass destruction eight years ago. Sensitive material and documentation including nuclear weapons design information were confiscated.

But the country's Tajoura research centre continues to stock large quantities of radioisotopes, radioactive waste and low-enriched uranium fuel after three decades of nuclear research and radioisotope production, Heinonen said.

Refined uranium can have civilian as well as military purposes, if enriched much further.

"DANGEROUS" MATERIAL

"While we can be thankful that the highly enriched uranium stocks are no longer in Libya, the remaining material in Tajoura could, if it ended up in the wrong hands, be used as ingredients for dirty bombs," Heinonen, now at Harvard University, said.

"The situation at Tajoura today is unclear. We know that during times of regime collapse, lawlessness and looting reign."

A so-called dirty bomb can combine conventional explosives such as dynamite with radioactive material.

Experts describe the threat of a crude fissile nuclear bomb, which is technically difficult to manufacture and requires hard-to-obtain bomb-grade uranium or plutonium, as a "low probability, high consequence act" -- unlikely but with the potential to cause large-scale harm to life and property.

But a "dirty bomb," where conventional explosives are used to disperse radiation from a radioactive source, is a "high probability, low consequence act" with more potential to terrorise than cause large loss of life.

"There are a number of nuclear and radiological materials at Tajoura that could be used by terrorists to create a dirty bomb," said Mark Fitzpatrick, a director at the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies think-tank.

There was no immediate comment from the IAEA on the Tajoura facility. A document posted on the IAEA's website said it was a 10 megawatt reactor located 34 km (20 miles) east of the Libyan capital.

The Vienna-based U.N. agency has been involved in technical aid projects in Libya, including at Tajoura.

Heinonen said Libya's rebel Transitional National Council would need to be aware of the material at Tajoura. Once a transition takes place it should "take the necessary steps to secure these potentially dangerous radioactive sources."

Fitzpatrick said the looting that occurred at Iraq's Tuwaitha centre "should stand as a lesson for the need for nuclear security precautions in the situation today in Libya."

Editing by Mark Heinrich

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2011/08/24/world/africa/international-us-libya-nuclear-heinonen.html?hp>



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

Space War.com

US Says Libya's Yellowcake, Mustard Agent Secure

By Staff Writers

Washington, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

August 25, 2011

The United States said Thursday that Libya's stockpiles of mustard agent and uranium yellowcake -- potential ingredients for chemical and nuclear weapons -- are secure.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said US envoy Chris Stevens was speaking with Libyan rebels about their plans to assume control of a site in Tajjura where yellowcake is kept and a mustard agent storage site in Waddan.

"All sensitive elements of Libya's nuclear program, including everything that Libya received from the (Pakistan-based) AQ Khan network, were removed in early 2004," Nuland told reporters.

"The last of the highly-enriched uranium, the bomb-making fuel, was removed from Libya in 2009," she said.

She said Libya's supply of yellowcake is "safeguarded" at the Tajjura nuclear research facility.

Yellowcake is made from raw mined uranium to be transformed into uranium tetrafluoride (UF₄) and then into uranium hexafluoride (UF₆), a feed gas for the actual process of enrichment. Enriched uranium can be used to fuel nuclear reactors or make atomic bombs.

"We are able, through our national technical means, to assert that we believe that it is secure and in any case, Libya doesn't have the means right now to turn yellowcake into anything dangerous," she added.

National technical means refers to the use of spy satellites and other intelligence-gathering methods.

The now fugitive Libyan strongman Moamer Kadhafi's stockpile of mustard agent meanwhile is "now stored at the Waddan Ammunition Reservation," Nuland said.

"It is inside massive steel containers within heavy bunkers. These bunkers were sealed by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the OPCW," Nuland added.

"Our judgment is that they remain secure," she said, adding the chemicals are not ready to be mounted on weapons.

"They can't be converted on a dime. And they're in these massive drums inside a heavy bunker. And we are able to monitor the security with national technical means," she added.

