

U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism

Российско-Американская инициатива по предотвращению ядерного терроризма

December 2013 – February 2014 Newsletter Информационный бюллетень за декабрь 2013 г.– февраль 2014 г.



ИСКРАН

NEWS:

Siegfried Hecker Honored For Commitment to Prevent Nuclear Proliferation and Terrorism



Siegfried Hecker, director of Stanford University's Center for International Security, has been chosen by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to receive the 2013 Award for Science Diplomacy.

Hecker, whose center participates in the working group of the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism, was honored by AAAS for his "lifetime commitment to using the tools of science to address the challenges of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism and his dedication to building bridges through science during the period following the end of the Cold War," according to

AAAS's February 12th [press release](#).

Nun Sentenced to 35 Months for Nuclear Facility Protest

Sister Megan Rice, an 84-year-old radical nun who broke into a U.S. nuclear weapons facility to protest the nation's nuclear arsenal, was sentenced on February 18th to 35 months in federal prison. Her two co-defendants, Michael Walli, 65, and Gregory Boertje-Obed, 58, were sentenced to 62 months on charges of interfering with national security and damaging property at Tennessee's Y-12 National Security Complex in July 2012. This facility once provided the enriched uranium for the Hiroshima bomb, [Al Jazeera](#) reported.

Russia Reorganizes Nuclear Oversight

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed an executive order on organizing federal government oversight in the field of nuclear and radiation safety for nuclear weapons and in the field of physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities. The order vests authority in the Defense Ministry to "carry out government oversight in this field of organizations fulfilling orders in the interest of ensuring national defense, whatever their form of incorporation or ownership," according to a [statement](#) posted on the Kremlin's web site on February 14th.

William Tobey Briefed Nuclear Security Summit Sherpas

William Tobey, director of the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism (IPNT) and senior fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, [briefed](#) sherpas of the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit on the threat of nuclear terrorism on January 13th, 2014. The



Tobey

briefing, which was hosted by the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Pattaya and which Tobey co-prepared with Pavel Zolotarev, deputy director of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies, was based in part on the joint Belfer-ISKRAN report "[Steps to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism](#)." ISKRAN participates in the IPNT working group.



Zolotarev

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Obama, Putin to Attend Nuclear Security Summit

The White House issued a statement on January 21st, 2014 confirming that President Barack Obama will attend the [Nuclear Security Summit](#) (NSS) in the Netherlands on March 24-25, “where world leaders will highlight progress made to secure nuclear materials and commit to future steps to prevent nuclear terrorism.” Russian President Vladimir Putin will also attend the summit along with 57 other world leaders – the biggest summit ever held in the Netherlands, according to reports in the Dutch press. The United States, Netherlands and South Korea are encouraging summit participants to pledge that they will adopt and be bound by existing international guidelines for the physical protection of nuclear materials, GSN [reported](#). Belfer Center’s Graham Allison, Gary Samore, William Tobey and Matthew Bunn will participate in the experts summit known as [Nuclear Knowledge Summit](#), which precedes NSS.

USAF’s ICBM Personnel Investigated for Alleged Exam Cheating, Drug Abuse

Examination cheating investigation at the US Air Force’s Malmstrom Air Force Base includes [92 officers](#), which is almost half of the 190 missile crew officers assigned to the 341st Missile Wing at the base, Great Falls Tribune reported on January 30th, 2014. The 341st Missile Wing maintains and operates the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Earlier in January USAF officials announced an investigation into alleged drug use that included two officers at Malmstrom. The drug investigation subsequently expanded to 13 airmen at six bases, Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James said.

Japan Agreed to Return Weapons-Grade Plutonium to US

Japan has agreed to return over [300 kg of mostly weapons-grade plutonium](#) given to Japan for research purposes during the Cold War era, Kyodo reported on January 27th, 2014.

Japan has strongly resisted returning the plutonium, which it says is needed for researching fast reactors. But it has finally given in to repeated U.S. demands, Japanese and U.S. government sources said. The highly concentrated plutonium could be used to produce 40 to 50 nuclear weapons.

