



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

[“Stabilizing Great-Power Rivalries”](#). RAND; Nov. 29, 2021.

RAND: "Leveraging theory and historical cases, the authors identify the factors that keep great-power rivalries stable and those that lead to conflictual outcomes and use that framework to assess the current U.S.-Russia and U.S.-China competitions." [Read Report](#).

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

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DETERRENCE

- [How Israel, with US Assistance, Can Deter Iran from Producing Nuclear Weapons](#) (Wild Blue Yonder, AU Press)

The goal is to deter Iran so it will stop breaching the JCPOA while urging Iran to accept serious constraints. Currently, the talks face difficulties.

- [F-15Es Take Part in Weapons Evaluations, Enhance Readiness](#) (U.S. Air Force)

The JTAs were released at the Tonopah Test Range to support efforts to further test the F-15E's inherent ability to deliver B61 series tactical nuclear weapons.

- [Forward Defense Symposium on Deterring Chinese Strategic Attack](#) (Atlantic Council)

This symposium explores the recent Chinese nuclear buildup, puts the development in context of China's overall military and nuclear strategy, and examines possible US responses.

- [Mason: LANL Gearing Up to Produce Nuclear Triggers](#) (Santa Fe New Mexican)

The facility upgrades and hiring boost will continue to prepare the lab for its mission to help modernize the nuclear stockpile, Mason said.

- [Updated B61 Nuclear Warhead Enters Production](#) (Breaking Defense)

The upgraded variant will be carried by America's F-15, F-16 and B-2 aircraft, as well as on aircraft for NATO member nations.

COUNTER-WMD

- [Small-Scale Chemical and Biological Production: Current Threats and Future Trajectories](#) (RUSI)

Given the relatively modest size and scale of production efforts for small attacks and the trajectory of technical developments, no single policy prescription will successfully address the problem.

- [Rendering ASATs Obsolete, Tweaking Missile Defenses in Light of Russian, Chinese Tests](#) (Air Force Magazine)

Saltzman said deterring a war from starting in space is one of the new service's "primary responsibilities," and the Space Force currently views deterrence as a two-sided coin.

- [Army Would Have 5 'Core Tasks' in a Pacific Conflict](#) (Defense One)

It will also be prepared to provide "integrated air and missile defense" and quick reaction forces.

- [U.S. Army Chemical Company Keeps Combat Units in South Korea Ready](#) (20th CBRNE Command)

The CBRN specialists also helped to keep troops from the combat brigade in the fight following a simulated chemical attack.

- [Maritime Security Dialogue: The Aegis Approach with Rear Admiral Tom Druggan](#) (CSIS)

The series highlights the particular challenges facing the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, from national level maritime policy to naval concept development and program design.

US ARMS CONTROL

- [As China Speeds Up Nuclear Arms Race, the U.S. Wants to Talk](#) (New York Times)

The Pentagon thinks Beijing may build 1,000 or more weapons by 2030. But it's the new technologies that worry strategists.

- [US, S. Korea to Write New War Plan to Counter N. Korean Nukes, Missiles](#) (Defense One)

But transfer hinges on more than next year's FOC test; Korea must also show that it has acquired certain military capabilities "related to ballistic missile defense," the official said.

- [DOD Announces Force Posture Changes in the Indo-Pacific and Europe](#) (Air Force Magazine)

Additional Russian deterrence measures that could involve more rotational troops are still being negotiated, the official said.

- [Clear the Nuclear Landscape of Impediments to Weapons Control](#) (Center for Nonproliferation Studies)

This article examines nuclear cruise missiles, autonomous systems with nuclear payloads, and hazardous space activity.

- [Event: Is the U.S. Safer without the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty?](#) (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace)

Join the Carnegie Endowment for a special conversation featuring Rose Gottemoeller, Stephen J. Hadley, and Tino Cuéllar on U.S. missile defense policy and arms control.

COMMENTARY

- [Toward a Joint US-ROK Cyber Deterrence Strategy](#) (38 North)

"This makes North Korea's cyber activity a growing concern for the US-ROK alliance to address, calling for concrete steps to craft and implement a credible and effective cyber deterrence strategy."

- [New U.S. Missile Defense Test May Have Increased the Risk of Nuclear War](#) (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace)

"Beyond North Korea, however, Russia and China have long expressed concerns that the United States seeks to counter their capacity to use ICBMs against it."

- [Nuclear Strategists Know How Dangerous the Debt Fight Is](#) (The Atlantic)

“The way the United States has repeatedly flirted with a potentially catastrophic default on the national debt bears an uncomfortable resemblance to the crises of the early Cold War.”