The State Department and Pentagon said Wednesday that Libya's stockpiles of missiles and chemical weapons were "secure" but that an arsenal of thousands of portable shoulder-launched missiles remained a cause for concern.

http://www.spacewar.com/reports/US_says_Libyas_yellowcake_mustard_agent_secure_999.html

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

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Next Test of Russia's Bulava Missile Set for Aug. 27 - Source

24 August 2011

Issue No. 935, 26 August 2011

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education / Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 / Fax: 334.953.7530



A state commission has scheduled the next test launch of the Bulava ballistic missile for August 27, a source in the commission told RIA Novosti on Wednesday.

The launch from the Borey class Yuri Dolgoruky strategic submarine was originally planned for August 20, but was postponed until the submarine was ready for the next round of missile tests.

"The members of the state commission have decided to resume the tests of the Bulava missile and set August 27 as the date for the next test launch for its maximum range from the Yuri Dolgoruky nuclear submarine," the source said.

Russia has carried out 15 test launches of the Bulava. Only eight of them were successful.

The first test launch of the Bulava from the Yuri Dolgoruky was conducted on June 28, 2011. Before that the missiles were fired from the Typhoon class Dmitry Donskoy submarine.

The Bulava (SS-NX-30) submarine-launched ballistic missile carries up to 10 MIRV warheads and has a range of over 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles). The three-stage missile is specifically designed for deployment on Borey class nuclear submarines.

The Russian military is planning to conduct four additional tests of the missile before putting it into service by the end of 2011.

MOSCOW, August 24 (RIA Novosti)

http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20110824/166123582.html

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

Global Security Newswire

Research Could Lead to Ebola Countermeasures: Army

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

A U.S. Army biodefense facility said on Wednesday it has participated in two research projects that could support efforts to develop medical countermeasures against the Ebola virus (see *GSN*, Aug. 3).

Ebola infection can prove fatal in as many as 90 percent of cases, and the virus is considered a possible bioterror threat. There are today no vaccines or therapies ready for use against the disease, and "much is still unknown about the exact mechanism by which Ebola virus invades cells and causes infection," according to the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases.

Researchers from the Fort Detrick, Md., facility were involved in efforts to provide insight into that question.

One team of scientists found that cells that do not produce the Niemann-Pick C1 protein are shielded from infection by the Ebola virus. Absence of the protein is linked to Niemann-Pick disease, in which cholesterol overwhelms and ultimately kills cells.

The Army researchers tested mice that were "partially deficient in NPC1 expression," according to a USAMRIID press release. The majority of the mice lived after exposure to deadly levels of the Ebola virus. In addition, testing of cells taken from human Niemann-Pick patients also proved shielded from infection.

A compound that obstructed the workings of the NPC1 protein also was determined to restrict the potential for infection.

The research was conducted by scientists from the Army facility and colleagues at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, and the Harvard Medical School and Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Mass.



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Another research group from the Army, Harvard Medical School and Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital came to an identical finding regarding the role of the NPC1 protein in enabling Ebola infection.

Both projects received funding from the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency and on Wednesday published their findings in the journal *Nature*. The research could point the way to development of therapeutics that could prevent the Ebola virus from infecting human cells and proliferating, according to USAMRIID researcher Lisa Hensley (U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infections Diseases release, Aug. 24).

http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20110824_9906.php

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

Oklahoma City Friday
August 24, 2011

Inhofe Details Threats to National Security

By Ryan Piersol, OKC Friday

In the war against terrorism and global threats, U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe says Iran should be concern No. 1.

Inhofe, a four-term Republican from Oklahoma, talked about national security in front of an audience at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum on Monday. He serves on both the Committee on Armed Services, as well as the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Inhofe discussed his relationship with Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his trips to Africa, the battle for power raging in Libya and wars the U.S. is involved in. When the topic switched to Iran, he was clear in his opinion.

