

WASHINGTON ICBM CONTRACTORS (ICons) GROUP



24 October 2020

Nov ICons:

Location: Virtual

Date: TBA

Time: 10:30 EDT

ADMINISTRATION/PROGRAM SPECIFICS

U.S. Rejects Putin's Proposal On Nuclear Disarmament Treaty As 'Nonstarter'

<https://www.rferl.org/a/u-s-rejects-putin-s-proposal-on-nuclear-disarmament-treaty-as-nonstarter-/30897847.html>

By [RFE/RL](#) // October 17, 2020 00:59 GMT

DOD Must Rethink, Prioritize Strategic Deterrence

<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2389931/dod-must-rethink-prioritize-strategic-deterrence/>

BY: [TERRI MOON CRONK](#), for DOD NEWS // OCT. 21, 2020

SecDef Esper Calls for More Defense Dollars to Offset Gains by China and Russia

16 Oct 2020 Military.com | By [Richard Sisk](#)

U.S. and Canada sign memorandum of understanding on safeguards and nonproliferation

<https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/articles/us-and-canada-sign-memorandum-understanding-safeguards-and-nonproliferation>

From NNSA // OCTOBER 16, 2020

U.S. threatens sanctions after U.N. arms embargo against Iran expires

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/18/us-threatens-sanctions-after-un-arms-embargo-against-iran-expires-.html>

By: [Amanda Macias](#) for CNBC // PUBLISHED SUN, OCT 18 2020 2:25 PM EDT UPDATED SUN, OCT 18 2020 2:30 PM EDT

Russia, China Push STRATCOM to Reconsider Strategic Deterrence

https://www.airforcemag.com/russia-china-push-stratcom-to-reconsider-strategic-deterrence/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2010.22.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

By [Amy McCullough](#) for Air Force Magazine // Oct. 21, 2020

AFGSC partners with Louisiana Tech University on internship program

STRIKEWERX, 19 Oct 20 Sean Green

How Air Force's ICBM missileers deal with stress and isolation during coronavirus restrictions in the middle of nowhere

Washington Examiner Online, 20 Oct 20 Abraham Mahshie

'We're always fighting time': Urgency to upgrade U.S. nuclear deterrent as rival upgrades near completion

Washington Examiner Online, 21 Oct 20 Abraham Mahshie

NNSA Administrator hosts Department of Defense officials in Texas

Administrator Gordon-Hagerty Takes Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment and Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Policy on Tour National Nuclear Security Administration, Oct. 21 | Press Release

U.S. and Canada sign memorandum of understanding on safeguards and nonproliferation

<https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/articles/us-and-canada-sign-memorandum-understanding-safeguards-and-nonproliferation>

From NNSA // OCTOBER 16, 2020

News & Opinion

Estimate of new nuclear missiles to replace Minuteman 3 arsenal increases to \$95.8B

https://www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2020/10/19/estimate-of-new-nuclear-missiles-to-replace-minuteman-3-arsenal-increases-to-958b/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2010.20.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

By: [Robert Burns, The Associated Press](#) for Military Times // 9 hours ago

Is The U.S. Space Force Preparing For War?

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/us-space-force-preparing-war-170793>

Russia and China likely think so.

by [Ryan Faith](#) for The National Interest // October 17, 2020

North Korea's Two New Strategic Missiles: What Do We Know and What Do They Mean for US Deterrence?

<https://mwi.usma.edu/north-koreas-two-new-strategic-missiles-what-do-we-know-and-what-do-they-mean-for-us-deterrence/>

By: Joe Varner for the Modern War Institute // October 15, 2020

U.S. Working to End Chinese Secrecy Around Nuclear Capabilities

<https://news.usni.org/2020/10/15/u-s-working-to-end-chinese-secrecy-around-nuclear-capabilities>

By: [John Grady](#) for USNI // October 15, 2020 3:16 PM

Xi Jinping Tells Elite Troops "Prepare For War" As US Destroyer Sails Through Taiwan Strait

<https://www.theburningplatform.com/2020/10/15/xi-jinping-tells-elite-troops-prepare-for-war-as-us-destroyer-sails-through-taiwan-strait/>

by [Tyler Durden](#) for the Burning Platform // Thu, 10/15/2020 - 11:15

Satellite images show China has expanded the shipyard where its nuclear-powered submarines are built

<https://www.businessinsider.com/china-expands-shipyards-where-nuclear-powered-submarines-are-built-2020-10>

- New satellite imagery appears to show that China has expanded its capacity for building nuclear-powered submarines at one of its largest shipyards.
- The images show work on a new construction hall at the Bohai shipyard that could make room for two additional submarines to be built simultaneously.

