

# WASHINGTON ICBM CONTRACTORS (ICons) GROUP



26 Sep 2020

**Oct ICons:**

**Location:** Virtual

**Date:** TBD

**Time:** TBD

## ADMINISTRATION/PROGRAM SPECIFICS

### **USSTRATCOM Commander Announces 2019 Omaha Trophy Winners**

U.S. Strategic Command Public Affairs, Sept. 24 | Press Release

### **Wracked by American Sanctions, Russia Cuts Defense Spending**

[https://freebeacon.com/national-security/wracked-by-american-sanctions-russia-cuts-defense-spending/?utm\\_source=actengage&utm\\_campaign=FreedomMail&utm\\_medium=email](https://freebeacon.com/national-security/wracked-by-american-sanctions-russia-cuts-defense-spending/?utm_source=actengage&utm_campaign=FreedomMail&utm_medium=email)

By: [Jack Beyrer](#) for the WFB // SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 5:00 PM

### **Statement by the President Regarding New Restrictions on Iran**

**Nuclear, Ballistic Missile, and Conventional Weapons Pursuits**

White House: Issued on: September 21, 2020

### **Pompeo: China using nuclear weapons program aid to seduce US allies in Middle East**

[https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/defense-national-security/pompeo-china-using-nuclear-weapons-program-aid-to-seduce-us-allies-in-middle-east?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=EBB%2009.25.20&utm\\_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/defense-national-security/pompeo-china-using-nuclear-weapons-program-aid-to-seduce-us-allies-in-middle-east?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2009.25.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief)

by [Joel Gehrke, Foreign Affairs Reporter](#) for the Washington Examiner // September 24, 2020 03:25 PM

**Pompeo blames China tensions on past policies of appeasement**

[https://washingtontimes-dc.newsmemory.com/?token=7cd9579692e05ccca3212b7ce90dc204\\_5f6b47bc\\_d3019ac&selDate=20200923](https://washingtontimes-dc.newsmemory.com/?token=7cd9579692e05ccca3212b7ce90dc204_5f6b47bc_d3019ac&selDate=20200923)  
BY BILL GERTZ for THE WASHINGTON TIMES // 23 Sept 2020

**Pentagon sees 'unacceptable risk' in House nuclear provisions**

InsideDefense.com, 17 Sep 20 Tony Bertuca

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

DOD News, 17 Sep 20 Todd Lopez

**WEB EXCLUSIVE: Air Force's Roper Wants to 'Fast Forward' Digital Engineering Revolution**

Air Force News 9/23/2020

By [Yasmin Tadjeh](#) and [Stew Magnuson](#)

**Head of U.S. 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.**

The Diplomat Online, 17 Sep 20

Steven Stashwick

**NNSA Administrator Lisa Gordon Hagerty To Represent US At International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference**

Submitted by Carol A. Clark on September 18, 2020

**NNSA: Cost, Schedule, and Risk Information - W87-1 Warhead Program.** (PDF Attached 56pgs)

<https://www.gao.gov/assets/710/709253.pdf>

GAO-20-703: Published: Sep 9, 2020. Publicly Released: Sep 23, 2020.

By: Allison B. Bawden (202) 512-3841 [bawdena@gao.gov](mailto:bawdena@gao.gov) -- Office of Public Affairs (202) 512-4800 [youngc1@gao.gov](mailto:youngc1@gao.gov)

## News & Opinion

**A \$13 Billion Contract for ICBMs: What's the Rush?**

*The deal needs closer scrutiny — as does the purported need for new long-range ballistic missiles at all.*

DEFENSE ONE BY [WILLIAM D. HARTUNG](#)

DIRECTOR, ARMS AND SECURITY PROJECT AT THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICY

SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

## **A balancing act for Beijing**

<https://thehill.com/opinion/international/517416-the-coming-us-election-presents-a-balancing-act-for-beijing>

*The coming US election presents a focus*

BY JOSEPH BOSCO, CONTRIBUTOR to THE HILL // 09/22/20 10:00 AM EDT

## **China air force video appears to show simulated attack on U.S. base on Guam**

Reuters, Sept. 21 | Yew Lun Tian

## **Sole Purpose: A Policy Without a Purpose**

RealClearDefense.com, Sept. 19 | Franklin C. Miller

## **Declassified U.S. intelligence tracks huge Chinese missile buildup**

WJLA-TV/Sinclair Broadcast Group (Exclusive), Sept. 18 | James Rosen

## **Biden would push for less U.S. reliance on nukes for defense**

Associated Press, Sept. 19 | Robert Burns

## **After 20 Years, Let the NNSA Stand on Its Own**

RealClearDefense.com, Sept. 18 | Franklin C. Miller and Tim Morrison

## **Is the Russian Avangard Hypersonic ICBM a Serious Threat?**

Or is this just more hype from Moscow?

