

## U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism

### Российско-Американская инициатива по предотвращению ядерного терроризма

December 2016 – March 2017 newsletter Информационный бюллетень за декабрь 2016 г – март 2017 г

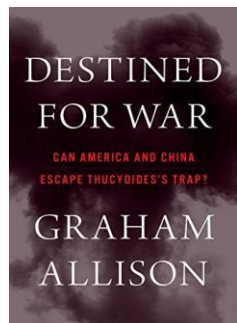


ИСКРАН

#### NEWS:

#### **Graham Allison's New Book Urges U.S, PRC and RF to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism**

Director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs Graham Allison's [new book](#)



cites the threat of nuclear terrorism as a common threat to both the US and China that might provide a reason to work together instead of come into conflict. "The buildup of nuclear weapons and material, particularly in North Korea and Pakistan, is substantially increasing the risk of nuclear terrorism. No states are better positioned to address these challenges than China and the US, especially if they act in concert and can persuade Russia to join them," he writes in the book, which is entitled "Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides's Trap?" and which will be published in May 2017. Professor Allison participates in the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent

Nuclear Terrorism.

#### **Gary Samore on Iran's and North Korea's Nuclear Programs**

The Belfer Center's executive director for research Gary Samore testified on North Korea's program at a Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing in March. In his testimony,

Doctor Samore called North Korea's mission to achieve a nuclear intercontinental ballistic missile the "[most significant and the most immediate](#)" of new nuclear threats. In his estimate, North Korea will achieve a reliable capability to strike the continental United States with a nuclear-tipped missile in as early as five years, according to Yonhap news agency's [account](#) of his testimony. Doctor Samore also addressed a Council on Foreign Relations [event](#) on implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear program in February 2017. Doctor Samore participates in the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism.



#### **Russian MoD Refutes a Satirical Claim of Loose Nukes**

A spokesman for Russia's Central Military District felt obliged to [refute](#) a message that was posted on a local website as a piece of "satire" that claimed that a truckload of nuclear weapons was stolen from a military unit in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg. "These are fruit of imagination," the spokesman told [TASS](#) on March 9.

## U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism

### Российско-Американская инициатива по предотвращению ядерного терроризма

December 2016 – March 2017 newsletter Информационный бюллетень за декабрь 2016 г – март 2017 г

#### **UN: North Korea Tried to Sell Material for Developing Miniaturized Nukes**

North Korea has attempted to sell a form of lithium metal, a key material for developing miniaturized nuclear weapons, according to the United Nations. The attempted sale of the metal to unidentified international buyers occurred last year, The [Wall Street Journal](#) reported on March 8, citing UN investigators who are probing the Hermit Kingdom's weapons-of-mass-destruction program.

#### **U.S.-Russian Space Cooperation as a Model for Nuclear Security**

Director of the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism William Tobey and director of the Russia Matters project Simon Saradzhyan have contributed a [commentary](#) to the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* in which they call on U.S. and Russia to revive nuclear security cooperation. The two experts urge Moscow and Washington to infer lessons from their space cooperation and apply them in the nuclear security domain. "Russia and the United States continue to have real and



Tobey

Saradzhyan

important differences over national security issues. That, however, does not mean the two countries should not or cannot cooperate on matters in which joint efforts can greatly enhance the security of both countries. Improving nuclear security is one such sphere," they wrote in the March 7<sup>th</sup> 2017 piece. An extended version of the article has been published on IPNT's [website](#).

#### **FMCT Preparatory Group Meets For the First Time**

Members of UN's High Level Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) Expert Preparatory Group [met](#) in New York on March 2-3, 2017 to facilitate a discussion between UN member states on the scope of the proposed treaty. Ex-deputy director of IAEA and Belfer Center senior fellow Olli Heinonen addressed the group, which includes representatives of Russia and United States. In his [presentation](#) Mr. Heinonen touched upon various aspects of the proposed treaty, including key definitions and verification clauses. The discussions will continue in Geneva on July 31, 2017, according to a report posted in [IPFM Blog](#) on March 3.



#### **Siegfried S. Hecker: Rekindle U.S.-Russian Nuclear Cooperation**

Siegfried S. Hecker, emeritus director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory and a senior fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University, has published a column in the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* to urge U.S. and Russian governments to revive nuclear security cooperation. "The US and Russian governments, as well as the two countries' scientists, should seize any opportunities that arise to rekindle nuclear cooperation," he wrote in the March 1, 2017, [column](#). Doctor Hecker, who participates in the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism, issued a similar call in a December 7 column.



