



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 December 2012 – 02 January 2013

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ARMS CONTROL (GENERAL)

Fewer Russian Tactical Nukes Are Battle-Ready than Widely Thought (Expert)

Nuclear Threat Initiative, 20 December 2012, <http://www.nti.org/gsn>

A Russian nuclear arms expert once imprisoned for espionage is arguing that the nation's arsenal of battle-ready tactical nuclear weapons might be roughly half the size than widely assumed. (891 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

States Renew Push on Bioweapons Pact Compliance

Global Security Newswire, 02 January 2013, <http://www.nti.org/gsn>

A coalition of five nations is pressing other governments to take a renewed look at what it means to be compliant with the Biological Weapons Convention. (800 words)

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No Evidence Found of Offensive Bioweapons Program in India

BioPrepWatch, 01 January 2013, <http://www.bioprepwatch.com>

A recent report on India's biological weapons capacity found that there is no evidence in the country's public domain that it ever pursued an offensive bioweapons program.

(246 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

BWC 2012 Meeting of States Parties

United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), 20 December 2012, <http://www.unog.ch>

The 2012 Meeting of States Parties [to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)] was held in the Palais des Nations [in Geneva] from December 10-14, 2012. (117 words)

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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Blue Grass Chemical Weapon Destruction Plant 60 Percent Complete

Lexington Herald-Leader (KY), 28 December 2012, <http://www.kentucky.com>

2012 was the year when construction passed the halfway mark for the pilot plant in Madison County [Kentucky] that will destroy tons of chemical weapons. The \$1.8 billion construction project at Blue Grass Army Depot south of Richmond is 60 percent finished. Construction should be completed in mid-2015, but it will take four more years to test the plant's systems. (1,043 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

NEW STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (NST)

Russian Navy Puts Yury Dolgoruky into Service

Naval Technology, 02 January 2013, <http://www.naval-technology.com>

The Russian Navy has put its first Borey-class ballistic missile nuclear submarine, Yury Dolgoruky, into operational service. Construction of the Project 955 Borey-class Yury Dolgoruky submarine cost a total of \$713m, which included \$280m for research and development. (259 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russian “Noiseless” Borey Class Nuclear Submarine Immersed

Russian Times, 30 December 2012, <http://www.rt.com>

Super-modern, powerful and almost noiseless Russian nuclear submarine Vladimir Monomakh has been put in water to become the third ship of the Borey project. The cruiser is about to begin sea trials and mooring to become fully operational in 2013. (406 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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A Russian nuclear arms expert once imprisoned for espionage is arguing that the nation's arsenal of battle-ready tactical nuclear weapons might be roughly half the size than widely assumed.

Igor Sutyagin suggested in a new analysis that Moscow maintains close to 1,000 nonstrategic warheads that could “reasonably be available for use within the constraints of a general nuclear war.” Other projections have put the figure closer to 2,000, he said.

“In terms of size and distribution ... U.S. and Russian nonstrategic nuclear stockpiles may be more similar than previously thought,” Sutyagin asserted regarding the short-range battlefield weapons. Estimates are that the United States maintains roughly 200 B-61 gravity bombs at six military installations in NATO states Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey. Russia's short-range weapons are thought to be in storage and assigned to specific delivery systems, Sutyagin said. He said, though, that only a portion of those are actually maintained ready for rapid use. The arms are holdovers from much larger stocks that have been cut back since the end of the Cold War.

Moscow and Washington have cited the potential for further tactical arms reductions in a possible follow-up agreement to the bilateral New START arms control treaty, which covered only strategic nuclear warheads and delivery systems. There has been no sign of progress on a tactical arms accord, as Moscow and Washington wrangle over ballistic missile defense and other matters.

“The lower numbers suggest that the problem of controlling nonstrategic nuclear weapons, though still challenging, is perhaps not quite as hard as we imagined,” Jeffrey Lewis, who heads the East Asia Nonproliferation Program at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, said on Wednesday by e-mail. He called the new analysis a “substantial improvement” over previous estimates.

Sutyagin had not responded by Thursday afternoon to questions about his report. The arms control specialist was convicted in 2004 of delivering Russian nuclear submarine data to a British firm thought to be a front for the [Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)]. Sutyagin said he provided only open-access information, but he spent years in prison before being released in a high-profile 2010 spy trade. He is now a research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute in London.

