

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

### Американо-Российская инициатива по предотвращению ядерного терроризма

January-March 2013 Newsletter

Информационный бюллетень за январь-март 2013 года



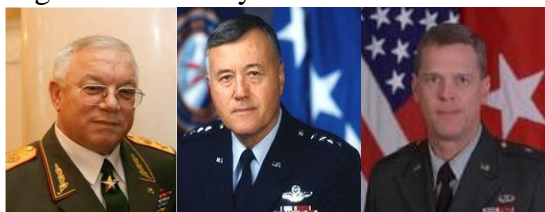
ИСКРАН

#### NEWS:

##### **Elbe Group Discusses Threat of Nuclear Terrorism, Other Challenges**

Members of the [Elbe Group](#), comprised of former leaders of American and Russian intelligence and military organizations, met in Israel on March 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> to discuss further U.S.-Russian steps to counter the threat of nuclear terrorism. [Matthew Bunn](#), associate professor at the Harvard Kennedy School and member of the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism (IPNT), briefed the participants.

Group members reviewed a follow-up to the Joint Threat Assessment of Nuclear Terrorism that experts from the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and Russia's Institute for the U.S. and Canadian Studies (ISKRAN) are drafting together. They also discussed the situation in Afghanistan and Syria.



Kulikov

Habiger

Ryan

The group is co-chaired by former Russian Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov and former chief of U.S. Strategic Command Eugene Habiger. It was initiated by [Kevin Ryan](#), director of the Belfer Center's Defense and Intelligence Projects, who also attended.

##### **House of Representatives Approves Full Funding for NNSA**

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. House of Representatives approved [full funding](#) for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) for the rest of this fiscal year, GSN reported on March 21<sup>st</sup>. NNSA operations to maintain a safe, secure and reliable nuclear arsenal are to receive \$7.6 billion in fiscal 2013, according to GSN. The House also approved \$519 million through Sept. 30, 2015, for the Department of Defense's Cooperative Threat Reduction program.

##### **Liz Sherwood-Randall to Become White House's New WMD Csar**

The National Security Staff's Senior Director for Europe [Liz Sherwood-Randall](#) is to become the White House coordinator for defense policy, countering weapons of mass destruction, and arms control, *Foreign Policy* reported on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Randall will take over all the main responsibilities of White House's previous WMD Csar [Gary Samore](#), who left the White House late last year to become executive director for research at the Belfer Center.

##### **Saradzhyan on Defending WMD Against Cyber Threats**

Belfer Center fellow and member of IPNT Simon Saradzhyan has written an [op-ed](#) for RIA Novosti, in which he urges nuclear powers act to harden their cyber defenses to ensure no weapons of mass destruction cannot become offensive tools wielded against them by cyber terrorists. The March 19<sup>th</sup> op-ed



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notes that a January report on cyber threats published by the Pentagon's Defense Science Board states that "most of the systems" of the U.S. nuclear deterrent "have not been assessed (end-to-end) against (sophisticated) cyber attack to understand possible weak spots." And in March American senators asked the U.S. Strategic Command to find out whether other nuclear powers are able to defend their nuclear weapons from cyber attacks.

### **U.S. and Russian Officials Upbeat about Replacement of Nunn-Lugar**

Senior U.S. and Russian officials have expressed optimism that the umbrella Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) agreement, which expires this June, will be eventually replaced by a new bilateral document.

Speaking to reporters after her March meeting with Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov U.S. Under Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller said that: "The United States is also working to update the legal framework for cooperative threat reduction (CTR) activities with the Russian Federation... It was these talks that brought me to Geneva, and I am glad to tell you that they are proceeding apace with our Russian counterparts." Ryabkov confirmed that the late March talks in Geneva focused on CTR in general and on ways "to work on this issue in the future" in particular.

Ryabkov and Gottemoeller sounded as upbeat about CTR's future after an earlier meeting in



February. Moscow "is satisfied with the content of consultations" on replacement of the CTR agreement, Ryabkov was quoted in the February 15<sup>th</sup> issue of Kommersant as saying. "I would not say we have achieved a breakthrough. But despite the differences, the dialogue continues," Ryabkov said of the February talks with Gottemoeller in Moscow.



