



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 October 2011 – 31 October 2011

DTRA

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

India Seeks 'Proactive' Role in Strengthening the BWC [OPINION]

New Delhi Political and Defense Weekly, 26 September 2011, accessed via Open Source Center [Article "Issues Before the 7th Biological Weapons Conference"]

India's stated position is that it supports the further strengthening of the [BWC] verification, its universalization, CBMs, export controls and international cooperation consistent with the objectives of the BWC. (957 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

DCD Igloo Cleanup

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 20 October 2011, www.cma.army.mil

Thirty down, 178 to go. One by one, Deseret Chemical Depot's storage igloos are being emptied, cleaned, monitored and sealed until future use. (449 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Demonstrating Destruction Efficiency: Workers Complete ATLIC Test Burns

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 20 October 2011, www.cma.army.mil

Workers at the Area 10 liquid Incinerator (ATLIC) have completed a combined Surrogate Trial Burn (STB) and Comprehensive Performance Test (CPT) to demonstrate the destruction efficiency of the incineration process. (322 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

TOCDF: Mustard Mortars Destroyed, Less than 200 Projectiles Remain

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 20 October 2011, www.cma.army.mil

In less than three weeks the Deseret Chemical Depot's (DCD's) stockpile of overpacked 4.2-inch mustard mortars has been destroyed. (307 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russia Touts Pace of Chemical Disarmament

Global Security Newswire, 24 October 2011, gsn.nti.org

A Russian official said the nation is destroying chemical weapons at a faster rate than any other state party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, ITAR-Tass reported on Sunday. (245 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC) (CONT.)

Umatilla Destroys Last Ton Container of Mustard Blister Agent

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 25 October 2011, www.cma.army.mil

Nearly 50 years of chemical agent storage came to an end today with the destruction of the last ton container of mustard blister agent in the Metal Parts Furnace at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. (292 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Cleanup Begins at Umatilla

The Oregonian, 25 October 2011, www.oregonlive.com

The Army incinerated the last of its deadly stockpile of mustard agents Tuesday at the Umatilla Chemical Depot, bringing a watershed change to the most nightmarish piece of real estate in Oregon. (757 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

OPCW Launches Challenge Inspection Exercise 2011

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 28 October 2011; www.opcw.org

On October 27, 2011 the [Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons] OPCW launched an exercise to test the organization's readiness to conduct a challenge inspection under Article IX of the Chemical Weapons Convention. (319 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

OPCW Deputy Director-General Visits Washington DC and Anniston Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 28 October 2011; www.opcw.org

The Deputy Director-General of the OPCW, Ms. Grace Asirwatham, paid an official visit to the United States of America from October 17-21, 2011. (508 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Last Nerve Agent at Chemical Depot Targeted for Destruction

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 31 October 2011, www.cma.army.mil

Workers assigned to the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator (ATLIC) project on Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) today began destruction operations targeting the depot's last stockpiled nerve agent. (243 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Growing U.S. Interest Seen for Nuclear Test-Ban Pact

Reuters, 20 October 2011, af.reuters.com

U.S. politicians are showing growing interest in a treaty to outlaw nuclear tests, the head of the agency set up to monitor the ban said on Thursday, but it is uncertain when or whether lawmakers will adopt a pact that they rejected in 1999. (673 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CTBTO Member States Take Test-Ban Verification to the Next Level

CTBTO, 24 October 2011, www.ctbto.org

The 182 Member States of the highest decision-making body of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) today approved a plan to boost the organization's on-site inspection capabilities. (418 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE (CFE) TREATY

Armenian President Says 'Committed' to Arms Control Treaty

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), 19 October 2011, www.rferl.org

Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian says Yerevan will continue to abide by a key international arms control treaty, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports. (250 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

NEW STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (NEW START)

U.S. Intends to Further Reduce Nuclear Arsenal in Future: Official

Xinhua, 18 October 2011, English.news.cn

The United States has made significant progress in reducing its nuclear arsenal and intends to make further reductions in coming years, Tom D'Agostino, U.S. Under-Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration [NNSA], said here on Tuesday. (458 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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NEW STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (NEW START) (CONT.)

New START Data: Modest Reductions and Decreased Transparency [OPINION]

FAS Strategic Security Blog, 24 October 2011, www.fas.org/blog/ssp

By Hans M. Kristensen, Director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists (FAS)

The latest New START treaty aggregate numbers of strategic arms, which was quietly released by the State Department earlier last week, shows modest reductions and important changes in U.S. and Russian strategic nuclear forces. (422 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

NNSA Announces Dismantlement of Last B53 Nuclear Bomb

National Nuclear Security Administration, 25 October 2011, nnsa.energy.gov

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) today announced that the last B53 nuclear bomb has been dismantled. (567 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Alexander Nevsky Sub to Be Put into Service in Late 2012

ITAR-TASS, 25 October 2011, www.itar-tass.com/en

The fourth-generation nuclear-powered strategic missile carrying submarine Alexander Nevsky built at the Sevsmash shipyard in Severodvinsk will start test firing Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles no earlier than in summer 2012 (445 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

U.S. Keeps Major Lead over Russia in Nuclear Weapons

The Washington Post, 26 October 2011, www.washingtonpost.com

The United States has slightly reduced its numbers of strategic intercontinental missiles, bombers and nuclear warheads, but it continues to maintain a major advantage over Russia, according to figures released this week by the State Department. (437 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

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India Seeks 'Proactive' Role in Strengthening the BWC [OPINION]

New Delhi Political and Defense Weekly, 26 September 2011, accessed via Open Source Center [Article by Arvind Gupta, holds Lai Bahadur Shastri Chair at Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses, New Delhi: "Issues Before the 7th Biological Weapons Conference"]

The 7th review conference (RevCon) of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons [BWC] is scheduled to be held from December 5-22, 2011 in Geneva.

According to the decision taken in the April 2011 preparatory committee (PrepCom) meeting for the RevCon, the review conference will, in accordance with Article XII of the Convention, "review the operation of the Convention, taking into account, inter alia, new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention; the progress made by States Parties on the implementation of the obligations, under the Convention; progress of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations agreed, upon at the 6th review conference."

