



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 Report

["Countering the Risks of North Korean Nuclear Weapons"](#). Published April 12, 2021, RAND.

"The authors of this Perspective argue that there is a growing gap between North Korea's nuclear weapon threat and ROK and U.S. capabilities to defeat it. Because these capabilities will take years to develop, the allies must turn their attention to where the threat could be in the mid to late 2020s and identify strategies to counter it." [Read Report](#).

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

### NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DETERRENCE

- [UK Official: American Warhead Decision Won't Impact British Nuclear Plans](#) (Defense News)

The W93 is a new nuclear warhead design for use aboard submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

- [New ICBM Costs Can, Must Come Down, Hyten Says](#) (Defense One)

America's nuclear triad has come under assault from nonproliferation experts who argue that Cold War-era missiles are unnecessary and pose unacceptable risks,

- [Democrats Reintroduce Bill to Block US from Using Nuclear Weapons First](#) (The Hill)

"Threatening to use nuclear weapons first makes America less safe because it increases the chances of a miscalculation or an accident," Warren said in a statement.

- [Pentagon Chief: US Sending 500 More Troops to Germany](#) (The Hill)

"These forces will strengthen deterrence and defense in Europe, and they will augment our existing abilities to prevent conflict, and if necessary, to fight and win," he added.

- [Thermal Imagery Indicates Activity at Yongbyon Nuclear Reprocessing Facilities](#) (CSIS)

As noted in our March 2021 report, this renewed activity is likely an indicator of a new reprocessing campaign designed to expand North Korea's inventory of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

### COUNTER-WMD

- [Spotlight Webinar: Nuclear Terrorism](#) (WMD Center)

Panelists will assess current efforts to secure vulnerable material, detect nuclear weapons, and deter nuclear terrorism.

- [National Guard Security Force Begins Alaska Mission](#) (U.S. Army)

Purely defensive, these highly sophisticated projectiles will be launched on order to intercept and destroy threat warheads inbound to the United States and designated areas.

- [Small Drone Threat: Pentagon Consolidates Counter-UAS Programs as Menace Grows](#) (National Defense Magazine)

"The secretary understood the importance of the threat and felt we needed an enterprise approach to get after this problem set," said Maj. Gen. Sean Gainey, director of the JCO.

- Podcast: [On the Verge – Rebooting the National Strategy to Combat WMD](#) (Council on Strategic Risks)  
Dr. Natasha Bajema ... hosts Colonel (ret) Ron Fizer and the Honorable Andy Weber in a discussion about the need to reboot the 2002 strategy to combat Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

## US ARMS CONTROL

- [Iran Says It Will Enrich Uranium to 60%, in Effort to Strengthen Hand in Nuclear Talks](#) (Wall Street Journal)  
The move would bring Tehran one step closer to weapons-grade fuel and comes after attack on Natanz facility blamed on Israel.
- [US Intelligence Warns China, Russia Determined to Erode Washington's Influence](#) (VOA)  
"China is building a larger and increasingly capable nuclear missile force that is more survivable, more diverse and on higher alert," the ODNI report said.
- [Biden to Meet With South Korean President Moon Next Month](#) (Wall Street Journal)  
A spokesman for Mr. Moon expressed hope that the summit could help advance the goal of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula.
- [Syria and America's Race to Destroy the Most Dangerous Arsenal in the World](#) (Center for Nonproliferation Studies)  
The event focused on past achievements and ongoing challenges related to Syria's chemical weapons (CW).

## COMMENTARY

- [Restoring Nuclear Bipartisanship: Force Modernization and Arms Control](#) (War on the Rocks)  
"The president and Congress should work together to modernize American nuclear forces and develop a long-term plan for great-power arms control."
- [The Most Urgent North Korean Nuclear Threat Isn't What You Think](#) (Carnegie Endowment)  
"Policymakers should be more concerned about the likelier possibility of North Korea selling nuclear and missile technology to countries in the Middle East."
- [Beijing Has Pierced Washington's Deterrence Bubble. How Can the US Recover?](#) (Defense News)  
"What's more, China is banking on America's prioritization of traditional deterrence at the expense of a robust, and potentially more effective, asymmetric strategy."

