

# Weekly ICBM EAR Report



*Image: Illustration of the Sentinel next-generation ICBM. Credit: Northrop Grumman - Space News*

**Prepared by Peter Huessy**

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**Edition: Week of April 25, 2026**

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**ICBM EAR Week of April 25th, Prepared by Peter Huessy, Senior Fellow at NIDS and the Gold Institute for International Strategy, and President of Geostrategic Analysis**

**Summary**

The Ear brings you quotes from both our military and Hill friends re rebuilding our deterrent; a review of Congressional and administration developments; some international developments of interest; an archival essay from NIPP on alternatives to minimal deterrence; and another archival NIPP review from 2010 of arms control proposals; an ICBM EAR essay which looks at what a new Congress might do re nuclear deterrence budgets; multiple essays on Iran; a repeat of our previous essay on North Korea and Iran; NIDS calendar and registration for upcoming in person and zoom events. And a wonderful editorial cartoon from Michael Ramirez.

**Brief Commentary, News and Quotes of the Week**

**“REPORTER: Would you use a nuclear weapon against Iran? PRESIDENT TRUMP: No. Why would a stupid question like that be asked? Why would I use a nuclear weapon when we’ve totally decimated Iran without it? A nuclear weapon should never be allowed to be used by anybody.”**

**Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE)] & U.S. Commander** in the Indo-Pacific: The US needs at least 200 B-21 bombers for nuclear deterrence to protect the homeland, and for strike capabilities.

**President Trump:** “[On Sunday], an Iranian-flagged cargo ship named TOUSKA, nearly 900 feet long and weighing almost as much as an aircraft carrier, tried to get past our Naval Blockade, and it did not go well for them.”

**Bob Peters, Heritage Foundation** senior research fellow: “[On Thursday at a Strategic Weapons in the 21st Century event], we heard great things from @NNSANews and [NNSA Administrator Brandon Williams] as well as Asst Sec War Kadlec: things are moving faster on pit production, warhead production, and they are thinking hard about strategic systems and more diverse nuclear weapons. Onwards and faster.”

**President Trump:** The U.S. Navy Guided Missile Destroyer USS SPRUANCE intercepted the TOUSKA [under US Treasury Sanctions] in the Gulf of Oman. The U.S. Marines have custody of the vessel.

**“Northrop to invest \$2.5B to hasten B-21 production.”**

**Vice Adm. Robert Gaucher**, submarines and program acquisition executive undersea, fielding the first Columbia-class boat by 2028 is an “all-hands-on-deck effort” and it is “going to be a heavy lift.”

**Air Mobility Command** looks to pair B-21 with “capable, modern tanker”

**USINDOPACOM Commander Adm. Samuel Paparo:** The Air Force should nearly double its planned purchase of B-21 stealth bombers to deter China and counter Beijing’s rapidly expanding nuclear arsenal.

**President Trump** ordered the U.S. military to “shoot and kill” small Iranian boats that deploy mines in the Strait of Hormuz

## Administration Nuclear and Strategic Developments

**The 95th Wing officially activated** the 95th Maintenance Group, the 95th Operations Group and the 95th Operations Support Squadron during a ceremony at Offutt AFB, a move that 8th Air Force and Joint-Global Strike Operations Center Commander Maj. Gen. Ty Neuman said, “ensures the command structure is designed for enduring effectiveness and readiness to support national leadership and combatant commanders worldwide,” according to a 8th Air Force/J-GSOC news release.

**Pentagon and NNSA officials** said the United States must continue modernizing its nuclear arsenal, citing the need to simultaneously deter two nuclear adversaries, China and Russia, at a Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces hearing.

**Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ken Wilsbach:** “Our 2027 budget request funds our priorities of readiness, modernization and taking care of our Airmen and their families. **Looking at readiness, it significantly increases accounts for flying hours, spare parts, munitions, maintenance, and advanced training that reflects the realities of** today’s battlefield and tomorrow’s fight.”

**President Trump** on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> announced that U.S. forces seized an Iranian-flagged cargo ship that tried to bypass the American blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

**Cmdr. Art Richardson** relieved [Cmdr. Martin] Roschmann as commanding officer of USS Maine (SSBN 741) Gold Crew during a ceremony at Naval Base Kitsap–Bangor.

