

WASHINGTON ICBM CONTRACTORS (ICons) GROUP



21 November 2020

Oct ICons:

Location: Virtual

Date: 10 Dec

Time: 10:30 EDT



ADMINISTRATION/PROGRAM SPECIFICS

U.S. Air Force chief's top modernization priorities aren't what you think they are

Defense News Online, 17 Nov 20 Valerie Insinna

Gen. Hyten, Embattled Joint Chiefs Vice Chair, Will Not Seek Second Term

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/11/13/gen-hyten-embattled-joint-chiefs-vice-chair-will-not-seek-second-term.html?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2011.16.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

By Oriana Pawlyk for Military.com // 13 Nov 2020

Cooperating on Nukes Better Than Sharing Them, Navy Strat Systems Chief Says

DefenseDaily.com, 17 Nov 20 Dan Leone

Mk21A reentry vehicle design review on track for March

InsideDefense.com, 19 Nov 20 Sara Sirota

Malmstrom first to receive new 'Grey Wolf' helicopters, senators say

Great Falls Tribune Online, 18 Nov 20 Phil Drake

Next generation of Air Force helicopters headed to Minot Air Force Base

KFYR-TV (Bismarck, ND), 18 Nov 20 Joe Skurzewski

The Navy is Moving 'Tactical Control' of Its Nuclear-Armed Ballistic Missile Submarines

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/navy-moving-tactical-control-its-nuclear-armed-ballistic-missile-submarines-172627>

The move will help local commanders better react to foreign threats.

by [Kris Osborn](#) for the National Interest // November 13, 2020

State Department fears Russian underwater nuclear drones could unleash 'radioactive tsunami' on US

14 Nov, 2020 13:32

Pentagon Expands Hypersonics Transition Office

National Defense, 17 Nov 20 Connie Lee

U.S. Nuclear Weapons Capability (PDF Attach'd above 20 pgs)

<https://www.heritage.org/military-strength/assessment-us-military-power/us-nuclear-weapons-capability>

AN ASSESSMENT OF U.S. MILITARY POWER

By: Patty-Jane Geller for Heritage // Nov 17, 2020)About an hour read)

New nuclear explosion monitoring capability achieves significant milestone

<https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/articles/new-nuclear-explosion-monitoring-capability-achieves-significant-milestone>

Home » New nuclear explosion monitoring capability achieves significant milestone

From: Energy.Gov // NOVEMBER 16, 2020

The State Department to release Kennan-style paper on China (Attach'd above PDF 74 pgs)

<https://www.benzinga.com/news/20/11/18410916/the-state-department-to-release-kennan-style-paper-on-china-axios-report>

By: Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian for Benzinga // 18 Nov 2020

News & Opinion

Why America Isn't Prepared

The enemies of the United States are not dealing with continuing resolutions, split legislatures or budget shortfalls. They are proceeding rapidly toward the future as made clear by the new North Korean ICBM threat.

National Interest Online, Nov. 14 | Peter Huessy

What a Flournoy Pentagon Could Mean for the Air Force

Air Force Magazine Online, Nov. 13 | Brian W. Everstine

Iran Uranium Levels Raise Nuclear Concerns, but Tehran Says It Is Still Being Transparent

<https://www.newsweek.com/iran-uranium-levels-raise-nuclear-concerns-tehran-says-still-being-transparent-1546821>

BY [DAVID BRENNAN](#) for Newsweek Magazine // ON 11/12/20 AT 5:41 AM EST

'No doubt' China is upgrading its nuclear power to be on par with U.S., Russia

<https://amp.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/nov/15/no-doubt-china-upgrading-its-nuclear-power-be-par/>

By [Bill Gertz](#) - The Washington Times - Sunday, November 15, 2020

The Secret Way America is Building 6th Generation Stealth Fighters and ICBMs Two words: digital engineering