"The most dangerous of the dictatorial regimes is Iran," Inhofe said. "If this regime acquires nuclear weapons, it would be catastrophic, not only for the Middle East, but for mankind."

The senator estimated that Iran will have the ability to deliver nuclear weapons to the U.S. and Western Europe by 2015. He said that many of the country's ground-based interceptors are in Alaska and California, but that the east coast wasn't nearly as secure.

He said that North Korea, which has tested a missile capable of reaching Alaska, is a key reason why security on the west coast is so significant. And, if Iran should be the top national security concern, then North Korea wouldn't be too far behind.

"The problem with them is that we don't really know what they have," Inhofe said. "They're a monster and they want to kill everyone in this room. That we do know."

Inhofe reiterated support for the military prison at Guantanamo Bay. A bill he sponsored in Congress – SB 1046, or the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility Act – would require high-enemy combatants of the United States to be moved to Guantanamo Bay, instead of left overseas or brought to the U.S. for a civilian trial.

"They should be tried in a military court, because a military court will try them according to what they are," Inhofe said. "They're not American citizens, they're not protected by our Constitution. They're terrorists."

The bill has been referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

Inhofe said that being from Oklahoma gives him a special significance as he travels around the world discussing terrorism.

"You don't realize how much you are respected, because of how you handled your own tragedy," he told the audience. "Everywhere I go, people tell me how much they respect and appreciate Oklahoma."

<http://okcfriday.com/inhofe-details-threats-to-national-security-p6219-92.htm>

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

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Al Qaeda Militants 'Escape Libyan Jails' as Gaddafi Regime Falls

26 August 2011

A group of convicted militants have escaped Libyan jails after rebels seized power in most of the country, the Algerian-based El Khabar paper quoted a security source as saying on Friday.

The group of escapees comprised Libyan nationals extradited from Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia during the reign of Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi, El Khabar said.

"The Jihad devotees managed to join al Qaeda after they had escaped from Libyan jails," El Khabar said. "This situation boosts Algerian concerns that Jihad devotees dominate in the armed opposition,"

Unlike many Arab states, Algeria had not recognized the Libyan Transitional National Council.

Rebels seized control of much of Tripoli this week, but Gaddafi's whereabouts remain unknown.

The National Transitional Council on Wednesday offered an amnesty, as well as a \$1.3-million reward, for anyone who captures or kills Gaddafi.

CAIRO, August 26 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20110826/166201468.html>

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

DAWN.com – Pakistan

Qaeda Firmly Rooted in Pakistan Tribal Fiefdom: Report

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

August 26, 2011

PESHAWAR: With his well-groomed hair, shaven face and delicate hint of aftershave, Al-Qaeda logistician Abu Salman has operated for years in Pakistan's badlands with little fear of detection.

A decade after fleeing the US invasion of Afghanistan, Al-Qaeda bosses have carved out a new haven in Pakistan's lawless northwest, recruiting a fresh generation of foot soldiers well versed in how to escape capture.

Despite the long years of conflict, the terror network's reign of fear is too rooted for the Pakistani army or US missiles to dislodge.

When Abu Salman nears a checkpoint on the way to the group's premier bastion of North Waziristan, he turns up the music on the car stereo and lights a cigarette.

And with this simple indulgence of vices denounced by extremist adherents of Islam, he evades suspicion.

Another trick is to leave an English-language newspaper — the ultimate trapping of a secular-minded Pakistani gentleman — lying on the passenger seat.

In his 30s, the Al-Qaeda operative speaks to AFP under a fake name in the suburbs of Pakistan's largest northwestern city, Peshawar. Officially he is a car dealer.

The cover story allows him to swap vehicles without suspicion and so escape detection by Pakistani security forces and the American drones trying to eliminate Al-Qaeda in the frontline state in the war on terror.

A university-trained engineer, Abu Salman signed up in 2008 while working in Afghanistan.

