

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
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1. [New Arms-Reduction Treaty Builds U.S., Russian Confidence](#) (10-26-2011)

By MacKenzie C. Babb
Staff Writer

Washington — The New START arms-reduction treaty, an agreement between the United States and Russia to reduce each nation’s nuclear arsenals to their lowest levels in more than a half century, has been “a great success” since its February implementation, according to a senior U.S. diplomat.

“It really does provide both of us, both Russia and the United States, a good day-to-day insight into the operations of our mutual strategic forces,” Assistant Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller said. The deal is “great for mutual confidence and predictability.” Gottemoeller spoke about the treaty at a briefing on nuclear arms control at the Foreign Press Center in New York October 20.

Since the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) entered into force February 5, the assistant secretary said, the two sides have exchanged full data about their strategic nuclear forces. As of September 1, the United States reported 1,790 nuclear warheads while Russia reported 1,566.

The new treaty requires each country to reduce its forces during the next seven years to 1,550 nuclear warheads, down from the current limit of 2,000 warheads and 700 launchers.

In addition to trading data, the United States and Russia have conducted thorough on-site inspections of each other’s nuclear facilities, including both deployed and nondeployed weapons. Gottemoeller, who is the assistant secretary for arms control, verification and compliance, said these inspections have taken place on operational bases as well as at maintenance, repair and testing

facilities and have gone “very smoothly.” She added that the checks have gotten off to a quick start, with the United States conducting 12 inspections and Russia 11 since the treaty’s implementation.

The assistant secretary also stressed the success of the treaty’s notification system.

Every time a missile moves, even in the course of routine deployments, such as going for maintenance or repair, notification is shared. Gottemoeller said there have been 1,500 notifications since the treaty’s implementation, which has helped to build mutual respect and confidence between the two countries.

The assistant secretary also highlighted the importance of the Bilateral Consultative Commission, which comprises U.S. and Russian nuclear experts who meet twice each year to discuss compliance issues and other routine questions. The commission met for the first time in April and gathered again October 19 for a two-week meeting in Geneva to work out basic treaty issues that have emerged since implementation.

Gottemoeller said the treaty speaks to “the accomplishments of the broader U.S.-Russian relationship over the last couple of years” and is a “great story in terms of our efforts to move toward elimination of nuclear weapons.”

The treaty, which replaces the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and the 2002 Moscow Treaty, will remain in force 10 years after ratification. It does not block efforts to create missile defense systems.

President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev [signed the New START agreement](#) April 8, 2010. The treaty is a critical centerpiece in President Obama’s foreign policy program and reflects his broader world view. Obama was awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to foster arms control and nuclear nonproliferation efforts worldwide.

2. U.S.-China Relationship Is Evolving, Diplomat Says (10-25-2011)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — Today’s relationship between the United States and China is evolving in a period of extraordinary energy and change in international politics and economics, says Deputy Secretary of State William Burns.

“Shifts in the global economy have created new centers of economic wealth and influence, and emerging powers — from India to Indonesia, from South Africa to Brazil — are making their voices heard,” Burns said. “We continue to witness new eruptions of the universal human struggle for freedom, as profound change comes to the Middle East and North Africa.”

“At the same time, we face emerging challenges unbound by geographic borders or political systems, from proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and cybercrime to infectious disease, piracy and climate change,” he said.

[Burns addressed some of those changes and challenges October 24](#) at the 5th Biennial U.S.-China Relations Conference hosted by Texas A&M University, which periodically examines the medium- to long-term future of relations between the two Asia-Pacific nations. After his speech in Texas,

Burns is traveling to Japan and China October 26–29 for consultations on many of the issues he addressed in his speech.

In this dynamic political, economic and technological landscape, the Asia-Pacific region is a focal point for U.S. national interests, and no region will matter more in shaping the events of the new century, he said.

“A healthy U.S.-China relationship is central to our vision for the future of the Pacific region and the global economy,” Burns said. “Trust and understanding between our nations will be essential to America’s security and prosperity and to China’s as it seeks to play a greater role in world affairs.”