The National Interest, 15 Nov 20 Kris Osborn

History Shows U.S. Nuclear Restraint Is A One-Way Street

WarOnTheRocks.com, 18 Nov 20 Michaela Dodge

Five Common Mistakes on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

WarOnTheRocks.com, Nov. 16 | Alicia Sanders-Zakre

Four New Weapons That Will Define The Biden Defense Posture

Forbes Online, Nov. 13 | Loren Thompson

How Russia's Nuclear Weapons Keep Becoming More Powerful

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/how-russia%E2%80%99s-nuclear-weapons-keep-becoming-more-powerful-172624>

For starters: This week Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Russia has considerably expanded the analytical and operational capabilities of its strategic nuclear forces' command and control systems.
by [Peter Suci](#) for The National Interest // November 14, 2020

Russia Claims Its RS-28 Sarmat ICBM Has Nearly 'Unlimited Range'

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/russia-claims-its-rs-28-sarmat-icbm-has-nearly-unlimited-range-172421>

Here's what we know about the nuclear missile.

by [Mark Episkopos](#) For The National Interest // November 13, 2020

China is Already Preparing for the Next Korean War

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/china-already-preparing-next-korean-war-172612?page=0%2C1>

Even if neither side resorted to nuclear weapons, the amount of conventional armed might—not to mention chemical weaponry—in proximity to major civilian population centers is quite sufficient to determine that a war on the Korean Peninsula could take the lives of millions.

by [Lyle J. Goldstein](#) for The National Interest // November 13, 2020

As China's military confidence grows, it's now looking to 'design' how war is fought

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3109585/chinas-military-confidence-grows-its-now-looking-design-how-war>

- *Official publication highlights strategic shift to become more proactive in seeking to shape military events*

• *That could push neighbours and the US to try to counterbalance its moves and prepare for a 'pre-war period', analysts say*
By: [Kristin Huang](#) for the South China Morning Post // Published: 6:00am, 13 Nov, 2020

Chinese Long-Range Ballistic Missiles Struck Moving Ship In South China Sea: Report

The War Zone, 16 Nov 20 Joseph Trevithick

Right of Launch: Command and Control Vulnerabilities After a Limited Nuclear Strike

WarOnTheRocks.com, 20 Nov 20 Bruce G. Blair, Sebastien Philippe, and Sharon K. Weiner

China's Growing Missile Arsenal and the Risk of a 'Taiwan Missile Crisis'

Nuclear Threat Initiative, 18 Nov 20 Jeffrey Lewis, David Joël La Boon and Decker Eveleth

"Our stockpile of nuclear weapons may not work"

By: STANLEY ORMAN, (Opinion) Rockville, Md // The Washington Times // (Web, Nov. 12)

Kissinger Warns Biden of U.S.-China Catastrophe on Scale of WWI

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/kissinger-warns-biden-of-us-china-catastrophe-on-scale-of-wwi/ar-BB1b3Oif>

By: Peter Martin for Bloomberg News // 9 hrs ago

Pentagon Risks 'Paralyzing Ourselves' as Tech Priorities Keep Shifting

That's what the outgoing HASC ranking member says, and he's not alone.

DEFENSE ONE PATRICK TUCKER TECHNOLOGY EDITOR NOVEMBER 18, 2020

North's ICBMs may have re-entry ability, says report

JoongAng Daily Online (South Korea), 18 Nov 20 Sarah Kim

'Pearl Harbor' in Armenia will be a case study in technological surprise

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/nov/18/armenias-pearl-harbor-will-be-a-case-study-in-tech/>

Military revolution in the Nagorno-Karabakh War

by Dr. Peter Vincent Pry to the Washington Times // Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Iran Has a Truly Ridiculous Stockpile of Missiles

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/iran-has-truly-ridiculous-stockpile-missiles-172785>

North Korea has demonstrated that even a determined country of limited means can build a credible missile program.

By: [Kyle Mizokami](#) for The National Interest // November 17, 2020

Russian Strategic and Hypersonic Naval Nuclear Weapons

https://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2020/11/18/russian_strategic_and_hypersonic_naval_nuclear_weapons_650130.html#!

