

# WASHINGTON ICBM CONTRACTORS (ICons) GROUP



20 Sep 2020

## **Sep ICons:**

**Location:** Virtual

**Date:** 23 Sep

**Time:** 10:30 EDT

## ADMINISTRATION/PROGRAM SPECIFICS

### **'Tipping Point' Is Here for Nuclear Modernization, Defense Official Says**

<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2351959/tipping-point-is-here-for-nuclear-modernization-defense-official-says/>

BY: [C. TODD LOPEZ](#), for DOD NEWS // SEPT. 17, 2020

### **Five Takeaways From the New Air Force Chief's Vision 'Accelerate Change, or Lose'**

RealClearDefense.com, 12 Sep 20

Mackenzie Eaglen

### **Top admiral: 'No condition' where US should conduct nuclear test 'at this time'**

[https://thehill.com/policy/defense/516897-top-general-no-condition-where-us-should-conduct-nuclear-test-at-this-time?utm\\_source=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=33244](https://thehill.com/policy/defense/516897-top-general-no-condition-where-us-should-conduct-nuclear-test-at-this-time?utm_source=&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=33244)

BY [REBECCA KHEEL](#) for THE HILL // 09/17/20 12:51 PM EDT

### **Here's how Global Strike Command is shifting its focus to China, Russia**

Air Force Times, 13 Sep 20

Stephen Losey

### **U.S. Air and Space Forces are accelerating innovation to deter and defend the American way of life**

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, 14 Sep 20

Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett

### **Air Force seeks a radical shift in how jets, missiles and satellites are designed**

Washington Post Online, 15 Sep. 20

Aaron Gregg and Paul Sonne

### **Esper Downplays Russia's Threat: Not a Challenge in the Future**

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world-report/articles/2020-09-16/defense-secretary-esper-downplays-russias-threat-not-a-challenge-in-the-future>

*Esper's deriding comments – akin to those that have infuriated Vladimir Putin the past – come amid a new Pentagon shift to focus primarily on China.*

By [Paul D. Shinkman](#), Senior Writer, National Security for US News // Sept. 16, 2020, at 4:41 p.m.

### **US threatens sanctions for China and Russia over Iran arms deals**

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/us-threatens-sanctions-for-china-and-russia-over-iran-arms-deals/ar-BB19778N?ocid=mseedgdp>

By: Joel Gehrke for the Examiner // 13 hrs ago

### **US Secretary of State says 'tide has turned' and the world increasingly regards China as a threat**

<https://news.yahoo.com/us-secretary-state-says-tide-093000831.html>

By: Mark Magnier for the [South China Morning Post](#) // September 16, 2020

### **Americans 'not fully conscious' of Chinese military threat to US, commander says**

[https://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/americans-not-fully-conscious-of-chinese-military-threat-to-us-commander-says-1.645054?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=EBB%2009.15.20&utm\\_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief](https://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/americans-not-fully-conscious-of-chinese-military-threat-to-us-commander-says-1.645054?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2009.15.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief)

By [CAITLIN M. KENNEY](#) | STARS AND STRIPES // Published: September 14, 2020

### **Chinese Nuke Arsenal Next on Beijing's 'To-Do' List, US Commander Warns**

[https://www.voanews.com/usa/chinese-nuke-arsenal-next-beijings-do-list-us-commander-warns?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=EBB%2009.15.20&utm\\_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief](https://www.voanews.com/usa/chinese-nuke-arsenal-next-beijings-do-list-us-commander-warns?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2009.15.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief)

By Carla Babb for VOA News // September 14, 2020 04:25 PM

### **China's nuclear arms buildup 'inconsistent' with no-first-use policy, Stratcom chief says**

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/chinas-nuclear-arms-buildup-inconsistent-with-no-first-use-policy-stratcom-chief-says/ar-BB191KTS?ocid=uxbndlbng>

By: Abraham Mahshie for the UK Examiner // 16 hrs ago

### **Military Must Continue Progress to Deter Competitors**

<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2345179/military-must-continue-progress-to-deter-competitors/>

BY [JIM GARAMONE](#), for DOD NEWS // SEPT. 11, 2020

## News & Opinion

## **UK 'could face threat of Russian nuclear-powered missile that can fly around the Earth for years'**

<https://news.sky.com/story/uk-could-face-threat-of-russian-nuclear-powered-missile-that-can-fly-around-the-earth-for-years-12070875>

Lieutenant General Jim Hockenhull says the West is having to keep up with countries that do not play by the rules.