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The findings issued last month are based on publicly available Russian government data for topics including Moscow's threat assessments, past "warhead assignment standards" and existing acquisition and research operations, Sutyagin said. He said the conclusions rely on several "key definitions and assumptions," among them the understanding that "operationally assigned" warheads are distinct from "reserve" weapons that could not be used on an emergency basis; and that the weapons are assigned to military units rather than to specific delivery systems.

The report estimates that Russia's ground forces hold between 128 and 210 operationally assigned nonstrategic nuclear warheads. Meanwhile, 330 are under navy control, 334 are deployed to the air force, and 68 to 166 are assigned to air-defense forces. That puts the total number of such artillery shells and other weapons between 860 and 1,040, spread across the territory of the nation. Sutyagin's analysis places the total count of nonstrategic weapons at about 1,900, which would cover roughly 900 weapons that are viable but would not be immediately available for use in a nuclear conflict.

Federation of American Scientists nuclear arms specialist Hans Kristensen noted that Sutyagin's complete estimate essentially echoes his own projections. However, Kristensen raised doubts about the level of certainty in the data, questioning whether the weapons can from the outside be placed into specific readiness categories given the secrecy that surrounds Russian nuclear arms activities.

"We don't feel quite as confident about making such specific assumptions about exactly how the Russian military assigns warheads to each unit, simply because we think there is far too much uncertainty and lack of transparency about how their forces are actually postured," Kristensen told Global Security Newswire by e-mail. "So our estimate is more generic."

Sutyagin said his methodology appears to correctly model the reduction of the former Soviet tactical nuclear arsenal estimated at roughly 20,400 weapons in 1988, indicating that his current estimate is also generally accurate.

"Different estimates are politically significant because NATO and the United States have made further reductions in U.S. nonstrategic nuclear forces conditioned on reducing the 'disparity' with Russia's larger inventory of such weapons," Kristensen stated. "If one accepts Sutyagin's estimate, then the disparity is smaller and so there would presumably be less of an issue."

Both Kristensen and Sutyagin asserted that any successful tactical arms control effort by Russia and NATO would have to stretch beyond the short-range weapons themselves. "Russian air-

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defense, missile-defense, coastal-defense, [and] naval nonstrategic nuclear weapons are intended to compensate against the superior conventional forces of the United States and NATO,” according to Kristensen.

Brussels and Washington would likely need to offer up some concession on their conventional forces, as well as their air-delivered short-range nuclear arms, to convince Moscow to retire some segment of its tactical nuclear arsenal, he said.

Drawing a clear line only between U.S. and Russian tactical stocks fails to address other threats perceived by Moscow, as well, such as the nuclear weapons deployed by France, Sutyagin stated. “It makes no difference to Russia if the nuclear bomb that destroys Moscow is delivered as a result of a multilateral decision from Brussels, or an independent decision from Paris,” he wrote.

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States Renew Push on Bioweapons Pact Compliance

Global Security Newswire, 02 January 2013, <http://www.nti.org/gsn>

A coalition of five nations is pressing other governments to take a renewed look at what it means to be compliant with the Biological Weapons Convention. Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and Switzerland, though, are seeking only a modest step in addressing the sticky question – calling for an “initial conceptual discussion” at an upcoming experts’ meeting.

“This will have to be a debate that will be ongoing for a number of years,” according to issue expert Richard Guthrie. “But without this debate, I don’t think there is a chance for us to truly get to grips with the control of biological weapons.”

The question of ensuring national commitments are met has long dogged the 1972 accord that prohibits the offensive development, production, acquisition and stockpiling of disease agents and toxins. There is no formal verification program for confirming states are obeying the strictures of the convention, and one is not likely in the face of opposition from the United States and other nations. The last major push died in 2001, and the Obama administration has maintained its predecessor’s skepticism regarding the security benefits derived from any mandatory inspections protocol.

Governments are required under the convention to “take any necessary measures” to prevent their territories from being used for creation or transfer of biological weapons, and to avoid aiding any other actors in such work. Compliance involves a host of measures including national legislation that outlaws bioweapons activities, export controls, secure management of biological agents, and submission of confidence-building documents with data on disease research sites and other matters, according to Pierre-Alain Eltschinger, a spokesman for the Swiss Foreign Ministry.

National implementation is one of the topics of the “intersessional” meetings held annually between BWC review conferences held every five years, most recently in 2011. The document issued at the end of last month’s gathering of member nations promoted security steps by governments but did not include any mandates. Only one-third of the 166 BWC member nations have made it a criminal act to employ biological weapons, the London-based nongovernmental Verification Research, Training and Information Center stated in a December statement on national implementation efforts. Only 30 percent of states had set up programs for authorizing use of select biological materials and toxins.

