



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
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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

[“Iran’s Evolving Nuclear Program and Implications for U.S. Policy”](#). CSIS; Oct. 15, 2021.

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."

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