



# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



17 July - 30 July 2012

**DTRA**

## ARMS CONTROL (GENERAL)

### **Arms Trade Treaty Conference**

U.S. Department of State, 27 July 2012, <http://www.state.gov>

The current Arms Trade Treaty Conference text reflects considerable positive progress, but it needs further review and refinement. (307 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Nuclear Weapon States Meet in Washington**

*Arms Control Today*, July 2012-August 2012, accessed via Lexis Nexis

According to their joint statement, the five states "agreed on the work plan for a P5 working group led by China, assigned to develop a glossary of definitions for key nuclear terms that will increase P5 mutual understanding and facilitate further P5 discussions on nuclear matters." (354 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

### **Biological Weapons Convention Expert Meeting Concludes**

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

The 2012 Meeting of Experts from States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) was held in Geneva on July 16-20, 2012. (753 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **U.S. Sponsors Special Events at BWC Meeting of Experts**

United States Mission to Geneva, 20 July 2012, <http://www.geneva.usmission.gov>

The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) States Parties held their annual Meeting of Experts in Geneva on July 16-20, 2012. (452 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

### **Russia Reduces Chemical Arms Arsenal by 25,000 Metric Tons**

Global Security Newswire (GSN), 27 July 2012, <http://www.nti.org/gsn>

Russia has destroyed 25,000 metric tons of chemical warfare agents from its original stockpile of 40,000 metric tons. (122 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC) (CONT.)

### **Blister Agent Emissions Found at Pueblo Depot**

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 24 July 2012, <http://www.cma.army.mil>

Blister agent emissions were detected inside a weapons storage structure at the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado. (126 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **EU to Provide \$2.6M to Chemical Weapons Convention Body**

Global Security Newswire (GSN), 18 July 2012, <http://www.nti.org/gsn>

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons said on Monday it would receive roughly \$2.6 million in new funding from the European Union. (203 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Army Ends Command of Umatilla Depot**

Tri-City Herald, 18 July 2012, <http://www.thenewstribune.com>

Initially used for as a munitions and general supply storehouse and then the storage and eventual destruction of about 12 percent of the nation's stockpile of chemical weapons, the Umatilla depot has been deactivated. (516 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

### **Anniversary of the Trinity Test, Dawn of Atomic Age**

U.S. Department of State, 19 July 2012, <http://blogs.state.gov>

Sixty-seven years ago, the United States conducted the world's first nuclear explosive test, codenamed "Trinity." (805 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **NNSA Conducts Third Seismic Source Physics Experiment**

National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), 19 July 2012, <http://blogs.state.gov>

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has conducted the third seismic Source Physics Experiment at the Nevada National Security Site. (362 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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## IAEA NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS

### **IAEA Meeting on Radioactive Materials Trafficking**

*Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), 25 July 2012, <http://ohsonline.com>*

An International Atomic Energy Agency meeting this week focuses on improving how states share information about incidents involving illegal trafficking and other unauthorized activities and events involving nuclear and other radioactive material. (205 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## NEW STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (NEW START)

### **Implementing New START at Minot AFB**

*U.S. Fed News, 24 July 2012, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Senator Kent Conrad met today with Col. James Dawkins, the commander of Minot's 5<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, to consider the future of the base's B-52 bombers as the military begins to implement New START. (401 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Russia to Launch Construction of Fourth Borei-Class Submarine**

*Global Security Newswire (GSN), 24 July 2012, <http://www.nti.org/gsn>*

The series of nuclear-powered submarines of the fourth generation, armed with the Bulava ballistic missile system, is to become the basis of Russia's naval strategic nuclear forces for the next few decades. (100 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Benefits of New START – Remarks by Rear Admiral Benedict [EXCERPT]**

*Federal News Service, 20 July 2012, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Rear Admiral Terry Joseph Benedict, U.S. Navy, Director, Strategic Systems Programs, discussed the benefits of the New START treaty and its contribution to deterrence at a seminar on the Trident class of missiles. (1,219 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## OPEN SKIES TREATY

### **U.S. Observation Flight over Belarus and Russia**

*RIA Novosti, 30 July 2012, <http://en.ria.ru>*

A U.S. mission will make an observatory flight over the Russian and Belarusian territories between July 30 and August 4 on board an OC-135B aircraft. (195 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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## OPEN SKIES TREATY (CONT.)

### **Russian Corporation Begins Test Flights of Aerial Monitoring System**

Z/I Imaging, 18 July 2012, <http://www.ziimaging.com/en>

The system has gone through an intensive three-stage acceptance procedure and has been successfully installed on a Russian TU-214 OS aircraft. (355 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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## Arms Trade Treaty Conference

*U.S. Department of State Press Statement, 27 July 2012, <http://www.state.gov>*

The United States supports the outcome today at the Arms Trade Treaty Conference. While the conference ran out of time to reach consensus on a text, it will report its results and the draft text considered back to the UN General Assembly (UNGA). The United States supports a second round of negotiations, conducted on the basis of consensus, on the treaty next year. We do not support a vote in the UNGA on the current text.

