



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

[“Modernizing the Nuclear Triad: Decline or Renewal?”](#) Hudson Institute; October 2021.

Hudson: "This study analyzes the United States' plans for modernizing the land, sea and airborne legs comprising its strategic nuclear force triad. This force has been charged primarily with deterring a nuclear attack on the United States, its allies, and security partners ('extended deterrence'), and mitigating the consequences should deterrence fail." [Read Report](#).

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

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DETERRENCE

- [Update: Navy Columbia \(SSBN-826\) Class Ballistic Missile Submarine Program: Background and Issues for Congress](#) (Congressional Research Service)

The SSBNs, in contrast, perform a specialized mission of strategic nuclear deterrence. To perform this mission, SSBNs are armed with submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs).

- [Vice Chair Nominee Pushes Nuclear Modernization to Deal with China, Russia](#) (Air Force Magazine)

"We need to have that responsive, flexible, and survivable triad across the three legs if we're going to meet the challenges of two nuclear peer competitors," Grady said.

- [Pacific Deterrence Initiative gets \\$2.1 billion boost in final NDAA](#) (Breaking Defense)

The US counterpart program across the Atlantic, the European Deterrence Initiative, will get a boost of about \$570 million over the budget request, bringing its total funding to around \$4 billion.

- [On Deterring Russia and China, Pentagon Officials Walk Fine Line](#) (Defense News)

Austin previewed his concept of "integrated deterrence" to counter China, which aims to ensure the military works with the rest of the U.S. government, allies and partners to make "the folly and cost of aggression very clear."

COUNTER-WMD

- [Revamping Homeland Defense](#) (Air Force Magazine)

VanHerck said Russia remains the No. 1 threat ... because of capabilities it's developed that fall below the nuclear threshold aimed at disrupting, delaying, and degrading the United States' ability to project forces forward in a regional conflict.

- [Calls Grow Urgent for Improving Guam's Missile Defenses](#) (Defense One)

Creating a comprehensive missile defense has been U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's top funding priority for nearly four years, said Marine Lt. Gen. Stephen Sklenka, the command's No. 2 officer.

- [Congress Wants Hawaiian Missile Defense Radar Up and Running by End of 2028](#)

(Defense News)

Senate appropriators, in their version of the FY22 defense spending bill, recommended an additional \$41 million for the Homeland Defense Radar-Hawaii, or HDR-H.

- [Congress Drops Army Mandate to Buy More 'Iron Dome' Defenses against Cruise Missiles](#) (Defense News)

The Army has stressed in recent years that it needs funding and energy directed toward an enduring capability, not additional Iron Dome batteries.

- [Space Force Launches Experimental Sats to Detect Nukes, Test Laser Communications](#) (Breaking Defense)

STPSat-6 carries two main payloads, NNSA's nuke detector and NASA's laser communications link, and a number of other Defense Department experiments.

US ARMS CONTROL

- [Rising to the Challenge: Navigating Competition, Avoiding Crisis, and Advancing US Interests in Relation to China](#) (Brookings)

Our conclusion is that a concept of persistent competition leavened with calibrated cooperation holds the greatest promise of sustaining support at home and with allies and partners.

- [NATO's Nuclear Deterrent Gets a Reprieve—for Now](#) (Center for Nonproliferation Studies)

Both the United States and Germany have been under strong pressure from other allies, concerned about how Washington's and Berlin's choices will affect their security and domestic politics.

- [Pathways to a WMD-Free Zone in the Middle East](#) (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists)

Talks on the elimination of WMD from the Middle East date back to 1974, when Iran and Egypt sponsored a resolution calling for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region.

COMMENTARY

- [Integrating Deterrence across the Gray — Making it More Than Words](#) (Navy Times)

"Closing this gray zone deterrence gap requires rethinking planning concepts and leveraging new methods of influence in both traditional and non-traditional ways."

- [How to Jumpstart a Dialogue With China on Arms Control](#) (The Diplomat)

"Engaging China in talks for its accession to the Missile Technology Control Regime could open the way for broader arms control talks."

- [ASEAN Running Out of Time to Recast Role as Buffer in US-China Great Power Competition](#) (Brookings)

"With Washington, ASEAN should make clear that pressuring or marginalizing the institution or treating Southeast Asian countries as instruments of U.S. competition with China would encounter resistance."

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