By: [Tania Snuggs](#) News reporter [@news\\_snuggsy](#) for Sky News // Monday 14 September 2020 08:33, UK

## **The Nuclear Weapons Council and Its Critical Role in Developing a Budget for Nuclear Warhead Activities**

[https://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2020/09/16/the\\_nuclear\\_weapons\\_council\\_and\\_its\\_critical\\_role\\_in\\_developing\\_a\\_budget\\_for\\_nuclear\\_warhead\\_activities\\_577588.html?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=EBB%2009.17.20&utm\\_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief](https://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2020/09/16/the_nuclear_weapons_council_and_its_critical_role_in_developing_a_budget_for_nuclear_warhead_activities_577588.html?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2009.17.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief)

By [Patty-Jane Geller](#) for Real Clear Defense // September 16, 2020

## **High Speed, Low-Yield: A U.S. Dual-Use Hypersonic Weapon**

<https://warontherocks.com/2020/09/high-speed-low-yield-a-u-s-dual-use-hypersonic-weapon/>

By: [Alan Cummings](#) for War on the Rocks // September 17, 2020

## **The U.S. Must Resume Nuclear Testing**

September 23, 1992—date of the last U.S. nuclear test—28 years ago.

By: Dr. Peter Vincent Pry, September 2020

## **NNSA team improves model to pinpoint nuclear testing locations**

<https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/articles/nnsa-team-improves-model-pinpoint-nuclear-testing-locations>

From Energy.Gov // SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

## **Will Russia Further Lower Its Nuclear Weapons Use Threshold?**

[https://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2020/09/19/will\\_russia\\_further\\_lower\\_its\\_nuclear\\_weapons\\_use\\_threshold\\_577995.html](https://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2020/09/19/will_russia_further_lower_its_nuclear_weapons_use_threshold_577995.html)

By [Mark B. Schneider](#) for Real Clear Defense // September 19, 2020

## **The new U.S. Air Force chief has a reputation of only asking for what he needs. He's going to need a lot.**

Defense News Online, 11 Sep 20

Valerie Insinna

## **STRATCOM preparing for China to join Russia as U.S. nuclear peer adversary**

InsideDefense.com, 14 Sep 20

Jason Sherman

## **Iran's Secret Space Program Poses Security Threat, Expert Says**

[https://freebeacon.com/national-security/irans-secret-space-program-poses-security-threat-expert-says/?utm\\_source=actengage&utm\\_campaign=FreedomMail&utm\\_medium=email](https://freebeacon.com/national-security/irans-secret-space-program-poses-security-threat-expert-says/?utm_source=actengage&utm_campaign=FreedomMail&utm_medium=email)

By: [Jack Beyrer](#) for the WFB // SEPTEMBER 18, 2020 5:05 PM

## **Head of US Nuclear Forces Warns of Growing, Modernizing Chinese Nuclear Threat**

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/09/head-of-us-nuclear-forces-warns-of-growing-modernizing-chinese-nuclear-threat/>

*Admiral highlights new missiles capable of hitting the U.S. and expects Chinese arsenal to double.*

By [Steven Stashwick](#) for The Diplomat // September 17, 2020

### **High Speed, Low-Yield: A U.S. Dual-Use Hypersonic Weapon**

<https://warontherocks.com/2020/09/high-speed-low-yield-a-u-s-dual-use-hypersonic-weapon/>

By: [Alan Cummings](#) for War on the Rocks // September 17, 2020

### **China and Russia ‘have weaponised space with killer energy weapon satellites’**

<https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/world-news/china-russia-have-weaponised-space-22697271>

*The United States Secretary of Defense Mark Esper claimed Moscow and Beijing have "turned a once peaceful arena into a war-fighting domain" which threatens the country's air superiority*