“This area is of increasing importance at a time of heightened concerns about bioterrorism, as effective national implementation, including regulations that enhance the security of pathogens



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and toxins, is recognized as an effective means to raise the barriers to bioterrorism,” the Australian Embassy in Washington said in a statement to Global Security Newswire.

Australia joined with Japan and New Zealand at the 2011 BWC review conference to urge establishment of a working group that would consider the meaning of compliance, and how states can show they are meeting their obligations. The proposal was not approved.

The three nations came back with Canada and Switzerland at the December meeting with a new proposal in a document titled “We need to talk about compliance.” They are now seeking “an initial conceptual discussion at the meeting of experts in 2013 designed to promote common understanding of what constitutes compliance with the BWC and effective action to enhance assurance of compliance.”

Governments could put their thoughts on paper ahead of the July specialists' session in Geneva, Switzerland, and informal events covering the topic would be held alongside the official gathering. Matters raised would likely be considered later in the year at the next states parties' session. “Switzerland always sought to strengthen the BWC and is, in principle, still in favor of a legally binding compliance framework,” Eltschinger told GSN by e-mail. “However, we are aware that such an endeavor is politically not feasible at the moment. ... Accordingly, Switzerland is, in partnership with other countries, exploring alternative options.”

The five nations' working paper was not addressed in official discussions at last month's meeting, the spokesman added. He said delegates from other nations offered mixed responses to the proposal, with some expressing worry that establishing any sort of voluntary compliance program would delay ultimate creation of a mandatory system.

A U.S. State Department official who was at the December meeting said the Obama administration had not yet had an opportunity to study the proposal. While an inspections protocol remains off the table for Washington, the question of compliance is a “legitimate topic of discussion,” said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to discuss the issue.

He noted that there are multiple ideas for addressing the issue, including a French plan of voluntary “peer reviews” in which states would authorize checks of their convention implementation efforts by other governments. The State Department official suggested Washington has not made final determinations on potential measures to enhance BWC compliance. “It depends on where they're going with that,” he said.

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BioPrepWatch, 01 January 2013, <http://www.bioprepwatch.com>

A recent report on India's biological weapons capacity found that there is no evidence in the country's public domain that it ever pursued an offensive bioweapons program.

In 2003, the U.S. Congressional Research Service asserted that there was a potential danger of India developing a bioweapons program. The service said that India contained an active biological defense research program and the necessary infrastructure to develop various biological agents.

The BioWeapons Monitor 2012 report released in December reported on India's status in relation to biological weapons, www.Rediff.com reports. The report was released as part of the BioWeapons Prevention Project, a network of actors with the goal of permanently eliminating biological weapons. In the report, there was no evidence provided related to the country pursuing an offensive bioweapons program.

The country was, however, found to have a flourishing biotechnology industry and an improving program for biodefense. According to a 2010 estimate, there are approximately 380 biotechnology companies in India with speculation about a \$25 billion research and development spending increase in the sector in the next 15 years. The biotechnology and healthcare sectors in India are projected to have \$100 billion in revenue by 2025.

The report found that India's National Disaster Management Authority has 400 security personnel trained to handle man-made biological, chemical, radiological and nuclear emergencies in and around the Parliament House. The country is also building a multipurpose [nuclear, biological, chemical (NBC)] institute in Nagpur for the research, development and training for the military by 2016, Rediff.com reports.

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BWC 2012 Meeting of States Parties

United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), 20 December 2012, <http://www.unog.ch>

The 2012 Meeting of States Parties [to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)] was held in the Palais des Nations [in Geneva] from December 10-14, 2012.

The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Boujemâa Delmi of Algeria. In accordance with the decision of the Seventh Review Conference, the Parties considered the work of the Meeting of Experts (July 16-20, 2012) on the three standing agenda items:

- cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X;
- review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention; and
- strengthening national implementation.

[The Parties also considered] the biennial item of how to enable fuller participation in confidence-building measures (CBMs).

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Blue Grass Chemical Weapon Destruction Plant 60 Percent Complete

Lexington Herald-Leader (KY), 28 December 2012, <http://www.kentucky.com>

2012 was the year when construction passed the halfway mark for the pilot plant in Madison County [Kentucky] that will destroy tons of chemical weapons. The \$1.8 billion construction project at Blue Grass Army Depot south of Richmond is 60 percent finished. Construction should be completed in mid-2015, but it will take four more years to test the plant's systems.

