



British American Security  
Information Council



## TacNukes News No. 2

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### 1. New Publications

NATO's nuclear posture is scheduled to undergo a significant modernization over the next decade that involves upgrading both the nuclear weapons and delivery vehicles. The modernization will significantly increase the military capabilities of NATO's nuclear posture in Europe. The modernization plan contradicts key elements of the Deterrence and Defense Posture Review (DDPR).

Kristensen, Hans M. (November 2012) [Modernizing NATO's Nuclear Forces: Implications for the Alliance's defense posture and arms control](#) (Nuclear Policy Paper No. 11)  
[http://tacticalnuclearweapons.ifsh.de/pdf/Nuclear\\_Policy\\_Paper\\_No11.pdf](http://tacticalnuclearweapons.ifsh.de/pdf/Nuclear_Policy_Paper_No11.pdf)

The completion of NATO's Deterrence and Defence Posture Review (DDPR) has provided some relief to intra-Alliance tensions at a crucial time. In recent years, cohesion among Allies has been strained by increasing pressure for fiscal austerity, diverging threat perceptions, increasingly aggressive rhetoric from Russia, and an advancing Iranian nuclear program in NATO's backyard. The six authors of the papers in this volume draw upon their unique perspectives from within key member states, Alliance structures and Russia to examine the outcomes of the review process. In particular, they provide insight into what these commitments will mean in practice, and assess how sustainable they could be in the light of continuing domestic pressure in some states for more radical disarmament steps.

Chalmers, Hugh; Chalmers, Malcolm; Berger, Andrea (October 2012) [A Problem Deferred? NATO Non-Strategic Nuclear Weapons after Chicago](#) (Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies)  
[http://www.rusi.org/downloads/assets/Whitehall\\_Report\\_4-12.pdf](http://www.rusi.org/downloads/assets/Whitehall_Report_4-12.pdf)



## 2. B-61 Life Extension Program

A DOD Assessment of the B61 Life Extension Program assumes total cost of the LEP will be north of \$10 billion. What has not been noted is that it predicts the “first production unit,” aka the initial new warhead, won’t arrive until 2022, three years AFTER NNSA says it must happen.

Young, Stephen (November 2012) [Too Much, Too Late: The DOD’s Assessment of the B61 Life Extension Program](http://allthingsnuclear.org/dod-on-the-b61-lep/) (All Things Nuclear blog) <http://allthingsnuclear.org/dod-on-the-b61-lep/>

Miller, Steven; Ho, Steven (July 2012) [Independent Cost Assessment B61 LEP](http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/nwgs/CAPE-ICA-for-B61-LEP-July-2012.pdf) (United States of America Department of Defence) <http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/nwgs/CAPE-ICA-for-B61-LEP-July-2012.pdf>

## 3. B-61 safety problems reported

German public TV ARD reported safety problems of the B-61 deployed in Germany because they do not have fire-resistant pits. Yet, the lifetime extension program for the weapons apparently will not address this safety problem.

Fakt (November 2012) [US-Atombomben in Deutschland nicht brandsicher](http://www.mdr.de/fakt/atombomben100.html) (DasErste.de) <http://www.mdr.de/fakt/atombomben100.html>

## 4. Nuclear Sharing Exercise "Steadfast Noon"

This year, NATO's annual nuclear exercise "Steadfast Noon" apparently took place at Kleine Brogel air base in Belgium. The Belgian peace organizations Vredesactie, Pax Christi Vlaanderen, Vrede vzw, Action pour la Paix and MIR-IRG filed a complaint against Belgian participation in the exercise.

(October 2012) [Peace movements file a complaint against exercises in nuclear warfare](http://vredesactie.be/article.php?id=793) (Vredesactie) <http://vredesactie.be/article.php?id=793>

Parliamentarians in three NATO countries - Belgium, Germany and The Netherlands - asked their governments about "Steadfast Noon" and the participation of their respective armed forces. Governments in all three nuclear host nations refused to answer questions about the exercise. Citing NATO classification rules, legislators were denied information even on the question whether and where the exercise took place.

