

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
February 19 - 25, 2010

1. [Clinton: Concern over Iran Should Be Addressed with "One Voice"](#) (02-25-2010)
2. [Pentagon Welcomes Restored Afghan Control of Marjah](#) (02-25-2010)
3. [Secretary of State Clinton Encourages New NATO Strategy](#) (02-23-2010)
4. [NATO Has Transformed from Defensive Role to Expeditionary Force](#) (02-23-2010)
5. [Afghan Operation Emphasizes Prevention of Civilian Casualties](#) (02-23-2010)
6. [State's Posner on Human Rights Council's Review of Iran](#) (02-22-2010)
7. [eJournal: A World Free of Nuclear Weapons](#) (02-22-2010)
8. [National Security Advisor Jones on Tracking Terrorists](#) (02-19-2010)
9. [Afghan Civilian Interests Central to Operation Moshtarak](#) (02-19-2010)

1. Clinton: Concern over Iran Should Be Addressed with "One Voice" (02-25-2010)

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — The international community has “little choice” but to impose higher costs on Iran due to its provocative actions related to its nuclear program, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton tells congressional panels, adding that the Iranian leadership’s failure to respond to U.S. engagement efforts have helped to build international consensus in support of economic sanctions that some countries might have opposed otherwise.

Clinton testified before congressional committees in the House of Representatives on February 25 and in the Senate on February 24 to urge approval of the State Department’s [proposed \\$52.8 billion budget](#) for the 2011 fiscal year.

February 25, 2010

The secretary told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that President Obama had offered Iranian leaders “the opportunity to engage in a serious way,” and described it as “a necessary and important step” that was taken despite some domestic political criticism. However, Iran has failed to respond “in a serious manner,” and since the initial U.S. offer of engagement there has been the revelation of a [new nuclear facility at Qom](#), Iran’s decision to attempt uranium enrichment to a [higher percentage](#), and the International Atomic Energy Agency’s February 18 report that Iran may be trying to design a nuclear-armed missile.

The Obama administration is now involved in a diplomatic campaign to further isolate Iran and apply pressure to encourage a change in the Iranian government’s behavior, Clinton said. The United States is urging a broad international approach on economic sanctions.

It is important, she told lawmakers, that “we speak with one voice, one voice within our government and one voice internationally, against Iran’s failure to live up to its responsibilities.”

She said intensive diplomatic consultations and the demonstration of the U.S. commitment to engagement has resulted in “a much warmer, much more receptive audience than we might have had otherwise” concerning new sanctions.

Speaking to reporters at the State Department February 25, Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs P.J. Crowley said a main focal point of pressure would be directed toward [Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps](#), which “we think is playing an increasing role in Iranian society.”

“It is not our intent to have crippling sanctions that have a significant impact on the Iranian people. Our actual intent is actually to find ways to pressure the government while protecting the people,” Crowley said. “We believe in effective sanctions.”

He said sanctions have proven effective in influencing Libya’s 2003 decision to end its nuclear program, and more recently with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1874, which has hindered North Korean efforts to proliferate “technology of concern.”

Clinton told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee February 24 that among its consultations with other members of the U.N. Security Council on ways to pressure the Iranian leadership, the Obama administration has been “heartened by the positive response from Russia.” It has also been making the argument to China that it should support sanctions because an [arms race in the Middle East](#) brought about by Iranian nuclear weapons could destabilize the region and “dramatically undermine the delivery of oil” on which China is dependent.

“We are beginning the process in the Security Council in New York, where language is being hammered out based on work that has been done by the Treasury Department and the State Department in coordination,” Clinton said. “We are targeting a lot of these proposed sanctions against the Revolutionary Guard.”

She added that her hope is that “the next 30 to 60 days will see a sanctions resolution emerge.”

[Both houses of the U.S. Congress have passed proposals](#) that would impose a wide array of sanctions against Iran and people or companies that do business with it. The sanctions, if enacted, would go further than the current policy of the Obama administration, but Clinton said she supports congressional action that is designed to encourage a change in Iranian behavior. “There can be a very good partnership between the Congress and the Obama administration in order to achieve that,” she said.

The State Department wants to offer suggestions on the congressional bills “about how they would better fit into our agenda in the Security Council,” as well as to “give the president some flexibility so that we can come out of the legislative process with a really strong tool and not just a statement of concern that won’t really dovetail with what we’re trying to achieve,” Clinton said.

