



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



15 August 2012 – 28 August 2012

DTRA

ARMS CONTROL (GENERAL)

Putin Says Russian Nuclear Cuts Hinge on U.S. Missile Shield

Reuters Africa, 24 August 2012; <http://af.reuters.com>

By Nastassia Astrasheuskaya

Moscow is open to the idea of new nuclear arms cuts on a reciprocal basis and if Washington addresses its concerns about a U.S.-led missile defense system in Europe, President Vladimir Putin said on Friday. (364 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Time is Right for “Rules of the Road” in the Cosmos [OPINION]

The Washington Post, 17 August 2012; <http://www.washingtonpost.com>

By Michael Krepon

China is at the cusp of its “SALT moment” with the United States. Moscow and Washington were at a similar juncture in 1969, when the strategic arms limitation talks got underway. President Richard Nixon and General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev decided to try to stabilize a competition in which both superpowers were poised to multiply their strategic offensive forces. The United States was on the verge of deploying national ballistic-missile defenses as well. (751 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Report on Mutual Assured Stability

U.S. Department of State, 14 August 2012, <http://www.state.gov>

[Extracts and summary prepared by the editor.] As requested in July 2011 by former Under Secretary Ellen Tauscher, the International Security Advisory Board (ISAB) undertook a study on how the United States could pursue and manage a transition from a world of mutual assured destruction to a world of mutual assured stability, characterized by increasingly interdependent states having incentives to cooperate on political, military, and economic issues, reducing the need for adversarial approaches to managing security challenges. The resulting report was sent by the ISAB Chairman, William J. Perry, to Acting Under Secretary Rose Gottemoeller on August 14, 2012. (1,832 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

Commercial Ebola Vaccine “Unlikely” says Researchers

BBC News, 15 August 2012, <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Scientists researching the lethal ebola virus have told the [British Broadcasting Company (BBC)] that a commercial vaccine to prevent the onset of infection may never be developed. Two companies with leading vaccine candidates have had their funding from the Pentagon suspended in recent weeks. (784 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Tipton Tours Nearly Complete Facility at Pueblo Chemical Depot

The Pueblo Chieftain, 24 August 2012; <http://www.chieftain.com>

By Chris Woodka

After passing rows of aging buildings dating from the early days of the Pueblo Chemical Depot, a space-age plant rises from the prairie. While new tenants continue to move into the old buildings in a reuse program, the new complex will take on the final mission at the depot: Destroying the stockpile of more than 780,000 chemical weapons containing 2,600 tons of agent. (312 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russia to Complete Chemical Weapons Destruction in 2015

Itar-Tass, 21 August 2012; <http://www.itar-tass.com>

Russia will complete the elimination of its chemical weapons stockpiles in 2015, the Chief of the Federal Directorate for the Safe-Keeping and Elimination of Chemical Weapons, Colonel Vladimir Mandych told a news conference on Tuesday. (250 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Construction Puts Blue Grass Army Depot Closer to Completion

Courier Journal, 13 August 2012; <http://www.courier-journal.com>

By Chris Kenning

After a nine-year design and construction effort, workers recently finished encasing the main weapons-destruction building – where explosive and chemical weapons will be dismantled – in 12,400 cubic yards of concrete and 2,095 tons of thick reinforcing steel. (307 words)

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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

CTBT Chief Looks to U.S. Movement on Treaty after Election

Global Security Newswire, 22 August 2012; <http://www.nti.org/gsn>

The United States could take up the debate over ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty after the November presidential election, Kyodo News on Tuesday quoted the head of the international body formed to manage the accord regime as saying. (250 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION PROGRAM (CTR)

Russian Approval of Key Weapons Security Agreement Uncertain, Lugar Says

Global Security Newswire, 23 August 2012; <http://www.nti.org/gsn>

By Douglas P. Guarino

The Obama administration has drafted a proposal that would extend a key weapons security agreement between the United States and Russia but it is uncertain whether Moscow will approve draft deal, Senator Richard Lugar (R-Indiana) said on Thursday. (664 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

NEW STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (NST)

New Ballistic Missile Submarine to Join Russian Fleet in September

Ria Novosti, 17 August 2012, <http://en.rian.ru>

Russia's newest ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), the Project 955 Borey class boat Yury Dolgoruky, will be handed over to the fleet in September, a source in United Shipbuilding Corporation said on Friday. (243 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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By Nastassia Astrasheuskaya

Moscow is open to the idea of new nuclear arms cuts on a reciprocal basis and if Washington addresses its concerns about a U.S.-led missile defense system in Europe, President Vladimir Putin said on Friday.