The PrepCom proposed a provisional agenda for the review conference. The agenda includes, inter alia, a general debate and discussion on the purpose of the Convention in the light of recent changes in the global environment and advances in life sciences as well as an article by article review of the Convention and crafting a roadmap for the future.

Issues before the 7th RevCon

Compliance, verification and monitoring have been the major issues in previous [BWC] discussions. [The BWC] does not have a formal verification provision. Although the Convention provides for an approach to the [United Nations Security Council (UNSC)] to carry out investigations, this provision has not been invoked so far.

Efforts have been made in the past to strengthen the [BWC] by negotiating a legally binding protocol to the treaty, which would have provided mandatory declaration and on-site inspection of relevant facilities. A draft protocol was prepared and circulated in 2001. The protocol was negotiated for six years but the United States rejected the draft and withdrew from the negotiations in 2001. This was a major challenge to the [BWC]. The United States does not want its biotechnology industry to be subject to any verification measures under the treaty.

Instead, [the United States] advocates national measures. No solution to the verification conundrum has been found as yet. Confidence building measures [CBMs] are an important part of the Convention. Annual reporting has been mandated in order to supplement verification, promote transparency and information sharing. But, the format for reporting has not been

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updated since 1991. Moreover, only half the members have done any regular reporting. A useful innovation of the last few years has been the setting up of the mechanism of inter-sessional meetings of experts as well as States Parties. These meetings have been found to be useful as they promote [an] exchange of views and strengthen confidence building. Whether the [inter-sessional] mechanism should be extended, and if so, in what form, will be an issue for discussion at the 7th [BWC] RevCon. Universality has been another issue of concern. Only 164 countries have so far ratified the convention. The Convention, it seems, is less popular than the Chemical Weapons Convention or even the contentious [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT)].

The lack of progress in strengthening the [BWC] has resulted in ad hoc measures outside the Convention. Notable among these is UNSCR 1540, which calls for [the] strengthening of national measures against bio-terrorism. Bio-terror and bio-safety are being taken seriously by many countries. In 2005, 193 member countries of the World Health Organization adopted International Health Regulations [IHR] which are binding, to strengthen bio-safety measures. Useful as these measures are, they do not directly strengthen the cause of disarmament.

Implementation of Article X has proved to be highly divisive. The article often clashes with Article III, which prohibits [the] transfer of such technologies. A group of 41 countries, known as the Australia Group, operate an ad hoc export control regime, which restricts the export of dual use technologies to curb proliferation. This is strongly resented by the [non-aligned movement (NAM)] group of countries. With exponential growth in biotechnologies and the bio-industry in recent years, the fears of non-state actors misusing the technological advances in life sciences have increased.

There is an urgent need to ensure that the threat of bio attacks is tackled without unduly restricting the use of these technologies for peaceful and useful purposes.

India's Position

India's position on [the BWC] was laid out by Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao at the Experts' Meeting in Geneva in October 2010. India is for a verification mechanism. It has a good record of implementing its obligations under the [BWC]. India's stated position is that it supports the further strengthening of the [BWC] verification, its universalization, CBMs, export controls and international cooperation consistent with the objectives of the BWC.

In particular, India is in favor of the fullest implementation of Article X of the Convention. In recent years, India has taken several concrete measures in the area of bio-safety and security.

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It has formulated national guidelines to deal with various kinds of bio-disasters including epidemics, pandemics and bio-terrorism. It has fostered international cooperation and consulted the World Health Organization and Food and Agricultural Organization. India has suggested the enhancement of international capabilities to respond, investigate and mitigate alleged bio-attacks.

It has strengthened its national legislation by enacting a WMD Act, which brings in line its export control efforts with international standards. Given its record and its efforts to promote bio-security and bio-safety, India should adopt a proactive role in strengthening the [BWC] further. It should throw its weight behind greater transparency, implementation of Article X and continuation of the inter-sessional mechanism of the meeting of experts.

India should at the same time ensure that the interests of its burgeoning bio-industry are not compromised. India has already indicated its desire to join the Australia Group, which demonstrates its seriousness in pursuing export controls to curb proliferation. Without effective verification, [BWC] will remain weak. However, the prospects of evolving such a mechanism are not too bright.

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DCD Igloo Cleanup

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 20 October 2011, www.cma.army.mil

Thirty down, 178 to go. One by one, Deseret Chemical Depot's storage igloos are being emptied, cleaned, monitored and sealed until future use. It's a task that has recently been coupled with more stringent guidelines from the U.S. Army's Chemical Materials Agency (CMA). CMA recently directed its stockpile storage locations to toughen their monitoring requirements from the WPL (Worker Population Limit) to the GPL (General Population Limit), which are time-weighted average exposure limits recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The GPLs are 2 to 30 times more stringent than the WPLs.

Before an igloo can be deemed "clean" it is warmed and maintained at 70 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours and then monitored for chemical agents. Using the conventional GPL monitoring method, the Depot Area Air Monitoring System (DAAMS), monitoring the igloos could have been costly and time consuming, considering the time it takes to complete DAAMS analysis. But an improved technology from nearby Dugway Proving Ground uses an optically enhanced flame photometric detector. It offers accurate results, near real-time monitoring and it's anticipated it could save money.

"We have been working closely with Dugway Proving Ground to get this technology," said Kevin Draper, DCD compliance inspector. "This is the first time the technology has been used for something like this and we're glad to have it."

Before an igloo is monitored, a team of workers walks through and carefully inspects the structure, searching for possible problem areas such as spots or cracks in the concrete that could be contaminated with chemical agent. The igloo is then thoroughly swept and pressure washed before it is heated and monitored for chemical agents VX, GB, mustard, lewisite and GA. "Only one igloo had to be washed twice because its initial monitoring results were too high," said Draper. "We power washed it a second time and the monitoring results were good."

DCD Commander, Col. Mark B. Pomeroy, plans to visually inspect each igloo before its doors are sealed. "I'm visually inspecting each empty igloo basically for peace of mind," said Col. Pomeroy. "If anybody asks me how do I know the igloos are empty? I can confidently tell them because I saw each and every one of them myself. I am also checking that the proper steps have been taken to ensure the empty igloos are also free of chemical agent."

So far 30 igloos have been certified empty and clean. DCD hopes to complete 60 igloos by the end of the year and finish all of them by the end of 2012. All of DCD's igloos will eventually be turned over to Tooele Army Depot, which plans to take control of the entire DCD property in July 2013.