National Interest Online, Sept. 18 | Peter Suci

## **Is the United States Planning a Nuclear-Armed, Intercontinental-Range, Hypersonic Missile?**

Union of Concerned Scientists, Sept. 18 | Cameron Tracy

## **Why the new ICBM contract is a bad deal**

Defense News Online, Sept. 21 | Kingston Reif

## **Why there's no such thing as 'tactical' nuclear weapons**

Task & Purpose, Sept. 19 | Jeff Schogol

## **Born to prevent war, United Nations at 75 faces deeply polarized world**

<https://news.yahoo.com/born-prevent-war-united-nations-092844679.html>

From: The Associated Press // [NBC News](#) // September 21, 2020

## **The U.S. must resume nuclear testing**

[https://washingtontimes-dc.newsmemory.com/?token=cfdc4e36abc3989316a03279b5d229b5\\_5f69f7bf\\_d3019ac&selDate=20200922](https://washingtontimes-dc.newsmemory.com/?token=cfdc4e36abc3989316a03279b5d229b5_5f69f7bf_d3019ac&selDate=20200922)

*Russia and China are decades ahead in developing advanced nuclear weapons*

By Peter Vincent Pry for The Washington Times // 22 Sept 2020

**In search of a clear-eyed US strategy on Russia**

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/in-search-of-a-clear-eyed-us-strategy-on-russia/>

By: [Matthew Sussex](#) for the ASPI Strategist // 21 Sep 2020

**China air force video appears to show simulated attack on U.S. base on Guam**

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-china-usa-security/china-air-force-video-appears-to-show-simulated-attack-on-u-s-base-on-guam-idUKKCN26C0EH?il=0>

By Reuters Staff // 3 Min Read

**Nuke Brain-Drain in Military ‘Bottomed Out,’ ‘Turned the Corner,’ LLNL Resident Scholar Says**

DefenseDaily.com, 22 Sep 20 Dan Leone

**U.S. officials scramble to reach nuclear deal**

Washington Post, 23 Sep 20 Paul Sonne and John Hudson

**To Deter China, Extend New START**

*A new arms race with Russia will drain funds from the forces that influence and deter Beijing*

DefenseOne.com, 22 Sep 20 Alex Moore

**NNSA: Cost, Schedule, and Risk Information - W87-1 Warhead Program.** (PDF Attached 56pgs)

<https://www.gao.gov/assets/710/709253.pdf>

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**In U.N. debut, Saudi king calls for comprehensive solution on Iran**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-un-assembly-saudi/in-un-debut-saudi-king-calls-for-comprehensive-solution-on-iran-idUSKCN26E2GC>

By Reuters Staff // SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 10:31 AM - UPDATED 2 DAYS AGO

**Kill'em All? Denial Strategies, Defense Planning, and Deterrence Failure**

WarOnTheRocks.com, Sept. 24 | Evan Montgomery

**CONGRESSIONAL**

*By Susan Cornwell*

**DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION**

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

## AUTHORIZATION CONFERECE

## DEFENSE APPROPRIATION

### HAC

### SAC

## APPROPRIATION CONFERECE

## CONTINUING RESOLUTION

### Senate tees up stopgap spending bill for final vote next week

Sept. 24, 2020; Updated 2:24 p.m. By Jennifer Shutt, CQ

### House passes bill to avert shutdown

[https://thehill.com/homenews/house/517700-house-passes-bill-to-avert-shutdown?utm\\_source=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=33427](https://thehill.com/homenews/house/517700-house-passes-bill-to-avert-shutdown?utm_source=&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=33427)

BY [CRISTINA MARCOS](#) for THE HILL // 09/22/20 08:20 PM EDT

### Sen. Inhofe at odds with Department of Energy over nuclear weapons

[https://tulsaworld.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/d-c-digest-ihofe-at-odds-with-department-of-energy-over-nuclear-weapons/article\\_d3fed088-f9f2-11ea-935a-5fe9bfcd714.html](https://tulsaworld.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/d-c-digest-ihofe-at-odds-with-department-of-energy-over-nuclear-weapons/article_d3fed088-f9f2-11ea-935a-5fe9bfcd714.html)

By: [Randy Krehbiel](#) for The Tulsa World // Sep 20, 2020 – Updated 17 hrs ago

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

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

By: [Aaron Mehta](#) for Defense News // 3 days ago

### 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

## AROUND THE WORLD



### RUSSIA:

### **Extending New START treaty foremost issue – Putin**

Interfax (Russia), Sept. 22 | Not Attributed

### **Russia's newest Kazan nuclear submarine enters White Sea for trials**

TASS (Russia), Sept. 22 | Not Attributed

### **Russia won't take part in any US-led coalition against China**

**Wants France and UK included in new nuclear talks – ambassador**

<https://www.rt.com/news/501111-russia-china-india-nuclear-envoy/>

From Russia Today – RT // 19 Sep, 2020 04:24 / Updated 1 day ago

### **Putin: For 1st time in history, Russia possesses weapons superior to all existing ones**

Interfax (Russia), Sept. 19 | Not Attributed

MOSCOW -- For the first time in history, Russia possesses weapons that are superior to all existing ones, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

### **Putin compares Avangard system's putting on combat duty to nuclear project implementation in USSR**

Interfax (Russia), Sept. 19 | Not Attributed

### **Caucasus 2020 drills to focus on combating cruise missiles – Russian Defense Ministry**

TASS (Russia), Sept. 21 | Not Attributed

### **US Offers Russia to Extend START Treaty for Less Than Five Years**

<https://sputniknews.com/military/202009221080542863-us-strategic-command-flexes-on-russian-air-force-with-bomber-flights-tweet/>

by [Oleg Burunov](#) for Sputnik News // 16:05 GMT 20.09.2020(updated 17:43 GMT 20.09.2020)

### **Russia Believes US-Proposed Stronger Control Measures in New START Inconceivable - Ryabkov**

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/world/russia-believes-us-proposed-stronger-control-1035940.html>

By: Rossiya Segodnya [Sputnik](#) [Moscow] // 21 Sep 2020.