2. Pentagon Welcomes Restored Afghan Control of Marjah (02-25-2010)

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — The Obama administration welcomed the transfer of authority in the central Helmand province town of Marjah to the Afghan government as well as the return of Afghans to their homes, increased freedom of movement, and the reopening of bazaars.

The administration says the transfer is symbolic of Operation Moshtarak’s transition from a military effort to clear central Helmand of Taliban insurgents into one of maintaining Afghan control in the area.

Defense Department press secretary Geoff Morrell said February 25 that “it looks as though much of Marjah is now under Afghan and coalition control,” adding that residents “have been very welcoming of us.”

The transfer “is symbolic of where we are in this operation,” he said. “We are transitioning from the clearing phase into the holding phase.”

Morrell said that with five shuras, or traditional council meetings, between Afghan and coalition forces and the residents taking place on February 24, “there were more shuras taking place in Marjah than there were troops in contact,” with “fewer than a handful” of coalition troops engaging with insurgent forces.

“That’s the kind of progress that we’ve been looking for and that we are heartened to see,” he said.

Morrell said many civilians are returning to their homes and there are signs that normal daily life is returning.

“The number of internally displaced people who are signing up for assistance from the government is diminishing each day as more and more people return to their homes,” he said. “Bazaars are open again, and they are full, I’m told, of goods, which speaks of the fact that there is clearly a freedom of movement that allows commerce to re-emerge.”

State Department Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs P.J. Crowley said February 25 that U.S. civilian experts are also on the ground in Marjah, with more expected.

The goal of the civilian teams will be to demonstrate “clear benefits” to the Afghan people following the removal of Taliban control.

The teams are working on “early economic, agricultural, rule of law projects that can help turn perceptions more favorably toward the Afghan government,” Crowley said, and “more are coming in every day.”

However, Crowley said, “no one is declaring victory.” He noted the Taliban’s capability of adapting to changing circumstances.

Morrell said coalition troops from the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) are still taking casualties, with improvised explosive devices (IEDs) placed by insurgents constituting their biggest threat.

The Pentagon spokesman praised the performance of the Afghan security forces. “These guys are every bit in the midst of this operation. They match us one for one on the ground. And they are in the fight,” he said.

He said the higher rate of ISAF casualties is caused by their responsibility to clear roads, which puts them into close contact with IEDs. Also, to the Taliban, “we are clearly a more prized target than an Afghan security force member would be,” he said.

Morrell said he hopes the increased Pakistani pressure on Afghan Taliban officials inside Pakistan, combined with the Afghan and coalition operation inside Afghanistan, will undermine the Taliban’s confidence and capability, and will encourage fighters to “lay down their weapons, respect the democratically elected governments in both countries and want to reintegrate into society.”

3. Secretary of State Clinton Encourages New NATO Strategy (02-23-2010)

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton discusses the future of NATO. By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says NATO is strongest as an alliance when it is united by common purposes and common principles.

“Today we confront challenges that have parallels to the problems that faced the alliance at its inception,” Clinton said February 22.

Clinton said NATO faces a new strategic landscape, new technologies, new adversaries and new ideologies that threaten its security across the globe, not just within its traditional trans-Atlantic boundaries.

“But I believe that the original tenets of NATO’s mission — defending our nations, strengthening trans-Atlantic ties, and fostering European integration — still hold,” she added in a [speech February 22](#) before the opening of a daylong seminar on a new strategic vision for the alliance held at the National Defense University in Washington.

NATO must consolidate the gains that have been made since the alliance was founded April 4, 1949, but also must confront the new nature and origins of the threats it faces today, Clinton said. One of the most complex issues the alliance was beginning to face at the end of the 20th century was operations outside its traditional geographic boundaries.

Some of those operations include [NATO ships combating maritime piracy](#) off the Horn of Africa, providing military training to 14,000 Iraqi army troops and supporting the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

“In an interconnected world, we cannot defend our people by crouching behind the geographic boundaries of the alliance,” Clinton said. “Many threats we face have little or no respect for borders.”

“Whether we’re battling piracy, or the menace of terrorism, or the prospect of weapons proliferation, we must be prepared to address new dangers regardless of where they originate,” she added.

NATO has embarked on a series of seminars that are intended to help craft a new strategic concept for the 28-nation alliance. The strategic concept is the core NATO document that defines the trans-Atlantic alliance on its roles, missions, capabilities and strategy for managing security challenges in the 21st century. Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is leading a 12-member group of international experts to revise the strategic concept, which was last revised in 1999.