Putin said preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction was "a key issue on the world agenda" and said Russian compliance with the 2010 New START treaty, which cut U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals, was proof of Moscow's commitment to disarmament.

"Russia is open to new joint initiatives in this area," Putin said, in a written address sent to a meeting of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War being held in Hiroshima, Japan. "At the same time, their realization is clearly possible only on a fair mutual basis and if all factors affecting international security and strategic stability are taken into account," he said.

Those factors included what he called "the unilateral and totally unlimited deployment of a global U.S. missile defense system" as well as the possibility of the deployment of weapons in space and a lack of parity in conventional weapons in Europe. U.S. plans for a missile defense shield in Europe, which Washington has already begun to deploy, have been a major irritant to U.S.-Russia relations despite President Barack Obama's decision to scale the original plans back.

Washington says the shield is meant to counter a potential threat from Iran and will pose no risk to Russia. But Moscow says the system's interceptors will be able to destroy Russian warheads in flight by about 2018, upsetting the post-Cold War balance of power and weakening Russia's nuclear arsenal.

In a foreign policy decree issued on May 7, the day his inauguration ceremony for a six-year presidential term took place, Putin reiterated Moscow's demands for firm U.S. guarantees that the shield is not directed against Russia. Four days earlier, the chief-of-staff of Russia's armed forces said Moscow could carry out pre-emptive strikes on future missile defense installations in Europe to protect its security.

The European system will include interceptor missile installations in Poland and Romania and a radar station in Turkey as well as interceptors and radars on ships based in the Mediterranean Sea.

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Time is Right for “Rules of the Road” in the Cosmos [OPINION]

The Washington Post, 17 August 2012; <http://www.washingtonpost.com>

By Michael Krepon, www.stimson.org

China is at the cusp of its “SALT moment” with the United States. Moscow and Washington were at a similar juncture in 1969, when the strategic arms limitation talks got underway. President Richard Nixon and General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev decided to try to stabilize a competition in which both superpowers were poised to multiply their strategic offensive forces. The United States was on the verge of deploying national ballistic-missile defenses as well.

The odds of success were limited, since neither country had a history of substantive engagement on these issues or of coordinating government positions for complex negotiations of this kind. When the talks began, SALT critics accused U.S. diplomats of negotiating against the Pentagon and with the Kremlin, while military members of the Soviet delegation warned U.S. officials against revealing “secrets” to Russian diplomats.

Personal Post

Nevertheless, in less than three years, Washington and Moscow reached an interim agreement on offensive forces and conclude the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The former was deeply flawed and the latter quickly lost Republican support. Yet these agreements helped keep the Cold War from becoming hot and, in due course, provided the foundation for much deeper and more stabilizing nuclear arms reductions.

China’s SALT moment with the United States will not involve nuclear arms control and reduction treaties. U.S. and Chinese nuclear arsenals are too dissimilar in size for negotiations, and Beijing is too sensitive about transparency to negotiate verifiable nuclear restraints, let alone arms reductions. Instead, it will focus on space, where the competition is heating up and the stakes are high. What happens in space will heavily influence whether relations between China and the United States become more dangerous or more cooperative.

The space and nuclear domains cannot be separated, one reason the SALT accords and subsequent treaties between Washington and Moscow contained provisions protective of monitoring satellites. When superpower space programs took worrisome turns – such as the Soviet testing of anti-satellite weapons in the 1970s or the Reagan administration’s Strategic Defense Initiative in the 1980s – nuclear negotiations either were badly impaired or ground to a halt. When the two governments accepted tacit restraints in space, they were able to reach agreements limiting and reducing nuclear arsenals.

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China and the United States are becoming more dependent on satellites for national and economic security, and both have demonstrated the ability to destroy them. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) used a missile to destroy an aging Chinese satellite in 2007; the Pentagon demonstrated this capability against a failed U.S. intelligence satellite the following year. China's anti-satellite test, labeled as an "experiment," created a debris field that could endanger satellites and manned space flight for decades. Washington characterized its test, which did not create a hazardous debris field, as a public safety measure.

Space is becoming crowded with satellites and debris. All major space-faring nations can use ballistic missiles, missile defense interceptors, lasers and jammers to interfere with or destroy satellites. These capabilities provide the basis for mutual deterrence – or for the nullification of the benefits offered by this global commons.