The illicit trafficking of conventional arms is an important national security concern for the United States. While we sought to conclude this month's negotiations with a treaty, more time is a reasonable request for such a complex and critical issue. The current text reflects considerable positive progress, but it needs further review and refinement.

With that in mind, we will continue to work towards an Arms Trade Treaty that will contribute to international security, protect the sovereign right of states to conduct legitimate arms trade, and meet the objectives and concerns that we have been articulating throughout the negotiation, including not infringing on the constitutional right of our citizens to bear arms.

The United States took a principled stand throughout these negotiations that international trade in conventional arms is a legitimate enterprise that is and should remain regulated by the individual nations themselves, and we continue to believe that any Arms Trade Treaty should require states to develop their own national regulations and controls and strengthen the rule of law regarding arms sales.

We support an Arms Trade Treaty because we believe it will make a valuable contribution to global security by helping to stem illicit arms transfers, and we will continue to look for ways for the international community to work together to improve the international arms transfer regime so that weapons aren't transferred to people who would abuse them.

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## Nuclear Weapon States Meet in Washington

*Arms Control Today, July 2012-August 2012, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Officials from the five original nuclear weapon states [P5] reaffirmed their "shared goal of nuclear disarmament" in a joint statement issued at the end of a June 27-29 meeting in Washington, DC, designed in part to review the progress on commitments made at the 2010 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference.

Representatives of the five states – China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States – also exchanged ideas related to "transparency, mutual confidence, and verification, and considered proposals for a standard reporting form" on progress in those areas. This was the third such meeting of the group, sometimes known as the P5 because these countries are the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. The countries met previously in 2009 in London and 2011 in Paris.

According to their joint statement, the five states "agreed on the work plan for a P5 working group led by China, assigned to develop a glossary of definitions for key nuclear terms that will increase P5 mutual understanding and facilitate further P5 discussions on nuclear matters."

The United States briefed the other four countries on activities being undertaken at the Nevada National Security Site, the former U.S. nuclear testing site, "with a view to demonstrate ideas for additional approaches to transparency." A tour of the U.S. Nuclear Risk Reduction Center also was offered, to allow officials to observe the communications center that enables the United States to "simultaneously implement notification regimes," such as the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, according to the joint statement. The United Kingdom highlighted advances made in disarmament verification from a project it undertook jointly with Norway.

The five states "reiterated their commitment to promote and ensure the swift entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and its universalization" and discussed ways to achieve a global fissile material cut-off treaty and support the planned 2012 conference on a Middle Eastern zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

The five countries agreed to hold a fourth conference in the "context of the next NPT Preparatory Committee," which is scheduled for April 22 to May 3, 2013, and to continue to meet at "all appropriate levels on nuclear issues."

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## Biological Weapons Convention Expert Meeting Concludes

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

The 2012 Meeting of Experts from States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) was held in Geneva from July 16-20, 2012. The Meeting of Experts was the first meeting in a new intersessional process created by Seventh Review Conference last December.

The Meeting of Experts was held to discuss and promote common understanding on:

- International cooperation and assistance – how States Parties can work together to build relevant capacity;
- Developments in the field of science and technology relevant to the BWC – how States Parties keep up with the rapid pace of advances in the life sciences and their implications for the convention;
- Ways and means of strengthening national implementation of the convention – how States Parties work domestically to prevent disease being used as a weapon; and
- Enhancing participation in confidence building measures (CBMs) – how States Parties can better exchange information to increase transparency and build confidence in compliance.

The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Boujemâa Delmi of Algeria, and brought together nearly 450 participants from 80 countries, including almost 200 experts from government agencies and international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), INTERPOL, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). A range of non-governmental organizations and academic experts also attended the meeting.

On international cooperation and assistance, delegations acknowledged the vital importance of developing closer links to implement to the convention globally. The chairman noted that “by working together and with our international partners we can achieve more than we could alone and can focus our efforts to fill gaps and target needs which are not currently being met”.

With regards to recent developments in science and technology relevant to the convention, experts from around the world and from both within and outside of governments provided wide-ranging presentations on specific advances with the potential to benefit the BWC, and possible uses contrary to the BWC. Expert contributions prompted lively debates and interactions among delegations. Of particular note was the consideration of the recent publication of two

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scientific papers detailing mammalian transmission studies for H5N1 avian influenza. Participants repeatedly stressed the need for more work to determine where the optimal compromise between scientific freedom and legitimate security concerns might lie.