Since 1999, NATO has begun conducting military operations well beyond its traditional European boundaries, such as in Afghanistan. This has been the subject of considerable debate within the alliance.

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen told students at Georgetown University in Washington February 22 that NATO often doesn’t get the visibility it should in the United States, but the alliance, created at the beginning of the Cold War, does and should play an essential role in the country’s long-term security. Facing today’s threats and challenges, Rasmussen said, needs the cooperation of like-minded democratic nations.

“The problems of the 21st century can only be solved multilaterally,” he said. “And there is no stronger and more effective framework for that cooperation than NATO.”

To demonstrate the effectiveness of multilateral responses to new challenges, Rasmussen cited examples of cooperation on terrorism, cybersecurity, nuclear proliferation and missile defense as areas where NATO activities have had a significant impact.

Rasmussen also discussed the role of NATO’s partner countries. Though not formal members of the alliance, they form a network that helps NATO with security challenges beyond the traditional areas of the alliance. Clinton said that in the new strategic concept, NATO should examine how to leverage this cooperation to make these relationships more productive.

“In sum, the Atlantic alliance squares the circle of multilateralism and effectiveness,” Rasmussen said. “That is not easy to do. But today more than ever, when we are looking for security in an age of uncertainty, it is precious.”

EUROPEAN DEFENSE

One area that has created some tension between NATO and the European Union has been security cooperation. Clinton said that in the past the United States had been ambivalent about NATO’s role in security cooperation with the EU. Part of the concern was that many EU countries who were also in NATO would give more support to a common European security and defense initiative and less support for NATO.

Clinton clarified the U.S. position on European security and defense.

“We do not see the EU as a competitor of NATO, but we see a strong Europe as an essential partner with NATO and with the United States,” Clinton said. “We look forward to working together with the EU as it applies its Common Security and Defense Policy to determine how we can best support one another and the United Nations in addressing security challenges.”

NATO AND RUSSIA

Clinton told the international group that the United States wants a cooperative NATO-Russia relationship that produces concrete results and also draws NATO and Russia closer.

“While Russia faces challenges to its security, NATO is not among them,” Clinton said.

Russia has offered a new European Security Treaty and a new NATO-Russia treaty, but Clinton said the United States does not see the need for new treaties.

“We believe discussions of European security should take place within existing forums for European security such as the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe] and the NATO-Russia Council,” Clinton said.

Clinton acknowledged that there are “real differences” with Russia, but said the forum for talks on areas of disagreement is the NATO-Russia Council. One example she cited was using the council to encourage Russia to honor its commitments on Georgia. Russia and Georgia fought a brief conflict in August 2008 over breakaway regions South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Clinton added that the NATO-Russia Council is also the place where common interests can be advanced, “including the indivisibility of our common security.”

4. NATO Has Transformed from Defensive Role to Expeditionary Force (02-23-2010)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates says the greatest evolution that has taken place in NATO in the past 20 years is its transition from a static, defensive force to a force ready to take on security missions well beyond its traditional trans-Atlantic borders.

“It was the attacks of September 11th [2001] and the Afghanistan campaign that turned what had been theoretical analysis into reality,” Gates said February 23 at a NATO Strategic Concept seminar at the Washington-based National Defense University.

A 12-person group of international experts, led by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, is working to revise NATO’s strategic concept, which is the core document that defines the trans-Atlantic alliance and its roles, missions, capabilities and strategy for managing security challenges in the 21st century. The strategic concept last was revised in 1999 before NATO began conducting active military operations outside of its traditional boundaries, such as in Afghanistan with the International Security Assistance Force and Iraq where NATO trainers are working to train the new Iraqi army.

Previous seminars addressed NATO’s role and missions, operations, and partnerships. This fourth and final seminar before the experts write the draft strategic concept is focused on transforming

structures, forces and capabilities. The draft is expected to be presented at the 2010 NATO Summit in Lisbon, Portugal, in November.

“This change is a result of a new security environment in which threats are more likely to emanate from failed, failing or fractured states than from aggressor states; where dangerous, nonstate actors often operate from within nations with which we are not at war, or from within our own borders; and where weapons proliferation and new technologies make possible the specter of chaos and mass destruction in any of our capitals,” Gates told seminar participants.

“It is clear that our security interests are no longer tied solely to the territorial integrity of member states, as instability elsewhere can be a real threat,” he said.