## U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism

### Российско-Американская инициатива по предотвращению ядерного терроризма

December 2016 – March 2017 newsletter Информационный бюллетень за декабрь 2016 г – март 2017 г

“Terminating bilateral cooperation on preventing the spread of nuclear weapons to either other governments or terrorist groups will hurt both countries,” he [wrote](#) at the time.

### **Trump Administration Official: Nuclear Terrorist Attack Is “Inevitable”**

Michael Anton, a senior official on U.S. President Donald Trump's National Security Council, believes it is "inevitable" that an Islamist terrorist group will carry out a successful nuclear attack against the United States. Terrorists “will, I think, wait until they can hit us with several blows at once, followed by a number of follow-on blows,” [Intercept](#) quoted Anton as saying. The official made the previously undisclosed comments in 2009.

### **DHS: United States Not Prepared for a Dirty Bomb Attack**

The Department of Homeland Security’s Domestic Nuclear Detection Office has evaluated America’s capabilities to defend against dirty bombs and found gaping holes in domestic nuclear detection and defense capabilities, The [Daily Beast](#) reported on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The department’s 2016 report summarizes a year’s worth of covert and overt testing of nuclear and radiological detection and response capabilities.

### **NTI and CESS on Future of U.S.-Russian Nuclear Cooperation**

The Washington, DC-based Nuclear Threat Initiative and the Moscow-based Center for Energy and Security Studies unveiled a [joint report](#) on the future of U.S.-Russian nuclear cooperation in February. The report includes 51 recommendations for mutually beneficial cooperation in different fields, including nuclear science, nuclear energy, nuclear safety, nuclear security and nuclear environmental remediation, according to [Russia Direct](#).



### **GICNT Meets in India**

An international meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) took place in New Delhi, India, in February. The meeting’s participants discussed ways to prevent weapons of mass destruction and related materials from falling into the hands of terrorists. Ratification of international treaties relevant to nuclear security and radioactive source security were also among the key issues discussed. Japan will in June host the GICNT's annual plenary, co-chaired by the United States and Russia.

### **GAO: NNSA Needs to Better Track Outcomes of Its R&D**

The National Nuclear Security Administration needs to better track results of research and development projects, which “make vital contributions to national security,” according to a February 2017 [report](#) by the Government Accountability Office. “The full extent to which research and technology development projects managed by NNSA... have resulted in advanced, transitioned, or deployed technologies is unclear because NNSA does not consistently track and document all of these project outcomes,” according to the report.

## U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism

### Российско-Американская инициатива по предотвращению ядерного терроризма

December 2016 – March 2017 newsletter Информационный бюллетень за декабрь 2016 г – март 2017 г

#### **Applied Research Associates Release a Nuclear Security Video Game**



The [Virtual Heroes Division](#) of Applied Research Associates has released a free download of Virtual Nuclear Security, a 3D game set in a nuclear power plant designed as a training tool for the International Atomic Energy Agency. Players become safeguards inspectors, according to a February 20 report by [Globe Newswire](#).

#### **Sandia Lab Adapts Gaming Hardware for Nuclear Security Training**

Sandia National Laboratory's computer scientists Tam Le and Todd Noel have adapted augmented reality headsets, which were originally designed for gaming, as part of the physical security training curriculum. Sandia provides curriculum in partnership with the International Atomic Energy Agency and National Nuclear Security Administration's International Nuclear Security programs, [RDMag](#) reported on February 17.

#### **UNSC Urges Prevention of Attacks on Critical Infrastructure**

The UN Security Council on February 13 called upon UN member states to address the danger of terrorist attacks against critical infrastructure, adopting Resolution 2341. The council encouraged the United Nations, Member States and regional and international organizations to share good practices and measures in managing the risk of terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure — a term covering bridges, power lines, airports and nuclear power plants, among other facilities, according to a statement posted on [UN's web site](#) on February 13. Evgeniy Zagayanov, Russia's Deputy Permanent Representative at UN, told the Security Council that combating terrorism must be an absolute priority. He called on UNSC members to work together in developing an effective joint response to ISIL, Jabal al-Nusra and Al-Qaida, emphasizing that the threat posed by those groups had not diminished. Belfer Center senior fellow Olli Heinonen also participated in discussions of the draft resolution at UNSC, noting that the risk of nuclear terrorism had been heightened by the increased use and spread of nuclear technology, as well as the shipment of nuclear and radioactive material. He [said](#) it was critical not to ignore the possibility that terrorist groups could also recruit people with nuclear skills and thus bring the “insider threat” to nuclear installations. Mr. Heinonen participates in the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism.