The session on national implementation saw delegations share best practices and national experiences. Switzerland, for example, stressed the importance of robust domestic action: “implementation of the provisions of the BWC on national level is the key to the successful permanent prohibition of biological and toxin weapons. It is only through the translation of its provisions into the national context that the aims of the convention can be achieved.”

States Parties also explored the purpose of exchanging information annually through the CBMs and discussed a range of possible activities which could promote greater participation.

Closing the meeting today, the chairman said, “We have had interactive exchanges that I believe have been very positive and have allowed a spirit of constructiveness. A very positive atmosphere has reigned. The objectives that we followed from the outset have brought us into this new way of accomplishing our work and this has given us a chance to listen to each other and understand each other so that we can work together to ensure that we can effectively manage any of the biological threats that could appear.”

The results of the Meeting of Experts will be considered by the Meeting of States Parties, to be held in Geneva from December 10-14, 2012. The Meeting of States Parties will review the ideas and proposals presented at the Meeting of Experts, and produce a report aimed at promoting effective action to strengthen the operation of the convention.

The Meeting of Experts is part of a four-year program mandated by the 2011 Seventh Review Conference of the BWC aimed at strengthening the implementation of the convention and improving its effectiveness as a practical barrier against the development or use of biological weapons.

The BWC prohibits the development, production and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons. More formally referred to as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the treaty opened for signature in 1972 and entered into force in 1975. It currently has 165 States Parties, with a further 12 states having signed but not yet ratified.

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## **U.S. Sponsors Special Events at BWC Meeting of Experts**

*United States Mission to Geneva, 20 July 2012, <http://www.geneva.usmission.gov>*

The BWC States Parties held their annual Meeting of Experts in Geneva from July 16-20, 2012. For the first time, states worked on an agreed agenda of cooperation and assistance, national implementation and science and technology, which will carry over each year until the next Review Conference, and an additional focus on confidence building measures.

This continuing agenda was an innovation of the last Review Conference, as was the creation of a database on assistance related to the BWC. The United States was proud to be the first state to submit input to the database and also extensively documented its many programs in this area.

In a further effort to highlight U.S. assistance in the biosecurity area, Ambassador Laura Kennedy, U.S. Special Representative for BWC Issues, hosted a side event on the Global Partnership (Against the Spread of WMD). Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins, U.S. government chair for the Global Partnership, described the work of the Biological Security Working Group.

Key activities include: securing and accounting for material that represent biological proliferation risks; developing and maintaining measures to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the deliberate misuse of biological agents; strengthening national and global networks to identify, confirm and respond to biological attacks; reinforcing and strengthening biological nonproliferation principles, practices, and instruments; and reducing proliferation risks through the promotion of responsible conduct in the biological sciences.

Reflecting the important interface between the biosecurity and public health communities, the panel also included Dr. Piers Millet of the BWC Implementation Support Unit, and the World Health Organization's Mr. Ludy Suryantoro.

States Parties reflected on the rapid pace of developments in the life sciences and began more systematic discussion of implications for the BWC and possible steps in biosafety and biosecurity. The United States described its programs in this area, including outreach undertaken by the FBI to scientists in academia and industry.

The issue of dual-use research of concern was discussed both in plenary and at a July 17 event co-sponsored by the United States and The Netherlands. Ambassador Kennedy chaired a panel focused on research on the H5N1 virus and the debate among government and international bodies over publication of the research results and oversight mechanisms.

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Dr. Larry Kerr (U.S.) provided a factual overview of the H5N1 ("bird flu") publications and the controversy about dual-use research. Dr. Marianne Donker (Netherlands), and Mr. Christopher Park (U.S.) discussed governmental policies and the complex deliberations within and among agencies and international counterparts. Participants from government, academia, international organizations, and industry participated in the discussion, including on opportunities for using the BWC forum to advance international engagement and cooperation on the dual-use research of concern. This panel also usefully reflected the value of active interaction between the biosecurity and public health communities.

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## Russia Reduces Chemical Arms Arsenal by 25,000 Metric Tons

*Global Security Newswire (GSN)*, 27 July 2012, <http://www.nti.org/gsn>

Russia has destroyed 25,000 metric tons of chemical warfare agents from its original stockpile of 40,000 metric tons, the Russian magazine *Voenna-Promyshlenny Kuryer* reported this week.

Soman nerve agent-filled 1,100-pound bulk containers have been destroyed at depots in Maradykovsky and Leonidovka. Destruction of sarin nerve agent has wrapped up in Shchuchye and disposal of soman-filled munitions has started at the installation, according to Russian Defense Ministry ground forces spokesman Lt. Col. Nikolai Donyushkin.

Disposal continues in the Pochep area of 1,100-pound bulk containers and air-dropped munitions filled with VX nerve agent, according to Donyushkin. Moscow has said it expected to complete chemical arsenal disposal operations by the end of 2015, three years past the formal deadline set by the Chemical Weapons Convention.