The absence of rules of the road in space jeopardizes international, national and economic security. Three sets of rules are particularly important – norms that support debris mitigation, those that support space-traffic management and those that bar purposeful, harmful interference of objects in space. The need for these rules was further highlighted in February 2009, when a dead Russian satellite collided with a functioning U.S. communication satellite. Norms against reckless behavior exist on highways, the high seas and in the air – but not in space.

A major space treaty is not in the cards because "space weapons" can't be properly defined and verified: Too many multipurpose technologies and military capabilities can be redirected against satellites. Calling for wide-ranging, unverifiable treaties addressing space is like championing agreements for "General and Complete Disarmament," just like leaders in Moscow and Washington used to do before they were ready to engage in serious talks like SALT.

The Obama administration, the European Union, Japan, Australia and other countries are ready to agree on a code of conduct for responsible space-faring nations. China is calling for an unverifiable treaty banning the use of military capabilities in space – capabilities that the PLA is hard at work developing. Moscow has aligned itself with Beijing but is now hinting at a more pragmatic approach.

A window of opportunity is opening around a code of conduct if China's leaders can bring the PLA on board, and if Republican leaders can see the wisdom of this initiative.

Michael Krepon is co-founder of Stimson and director of the South Asia and Space Security programs. For more information about the author, see <http://www.stimson.org/experts/michael-krepon/>.

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U.S. Department of State, 14 August 2012, <http://www.state.gov>

[Extracts and summary prepared by the editor.]

As requested in July 2011 by former Under Secretary Ellen Tauscher, the International Security Advisory Board (ISAB) undertook a study on how the United States could pursue and manage a transition from a world of mutual assured destruction to a world of mutual assured stability, characterized by increasingly interdependent states having incentives to cooperate on political, military, and economic issues, reducing the need for adversarial approaches to managing security challenges. The resulting report was sent by the ISAB Chairman, William J. Perry, to Acting Under Secretary Rose Gottemoeller on August 14, 2012.

The ISAB is a Federal Advisory Committee established to provide the Department of State with a continuing source of independent insight, advice and innovation on scientific, military, diplomatic, political, and public diplomacy aspects of arms control, disarmament, international security, and nonproliferation. The views expressed in this report do not represent official positions or policies of the Department of State or the U.S. government.

The components offered in this report are proposed as part of the building blocks that the United States would need to create to have confidence to consider very low numbers, or, in the longer term, to consider agreeing to the elimination of nuclear weapons. This report is not a plan to build the essential components, or to achieve mutual assured stability, and the ISAB recognizes that significant additional work will be required to develop such plans.

Desired End State

The following definition of the desired end state focusing on nuclear arsenals and nuclear conflict was developed:

A relationship among nations and international organizations (such as the European Union) in which nuclear weapons are no longer a central feature for their security, deterrence based on nuclear destruction is no longer necessary, and the likelihood of nuclear war is treated as remote because their relationship is free of major, core security issues such as ideological, territorial, or natural resource competition issues, and the benefits from peaceful integration in economic, political, and diplomatic spheres provide a counterbalance to the perceived advantages of nuclear conflict.

Building such a relationship between the United States and Russia is a critical, first step because our nuclear weapons stockpiles are so large as to overshadow other nations'

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stockpiles. However, though our historic adversarial relationship has improved, working toward such a relationship with Russia will be very difficult, if achievable at all. The dynamic nature of the existing relationship with Russia requires a continuous assessment to determine opportune times to engage in actions to build a new relationship. Achieving such a relationship between Russia and the United States may also affect other regions and nations, and their national security, possibly requiring actions to address concerns that may arise.

U.S.-Russia Mutual Assured Stability

The U.S.-Russia relationship during the Cold War was characterized for more than forty years by suspicion and distrust on the part of both sides, with many specific incidents in history to justify these strongly held feelings. Indeed, the two political and economic systems were fundamentally incompatible. During the Cold War, the two countries existed as deadly adversaries, which left scars of mistrust and an undertow of negativism, especially in both national security establishments. In the intervening years, with the demise of Soviet communism, some modest progress has been made in developing trust, however by its nature this change will take many years. Indeed there remain many fundamental differences and conflicts in values and interests; however, some further reductions of nuclear arsenals do not require achieving full trust, total cooperation and complete alignment of all national interests.

