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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

[“Nuclear priorities for the Biden administration.”](#) Atlantic Council; December 15, 2021.

Atlantic Council: "How can the administration of President Joseph R. Biden both address the deteriorating international security environment and follow through on campaign promises to reduce the role of nuclear weapons? Former nuclear deterrence policymakers John R. Harvey and Robert Soofer, from Democratic and Republican administrations, respectively, contend in this issue brief that the Biden administration can address the increasing nuclear threat to the United States, meet its commitment to reduce the role of nuclear weapons, and maintain bipartisan support for US nuclear policy." [Read Report](#).

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

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DETERRENCE

- [Update: U.S. Strategic Nuclear Forces: Background, Developments, and Issues](#) (Congressional Research Service)
The Air Force plans to procure both a new long-range bomber, known as the B-21, and a new long-range standoff (LRSO) cruise missile during the 2020s.
- [Update: North Korea's Nuclear Weapons and Missile Programs](#) (Congressional Research Service)
According to the U.S. intelligence community's 2021 annual threat assessment, North Korean leaders view nuclear weapons as "the ultimate deterrent against foreign intervention."
- [Annual Defense Bill has Billions for B-21, Millions for Ellsworth](#) (South Dakota Public Broadcasting)
The defense bill includes \$2.87 billion for further B-21 development.
- [Cold War Bomber B-52 Gets New Lease on Life Amid U.S. Tensions with China, Russia](#) (Newsweek)
"The B-52 has and will continue to serve as a vital component of the nuclear triad," the U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command, which is tasked with the military's strategic deterrence and long-range strike capabilities, told Newsweek.
- [U.S. Nuclear Declaratory Policy and the Future of Extended Deterrence](#) (Heritage Foundation)
... on the implications of changes in U.S. nuclear declaratory policy on both U.S. national security and extended deterrence.

COUNTER-WMD

- [Seeking Alignment: Missile Defense and Defeat in the 2022 Budget](#) (CSIS)

Missile defense and defeat includes active air and missile defenses for the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and the services, plus ... capabilities designed to defeat missile threats prior to launch.

- [Missile Defense: The End of the Interim Solution](#) (Atlantic Council)

Forward Defense Nonresident Senior Fellow and former US Missile Defense Agency Director Patrick O'Reilly argues that current US missile defenses constitute an "interim solution."

- [Biodefense and Countering Disease with Neutralizing Antibodies](#) (Global Biodefense)

The scientists now aim to replicate this method to defend against current and future biological threats.

US ARMS CONTROL

- [China Won't Talk Arms Control with U.S. on Earth, Biden Seeks A Deal in Space](#) (Newsweek)

"The Chinese are very resistant to any sorts of conversations about restraints or arms control on their nuclear programs," the State Department official told Newsweek.

- [Russia Threatens to Deploy Tactical Nuclear Weapons](#) (VOA)

A top Russian diplomat has warned that Moscow will respond "militarily" and deploy tactical nuclear weapons, if NATO does not guarantee an end to its eastward expansion.

- [Experts Dial Back Expectations of New Nuclear Arms Race](#) (National Defense)

To replace legacy systems, the Pentagon has been pursuing next-generation ICBMs, long-range bombers, ballistic missile submarines and air-launched cruise missiles, among other capabilities.

COMMENTARY

- [Why Allies Balk at Proposed Changes to U.S. Nuclear Declaratory Policy](#) (Heritage Foundation)

"A No First Use policy would leave a gap in U.S. extended deterrence of strategic non-nuclear attacks."

- [Bad Idea: Relying on "Integrated Deterrence" Instead of Building Sufficient U.S. Military Power](#) (CSIS)

"History has also has proven that non-military tools, such as economic sanctions or diplomatic condemnation, have limited utility in deterring a determined adversary from instigating conflict."

- [Nuclear Command-and-Control Satellites Should Be Off Limits](#) (Defense One)

"Blowing up some satellites causes problems. Blowing up these could cause nuclear war."