#### **More Than 20 Countries Commit to Minimizing Use of HEU**

A group of 21 states that includes the United States have made a commitment to minimize and eliminate the use of HEU in civilian applications, [IPFM Blog](#) reported on February 16<sup>th</sup>. The text of the joint statement was published by the IAEA as a document [INFCIRC/912](#).

## U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism

### Российско-Американская инициатива по предотвращению ядерного терроризма

December 2016 – March 2017 newsletter Информационный бюллетень за декабрь 2016 г – март 2017 г

#### **George Washington University Selects Inaugural Congressional Nuclear Security Fellows**

The George Washington University's Nuclear Security Working Group has selected two nuclear policy professionals to serve as inaugural Congressional Nuclear Security Fellows. Minsu Crowder-Han will serve in the office of Congressional Nuclear Security Working Group (CNSWG). Nate Sans will serve in the office of CNSWG Co-Chair Congressman Pete Visclosky, according to January 30 statement on the University's [website](#).

#### **NNSA and FBI Train to Counter Dirty Bomb Attack**

NNSA, in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate, conducted the "Atomic Thunder" tabletop exercise at the Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center in Narragansett. The exercise challenged participants to develop plans of action in response to a hypothetical event—terrorist theft of radioactive materials and the subsequent use of those materials in a radiological exposure device, according to a January 4<sup>th</sup> statement by [NNSA](#).

#### **Allison and Simes: Russia Is Key to Preventing Nuclear Terrorism**

Director of the Belfer Center Graham Allison has teamed up with president of the Center for National Interest Dimitri Simes to write an [article](#) for *The National Interest*, in which they note that Russia remains key in U.S. efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism as well as proliferation of other weapons of mass destruction and missile-delivery systems. "Russia remains a player whose choices affect vital U.S. interests profoundly across the agenda of global issues," according to the December 2016 article. Professor Allison has also highlighted the U.S. efforts to help Russia strengthen nuclear security in his December 2016 presentation for senior executives in national and international security program at the Harvard Kennedy School.



Simes

Allison

#### **Bunn and Sagan Edit a Volume on Insider Threats**

Matthew Bunn of the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center and Scott D. Sagan of the Freeman Spogli Institute at Stanford University have edited a new volume of [Insider Threats](#),



Bunn

which takes on a challenge all high-security organizations face: how to protect themselves from betrayal from within. From Edward Snowden to nuclear thieves, the threat from insiders in high-security organizations is rarely far from the front page or the top of the policy agenda, according to the editors of the 2016 volume that has been published by Cornell University Press. Professor Bunn participates in the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism.

#### **Siegfried Hecker Urges Dialogue on North Korea's Nuclear Program**

The Trump administration should send an envoy to North Korea to discuss its nuclear program and security concerns, according to a January 2017 [op-ed](#) by Siegfried S. Hecker, emeritus



## U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism

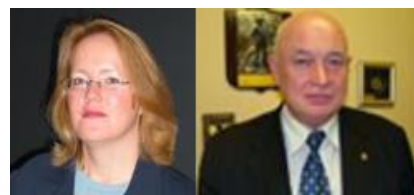
### Российско-Американская инициатива по предотвращению ядерного терроризма

December 2016 – March 2017 newsletter Информационный бюллетень за декабрь 2016 г – март 2017 г

director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Talking will help inform a better negotiating strategy that may eventually convince the young leader that his country and his regime are better off without nuclear weapons, according to Doctor Hecker. In Doctor Hecker's estimate, North Korea may be able to add another nuclear weapon to its arsenal every six to seven weeks.

### **U.S. and Russian Experts on Combatting Islamic State**

Director of the Fletcher School's Center for Strategic Studies Fletcher School Monica Toft and director of the Russia Matters project Simon Saradzhyan have published an issue brief on what the Bolsheviks' behavior can teach us about actions of the Islamic State terrorist organization. "If allowed to exist as a state, IS, whose leaders have displayed a practical interest in acquiring nuclear weapons, might get hold of such weapons much faster than the Bolsheviks, given the increasing diffusion of nuclear know-how and the enduring vulnerabilities in the security of some weapons grade materials," the authors warn in their December 2016 [brief](#) published by Russia Matters. The authors urge the international community to divide labor in countering IS. Deputy director of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies Pavel Zolotarev believes cooperation against ISIS is one issue that Moscow and Washington can agree upon. "This is indeed the most serious threat, that relates to the sphere of common interests," he [said](#) of IS in February 15 interview. The Institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies participates in the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism.