Destruction of the weapons is scheduled to start in 2020 and to be finished in 2023, if not earlier. According to the latest baseline announced in April, the project is on schedule and on budget, Tom McKinney, project manager for general contractor Bechtel Blue Grass, said during a tour on December 19. Echoing that [statement] is Craig Williams, director of the Chemical Weapons Working Group, a Berea-based organization that monitors the status of the project. "Profound progress has been made in this year," Williams said. "I can say with confidence at this point in time, we're ahead of the curve."

The first mustard or blister agent arrived at the depot in 1944, and the nerve-agent weapons came between 1962 and 1966. The blister agent is a powerful skin irritant. Exposure to the nerve agents could cause convulsions and respiratory failure. The agents are often referred to as nerve "gas" or mustard "gas," but they're really liquids that become aerosols when exploded. The nerve agents and blister agents are stored on 250 acres of the 15,000-acre depot, which stores and distributes conventional munitions. Blue Grass has only 2 percent of the nation's original stockpile, and the chemical weapons there will be the last to be destroyed.

The plant under construction will [be used to] chemically neutralize these agents. Work began on the 25-acre pilot-plant site in 2006, and construction of the actual disposal facilities started in 2009. Last summer, workers finished putting the final concrete placement on the building where the weapons will be dismantled. The building contains 2,095 tons of reinforcing steel and 12,400 cubic yards of concrete. Its two-foot-thick walls are designed to withstand a weapon explosion or a chemical leak.

Workers began a new phase of construction involving the installation of additional structural steel, piping, millions of feet of electrical cable, and specialized process equipment, said Jeff Brubaker, site project manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, the government agency that oversees projects in Kentucky and Colorado. A laboratory, a maintenance building and a personnel support building were finished this year at the Madison County site.

The plant's economic impact has been considerable. More than \$102 million has been spent with Kentucky companies, and \$62.8 million has been spent in Madison and surrounding counties, according to figures presented this month to the Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization

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Citizens' Advisory Commission and the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board. Those groups meet quarterly to discuss the plant's progress.

The payroll since the project began totals \$373 million, and \$437 million more is to be paid through the project's years of operation and the completion of its job. Staffing in Richmond now approaches nearly 1,000 people. The average monthly local payroll is \$7.6 million, according to figures presented by Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass. That includes manual and non-manual workers. (More than 60 other people in California, Maryland, Ohio and Washington are fabricating special equipment for the plant.)

From design through construction, operations and its closing in 2026 or 2027, the total "life cycle" cost of the project is \$5.5 billion. The economic impact of the plant will be the subject of a study that was announced in September. The study's first phase, to be completed in July 2013, will cost \$120,000. It will include a labor analysis and suggest how to avoid layoffs once the chemical weapons have been destroyed. It will look at the inventory of workers' skills that could be transferred to other jobs.

Two additional phases might take two to three more years and will cost \$380,000. Part of the second phase will look at how the pilot plant could be re-purposed for another use once the chemical weapons are gone. The final phase of the study will look at public-private partnerships for that re-purposing.

Funding for the pilot plant, which has had its ups and downs over the years, continued to be a roller-coaster ride in 2012. President Barack Obama's defense request to Congress for fiscal year 2013 included an increase in the amount of money to build the plant. The president's budget included \$115 million for construction and \$296 million for research, development, testing and evaluation.

When a defense bill had not been signed by October 1, the start of the federal fiscal year, funding for the project was limited to \$36.7 million for construction during a six-month "continuing resolution" period. A continuing resolution is a mechanism that provides funding for projects until a budget for the new fiscal year is passed. But that level of funding was insufficient to cover the cost of personnel and materials needed to continue construction, to avoid layoffs, and to buy bulk materials. If an additional \$36.4 million had not been found, about half of the 1,000 workers would have been laid off. Thanks to efforts by Kentucky's congressional delegation, \$36.4 million was "re-programmed," or redirected, in December from other projects to the plant construction.



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Work at the site stopped briefly in early May so safety procedures and practices could be reviewed with workers after a couple of minor accidents. In 2011, the plant site earned one of highest recognitions for a worker-safety program from the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass has asked workers to assume a "brother's keeper" mentality with safety. Employees are asked to watch out not only for themselves but for others who might be doing something unsafe. Recordable injuries and lost-time injuries at the plant site compare favorably to industry standards.