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"I saw the pain inflicted by the Americans. I realised that I hadn't done anything with my life up till then," he said.

He was given basic military training in eastern Afghanistan in late 2008 but has been integrated into the network as a logistics man, fetching food and medicine.

He personifies the success that Al-Qaeda has found in Pakistan, exploiting a mosaic of overlapping militant networks of foreigners and locals dating back 30 years to the mujahideen resistance to the Soviets in Afghanistan.

"Al-Qaeda has been pretty much driven out of Afghanistan, but it got stronger in Pakistan," surfing on a wave of anti-American sentiment, says Pakistani journalist and Al-Qaeda expert Zahid Hussain.

North Waziristan has an estimated several hundred foreign Al-Qaeda fighters, mostly from Arab countries and Uzbekistan, with a smattering of Africans, Chechens and Westerners, the latter mostly dual nationals.

Most arrive overland through central Asia and Afghanistan. A minority, often the most inexperienced, fly in, running greater risks of being arrested as with two French jihadists picked up this year in Lahore.

Abu Salman criss-crosses between Peshawar, Lahore, Islamabad and the tribal belt.

"We avoid the telephone and the Internet to avoid being detected and being killed by a drone," he said.

Responsible for providing food and medication, he shops for energy drinks such as Red Bull, which he claims are "very popular" among fighters.

But if most are foreign, Abu Salman claims that "more and more Pakistanis want to join up".

"Al-Qaeda rents homes for its fighters as well as local Taliban who are less well off, basically getting funds from kidnapping for ransom," says one regular visitor to the main market in the North Waziristan capital of Miramshah, who gives the name of Ahmad Jan.

Wearing traditional Pakistani clothes, long hair and beards, turbans and a Kalashnikov slung over their shoulder, the foreigners are almost indistinguishable from the tribesmen whose daughters they marry.

Only the locals can tell the difference.

"Their skin is often lighter, thinner and taller if they're Arabs and they walk differently" says Jan.

There may be no trace of Osama bin Laden's successor Ayman al-Zawahiri, but ordinary foot soldiers take few precautions, other than avoiding restaurants for fear of being a sitting duck for a drone strike.

According to statistics compiled by American website The Long War Journal, drone strikes have killed nearly 2,000 Taliban and Al-Qaeda fighters.

Abu Salman claims that most of those killed are Taliban. Visitors say that the turnover is rapid, that the dead are quickly replaced by new arrivals.

Al-Qaeda enjoys the protection of Afghan warlord Jalaluddin Haqqani.

"Everything has changed in 10 years: most of the tribal leaders have been killed and the tribal system destroyed by the Islamists. We can't dance any more, or play music at weddings," said Miramshah shopkeeper Qader Gul, 56.

"Anyone who protests risks having a member of his family kidnapped, beaten or killed," agreed Jan.

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/08/26/qaeda-firmly-rooted-in-pakistan-tribal-fiefdom.html>

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

Colombia Missourian
OPINION/Columnist

Issue No. 935, 26 August 2011

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J. KARL MILLER: U.S. Nuclear Arms Are an Unfortunate but Necessary Deterrent

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

By J. Carl Miller

J. Karl Miller writes a weekly opinion column for the Missourian.

I read Bill Wickersham and Scott Jones' guest commentary on nuclear disarmament with more than a passing interest, generated from my service as a career military officer and a minor-league historian.

That this is a controversial subject — fanning fierce debate from the center, as well as from both ends of the spectrum — is understood.

Every civilized or sane person agrees that war is by its very nature a detestable method for settling disputes between nations. Nuclear war is a gruesome adjunct of combat between nations that, hopefully, will prove unnecessary.

Delivering A-bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 forever changed the face of and ramped up the consequences of warfare.

Historically, I suspect the developments of the spear, crossbow, gunpowder, machine gun, tank and high-explosive bombs and missiles were condemned as barbaric amid calls for their banishment from the field of combat.