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"The trial burn went very, very smoothly," said Will Nielsen, GA/lewisite campaign manager. "It was a complicated trial burn that went very well." During the STB, a surrogate chemical mixture was used to demonstrate the efficient combustion of hazardous chemicals. The mixture, containing chlorobenzene and tetrachloroethylene, was designed to mimic GA nerve and lewisite blister agents, only it is ranked by the EPA as being more difficult to destroy.

Because both agents are known to be contaminated with metals, the surrogate mixture was also spiked with arsenic, lead and mercury. However, lewisite is known to contain higher concentrations of arsenic and mercury and will require an additional CPT to demonstrate the processing of the higher levels of metals. The lewisite CPT will be performed following change-over activities after the GA campaign.

The ATLIC includes a Pollution Abatement System (PAS) with enhanced capabilities to remove the higher quantities of metals contained in the agents. The STB and CPT also test the ability of the PAS to remove particulates and metals from the furnace exhaust, ensuring that it is environmentally safe before release into the environment.

Samples collected during the test burn have been sent to an external lab for analysis. The lab will verify the destruction efficiency and determine if the permit emission standards have been met. The lab results will be provided to both the Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste (DSHW) and Department of Air Quality (DAQ) for final approval.

Disposal of the GA nerve agent is anticipated to begin in early November and is expected to take less than two weeks to complete. Lewisite operations will begin early next year.

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In less than three weeks the Deseret Chemical Depot's (DCD's) stockpile of overpacked 4.2-inch mustard mortars has been destroyed. Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) workers completed destruction of the remaining 135 mortars on October 14. Workers began processing the 4.2-inch mortars on September 29 – utilizing a specially-designed cutting machine that assisted with the removal of the explosive components.

Originally, plans were to use the DAVINCH, or Detonation of Ammunition in a Vacuum Integrated Chamber, to dispose of DCD's 300-plus overpacked, mustard-filled munitions, consisting of 4.2-inch mortars and 155mm projectiles. However, unexpected schedule delays to the DAVINCH made it necessary to utilize the TOCDF facility in time to meet the international treaty date of April 29, 2012.

The day before plant operations restarted, DCD storage area workers delivered two On-site containers (ONCs) holding the first set of overpacked 4.2-inch mortars to the plant. As a result of previous sampling operations, the remaining 4.2-inch mortars were all in overpack containers, providing an air-tight seal to control any mustard agent leaks from the munitions.

Once TOCDF workers unloaded the 4.2-inch mortars from the ONC, they transported them into one of two Explosive Containment Rooms (ECRs) to remove the munitions from their overpack containers. Next, the mortars were placed onto the cutting machine, upon which control room operators used remote-controlled equipment to cut the mortar in order to access the munition's contents. The energetics from the mortars were then removed and processed in the Deactivation Furnace, while the agent-filled mortars and overpack containers were decontaminated in the Metal Parts Furnace.

Workers are currently preparing the plant for the 155mm mustard projectile campaign, which is expected to commence mid-November. As for the DAVINCH, it continues systemization activities and is anticipated to begin operations in mid-December. Both the DAVINCH and plant operations will be finished in time to meet the treaty deadline.

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Russia Touts Pace of Chemical Disarmament

Global Security Newswire, 24 October 2011, gsn.nti.org

A Russian official said the nation is destroying chemical weapons at a faster rate than any other state party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, ITAR-Tass reported on Sunday.

"To date, Russia, following its commitments, has destroyed about 65 percent of declared chemical weapons stock, which make up 40,000 [metric] tons," according to Alexander Studenekin, Moscow's envoy to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the organization that monitors compliance with the accord.

"The USA, which along with Russia is the largest holder of such weapons, has destroyed 90 percent of its reserves, which initially made 27,000 [metric] tons," the envoy added. Given that Russian held the planet's largest chemical arsenal, "nobody may be compared with Russia in proportionality of chemical weapons stockpile destruction per a unit of time," Studenekin said.

Russia's initial chemical disposal plant went online in 2003, nearly a decade after the United States initiated demilitarization operations, he added. As of August, six of Russia's seven planned disarmament facilities had been completed, according to previous reports.

Russia has acknowledged it will not meet the convention's extended April 2012 deadline for finishing disposal of its entire chemical arsenal. Moscow anticipates wrapping up operations no later than 2015. The United States expects to finish off its stockpile by 2021.

"Every milligram, each drop of the chemical substance for destruction, is closely watched round the clock by international experts, who remain at Russian enterprises 365 days a year and supervise the whole process," Studenekin said.

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Umatilla Destroys Last Ton Container of Mustard Blister Agent

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 25 October 2011, www.cma.army.mil

Nearly 50 years of chemical agent storage came to an end today with the destruction of the last ton container [TC] of mustard blister agent in the Metal Parts Furnace at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility [UMCDF].

“Today, the employees of the UMCD/UMCDF made their mark on history by completing agent destruction operations,” said Gary Anderson, UMCD/UMCDF Site Project Manager. “More than 1,000 dedicated Army and contractor employees have made Oregon safer for its citizens. Additionally, their efforts successfully achieved the Chemical Weapons Convention Mandate to destroy the Depot’s chemical weapons by April 2012. Congratulations on jobs well done.”

The final TC was the last of 220,604 munitions and containers containing 3,717 tons of nerve and blister chemical agent stored at Umatilla since 1962. Incineration of chemical agent began in 2004. The UMCD/UMCDF partnered with the Umatilla Chemical Depot, which safeguarded chemical agents at UMCD since 1962 and URS, the system contractor for the project.

“Our employees are proud to complete the mission of destroying the chemical agent safely and ahead of schedule,” said Steve Warren, Project General Manager for URS. “We will carry the same attitude of putting safety first as we move into closure activities.”

UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- October 25, 2011: Completed destruction of HD mustard agent – end of Operations
- June 27, 2010: Completed mustard Agent Trial Burn for Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) and Liquid Incinerators (LICs).
- June 11, 2009: Began first HD ton container destruction in the MPF.
- June 4, 2009: First HD ton containers transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- November 5, 2008: Completed VX munitions campaign.
- October 26, 2007: Began VX munitions campaign.
- July 8, 2007: Completed GB munitions campaign.
- September 7, 2004: UMCD/UMCDF received first GB munitions for disposal.