A public hearing will be held early in 2013 to receive public comment on a proposal to remove the propellant sections from 44 nerve-agent rockets. A state permit is necessary before that operation would be done in early 2014. The Army wants to test and verify the stability of the propellants in those rockets so it can determine whether the destruction of those sections should be done somewhere other than the pilot plant.

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Russian Navy Puts Yury Dolgoruky into Service

Naval Technology, 02 January 2013, <http://www.naval-technology.com>

The Russian Navy has put its first Borey-class ballistic missile nuclear submarine, Yury Dolgoruky, into operational service. Construction of the Project 955 Borey-class Yury Dolgoruky submarine cost a total of \$713 million, which included \$280 million for research and development.

Powered by an OK-650 nuclear reactor, AEU steam turbine, a shaft and propeller, the Sevmash shipyard-built Yury Dolgoruky submarine has a hull diameter of 13 meters, a depth of 450 meters and can cruise at a speed of 29 kilometers, while accommodating a crew of 107. The 170 meter-long submarine is capable of carrying up to 16 ballistic missiles and torpedoes, including the Bulava (SS-NX-30) sea-based submarine-launched weapon.

Designed by the Moscow Institute of Thermal Technology, the Bulava replaces the R-39 solid-fuel submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM). Project 955 involves construction of four Borey-class submarines the Russian Navy in Yury Dolgoruky, Alexander Nevsky, Vladimir Monomakh and Knyaz Vladimir.

Expected to form the core of the country's strategic submarine fleet, the Borey class boats will replace the existing Project 941 (NATO Typhoon class) and Project 667 class (Delta-3 and Delta-4) submarines. The second submarine of the class, Alexander Nevsky (K-550) is currently undergoing sea trials and is scheduled to join the Russian Navy's Pacific Fleet by 2014, reports RIA Novosti.

Russia intends to construct about eight Borey and Borey-A class submarines in the next seven years. Meanwhile, Sevmash shipyard has also floated out the third Borey-class submarine, Vladimir Monomakh. In addition, Russia is planning to procure ten Graney-class nuclear attack submarines, as well as 20 diesel-electric submarines and six Varshavyanka-class vessels.



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Russian “Noiseless” Borey Class Nuclear Submarine Immersed

Russian Times, 30 December 2012, <http://www.rt.com>

Super-modern, powerful and almost noiseless Russian nuclear submarine Vladimir Monomakh has been put in water to become the third ship of the Borey project. The cruiser is about to begin sea trials and mooring to become fully operational in 2013.

Vladimir Monomakh was laid down at Russia’s largest shipbuilding complex Sevmash, located on the shores of the White Sea in the town of Severodvinsk in northern Russia on March 19, 2006 – the 100th anniversary of the Russian submarine fleet. It belongs to a class of missile strategic submarine cruisers with a new generation of nuclear reactor, which allows the submarine to dive to a depth of 480 meters. It can spend up to three months in autonomous navigation and, thanks to the latest achievements in the reduction of noise, it is almost silent compared to previous generations of submarines.

The submarine is armed with the new missile system, which has from 16 to 20 solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missiles Bulava (SS-NX-30 by NATO classification). The rocket is able to overcome any prospective missile defense system. On August 27, 2011, the Russian Defense Ministry reported on a successful test of Bulava to investigate its maximum range. The missile was launched from the White Sea, flew 9,300km in just 33 minutes, and then fell in the specified area in the Pacific Ocean. All Borey class submarines are equipped with a floating rescue chamber designed to fit in the whole crew.

The first and head submarine of Borey class, Yury Dolgoruky, has already completed the test program and is to be officially adopted by the Russian Navy on Sunday. Construction of the missile carrier is approximately estimated at around U.S. \$770 million, while other Borey class submarines are believed to cost less. “The hoisting of the flag and the signing of the acceptance act is to be adopted at the Sevmash shipyard in Severodvinsk on Sunday, December 30,” the Rubin design bureau that designed the submarine said in a statement on Saturday.

Another missile cruiser of this project, the Aleksandr Nevsky, is undergoing tests, according to [Yuriy] Borisov [Deputy Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation]. While a fourth, more advanced submarine, the Knyaz Vladimir, with enhanced technical characteristics and increased ammunition is currently being built.

Over the next eight years Russia plans to have built 10 Borey class submarines altogether, according to the state armaments program of 2011-2020. All Borey class submarines are believed to provide a basis of naval strategic nuclear forces of Russia in the coming decades.



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