Since the last revision of the strategic concept, NATO forces have undertaken missions in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, counterpiracy missions in the Gulf of Aden, counterterrorism missions in the Mediterranean Sea, training missions in Iraq, and active military operations in Afghanistan. Some of these missions have been the source of considerable debate within NATO about the direction and purpose of the alliance, which was formed in April 1949.

Gates said one of the most critical aspects of the North Atlantic Charter that formed NATO is Article 5 — the section that says an attack against one NATO member is regarded as an attack on all members. The predominant threat to Europe no longer is a massive land invasion by armored formations supported by massed artillery and waves of combat aircraft, he said. Instead, the threats have become more diffuse and more likely to emerge from outside NATO’s borders.

NATO must enhance, Gates said, its capabilities in missile defense in closer cooperation with partners and nonmilitary multinational organizations, and in providing training and advice to the security forces of other nations.

But one of the most significant issues facing NATO, Gates said, cannot wait for a final strategic concept. “The alliance faces very serious, long-term, systemic problems,” he said.

The problem is not underfunding NATO, Gates said, but since the end of the Cold War national defense budgets of many NATO members have fallen consistently even as NATO forces have taken on unprecedented operations. Gates said large segments of the general public and political leaders in Europe have become averse to the use of military force and the risks associated with it.

“Not only can real or perceived weakness be a temptation to miscalculation and aggression, but on a more basic level, the resulting funding and capability shortfalls make it difficult to operate and fight together to confront shared threats,” he said.

FOUR POINTS

U.S. Ambassador to NATO Ivo Daalder told reporters February 23 that the United States is placing considerable emphasis on four points in the reform process:

- The promise NATO nations make that an attack on one is an attack on all remains the bedrock of the security alliance.
- A stronger cooperative relationship with Russia is essential.
- Improved civil-military capabilities must be expanded within NATO because a military response alone is not enough to resolve security crises.
- It is essential to make certain that the NATO institutions today are effective and efficient.

“We need to have an agile and flexible decisionmaking structure, in order to deal with the new challenges of the new world. And in order to do that, we will have to have a fundamental reform of the institutions and the organizations that are out there,” Daalder said.

See also [“Secretary of State Clinton Encourages New NATO Strategy.”](#)

5. Afghan Operation Emphasizes Prevention of Civilian Casualties (02-23-2010)

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — The military and civilian operations in Afghanistan’s central Helmand province have placed a priority on protecting the civilian population and delivering stability and services to them, rather than the goal of killing Taliban insurgent forces that have been in control of the area, Obama administration officials say.

Despite ongoing resistance in the Nad Ali district and the town of Marjah, the Defense Department’s undersecretary for policy, Michelle Flournoy, told U.S. senators she is “cautiously optimistic” about the direction of the new Afghan and international effort.

“This is a work in progress. But we are seeing conditions begin to develop that we believe will ultimately be necessary for success,” Flournoy told the Senate Armed Services Committee February 22. “And for the first time, we believe we have the right mission, the right strategy, the right leadership and the right level of resources in support of the mission.”

Operation Moshtarak, a word that means “together” in Dari and Pashto, was planned by Afghan security forces and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan with the goal of clearing areas of Taliban fighters, extending the reach of the local and national Afghan governments, and providing the civilian population with services such as health care and education and reassuring them that the authority of the Afghan government is there to stay.

“This really is the first large-scale effort to fundamentally change how we are doing business,” Flournoy said, emphasizing that the top priority is protecting the civilian population while working closely with Afghan partners to ensure the Afghan government can hold the area as they build civilian services and economic development.

Many Afghans are eager to see development and responsive governance, but need assistance and resources to make that happen. With the beginning of Operation Moshtarak, “I think they see this as an opportunity to move down the road toward achieving that,” she said.

Before the operation began February 13, Afghan and ISAF representatives held multiple shuras, or traditional meetings of elders, in local communities, which Flournoy said allowed civilians to “have real buy-in into the operation.”

The shuras focused on the situation on the ground, “whether they wanted their area to be cleared, whether they wanted to be rid of the Taliban, whether they wanted Afghan and coalition forces to come in,” as well as what the outcome might look like and determining if they were “prepared for the risk that would be involved.”

As a result, “I think the vast majority of them became very supportive,” she said, “but they were also very clear that they wanted not just a clearing; they wanted the hold and the build, and they wanted legitimate and responsive governance at the end of the day when it was all over.”

MILITARY APOLOGIZES FOR CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

Flournoy said with the emphasis on avoiding civilian casualties, the percentage caused by coalition actions “has dropped substantially,” which has improved both optimism and confidence that the Afghan and international forces will prevail over the Taliban.

