UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
CENTER FOR STRATEGIC DETERRANCE STUDIES

NEWS AND ANALYSIS

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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**


"The Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, with support from the Korea Foundation, convened a group of international experts over several workshops in early 2021 to study novel tools and approaches to the verification and monitoring of a range of possible nuclear and missile restraints on North Korea. Their findings and proposals are summarized in this compilation."

Read Chapters.

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

**NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DETERRENCE**

- **Invisible Stop Signs: The Impact of Secrecy on Deterrence** (Center for Strategic Deterrence Studies)
  This paper examines several cases in which secrecy had a direct impact on the deterrent value of a weapon or system intended to deter adversary attack.

- **Dueling Dyads: Conceptualizing Proxy Wars in Strategic Competition** (Foreign Policy Research Institute)
  This article exemplifies the need to think through what a three-party system means in the 21st Century. Deterrence theory in a multi-polar, multi-domain world presents a unique set of challenges.

- **Moral Choices Without Moral Language: 1950s Political-Military Wargaming at the RAND Corporation** (Texas National Security Review)
  This immersive experience had lasting effects beyond the game itself as defense intellectuals bore the weight of decision-making and confronted the catastrophic consequences of using nuclear weapons.

- **Anticipating the Biden Nuclear Posture Review** (Real Clear Defense)
  Very importantly, deterrence is based not simply on having nuclear forces but on their ability to hold at risk assets most valued by an enemy.

- **NC3 Vulnerabilities Risk Nuclear War In Asia, APLN Study Finds** (Breaking Defense)
  "There is a reason, however, that David slung his stone into the forehead of Goliath rather than his musculature. Without a head connected to a body, a nuclear force is useless," the new study states.
COUNTER-WMD

- **North Korea and U.S. Missile Defense Capabilities** (The National Bureau of Asian Research)
  Ankit Panda argues that to better posture U.S. missile defense capabilities to cope with known and anticipated developments in North Korea’s strategic forces, Congress can leverage multiple tools.

- **At Next Project Convergence, 7 Scenarios Will Test American Tech against Adversaries** (Defense News)
  Richardson said the Marine Corps is bringing its Ground/Air Task-Oriented Radar, the Navy is bringing its SM-6 missile, and the Air Force will be flying the F-35 fighter and a B-1 bomber.

- **A Bipartisan Call To Stay The Course On US Homeland Missile Defense** (Breaking Defense)
  The issue is staying ahead of limited long-range missile threats from rogue regional actors, not defense against Russian or Chinese attacks, which instead relies on nuclear deterrence.

- **Redesigning Radiation Monitors at U.S. Ports** (Sandia National Labs)
  These more sensitive detectors can better detect nuclear or radiological threats.

US ARMS CONTROL

- **Aligning South Korea’s Defense Strategy and Capabilities** (CSBA)
  North Korea’s growing missile arsenal and asymmetric defense strategy, along with China’s rapid military modernization, present challenges to South Korean and American efforts to maintain stability.

- **The NATO Brussels Communiqué and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW): Stability of Custom and Legality of Deterrence** (Real Clear Defense)
  The Joint Communiqué affirmed the legality of nuclear weapons. It also made clear the position of the Alliance that the TPNW does not change general international law.

- **ANZUS at 70: Extended Nuclear Deterrence** (Australian Strategic Policy Institute)
  The extent to which the ANZUS Treaty turns upon the US provision of a nuclear umbrella to its smaller ally is a topic both complex and controversial.

- **Nuclear Notebook: How Many Nuclear Weapons Does Pakistan Have in 2021?** (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists)
  The authors estimate that the country’s stockpile could realistically grow to around 200 by 2025, if the current trend continues.

COMMENTARY

- **A Weapons of Mass Destruction Strategy for the 21st Century** (War on the Rocks)
  “The U.S. government should, through the National Security Council, formulate a unified strategy that addresses the changing character of, and challenges posed by, WMD.”

- **Reinforcing U.S. Deterrence in the Indo-Pacific After the Fall of Afghanistan** (Real Clear Defense)
  “U.S. diplomats and intelligence agencies could highlight how, even during the darkest moments of the collapse of the Afghan National Government, the United States military still sought to assist Afghans fleeing the Taliban.”

- **Biden Should Guide Missile Defense His Own Way** (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists)
  "Moscow and Beijing have long claimed US global missile defense plans, including a NATO system in Europe and defenses in East Asia, will eventually target Russia and China."