**Space Force Lt. Gen. Steven P. Whitney**, Director, Force Structure, Resources and Assessment (J-8), said that the War Department’s \$1.5 trillion FY-27 budget request includes \$71.4 billion to sustain and modernize all three legs of the nuclear triad and \$20.2 billion for NC3 architecture.

## International Nuclear & Strategic Developments

**NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte**, to the Nuclear Policy Symposium: “we must ensure NATO’s nuclear deterrence remains credible, safe, secure and effective, [during] times of great instability...[the] importance of nuclear deterrence” is growing.”

**Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko** warned that any European countries that accepted deployments of French nuclear-capable aircraft would make themselves targets for attacks by Russia in the event of a conflict.

**North Korea on April 20<sup>th</sup>** oversaw the testing of surface-to-surface Hwasong-11 Ra ballistic missiles armed with cluster bomb warheads and fragmentation mine warheads.

**The Chinese People’s Liberation Army** is pushing beyond a chain of archipelagos to hold rare military drills that could be seen as a challenge to U.S. dominance in the Western Pacific.

## Congressional Nuclear & Strategic Developments

**The House Armed Services Committee** Hearing April 22 on Strategic Nuclear Forces, Missile Defense and Space. <https://armedservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=6498>

**Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE) member of the HASC** notes that Offutt AFB is one of the most critical installations in the DoD, serving as U.S. Strategic Command HQ & playing a central role in nuclear deterrence, global intelligence, electronic warfare, & aerial surveillance. Protecting the security & privacy of our bases is essential.

**Pentagon and NNSA officials** said the United States must continue modernizing its nuclear arsenal, citing the need to simultaneously deter two nuclear adversaries, China and Russia at a Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces hearing.

**The Center for Strategic and International Studies** wrote: @SenatorFischer joined @CSISDefense's HTK Series to examine the future of U.S. strategic forces and discuss her legislative priorities as Chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee's Strategic Forces subcommittee.

### **Past & Future Events from NIDS**

You can register for all of our virtual and in-person events at [Events - National Institute for Deterrence Studies](#). If you can't make it to an event, our podcasts are available here: [NIDS Podcast Network - National Institute for Deterrence Studies](#).

Past Huesy Seminars can be found here: [NIDS YouTube Events Channel](#).

To share additional feedback or to add your team to our invitation list, please email me at [kcherington@thinkdeterrence.com](mailto:kcherington@thinkdeterrence.com). Thank you again for your support and for being part of our dynamic community shaping the future of international security. We're excited to have you with us and look forward to your continued engagement.

### **Remarks of Maj Gen Stacy Jo Huser, Commander, 20<sup>th</sup> USAF**

[https://youtu.be/YZ\\_SIDRAEG0?si=ybWez\\_kwUKrI7sqA](https://youtu.be/YZ_SIDRAEG0?si=ybWez_kwUKrI7sqA).



10HS Stacy Jo Huser  
Transcript.pdf

### **Remarks of George Miller (Formerly LLNL)**

Stockpile Stewardship Program, Nuclear Testing and Sustaining the Nuclear Deterrent

<https://youtu.be/aghOM7EmIlg>



Transcript HS 11  
George Miller.pdf

***Additional Below (Pgs. 10 - 12)***

## Reports and Studies and Assessments

**Report from the Archives:** The NIPP put together a report in 2014 examining alternatives to what was termed minimal deterrence, often advocated by those within the abolition community.

### Alternative to Minimal Deterrence, NIPP 2014



MD-II-for-web.pdf

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In 2010 in a previous **Nuclear Posture Review**, a number of arms control proposals were made. This report, also from NIPP, is *A Look Back: Arms Control and the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review*. Here are some highlights.