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## **Blister Agent Emissions Found at Pueblo Depot**

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), 24 July 2012, <http://www.cma.army.mil>

A chemical monitoring crew today detected and confirmed the presence of mustard agent vapor inside a chemical storage igloo containing 105mm projectiles during routine chemical operations.

Passive carbon filters prevent contaminated air from leaving the structure. Crews will now begin a process of installing 1,000 cubic-feet-per-minute air filters to lower the levels of contaminated air inside the igloo prior to sending crews into the storage structure in personal protective equipment to look for leaking munitions. Crews will not enter the storage structure today.

Federal, State and Pueblo County officials were notified immediately and will continue to be updated. All operations associated with finding the leaking munitions will be completed under strict engineering controls, protecting the environment and safety of all depot employees and surrounding communities.

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## **EU to Provide \$2.6M to Chemical Weapons Convention Body**

*Global Security Newswire (GSN), 18 July 2012, <http://www.nti.org/gsn>*

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons [OPCW] said on Monday it would receive roughly \$2.6 million in new funding from the European Union [EU].

The funding is to cover June 2012 through June 2014. The European Council since 2004 has now passed resolutions providing in excess of \$11.64 million for OPCW disarmament and state aid efforts. The latest monetary contribution falls under the scope of the December 2003 EU Strategy Against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, according to an OPCW press release.

The Hague, Netherlands-based organization monitors member states' compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention, which prohibits development, production, stockpiling or use of potentially lethal materials such as mustard blister agent and the nerve agents VX and sarin.

The new money is to support a variety of activities including "promotion of universal adherence to the convention, full and effective implementation of the convention by all States Parties, international cooperation for the peaceful uses of chemistry, monitoring advances in science and technology relevant to the convention, and preparedness of States Parties to prevent and respond to attacks involving chemicals," the release states.

The European Council's 2009 decision to focus support on convention activities in Africa is maintained in the new round of funding.

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## Army Ends Command of Umatilla Depot

*Tri-City Herald*, 18 July 2012, <http://www.thenewstribune.com>

The blue flag of the Umatilla Chemical Depot has flown for the last time. "End of an Era – 1941 to 2012" said the sign over the main entrance to the depot Tuesday as workers, former workers, family members and community leaders drove onto the depot.

They gathered for an Operations Lights Out ceremony marking deactivation of the site after 71 years of use by the Army, initially as a munitions and general supply storehouse and then the storage and eventual destruction of about 12 percent of the nation's stockpile of chemical weapons.

"Today the Umatilla Chemical Depot will be officially deactivated and case its color for the final time," said Hal McCune, spokesman for contractor URS and master of ceremonies. "When the colors depart the field this morning, it signifies that the Umatilla Chemical Depot's mission is complete."

Lt. Col. Kris Perkins and Don Barclay, acting director of the Army Chemical Materials Agency, held the flag tight while it was rolled up and cased in a cloth sleeve as several hundred people watched. "We got the job done right – safely, compliantly and well ahead of schedule," said Perkins, who relinquished command Tuesday. "We made history here."

The last mission of the depot, destroying 220,604 munitions and containers holding 3,717 tons of nerve and blister chemical weapons agents, was completed October 25.

On August 1st the depot will be officially on inactive status and the landlord will be Joint Base Lewis McChord in Western Washington, at least briefly. The Oregon National Guard has a contract to serve as caretaker now, and in about six months, about 7,400 acres, including the firing range, are expected to be transferred to it to use for training.

Other portions of the depot's 20,000 acres are expected to be used in time as a wildlife refuge, for farming and for industrial use. The day was significant for the tribes, who have worked with other governments to get rid of risk, said Armand Minthorn of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. "By eliminating risk we've taken away the threat to the environment," he said.

Work remains to be done at the depot, including continued dismantling of the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility incineration plant that destroyed chemical weapon agents. Contractor URS had about 830 workers at the plant when incineration was completed, and all but about

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100 are expected to remain through this year. But next year about 550 jobs will be cut and most remaining employees will leave through 2014.

The number of workers for the Army at the depot has declined from more than 300 in 2011 to about 135 now, with work for most of them ending August 11. A few people will remain to oversee depot caretakers and the dismantling of the incineration plant.

Tuesday was bittersweet, said Dave Anteau of Irrigon, who retired from the depot as an HVAC mechanic. "We knew it was coming, but no one wanted to believe it," he said. "It's good and sad," said Ron Patterson of Hermiston, who worked with him until retirement. "It has 33 years of my life." [...]

