

CURRENT JOURNAL CONTENTS

A Monthly Current Information Service



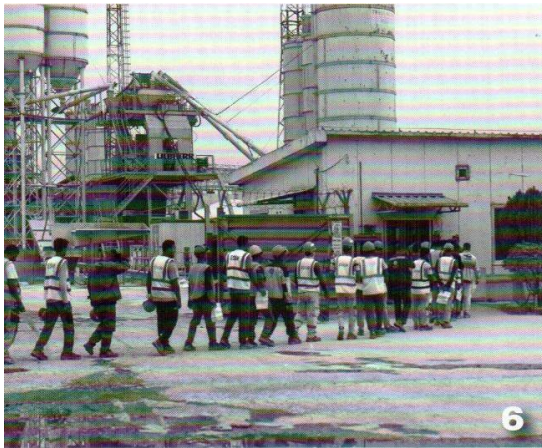
MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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Trump's Chaotic and Reckless
Iran Nuclear Policy
By Daryl G. Kimball

- 4 In Brief**
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10 Years Ago in ACT

- 6 The Right to Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy:
A Disputed Matter**
By Mark Goodman
Since the NPT was negotiated, there have been disagreements
over specific rights to use nuclear energy peacefully.

New Voices

- 11 Debunking the Myth of a Unified
China-Russia Threat**
By Georgi Ivanov
A growing narrative among U.S. strategists frames China
and Russia as a monolithic threat, but the potential for
cooperation between them is overstated.

Looking Back

- 27 South Africa and the 1995 NPT
Review Conference**
By Jean du Preez
A former South African diplomat applies lessons from the
1995 nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review and Extension
Conference for delegates to the next one, scheduled for April.



Cover photo: The Akkuyu nuclear power plant, located 500 kilometers south of Ankara and built by Rosatom, the Russian atomic energy corporation, is Turkey's first such complex and reflects one of many peaceful applications of nuclear technology. States that forswear nuclear weapons are promised access to nuclear technology for peaceful uses under the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. (Photo courtesy of Rosatom)

News and Analysis

15 Trump Strikes Iran Amid Nuclear Talks

The U.S.-Israeli military operation prompted Iranian counterstrikes and occurred two days after U.S. and Iranian negotiators met in Geneva for negotiations on a nuclear deal.

16 New START Expires As U.S. Urges 'Modernized' Treaty

For the moment, however, the two nuclear superpowers are left with no legally binding curbs on deploying their strategic nuclear weapons.

18 U.S. Accuses China of Nuclear Test, Preparations

It was the first direct U.S. accusation of a violation of China's obligations as a signatory to the 1996 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

19 U.S.-Saudi Deal Said to Loosen Nonproliferation Vows

The bilateral agreement may allow some type of uranium enrichment by Riyadh, according to a Trump administration report seen by *Arms Control Today*.

21 France to Increase Nuclear Force and European Nuclear Cooperation

In a major policy shift, President Emmanuel Macron announced a new strategy that would allow for nuclear air forces to be deployed temporarily outside of France and ordered an increase in France's nuclear arsenal.

22 U.S. Defense Spending Rises by More Than 17 Percent

Congress passed a total defense budget of \$1.05 trillion for fiscal year 2026, including \$3.9 billion for Department of Energy nuclear weapons activities.

23 U.S. Congress Funds Nuclear Bunker-Buster Prototype

Congress authorized \$57 million this fiscal year for the new weapon, which is designed to destroy hard and deeply buried targets.

24 IAEA Board Discusses Nuclear Safety in Ukraine

The extraordinary January meeting came after repeated Russian strikes on Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

25 France Announces Priorities for Global Partnership

France took over the presidency of the multilateral initiative combatting weapons of mass destruction.

26 New Trump Strategy Promotes U.S. Arms Industry

The strategy, issued by President Donald Trump in an executive order, is aimed at advancing U.S. military industrial capacity and faster arms deliveries.