As we strive to make progress in the U.S.-Russia relationship, with consideration of the desired end state, the following characteristics can serve as goals:

- The benefits of peaceful interaction in economic, political, and diplomatic spheres may provide a valuable counterbalance to the perceived advantages of conflict.
- Neither side bases decisions on nuclear force structure, posture, or doctrine on an assumption that the other is an adversary or likely to engage in nuclear conflict.
- Neither side seeks to steal a march on the other with nuclear weapons procurement, deployment, or employment policy, and the sides are in rough parity despite differences in preference for tactical vs. strategic, or reserve (i.e. hedge) vs. deployed weapons, even as each side will inevitably pursue modernization of its forces.
- Neither side poses a threat to the core security interests of the other, especially in realms of border disputes, ideological conflicts, or competition for natural resources.

Clearly, achieving these goals will require significant change in both countries and may require many years, if achievable at all. However, if such a state is reached, it will create a new era in relations between the United States and Russia. Though steps between the United States and

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Russia are the first priority, these steps are not decoupled from the rest of the nations of the world, and each major step must be reviewed with regard to interpretation by and effect on other nations. If risk of instability with other nations is created by actions for greater stability with Russia, e.g., allies lose confidence in our extended deterrence, mitigating actions will be necessary.

Mutual Assured Stability: Essential Components for the U.S.-Russia Relationship

Six components are proposed that we assess as essential, though not sufficient, if we are to create a mutual assured stability framework for the U.S.-Russia relationship. Progress toward these essential components can serve as a set of measures against which to test the progress in developing this new relationship with Russia, and to assess our level of confidence to go to lower numbers of nuclear weapons. The essential components cover three key areas: Cooperative Security (1. Mutual Responsibility, 2. Mutual Assured Nuclear Material Security), underpinned by Clarity & Assurance (3. Effective Clarity, 4. Effective Assurance Measures), and motivated by Beneficial Interdependence (5. Economic Cooperation, 6. Public Health Cooperation). [...]

Risks on the Pathway to Mutual Assured Stability

Essential components such as those listed above can guide our actions, and provide a framework for assessment of the steps on the pathway to threat reduction and mutual assured stability. However, at each step along the path, the quality of stability at that point in time should also be tested against possible de-stabilizing conditions that contribute to the risk along the journey, and if necessary, mitigating measures should be taken. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft have recently highlighted “key facts” requiring strategic analysis as nuclear weapons reductions take place. Though the risk factors listed below have some similarity to the Kissinger/Scowcroft key facts, their recent article provides more insight into the nature of the risks to strategic stability and the reader is referred to that for additional perspective on risk and stability.

Tangible Steps Toward Mutual Assured Stability: U.S.-Russia

The ISAB suggests that key destabilizing factors must be periodically assessed, particularly as nuclear weapons stockpiles are reduced to very small sizes. [...]

Guided by the essential components stated above, and mindful of the risks, near-term actions should be taken with Russia, before seeking to broaden mutual assured stability beyond Russia.



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Though steps between the United States and Russia are the first priority, these steps are not decoupled from the rest of the nations of the world, and each major step must be reviewed with regard to interpretation by and effect on other nations. If risk of instability with other nations is created by actions for greater stability with Russia, mitigating actions will be necessary.

Near-term actions are recommended in four categories: Strategic dialog and relations, Cooperative Security, Clarity & Assurance, and Beneficial Interdependence). In total, the report contains the following eighteen recommendations (Appendix A):

1. Conduct strategic stability talks with Russia to address matters of force structure, posture, and doctrine to avoid strategic surprise or misunderstanding.
2. Conduct talks with Russia to develop a common understanding of the essential components necessary for mutual assured stability, and a plan for building these components and achieving this new relationship.
3. Conduct a joint U.S.-Russia review of the requirements for national and multinational missile defense in the coming years as missile technology continues to spread, with the goal of achieving a shared understanding of each nation's requirements for effective missile defense.
4. Change U.S. doctrine and posture away from defining our nuclear posture based on perception of Russia as the primary threat, toward a doctrine of general deterrence, a posture in which attacks from any direction are discouraged without singling out a particular adversary or enemy (reciprocal action required).
5. Continue the Nuclear Security Summit process, with its focus on securing nuclear materials and preventing nuclear smuggling.
6. Conduct talks with Russia for developing a mutual understanding of each other's motivation for the possession of nuclear weapons, including tactical and hedge/reserve weapons; engage Russia via the NATO-Russia Council, particularly in dialogue on the motivations for tactical nuclear forces.
7. Work together with Russia on standardization of classification guidelines for nuclear-related information (to avoid conflict regarding sharing of data because of differences between U.S. and Russian classification guidelines).
8. Work jointly on the definition of a "gold standard" in technologies and best practices for nuclear materiel security, based on CTR work; the creation of a process for continuous evolution of the standard based on changes in threat, technology improvement, and