#### **Arms Control**

--The U.S. will follow a three-fold approach to countering the most pressing nuclear threats—nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism: “bolster the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and its centerpiece, the NPT, by reversing the nuclear ambitions of North Korea and Iran, strengthening International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and enforcing compliance with them, impeding illicit nuclear trade, and promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy without increasing proliferation risks”; “secure all vulnerable nuclear materials in four years”; and “pursue [other] arms control efforts...as a means of strengthening our ability to mobilize broad international support” to strengthen the nonproliferation regime and secure nuclear materials. [‘10 NPR, vi-vii]

#### **B-26 A New Nuclear Review for a New Age**

--The U.S. will not conduct nuclear testing and will “seek ratification and entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and prompt commencement of negotiations on a verifiable Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty.” [‘10 NPR, 46]--The U.S. “will meet its commitment under Article VI of the NPT to pursue nuclear disarmament and will make demonstrable progress over the next five to ten years.” [‘10 NPR, 16--The Obama administration will seek ratification of, and then implement, the New START Treaty. “**The NPR was tied to the New START process. Indeed, our explicit guidance from the resident was that the first phase of the Nuclear Posture Review would focus on providing guidance to the New START negotiators, in terms of the requirements of strategic stability, at a lower number. [“Senior defense official,” NPR background briefing, 6 Apr 10]-Within the New START limits, the U.S. can preserve the nuclear triad for strategic stability; continue to field nuclear forces sufficient for an “assured devastating second-strike capability”; maintain the capacity and nondeployed warheads for uploading strategic delivery vehicles if circumstances warrant; keep open the option of deploying a suitable number of nonnuclear ICBMs or SLBMs; and, in general, “retain the power to determine the composition of our force structure, allowing the United States complete flexibility to deploy, maintain, and modernize our strategic nuclear forces in a manner that best protects our national security interests.” [DUSD(P) Miller, SFRC testimony, 16 Jun 10, 274; SECDEF Gates, SFRC testimony, 18 May 10, 44]-“The U.S. is committed to the long-term goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. The President has directed a review of potential future reductions in U.S. nuclear weapons below New START levels.” [‘10 NPR, 29]-“**Non-strategic nuclear weapons, together with the non-deployed nuclear weapons of both sides, should be included in any future reduction arrangements between the United States and Russia.**” [‘10 NPR, 27]-“**Following substantial further nuclear force reductions with Russia, [the U.S. will] engage other states possessing nuclear weapons, over time, in a multilateral effort to limit, reduce, and eventually eliminate all nuclear weapons worldwide.**” [‘10 NPR, 47]-The U.S. will “pursue high-level dialogues with Russia and China to promote more stable, transparent, and non-threatening strategic relationships between those countries and the United States.” [‘10 NPR, 46]-“The conditions that would ultimately permit the United States and others to give up their nuclear weapons without risking greater international instability and insecurity are very demanding,” including “resolution of regional disputes that can motivate rival states to acquire and maintain nuclear weapons”;**

**A New Nuclear Review for a New Age B-27** “success in halting proliferation of nuclear weapons”; “much greater transparency into the programs and capabilities of key countries of concern”; “verification methods and technologies capable of detecting violations of disarmament obligations”; and “enforcement measures strong and credible enough to deter such violations...Clearly, such conditions do not exist today. But we can—and must—work actively to create those conditions.” [‘10 NPR, 48-49]

**Editors Thoughts: What Happens if the Progressive Left Controls Congress in the Next Session 2027-8?**

You can often tell what the abolition folks are up to from what amendments are offered in HASC and SASC by for example progressive Dems (Garamendi and Khanna, Warren and Markey) during markup of the defense bill or NDAA. These amendments often seek to change US nuclear, missile defense, and arms control matters especially the program of record.

In 2025 within the HASC amendments were offered to: (a) Kill Sentinel; (b) take out all space based elements in the Golden Dome program; (c) reduce the number of nuclear "pits" to be produced to no more than 20 by 2050 vs the current requirement of 80 per year by 2030; (d) eliminate all funding for the SLCM-N which is the sea-launched cruise missile nuclear variant which would be deployed circa 2035. Other concerns include opposition to the development of the B61 earth penetrating gravity bomb (which will be deployed.) These amendments in 2025 while all DEFEATED, generally received unanimous support from the Democrat minority---Golden Dome had one Dem Supporter. The amendment on pit production with eventually withdrawn so there was no vote on that.

The abolition community as a whole generally supports a relatively new proposed for a "nuclear freeze" although not fully detailed. The community has been generally opposed to new warheads although they have not completely opposed all SLEP or Service Life Extension Programs for existing warheads. They have supported a ban on all testing as called for the CTBT, which was not agreed to by the Senate in a close 1999 vote.

The recent revelation that China as far back as 2020 was testing nuclear warheads (See reports and remarks by Schneider and Gertz and Yeaw) underneath the CTBT threshold to develop battlefield nuclear weapons—a report from NIPP detailed earlier this month.