Burns said the United States is committed to expanding cooperation with China across a range of issues, including the global economic crisis; climate change; challenges posed by North Korea and Iran, who are seeking to develop nuclear weapons; obstacles to an independent South Sudan; and maritime piracy in the Gulf of Aden. He also said that the United States and China cannot “simply turn away from our disagreements” over intellectual property rights, freedom of navigation, cybersecurity, economics and trade, and military modernization.

“History teaches that moments of great change are when the dangers of misunderstanding, miscalculation or inadvertent conflict are greatest,” Burns told the conference. “In other words, we will increasingly live in a world where America and China cannot afford the luxury of quietly operating in parallel.”

“If we want to avoid misunderstandings and prevent crises before they emerge, then communication, transparency and trust will be essential,” he said.

TRADE RELATIONS

At a congressional hearing October 25, Treasury Under Secretary Lael Brainard said that since 2009 U.S. exports to China have grown by 61 percent, which is nearly twice as fast as U.S. exports to the rest of the world. But she still describes China’s trade relationship with the United States as uneven.

The House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means conducted a hearing to examine U.S.-China economic relations in part because both nations have a “significant stake in restoring global economic health,” Committee Chairman Dave Camp said in calling for the oversight hearing.

“Both countries have stressed the need to maintain positive economic and financial relations and to fight against trade protectionism,” Camp said. “China’s economic growth, and the resulting increase in domestic consumption in China, has created a large market for U.S. exports and created important opportunities for U.S. companies, farmers and workers.”

Brainard said China’s leaders understand that China must shift to domestic consumption-led growth, provide a secure environment for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, level the playing field between state-owned and private enterprises, and also liberalize the exchange rate and financial markets.

3. Fact Sheet: New START Treaty Aggregate Numbers of Offensive Arms (10-25-2011)

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance

New START Treaty Aggregate Numbers of Strategic Offensive Arms

(As of September 1, 2011, as drawn from the initial exchange of data by the Parties)/[1]

Category of Data	United States of America	Russian Federation
Deployed ICBMs, Deployed SLBMs, and Deployed Heavy Bombers	822	516
Warheads on Deployed ICBMs, on Deployed SLBMs, and Nuclear Warheads Counted for Deployed Heavy Bombers	1790	1566
Deployed and Non-deployed Launchers of ICBMs, Deployed and Non-deployed Launchers of SLBMs, and Deployed and Non-deployed Heavy Bombers	1043	871

 [1] Data in this Fact Sheet comes from the biannual exchange of data required by the Treaty. It contains data declared current as of September 1, 2011. Data will be updated each six month period after entry into force of the Treaty.

4. The United States and Japan: An Enduring 21st Century Alliance (10-24-2011)

The following commentary by Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta was published by the Daily Yomiuri Shimbun Online on October 24. There are no republication restrictions.

On the eve of my first visit to Japan as United States Secretary of Defense, I've had the opportunity to reflect on the enduring nature of the U.S.-Japan alliance that has been the cornerstone of stability and security in the Asia Pacific region for more than 50 years. Our partnership is based on more than just shared security and economic interests – its true strength comes from the common values our two peoples hold dear, a belief in democratic ideals, and the rule of law. That is why I'm convinced the ties between our countries will only grow and deepen as America increases its engagement in the Asia Pacific region.

The Japanese people demonstrated the strength of their national character in the face of the Great East Japan Earthquake in March of this year. Out of that tragedy came new evidence of the strength of our alliance, as American troops worked tirelessly in support of Japanese forces to speed relief to the suffering. And it is in that spirit of cooperation that we now turn our efforts to address a range of common challenges that abound across the region.

These include North Korea, which continues to engage in reckless and provocative behavior and is developing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, which pose a threat not just to Japan, but to the

entire region. China is rapidly modernizing its military, but with a troubling lack of transparency, coupled with increasingly assertive activity in the East and South China Seas. Together, the U.S. and Japan will work to bring North Korea back to the Six Party Talks, and encourage China to play a responsible role in the international community.

We continue to make good progress on the ambitious goals laid out for our Alliance at the June 2011 “2+2” meeting. We are furthering interoperability as the Self Defense Force evolves into a “Dynamic Defense” force, bringing together complementary capabilities to solve common problems. We are jointly developing high-tech capabilities, including the next generation missile defense interceptor, and exploring new areas of cooperation, including in space and cyberspace.