Toft

Zolotarev

### **Heinonen and Tobey on IAEA's Nuclear Security Conference**

Belfer Center senior fellows Olli Heinonen and William Tobey participated in the work of the IAEA conference on nuclear security that took place in December 2016 and that the previous issue of this [newsletter](#). In [comments](#) made at the conference's Panel on the Challenge of Implementing International Commitments on December 7 Mr. Heinonen urged IAEA to provide a biannual implementation report the global status of nuclear safety, safeguards and security. Tobey, who directs U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism, has also weighed in on the IAEA event. In his [comments](#) on the outcome of the IAEA conference that he made for the Nuclear Security Matters, Mr. Tobey urged those responsible for the security of nuclear material and facilities and those who analyze such matters to "consider what precautions might be imperative, even if they are not in widespread use."

### **Belfer Center Experts on Next Steps to Strengthen Nuclear Security**



□ PAPER  
**Key Steps for Continuing Nuclear Security Progress**

Authors: Matthew Bunn, Martin B. Malin, Nickolas Roth, William H. Tobey | December 2016

Belfer Center's Matthew Bunn, Martin B. Malin, Nickolas Roth, and William H. Tobey have produced a [paper](#) on the next steps that the international community should take to strengthen nuclear security. The experts call states and operators to protect nuclear weapons, weapons-usable nuclear materials, and major nuclear facilities against the full range of plausible adversary

## U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism

### Российско-Американская инициатива по предотвращению ядерного терроризма

December 2016 – March 2017 newsletter Информационный бюллетень за декабрь 2016 г – март 2017 г

capabilities and tactics. They also call for comprehensive programs to protect against insider threats, assess security culture, and consolidate nuclear material at fewer locations. “The threats of nuclear theft and terrorism remain very real,” the authors warn in their December 2016 report.

#### **SOCOM Assumes a Lead Role in Countering WMD**

U.S. Special Operations Command is to take a new, leading role coordinating the Pentagon's effort to counter weapons of mass destruction, The [Washington Post](#) reported on December 23. Numerous aspects of the mission to counter weapons of mass destruction will shift to SOCOM from U.S. Strategic Command, according to the newspaper.

#### **A Nuclear Waste Opened in Russia’s Urals**

Russia opened its first ever repository for low and medium level nuclear waste in late 2016. The 48,000 cubic meter facility in the Sverdlovsk Region’s closed nuclear city of Novouralsk operates as a repository for what the state nuclear corporation Rosatom classifies as type 3 and 4 wastes, according to a December 14 report by [Bellona](#).

---

#### **NOTABLE STATEMENTS ON NUCLEAR TERRORISM AND NUCLEAR SECURITY:**

- Rep. Trent Franks (R-Ariz.): “We sometimes used to make the point that if someone wanted to smuggle in a dangerous weapon—even a nuclear weapon—into America, how would they do it? And the suggestion was made, ‘Well, we’ll simply hide it in a bale of marijuana.’” ([The Washington Post](#), February 22, 2017)
- A 2017 [report](#) by the Carnegie Endowment–Chicago Council on Global Affairs Task Force on U.S. Policy toward Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia: U.S. and Russia should be “working together on Iran and other countries of proliferation concern to keep WMD and nuclear materials out of the hands of terrorists and dangerous regimes.” ([Russia Matters](#), February 17, 2017)
- India’s Foreign Secretary Subrahmanyam Jaishankar: “Nuclear security will be a continuing concern, especially as terrorist groups and non-state actors strike deeper roots and explore different avenues to spread terror.” ([Press Trust of India](#), February 10, 2017).
- Former U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry: “If I was in [Mr. Trump's] position, I would start (U.S. engagement of Russia) off on some easy cases, where we have mutual interests, like preventing nuclear terrorism, because a bomb could be set off in Moscow as easily as Washington.” ([Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), January 17, 2017)
- Then U.S. Vice President Joe Biden: “Nuclear security is too important to be a party policy, for our nation and for the world. Although we no longer live in the daily dread of nuclear confrontation, the dangers we face today require a bipartisan spirit.” ([The Dawn](#), January 16, 2017).
- UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliassons: “We have seen the rise of vicious non-State groups with no regard for human life. They actively seek weapons of mass destruction, I am sure. And these weapons are increasingly accessible. The nightmare scenario of a hack on a nuclear power plant causing uncontrolled release of ionizing radiation is growing.” ([UN](#), December 15, 2016)