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- changes in other circumstances; and the development of associated transparency measures for mutual assurance.
9. Conduct talks to define appropriate and acceptable measures useful to influence other nations toward responsible nuclear materiel security, using an appropriately tailored standard.
 10. Develop agreements on sharing early warning data with Russia and using satellites to jointly monitor ballistic missile launches (reciprocal action required).
 11. Develop agreement with Russia to give five-year advance notice on deployment of new nuclear systems (reciprocal action required).
 12. Declare fissile material stocks to each other.
 13. Develop a U.S.-Russia understanding on how each would act or not act if a nuclear weapon was used anywhere else in the world.
 14. Increase U.S.-Russia economic interdependence and investment, including ending Jackson-Vanik restrictions; develop agreement with Russia for greater transparency on trade and investment from abroad (reciprocal action required).
 15. Extend collaboration with Russia to stop drug trafficking from and through Afghanistan; develop collaboration on promotion of healthy lifestyles.
 16. Develop further collaborations with Russia on infectious disease (e.g. TB) preventive health promotion.
 17. Establish cooperation with Russia in science & technology (S&T) for safe, secure oil and gas transport, oil and gas exploration, and recovery.
 18. Establish S&T cooperation with Russia in nanotechnology, pharmaceutical research, and other areas of common interest.

Summary

A set of essential components that may contribute to mutual assured stability with Russia is offered in areas of cooperative security, clarity and assurance, motivated through substantial emphasis on collaboration for beneficial interdependence. The first priority should be engagement with Russia with tangible steps toward the creation of these essential components. Achieving such a significant change in relationship with Russia will be a challenging undertaking and if it is found to not be feasible to create these components, it may call into question the feasibility of the end state.



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A set of essential components is offered for expanding to a broader group of nations. Though these essential components are not sufficient to ensure global mutual assured stability and address all nations' core security issues, they are offered as a starting point for dialogue, initially with the current nuclear weapons states as defined in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and progressing to other nations with nuclear weapons or fissile materials.

The steps to mutual assured stability may be long, taking years or perhaps decades. At each step along the path, the progress should be rigorously tested against the completeness of the essential components and against the possible de-stabilizing risk factors. If risk of destabilization is detected, mitigating measures should be taken. This continued reassessment of progress will enhance the creation of lasting change.

Recommendations for tangible first steps with Russia are presented. Though steps between the United States and Russia are the first priority, these steps are not decoupled from the rest of the nations of the world, and each major step must be reviewed with regard to interpretation by and effect on other nations. If risk of instability with other nations is created by actions for greater stability with Russia, mitigating actions will be necessary.

This report provides some initial thoughts on mutual assured stability and the Board believes they are worthy of consideration by the nation's leadership. However, there is much additional work required to explore areas that this study served to highlight. Particularly, an in-depth analysis of the relationship with Russia today, including the areas of continuing disagreement, would be valuable to this topic as well as international relations in general.

As previously stated, this report is not a plan for achieving mutual assured stability, and much remains to be done to develop a plan to build these proposed components and successfully take the tangible steps recommended. It is important to commence the development of these plans and associated studies and analysis now to ensure that the nation is well prepared when opportune times arise for taking the next steps.

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Commercial Ebola Vaccine “Unlikely” says Researchers

BBC News, 15 August 2012, <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Scientists researching the lethal ebola virus have told the [British Broadcasting Company (BBC)] that a commercial vaccine to prevent the onset of infection may never be developed. Two companies with leading vaccine candidates have had their funding from the Pentagon suspended in recent weeks.

An expert said it was now "unlikely" a prophylactic vaccine would ever be used to prevent outbreaks of the disease. Ebola is often described as the most frightening disease on Earth. The virus causes a severe hemorrhagic fever, where victims bleed both internally and externally. The virus attacks white blood cells and blood vessels, causing a rash, red eyes, severe abdominal pain and vomiting.

In recent weeks, an outbreak in western Uganda claimed the lives of at least sixteen people. There is no specific treatment and the virus can kill up to 90 percent of those who become infected. Efforts to develop a vaccine have been funded in the main by the U.S. Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health. They have poured millions of dollars into scientific research because of concerns that the virus could be turned into a biological weapon.

As a result of this funding, several vaccine candidates have been developed and have shown themselves effective in animal trials. Two companies, Sarepta and Tekmira have begun human safety trials of their vaccines. But in recent days, both companies have been told by the Defense Department to temporarily stop work on their vaccines due to funding constraints. It is expected that a decision to either resume testing or completely terminate the contracts will be made by early September.