Nevertheless, the tragedy of about 200,000 civilians and military killed in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki blasts, along with an estimate of 400,000 perishing from radiation in the following years, will never be erased from history.

I understand fully the positions of Wickersham and Jones in their commitment to the late Admiral Noel Gayler's call for total nuclear disarmament.

Gayler — a highly respected naval aviator who flew combat missions in World War II — observed the destruction from flying over Hiroshima and retired as Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Command, and dedicated much of his later life to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

I would expect also that most civilized and sane individuals prefer that nuclear weapons had remained on the drawing board — that nuclear power instead be developed for serving mankind in peaceful ventures.

However, it must also be remembered that the immediate purpose of the atomic bomb was, ironically, to save lives by ending a costly and bloody world war.

Estimated casualties occurring from an attack on the Japanese mainland ranged from 500,000 to more than a million Americans killed, with an additional 2 million to 4 million Japanese soldiers and civilians slain.

Past and present-day ridicule of those casualty estimates as excessive, and the horror exacted from the atomic bombings notwithstanding, President Harry Truman's courageous decision to proceed was both correct and justifiable.

Despite the voluminous writings of latecomers, armchair quarterbacks and the annual ban-the-bomb protesters, Japan's history of fierce defense in the Pacific augured unacceptable casualties and destruction.

Arguably, while the world would be better off without nuclear weapons, I must side with the contingent of senior military officers, geopolitical professionals and political realists. They reject nuclear disarmament as a well-intentioned but utterly unattainable goal.

An orchestrated destruction of strategic and tactical nuclear capability envisioned by Admiral Gayler and the authors of the guest commentary ignores the abject futility of returning the nuclear genie back into the bottle.

Issue No. 935, 26 August 2011

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Five states — the U.S., Russia, China, England and France — are signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Three — India, Pakistan and North Korea — are nonsignatory members, and Israel is undeclared.

Iran is known to be pursuing nuclear-weapon capability. Possession of such weapons gives the owner significant military power. The prime question in their mutual disarmament and destruction comes down to one of “trust but verify.”

Verifying — finding what the subject state does not wish to be found — is problematic at best. England, France and India can probably be trusted, while China and Russia are considered iffy.

Pakistan is too unstable for an accurate assessment. North Korea and Iran are “rogue nations” led by certifiable nutcases who are ticking time bombs.

Inasmuch as the technology for producing nukes is now easily available, the possibility that materials might be provided to other rogue states renders nuclear disarmament too potentially calamitous to consider feasible.

Finally, in addressing David Krieger’s (the president of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation) outline of four common misconceptions about nuclear weapons, addressed earlier by Admiral Gayler, it is hard to argue that physical defense against them is possible.

However, concluding that they cannot be used in a sensible manner ignores their successful and sensible employment to end World War II.

The last two misconceptions — that nuclear disarmament imperils our security and nuclear deterrence is an effective defense — are at odds when balanced against fact and logic.

First, the insatiable thirst for power, economic as well as tyrannical, coupled with the knowledge that the milk of human kindness does not flow through the veins of potential rulers and tin-pot dictators, makes verification of disarmament virtually impossible.

And, the notion that nuclear deterrence is not an effective defense has thus far been refuted. The last of the two atomic bombs delivered against Nagasaki fell on Aug. 9, 1945. Since then, we have seen 66 years free from nuclear attack.

One must conclude that the stewardship of the U.S., the first and the most powerful and responsible nuclear nation, has been a deterrent to nuclear warfare.

The urge to rid the world of these weapons is commendable. However, our national defense is best served by remaining a nuclear power actively engaged in deterring their use.