While the abolition community rejects the entire idea of what they term "nuclear war fighting"—which is retaliating with nuclear weapons against the military assets, leadership, security forces, and key industrial production capabilities of an adversary. With respect to Russia or China, both nations believe in the effective use of battlefield nuclear weapons as a means of eliminating US conventional military advantages and to get the US to stand down and not come to the defense of our allies. The war against Ukraine by Russia is just such a use of coercive nuclear force---restricting NATO's assistance to Ukraine to limited weapons systems but not NATO forces.

Much of the literature and analysis from the abolition community is unclear whether they favor any nuclear retaliation by the US or its allies should nuclear weapons be used against us first. What exactly the abolitionists are in favor of striking is unclear—while often implying that city busting (counter value) is the right policy, and not "counter force," the community often declares that retaliating with nuclear weapons at all against any target is "war fighting" and to be rejected.

The theme of two movies ---Oppenheimer, Dynamite-- and Annie Jacobson's book On Nuclear War are all three examples of the abolition community pushing in the same direction: nuclear deterrence strategy as adopted by the USA is immoral, too expensive, and NOT workable---and will eventually fail and we will then all perish under general nuclear war.

These folks are explicit about this. Nuclear Deterrence will not work forever and when it breaks down, which all predict it will, we all die----and as Carl Sagan often claimed, the use of even a very limited number of nuclear weapons would still cause nuclear winter and lead to the death of billions of people. This is the view held by many within the "arms control" community which is the name they have appropriated for their organizations. Ms. Jacobsen supported abolition, which both movies also implied was the right path forward. But when criticized for having nothing to replace current deterrent strategy as we cannot get to abolition anytime soon, Jacobsen acknowledged she "was not an expert" on the subject and would allow the real experts to figure that out.

The magic number for the community is 1000 warheads which is the required next step toward zero but from the 1550 level achieved through the New START agreement (which is now expired). China and Russia have shown no interest in arms control although Putin says Moscow has approached the US for "talks" with no response; China has said the US has to come down to the Chinese level of deployed warheads and then talks can begin. Supporters in the US for reducing the US deployed force to 1000 warheads claim that DoD assessments have determined the US could unilaterally reduce its nuclear forces down to that level and still maintain deterrence, but which at even a higher level of warheads (155) the same people assure us will eventually end up in the breakdown of deterrence and the outbreak of general nuclear war.

The critics of US deterrent strategy and especially the 2023 Deterrent Posture Commission report are opposed to any INCREASE in nuclear warhead numbers and are generally opposed to any qualitative increase such as

providing warheads with yield or accuracy improvements. Some have proposed instead for greater conventional capability. Although it is precisely the US conventional advantage in the military that compels Russia and China to build more nuclear forces especially battlefield nuclear weapons precisely to overcome such US conventional advantage.

Now building a better conventional deterrent allows progressives to be for better or more defense, and on conventional force matters that is an area where their probably is widespread agreement. However, many within the HASC were clearly opposed to spaced based “offensive” stuff as there is often rhetorical opposition to what is termed the “militarization” of space, although the Chinese and Russians are doing just that.

The US Navy by that logic militarized the oceans with its 592 ship Navy under President Reagan. —but international ocean commerce was \$700 billion in 1961 when Kennedy became President; it is now near \$28 trillion. In short, the US Navy made the oceans safe for commerce by its military presence. Remember good fences make good neighbors.

**Newsmax Blog Site: “In Defense of Liberty”**  
**“They Don’t Think Like We Think”**  
**Clare M. Lopez**  
*20 April 2026*

In a 17 April 2026 “[Beyond the Ideological](#)” Substack post entitled “The IRGC’s Eschatological Gamble and the Arab World’s Verdict”, Zineb Riboua explains some important realities about how the Iranian regime’s leadership – clerical and Revolutionary Guards – or whatever’s left of them think about the world and their role in it. As U.S. negotiators head back to talks in Islamabad, Pakistan to engage yet again with their Iranian counterparts in what are likely the waning hours of a ceasefire agreement, it’s critical they understand that those sitting across the table (or the hallway?) from them do not think like we think.