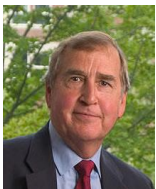
When asked when the new accord could be signed Ryabkov said: "We have not reached the last station, where everyone would get off the cars, sit down, take a pen and sign something." Gottemoeller described a "very positive environment" in the February talks on CTR with Ryabkov.

### **U.S., Russian and British Nuclear Officials Discuss Nuclear Security**

U.S., Russian and British nuclear officials met in Vienna in February to discuss overcoming challenges associated with securing nuclear materials worldwide, NNSA said in a February 22<sup>nd</sup> press release. The [Annual Nuclear Security Best Practices Exchange](#) grew out of commitments in a 2005 U.S.-Russian Joint Statement on Nuclear Security. The exchanges are designed to bring together technical experts with high-level policy makers to improve understanding of challenges related to securing nuclear material, according to NNSA.

### **Graham Allison: North Korean Test Indicates Nukes for Sale**

[Graham Allison](#), director of the Belfer Center and IPNT member, has penned an [op-ed](#), in which he asserts that the most dangerous message that North Korea sent with its nuclear weapon test in February is: "nukes are for sale."



"Mr. Obama should send Mr. Kim a direct, unambiguous message, with a carbon copy to the Chinese leadership in Beijing, warning that if a nuclear bomb of North Korean origin were to explode on American soil or that of an American ally, the

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United States would respond precisely as though North Korea itself had hit the United States with a nuclear-tipped missile,” Pr. Allison wrote in the op-ed that was published by *New York Times* on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

[William Tobey](#), Belfer Center senior fellow and director of IPNT, also weighed on the issue, noting the North Korean nuclear detonation was as much a test of China’s foreign policy as it was of the DPRK’s ability to induce atomic fission. If there is a single country than has the leverage to convince the Hermit Kingdom to suspend its nuclear ambitions, it is the Middle Kingdom, according to Belfer Center fellow [Saradzhyan](#).



Tobey

### **Acting NNSA Chief: USA Overhauling Oversight of Security at Nuclear Weapons Facilities**

The United States is overhauling oversight of security at atomic arms facilities in light of last year's infiltration of a Tennessee site housing much of the nation's nuclear-bomb fuel, acting NNSA Administrator [Neile Miller](#) was quoted by GSN as saying on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Miller became interim head of NNSA after its previous administrator Thomas D'Agostino stepped down in January 2013.

### **Matthew Bunn Briefs Canadian Legislators on Nuclear Terrorism**

Matthew Bunn, Harvard Kennedy School professor and IPNT member; testified on the threat of



nuclear terrorism at the February 13<sup>th</sup> hearings of the Canadian House of Commons’ Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. Pr. Bunn briefed the Canadian senators via a video-link on his current assessment of the threat as well as on findings of the [U.S.-Russia Joint Threat Assessment of Nuclear Terrorism](#) by the Belfer Center and ISKRAN.

### **Pavel Zolotarev: Obama Is Right to Point to Nuclear Terrorism Threat**

Commenting on U.S. President Barack Obama’s February 12<sup>th</sup> State of the Union address, deputy director of ISKRAN [Pavel Zolotarev](#) noted that “the issue of nuclear disarmament, just as the related issue of the security of nuclear materials will remain relevant.” “There are two main global problems at the moment,” Zolotarev was quoted by Russia’s

*Komsomolskaya Pravda* daily as saying. “The first is the threat of nuclear proliferation... And the second problem is the threat of nuclear terrorism...

Obama was right to identify these two problems. But he failed to mention the related issue of missile defence, where we continue to have disagreements, and without resolving this issue it is hardly possible to further reduce nuclear arms,” said Zolotarev whose Moscow-based institute participates in the IPNT working group.