By: Sarah Zheng, for the [South China Morning Post](#) // Oct 15, 2020, 12:53 PM

Beijing's new world order

https://washingtontimes-dc.newsmemory.com/?token=cf5b63f339521cc4d82bc5d3a53e8ea8_5f903549_d3019ac&selDate=20201021

China's rulers seek to dominate the high-tech global economy — with help from Germany

By Clifford D. May for the Washington Times // 21 Okt 2020

'Significant shift': Trump driving 'the Quad' to unite against rising China threat

<https://amp.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/oct/19/quad-unites-against-rising-china-threat/>

By [Guy Taylor](#) - The Washington Times - Monday, October 19, 2020

Henry Kissinger is decades late in recognizing China's aggressive nature

<https://thehill.com/opinion/international/521754-henry-kissinger-is-decades-late-in-recognizing-chinas-aggressive-nature>

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

What's 'verifiable'? Extension of US-Russia nuclear New START treaty hinges on word

<https://www.rt.com/news/504068-new-start-extension-verifiable/>

20 Oct, 2020 21:05 / Updated 21 hours ago

China is the threat of the century

Trump's security adviser says:

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-china/trumps-security-adviser-says-china-is-the-threat-of-the-century-idUSKBN2762Z4?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2010.22.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

By [Tim Hopher](#) for Reuters // OCTOBER 21, 20203:35 PM -- UPDATED 15 HOURS AGO

Just Restart New START – Timing is Running Out for Nuclear Stability

The Diplomat Online, 20 Oct 20 Daniel R. DePetris

A risky game of chicken on arms control

Washington Post, 23 Oct 20 George P. Shultz, William J. Perry and Sam Nunn

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

North Korea's Message for Donald Trump or Joe Biden

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/korea-watch/north-koreas-message-donald-trump-or-joe-biden-170940>

What should the next administration do? Watch the march. Understand Kim's message. Respond accordingly.

by [Doug Bandow](#) for the National Interest // October 18, 2020

Defense Experts Blast Biden's Taiwan Policy

Biden, advisers have sought to cut back support for key U.S. ally

https://freebeacon.com/national-security/defense-experts-blast-bidens-taiwan-policy/?utm_source=actengage&utm_campaign=FreedomMail&utm_medium=email

By: [Jack Beyrer](#) - OCTOBER 20, 2020 5:00 AM

Growing North Korean nuclear threat awaits US election winner

<https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/your-military/2020/10/21/growing-north-korean-nuclear-threat-awaits-us-election-winner/>

By: [Deb Riechmann, The Associated Press](#) for the Air Force Times // 4 hours ago

CONGRESSIONAL

By Susan Cornwell

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

HASC PRESS RELEASE

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

AUTHORIZATION CONFERENCE

DEFENSE APPROPRIATION

HAC

SAC Markup:

APPROPRIATION CONFERENCE:

HASC chairman 'unconvinced' by arguments to slash defense budget

https://thehill.com/policy/defense/522083-democratic-chairman-unconvinced-at-arguments-to-slash-defense-budget-but-open?utm_source=&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=34203

BY [REBECCA KHEEL](#) for THE HILL // 10/21/20 01:58 PM EDT

Congress holds the key to outpacing North Korea's nuclear capabilities

https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/521700-congress-holds-the-key-to-outpacing-north-korea-nuclear?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2010.23.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

BY MAJ. GEN. (RET.) HOWARD N. THOMPSON, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR — 10/21/20 01:00 PM EDT

The most important debate in the NDAA

https://www.militarytimes.com/opinion/commentary/2020/10/21/william-shatner-and-the-military-times-brought-america-into-the-most-important-debate-in-the-ndaa/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Air%20Force%20DNR%2010.21.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Air%20Force%20-%20Daily%20News%20Roundup

William Shatner and the Military Times

Dr. Brent D. Ziarnick for Military Times

AROUND THE WORLD



RUSSIA:

Russia ready to freeze nuclear warheads in exchange for New START extension

https://thehill.com/policy/defense/521832-russia-ready-to-freeze-nuclear-warheads-in-exchange-for-new-start-extension?utm_source=&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=34177

BY [REBECCA KHEEL](#) for THE HILL // 10/20/20 09:30 AM EDT

Putin Says Russia Has Weapons the US Doesn't, So Trump Should Extend Nuclear Treaty One Year

<https://www.newsweek.com/russia-weapons-us-does-not-extend-nuclear-arms-treaty-1539863>