From the time of the 1979 Khomeini revolution in Iran, that regime has ruled according to an eschatological mindset that is distinctly different from the way most of the rest of the world thinks. Iran’s clerical establishment, first led by self-appointed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and from 1989-2026 by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, is suffused in beliefs oriented on Shi’ite Islam and the Twelfth Imam, whom they hold to be Islam’s messianic figure, the *Mahdi*. In hiding or ‘occultation’ since his disappearance in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, the Twelfth Imam is expected by them to return at the End of Times to usher in the Day of Judgment that is supposed to result in the slaughter or conversion to Islam of any remaining Christians and Jews and the triumph of Islam over the entire world. The twist we must understand is that these Iranian regime ‘Twelvers’ think they can hasten the return of the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam by literally instigating Armageddon on earth...as they drive for a deliverable nuclear weapon to make that happen.

This is why refusal to give up that quest is absolute for them, no matter what they may agree to or sign in talks with U.S. negotiators. This is, after all, a regime that has violated every agreement it’s ever signed, from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Of course, as they would see it, Islamic Law (shariah) obligates faithful Muslims to lie to infidels when the objective to be achieved (jihad and destruction of the Jewish State of Israel) likewise is obligatory. Clearly, this is a regime that must not be allowed to survive in any form whatsoever. Importantly as well, we must understand that the people of Iran are not identifiable with these regime Twelvers and their nihilistic eschatological beliefs but rather have risen up in protest against them time and time again over the last 47 years, only to be repeatedly crushed—most recently with the slaughter of as many as 50,000 or more Iranian civilian protesters in January 2026.

Prolonging engagement with any remnants of this regime means prolonging the 47 years of suffering the Iranian people already have endured. As Harold Rhode and Dan Diker write in their [19 April 2026 piece](#), “The Iranian Regime’s Deceptive Negotiation Strategy: No Surprises”, these Iranians are past masters of deception and are especially adept at stringing along their Western interlocutors in long, drawn-out negotiations (which they see as evidence of our submission already). It may be pointed out that the U.S. too may have reason to buy time to complete force preparations for a return to kinetic operations as threatened by President Trump—but if so, the 22 April 2026 deadline on the two-week ceasefire approaches rapidly. Moreover, as of this writing, it is not clear whether the Iranian side is committed to showing up at all in Islamabad for additional talks, claiming that the U.S. blockade of the Strait of Hormuz must be ended before Iran will agree to more talks.

Meanwhile, there are indications emerging that the Iranian regime may be splintering within. The Islamabad negotiators led by Foreign Minister Amir Abbas Araghchi and *Majles* (parliament) Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf may not be entirely in sync with the IRGC commanders—Ahmad Vahidi, Mohsen Reza'i, and Supreme National Security Council head Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr, and others—who actually run the regime today. Understanding and exacerbating such splits, if they do exist, should be part of the U.S. negotiating posture.

Our hopes go with envoys Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff that, given their experiences dealing with these Iranian true believers over the last months, they will not be deceived by their false postures of politeness and cooperation. Understand that this Iranian regime's own hopes for the fulfillment of their eschatological worldview cannot happen without a deliverable nuclear weapons program. Even the loss of its regional proxies—HAMAS, Hizballah, Houthis—is not viewed as devastating to prospects for Armageddon and return of the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam as relinquishing its nuclear weapons program and the ballistic missile delivery system it relies on would be.

*Clare M. Lopez is the Founder/President of Lopez Liberty LLC.*

The ICBM EAR recommends some additional material on Iran to fully understand current US policy.

Ken Timmerman: <https://amgreatness.com/2026/04/19/the-perils-of-a-grand-bargain-with-iran/>

Joe Schmitz, former IG for DOD & a longtime friend, wrote about this recently at his Newsmax blog - 7 April 2026  
- **"Epic Fury' Trump's Opportunity for 'Just War President' Legacy**

<https://www.newsmax.com/josepheschmitz/afghanistan-iraq-revolutionary/2026/04/07/id/1252071/> and <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ecclesiastes%203&version=NIV>

Both Judaism & Christianity, but also international law, base Just War on four premises that must be met to justify abandoning talks & turning to warfare:

Briefly, these conditions are: risk posed by aggressor must be lasting, grave, certain; all other means of putting an end to it must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective; must be serious prospects of success; and use of arms must not produce evils graver than evil to be eliminated

The top issue for the US is the absolute Iranian regime commitment to its nuclear weapons program - extensively documented by IAEA, David Albright's 'ISIS' & the NCRI.