### **FSB Briefs UN on Nuclear Terrorism Exercises**

Aleksey Kuzyura of Russia’s Federal Security Service has briefed the UN Security Council’s Counter-Terrorism Committee on the Don-Anti-Terror 2012 strategic exercises and the Strazh-2012 demonstration exercises that Russia held under the auspices of Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism last year. In his briefing Kozyura – who is head of FSB’s international

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cooperation - also proposed establishment of an International Databank to Combat Terrorism, Itar-Tass reported on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **President Obama's WMD "Czar" Appointed Executive Director of Belfer Center**

Gary Samore, President Obama's Coordinator for Weapons of Mass Destruction Counter-Terrorism and Arms Control, has been [appointed](#) Executive Director for Research at the Belfer Center. "We count ourselves fortunate that one of the nation's leaders in both thought and action on the core issues of the Center's agenda will bring his rich experience to our community," Center Director Graham Allison was quoted in a January 29<sup>th</sup> Belfer press release as saying.



As the President's WMD Coordinator for the past four years, Samore served as the principal advisor to the President on all matters relating to arms control and the prevention of weapons of mass destruction proliferation and WMD terrorism. Samore has coordinated an extraordinary range of U.S. government strategy, programs and initiatives, from combating Iran's nuclear ambitions and negotiating the New START Arms Control Agreement with Russia to

confronting terrorism and securing of nuclear weapons and materials worldwide. He also oversaw President Obama's ground-breaking Nuclear Security Summits of 2012 and 2014. Samore succeeded [Kevin Ryan](#), who leads the Elbe Group and directs the center's Defense and Intelligence Projects.

#### **Chief of General Staff Gerasimov Gets Oversight of the 12<sup>th</sup> GUMO**

The distribution of powers among the deputies of Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu was finalized in January. In addition to running the General Staff, Valery Gerasimov will command the ministry's 12<sup>th</sup> Main Directorate, Directorate of the Commander of Radiation, Chemical and Biological Defense Forces, Directorate of Nuclear and Radiation Safety, as well as Main Directorate of Deepwater Research, Russia's *Kommersant* daily reported in late January.

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

- **U.S. President Barack Obama:** "A nuclear-armed Iran would raise the risk of nuclear terrorism." (Whitehouse.gov, March 21, 2013).
- **George P. Shultz, William J. Perry, Henry A. Kissinger and Sam Nunn:** "Combined with the dangers of suicidal terrorist groups, the growing number of nations with nuclear arms and differing motives, aims and ambitions poses very high and unpredictable risks." (*Wall Street Journal*, March 7, 2013).
- **The 2013 Foreign Policy Concept of Russian Federation:** "Russia... stands for strengthening of technical and physical nuclear security on the global scale, and, in particular for strengthening of international legal mechanisms of ensuring nuclear security and preventing of nuclear terrorism acts." (Mid.ru, February 18, 2013).
- **U.S. President Barack Obama:** "We will engage Russia to seek further reductions in our nuclear arsenals, and continue leading the global effort to secure nuclear materials that could fall into the wrong hands." (*New York Times*, February 12, 2013).

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- **U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden:** “We continue to see opportunities for the United States and Russia to partner in ways that advance our mutual security interest and the interest of the international community... by safeguarding and reducing nuclear arsenals.” (Whitehouse.gov, February 2, 2013).
- **Spokesman for the Strategic Missile Forces Sergei Shorin:** “In the existing terrorist threat environment, one of the most important problems being solved by the Strategic Missile Forces is prevention of nuclear terrorism attempts.” (RIA Novosti, January 9, 2013).

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#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- May 23-24, 2013. Russian Ministry of Defense holds international conference on international security.
- June 17-18, 2013. G8 summit in Northern Ireland.
- June 2013. The umbrella U.S.-Russian Cooperative Threat Reduction agreement expires.
- June 27-29, 2013. Rosatom holds international conference “Nuclear energy industry in 21<sup>st</sup> century” as part of Russia’s activities as chair of G20.
- September 5-6, 2013. St. Petersburg will host the G20 summit.

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#### **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](mailto: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](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]

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