Russia to Retrieve Spent Fuel from Uzbekistan

The Russian government has approved a draft agreement with the government of Uzbekistan on the one-time import of irradiated nuclear fuel from an IIN-3M research reactor into Russia for temporary storage and processing and disposal of the resulting radioactive waste in Russia.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed a government order on January 29th to approve the import, Interfax [reported](#).

US Not Fully Equipped to Detect Development of Nukes by Foreign Powers

A [three-year study](#) by Pentagon’s Defense Science Board has concluded that American intelligence agencies are “not yet organized or fully equipped” to detect when foreign powers are developing nuclear weapons or ramping up their existing arsenals, and calls for using some of the same techniques that the National Security Agency has developed against terrorists, *The New York Times* reported on January 23rd, 2014.

NNSA’s GTR Initiative to Receive \$442 Million

The National Nuclear Security Administration’s Global Threat Reduction Initiative will receive \$442 million under the FY2014 U.S. omnibus spending bill, GSN reported on January 16th,

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2014. NNSA's international materials protection and cooperation activities will receive \$419 million while its weapons activities will get a total of \$7.8 billion.

U.S. Ranks 11th, Russia 18th in NTI's Nuclear Materials Security Index

A report released by the Nuclear Threat Initiative on January 8th said seven countries have removed all or most of their stocks of weapons-usable nuclear materials from their territories in the past two years. This means the number of nations with appreciable bomb-making nuclear material has decreased from 32 to 25, according to the [NTI Nuclear Materials Security Index - 2014](#). Australia ranked first among the remaining 25 countries in terms of overall nuclear security conditions, while North Korea ranked last. The United States and United Kingdom are tied for 11th place while Russia was ranked 18th.

Georgia Seizes Dirty Bomb Material

Authorities in the former Soviet republic of Georgia apprehended two men accused of attempting to sell radium-226 that could be used in a so-called "dirty bomb." It is not known how the men came into custody of the radioactive material, how much of it they possessed or whether they had any buyers in mind, GSN reported on January 3rd, 2014.

Tobey on How To Make 2014 Nuclear Security Summit A Success

William Tobey, director of the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism (IPNT) and senior fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, has published a policy brief, entitled "[Planning for Success at the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit](#)."

The December 2013 brief contains recommendations for the March 2014 summit, calling for removal or downblending of weapons-usable material, reduction of the number of HEU storage facilities, and provision of nuclear security assurances. The author also calls on the 58 world leaders attending the summit to exercise leadership in the sphere of nuclear security and empower international nuclear security organizations.

RSVN Modernizes Security Systems, Commissions Counter-Sabotage Vehicle

In 2014, for the first time the 12th Main Directorate of the Russian Ministry of Defense (12th GUMO) will be helping to modernize the automatic security systems at five facilities of the Strategic Missiles Forces (RVSN), Col. Igor Yegorov told Interfax in early January. RVSN's nuclear facilities are currently guarded using six different types of automatic security systems. In December, Yegorov explained that, "The equipment being installed is developed and produced solely at Russian enterprises of the military industrial complex. It is ensured during the works being held that the information on the configuration of security complexes being installed, the operation principles and algorithms of their functioning is utterly closed."



Karakayev

Yegorov said eight RVSN facilities have already had their automatic security systems upgraded in 2013.

RVSN commander Colonel General Sergei Karakayev told Russian journalists on December 17th that his force had also commissioned a new Typhoon-M combat anti-sabotage vehicle designed for defending ballistic missile systems, conducting reconnaissance and fighting saboteurs.

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Vladimir Dvorkin Participates in Luxemburg Forum Meeting

Vladimir Dvorkin, senior fellow at the Center for International Security at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences, participated in the December 10th, 2013 meeting of the Supervisory Council of the Luxembourg Forum on Preventing Nuclear Catastrophe in Warsaw.

The Center participates in the IPNT working group.

The meeting focused on setting the criteria for what constitutes undeclared development of nuclear weapons. The Luxembourg Forum prioritizes the prevention of acquisition of nuclear weapons and technologies by unstable regimes and terrorist organizations.