By [Mark B. Schneider](#) for Real Clear Defense // November 18, 2020

CIA thinks North Korean missiles could reach U.S. targets, analyst says

https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2020/11/18/CIA-thinks-North-Korean-missiles-could-reach-US-targets-analyst-says/4781605708177/?

By: [Elizabeth Shim](#) for the UPI // NOV. 18, 2020 / 9:21 AM

One of Biden's First Acts as President-Elect Was to Antagonize Kim Jong Un

<https://news.yahoo.com/one-biden-first-acts-president-095849813.html>

By: Donald Kirk for The Daily Beast // November 16, 2020

Iran Has a Truly Ridiculous Stockpile of Missiles

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/iran-has-truly-ridiculous-stockpile-missiles-172785>

North Korea has demonstrated that even a determined country of limited means can build a credible missile program.

By: [Kyle Mizokami](#) for The National Interest // November 17, 2020

Iran steps up nuclear programs amid sanctions

https://washingtontimes-dc.newsmemory.com/?token=0d53f0b4425c2b381c065fed35135033_5fb68af8_d3019ac&selDate=20201119

U.S., Tehran eye possible changes to pressure campaign by Biden

BY DAVID RISING for the ASSOCIATED PRESS // 19 Nov 2020

Who will sell Iran weapons now that the arms embargo is dead?

<https://news.yahoo.com/tigray-crisis-why-ethiopia-spiralling-232607570.html>

By: Agnes Helou for Defense News // November 16, 2020

ARTICLES AGAINST CREDIBLE, CAPABLE NUCLEAR DETERRENCE

How the Biden administration could create a win-win situation for nuclear policy

Washington Post Online, 17 Nov 20 Tom Collina and William Perry

Transition 2020: Progressives to Biden: Kill Space Force, cancel major weapons, bar lobbyists

By Bryan Bender 11/16/2020

Anti-war groups take aim at Space Force, ICBMs, missile defense

Progressive groups want to restrict the hiring of defense industry executives for top DoD posts and reduce the number of support contractors in the Pentagon SpaceNews Online, 17 Nov 20 Sandra Erwin

Whatever you think ails this nation, a new generation of ICBMs is not the answer

Opinion by Tom Collina and William Perry November 17, 2020

Nuke Abolition Losing Message on Election Day, house Armed Services Chair Tells Disarmament Advocates

<https://www.exchangemonitor.com/nuke-abolition-losing-message-electi>

CONGRESSIONAL

By Susan Cornwell

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

- December 11: Current CR (HR 8337) will end

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

- SASC and HASC have passed their respective Bills
- AUTHORIZATION CONFERENCE

DEFENSE APPROPRIATION

HAC

SAC

APPROPRIATION CONFERENCE: TBD

•

Formal NDAA talks to begin

https://www.defensenews.com/congress/2020/11/17/formal-ndaa-talks-begin-under-shadow-of-confederate-renaming-issue/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2011.18.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

By: [Joe Gould](#) for Defense News // 1 day ago

Smith urges anti-nuke advocates to focus on deterrence

InsideDefense.com, 18 Nov 20 Tony Bertuca

Top GOP post on House Armed Services Committee draws tough competition

https://www.defensenews.com/congress/2020/11/18/top-gop-post-on-house-armed-services-draws-tough-competition/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2011.19.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

By: [Joe Gould](#) for Defense News // 1 day ago

Markey reiterates calls for nuclear no-first-use policy amid Pentagon shake-up

The Hill Online, 11 Nov 20 Tal Axelrod

AROUND THE WORLD



RUSSIA:

Putin Orders a New Nuclear-Proof Command Center

<http://jamestown.org/program/putin-orders-a-new-nuclear-proof-command-center>

By: [Roger McDermott](#), Eurasia Daily Monitor // November 18, 2020 05:08 PM Age: 20 hours