## U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism

### Российско-Американская инициатива по предотвращению ядерного терроризма

December 2016 – March 2017 newsletter Информационный бюллетень за декабрь 2016 г – март 2017 г

- International Atomic Energy Agency director general Yukiya Amano: “Terrorists and criminals will try to exploit any vulnerability in the global nuclear security system. Any country, in any part of the world, could find itself used as a transit point. And any country could become the target of an attack.” ([AFP](#), December 5, 2016)
- Harvard Kennedy School Professor Matthew Bunn: “The threats of both state and nonstate acquisition of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons remain very real. These threats are changing, as terrorist groups morph into different forms, technology traffickers develop new tactics, and technologies advance and spread.” ([1540 Compass](#), Winter 2016)
- Director of the Center for International Security at Russia’s Institute of World Economy and International Relations Alexey Arbatov: “The nuclear arsenal needs to be controlled so that it is not used, so that it does not proliferate to other countries and, ultimately, does not fall into the hands of terrorists. This is an absolutely real threat, and if we allow the nuclear arms control system to collapse for good, then nuclear materials or ready-made explosive devices will inevitably fall into the hands of terrorist organizations.” ([Zvezda](#), December 3, 2016)

---

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- April 25, 2017. 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the withdrawal of all tactical nuclear weapons from Belarus.
- May 2017. 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of all tactical nuclear weapons from Ukraine.
- May 23, 2017. 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine signing the Lisbon Protocol to the START I Treaty.
- June 2017. 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Presidents George Bush and Boris Yeltsin signing the U.S.-Russian umbrella agreement on the Cooperative Threat Reduction.
- September 2017. IAEA fuel bank to open in Kazakhstan.

---

#### **CALL FOR PAPERS, ARTICLES AND COMMENTARY:**

[The U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism \(IPNT\)](#) solicits papers, articles and commentary on nuclear terrorism and nuclear security from readers for inclusion in the newsletter and publication on the Initiative’s web site. Contact Simon Saradzhyan at (phone) +1-617-496-8228, (fax) +1-617-495-8963, or [simon\\_saradzhyan@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:simon_saradzhyan@hks.harvard.edu).

---

**PHOTO CREDITS:** Photographs of Gary Samore, William Tobey, Simon Saradzhyan, Olli Heinonen, Matthew Bunn, Graham Allison, Monica Toft by the Belfer Center; photograph of Siegfried Hecker by the U.S. State Department; photograph of Dimitri Simes from his official twitter account, photograph of Pavel Zolotarev by the Institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies.



## U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism

### Российско-Американская инициатива по предотвращению ядерного терроризма

December 2016 – March 2017 newsletter Информационный бюллетень за декабрь 2016 г – март 2017 г

*The Working Group of the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism includes the following institutions:*

*В рабочей группе по осуществлению Американско-Российской инициативы по предотвращению ядерного терроризма состоят следующие организации:*

- *Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University [W. Tobey, [william\\_tobey@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:william_tobey@hks.harvard.edu), 1- 617-496-0518]*

- *Белферовский центр науки и международных отношений Института государственного управления имени Джона Ф. Кеннеди Гарвардского университета. [Уильям Тоби, [william\\_tobey@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:william_tobey@hks.harvard.edu), 1- 617-496-0518]*

- *Center for International Security, Institute for World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences [[imemoran@imemo.ru](mailto:imemoran@imemo.ru), 7-499-120-52-36]*

- *Центр международной безопасности, Институт мировой экономики и международных отношений, Российская академия наук [[imemoran@imemo.ru](mailto:imemoran@imemo.ru), 7-499-120-52-36]*

- *Center for International Security and Cooperation, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University [Dr. S. Hecker, [shecker@stanford.edu](mailto:shecker@stanford.edu), 1-650-725-6468]*

- *Центр международной безопасности и сотрудничества Института международных дел имени Фримана Сполги Стэнфордского университета [Доктор наук З. Хекер, [shecker@stanford.edu](mailto:shecker@stanford.edu), 1-650-725-6468]*

- *Institute for the U.S. and Canadian Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences [Dr. S. Rogov, [pa.to.rogov@rambler.ru](mailto:pa.to.rogov@rambler.ru), 7-495-691-11-66]*

- *Институт США и Канады, Российская академия наук [Доктор наук С. Рогов, [pa.to.rogov@rambler.ru](mailto:pa.to.rogov@rambler.ru), 7-495-691-11-66]*