Scientists say their understanding of the nature of the virus has markedly improved over the past decade. But the chances of turning that knowledge into a vaccine are very dependent on money. Gene Olinger, a virologist at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Infectious Disease at Fort Detrick in Maryland, told BBC News: "With the current funding, if it doesn't change, I would say there should be a vaccine in five to seven years. It could double or triple it if the funding goes away."

There is also a big concern over the lack of a large pharmaceutical company which might be willing to develop and market a vaccine for ebola. Since the disease was first discovered in 1976, slightly more than 2,200 people have been infected. And outbreaks have been almost impossible to predict.

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Larry Zeitlin is the president of Mapp Biopharmaceuticals, a small company involved in the development of a therapy for ebola. He says that since the disease is sporadic and extremely deadly, it limits the numbers of people who are affected. But it also limits the commercial potential of any therapy. "I think it's unlikely that a large pharmaceutical company would get involved," he explained. "There isn't a huge customer base and big pharma is obviously interested in big profits. So these niche products which are important for bio-defense are really driven by small companies."

This uncertainty over funding and the absence of interest from large pharmaceutical firms is leading some scientists to argue that a preventative vaccine might never see the light of day.

Heinz Feldmann is one of the world's leading experts on ebola. He oversees hemorrhagic fever research at Rocky Mountain Laboratories in the United States. He strikes a realistic note about the prospects for a vaccine. "Overall we've made great progress but unfortunately we are still far away from commercial use. It is hard to say when a vaccine might be available, if ever," he said.

Others are even more skeptical on the basis of the science. Larry Zeitlin says that the challenges in developing a working therapy and worries over a mass inoculation program will severely limit any prospective ebola vaccine. "I think it's unlikely you'll see a vaccine that's used in millions and millions of people to prevent the disease, that might only come about if the nature of the disease changed, if it became something spread through airborne contact more like the flu," he said.

While progress has been slow in developing new therapies or vaccines, experts say that big steps have been taken in learning how to manage outbreaks and trace the contacts of those who come down with the disease. Gene Olinger believes the recent outbreak in Uganda shows that developing new drugs is not the only approach that can be successful against ebola. "I think they have the infrastructure now to do their own diagnostics, they can then call in help when they need it," he explained. "The rapid response we saw in the Uganda outbreak indicates they have a greater control over their ability to respond. That makes a big difference. They've done a really good job."

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Tipton Tours Nearly Complete Facility at Pueblo Chemical Depot

The Pueblo Chieftain, 24 August 2012; <http://af.reuters.com>

By Chris Woodka

After passing rows of aging buildings dating from the early days of the Pueblo Chemical Depot, a space-age plant rises from the prairie. While new tenants continue to move into the old buildings in a reuse program, the new complex will take on the final mission at the depot: Destroying the stockpile of more than 780,000 chemical weapons containing 2,600 tons of agent.

The \$1.6 billion plant is nearing the end of its construction phase and preparing to enter into the next phase, called systemization. All of the plant's systems are being tested with the goal of going online in 2015. Once started, it will take about three years to destroy weapons.

"We're seeing a really innovative design-build project," said Representative Scott Tipton (R-Colorado), after touring the depot Thursday. Tipton said his grandfather once worked at the depot. "There will be potential jobs for Pueblo as it comes online over the next few years. The project is very well thought out." Tipton also vowed to continue fighting proposed cuts in the defense budget, called sequestration, which could potentially slow down the project.

The cost of the chemical weapons destruction program at Pueblo is estimated to come to \$4.5 billion. Currently, 987 people are employed at the depot, including construction workers.

Founded in 1942, the depot once employed 8,000 people as it took on new missions after World War II. Most of its missions to store military weapons and property began disappearing in the 1970s with missile destruction and in 1988, when the base was realigned and targeted for eventual closure.

The lingering mission at the depot is destroying mustard-agent weapons, which were designed to incapacitate troops on the battlefield, but never deployed. The weapons will be disassembled using robotic machines and drained of agent. The mustard agent will be neutralized in a water-based process and the weapons themselves sold for scrap metal.

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Russia to Complete Chemical Weapons Destruction in 2015

Itar-Tass, 21 August 2012; <http://www.itar-tass.com>

Russia will complete the elimination of its chemical weapons stockpiles in 2015, the Chief of the Federal Directorate for the Safe-Keeping and Elimination of Chemical Weapons, Colonel Vladimir Mandych told a news conference on Tuesday.