However, a mistaken February 22 attack on a civilian convoy killed 27 people, and prompted a February 23 [video apology](#) by ISAF commander General Stanley McChrystal to the Afghan people in Dari and Pashto.

“I have instituted a thorough investigation to prevent this from happening again,” McChrystal said. “I pledge to strengthen our efforts to regain your trust to build a brighter future for all Afghans. Most importantly, I express my deepest, heartfelt condolences to the victims and their families. We all share in their grief and will keep them in our thoughts and prayers.”

In his remarks to the Senate committee, Marine Corps Lieutenant General John Paxton Jr., who directs operations for the U.S. military’s Joint Staff, said there have been “isolated incidents of regrettable civilian casualties,” and he said that in some cases “we have seen the Taliban use the civilians as human shields.”

The coalition troops have been operating under rules of engagement that are designed to prevent civilian casualties, and McChrystal has given his subordinate commanders in the field the authority to exercise their judgment in the delicate balance between protecting civilians while also protecting their troops from undue risk, Paxton said.

“Right now, our two largest points are to separate the insurgents from the population, and then to demonstrate our resolve and our commitment to stay ... so that we can gain credibility with the people of Afghanistan,” he said.

With the delivery of the goods and services they seek, the population will not feel that “they owe allegiance to a shadow government who provides something that the local government cannot,” he said.

Already, he said, in some areas that have been cleared of Taliban forces, markets and bazaars have reopened, and civilians have cooperated with coalition forces by identifying the location of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), which the Taliban have used as their primary weapon against the security forces.

Civilian cooperation can play a role in persuading some Taliban fighters to participate in rehabilitation efforts led by the Afghan government, he said.

“If the population can demonstrate a resilience and an agreement to work with the Afghan security forces, then those who have thrown down their arms and left may be faced with two opportunities of either retreating further or starting to think about reconciliation, which is where we want to go,” Paxton said.

6. State's Posner on Human Rights Council's Review of Iran (02-22-2010)

Assistant secretary addresses council, offers recommendations

UN Human Rights Council
THE UPR WORKING GROUP SEVENTH SESSION
Consideration of UPR Reports
Report of the UPR Working Group on Iran
Statement by the Delegation of the United States of America
Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Michael Posner
February 15, 2010

Thank you, Mr. President.

I am pleased to participate in the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review of Iran.

The United States strongly condemns the recent violent and unjust suppression of innocent Iranian citizens, which has resulted in detentions, injuries and deaths. Since last June millions of Iranian people have sought to raise legitimate concerns about the 2009 electoral process and to exercise their universal rights. The Government of Iran has suppressed their protests, often resorting to violence.

The United States also strongly condemns the growing restrictions on freedom of expression. News organizations have been shut down and Iranian and foreign journalists arrested, detained, or prevented from doing their job. Access to the internet also has been curtailed.

What we are saying here echoes the blog posts, emails, and news stories written by Iranians who are struggling to exercise their very right to free expression that the government is trying so hard to curtail.

We are deeply concerned about the status of detainees in Iran, including foreign nationals and American citizens, and the lack of due process accorded them. In addition to last year's clearly improper "show" trials, there are credible reports of torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment in Iranian prisons, including stoning and the execution of minors.

We also are deeply concerned about systematic government violations of religious freedom. Prominent reformers from the Shi'a community have received harsh prison sentences, many on charges of "insulting Islam." More than 200 Baha'i leaders have been executed since 1979. We are concerned about the welfare and legal rights of seven Baha'i leaders imprisoned for more than a year and now on trial on unsubstantiated charges. Members of these religious communities, as well as Iran's Sufi Muslims, are increasingly subject to surveillance, harassment, prolonged arbitrary detention, and unsubstantiated legal proceedings.

In light of these and related concerns the United States makes the following recommendations:

- That the Government of Iran respect all of its international human rights treaty obligations.
- That it provide due process of law for those charged with crimes, and discontinue the use of mass "show" trials.
- That the government end its severe restrictions on the rights to free expression, association, and assembly, and end the harassment and persecution of journalists and bloggers.