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Cleanup Begins at Umatilla

The Oregonian, 25 October 2011, www.oregonlive.com

The Army incinerated the last of its deadly stockpile of mustard agents Tuesday at the Umatilla Chemical Depot, bringing a watershed change to the most nightmarish piece of real estate in Oregon.

"It's time now for high fives and hugs!" said Kim Jackson, operations manager for the depot's weapons incineration program, as the final steel barrel containing the blister agent H.D., identical to mustard gas used in World War I, went into the incinerator at 9:20 a.m. "By eliminating this stockpile, you have made this community a safer place to live," she said.

Joined by about 40 depot workers and half a dozen members of the media, Jackson watched on closed-circuit TV as the one-ton container finished its short journey through a 1,400-degree natural gas furnace 200 yards away.

Now comes the return of at least part of this sprawling 19,728-acre military installation to public use. For nearly 50 years, the depot has served as a repository for 7.4 million pounds of fearsome Cold War-era chemicals, roughly 11.5 percent of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile.

Its stores included sarin and VX, developed by Nazi scientists to kill on skin contact, and blister or "mustard" agents of a type dating to World War I. The Army completed destruction of its sarin inventories in 2007 and the even deadlier VX two years ago, said Lt. Col. Kris Perkins, base commander.

A palpable sense of relief accompanied the final incineration. For the nearby Columbia River towns of Hermiston, Irrigon, Umatilla, Stanfield and Boardman, with a combined population of 40,000, the destruction lifts a decades-old specter of a potential accident or explosion releasing a chemical cloud. "People will wake up tomorrow morning and there won't be any chemical weapons in their backyard," said James Hackett, longtime depot spokesman.

Still, the end of the incineration program – which began in 2004 and has cost taxpayers an estimated \$2.7 billion – is a mixed blessing. It foreshadows the loss of an annual \$49 million payroll and layoffs of 1,147 military and civilian workers, said Debbie Pedro, executive director of the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce. "These are all very good family-wage jobs, great benefits," she said.

The number of military workers will drop from 260 to 78 by the end of 2012. URS Inc., the civilian contractor in charge of incinerating the weapons, will pull out completely by 2016 once

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the incinerator is dismantled. "I'll just find another engineering job somewhere," said 38-year-old Jon Holway, an engineer for two years here and a four-year veteran of a weapons incineration program at a similar Army depot near Tooele, Utah. Everybody here knew from the start that their jobs would end, he said.

Bob Dikeman, URS plant manager, said the company is lining up jobs for some Umatilla Chemical Depot workers at facilities in Pueblo, Colorado, and Bluegrass, Kentucky, where yet more chemical weapons are scheduled for destruction. Others will join U.S. Department of Energy cleanup projects on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation outside the Tri-Cities, Washington, 30 miles north of here. And some are likely to find themselves in Libya and Russia helping with weapons cleanups there.

Still undecided is what's to happen to the depot land when the Army's mission ends. An original reuse blueprint devised at a cost of \$1 million over two decades by a special commission had earmarked it for commercial-industrial development, an Oregon National Guard tank training site and 5,600 acres of sage-steppe habitat overseen by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and local tribes.

That plan ran aground last summer when the Army failed to destroy the last of the depot's war chemicals by a September 15 deadline set six years earlier as part of an overall Pentagon plan to downsize its military operations. That missed deadline could mean the base will go to the U.S. General Services Administration, the government's property management agency, for disposal as it sees fit. Federal legislation is being considered to return the decision authority to the commission, Hackett said.

Then there's the matter of a much-needed base cleanup. Portions of the depot remain littered with tons of unexploded conventional weapons, ordinance and debris. Sandy-bottomed "washout lagoons" are filled with chemically contaminated soil where "pink water" saturated with high explosives was settled out in the 1950s and 1960s. That could take several years beyond the time allotted to demolish the incinerators, Perkins said.

Also to be decided is the fate of 40 percent of the depot's land area that's covered with 1,001 steel-reinforced concrete storage igloos, including the highly secure 200-igloo "K-block" where the war chemicals were stored.

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OPCW Launches Challenge Inspection Exercise 2011

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 28 October 2011; www.opcw.org

On October 27, 2011 the [Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons] OPCW launched an exercise to test the organization's readiness to conduct a challenge inspection under Article IX of the Chemical Weapons Convention. It will be conducted at the OPCW Headquarters in The Hague and at an undisclosed field location in Thailand, the first Asian country to host such an exercise.

Under Article IX, any State Party has the right to request the OPCW to conduct a short-notice inspection in another State Party if it has concerns about compliance with the Convention, which comprehensively bans the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons. The OPCW Technical Secretariat must therefore be prepared to conduct a challenge inspection anywhere in the world.

The exercise began at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday with the submission to the OPCW Director-General of a request by Australia, playing the role of the "Requesting State Party", for a challenge inspection in Thailand, the "Inspected State Party." While the timing for the field portion of the exercise has been known for some time, the launch at the OPCW headquarters was unannounced to test internal procedures as realistically as possible.

The exercise is based on a purely hypothetical scenario that was developed jointly by a planning group from Thailand, Australia and OPCW headquarters. The field portion will commence on October 31 with the arrival in Thailand of 25 OPCW inspectors, who will be transported to an industrial chemical plant site outside of Bangkok where a mock inspection will take place. The inspectors are unaware of the details of the scenario and must conduct inspection activities according to facts as they become known.

An evaluation of the exercise will be conducted by an independent team of experts who will observe the activities. Daily updates of the exercise will be posted on the OPCW website, including short videos from both OPCW headquarters and the exercise site in Thailand.

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OPCW Deputy Director-General Visits Washington DC and Anniston Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 28 October 2011; www.opcw.org

The Deputy Director-General of the OPCW, Ms. Grace Asirwatham, paid an official visit to the United States of America from October 17-21, 2011. This is the first official visit of Ms. Grace Asirwatham to the United States as the Deputy Director-General since assuming that office earlier this year.

The program of Ms. Asirwatham consisted of meetings with senior officials in Washington and a visit to the chemical weapons destruction facility in Anniston, Alabama. She was accompanied by Mr. Henry de Crouette, the new Director of Verification and Ms. Gabriela Coman-Enescu, Senior Chemical Demilitarization Officer.