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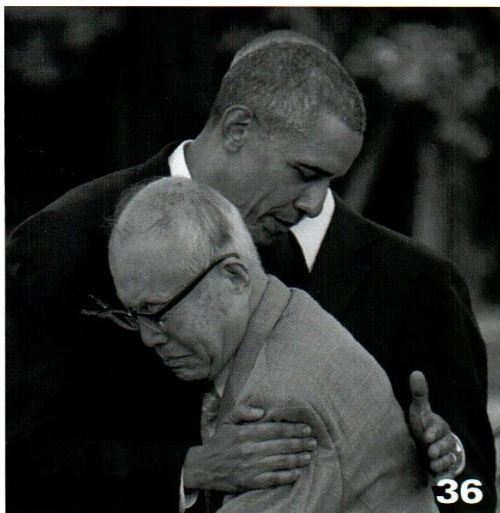
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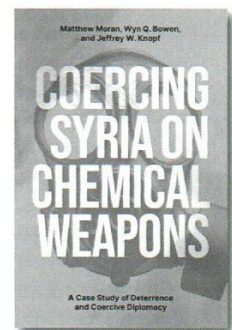
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 An Interview with Ambassador Do Hung Viet of Vietnam, president of the 2026 NPT Review Conference
- 12 The U.S. Has Been Central to the NPT Since the Beginning. What Will It Do in 2026?**
 By Matthew Sharp
 NPT parties must take care not to misread the priorities and positions of key players such as the United States.
- 16 U.S. Negotiators Were Ill-Prepared for Serious Nuclear Talks With Iran**
 By Kelsey Davenport
 Special envoy Steve Witkoff's failure to learn the nuclear file and surround himself with technical experts to negotiate a deal is a diplomatic disservice.

33 Book Review
Coercing Syria on Chemical Weapons: A Case Study of Deterrence and Coercive Diplomacy

Reviewed by Chris Quillen

The book by Matthew Moran, Wyn Q. Bowen, and Jeffrey W. Knopf provides a case study of the most significant challenge to the international nonproliferation regime in the 21st century.





News and Analysis

22 Trump Seeks Deal With Iran to End War

But it is unclear if Tehran is willing to negotiate or if Israel would agree to a ceasefire.

23 North Korea Seeks Nuclear Recognition for U.S. Talks

North Korea is ready for peace or war with the United States, leader Kim Jong Un says.

25 States Gather for 11th NPT Review Conference

The month-long meeting faces a myriad of challenges as it tries to strengthen the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

26 Syria Pursues Plan to Complete CW Elimination

The new government is seeking to overcome the legacy of ousted leader Bashar al-Assad.

28 NNSA Charts Buildup as Delays Mount

The agency has set ambitious targets for increasing nuclear weapons production.

29 Pentagon Review to Assess Strategic Numbers

The new study will look at strategic force requirements and potential additional theater nuclear weapons programs.

31 News In Brief

U.S. Intelligence: China Not on Taiwan Timeline
 New U.S. Short-Range Missile Fired Against Iran
 Finland to Join New European Nuclear Deterrent Concept
 Russia Concocts Fresh Ukrainian Bomb Claims
 Pentagon Labels AI Company Supply Chain Risk

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The Arms Control Association (ACA), founded in 1971, is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to promoting public understanding and support for effective arms control policies. Through its media and public education programs and its magazine *Arms Control Today*, ACA provides policymakers, journalists, educators, and the interested public with authoritative information and analyses on arms control, proliferation, and global security issues.



Arms Control THE SOURCE ON NONPROLIFERATION AND GLOBAL SECURITY **TODAY**

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Don't Make a Right

By Daryl G. Kimball

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33 Looking Back

When Gorbachev and Reagan
Tried to End the Nuclear Threat

By Frank N. von Hippel

At a moment of acute nuclear angst, the Soviet leader's proposal led to the 1986 Reykjavik summit and energized bilateral nuclear arms negotiations.



6 Managing the Dangers of Iran's Remaining Nuclear Capabilities

By Matthew Bunn

U.S. and Israeli military operations, although setting back Iran's nuclear capabilities, may have ruined chances for an effective nuclear deal for years to come.

14 Coping with Syria's Chemical Weapons Legacy: An Interview with Mohamad Katoub, Syrian Ambassador to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons



News and Analysis

20 Trump Dismisses Using Nuclear Arms Against Iran as Talks Stall

The U.S. President said he would not use nuclear weapons against Iran weeks after his threat to destroy the Iranian civilization prompted concerns that he was considering nuclear strikes.