- That it also uphold its constitutional provisions guaranteeing freedom of worship.
 - That the government take immediate action to cease the practice of torture in detention facilities and prisons, and take immediate measures to monitor, fully investigate, and prosecute allegations of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.
 - That it allow UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to visit the country and provide him with access to its detention facilities and prisoners.
 - Finally, that the Government of Iran allow for a visit by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and by other UN Special Rapporteurs and experts who have requested access to Iran.
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7. eJournal: A World Free of Nuclear Weapons (02-22-2010)
Volume 15, Number 2, ISSN 1948-4399 (online)

This issue of eJournal USA examines the challenges to achieving nuclear disarmament. It conveys the hopes of some thinkers, and explains the doubts of others. Inside This Publication:

FROM THE EDITORS About This Issue

THREAT AND PROMISE

Obama's Commitment

Ellen O. Tauscher, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security

Other people have talked about achieving a world without nuclear weapons. President Obama is trying to make it happen.

The Transformation of U.S. Nuclear Policy

Joseph Cirincione, President, Ploughshares Fund

President Obama faces plenty of obstacles, especially cynicism.

Playing Percentages

An Interview With Brent Scowcroft, Former U.S. National Security Adviser

Zero nuclear weapons could make for an even more unstable world.

Nonproliferation's Contribution

George Perkovich, Director, and Deepti Choubey, Deputy Director, Nuclear Policy Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Cooperation among the nuclear powers on preventing proliferation requires upholding the bargain between disarmament and nonproliferation.

Fission, Fusion

Nuclear weapons can achieve their destructive power in two different ways.

Beyond Existing Treaties

Rebecca Johnson, Executive Director, Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy

The 2010 review conference on nuclear weapons nonproliferation should start laying the groundwork for a treaty abolishing nuclear weapons.

DISARMAMENT ATTEMPTS PAST

Successes and Failures

Jeremi Suri, Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The 20th century had some successes and some failures in arms control.

U.S. AND RUSSIA

Why the Stockpiles?

Jonathan Winkler, Associate Professor of History, Wright University

Maintaining huge and expensive nuclear warhead stockpiles was the cost of peace during the Cold War.

U.S.-Russia Balancing Act

Dmitri Trenin, Director, Carnegie Moscow Center

Russian leaders publicly support the idea of a world free of nuclear weapons but lack a clear strategy to advance this vision.

Megatons to Megawatts

Andrew Newman, Research Associate, Harvard University

Thanks to the Megatons to Megawatts program, half of U.S. nuclear energy comes from dismantled Russian nuclear warheads.

PERSPECTIVES

Young People to the Fore

Johan Bergenäs, Research Associate, Monterey Institute of International Studies

Progress toward a world rid of nuclear weapons depends on the world's young people.

A Safer World for All

Jayantha Dhanapala, President, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs

A verifiable global agreement on eliminating nuclear weapons would make all of the world's people safer equally.

The Commitment of Non-Nuclear-Weapons States

Irma Argüello, Founder and Chair, Nonproliferation for Global Security Foundation

All countries must learn that abolishing nuclear weapons will enhance the security of all countries.

TIMELINE -- By the Numbers

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

8. National Security Advisor Jones on Tracking Terrorists (02-19-2010)

Al-Qaida must not be allowed to set up new sanctuaries in the Sahel

Munich Security Conference

Speaker: James L. Jones

Function: General, National Security Advisor

Nation/Organization: United States of America

February 6, 2010

Speech at the 46th Munich Security Conference

Thank you, Wolfgang, for your introduction, for your many years of friendship and for your leadership, not only of this conference, where you carry on the work of Baron Ewald Heinrich Von Kleist and Horst Teltschik, but for your lifetime of dedication to the trans-Atlantic partnership. Thank you Wolfgang.

It is a pleasure to share this stage with our partners in European and global security—foreign ministers Westerwelle and Lavrov and High Representative Ashton.

Like many of you, I have been coming to this conference for many years - in my case since 1980. Back then, I was a military aide working for then - Captain John McCain - one of our nation's heroes and distinguished leaders who joins us today. As a young aide, I wasn't allowed in this conference room. I missed out on all the speeches here on the inside, but was happy to take advantage of Munich's fine restaurants and bars.

Some 10 years later, I made it in - as a military assistant to Secretary of Defense Cohen, who also joins us today. And then, as Supreme Allied Commander Europe. I always enjoy the speeches, but realize how much I miss Munich's fine restaurants and bars.

Goethe once observed that "No one would talk much in society if they knew how often they misunderstood others." So I am delighted to return to one of the world's premier conferences on international security - a chance to talk, but more importantly, to truly listen and understand one another as we confront common challenges.