Graham Allison Briefs Senior Executives on Nuclear Terrorism

Director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs Graham Allison gave a presentation on nuclear terrorism at the Harvard Kennedy School on December 5th. Professor Allison lectured to participants in the “Senior Executives in National and International Security” program on the reality of the threat of nuclear terrorism and steps that the responsible nations should agree upon at the next Nuclear Security Summit to minimize this threat.



Moniz and Kirienko Meet as Megatons to Megawatts Wraps Up

U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz hosted Director General of Rosatom Sergei Kirienko for [talks](#) on December 10th, 2013.

The two officials, who co-chair the Bilateral Presidential Commission’s Working Group on Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Security, signed a number of documents, including a memorandum under the Protocol to the Framework Agreement on a Multilateral Nuclear Environmental Program in Russia to establish procedures for work to support bilateral cooperation in nuclear and radiological material security, reactor conversion, combating the illicit trafficking of nuclear and radiological material.

They also agreed to extend the Russian-origin Research Reactor Fuel Return program and advance collaborative projects under the U.S.-Russian Agreement on Cooperation on Nuclear- and Energy-Related Scientific Research and Development.

Kirienko and Moniz also commemorated the completion of the 1993 U.S.-Russia HEU Purchase Agreement, commonly known as “Megatons to Megawatts,” praising it as “an outstanding example of close and transparent U.S.-Russia collaboration and an important contribution to nuclear disarmament and nuclear nonproliferation.”

The last shipment of low enriched uranium (LEU) from Russia’s port of St. Petersburg arrived at the port of Baltimore on December 10th, 2013 to be shipped first to the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Kentucky and then to U.S. nuclear fuel fabrication facilities, where it will be converted into fuel rods for use in U.S. nuclear power reactors.

The shipment consisted of 4 cylinders containing LEU processed from highly enriched uranium (HEU) that was [extracted from some 80 warheads](#).

Russia’s embassy hosted a reception on December 11th to commemorate the program.

Undersecretary of State Rose Gottemoeller attended the reception along with Kirienko.

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Asked about the project's importance for both countries, Gottemoeller said Megatons to Megawatts proved that [Russia and the United States were capable of solving problems together](#).



Moniz

Kirienko

Gottemoeller

NOTABLE STATEMENTS ON NUCLEAR TERRORISM:

- **U.S. Under Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller:** “Concerted action by the United States and Russia – and indeed, by all nuclear weapon states – to reduce their arsenals strengthens the nuclear nonproliferation regime, as partners around the world join in securing nuclear materials, making it harder for terrorists to acquire them.” (U.S. State Department, February 14, 2014).
- **U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Simon Limage:** “Despite our many nuclear security successes, the threat that highly enriched uranium or plutonium could be obtained by terrorists or other criminals intent to cause harm continues to represent one of the most pressing threats to global security.... Seizures of weapon-grade nuclear material in Georgia in 2010 and Moldova in 2011 suggest that such materials remain in illegal circulation on the black market, and we must work together to locate and secure materials currently outside regulatory control.” (U.S. State Department, February 11, 2014).
- **Commander of Russia’s Strategic Missile Forces Colonel General Sergei Karakayev:** “In the conditions of existing terrorist threats, one of the most important tasks fulfilled by the RVSN is the prevention of nuclear terrorism attempts.” (Itar-Tass, December 17, 2013).
- **Russian President Vladimir Putin:** “Our presidency in the G8 will be targeted at the solution of acute nonproliferation problems, counteraction to international terrorism, and struggle against drugs trafficking.” (Itar-Tass, December 12, 2013).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 24-25, 2014. Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, Netherlands.
- September 4-5, 2014. NATO summit in Newport, Wales, UK.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

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

В рабочей группе по осуществлению Американо-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, 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, 1- 617-496-0518]*

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

- *Центр международной безопасности, Институт мировой экономики и международных отношений, Российская академия наук [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, 1-650-725-6468]*

- *Центр международной безопасности и сотрудничества Института международных дел имени Фримана Спогли Стэнфордского университета [Доктор наук З. Хэкер, 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, 7-495-691-11-66]*

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