



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
CENTER FOR STRATEGIC
DETERRENCE STUDIES

NEWS AND ANALYSIS

Issue 1477

June 12, 2021

CSDS News and Analysis 1477 (Feature Research: "China versus SARS," CBRNe Magazine)

United States Air Force sent this bulletin at 07/12/2021 11:10 AM CDT

ISSUE

1477

July 12, 2021

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

["China versus SARS"](#) by Dr. Milton Leitenberg, senior research associate at the Center for International and Security Studies, University of Maryland. CBRNe Magazine, June 2021.

<https://cbrneworld.com/dashboard/downloads/china-versus-sars> (**free login required**).

Dr. Leitenberg examines China's disinformation campaign about COVID-19 by comparing its actions to the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak, in which Chinese leaders determined that there was no penalty to misleading or misinforming the World Health Organization with regards to pandemic outbreaks. While evidence of a laboratory-released virus remains circumstantial, the Chinese government has not permitted the clear discussion on the COVID origin. Regardless as to the source of the virus, it becomes important to address China's behavior so as to be better prepared if a third pandemic outbreak would arise from that country in the future. [Read Research](#).

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

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DETERRENCE

- [New B-21 Stealth Bomber Image Shows Stealth Windows](#) (Air Force Magazine)

The fact sheet confirmed that the B-21 will be nuclear capable and is "designed to accommodate manned or unmanned operations"

- [Russia Conducts Drills involving Nuclear-capable Bombers](#) (Associated Press)

Strategic bombers took off from their base in the Saratov region on the Volga River and flew more than 4,000 kilometers to launch cruise missiles at practice targets at a firing range in the Arctic.

- [Eglin Air Force Base Squadron Successfully Detonates Hypersonic Missile](#) (Northwest Florida Daily News)
Russia and China, described in U.S. defense strategy as "near-peer" adversaries to the United States, also are pursuing development of hypersonic weapons, adding urgency to U.S. efforts.

- [DoD Set to Kick Off Major Nuclear Scrub](#) (Politico)

Major changes to the upgrade or replacement of all three legs of the nuclear triad — land-based missiles, subs and bombers — are considered highly unlikely given solid bipartisan support.

- [FY 2022 Presidential Budget for NNSA released](#) (NNSA)

The President's FY 2022 \$19.7 billion Budget Request funds ongoing programs and reflects the

Administration's commitment to maintain the safety, security, and effectiveness of the nuclear weapons stockpile

- [New Technologies and Nuclear Disarmament: Outlining a Way Forward](#) (SIPRI)

This report sheds light on the impact of recent military-technological advancements on nuclear deterrence and disarmament.

COUNTER-WMD

- [Toward Nuclear and WMD Fluency in Professional Military Education](#) (WMD Center via RealClearDefense)
"In this article, we discuss one of these policy priorities – nuclear capabilities and concepts – and describe why and how highest-level policy deliberations have been translated into the Chairman's guidance on officer professional military education."

- [Rep. Turner Warns US Missile Defense Slipping Behind Russia's Capabilities](#) (Air Force Magazine)
Skyfall is a nuclear cruise missile that can orbit the Earth. Poseidon is a submarine-launched, nuclear-capable torpedo that can emerge from beneath the waves and strike coastal cities.

- [DTRA Prepares for Emerging Threats at CBOA 21](#) (DTRA)
The annual CBOA exercise equips end-users with the most up-to-date defense prototypes to assess in a simulated chemical and biological threat environment.

- [MRICD Develops Chemical Exposure Field Diagnostic System](#) (APG News)
Specifically measuring the activity of acetylcholinesterase in the blood is an extremely sensitive method of determining whether an exposure to chemical nerve agents has occurred.

- [New Material May Power Tomorrow's Cyborg Soldiers](#) (Defense One)
That could be of use to the military ... to report on things like the current state of soldier health, possible exposure to diseases, toxins, or other materials., or even enhancing cognitive capabilities and memory..

US ARMS CONTROL

- [Germany's Upcoming Election and the Future of Nuclear Sharing](#) (Brookings)
In a paper, Steven Pifer describes the views of the major German political parties regarding the presence of U.S. nuclear weapons and "nuclear sharing" ahead of September's federal elections

- [Strengthening Dual Deterrence on Taiwan: The Key to US-China Strategic Stability](#) (Stimson)
These efforts must be coupled with quiet, authoritative assurances to Beijing, coordinated with Taipei, that we will respect the commitments we have made to China since 1971.

- [Advancing the Process to Negotiate a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty](#) (UN Office for Disarmament Affairs)
This Occasional Paper offers a review of the project's outcome, as well as perspectives shared by participants in its workshops and expert meetings. For additional context, a brief introduction to the purpose and history of the proposed treaty is also provided.

- [Biden Seeks Xi's Help with North Korea's Nuclear Weapons, China Asks U.S. to Hear Kim Out](#) (Newsweek)

The message also discussed a "complicated international situation" that would not slow the prospering "militant friendship and bonds of kinship" established by Kim Jong Un's Workers' Party of Korea and Xi's Communist Party of China.

COMMENTARY

- [US and Australia Need to Get Asymmetrical—Fast](#) (The Strategist)
"Nuclear arms control regimes are an excellent example of this duality, says Schaus. They are confidence building in that adversaries agree to rules to hold themselves accountable and to minimise risks of miscalculation."

- [Aegis Ashore Too Limited For Guam: Former INDO-PACOM](#) (Breaking Defense)

"The problem set is complex: build a persistent missile defense capability across a 360-degree threat axis against hypersonic glide vehicles, maneuvering and non-maneuvering ballistic missiles, and air-breathing cruise missiles."

- [China's Nuclear Silos and the Arms-Control Fantasy](#) (Wall Street Journal)

"That is exactly what we are seeing today. The new missile silos in the desert are part of a Chinese nuclear buildup that includes new submarines, bombers, and ballistic and hypersonic missiles."