At this conference last year, Vice President Biden and I came here to represent an administration that had been in office less than three weeks. We reaffirmed President Obama's pledge of a new beginning in America's relations with Europe and the world. A new way of conducting foreign policy—not lecturing, but listening; not making decisions unilaterally, but consulting and coordinating with allies and partners. As President Obama said in his State of the Union address last week, "our destiny is connected to those beyond our shores."

I return to Munich today as President Obama begins his second year on office, and I believe - and I hope you agree - that we have begun to fulfill the promise we made here a year ago. Since taking office, the President has committed the United States to a new era of American leadership and comprehensive engagement based on mutual interests and mutual respect.

But engagement is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end - to greater cooperation on common challenges, greater burden-sharing by all, and fulfilling the universal aspirations of people around the world - economic opportunity, education, health, justice and dignity and living in peace and security.

Perhaps nowhere do we see our engagement -and its results - more vividly than in our partnership with Europe. Now, I know it has become fashionable in some quarters to suggest that the United States has somehow neglected the trans-Atlantic partnership. To some extent, this assertion is not surprising. One report noted that "the relationship. . . is in the early stages of what could be a terminal illness." That report was from nearly 30 years ago - in the early 1980s.

Reports of the demise of the Trans-Atlantic partnership have been greatly exaggerated - for decades. But our partnership endures for a simple reason - because it reflects our common values, our shared interests and is the foundation of our collective security and prosperity. Indeed, long gone are the days when Europe was a challenge to be managed by the United States.

Rather, Europe today is our indispensable partner as we confront, together, the whole range of challenges to our common security - from terrorism and proliferation to energy and climate change to the spread of cyber attacks, economic instability and pandemic disease.

We have strengthened our alliances and partnerships, including our bonds with every country in Europe. Building on the 60th anniversary NATO summit at Strasbourg and Kehl, we're moving toward a new Strategic Concept to renew and reform the alliance for the 21st century.

And we're deepening our cooperation with the EU - building on the extraordinary U.S-EU summit in Prague, President Obama's summit with the EU leadership in Washington, and, now, as the EU implements the historic Lisbon Treaty.

Indeed, we have listened, consulted and coordinated our actions with allies and partners - and welcomed European leadership - in meeting urgent global challenges.

- Working through the G-8 and G-20, we coordinated our approaches and helped pull the world back from economic catastrophe and agreed a new framework for growth that is both balanced and sustained.
- Our strategy in Afghanistan and Pakistan is stronger because of the dose and daily consultation and coordination with our allies and partners, including 9,000 additional troops from contributing countries. This brings total non-American ISAF troop contributions to nearly 50,000.
- Working through the United Nations, we've confronted urgent challenges, as in strengthening international sanctions against North Korea and ratifying the agenda that President Obama laid out in Prague - strengthening the nonproliferation regime and seeking a world without nuclear weapons.
- And at the climate change conference in Copenhagen, for the first time in history, all the major economies accepted their responsibility to take action, even as we recognize the need to do more.

We are forging new partnerships with key centers of global influence, including, Russia, China, India and Brazil. Indeed, the multiple summits and dose working relationship of Presidents Obama and Medvedev, have allowed us to make important progress on areas of mutual interest, even as we deal honestly with issues on which we disagree.

This cooperation and progress - in just one year - underscores what President Obama has called a "fundamental truth" - that "America cannot confront the challenges of this century alone" and that "Europe cannot confront them without America." So, what are these urgent challenges?

We face the common challenge of Afghanistan and Pakistan, where today, the forces of 43 nations are confronting the violent extremists who threaten us all. I want to thank Secretary General Rasmussen, as well as the chairman of NATO's military committee, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe and the Supreme Allied Commander - Transformation for their leadership in securing additional forces and for giving new life to this vital mission. And I want to thank our NATO allies and partners for contributing those forces - many without the caveats of the past - and for the continued service and sacrifices of their troops on the ground.

Success will demand the same unity going forward: a unified military effort that targets the insurgency, disrupts, dismantles and defeats al Qaeda, protects the Afghan people and begins the transfer of responsibility to Afghan forces; a unified civilian effort that partners with President Karzai, combats corruption and - as we reaffirmed at the London Conference - promotes good governance and development; and, finally, an effective partnership with Pakistan and its people, recognizing that neither Afghanistan nor Pakistan will find lasting security and prosperity in isolation.

By now, we should all recognize that we face the common challenge of violent extremism beyond Afghanistan and Pakistan. In partnership, we have made progress against the core of al Qaeda. But we simply cannot allow al Qaeda and its affiliates to migrate from Somalia to Sudan to the Sahel and establish new sanctuaries. This requires even better information sharing, even more aggressive law enforcement and working together to build the capacity of partner nations like Yemen to defend themselves and deliver security and prosperity for their people.