J. Karl Miller retired as a colonel in the Marine Corps and a Columbia resident.

<http://www.columbiamissourian.com/stories/2011/08/24/j-karl-miller/>

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

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency
OPINION/Analysis

Kim Jong-il Ready to Talk and to Agree

25 August 2011

RIA Novosti political commentator Dmitry Kosyrev

"Without preconditions" - these two words are the most important outcome of the meeting between North Korean leader Kim Jong-il and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev at the Sosnovy Bor military garrison near Ulan-Ude, Buryatia. They refer to Pyongyang's readiness to return to the six-party talks on the North Korean nuclear

Issue No. 935, 26 August 2011

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problem, which in itself is no news. But the absence of preconditions and the fact that North Korea may introduce a moratorium on nuclear arms production and testing - that certainly deserves attention.

Back to 2008

The news that the six-party talks, suspended in 2008, were about to start again was announced on July 22, 2011, in Bali, Indonesia, during the ASEAN security forum, just about the only regular international event attended by both Koreas.

And so Bali hosted a meeting of representatives of Pyongyang and Seoul, Vice Marshal Ri Yong Ho and foreign ministry advisor Wi Sung-lac, respectively, and the meeting was deemed "constructive." There have been other meetings, too: all the six-party talks participants (both Koreas, the United States, China, Russia and Japan) met with each other.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov then told journalists that an important outcome of these talks was the decision to preserve the six-party format. There had been serious doubts about that, since some participants of the talks, notably, Japan, tried to bring other issues to the negotiating table from time to time.

More meetings followed, including one on July 31 in the United States, when North Korean First Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Kae-gwan met with Stephen Bosworth, U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Policy. That went well, too.

The history of the six-party talks goes far back - after all, they began in 2003 - but the single item on their agenda has been clear from the outset: North Korea has to give up any suspicious military nuclear programs in a transparent and trustworthy manner, in exchange for assistance with energy supply. The only thing that prevented the implementation of these agreements was Pyongyang's doubt - often grounded - that its partners (primarily the United States) will honor these agreements. Now everything is about to start from scratch.

As to preconditions, they were and are still being set by South Korea. They may include an apology from North Korea for firing at South Korean territory, abandoning nuclear programs even before the talks start, or something else. It was natural for the resentful Pyongyang to come up with its own preconditions in response, and it is certainly good at it.

So the meeting in Sosnovy Bor clarified one truly important aspect: Pyongyang is willing to go back to the six-party talks without setting any conditions. Moreover, North Korea may suspend, if not entirely give up, its nuclear programs before the final agreement is reached.

So Pyongyang is willing to return to the gradual step-by-step settlement plan, which was ready long before 2008, when the talks were suspended. It also envisaged suspension of the nuclear programs and other steps.

Now it is necessary to get a clear response from South Korea: Seoul is now the only party that continues to object. Moscow is taking part in the efforts, but the bulk of the persuading is done by the United States.

Miraculous openness

It should be noted that Kim Jong-il did not in fact say anything of the above in Sosnovy Bor. Instead, it was done by the Russian president's press secretary Natalya Timakova. There is no doubt that her statement was coordinated with the North Korean leader, but still, it was not the same as if he had stood up and spoke his mind.

It would be naive to expect the two leaders to appear in front of the journalists for a news conference after the talks and tell them everything. That is what Dmitry Medvedev did. He talked about everything: gas supply to Ukraine, the rebels in Libya and economic agreements with North Korea that had just been reached at the talks. Kim Jong-il did nothing of the kind.

But it should be remembered that, like British royalty, he never does it. He must never be asked questions. Even so, Kim Jong-il demonstrated miraculous openness: he went abroad (somewhere besides China, which he visits



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from time to time) and took cameramen with him to make a film about the trip and show it at home. Also, a group of journalists were allowed to witness the exchange of niceties between the two leaders ahead of the talks. Of course, when North Korea continues the reforms frozen by the nuclear scandal, there will be more openness. But so far that is all we have.

