



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
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Welcome to [USAF Center for Strategic Deterrence Studies](#) News and Analysis! As part of the CSDS mission to develop [U.S. Air Force](#), [Department of Defense](#), and other [government](#) leaders to advance the state of knowledge, policy, and practices within strategic defense issues involving nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, we offer the government and civilian community a source of contemporary discussions.

Feature Research

["Europe as a Secondary Theater? Competition with China and the Future of America's European Strategy"](#). By Luis Simón, Linde Desmaele, and LTC Jordan Becker, USA; *Strategic Studies Quarterly*/Air University Press; Spring 2021.

"Competition with China has become the main lens through which the United States looks at the world. How will this affect US strategy in Europe? First, Washington's increased focus on China leaves fewer US resources available to influence security developments in and around Europe. ... Second, SinoAmerican competition is leading Washington to view its transatlantic relationships in terms of how they affect its position relative to China. As the Euro-Atlantic area becomes less central to US grand strategy, global—and particularly China-focused—considerations will play an increasingly important role in the context of the transatlantic relationship." [Read Article](#).

Nukes and Deterrence, Counter-WMD, and Arms Control in News and Research

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DETERRENCE

- [Lawmakers Gird for Spending Battle over Nuclear Weapons](#) (The Hill)

The back-and-forth over nuclear modernization is providing a lens into the larger fight that's taking shape as the Biden administration prepares to present its first defense budget in the spring.

- [US Continues Push to Restart Plutonium Pit Production](#) (Physics Today)

The ... NNSA is required by Congress to create the capacity to produce 80 new pits per year by 2030, so engineers can replace the decades-old ones and add pits to new weapons.

- [The Raider Comes Out of the Black](#) (Air Force Magazine)

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the project appears to be on track. But how many Raiders will be built—and at what pace—remains an open question.

- [21st Century Deterrence](#) (Airman Magazine)

Across the Air Force restructuring, modernization and advances in technology are at the forefront of priorities to meet today's threats defined in the NDS.

COUNTER-WMD

- [Indo-Pacific Commander: Long-Range Missiles and Missile Defense are Needed to Challenge Threats from China](#) (Stars and Stripes)

Missiles that can reach long distances are a key deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region for challenging the threats posed by China, Adm. Philip Davidson, the commander of Indo-Pacific Command.

- [Chemical Weapons Arms Control at a Crossroads: Russia, Syria, and the Future of the Chemical Weapons Convention \(3/23\)](#) (Schar School at George Mason)

Dr. John Walker, Dr. Una Jakob, and Dr. Hanna Notte will discuss the challenges posed by the current Russian and Syrian chemical weapons programs

- [Analysts Call for Adjusting Missile Defense Funding](#) (National Defense)

The Congressional Budget Office in a new report ... estimates that the 10-year price tag of the Pentagon's missile defense plans for the 2020s would be about \$176 billion.

- [CBRN Demonstration Observation](#) (US Army)

U.S. Army Japan's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear team and the 340th Chemical Company recently observed the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force's CBRN rescue demonstration

US ARMS CONTROL

- [Biden's Deal with Seoul Points to a Swift Shift on Alliances](#) (Associated Press via ABC News)

Part of the backdrop to the speedy deal ... is Biden's focus on China's military modernization, its ambitions to be a global power, and its potential to help contain North Korea's nuclear weapons

- [Impasse Over Iran Nuclear Talks Sets Off International Scramble to Save Accord](#) (New York Times)

Diplomats from Britain, France and Germany have since urged Iran to accept a joint European-American invitation on Feb. 18 to begin informal negotiations.

- [Back to Basics on Russia Policy](#) (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace)

U.S. policymakers will have to accept that the EU's relationship with Russia is bound to be substantially different from that of the United States

- [The Future of U.S.-Russian Arms Control: Principles of Engagement and New Approaches](#) (CSIS)

Both Moscow and Washington—though to different extents—have grounds to be concerned about the nuclear capabilities of third countries that are not party to existing arms control arrangements.

COMMENTARY

- [Crossroads: Why and How the US Must Revise and Revolutionize Its Approach to North Korea](#) (Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs)

"Though there may still be time to stop North Korea's nuclear and missile development, continued pressure and further isolation alone have little to no prospect of success."

- [The Marine Corps under the Nuclear Shadow: A Great-Power Problem](#) (War on the Rocks)

"As other services grapple directly with nuclear forces when they mention conventional capability, it is ... from the perspective of deterrence and accounting for the challenge of tactical nuclear weapons."

- [Geography Still Leads Defense Policy](#) (The Diplomat)

"The Pentagon's new Pacific Deterrence Initiative demonstrates that we're still a long way away from the 'flattened' world that Thomas Friedman and others imagined."