“The deadline for ridding Russia of chemical weapons stockpiles is December 31, 2015,” he said. At present Russia is implementing the federal program for the elimination of chemical weapons stockpiles adopted back in 1996. The elimination work consists of four stages. Mandych said Russia [have] completed three phases and [are] now working on the fourth. “There have been no fundamental problems with financing it,” he said. “The program’s costs stand at 371 billion rubles. So far 226 billion rubles have been spent.”

As the deputy chief of the chemical weapons elimination directorate has said, Russia has eliminated 26,500 metric tons of chemical weapons – about 66 percent of the total amount. Russia is in the fourth and final destruction phase, which is also the most complex one.

“We are to do away with the most dangerous pieces of ammunition of complex design,” Mandych said. “Their elimination is very costly and risky.” Besides, the 7,000 pieces of ammunition in substandard condition pose great risks.

As the deputy chief of the chemical weapons disposal directorate said there is no alternative to eliminating chemical weapons. “At present chemical weapons cannot be used as a deterrent,” he explained.

In its chemical weapons elimination effort Russia relies on assistance from 15 countries, including European Union members and the United States. “Basically, they provide equipment or fund the construction of disposal facilities,” Mandych said. Russia has four operational chemical weapons disposal facilities. Two have been closed down and one is still under construction.



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Construction Puts Blue Grass Army Depot Closer to Completion

Courier Journal, 13 August 2012; <http://www.courier-journal.com>

By Chris Kenning

Rising three stories near a field of chemical weapons bunkers, thick walls of concrete stand as a new milestone in the long-running effort to destroy 523 tons of U.S. nerve and mustard gas munitions stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot.

After a nine-year design and construction effort, workers recently finished encasing the main weapons-destruction building – where explosive and chemical weapons will be dismantled – in 12,400 cubic yards of concrete and 2,095 tons of thick reinforcing steel.

Construction on the \$5.4 billion project in Richmond is now more than half finished, though it will take until 2020 to begin the three-year process of neutralizing the mustard, sarin and VX agent contained in 101,000 rockets and artillery pieces, officials said Monday.

“Anything that gets us closer to getting rid of the weapons of mass destruction in Kentucky is obviously important,” said Craig Williams, an area resident and co-chairman of the state’s Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board, who joined a government tour Monday giving Kentucky media a rare glimpse of progress.

The Richmond depot – a sprawling, 15,000-acre site that primarily stores and distributes military munitions – has stockpiled chemical weapons since 1944. Although the United States cancelled its chemical weapons programs in the late 1960s, the weapons still fill 44 of its 900 bunkers.

Since signing an international chemical weapons treaty in 1997, the U.S. has destroyed about 90 percent of its weapons at a handful of facilities, officials said. Only two destruction projects remain – the Blue Grass depot and another in Colorado.

Many local residents have been eager for the process to be completed, because of the worry about accidental exposure.

Officials have acknowledged several vapor leaks over the years into the bunkers, including two of so-called mustard gas in 2008 that they said posed no public harm. Just recently, a low-level detection of sarin was found in bunker.



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CTBT Chief Looks to U.S. Movement on Treaty after Election

Global Security Newswire, 22 August 2012; <http://www.nti.org/gsn>

The United States could take up the debate over ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT] after the November presidential election, Kyodo News on Tuesday quoted the head of the international body formed to manage the accord regime as saying.

"I remain hopeful that after the election, there would be resumption in the efforts of the administration" to secure Senate approval for the pact, Tibor Tóth, who leads the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization [CTBTO], said during an August visit to Japan.

The Obama administration has publicly and repeatedly announced its intention to bring the treaty to the Senate for ratification. It has become clear, though, that any such move would not occur ahead of the election. Meanwhile, an administration informational campaign on the matter continues on Capitol Hill.

Issue experts have said that presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney is not likely to pursue treaty approval if he defeats President Obama in November.

The United States is one of 44 "Annex 2" nations that must fully sign off on the treaty before it can enter into force. It is among eight holdouts from that group; the others are China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan.

Senators previously dismissed ratification in 1999. At that point, not one facility had been formally approved for sensing illicit nuclear test blasts, Tóth said. There has been "both qualitative and quantitative progress" since then in establishing the detection web, which now encompasses 85 percent of a planned 337 International Monitoring System sites.



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Russian Approval of Key Weapons Security Agreement Uncertain, Lugar Says

Global Security Newswire, 23 August 2012; <http://www.nti.org/gsn>

By Douglas P. Guarino

The Obama administration has drafted a proposal that would extend a key weapons security agreement between the United States and Russia but it is uncertain whether Moscow will approve draft deal, Senator Richard Lugar (R-Indiana) said on Thursday.