This essay here is also noteworthy: <https://www.newsmax.com/insiders/claremlopez/id-605/>

Remember the Iranian regime is ideologically driven & according to its own Shi'ite Islamic 12'er eschatology, it seeks to instigate Armageddon on earth to bring back the Mahdi (12th Imam for them) to usher in the Day of Judgment & End Times - there is simply no diplomatic pathway, no negotiations w/a regime like this.

**Other essays of Interest:**

**Israeli Sources Say Site Hit in Tehran Was Developing Nuclear Trigger Component | The Epoch Times**

<https://www.newsmax.com/claremlopez/assad-ncri-syria/2024/12/26/id/1192957/>

<https://www.newsmax.com/claremlopez/iran-nuclear-missiles/2025/02/03/id/1197594/>

<https://www.newsmax.com/claremlopez/gabbard-khamenei-yemen/2025/04/08/id/1206075/>

<https://www.newsmax.com/claremlopez/gabbard-ncri-spnd/2025/05/15/id/1211144/>

<https://www.newsmax.com/claremlopez/enrichment-fordow-natanz/2025/06/25/id/1216445/>

**The ICBM EAR Reprints this Essay #4:**

***North Korea, Iran and Comment by the ICBM Ear: There are lessons in the NK nuclear development process that are important re Iran.***

The USA repeatedly played diplomatic rope-a-dope with North Korea over its potential nuclear weapons program although we could have destroyed the very initial nuclear reactor in North Korea. Pyongyang now has a range of nuclear weapons estimated at upwards of 100 or more.

On the other hand, the Israelis and United States repeatedly took down the identifiable parts of the Iranian nuclear weapons programs, as well as having eliminated nuclear reactors in Iraq and Syria. We also countered a range of nuclear activities in Iraq post-Desert Storm period and through the Proliferation Security Initiative, took down what were initial parts of the Libyan nuclear program by intercepting shipped centrifuges from Malaysia going to Tripoli. The result: all four nations do not now have nuclear weapons.

Clare Lopez, an expert on Iran's nuclear program, explains why George Perkovich has everything backwards in his essay in the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists which the EAR reviewed last week. Here is a slight update of the evidence she helped provide.

First, Iran did not comply with the JCPOA requirement that they reveal all their nuclear related military activity. Those were the key provisions which, if not complied with by Iran, made the nuclear deal null and void--the deal could not go forward.

Second, the Iranians worked on nuclear warhead triggers, exploding bridge wire nuclear detonators (first discussed in a November 2011 Quarterly IAEA report), warhead shells, as well as having a program (the AMAD Plan) that was projected by the Iranians themselves to build between 7-11 nuclear warheads. Material documenting the entire Iran nuclear program was spirited out of Iran by Israeli commandos in 2018 that the IAEA concluded revealed the entirety of Iran's nuclear activities and which were a blueprint for building nuclear weapons.

Third, the assumed halt or pause in 2003 of the Iran nuclear program was actually a further dispersal of the program among various Iranian institutions to better hide the nature and the extent of the nuclear activities which continued.

Fourth, Iran continued to work on building both medium and long range missiles, and with the targeting of Diego Garcia revealed a capability of launching such missiles some 2500 miles or 4000 kilometers, double the distance claimed as the Iranian maximum capability by the Iranian government itself, as well as by Russia, and by most of the US based nuclear abolition community, including the BAS and their parent organization, the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Fifth, the widespread but now obviously false claim that Iran's missiles could not and were not ever intended with a range to reach Europe was used as the key argument [repeatedly trotted out by the BAS] to take down the European-based missile defense that former President Bush (43) had proposed to build to defend Europe and NATO from Iranian ballistic missile threats.

Sixth, leaving the JCPOA was no different than leaving the INF agreement with the Russians. In both cases, one party to the agreements was not in compliance—Russia deploying missiles of INF range and Iran failing to disclose and dismantle its military related nuclear activities.