As a Pacific power, the United States remains committed to a robust forward presence in Asia. Realigning the U.S. military footprint in Japan will make our Alliance more effective while reducing the impact of our presence on local populations. Moving forward with the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Camp Schwab is a core part of this effort; doing so as soon as possible will be good for the Alliance, for the people of Okinawa, and for regional peace and stability.

In this emerging Pacific Century, I see the U.S.-Japan alliance as an indispensable pillar of regional and global security. Drawing strength from our shared values, we will work to uphold the international order and ensure the continued peace and prosperity of our people in the 21st century.

[Press Conference by Panetta, Japanese Defense Minister in Tokyo](#)

5. Obama: All U.S. Forces to Leave Iraq by End of 2011 (10-21-2011)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama announced October 21 that by the end of 2011 all U.S. military forces will be withdrawn from Iraq.

Obama made the announcement at the White House shortly after conferring with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in a secure video conference between Washington and Baghdad.

“I reaffirmed that the United States keeps its commitments,” [Obama said](#). “He spoke of the determination of the Iraqi people to forge their own future. We are in full agreement about how to move forward.”

“As of January 1st, and in keeping with our Strategic Framework Agreement with Iraq, it will be a normal relationship between sovereign nations, an equal partnership based on mutual interests and mutual respect,” Obama said.

In the 2008 Strategic Framework Agreement reached between the Iraqi government and then President George W. Bush, all U.S. military forces were to be withdrawn from the nation by the end of 2011.

Obama said that over the next two months the remaining 40,000 military members will pack up and return to the United States.

“In today’s conversation, Prime Minister Maliki and I agreed that a meeting of the higher coordinating committee of the Strategic Framework Agreement will convene in the coming weeks,” Obama said. “And I invited the prime minister to come to the White House in December, as we plan for all the important work that we have to do together.”

Obama said the way ahead for the United States is to help the Iraqi people strengthen the institutions of government, build new ties of trade and commerce and expand culture and education.

“As I told Prime Minister Maliki, we will continue discussions on how we might help Iraq train and equip its forces ... just as we offer training and assistance to countries around the world,” Obama said. “There will be some difficult days ahead for Iraq, and the United States will continue to have an interest in an Iraq that is stable, secure and self-reliant.”

Obama also said that efforts have been refocused on Afghanistan to eventually bring military operations there to a successful conclusion. “When I took office, roughly 180,000 troops were deployed in both of these wars,” Obama said. “And by the end of this year that number will be cut in half.”

[Briefing by White House Officials on Troop Withdrawal in Iraq](#) (10-21-2011)

6. Panetta to Highlight Regional Cooperation in Asia (10-21-2011)

By Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

Washington — Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta is scheduled to depart October 21 for Indonesia, Japan and South Korea, his first visit to Asia as head of the department, senior defense officials said.

During the first leg of his trip, Panetta is scheduled to meet Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Defense Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro. Those discussions will focus on the Indonesian armed forces’ continuing transformation, as well as U.S.-Indonesian military-to-military cooperation in areas including maritime security, peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, a senior official said.

While in Indonesia, the secretary also will visit a gathering of defense ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the official added. ASEAN member nations are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The ASEAN ministerial offers Panetta a “wonderful” opportunity for high-end engagement with the assembled ministers and a chance to emphasize the United States’ commitment to the Southeast Asia region, the official said.

After leaving Indonesia, Panetta will travel to Japan to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and other senior Japanese leaders, including new Defense Minister Yasuo Ichikawa, a second senior official said.

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The secretary's meetings in Japan include a "rich agenda of issues," such as the enduring U.S. commitment to its alliance with Japan, regional security, arms sales, export controls, ballistic missile defense, and the planned realignment of U.S. forces there, the official said.

Panetta also is scheduled to visit U.S. and Japanese troops during his stop there.

Panetta's final scheduled stop is South Korea where he will take part with Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin in the 43rd Security Consultative Meeting, and also meet with President Lee Myung-bak and senior South Korean officials.

The secretary is scheduled to visit U.S. and South Korean troops during the final leg of his trip.

"The secretary will reinforce our commitment to the U.S.-Republic of Korea alliance, as well as our commitment to deter North Korea and, if deterrence fails, to prevail in any conflict," the official said.