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## Anniversary of the Trinity Test, Dawn of Atomic Age

U.S. Department of State, 19 July 2012, <http://blogs.state.gov>

The United States conducted the world's first nuclear explosive test, codenamed "Trinity," 67 years ago this month in the southern New Mexico desert. The atomic age was born. The former Soviet Union conducted a test of its own nuclear device four years later, sparking an arms race that saw more than 2,000 nuclear explosive tests in the decades to follow.

The Trinity Test had an explosive yield of 10 kilotons (releasing an energy equivalent of 10,000 metric tons of dynamite). The test was literally an earthshaking feat in the fields of science and technology, but also a sobering moment for those involved. It ushered in nearly two decades of further atmospheric testing of nuclear devices. "[It was] an awesome and foul display," Harvard Physicist and Trinity Test Director Kenneth Bainbridge said.

In the years since 1945, thinking about nuclear testing has evolved – so much so that the United States has not tested a nuclear weapon for nearly 20 years. Concerns about the effects of atmospheric testing grew in this country and elsewhere during the early years of the atomic age. Earlier this year, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of President Kennedy's historic speech at American University, where he called for the Limited Test-Ban Treaty (LTBT) to ban nuclear explosive testing in the atmosphere, outer space and under water. The long series of U.S. and Soviet atmospheric tests, initiated with Trinity, ended with the LTBT's entry-into-force in 1963.

As an outgrowth of the LTBT, the United States and the former Soviet Union signed and later ratified the Threshold Test-Ban Treaty (TTBT). It entered into force on December 11, 1990. The treaty caps the nuclear yield of underground nuclear test explosions at 150 kilotons (or 150,000 metric tons of dynamite). The TTBT was a critical mutual step to ease tensions between the Cold War rivals. Just as importantly, it is also the first bilateral arms control treaty under which the United States and Soviet Union exchanged information to aid in the verification of treaty requirements on nuclear testing.

The United States has observed a self-imposed moratorium on all testing of its nuclear weapons that would involve a nuclear explosion since 1992. Moreover, the United States also is committed to the ratification and swift entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). As President Obama said during the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit in March 2012, "my administration will continue to pursue ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty."

The CTBT would create a legally binding prohibition on nuclear explosive tests for all its Parties. The advancement of the U.S. nuclear stockpile stewardship program during the past eighteen

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years has given scientists the tools for the United States to maintain a safe, secure and effective nuclear deterrent in the absence of testing. Monitoring for nuclear explosions also has improved. Over 80 percent of the International Monitoring System (IMS) stations are now online. Combined with other verification tools, they make it extremely difficult for states to conduct explosive nuclear tests that escape detection.

At the June 2012 P5 Conference in Washington DC, China, France, Great Britain and Russia joined the United States in stating that there are "no substitutes for legally binding obligations under the CTBT." As the United States and its partners no longer conduct explosive testing, many Cold War era sites such as the Nevada Test Site have been transformed to reflect the national security challenges of today. From 1951 to 1992, U.S. atmospheric and underground tests were primarily conducted at the Nevada Test Site just outside of Las Vegas. In 2010, the Nevada Test Site was renamed the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), to reflect the site's expanded mission and the fact that the United States abides by its nuclear explosive testing moratorium issued in 1992.

The United States recently briefed the other P5 States – China, France, Great Britain and Russia – on the new diverse functions at the Nevada site, including testing of equipment for nonproliferation and arms control uses. This is just one example of how we have moved beyond outdated Cold War thinking in pursuit of a world less reliant on nuclear explosive testing and nuclear weapons. All of the P5 nuclear states continue to observe their respective moratoria on nuclear testing; their work and cooperation will accelerate the CTBT's entry into force.

For the United States, pursuing entry into force of the CTBT and a broader agenda of nuclear disarmament is not about just about policy. In Seoul, President Obama called the pursuit of a world without nuclear weapons a "moral obligation." He said it as the President and as the Commander-in-Chief, but then personalized the statement further, "Most of all, I say it as a father, who wants my two young daughters to grow up in a world where everything they know and love can't be instantly wiped out."

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## NNSA Conducts Third Seismic Source Physics Experiment

National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), 24 July 2012, <http://nnsa.energy.gov>

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) today announced that it has successfully conducted the third seismic Source Physics Experiment (SPE-3) at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). The seismic experiment was the third in a series of seven underground, fully-coupled, high-explosive field tests.

SPE-3 included detonating a chemical explosive equivalent to 2,200 pounds of TNT in a contained, confined environment 150 feet below ground. Information gathered from this experiment includes high-resolution accelerometer, infrasound, seismic, explosive performance, ground-based LIDAR (light detection and ranging), ground-based hyperspectral imagery and satellite data. These data will advance current, state-of-the-art strong ground motion and seismic wave propagation models and algorithms toward a predictive capability.

The series is a long-term NNSA research and development effort that aims at improving arms control and nonproliferation treaty verification. The experiment's findings are intended to advance the United States' ability to detect and discriminate low-yield nuclear explosions amid the clutter of conventional explosions and small earthquake signals.