The so-called umbrella agreement, which allows the United States to conduct Cooperative Threat Reduction operations in Russia, is due to expire in June 2013.

The program established two decades ago by Lugar and then-Senator Sam Nunn aims to secure or deactivate nuclear and other unconventional weapons systems left over from the Soviet Union. It has provided U.S. funds and personnel support to Russia and other nations toward that end. To date, the Russian component of the program has eliminated more than 7,000 strategic nuclear warheads and over 900 ballistic missiles, among other accomplishments.

The agreement, originally forged in 1992, was last renewed in 2006 when Russia at the 11th hour signed off on extending the original pact without making substantial changes. The deal came within hours of expiration due to Moscow's concerns over the pact's liability provisions.

Lugar said the new draft agreement being floated by the Obama administration is virtually identical to the current pact, and merely revises the dates on the document so that the deal would continue to be binding beyond its currently scheduled expiration next year. The draft text was sent to the Russians within the last 60 days by acting Undersecretary of State Rose Gottemoeller and has yet to reach the highest levels of government in either Washington or Moscow.

Lugar, who briefed reporters on his trip this month to Russia and other former Soviet states, said the ideal scenario would be for Moscow to simply approve the proposed text. Modifying the agreement any further could trigger a legislative review in Russia, a scenario that Lugar said could delay negotiations.

However, the senator acknowledged that an obstacle to winning Moscow's approval could be that the draft deal does nothing to address the liability issues officials there have raised in the past.

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Lugar said his meetings with Russian officials left him with the “impression that they had not had great debate or discussion within their ministries” on the issue. However, government staffers “were not certain that simply changing the date was going to be adequate,” he added.

Under the original umbrella agreement, the U.S. government and its contractors are shielded from virtually all liability stemming from any accidents that could occur in the course of the Cooperative Threat Reduction initiative’s work with nuclear and chemical weapons in Russia. U.S. entities are not only shielded from liability for accidents, but also intentional acts of sabotage for which they otherwise would be considered responsible.

Other nuclear accords between the United States and Russia in the past have been allowed to lapse amid disputes over such liability issues. For example, the Nuclear Cities Initiative and the Plutonium Science and Technology agreements – initially signed in 1998 – were not renewed when they expired in 2003.

Issue experts have warned that a similar scenario is possible with the umbrella agreement.

The liability provisions in the umbrella agreement and other such pacts were “negotiated essentially when the Soviet Union had just collapsed and Russia’s lawyers weren’t really paying attention yet,” Matthew Bunn, an associate professor at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government who served as a nuclear security adviser to the Clinton administration, previously told Global Security Newswire.

As Russia’s position in the world strengthens the likelihood that it will hold up renewal agreements over such issues increases, Bunn and other observers have said.

While many of the large-scale construction projects administered and funded by the Cooperative Threat program are mainly complete, the United States continues to administer a broad array of initiatives in Russia that could suffer a blow if umbrella agreement dissolves, Bunn warned.

In addition to maintaining the Mayak fissile material storage facility, the United States is also involved with facility security upgrades and efforts to strengthen nuclear protective regulations in Russia, Bunn said.

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New Ballistic Missile Submarine to Join Russian Fleet in September

Ria Novosti, 17 August 2012, <http://en.rian.ru>

Russia's newest ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), the Project 955 Borey class boat Yury Dolgoruky, will be handed over to the fleet in September, a source in United Shipbuilding Corporation said on Friday.

"The formal signing of the handover of the Yury Dolgoruky boat to the Defense Ministry will take place in September," the source said. Previously, the navy had said the boat would enter service in July, and then August.

The boat has completed a range of sea trials including a firing of a Bulava ballistic missile in December 2011. Its sister ship, the Alexander Nevsky, will carry out a further Bulava test launch in November "as part of its state trials," he said.

The Borey class will become the mainstay of the Russian Navy's strategic nuclear deterrent force, replacing older Project 667 (NATO Delta 4) boats. The class will consist of eight boats, all armed with Bulava missiles.

Meanwhile, the head of the fleet, Admiral Viktor Chirkov, said the Project 885 Yasen class hunter-killer submarine Severodvinsk may also enter service by the end of this year. "Yasen is undergoing tests in accordance with the program. We hope it will raise the flag this year," he said.

Several Russian media have recently claimed that the boat's entry into service will be delayed until 2013 due to problems with its nuclear power plant. Its maker United Shipbuilding Corporation, has insisted the boat will enter service on schedule and there are no problems with it.



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