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**Events**

Virtual and in-person opportunities for engagement with experts in the field of deterrence and national security

***Nuclear Deterrence Without Full Scale Nuclear Testing: Stockpile Stewardship, Confidence, and Risk***

**Dr. George Miller**  
Director, Emeritus at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

**Friday, April 24, 2026**  
**10:00am - 11:00am Eastern**

**Virtual Event**

Dr. George Miller examines how stockpile stewardship sustains deterrence credibility without nuclear testing, drawing on decades of experience in U.S. nuclear security. The discussion highlights scientific innovation, risk management, missile defense, and implications for strategic stability.



***Missile Defense: Assessing the Effectiveness and Looking to the Future***

**Frank Rose**  
President of Chevalier Strategic Advisors  
Former Principal Deputy Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration

**Friday, June 5, 2026**  
**10:00am - 11:00am Eastern**

**Virtual Event**

Frank Rose examines the role of U.S. and allied missile defense in today's threat environment, arguing that effective defenses can reduce escalation and strengthen strategic stability. The discussion explores the intersection of missile defense, space, technology, and deterrence.



**Rear Admiral Todd Weeks**

**Program Executive Officer, Strategic Submarines  
LIVE!  
At the Capitol Hill Club, Washington D.C.**

**Friday, May 15  
7:45am - 9:00am Eastern**

**Live Event - Breakfast will be served**



**Lt. Gen. Michael J. Lutton**

**Deputy Commander for USSTRATCOM**

**LIVE!  
At the Capitol Hill Club, Washington D.C.**

**Wednesday, June 3rd  
7:45am - 9:00am Eastern**

**Live Event - Breakfast will be served**



**In case you missed it...**

***Readiness, Resilience, and Credibility: The ICBM Mission Today***

**Major General Stacy Jo Huser  
Commander of the 20th Air Force, Air Force Global Strike Command**

**Friday, April 17, 2026  
10:00am - 11:00am Eastern**

**Virtual Event**

Maj. Gen. Stacy Jo Huser, Commander of the 20th Air Force, connects daytoday operational readiness of the ICBM force to broader strategic outcomes. This seminar provides a commander's perspective on why resilience across people, infrastructure, and command systems matters to national and allied security.



***The Hypersonic Imperative: Restoring U.S. Advantage in a Contested Battlespace***

**Michael White**

**Principal Director for Hypersonics, Office of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering**

**Friday, April 10, 2026**

Mr. White explains what hypersonics are, why they compress the time scale of battle, and how they challenge existing defenses in highly contested environments. Drawing from the Atlantic Council's Hypersonic Capabilities Task Force report, he discusses comprehensive layered defeat, affordability, scalability, allied cooperation, and the future of hypersonic strike and defense.



***The Challenges to Ensuring Nuclear Deterrence***

**Lt. Gen. Jason Armagost**

**Deputy Commander of Air Force Global Strike Command and Deputy Commander of Air Forces Strategic-Air, U.S. Strategic Command**

**Friday, April 3, 2026**

General Armagost examines how the United States is adapting deterrence strategy amid simultaneous nuclear competition with Russia and China, persistent strategic signaling, and rapid technological change. He discusses the challenges of sustaining credible deterrence while modernizing all three legs of the nuclear triad—Sentinel, the B21 Raider, bomber force recapitalization, and NC3 modernization—without sacrificing readiness.



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*The National Institute for Deterrence Studies (NIDS) provides national security analysis, policy solutions, and education to inform legislators, policymakers, national security practitioners, and the public. We advocate for peace through the responsible application of America's vibrant nuclear deterrent. The National Institute for Deterrence Studies is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization.*

## **About the ICBM EAR**

Peter Huessy's ICBM EAR Report was originally prepared for the USAF in 1981 to help inform US nuclear deterrent policy professionals at the height of the Cold War. Eventually it was provided only to key elements of the Nuclear related Aerospace Industry. The objective: help build an informed political community on nuclear deterrent issues, especially the deployment of the US nuclear deterrent, especially the MX (Peacekeeper) missile. The report covered developments in the nuclear arena on a weekly basis, including developments in Congress, key events, threat assessments, remarks of top US officials, international activity key to US security interests, nuclear budget and program element issues, and arms control and proliferation matters as well.

### **Weekly ICBM EAR Report**

Prepared by Peter Huessy

Edition: Week of April 25, 2026

*Contact: [NIDS@ThinkDeterrence.com](mailto:NIDS@ThinkDeterrence.com)*

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