By: [Simon Green](#) for the UK Sun // 09:47, 17 SEP 2020 - UPDATED09:48, 17 SEP 2020

### **EMP - When will they ever learn?**

By: Amb. [Henry F. Cooper](#) // Posted on September 14, 2020

### **China's growing military reach -- what newly released Pentagon maps reveal**

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/what-newly-released-pentagon-maps-reveal-about-china-s-growing-military-reach/ar-BB18Zeek?ocid=msedgdhp>

### **China's worrisome edge toward a 'launch-on-warning' nuclear posture**

<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/515243-chinas-worrisome-edge-toward-a-launch-on-warning-nuclear-posture>

BY JAMES R. HOLMES, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR — 09/10/20 10:30 AM EDT

### **End of strategic ambiguity policy**

<https://www.taipetimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2020/09/10/2003743127>

By Joseph Bosco for the Taipei Times // 10 Sept 2020

Taipei Times

### **Is nuclear deterrence in the cards for India and China**

<https://www.orfonline.org/research/is-nuclear-deterrence-in-the-cards-for-india-and-china/>

By: [PULKIT MOHAN](#) for the ORFONLINE // 13 Sept, 2020

### **The dawn of a new Middle East’**

[https://washingtontimes-dc.newsmemory.com/?token=5123b09e31dabc9acedffd7a64462553\\_5f620474\\_d3019ac&seIDate=20200916](https://washingtontimes-dc.newsmemory.com/?token=5123b09e31dabc9acedffd7a64462553_5f620474_d3019ac&seIDate=20200916)

Trump hosts peace accord, burnishing statesman credentials

BY DAVE BOYER for THE WASHINGTON TIMES // 16 September 2020

## CONGRESSIONAL

*By Susan Cornwell*

### **HEARINGS**

### **DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION**

### **SASC and HASC have passed their respective Bills**

## AUTHORIZATION CONFERENCE

- **November: Tentative timeframe for markup**

## DEFENSE APPROPRIATION

### HAC

**July 8: HAC-D Marked up the FY21 Defense Bill**

### SAC

TBD: Markup

## APPROPRIATION CONFERENCE

TBD: Markup

## CONTINUING RESOLUTION

### Defense industry worries Congress will punt budget deal into 2021

[https://www.defensenews.com/congress/2020/09/16/defense-industry-worries-congress-will-punt-budget-deal-into-2021/?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Air%20Force%20DNR%209.17.20&utm\\_term=Editorial%20-%20Air%20Force%20-%20Daily%20News%20Roundup](https://www.defensenews.com/congress/2020/09/16/defense-industry-worries-congress-will-punt-budget-deal-into-2021/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Air%20Force%20DNR%209.17.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Air%20Force%20-%20Daily%20News%20Roundup)

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

### Energy Dept. officials are ‘trying to undermine’ nuclear weapons agency, Inhofe alleges

<https://www.defensenews.com/smr/nuclear-arsenal/2020/09/17/energy-dept-officials-are-trying-to-undermine-nuclear-weapons-agency-inhofe-alleges/>

By: [Aaron Mehta](#) for Defense News // 14 hours ago

### HOUSE CALLS FOR BAN ON EXPLOSIVE NUCLEAR TESTING IN NDAA

<https://titus.house.gov/press-releases/rep-titus-house-colleagues-call-for-ban-on-explosive-nuclear-testing-in-final-ndaa>

Press Release // September 10, 2020

## AROUND THE WORLD



## RUSSIA:

### Russia's Avangard Glide Vehicle ‘More Deterrent Weapon Than Nuclear Bomb’, Chinese Media Claims

<https://sputniknews.com/military/202009121080441568-russias-avangard-glide-vehicle-more-deterrent-weapon-than-nuclear-bomb-chinese-media-claims/>

by [Oleg Burunov](#) for Sputnik News // 16:10 GMT 12.09.2020Get short URL

## **Putin Says Russia Producing Unique Weapons With No Analogues in the World**

© Sputnik / Aleksey Nikolskyi

[Military & Intelligence](#)

### **Meeting of the Military-Industrial Commission**

On the eve of Gunsmith Day, Vladimir Putin held a meeting, via videoconference, of the Military-Industrial Commission of the Russian Federation.

