



Middlebury Institute of
International Studies at Monterey
James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies

CNS News & Views: August 2017

A Busy Month for CNS's Korea Experts

Warring words, escalating tensions, and newfound fears of nuclear war between the United States and North Korea has kept CNS experts in the media this past month.

From [Jeffrey Lewis's](#) op/ed in the *New York Times* or [Joshua Pollack's](#) in the *Daily News* to [Melissa Hanham's](#) interview on PBS NewsHour, media outlets across the world continually seek the authoritative insights from CNS experts.

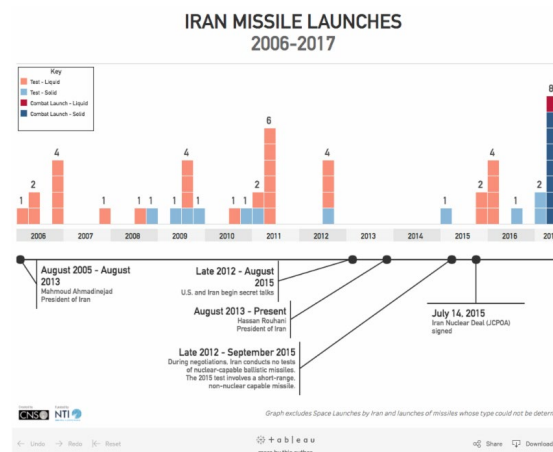


Melissa Hanham with Judy Woodruff on PBS
NewsHour

For media appearances, [see here](#). For our latest op/eds and other publications, [see here](#).

The Difference between Pyongyang and Tehran? The Iran Deal.

A new CNS-NTI [comprehensive database of Iranian missile tests](#) illustrates that the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) "has helped redirect Iran's priorities for its missile program away from developing an intercontinental ballistic missile (whose only purpose would be to deliver nuclear weapons)," according to Shea Cotton and Jessica C. Varnum.



"To be sure, Iran's missile program remains a proliferation concern, but it is primarily a conventional and regional one... . While continued observation of Iran's launch trends is warranted, the international community would do well to take notice of the positive impact of the JCPOA."

[Read the article on NTI.](#)

US-Russia Dialogue on Nuclear Issues

The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) and the Center for Energy and Security Studies (CENESS) convened a US-Russia Dialogue on Nuclear Issues in Vienna, Austria.

Current and former government officials, representatives from international organizations, and non-governmental (NGO) experts from both countries participated in this track one-and-a-half event, hosted by the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Studies. The discussions benefited significantly from the participation of former US and Russian ambassadors to the international organizations in Vienna and Geneva.



CNS Director William Potter and CENESS Director Anton Khlopkov co-chaired the meeting.

[Read the summary.](#)

Hibakusha, the Ban Treaty, and Future Generations

To Setsuko Thurlow, an atomic bomb survivor (or *hibakusha*), the conclusion of negotiations on a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons marked "the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons," recalls Masako Toki, CNS's Nonproliferation Education program manager, in her newest article in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* .



Hiroshima, August 6, 1945

The government of Japan, however, declined to participate in the negotiations, a decision that will have far-reaching effects "on its credentials as a disarmament champion, and even as a bridge-builder," writes Toki.

[Read Toki's article.](#)

Punishing Russia May Undermine US Stability and Credibility

Senior Fellow Nikolai Sokov authored a fascinating look in *The Hill*, examining how a potential move by the US Congress to develop a medium-range conventional ground-launched cruise missile would not only violate the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty, but also the reliability of US obligations under *all* international treaties.



Gorbachev and Reagan sign the 1987 INF Treaty

Moreover, it could possibly undermine the prerogatives of the Senate.

[Read Sokov's analysis.](#)

Debunking Websites and the Potential for Public Nonproliferation Monitoring

Just as military and intelligence experts have developed techniques to counter deception, techniques to debunk online deception have grown in power and sophistication. A new Occasional Paper by Bryan Lee and Kyle Pilutti investigates these debunking websites and determines that they "are important building blocks for future verification clearinghouse efforts."

[Learn more.](#)



VCDNP is Hiring!

The VCDNP invites applications for research associate. During her/his year in residence, the research associate will be expected, under the supervision of the VCDNP Executive Director, to conduct research and analysis on nonproliferation and disarmament, write reports and other publications and contribute to educational, research and outreach activities of the Center.

This is a full-time staff position.

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James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies
+1 (831) 647-4154
cns@miis.edu
www.nonproliferation.org



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