The Deputy Director-General met with the Honorable Andrew Weber, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, Mr. Frank Rose, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance; and with Mr. Alexander K. Lopes Jr., Director of the Office of Nonproliferation and Treaty Compliance at the Department of Commerce and Mr. Phillip R. Dolliff, Director of the Office of Threat Reduction.

The discussions with the senior State officials were centered on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention including, *inter alia*, the April 29, 2012 deadline for completing the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles, review of progress made in the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles in the United States, issues related to industry inspections, status of national implementation and universality, international cooperation activities and the ongoing discussions on future priorities of the OPCW. The Deputy Director-General commended the United States for its commitment to meeting its obligations under the Convention and for its continuing support to the work of the OPCW.

At the Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in Anniston, Alabama the Deputy Director-General was received by Mr. Carmen Spencer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Mr. Philip M. Trued, Chief of Staff of the Anniston Army Depot and Lieutenant Colonel Willie J. Fluker, Commander of the Anniston Chemical Activity. Detailed briefings were conducted, including a general overview of the status of destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles in the United States and the associated technical, regulatory and financial challenges.

The briefings also focused on the activities of the Anniston facility in terms of successful completion of destruction operations and the commencement of closure activities as well as the plans with regard to the two new sites under construction at Pueblo and Blue Grass. A team of

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officials including Mr. Conrad Whyne, Director of US Army Chemical Materials Agency and Mr. Timothy K. Garrett, Site Project Manager of the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility participated in the briefings. Ms. Tamara Fitzgerald, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States in The Hague also attended the program organized in Washington and Anniston for the Deputy Director General.

The Anniston depot was one of nine chemical weapons storage locations in the United States of America and used to store GB and VX nerve agents as well as blister agent, amounting to 7.4 percent of the total U.S. stockpile. The Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) began disposing of these weapons in August 2003 using high-temperature incineration technology and completed operations on September 22, 2011.

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Last Nerve Agent at Chemical Depot Targeted for Destruction

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 31 October 2011, www.cma.army.mil

Workers assigned to the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator (ATLIC) project on Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) today began destruction operations targeting the depot's last stockpiled nerve agent – a relatively small quantity of bulk containers of GA agent, also known as Tabun (pronounced TAY-buhn). The GA has been stored at DCD since the 1940's, after being seized by the U.S. in Nazi Germany near the end of World War II.

Compared to the depot's main chemical weapons destruction plant, the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF), the ATLIC is a smaller-scale incineration system located in the depot's "Area 10," where chemical munitions have been stored for decades.

To expedite the safe elimination of the DCD stockpile, and to assist the U.S. Army in meeting an April 2012 deadline under the international Chemical Weapons Convention treaty, the ATLIC is being used to destroy the GA and another relatively small stockpile of bulk containers of Lewisite blister agent while the TOCDF is processing other remaining munitions.

The GA and Lewisite bulk container inventories are considered small because the TOCDF safely has destroyed more than 12,700 bulk containers of GB (Sarin), VX and mustard agent during nearly 15 years of operations.

GA destruction operations are expected to take no more than two weeks to complete. Following that, preparations will begin for the ATLIC's final agent destruction campaign, targeting the depots Lewisite agent stockpile. The entire DCD chemical weapons stockpile is expected to be safely eliminated by early 2012.

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Growing U.S. Interest Seen for Nuclear Test-Ban Pact

Reuters, 20 October 2011, af.reuters.com

U.S. politicians are showing growing interest in a treaty to outlaw nuclear tests, the head of the agency set up to monitor the ban said on Thursday, but it is uncertain when or whether lawmakers will adopt a pact that they rejected in 1999. Tibor Tóth, executive secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), said approval by the U.S. Senate would be a "game changer" for the landmark treaty that was negotiated in the mid-1990s but has yet to take effect.

"I welcome increased interest in what we are doing," Tóth told Reuters in an interview, adding this came from both Democrats and Republicans in the United States. "In the last six-eight months, each three weeks on average, we had some sort of visit from the United States. We had nearly 10 percent of the U.S. senators in different delegations visiting us."

There is widespread international support for the test-ban treaty, which has been ratified by about 155 states, but it cannot come into effect because some nuclear powers like the United States and China have not yet done so. Proponents say U.S. ratification of the pact – which Tóth said had helped cut the number of tests to two in the last 10 years, both in North Korea, from several hundred in previous decades – could encourage other holdouts to sign on.

The administration of U.S. President Barack Obama said in May it was preparing a push for approval of the treaty, arguing that Washington no longer needs to conduct such tests but needs to stop other countries from conducting them. But it has not given a precise time when it would seek a Senate vote on the treaty, which the chamber rejected when fellow Democrat Bill Clinton was president. A two-thirds majority would be needed for approval.

"I think it is important that there is no rushed decision," Tóth said, speaking at agency headquarters in Vienna. Obama, who will seek a second term next year, has made clear he sees the test-ban pact as a step toward his vision of a world without nuclear weapons, like the new START arms reduction treaty the Senate approved last year.

Tóth said the other countries which also need to ratify the ban for it to enter into force – India, Pakistan, Israel, Iran, North Korea, Indonesia and Egypt – should not wait for Washington to act. [...] At the time of the Senate vote 12 years ago, opponents argued that a permanent end to testing could erode the reliability of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. The country last carried out a test nearly 20 years ago. Some also questioned whether cheaters could be detected.

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Tóth said "many things" had since changed – a system to monitor the ban is 80 percent ready and as many as 182 states have signed the treaty – and that the U.S. administration was now seeking to educate senators about the treaty and its merits.

But asked whether he believed the pendulum was swinging in favor of the ban in the United States and whether there was a growing acceptance that it was needed, he said: "I think the jury is out and I don't want to predict what will come out."

His organization has a verification regime to detect any nuclear blasts, including more than 280 monitoring facilities across the globe – a system that helped track radioactive particles from Japan's Fukushima nuclear accident in March. "It is a system which can catch a mouse," Tóth said.

