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

CNS News & Views: January 2018

It's a Nuclear War. Do You Know Where Your Leaders Are?

In partnership with the **Nuclear Threat Initiative**, CNS researchers have digitally constructed the vast network of underground bunkers in the United States and Russia where leaders of the two countries can seek safety in the event of nuclear war.



Using all open-source information and the platform Minecraft, the team reconstructed these two massive bunkers in an effort to illustrate the continuing absurdity of plans to fight a nuclear war even have both societies have collapsed.

Watch the trailer, which **TechCrunch** lauded as "*Fallout*-esque." **The Daily Beast** also reported that it "highlight(s) the gap between public rhetoric and private hedging."

The Denuclearization of Ukraine

On January 8 and 9, CNS hosted a workshop organized by the National Security Archive entitled "Nunn-Lugar, US-Russian-Ukrainian Relations, and the Withdrawal of Nuclear Weapons from Ukraine," with participants from both the George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton administrations.

While Ukraine's denuclearization is often treated as a foregone conclusion today, this outcome at the time was far from guaranteed. Close cooperation between the United States and Russia was fundamental to persuading Ukraine to give up its vast nuclear inheritance.



Ukraine S-300 SAM during the
Independence Day parade in Kiev, 2008

[Read more.](#)

[Sarah Bidgood on the CTBT in *Teen Vogue*](#)

Writing for the widely popular online magazine *Teen Vogue*, CNS Research Associate Sarah Bidgood co-authored an article titled, "How Young People Are Trying to Stop Nuclear Weapons Testing." Along with co-author Susan le Jeune d'Allegeerschecque--British High Commissioner to Canada--Bidgood discusses the legacy of nuclear testing, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and its verification organization, and the group of young people dedicated to supporting it.



Sarah Bidgood

Teen Vogue has nearly 8 million visitors to its website, and has been heralded for "doing a better job of covering important stories ... than legacy news publications."

[Read more.](#)

The Russification of US Deterrence Policy

In a new story published by the *National Interest*, Senior Fellow Nikolai Sokov discusses how Russia's acquisition of precision-guided long-range conventional strike weapons--with India's and China's to likely follow--is changing the strategic landscape in a fundamental way.



An F-16C Fighting Falcon releases an AGM-154 Joint Stand-off Weapon over the Utah Test and Training Range. Wikicommons.

[Read more.](#)

From LeMay to McMaster: The Pentagon's Difficult Relationship with Deterrence

Who actually subscribes to the strategy of deterrence, as it is understood by academic theorists? Does deterrence theory "apply to a regime like North Korea?" as National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster once asked.



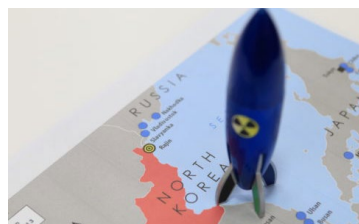
Joshua H. Pollack is also the Editor of the *Nonproliferation Review*

In a new article published on War on the Rocks, Senior Research Associate Joshua H. Pollack looks at how McMaster's skepticism of deterrence's efficacy is part of "America's historic pattern" of "embrac[ing] deterrence only grudgingly and belatedly."

[Read more .](#)

What the Failed North Korean Missile Test Reveals

Close analysis of Pyongyang's failed April 28 missile test that exploded in a populated area of North Korea reveals clues about the country's capabilities and plans, as well as ways that future such tests could inadvertently spark a serious crisis in Northeast Asia.



CNS Research Associate Dave Schmerler co-wrote an article for *The Diplomat* explaining how.

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