



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
CENTER FOR STRATEGIC  
DETERRENCE STUDIES

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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 Report

["The U.S.-Japan Alliance and Rapid Change on the Korean Peninsula"](#). Published March 26, 2021, RAND.

"Over the past several years, the U.S.-Japan alliance has faced a rapidly shifting set of circumstances on the Korean Peninsula, with deteriorating Japan–South Korea ties and an accelerating threat from North Korea, even as the Kim Jong Un regime has engaged in first-ever direct negotiations with the United States. These conference proceedings explore how changes on the Korean Peninsula are seen by observers in Japan and the United States." [Read Report](#).

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

### NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DETERRENCE

- [A Comprehensive Approach to Space Deterrence](#) (Real Clear Defense)

The Biden-Harris administration has made addressing competition with China a priority. Therefore, the new administration must create additional and more effective deterrence opportunities.

- [Boeing Delivers Improved Security Systems for ICBM Launch Codes](#) (Air Force Magazine)

The upgraded units improve encryption for the codes as well as security by eliminating the need for in-person code changes at the approximately 400 remote missile alert stations, Boeing said.

- [Vandenberg AFB Selected as Preferred Location for GBSD Training Unit](#) (UPI)

According to a press release from the Air Force, the GBSD is a new intercontinental ballistic missile expected to replace all operational Minuteman III missiles by 2036.

- [vAWS 2021: Mission Domain Live Engagement—Strategic Deterrence](#) (Air Force Magazine)

Video from Strategic Deterrence session of AFA's 2021 virtual Aerospace Warfare Symposium.

### COUNTER-WMD

- [America's Next Missile Warning Satellite Arrives in Florida](#) (C4ISRNET)

SBIRS is the nation's premier missile warning satellite, providing 24/7 coverage to detect missile launches all over the world.

- [On Location: CBRN Systems Are Being Adapted to Go More Places with the Warfighter](#) (DTRA via DVIDS)

Airmen demonstrated chemical and radiological sensors mounted on a Nibbler drone.

- [NTI | Bio, Munich Security Conference Convene Global Leaders for Annual Tabletop Exercise on Reducing High-Consequence Biological Threats](#) (NTI)

This was illustrated in the exercise scenario: a localized bioweapons attack with a genetically engineered monkeypox virus begins in the fictional country of Brinia.

- ICYMI: [Troops Echo History, Play Baseball](#) (DVIDS)

Soldiers must be ready and capable to conduct a full range of military operations to defeat all enemies regardless of the threats they pose, even chemical threats.

## US ARMS CONTROL

- [US, Iran Say They'll Begin Indirect Talks on Nuclear Program](#) (AP via U.S. News & World Report)  
The United States and Iran said Friday that they would start indirect talks with other major world powers next week to try to get both countries back into an accord limiting Iran's nuclear program.
- [U.S. to Brief Japan, South Korea on North Korea Review](#) (Reuters)  
It will be the most senior-level meeting between the three allies since Biden took power on Jan. 20 and comes against a backdrop of rising tensions after North Korean missile launches last week.
- [The Iron Pyrite Standard of Arms Control](#) (Real Clear Defense)  
"There is no mystery why Russia wanted to extend New START without changes. Russia got exactly what it wanted in New START."
- [Analysis: Inter-Korean Missile Race May Leave North Korea With Tactical Nuclear Weapons](#) (Reuters via U.S. News & World Report)  
In a statement on Tuesday, Kim Yo Jong, the leader's sister and a powerful politician in North Korea, cited Jeong's speech in defending the North's right to develop its own missiles.

## COMMENTARY

- [Is It Time to Forget about Cyber Deterrence?](#) (Air & Space Power Journal)  
"The disruptive and revolutionary nature of cyber and its potential for massive effect resembled the arrival of nuclear weapons in many ways."
- [U.S. Nuclear Modernization: How to Manage the Security and Policy Implications of Going Digital](#) (War on the Rocks)  
"The most efficient way to update the nuclear triad of bombers, submarines, and ground-based missiles, as well as their bombs, warheads, and command, control, and communications networks, is to use today's technology, including digital tools."
- [Hypersonic Weapons Really Matter to U.S. Deterrence of Russia](#) (Real Clear Defense)  
"Going forward, hypersonic weapons are likely to play a major role in Moscow's military modernization efforts. They are a counter to current and prospective deployments of advanced air and missile defenses by the U.S. and its allies."