As to continuing the reforms, it is a matter of money, and money, together with other economic issues, was also discussed in Ulan-Ude. The discussion was as successful as it could have been expected. The project of building a gas pipeline that will go from the north of the Korean Peninsula to the south has been set in motion. Now a commission will be set up to start working on the technical aspects of the issue, politics aside.

The same applies to Pyongyang's debt to Moscow dating back to the Soviet era, which has by now reached \$11 billion. Another commission will be set up to decide whether the sum is correct.

But if the nuclear problem is resolved, it will become much easier to deal with pipelines and debts.

The views expressed in this article are the author's and do not necessarily represent those of RIA Novosti.

<http://en.rian.ru/analysis/20110825/166170593.html>

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

Ha'aretz Daily – Israel

OPINION

26 August 2001

A Still-Open Nuclear File

Syria's violations would be grave enough if al-Kibar reflected a Syrian attempt to build nuclear weapons for itself. They would be graver if Syria did it to share plutonium with Iran.

By Emanuele Ottolenghi

On September 6, 2007, Israel bombed the al-Kibar site, a small industrial complex in north eastern Syria, near the town of Deir al-Zour. What precipitated Israel's daring operation was, apparently, the looming delivery of nuclear fuel to a clandestine reactor on the site, designed to produce weapons-grade plutonium, and which by then was almost operational.

Details about the compound's real purpose became public knowledge in April 2008, when a U.S. intelligence briefing revealed that al-Kibar was a North Korean-built, gas-cooled, graphite-moderated reactor almost identical to the one North Korea built in its own Yongbyon facility to produce weapons-grade plutonium. The briefing offered conclusive evidence of collusion between North Korean and Syrian scientists, confirmed that North Korea had built the Syrian reactor, for cash, and hinted at the trigger for Israel's raid - the reactor's readiness.

More than three years later, this past spring, the International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed that al-Kibar was a nuclear reactor similar to that at Yongbyon and declared Syria to be in noncompliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is now up to the UN Security Council to decide whether to punish Syria for its failure to declare the reactor's existence and for its cover-up both before and after the raid, which did "irreparable damage" to the facility.

Israeli security sources speaking off-the-record say that the Syria nuclear file is not a closed case. There are good reasons to agree.

Syria's ability to quickly develop a nuclear program on its own soil was surprising. The late Hafez Assad never pursued nuclear weapons as a deterrent against Israel because he knew his country lacked the financial resources, the industrial infrastructure, the intellectual prowess and the wherewithal to develop such a program. Instead, Assad relied for most of his career on other nonconventional weapons for deterrence. Hence, his change of course, which took place in 1997, and which was vigorously pursued by his son and heir Bashar after the father's

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death, raises questions. After all, the basic facts of Syria's scientific and industrial backwardness have not changed significantly of late. A Syrian nuclear program could come online only because it was a turnkey project: built, fueled and possibly operated by North Korea.

But nuclear weapons need more than weapons-grade fissile material. And while in April 2008, U.S. intelligence was adamant that the reactor's purpose was "to create fuel for a nuclear weapons program," it had no conclusive evidence of the kind of additional components needed to weaponize plutonium - namely, a reprocessing facility and a weapons-design program. Nor does Syria have indigenous supplies of uranium.

This elicits several questions:

- Where was the reactor's fuel supposed to come from?
- If Syria was about to start producing weapons-grade plutonium, why is there no trace of the other pieces of a nuclear jigsaw puzzle?
- Why take the risk and incur the costs of such a project, if there is no way to dispose of the nuclear fuel?

In short, if this reactor was built in Syria for Syria, where was the rest of the program?

One possible answer to all these questions is that the program was built in Syria for Iran. Ronen Bergman's 2008 book, "The Secret War with Iran," suggests that al-Kibar was clandestinely developed with Iran's financial support. A 2009 Spiegel piece, quoting diplomatic sources in Vienna, agreed, citing revelations by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps' former general Ali Reza Asgari to Western intelligence agencies. Asgari, a former deputy defense minister, disappeared in Istanbul in February 2007 after a visit to Syria, possibly defected to the West, and may have revealed Iran's funding of al-Kibar.