### **Senior Russian diplomat notes progress in discussions on US-made Trident II missiles**

<https://tass.com/defense/1203333>

*The Russian diplomat added that "the issue is still in the process of discussion, some matters have not yet been clarified"*

From the Russian News Agency TASS // 21 SEP, 17:04

### **Deployment of US missiles in Asia to put Russia's nuclear deterrent at risk – ambassador**

"The American partners, perhaps, should carefully weigh all the destabilizing consequences of such a step fraught with further escalation of tension and an arms race," Anatoly Antonov said

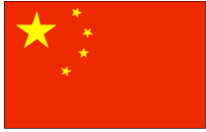
TASS (Russia), Sept. 18 | Not Attributed

### **Russia has no intel suggesting impending North Korean SLBM test – Moscow official**

Yonhap News Agency (South Korea), Sept. 20 | Not Attributed

### **Russian military says U.S. flights near Crimea fuel tensions**

Associated Press, Sept. 18 | Vladimir Isachenkov



## **CHINA:**

### **US-China relations: North Korea nuclear talks an opportunity for cooperation, Chinese ex-vice minister says**

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3102896/us-china-relations-north-korea-nuclear-talks-opportunity>

- Denuclearisation of Korean peninsula ‘a new opportunity for China and the US to cooperate on important international issues’, former vice-foreign minister Fu Ying says
- Nuclear talks have been on ice since two fruitless meetings between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un last year

By: [Shi Jiantao](#) for the SCMP // Published: 7:00pm, 24 Sep, 2020

### **Deployment of US forces to Taiwan means war**

Global Times (China), Sept. 24, Pg. 5 | Editorial

### **PLA videos show combat readiness, not warmongering**

Global Times (China), Sept. 23, Pg. 3 | Liu Xuanzun



## **NORTH KOREA:**

### **North Korea’s Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site: Evidence of Typhoon Damage**

38North.org, Sept. 24 | Peter Makowsky, Frank Pabian and Jack Liu

### **Possible ICBM Transport Vehicle Spotted in North Korea**

[https://freebeacon.com/national-security/possible-icbm-transport-vehicle-spotted-in-north-korea/?utm\\_source=actengage&utm\\_campaign=FreedomMail&utm\\_medium=email](https://freebeacon.com/national-security/possible-icbm-transport-vehicle-spotted-in-north-korea/?utm_source=actengage&utm_campaign=FreedomMail&utm_medium=email)

By: [Jack Beyrer](#) for the WFB // SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 4:44 PM



## **SOUTH KOREA:**

### **Top nuclear envoy to visit U.S. for talks on North Korea**

Yonhap News Agency (South Korea), Sept. 24 | Not Attributed



## **IRAN:**

### **Iran vows 'hit' on all involved in U.S. killing of top general**

Associated Press, Sept. 19 | Not Attributed



## **INDIA:**

### **Indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile test fired from ITR**

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/indigenously-developed-nuclear-capable-prithvi-ii-missile-testfired-from-itr-5877411.html>

*The trial of the missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, was carried out from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the ITR, a DRDO official said.*

From" PTI // Sep 23, 2020 10:51 PM IST | Source: PTI

### **India, China commanders meet again on ending border standoff**

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/india-china-commanders-meet-again-on-ending-border-standoff/ar-BB19fEoG?ocid=msedgdp>

By AIJAZ HUSSAIN for the Associated Press // 3 hrs ago



## **PAKISTAN:**

### **Nuclear Weapons Are Central To Pakistan's War Strategy Against India**



<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/nuclear-weapons-are-central-pakistans-war-strategy-against-india-169122>

*Pakistan's nuclear program goes back to the 1950s, during the early days of its rivalry with India.*

by [Kyle Mizokami](#) for The National Interest // September 20, 2020



## UNITED KINGDOM:

**NSTR**



## FRANCE:

**NSTR**



## ISRAEL:

Esper, meeting with Gantz, reaffirms commitment to Israel's regional military edge

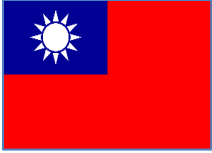
AI-Monitor Staff

Sep 23, 2020



## JAPAN:

**NSTR**



## TAWIAN:

**Taiwan military says it has right to counter attack amid China threats**

Reuters, Sept. 21 | Yimou Lee



## SAUDI ARABIA:

NSTR



## TURKEY:

NSTR