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CTBTO Member States Take Test-Ban Verification to the Next Level

CTBTO, 24 October 2011, www.ctbto.org

The 182 Member States of the highest decision-making body of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) today approved a plan to boost the organization's on-site inspection capabilities. They endorsed a budget for the next Integrated Field Exercise (IFE for short) amounting to \$10.3 million.

This exercise, to be held in 2014, will test and train the organization's on-site inspection capabilities in an all-encompassing way. The plan also foresees a host of preceding smaller ("directed") exercises and other run-up activities. IFE 2014 will be the second large-scale undertaking of its kind after the IFE 2008 in Kazakhstan in September 2008.

Member States also echoed the Final Declaration of last month's conference to promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). They called on the nine States that have yet to ratify the treaty for it to enter into force to do so without delay. The recent ratifications by Ghana and Guinea were welcomed.

Delegates reviewed and commended the organization for the progress in the build-up of the International Monitoring System: 285 of 337 planned facilities have been established to date. They also applauded the system's performance during the Fukushima crisis and the CTBTO's close cooperation with other relevant international organizations, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The repair of the two stations on the Juan Fernandez Islands (Chile) that were destroyed by a tsunami in February 2010 continues at a steady pace.

The CTBTO adopted the budget for 2012. With \$117.4 million, the regular budget remains slightly below zero real growth for yet another year. The organization's highest decision-making body, the so-called Preparatory Commission elected as its new chairman for 2012 Ambassador Alfredo Labbé of Chile. The new chairman for the subsidiary body for budgetary and administrative issues (Working Group A) will be Ambassador Jargalsaikhan Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia, while Hein Haak of the Netherlands was re-elected as chairman of the subsidiary body for verification issues (Working Group B).

The CTBT bans all nuclear explosions by everyone, everywhere: on the Earth's surface, in the atmosphere, underwater and underground. 182 countries have signed the Treaty, of which 155 have also ratified it. Of the 44 countries that have to ratify the Treaty for entry into force, 35 have already done so. The remaining nine are: China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Pakistan and the United States.

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Armenian President Says 'Committed' to Arms Control Treaty

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), 19 October 2011, www.rferl.org

Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian says Yerevan will continue to abide by a key international arms control treaty, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports.

In a meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller on October 18, who deals with arms control issues, Sarkisian described the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty as "one of the pillars of security and stability in Europe." He said Yerevan therefore remains committed to the treaty's "spirit and aims" and will comply with its limitations.

Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian gave similar assurances in a separate meeting with Gottemoeller. But according to a Foreign Ministry statement, Nalbandian also said the CFE needs to be "updated." The statement gave no details.

Signed in 1990 and revised in 1999, the CFE puts specific limits on the deployment of troops and heavy weapons from the U.S. coast on the Atlantic Ocean to Russia's Ural Mountains. Armenia as well as neighboring Georgia and Azerbaijan signed the CFE after gaining independence 20 years ago. [...]

The CFE allows signatory states to inspect each other's compliance with the arms ceilings through random visits to just about any military facility. But in a gentlemen's agreement reached in the 1990s, the Armenian and Azerbaijani militaries have never sent CFE inspectors to view each other's military assets.

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U.S. Intends to Further Reduce Nuclear Arsenal in Future: Official

Xinhua, 18 October 2011, English.news.cn

The United States has made significant progress in reducing its nuclear arsenal and intends to make further reductions in coming years, Tom D'Agostino, U.S. Under-Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration [NNSA], said here on Tuesday.

"At the peak of the Cold War in 1967 we had over 31,000 nuclear weapons, 31,255 to be exact," said D'Agostino. "As of Sept. 30, we are down to 5,113. This is an 84 percent reduction in the overall size of the stockpile." His statements came at a briefing, organized by the U.S. Mission to the UN and titled "Demonstrating the United States commitment to nuclear disarmament."

D'Agostino said that the bilateral agreements between the United States and Russia on those operational nuclear weapons have been the "foremost" actions in the American nuclear disarmament program. "Our partnership with Russia on nuclear reduction will continue and eventually we will seek to bring other nuclear weapon states in with the goal of eventual elimination of nuclear weapons worldwide," he said.

Russia and the United States have agreed on a New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) to report on and reduce their arsenal of deployed nuclear weapons. The original START was signed by the United States and the former Soviet Union in 1991.

"The United States has declared 1,800 deployed strategic warheads as part of the initial data exchange for the New START treaty as of the 5th of February 2011," said D'Agostino. "This is a massive reduction compared to the over 10,000 warheads declared under the initial START treaty in the early 90s."

Under the New START, he said, the United States and Russia will reduce their arsenals of deployed operational warheads even further. According to D'Agostino, the United States will reduce to 1,550 such warheads over the next seven years. D'Agostino said that the Obama administration has become more focused on stopping terrorists from gaining control of weapons.

"Looking to the future we are going to continue to focus on preventing further proliferation with really a special emphasis on nuclear terrorism, or what I call nuclear counter-terrorism efforts to ensure that this material doesn't fall into the wrong hands and more importantly – how do we prevent that and work together as a community of nations to make sure that happens," he said.

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According to D'Agostino, this change in viewpoint comes directly from the fact that the global nuclear security situation has shifted significantly since the Cold War and the arms buildups of that time period.

"We understand, the president understands that the greatest threat to global security is not necessarily two large powers going at each other with warheads but its terrorists getting their hands on the materials or improvising a device or somebody else's device and using that to create chaos," he said.

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New START Data: Modest Reductions and Decreased Transparency [OPINION]

FAS Strategic Security Blog, 24 October 2011, www.fas.org/blog/ssp

By Hans M. Kristensen, Director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists (FAS)

The latest New START treaty aggregate numbers of strategic arms, which was quietly released by the State Department earlier last week, shows modest reductions and important changes in U.S. and Russian strategic nuclear forces.

Most surprisingly, the data shows that Russia has increased its number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads and is now again above the New START limit. Because of the limited format of the released aggregate numbers, however, the changes are not explained or apparent. As a result, though not yet one year old, the New START treaty is already beginning to increase uncertainty about the status of U.S. and Russian nuclear forces.

