



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

[“Strengthening Global Systems to Prevent and Respond to High-Consequence Biological Threats”](#).
NTI; November 2021.

NTI: "In March 2021, NTI partnered with the Munich Security Conference to conduct a tabletop exercise on reducing high-consequence biological threats. The exercise examined gaps in national and international biosecurity and pandemic preparedness architectures—exploring opportunities to improve prevention and response capabilities for high-consequence biological events." [Read Report](#).

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

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DETERRENCE

- [AFCEC Leads Beddown Efforts for B-21 Raider Stealth Bomber](#) (U.S. Air Force)
The B-21 will incrementally replace the B-1 Lancer and B-2 Spirit to perform both conventional and nuclear missions alongside the B-52 Stratofortress.
- [Incoming German Government Commits to NATO Nuclear Deterrent](#) (Defense News)
"The agreement makes the replacement of the country's aging Tornado aircraft with an equally nuclear-capable type an explicit goal for the new government."
- [US Has 'a Lot of Catching Up to Do' in Hypersonics, Space Force's No. 2 Says](#) (Air Force Magazine)
Thompson explained the challenges to the strategic warning system by likening the Chinese hypersonic missile to a "magic snowball."
- [The Taiwan Question: How to Think About Deterrence Now](#) (Real Clear Defense)
Success in this regard is not to end ... China's desire to unite Taiwan with the Chinese mainland; that is a much heavier political burden than deterrence can or should be expected to bear.
- [Assessing Contemporary Deterrence Parallel to Netflix's Squid Game](#) (DivOpt via Real Clear Defense)
Both deterrence and Squid Game involve players executing their free will to compete Deterrence becomes complicated today as players and game rules remain undiscovered.

COUNTER-WMD

- [Upgraded Missile Warning Satellites Come 'Another Significant Step' Closer to Reality](#) (Air Force Magazine)

The satellites are designed with “improved warning” features to detect missiles that move faster or create a dimmer infrared signature than current systems are designed to track, the release stated.

- [Guam Needs SM-6 Missile for Hypersonic Defense, Navy Admiral Says](#) (USNI News)

Former U.S. Indo-Pacific Command chief Adm. Phil Davidson earlier this year said building Aegis Ashore on Guam would “free up” three Navy destroyers for other tasking.

- [Here are the Three Companies Selected to Design Hypersonic Missile Interceptors for MDA](#) (Defense News)

The interceptors are intended to counter a hypersonic weapon during its glide phase, a challenge as the missiles can travel more than five times the speed of sound and can maneuver.

- [Pentagon Scrambles to Defend 'Juicy Targets' After Rivals' Space Tests](#) (Defense One)

“We are concerned about the weaponization of space,” Austin said. “We’re working as hard as we can to ensure that we can defend ourselves against a range of threats going forward.”

US ARMS CONTROL

- [China's Nuclear Weapons Strategy and Modernization Program](#) (Belfer Center)

It is clear that it is driven largely in response to the growing United States (U.S.) missile defense program, which China perceives as a threat to its minimum credible deterrence.

- [U.S. Policy Toward the Korean Peninsula](#) (Council on Foreign Relations)

A CFR Independent Task Force warns that North Korea's continued provocations pose a serious threat to its neighbors and that its nuclear weapons program must be stopped.

- [Russia Proved it Can Shoot Down a Satellite. Does This Make Space Less Secure?](#) (Washington Post)

Existing arms control agreements like the 1967 Outer Space Treaty do not cover antisatellite weapons.

- [Analysis: Unspoken U.S. Aim at Iran Nuclear Talks May Be Winning Chinese, Russian Support](#) (Reuters)

China, however, has undercut U.S. leverage by buying Iranian oil, throwing Tehran an economic lifeline in violation of U.S. sanctions.

COMMENTARY

- [Beijing Sprints While America Slumbers](#) (The Dispatch)

Hyten suggested the comparison was not a good one. “Sputnik created a sense of urgency in the United States,” Hyten said. “The [Chinese] test on July 27 did not create that sense of urgency.”

- [Japan's Revolution on Taiwan Affairs](#) (War on the Rocks)

“Despite calls for a clarification of this 'strategic ambiguity,' the 1979 law appears likely to remain the main legal basis for Washington’s continued support for Taipei.”

- [Prioritize NATO's Core Task: Collective Defense](#) (Defense News)

“Four building blocks for enhanced deterrence are in place, and the new Strategic Concept needs to stimulate vigorous implementation of the next steps in each case.”

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