"These seismic Source Physics Experiments are significant achievements in the United States' efforts to develop, validate and improve on emerging technology that will be used to assure compliance with the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT]," said NNSA Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Anne Harrington. "The work conducted at the NNSS and by the NNSA's Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation programs serves to advance the implementation of President Obama's nuclear nonproliferation agenda."

NNSA's three national laboratories have already used the data from the first experiment in the series, SPE-1, executed on May 3, 2011, and the second, SPE-2, executed October 25, 2011, to refine and improve geophysical models and to make pre-shot predictions for SPE-3. The results of SPE-3 and all further experiments will continue to advance the national nuclear security strategy across the whole of government.

The Source Physics Experiments represent a U.S.-interagency wide endeavor, with NNSA's NNSS, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories and the Department of Defense's Defense Threat Reduction Agency all serving as partners in SPE-3. Each entity brings their expertise and resources to the experiment and all will share the resulting data, saving the U.S. taxpayers the expense of conducting separate experiments for the various scientific disciplines that require these data.

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The CTBT is an integral part of the U.S. nuclear nonproliferation and arms control agenda that prohibits all nuclear explosive testing. In the absence of nuclear explosive testing, the U.S. Government employs a number of programs to verify a safe, secure and reliable nuclear stockpile. Elements such as seismic Source Physics Experiments provide the ability to better monitor and characterize foreign weapons programs to verify treaty compliance.

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## IAEA Meeting on Radioactive Materials Trafficking

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), 25 July 2012, <http://ohsonline.com>

A meeting of member state representatives to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) this week is aimed at improving how states share information about incidents involving illegal trafficking and other unauthorized activities and events involving nuclear material and other radioactive material.

Illegal trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials remains of serious concern, according to the IAEA, which said July 24 that its illicit trafficking database (ITDB) contains more than 2,200 confirmed incidents reported to IAEA by the international community since 1995. "Most of these incidents involve radioactive materials that could cause harm if used by terrorists or handled innocently by people who are unaware that the materials are radioactive," the agency said in a release. "A small portion of the incidents involve uranium and plutonium – materials that if acquired in sufficient quantity by terrorists could be used to make a nuclear explosive."

Some incidents involve low-risk materials, such as inadvertent transportation of radioactively contaminated scrap metals. While 116 states have joined the ITDB program, IAEA urges more to participate. IAEA's Office of Nuclear Security rapidly shares incident information to participants, and IAEA analyzes the data to identify trends and patterns in reported incidents so participating states can improve their security.

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## Implementing New START at Minot AFB

*U.S. Fed News, 24 July 2012, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Senator Kent Conrad met today with Col. James Dawkins, the commander of Minot's 5<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, to consider the future of the base's B-52 bombers as the military begins to implement New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty). Col. Dawkins also updated the Senator on challenges confronting airmen on the base in light of last year's record flooding and the ongoing impact of the oil boom in central and western North Dakota.

"The airmen stationed at Minot Air Force base are among the finest anywhere because of their collective commitment to executing the nation's nuclear mission," Senator said. "While the ratification of New START ensured the continued transparency of Russian nuclear forces and enhanced strategic stability, we must always remain vigilant in maintaining our ability to respond to crises and protect the homeland."

Senator Conrad and Col. Dawkins discussed Department of Defense [DoD] plans to retain up to 60 bombers in the nuclear role, converting the remainder of the B-52 fleet to conventional-only aircraft. The Air Force has also proposed reducing the 450-strong deployed ICBM force by 30 to 50 missiles, while retaining all 450 silos in a warm status. If allowed to move forward, these plans would ensure New START compliance while also protecting force structure at Minot Air Force Base.

Senator Conrad said the Air Force has made tremendous progress in reinvigorating the nuclear enterprise, and the matter remains a top priority. In fact, the nominee to serve as the next Air Force Chief of Staff, General Mark Welsh, listed the nuclear mission as his top priority during his Senate confirmation hearing. However, challenges remain for Col. Dawkins and airmen at Minot Air Force Base as a result of the severe housing shortage created by the flood and the oil boom. Col. Dawkins and Senator Conrad discussed attempts to mitigate the impact of the non-concurrent travel policy for dependents instituted last year and the successful effort to help airmen displaced by the 2011 flood find housing.

Col. Dawkins told Senator Conrad about successful progress on military construction projects to build new dormitories and repair the base's runway. The two also discussed \$4.6 million in funding requested by the President for additions to the Minot Air Force Base B-52 munitions Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) facility. That funding was approved by the Senate Armed Services Committee earlier this year. Minot is one of just 11 bases to receive Air Force military construction funding this year.