New START Treaty Aggregate Number Changes 2011*

Category of Data	United States			Russia		
	Feb 2011	Sep 2011	Change	Feb 2011	Sep 2011	Change
Deployed ICBMs, deployed SLBMs, and deployed heavy bombers	882	822	-60	521	516	-5
Warheads on deployed ICBMs, on deployed SLBMs, and warheads counted for deployed heavy bombers	1,800	1,790	-10	1,537	1,566	29
Deployed and non-deployed launchers of ICBMs, deployed and non-deployed launchers of SLBMs, and deployed and non-deployed heavy bombers	1,124	1,043	-81	865	871	6

* New START Aggregate Numbers of Strategic Offensive Arms as of February 5, 2011, and September 2011. Source: U.S. Department of State.

The New START aggregate data shows modest reductions in strategic delivery vehicles and a Russian increase of deployed strategic warheads.

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Overall Changes

Combined, the data [on the chart on page 28] shows that the United States and Russia as of September 2011 deployed 3,356 nuclear warheads on 1,338 strategic delivery vehicles, down from 3,337 warheads on 1,403 delivery vehicles in February 2011. A very modest combined reduction of 19 warheads and 65 delivery vehicles in seven months; apparently they two nuclear superpowers are not in a hurry.

The aggregate numbers include thousands of additional strategic and non-strategic warheads that are not counted by the treaty. To put things in perspective, the U.S. military stockpile includes nearly 5,000 warheads; the Russian stockpile probably about 8,000. In addition, thousands of retired, but still intact, warheads are in storage for a total combined U.S. and Russian inventory of perhaps 19,000 warheads.

Russia

Most surprising is that the New START data erases Russia's achievement from earlier this year when its number of deployed strategic warheads temporarily dipped below the treaty limit of 1,550 warheads. According to the new data, Russia has slightly increased (by 29) the number of warheads deployed on its ballistic missiles and now stands 16 warheads above the treaty limit.

The warhead increase comes at the same time that the number of delivery vehicles has declined by five. But since the New START aggregate data – unlike the previous START treaty – does not include a breakdown of missile types, it is impossible to see where the change happened. As a result, transparency of Russia's strategic nuclear forces is decreasing.

Part of the explanation is the deployment of additional RS-24 ICBMs [Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles], which carry three warheads each. But that's a limited deployment that doesn't account for all. Other parts of the puzzle include continued reduction of the single-warhead SS-25 ICBM force, the operational status of individual Delta IV SSBNs [Ballistic Missile Submarine], and possibly retirement of one of the aging Delta III SSBNs.

The United States

The New START data shows that the United States only removed 10 warheads from its ballistic missiles during the previous seven months, down from 1,800 to 1,790 warheads. The number of delivery vehicles declined by 60, from 882 to 822, a change that probably reflects the removal of nuclear-capable equipment from so-called "phantom" bombers. These bombers are counted

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under the treaty even though they are not actually assigned nuclear missions. The U.S. has not disclosed the number, but another 24, or so, “phantom” bombers probably need to be denuclearized. Stripping these aircraft of their leftover equipment reduces the number of nuclear delivery vehicles counted by the treaty, although it doesn’t actually reduce the nuclear force.

Later this decade will come a gradual reduction of the number of SLBMs [submarine launched ballistic missiles] deployed on SSBNs from 288 to 240. Likewise, if the bomber force is retained, the ICBM force might be reduced to 400 missiles from 450 today.

Conclusions

The New START data shows that Russia and the United States have gotten off to a slow start and excessive nuclear secrecy is reducing the international community’s ability to monitor and analyze the changes. Russia essentially has seven and half years to offload 16 warheads from its force to be in compliance with New START by 2018. Not an impressive arms control standard. Instead, the task for Russian planners will be how to phase out old missiles and phase in new missiles. There will be no real constraint on the Russian force.

The new data underscores the substantial lead the United States has over Russia in strategic nuclear delivery vehicles. Even as Russia deploys the RS-24 ICBM and Bulava SLBM in the coming years, the gradual retirement of the SS-18, SS-19, SS-25 and SS-N-18 could reduce the total number of delivery vehicles to perhaps 400 by the time the New START treaty enters into force in 2018.

In contrast, under current plans, the United States intends to retain 700 strategic delivery vehicles by 2018. Without additional unilateral reductions, the United States could end up with 50 percent more strategic delivery vehicles than Russia in its triad by the turn of the decade. Indeed, the U.S. ICBM force alone could at that time include as many delivery vehicles as the entire Russian triad!

The U.S. force will retain a huge upload capability with several thousand non-deployed nuclear warheads that can double the number of warheads on deployed ballistic missiles if necessary. Russia’s ballistic missile force, which is already loaded to capacity, does not have such an upload capability.

This disparity creates fear of strategic instability and is fueling worst-case planning in Russia to deploy a new “heavy” ICBM later this decade. To prevent a deepening of this trend, the Obama administration’s ongoing nuclear targeting review must significantly reduce the excessive nuclear posture currently planned under New START.

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NNSA Announces Dismantlement of Last B53 Nuclear Bomb

National Nuclear Security Administration, 25 October 2011, nnsa.energy.gov

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) today announced that the last B53 nuclear bomb has been dismantled. The announcement was made at a ceremony at NNSA's Pantex Plant outside Amarillo, Texas. Officials from the Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration and Pantex joined elected officials to commemorate the dismantlement of the final B53 nuclear bomb.

The dismantlement of the 1960s-era weapon system is consistent with President Obama's goal of reducing the number of nuclear weapons. In his 2009 speech in Prague, the President said "We will reduce the role of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy, and urge others to do the same." The dismantlement of the last remaining B53 ensures that the system will never again be part of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile.

"The dismantlement of the B53 bomb – the oldest weapon in America's arsenal and one of the largest in U.S. history – is a major accomplishment that has made the world safer and for which everyone involved should be proud," said Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman. "Safely and securely dismantling surplus weapons is a critical step along the road to achieving President Obama's vision of a world without nuclear weapons."

"The elimination of the B53 is a significant milestone in our efforts to reduce the number of nuclear weapons and implement President Obama's nuclear security agenda," said NNSA Administrator Thomas D'Agostino. "Today, we're moving beyond the Cold War nuclear weapons complex that built it and toward a 21st century Nuclear Security Enterprise. I applaud the outstanding work done by the dedicated men and women across our enterprise to ensure that the B53 dismantlement program was safely completed 12 months ahead of schedule, and appreciate their continued commitment to working in challenging environments to advance a critical national security mission."

