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**


CSIS: "Iran’s nuclear program isn’t what it used to be. Here’s why that matters for efforts to salvage the JCPOA and any ‘Plan B’. " [Read Report](#).

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

**NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DETERRENCE**

- **North Korea Tests First Submarine-Launched Missile in Two Years** (New York Times)
  The launch came after special envoys gathered to discuss how to deal with Pyongyang’s growing nuclear capabilities.

- **Researchers to Support $25M Contract for Strategic Deterrence, Nuclear Threat Reduction** (Nebraska Today)
  Announced Oct. 19, the five-year, indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity agreement is intended to support strategic deterrence and nuclear threat reduction efforts.

- **NATO Ministers Bolster Alliance Deterrence, Defense** (DoD)
  Defense ministers also reviewed progress in the alliance response to the growing threat from Russia’s missile systems.

- **China Ambassador Nominee ‘Concerned’ By Beijing’s Nuke Buildup** (Defense One)
  In his confirmation hearing, Nicholas Burns also talked about more American help for Taiwan and NATO’s views on China.

**COUNTER-WMD**

- **China’s Hypersonic Test Raises Questions About US Missile Defense, Deterrence** (Defense One)
  Basic questions about how to defeat or deter orbital weapons remain undecided.

- **US Army is Testing Israel’s Iron Dome Missile-Defense System on Guam** (Stars and Stripes)
  Iron Dome is designed to protect ground troops by destroying short-range missiles and drones. It complements THAAD, which intercepts short- to intermediate-range ballistic missiles in their final descending stage.
• **Looking Back at the Biological Threat Reduction Program Through the Decades** (Global Biodefense)
The program aims to counter biological threats in a partner country, at the source, before the threat can reach the homeland or impact U.S. Armed Forces or allies.

**US ARMS CONTROL**

• **Right on Cue, North Korea Testing Ballistic Missiles, as Predicted by DIA** (Air Force Magazine)
The report reiterates DIA’s previously stated assessment that North Korea is focusing on ballistic missiles—and its nuclear program—to deter the U.S. from an attack.

• **Behind Murky Claim of a New Hypersonic Missile Test, There Lies a Very Real Arms Race** (NPR)
According to an article in the Financial Times this past weekend, it was a secret test of a powerful new kind of hypersonic missile.

• **Understanding the New Nuclear Weapons Ban** (Center for Nonproliferation Studies via NTI)
The Ban Treaty prohibits the development, testing, use, threat of use, production, manufacture, acquisition, possession, stationing, and stockpiling of nuclear weapons.

**COMMENTARY**

• **The U.S. Doesn't Need More Nuclear Weapons to Counter China's New Missile Silos** (Washington Post via RAND)
"There's little reason for the United States to worry much about whatever the Chinese military is building in these silos—and plenty of alternatives."

• **Reducing the Role of U.S. Nuclear Weapons Could Make North Korea Happy** (National Interest via RAND)
“The threats emanating from North Korea pose a useful case study for the potential implications of reducing the role of U.S. nuclear weapons.”

• **How Bad Would a Nuclear-Armed South Korea Be? Let Us Count the Ways.** (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists)
“Rather than support a nuclear South Korea, the United States would be better off investing in nonnuclear solutions to East Asian security challenges.”