According to the same article, in 2005, Mohsen Fakrizadeh, the shadowy IRGC official in charge of Iran's nuclear military program, visited Damascus, very likely in order to forge an agreement on the terms of Iranian funding for Syria's nuclear program. That may explain why there is no trace of Syrian reprocessing activities: Al-Kibar was built by North Korea and financed by Iran, in order to sustain Iran's plausible deniability about its nuclear program.

Skeptics could rightly object that Iran does not have known reprocessing facilities either, but it has a reactor in Arak designed for plutonium production - so why the need for surrogate production lines elsewhere? The answer may be that, with its covert nuclear activities in Arak exposed in 2002, Iran may have sought an alternative that could ensure a supply of weapons-grade plutonium even under the increased scrutiny of the international community. Besides, Iran's program hit many technical hurdles. According to the U.S. 2007 National Intelligence Estimate on Iran's program, "Iran will not be technically capable of producing and reprocessing enough plutonium for a weapon before about 2015."

With such a lengthy timetable, IAEA inspectors roaming Iran, and American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, Tehran may have chosen to outsource plutonium production to Syria - a safer option, because al-Kibar was still undetected, and a faster one, because by then North Korea was technologically ahead of the game.

Syria's violations would be grave enough if al-Kibar reflected a Syrian attempt to build nuclear weapons for its own arsenal. They would be even graver if Syria did it to share the plutonium with Iran. And they constitute a threat, given that Assad, earlier this week, threatened "surprises" if Syria was attacked by foreign forces, in reference to Syrian military capabilities.

Though the Security Council is currently deadlocked on how to respond to Syria's ferocious domestic repression, come September, it must punish Syria's proliferating activities.

Whether Iran's involvement can be proven is immaterial: Syria's nuclear file is far from closed, and leaving it open is a risk the international community, mindful of the cruelty of the regime in Damascus, cannot afford to take.



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<http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/opinion/a-still-open-nuclear-file-1.380790>

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

News & Observer – Raleigh, NC

OPINION/Editorial

Friday, August 26, 2011

... Weapons Bazaar

Moammar Gadhafi had to have been the weapons salesman's, and the rogue nuclear scientist's, best friend. He assembled an unholy hoard of weapons of all kinds, the better to repress domestic enemies and threaten foreign ones.

The vast Tripoli compound now overrun by rebels held warehouses packed with small arms and shoulder-fired missiles. Chemical weapons dumps were nearby. And while Gadhafi, in a U.S.-brokered deal, supposedly halted efforts to develop nukes, there's thought to be plenty of nuclear weapons material still in the mix.

When a dictator's appletart is upset as vigorously as Gadhafi's has been, there's no telling how events may play out. But it's obvious that one of the first orders of business for those positioning themselves to take over - provided they want to remain in the good graces of America and its NATO allies - is to do all they can to secure weapons that haven't already been looted by criminals, goons and terrorists.

With respect to WMDs, the Gadhafi regime itself had pledged to keep the lid on. Will whatever lower-level personnel might still be holding the keys honor that pledge? Or can the rebels, with NATO oversight, manage an orderly change of custody?

The dispersal of thousands more rifles and grenade launchers, if that occurs, could help the rebels solidify their gains. But it might also play into the hands of forces not well-disposed toward U.S. or European goals.

Even worse would be bunches of shoulder-fired missiles falling into the wrong hands. It conjures up the nightmare of airliners at risk of being shot down by terrorists positioned within range of a runway.

Gadhafi's ouster may turn out to be an unalloyed blessing. But without adequate control of his weapons stockpiles, there's a chance that good news could boomerang in very unpleasant ways. NATO's challenge could not be clearer.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/2011/08/26/1436409/weapons-bazaar.html>

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

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