BY [TOM O'CONNOR](#) for Newsweek Magazine // ON 10/16/20 AT 1:01 PM EDT

Putin proposes one-year extension of nuclear arms treaty

<https://www.upi.com/Defense-News/2020/10/16/Putin-proposes-one-year-extension-of-nuclear-arms-treaty/3321602863892/>

By: [Ed Adamczyk](#) for UPI to Defense News // Oct. 16, 2020 / 1:04 PM

Russia ready to work with US on new arms control treaties, says Lavrov

<https://tass.com/defense/1213053>

The US side's conditions were formulated outside the framework of the New START Treaty and outside the framework of the parties' competences, Lavrov said

From Russia Defense News TASS // 16 Oct, 09:17 2020

Satellite images indicate Russia is preparing to resume testing its nuclear-powered cruise missile

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/satellite-images-indicate-russia-is-preparing-to-resume-testing-its-nuclear-powered-cruise-missile/ar-BB1admbT?ocid=uxbndlbing>

By Zachary Cohen, for CNN // 18 hrs ago

Putin: Russia-China military alliance can't be ruled out

Associated Press, 22 Oct 20 Vladimir Isachenkov.



CHINA:

China revises national defence law to enhance security

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3106684/china-revises-national-defence-law-enhance-security?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2010.23.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

- Main areas of concern are cybersecurity, space and technologies related to electromagnetics, document says
- Changs 'urgently needed' to reflect heightened state of strategic rivalry around the world, defence minister says

By: [Wendy Wu](#) for the South China Morning Post // Published: 8:00pm, 22 Oct, 2020

China threatens retaliation over US-Taiwan arms sale

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/10/22/china-threatens-retaliation-over-us-taiwan-arms-sale?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2010.23.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

China says US move sends 'a very wrong signal to separatist forces advocating for Taiwanese independence'.

From Al Jazeera News Bureau // 22 Oct 2020

Video Surfaces of Chinese Bomber Apparently Carrying Monster Hypersonic Missile

Popular Mechanics, 20 Oct 20 Kyle Mizokami

American hostility means China can't come clean on its nuclear arsenal, Beijing official says

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3105862/american-hostility-means-china-cant-come-clean-its-nuclear>

- *To ensure the effectiveness of its nuclear strategy, 'China maintains a certain degree of ambiguity' regarding numbers of warheads, head of the foreign ministry arms control department says*
- *Beijing will only join Washington and Moscow in arms limitation talks if 'US commits to reducing its nuclear arsenal to a level' similar to China's, he says*

By: [Kinling Lo](#) for the South China Morning Post // Published: 7:00pm, 16 Oct, 2020

Chinese military beefs up coastal forces as it prepares for possible invasion of Taiwan

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3105953/chinese-military-beefs-coastal-forces-it-prepares-possible>

- Missile bases have been upgraded and equipped with the most advanced hypersonic missile the DF-17, according to one military source
- Build-up of forces comes as the PLA continues with a series of exercises designed to keep up the pressure on the island

By: [Minnie Chan](#) for the South China Morning Post // Published: 8:06am, 18 Oct, 2020

China Media Plays Down 'Speculations' That Beijing Moved Hypersonic Missiles Closer to Taiwan

Newsweek Online, 20 Oct 20 John Feng



NORTH KOREA:

Kim Jong Un's October 10 Speech: More Than Missiles

<https://www.38north.org/2020/10/kjuspeech101320/>

BY: [38 NORTH](#) // OCTOBER 13, 2020

North Korea's tyrant threatens Trump with new ballistic missile capable of targeting U.S.

Washington Times Online, 18 Oct 20 Bill Gertz

North Korea's New Missile Appears Designed to Overwhelm US Defenses

<https://www.voanews.com/east-asia-pacific/north-koreas-new-missile-appears-designed-overwhelm-us-defenses>

By William Gallo for Voice of America News // Updated October 16, 2020 10:13 PM

North Korea's Pukguksong-3 SLBM: A Step Towards Second-Strike Capability?

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/korea-watch/north-koreas-pukguksong-3-slbm-step-towards-second-strike-capability-171008>

Could this, along with the Pukguksong-4, form the basis of a second-strike maritime force?

by [Mark Episkopos](#) for The National Interest // October 20, 2020



SOUTH KOREA:

NSTR



IRAN:

Iran says UN arms embargo lifted, allowing it to buy weapons

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/iran-says-un-arms-embargo-lifted-allowing-it-to-buy-weapons/ar-BB1a8Cnm?ocid=msedgdhp>

From /dj (AFP, Reuters) // dw.com 19 hrs ago

Iran - Dissident group presents evidence of possible nuclear site

https://washingtontimes-dc.newsmemory.com/?token=79d3106e4afbb246a942309df128a9b1_5f8d64f5_d3019ac&selDate=20201019