September 18, 2020

Novo-Ogaryovo, Moscow Region



## **CHINA:**

### **Chinese military calls U.S. biggest threat to world peace**

Associated Press, 13 Sep 20

### **China coronavirus vaccine may be ready for public in November – official**

Reuters, 14 Sep 20

Roxanne Liu and Tony Munroe

### **Beijing fumes at high-level U.S.-Taiwanese meetings**

[https://washingtontimes-dc.newsmemory.com/?token=5269bf5a18c119fb330e7a8c9122e70d\\_5f64b035\\_d3019ac&selDate=20200918](https://washingtontimes-dc.newsmemory.com/?token=5269bf5a18c119fb330e7a8c9122e70d_5f64b035_d3019ac&selDate=20200918)

BY HUIZONG WU for the ASSOCIATED PRESS // 18 Sept 2020

### **Chinese Media on U.S.-Taiwan Visit: ‘Stones May Become Torpedoes’**

[https://freebeacon.com/national-security/chinese-media-on-u-s-taiwan-visit-stones-may-become-torpedoes/?utm\\_source=actengage&utm\\_campaign=FreedomMail&utm\\_medium=email](https://freebeacon.com/national-security/chinese-media-on-u-s-taiwan-visit-stones-may-become-torpedoes/?utm_source=actengage&utm_campaign=FreedomMail&utm_medium=email)

By: [Jack Beyrer](#) for the WFB // SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 5:30 PM



## **NORTH KOREA:**

### **Missile launch or storm repairs? Flurry of activity fuels speculation of North Korea test**

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/missile-launch-or-storm-repairs-flurry-of-activity-fuels-speculation-of-north-korea-test/ar-BB199LSp?ocid=msedgdp>

By Josh Smith for Reuters News Wire // 6 hrs ago



## [SOUTH KOREA:](#)

NSTR



## [IRAN:](#)

### [Iranian Submarine-Launched Missile Range Extended](#)

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2020/09/13/2347906/range-of-iranian-submarine-launched-missile-extended>

From the Tasnim News Bureau // September, 13, 2020 - 14:23

### [Iran says 1,044 centrifuges now active at underground plant](#)

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-1044-centrifuges-now-active-at-underground-plant/#gs.fm2412>

Tehran announced resumption of enrichment at Fordo site last November in a further step away from 2015 nuclear accord abandoned by Washington in May 2018

By [AFP](#) for the Times of Israel // 13 September 2020, 11:35 pm



## [INDIA:](#)

### [India asks China to pull back troops, arms in Ladakh region](#)

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/india-asks-china-to-pull-back-troops-arms-in-ladakh-region/ar-BB197Yig?ocid=msedgdp>

By ASHOK SHARMA, Associated Press // 1 hr ago



## [PAKISTAN:](#)

### [Pakistan's Nuclear Diplomacy](#)

A Commitment Towards Non-Proliferation

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/09/14/pakistans-nuclear-diplomacy-commitment-towards-non-proliferation/>

By: [Sher Bano](#) for Modern Diplomacy // Published 2 days ago on September 14, 2020



## UNITED KINGDOM:

**NSTR**



## FRANCE:

**NSTR**



## ISRAEL:

### **Historic Peace Deal Normalizes Israel's Relations With Bahrain**

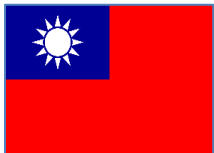
[https://freebeacon.com/latest-news/historic-peace-deal-normalizes-israels-relations-with-bahrain/?utm\\_source=actengage&utm\\_campaign=FreedomMail&utm\\_medium=email](https://freebeacon.com/latest-news/historic-peace-deal-normalizes-israels-relations-with-bahrain/?utm_source=actengage&utm_campaign=FreedomMail&utm_medium=email)

By: [Reuters](#) for the WFB // SEPTEMBER 11, 2020 1:53 PM



## JAPAN:

**NSTR**





## TAWIAN:

NSTR



## SAUDI ARABIA:

NSTR



## TURKEY:

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