Read more in parliamentary protocols and weblogs.

Printed matter [5-77](http://www.senate.be/crv/5-77.pdf) (October 2012) Séances plénières Jeudi 25 octobre 2012 (Dutch Senate) Questions posed by M. Bert Anciaux (pp. 12-13) <http://www.senate.be/crv/5-77.pdf> (in Dutch and French)

Printed matter [CRABV 53 COM 571](http://www.dekamer.be/doc/CCRA/pdf/53/ac571.pdf) (November 2012) Compte Rendu Analytique (Belgian Defense Committee) Minister of Defence Pieter De Crem answers questions by Dirk Van der Maelen and Luk Van Biesen (p. 3-4) <http://www.dekamer.be/doc/CCRA/pdf/53/ac571.pdf> (in Dutch and French)

Bommel, Harry van (September 2012) [Nederland op nucleaire missie](http://harryvanbommel.sp.nl/weblog/2012/09/26/nederland-op-nucleaire-missie/) (Weblog) <http://harryvanbommel.sp.nl/weblog/2012/09/26/nederland-op-nucleaire-missie/> (in Dutch)

Drucksache [17/11095](http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/17/110/1711095.pdf) (October 2012) Schriftliche Fragen mit den in der Woche vom 15. Oktober 2012 eingegangenen Antworten der Bundesregierung (Deutscher Bundestag) Question posed by Agnes Brugger (No. 32 - 33); <http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/17/110/1711095.pdf> (in German)



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## 5. Debate on Nuclear Weapons Modernization in Germany intensifies

Parliamentary debate about Germany's involvement in nuclear sharing continued. Opposition Social Democrats tabled a resolution (Bundestag printed paper [No. 17/11323](#)) urging the government to advocate withdrawal of US nuclear weapons from Germany and Europe, to push for a political debate among allies on plans for modernizing nuclear weapons and to cut funding for maintaining Germany's nuclear capable aircraft. Opposition Socialists tabled a resolution (Drucksache [No. 17/1122](#)) urging the government to reach an agreement with the United States on the immediate withdrawal of US nuclear weapons from Germany and veto any modernization plans within NATO. Both resolutions were debated on 8 November in the Bundestag (Plenarprotokoll [17/204](#) (November 2012) Stenografischer Bericht 204. Sitzung (Deutscher Bundestag) <http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btp/17/17204.pdf> (in German) and forwarded for consideration by the relevant committees.

On November 7, the subcommittee on disarmament, arms control and disarmament had for the third time discussed the plans for the B-61 Life Extension Program. Oliver Meier's testimony "Vorfahrt für die Rüstungskontrolle: Stationierung modernisierter US-Atomwaffen aussetzen" can be found here: <http://tacticalnuclearweapons.ifsh.de/pdf/UA%20Stellungnahme%20Oliver%20Meier%20121107.pdf>

## 6. TNW after US elections

"Dismantling the infrastructure of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe and deploying them in the U.S. is the condition for efficiency. These aspects should be discussed within the multilateral format in full compliance by Washington with the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said.

Global Security Newswire (November 2012) [Russia Seeks Nonstrategic Nuke Talks With U.S.](#) (Nuclear Threat Initiative) <http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/russia-calls-talks-nonstrategic-nukes/>

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle (FDP) sees potential to set the course for future cooperation with the United States on disarmament and free trade. "Now it is about generating a new dynamic that could bring us closer to the goal of a nuclear weapon free world" Westerwelle is reported to say.

Westerwelle, Guido (November 2012) [Neue Impulse für Abrüstung](#) (Guido Westerwelle Parliamentary website) <http://www.guido-westerwelle.de/Neue-Impulse-fuer-Abruestung/50726c1i1p/index.html>

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