Adds another layer of tension between U.S., Iran

BY LAUREN TOMS for THE WASHINGTON TIMES // 19 Okt 2020



INDIA:

BrahMos test-fired: List of missiles India has tested in last two months

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/other/brahmos-test-fired-list-of-missiles-india-has-tested-in-last-two-months/ar-BB1a8W48>

Edited by Shankhyaneel Sarkar for the hindustantimes.com // 21 Okt 2020 2 days ago



PAKISTAN:

Pakistan: A Nuclear Weapons Nightmare

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/pakistan-nuclear-weapons-nightmare-170831>

It's a dangerous situation.

by [Kyle Mizokami](#) for The National Interest // October 18, 2020



UNITED KINGDOM:

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FRANCE:

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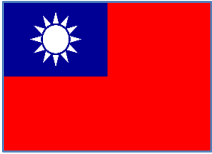
ISRAEL:

NSTR



JAPAN:

NSTR



TAWIAN:

U.S. State Department approves \$1.8 billion in potential arms sales to Taiwan - Pentagon

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-taiwan-arms/u-s-state-department-approves-1-8-bln-in-potential-arms-sales-to-taiwan-pentagon-idUSKBN27638I?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2010.22.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

By [David Brunnstrom](#), [Mike Stone](#) for Reuters // OCTOBER 21, 2020 10:54 PM - UPDATED 8 HOURS AGO

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. State Department has approved the potential sale of three weapons systems to Taiwan, including sensors, missiles and artillery that could have a total value of \$1.8 billion, the Pentagon said on Wednesday.

Flags of Taiwan and U.S. are placed for a meeting between U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce speaks and with Su Chia-chyuan, President of the Legislative Yuan in Taipei, Taiwan March 27, 2018. REUTERS/Tyrone Siu/Files Reuters reported last week that the White House was moving forward with five separate sales of sophisticated military equipment to Taiwan with a total value of around \$5 billion as the Trump administration ramps up pressure on China and concerns rise about Beijing's intentions toward Taiwan.

Among other weapons systems, Wednesday's formal notifications to Congress by the State Department were for 11 truck-based rocket launchers made by Lockheed Martin Corp called a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), for an estimated cost of \$436.1 million. The notifications also covered 135 AGM-84H Standoff Land Attack Missile Expanded Response (SLAM-ER) Missiles and related equipment made by Boeing Co, for an estimated \$1.008 billion, and six MS-110 Recce external sensor pods made by Collins Aerospace for jets, at an estimated cost of \$367.2 million.

Further congressional notifications are expected to follow Wednesday's including drones made by General Atomics and land-based Harpoon anti-ship missiles, made by Boeing, to serve as coastal defense cruise missiles. Sources have said the 100 cruise missile stations and 400 missiles would

have a cost of about \$2 billion. Reuters was first to report in September that sales of major weapons systems to Taiwan were making their way through the U.S. export process.

The formal notification gives Congress 30 days to object to any sales, but this is unlikely given broad bipartisan support for the defense of Taiwan. The defense and foreign ministries in Taiwan welcomed the news, saying the weapons would help improve defensive capabilities. “This arms sale shows that the United States attaches great importance to the strategic position of the Indo-Pacific region and the Taiwan Strait, and is actively assisting our country in strengthening our overall defense capabilities,” Taiwan’s Defense Ministry said.

Beijing considers Taiwan a wayward province it has vowed to bring under control, by force if necessary. Washington considers it an important democratic outpost and is required by law to provide it with the means to defend itself. The Chinese embassy did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but China’s foreign ministry said last week that U.S. arms sales to Taiwan severely damaged China’s sovereignty and security interests.

It urged Washington to cancel the planned sales and warned that China would “make a legitimate and necessary response according to how the situation develops.” The U.S. administration has stepped up pressure on Beijing in the run-up to the Nov. 3 U.S. presidential election, in which President Donald Trump has made a tough approach to China a key foreign policy theme. Washington has been eager to see Taiwan bolster its defensive capabilities in the face of increasingly aggressive Chinese moves toward the island.

Last week, the U.S. national security adviser, Robert O’Brien, said that while China probably was not ready to invade Taiwan for now, the island needed to “fortify itself” against a future attack or any bid to isolate it through non-military means, such as an embargo.

Reporting by Mike Stone and David Brunnstrom in Washington, D.C.; Additional reporting by Ben Blanchard in Taipei; Editing by Chris Reese, Tom Brown and David Gregorio



SAUDI ARABIA:

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