NNSA's Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories designed the B53 bomb and after being introduced into the stockpile in 1962, the B53 served a key role in the United States' nuclear deterrent until its retirement in 1997. The B53 bomb is one of the longest lived and highest yield nuclear weapons ever fielded. Its sheer size and weight – about the size of a minivan and approximately 10,000 pounds – provided many challenges for the project team responsible for developing a dismantlement program that meets the requirements of NNSA's rigorous SS-21 process.

NNSA's Seamless Safety for the 21st Century (SS-21) process fully integrates the weapon system with the facility, tooling, operating procedures and personnel involved in the

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dismantlement program to form a safe, efficient and effective operating environment. The benchmark for developing weapons assembly and disassembly processes at the plant, the SS-21 process has been incorporated into all current Pantex weapon programs.

As a key part of its national security mission, NNSA is actively responsible for safely dismantling weapons that are no longer needed, and securely disposing of the excess material and components. The dismantlement process includes four steps: retiring a weapon from active or inactive service; returning and staging it at NNSA's Pantex Plant; taking it apart by physically separating the high explosives from the special nuclear material; and processing the material and components, which includes evaluation, reuse, demilitarization, sanitization, recycling and ultimate disposal.

A fact sheet about the B53 is available here:

<http://nnsa.energy.gov/mediaroom/factsheets/b53factsheet>

A video describing the B53, its dismantlement, its history, and its significance, can be found on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UspUEjMLsdA>

Photos of the B53 are available online at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nnsanews/sets/72157627937731182/>

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Alexander Nevsky Sub to Be Put into Service in Late 2012

ITAR-TASS, 25 October 2011, www.itar-tass.com/en

The fourth-generation nuclear-powered strategic missile carrying submarine Alexander Nevsky built at the Sevmash shipyard in Severodvinsk will start test firing Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles no earlier than in summer 2012, a source at the Russian Governmental Military Industrial Commission told Itar-Tass on Tuesday.

“Following sea trials and a series of successful solitary launches of Bulava missiles, the Alexander Nevsky will be put into service by the Russian Navy in late 2012,” he said. “The first serial missile carrying submarine of the Borey class started its first two-week sea trial in the White Sea the day before. The trial will test the operation of all the submarine units and mechanisms in various regimes. The Alexander Nevsky will return to Sevmash in the first ten days of November for the elimination of possible defects,” he said.

“Weather permitting, the sea trial of the submarine will continue this year. If the sea covers with ice in December, the trial will resume in spring 2012 and last through the end of summer, like it happened in the case of the Yuri Dolgoruky. Hence, the Alexander Nevsky will begin test firing Bulava missiles no earlier than in summer 2012. A series of successful test launches is a must, which means the submarine may be put into service no earlier than in the end of 2012,” the source said.

The Alexander Nevsky has one serious advantage over the Yuri Dolgoruky: it will not have to perform a duo Bulava test launch. “The salvo test launch was necessary for making sure of the missile system’s readiness for being put into service. By the time the Alexander Nevsky starts test firing Bulava missiles, the latter will have been put on combat duty,” he said.

The Sevmash shipyard is a component of the United Shipbuilding Corporation. It is the largest shipbuilding enterprise in Russia and the only shipyard of the country, the main task of which is atomic submarines building for Navy. The enterprise, occupying the area of more than 300 hectares, includes in its structure more than 100 subdivisions. More than 25,000 people work on the basic enterprise of Severodvinsk. From 45 surface ships, 163 submarines (among them 128 have nuclear power units), have been built on Sevmash since 1939. Civil production manufacturing is focused on the oil and gas projects on the Arctic offshore zone. Sevmash specialists also take part in construction of surface fields of Russian North - manufacturing of industrial and accommodation modules, equipment for oil production, oil and gas pipeline and other objects inspection. More than 100 civil vessels of different classes and purposes have been built since 1990 (tugs, mini-bulk carriers, pontoons, barges, fish farms) for foreign customers.

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U.S. Keeps Major Lead over Russia in Nuclear Weapons

The Washington Post, 26 October 2011, www.washingtonpost.com

The United States has slightly reduced its numbers of strategic intercontinental missiles, bombers and nuclear warheads, but it continues to maintain a major advantage over Russia, according to figures released this week by the State Department.

In the eight months since the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with Russia went into effect, the two countries have conducted dozens of on-site inspections of each other's missiles, bombers, stored weapons and test sites. They have notified each other almost 1,500 times about missile movements, flight tests and other actions regulated by the treaty.

The implementation of the accord "has been going very well indeed," said Rose Gottemoeller, assistant secretary of state for arms control, verification and compliance. But analysts cautioned that upcoming elections in the United States and Russia will make progress on arms control unlikely over the next two years.

Since February, according to State Department data released Tuesday, the United States has removed 60 nuclear-weapons delivery systems, mostly bombers, from the deployed category, leaving in place 822 land- and submarine-based intercontinental ballistic missiles and bombers.

The Russians have reduced their deployed systems by five, leaving 516. But Russia has increased by 29 its warheads deployed on strategic weapons; the United States has reduced that number by 10.

Overall, the United States has 1,790 deployed nuclear warheads, and Russia has 1,556. Under the terms of the treaty, both sides have to bring that number down to 1,550 by February 2018. Each also is required to reduce its deployed strategic delivery systems to 700, a provision Russia already meets. "The U.S. edge is secure for the foreseeable future," said Hans Kristensen, a nuclear arms specialist at the Federation of American Scientists.

Under the treaty, Russia and the United States are required to show each other their newest strategic nuclear delivery systems. In March, a Russian team inspected the B-1B heavy bomber at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona. The exhibition was designed to show that the plane had been reconfigured so that it could not carry nuclear bombs and therefore should no longer be counted under the START treaty.

That same month, a U.S. delegation was shown the newest RS-24 road-mobile Russian intercontinental missile launcher at the Teykovo military base, 135 miles northeast of Moscow. They also went to the Votkinsk Machine-Building Plant, in central Russia, to view the missile.

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The five major nuclear powers – Britain, France, China, the United States and Russia – have set up preliminary working groups as a first step toward substantive talks under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which calls for them to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons. Gottemoeller said the effort represented “baby steps.”

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