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## Russia to Launch Construction of Fourth Borei-Class Sub

*Global Security Newswire (GSN)*, 24 July 2012, <http://www.nti.org/gsn>

Russia is set before August to formally begin construction of its fourth Borei-class ballistic missile submarine, the country's Sevsmash shipyard said on Monday.

Top defense, navy and sea vessel construction officials are expected to participate in marking the Russian Navy Day event at the Severodvinsk facility, ITAR-Tass reported. The planned submarine, dubbed Prince Vladimir, would be part of a planned line of upgraded "Borei-A" vessels.

"The series of nuclear-powered submarines of the fourth generation, armed with the Bulava ballistic missile system, is to become the basis of Russia's naval strategic nuclear forces for the next few decades," the shipyard stated.

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## Benefits of New START – Remarks by Rear Admiral Benedict [EXCERPT]

*Federal News Service, 20 July 2012, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

*Admiral Terry Joseph Benedict, Director, Strategic Systems Command, U.S. Navy*

The final report and cost assessment of options for the Ohio replacement ballistic missile submarines is a classified report, and it was signed out to the Congressional defense committees on June 27<sup>th</sup>. In general terms for this setting, it evaluated options for the Ohio replacement SSBN considering several factors, including the ability to meet nuclear employment planning guidance, to satisfy at-sea deployment requirements, to provide flexibility to meet changes in threats in the strategic environment, and overall affordability.

From this assessment, only 12 SSBNs with 16 missile tubes each satisfies the strategic mission goals and objectives that we were required to support. And from the letter from Secretary [of the Navy, Ray] Mavis and General [C. Robert] Kehler [Commander, U.S. Strategic Command] to the committees, quote, “The changing strategic and fiscal environment demands a renewed emphasis on thoughtful risk management across the nuclear enterprise.” And I’d like to use that as the theme, because it is certainly the mindset within [U.S. Navy, Strategic Systems Program (SSP)] as we maintain our current system and develop the future Navy strategic deterrent. [...]

We have enjoyed successful completion of major milestones in the Trident II D-5 missile life extension efforts, and we have also seen a significant increase in the important dialogue between the Navy and the Air Force as both services face major program decisions in the challenges to modernize our forces. And I am encouraged by these highlights, despite the uncertainty, as we try to figure out the fiscal challenges of the next several months.

The Strategic Systems Programs [SSP] continues to be fully engaged. Today we are ensuring the Trident II is supported on Ohio Class S submarines through their operational service life and into the operation of the Ohio replacement programs load-outs. Designing and conducting life extension efforts in all the functional subsystems of the Strategic Weapons System, we are supporting Admiral Johnson and PEO submarines in the development of the Ohio replacement SSBN, particularly as we continue on track with the common missile compartment, in concert with the United Kingdom, despite the overall two-year shift to the Ohio replacement program. And we are implementing the entry into force of the New START treaty. [...]

Now each year in this forum there is specific interest in SSP's unique perspective on the overarching topic of nuclear deterrence and arms control, particularly as it relates to the New START treaty.[...] Based on current force structure plans, the Navy will make up approximately 70 percent of the authorized deployed warheads allowed under New START, an increase of roughly 20 percent over the original START treaty.

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There are particular operational benefits as a result of the New START treaty. Under New START, the number of Navy inspectable sites was reduced from nine to two: Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic [SWFLANT] and Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific [SWFPAC]. Additionally, the inspectable areas in these sites have been significantly reduced. The treaty excludes buildings and structures not intended to contain an item of inspection as a result of changes to the definition of inspection sites.

Another improvement of the New START treaty is the increase in time – from 24 to 32 hours – required for each country to notify the other of its intent to inspect a facility. This additional time allows inspected facilities to better prepare for the inspection – to minimize lost production time and to minimize impacts to the fleet's operational availability.

Since becoming subject to short-notice Type I inspections [under New START] in April 2011, we have received two inspections at the Navy's two inspectable sites: SWFLANT and SWFPAC. The inspections have gone well, and we stand ready to continue to execute on-site inspections and to comply with all the provisions of the New START treaty. [...]

## *Selected Questions and Answers*

**QUESTION:** Philip Hughes with the White House Writers Group. Referring to your initial list of advances accrued to the Navy operationally from New START – the reduction of inspectable sites from nine to two, for example – within the limits of what you can say here, can you give us a sense for how really bothersome or disruptive inspections had been at the expanded menu of inspectable sites previous to New START? Was this really a serious problem? And have you ever had suspicion that those inspections have been used in some way to disrupt the operational rhythm of the force? Because of course the flip side of the reduction of our inspectable sites has been reduction on the other side.

