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CSDS News and Analysis 1466 (Feature Research: “Diverging Objectives: Maintaining Strategic Stability with Russia While Expanding Global Missile Defense,” Shawn A. Russell, Air University Press)

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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 Research

["Diverging Objectives: Maintaining Strategic Stability with Russia While Expanding Global Missile Defense"](#). By Shawn A. Russell, Air University Press.

"The author argues that the tenuous relationship between the US and Russia regarding ballistic missile proliferation and defense systems is in jeopardy. As US ballistic missile defense expands, Russia's nuclear deterrent weakens. This may result in Russia finding new capabilities to circumvent US defense systems to maintain what they believe to be a balance between the countries. Technological advances and further expansion on both sides threaten stability and put future arms control agreements at risk." [Read Research](#).

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

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DETERRENCE

- [B-21 A Good News Story: HASC Chair](#) (Breaking Defense)

The bomber is designed to carry both conventional and nuclear weapons — it will be a key part of the nuclear triad in the coming years — and is slated to enter service by 2027.

- [STRATCOM Commander Calls on Congress to Update US Triad as China's Nuclear Program Advances Weekly](#) (Stars and Stripes)

Richard testified Tuesday that China is capable of accurately deploying nuclear weapons anywhere within its region, and it "will soon be able to do so at intercontinental range."

- [Lawmakers, Defense Officials Joust over Next-gen ICBM Plans](#) (Defense News)

Lawmakers from both parties leveled pointed questions at Pentagon officials over whether it's worthwhile to study extending the life of the 50-year-old Minuteman III as an alternative to its \$100 billion replacement program, the Air Force's Ground Based Strategic Deterrent.

- Video: [Virtual Aggression - Real World Response](#) (Airman Magazine)

In a 2015 report on cyber deterrence, the Department of Defense made it clear that the United States could retaliate against a cyber-attack with a kinetic response.

- [Senators Seek Answers for Deterring Cyber Threats](#) (Air Force Magazine)

"Do our adversaries fear our response in cyberspace?" King asked. "Are they deterred to the point of changing their calculus ...?"

COUNTER-WMD

- [CWMD Delivers Updated Technology to Detect Radiological Threats](#) (Homeland Security Today)
CWMD also partnered with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) to design and develop a prototype of the technology refresh.

- [Conference of the States Parties Adopts Decision to Suspend Certain Rights and Privileges of the Syrian Arab Republic under the CWC](#) (OPCW)

The Conference condemned “in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons by anyone, under any circumstances, emphasising that any use of chemical weapons [...] is unacceptable and contravenes international norms and standards”.

US ARMS CONTROL

- [Reimagining U.S. Strategy in the Middle East](#) (RAND)

This revised strategic approach puts a greater focus on addressing conflict and socioeconomic challenges that are creating unsustainable pressures on the region's states and immense suffering among its people.

- [Preventing Nuclear Proliferation and Reassuring America's Allies](#) (Atlantic Council)

A task force ... argues that fraying American alliances and a rapidly changing security environment have shaken America's nuclear security guarantees and threaten the 50-year-old nuclear nonproliferation regime.

- [Reducing U.S. Reliance on Nuclear Weapons While Others Do Not](#) (Real Clear Defense)

The Biden administration's choice to reduce U.S. reliance on nuclear weapons is especially consequential as states like Russia, China, and North Korea have not followed the U.S. lead

- [A Quiet Arms Race Is Rapidly Heating Up Between the Two Koreas](#) (New York Times)

Unlike North Korea, the South lacks nuclear weapons. But in recent years the country has revved up its military spending

COMMENTARY

- [The Biden Administration Will Find It Difficult to Contain Israel and Iran's Escalating Tensions](#) (Washington Post via RAND)

“As Washington moves to negotiate over returning to the ... JCPOA ... Israel perceives real incentives to keep up the pressure on Tehran and slow-roll the revival of a deal it opposes.”

- [How Cyber Ops Increase the Risk of Accidental Nuclear War](#) (Defense One)

“The United States worries that China might use cyber attacks to disable America's advantage in nuclear forces.”

- [Mixed Messages on F-35 Undermine our Allies](#) (The Hill)

“To hedge against aging systems, the U.K., in parallel with U.S. efforts on the W93 warhead, is developing a new warhead to be housed on a delivery system shared between our two nations.”



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