21 Costs Soar in \$1.45 Trillion Defense Request

U.S. spending on nuclear weapons will rise to \$71.4 billion in fiscal year 2027 if Congress approves President Trump's \$1.45 trillion Pentagon budget proposal.

24 AI Plays Major Role in the War on Iran

Senior U.S. officials said the Pentagon relied on an AI-powered data-fusion and decision-support program to identify top-priority targets and help choose the weapons used in attacking them.

25 U.S. Moves to Speed Nuclear Design, Weapon Production

The National Nuclear Security Administration is taking steps to design and produce new nuclear weapons faster, according to recent legislation and budget justification documents for fiscal year 2027.

26 U.S. Moves Missile Defenses to Middle East

The head of U.S. Forces Korea said the U.S. is moving THAAD missile defense interceptors from South Korea to the Middle East, a sign the Iran war is straining the U.S. stockpile.

27 North Korea Tests Missiles with Cluster Munitions

As North Korea invests in new missile capabilities, the IAEA chief warned that Pyongyang's expanding nuclear program could accelerate the production of nuclear warheads.

29 Iran Threatens to Withdraw from the NPT

Iran's threat to withdraw from the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty came in response to U.S. and Israeli military strikes on its territory.

30 U.S. Budget Unveils Hypersonic Goals, Blocks Transparency

The Pentagon would buy thousands of intermediate range, ground-launched hypersonic weapons over the next five years, according to its budget request for fiscal year 2027.

32 UN Disarmament Commission Suspends Meeting over U.S. Objections

The U.S. refused the inclusion of emerging technology on the agenda and called for the removal of the working group on this topic, saying the UNDC was not the correct forum to address it.

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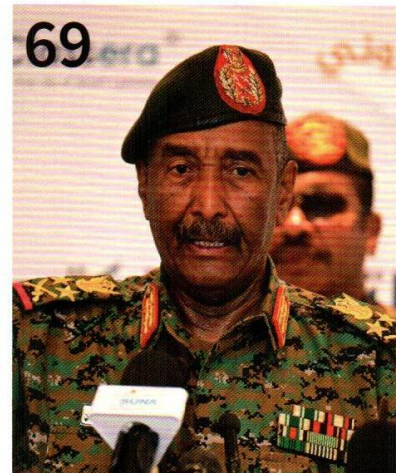
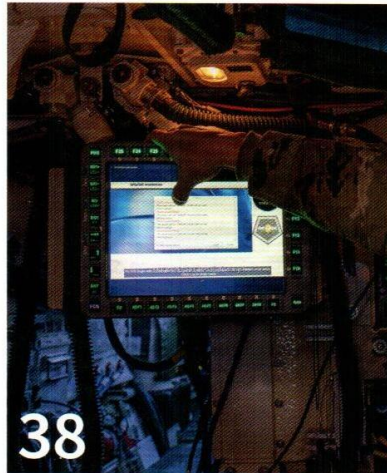
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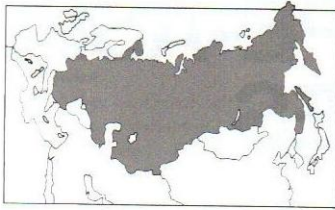
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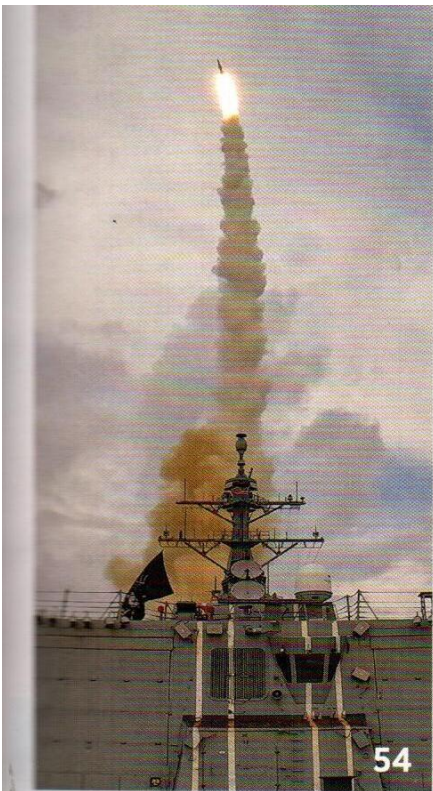
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U.S. Navy (Branden Bourque)

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