**ADM. BENEDICT:** Right. So one of the good things about being in SSP is, you get to stay basically your entire career. I've been in SSP now for 24 years, joined it in 1988. So I had the opportunity and privilege of being the START coordinator when we stood up the original START treaty back in the 1990-91 timeframe and certified all the facilities. I think in terms of disruption, we try in our facilities – SWFLANT and SWFPAC are designated as factories in the fields. So they're an extension of the industrial base, basically where we transfer all the material and do the final assembly test checkout and then outload to the force.

We found anything that disrupts production to be something that we were concerned about. Certainly the short-notice aspect of the original START treaty [was a factor that is] a little better

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now [under New START] in terms of time, but still, we schedule production pretty much five to seven days a week all through the year. So were they disruptive? Yes. Were they something that over the last 20 years we have learned how to deal with? Yes. We have fewer today than we did under the original START treaty, but they're longer. So we're still learning how to deal with the interruptions New START causes in the production line at SWFLANT and SWFPAC.

In a perfect world, we'd like to live inside our walls and control our own destiny. We understand that's not policy as it relates to arms control. So over the years I would say we've learned to adapt it. Have we ever seen or had any evidence that says they did it on purpose to disrupt production? Nothing that was so blatant as we would make that statement. [...]

**QUESTION:** David Culp with Friends Committee on National Legislation. Some members of Congress still are unhappy with the New START treaty and calling for a U.S. withdrawal. We had a big debate last night on the floor of the House. What would be the impact on the Navy if the United States withdrew from New START?

**ADM. BENEDICT:** If we were to withdraw from the New START treaty? [...] Well, it kind of goes back to the original question I think I took, which is, today [...] at certain points when they do short-notice inspections, we are impacted in production. As I stated, though, I think we over the last 20 years have adjusted to understanding that's part of our business. [...] We also have some telemetry protocol requirements for data transfer based on our flight tests. Those are significantly reduced from the original START treaty, and we wouldn't have to provide that data either. So I think those would be the two major things that we would not have to do, should leadership decide to take that action. [...]

[Full Transcript pdf \[227 KB\]](#)

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## U.S. Performs Observation Flight over Belarus and Russia

RIA Novosti, 30 July 2012, <http://en.ria.ru>

A group of U.S. inspectors will make a one week surveillance flight over Russia and Belarus in line with the international Open Skies Treaty beginning on Monday, a spokesman for the Russian Defense Ministry said.

“In line with the implementation of the Open Skies Treaty, a U.S. mission will make an observatory flight over the Russian and Belarusian territories between July 30 and August 4 on board an OC-135B aircraft,” the spokesman said.

He said the surveillance flight will begin at the Kubinka airport in the Moscow Region and both Russian and Belarusian experts will be also on board the aircraft to make sure the flight goes along the earlier coordinated route.

The Open Skies Treaty, signed in 1992 on an initiative of U.S. President George H.W. Bush, established a regime of unarmed aerial observation flights over the territories of its 34 member states to promote openness and the transparency of military forces and activities.

The treaty entered into force on January 1, 2002 and its regime covers the national territories (land, islands, and internal and territorial waters) of all the treaty signatory states. It is an important element of the European security structure.

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## Russian Corporation Begins Test Flights of Aerial Monitoring System

Z/I Imaging, 18 July 2012, <http://www.ziimaging.com/en>

A digital aerial survey system based on three Z/I Imaging DMC II 140 digital cameras was delivered to Russian Radio Engineering Corporation "VEGA" after a 10 month period of manufacturing and system adaptation. The system has gone through an intensive three-stage acceptance procedure and has been successfully installed on a Russian TU-214 OS aircraft. Currently, test flights are being conducted.

The system is intended to provide nadir and perspective digital surveys of the various earth surface areas within the territories of the States Parties to the Open Skies Treaty and to provide post-processing data preparation and delivery as required. The purpose of the Open Skies Treaty is to increase openness and transparency with regard to the military activities of the States Parties. The Open Skies regime may also be used to monitor the implementation of current and future arms control treaties and agreements; to provide crisis prevention and management assistance in coordination with the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] and other related international organizations; and may potentially be used to monitor the environmental impacts of natural disasters or the effects of climate change.

"We have chosen the DMC II 140 digital cameras, produced by Z/I Imaging, primarily because we believe this camera is the most advanced camera in the field of aerial photography. We have carefully considered the possibility of other cameras and reviewed the experience of companies that have purchased DMC II cameras before us. As a result, we have made a conscious choice and we are pleased to cooperate with Z/I Imaging," said Professor Vartan Shahgedanov, VEGA's Deputy General Designer-director of the "Open Skies" international program.

"For us, this project was a technical challenge because of the system complexity and special requirements. In addition, we had to fulfill a very tight timeline," noted Martin Welzenbach head of Z/I Imaging hardware development. "It was very exciting for us to work as one team with engineers from VEGA on the system integration and we are impressed with their professionalism. Z/I Imaging is proud that our technology is now part of this important international treaty to provide information for a more peaceful world."

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