Russia Says U.S. Missile Defense Test Proves It Lied About Global Missile Shield

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/russia-says-us-missile-defense-test-proves-it-lied-about-global-missile-shield/ar-BB1bbiD1?ocid=uxbndlbing>

By: Tom O'Connor to Newsweek // 12 hrs ago

Russia set to open naval base for nuclear warships in Sudan

<https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/russia/2020/russia-201113-presstv02.htm>

From: Iran Press TV // Friday, 13 November 2020 6:53 AM

State Department Fears Russia's Poseidon Drones Could Swallow US Cities With 'Radioactive Tsunamis'

Sputnik News (Russia), Nov. 13 | Not Attributed



CHINA:

China's military research still using U.S. software

South China Morning Post (Hong Kong), Nov. 16, Pg. 8 | Stephen Chen



NORTH KOREA:

North Korean leader presides over politburo meeting in first public appearance in 25 days

Yonhap News Agency (South Korea), Nov. 16 | Koh Byung-joon



SOUTH KOREA:

Suh, Miller reaffirm efforts to strengthen Korea-U.S. alliance

Yonhap News Agency (South Korea), 17 Nov 20 Byun Duk-kun

China's policy on North Korean denuclearization consistent regardless of U.S. leadership change – Amb. Xing

Yonhap News Agency (South Korea), 18 Nov 20 Kim Seung-yeon

Perry says diplomatic solution still possible on North Korea's denuclearization

Yonhap News Agency (South Korea), 18 Nov 20 Koh Byung-joon



IRAN:

US attack risks 'full-fledged war,' says adviser to Iran's leader

https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2020/11/19/us-attack-risks-full-fledged-war-says-adviser-to-irans-leader/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2011.20.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

By: [Nasser Karimi, The Associated Press](#) and [Jon Gambrell, The Associated Press](#) for the Military Times // 11 hours ago

Iran admits breach of nuclear deal discovered by UN inspectorate

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/18/iran-admits-breach-of-nuclear-deal-discovered-by-un-inspectorate>

Iran uses advanced uranium-enriching centrifuges in underground plant in breach of 2015 nuclear agreement

By: [Patrick Wintour](#) Diplomatic Editor for the Guardian // Wed 18 Nov 2020 09:33 EST -- Last modified on Wed 18 Nov 2020 09:35 EST

Iran expects US to return to nuclear deal without conditions

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said the era of maximum pressure is over.

https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/11/iran-rouhani-biden-election-return-nuclear-deal-maximum.html?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2011.13.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

By: [The Al-Monitor Staff](#) // Nov 12, 2020



INDIA:

Indian Missiles, Rockets Score Direct Hits On Pak Bunkers

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/in-video-indian-missiles-rockets-score-direct-hits-on-pakistani-bunkers-2324952>

Some of the targets hit also include Pakistani ammunition and fuel storage buildings and launch pads for terrorists to attempt infiltration across the Line of Control (LoC)

[All India](#) Reported by [Vishnu Som](#), Edited by [Debanish Achom](#) Updated: November 13, 2020 6:32 pm IST



PAKISTAN:

NSTR



UNITED KINGDOM:

NSTR



FRANCE:

NSTR



ISRAEL:

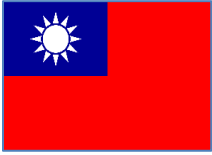
NSTR



JAPAN:

Japan foreign minister: maintaining behind-the-scene dialogue with North Korea

Reuters, Nov. 16 | Kiyoshi Takenaka



TAWIAN:

NSTR



SAUDI ARABIA:

Saudi minister says nuclear armament against Iran ‘an option’

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/17/saudi-minister-wont-rule-out-nuclear-armament-over-iran>

Saudi Arabia reserves the right to arm itself with nuclear weapons if Iran cannot be stopped from making one, says the minister.

From: Al Jazeera News Bureau // 17 Nov 2020



TURKEY:

NSTR