It will also require something else - continued cooperation to track and stop the funds that fuel terrorists. This week, the EU Parliament is expected to vote on the agreement that allows us to share critical financial information to investigate terrorist funding. This program has safeguards. It protects privacy. It has prevented terrorist attacks and saved lives, including here in Europe. And with European Parliament's support for sustaining this important agreement, the United States looks forward to further cooperation in this area with our European partners to protect our citizens on both sides of the ocean through an agreement called the Terrorist Finance Tracking program.

We face the common challenge of proliferation - and the United States will continue to play a leadership role. We are completing negotiations with Russia on a new START treaty and I thank Foreign Minister Lavrov for his partnership in this effort. The Nuclear Posture Review that we'll release in the coming weeks will strengthen deterrence as we reduce the role of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy. At our Nuclear Security Summit in April, we will rally nations behind the President's goal of securing the world's vulnerable nuclear material in four years. We are committed to strengthening the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and negotiating a Fissile Material Cut off Treaty.

Working with our partners in the Security Council and in full agreement with our South Korean and Japanese allies, we will continue our coordinated approach to North Korea - Pyongyang must take concrete and irreversible steps to fulfil its obligations and eliminate its nuclear weapons. If it does, we will support economic assistance that leads to a better life for the North Korean people, and we will lead a comprehensive effort to fully integrate North Korea into the community of nations.

Through the P5+1, the door for diplomacy with Iran remains open—despite Tehran's puzzling defiance, which now compels all of us to work together as allies and partners on a second track of increased pressure. Indeed, the unprecedented level of international consensus and unity on Iran with regard to its nuclear program demonstrates that Tehran must meet its responsibilities or it will face stronger sanctions and perhaps deeper isolation. Hanging in the balance is a nuclear arms race in the Middle East and greater proliferation concerns worldwide. I can think of no issue of greater concern at the moment.

At the same time, we are pursuing a new Phased Adaptive Approach to missile defense in Europe. This proven, more capable and more responsive approach recognizes the growing threat to Europe from short and medium-range ballistic missiles. It is a visible demonstration of our commitment to NATO's Article 5 - that an attack against one is an attack against all, and that potential attacks must

therefore be deterred. And it is inherently collaborative - with a role for all allies and an opportunity for cooperation with Russia.

We face the common challenge of forging peace in the Middle East. In concert with our Quartet partners, we continue to work aggressively to restart negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. Obviously, we are disappointed that this has not yet occurred. But the United States remains unwavering in our goal—two states living side by side in peace and security: a Jewish state of Israel with true security for all Israelis, and an independent Palestinian state with contiguous territory that ends the occupation and realizes the full aspirations of the Palestinian people.

Finally, I would add that we face the common challenge of swiftly responding to humanitarian crises, such as the terrible earthquake in Haiti. In partnership with the government of Haiti, the United Nations and many other nations, the United States is making significant investments in Haiti's long-term recovery and rebuilding. But this is no substitute for the broader commitment that is needed, especially from our European partners. Haiti's recovery will require additional resources and additional contributions to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, and we urge more nations to join us in this urgent effort.

And as we face these common challenges around the world, we stand by our Vision of a strong, united and peaceful Europe, guided by the following six principles that Secretary of State Clinton laid out on Paris last week.

First, the cornerstone of European security is the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states. Rather than spheres of influence, we seek spheres of cooperation that recognizes the fundamental rights of all free nations, including the ability of countries that seek and aspire to join NATO to do so.

Second, security in Europe must be indivisible. In the 21st century, security is no longer a zero sum game. President Medvedev's proposals on European security contain important views. The United States welcomes a substantive and constructive dialogue, even as we believe that existing institutions - such as the OSCE, the NATO-Russia Council, the NATO-Ukraine Commission and the NATO-Georgia Commission - provide a sound foundation for even greater security and cooperation in the future.

Third, the commitment to our common security - as enshrined in Article 5 of the NATO treaty - remains sacrosanct. This requires not only a new Strategic Concept for NATO that addresses the new, non-traditional challenges we face now and, increasingly, in the future. It also means - even in a difficult economic climate - making difficult but necessary investments to ensure flexible, deployable forces capable of meeting the full range of missions.

Fourth, we must ensure the transparency that builds trust and confidence among neighbours. This includes greater sharing of military information. It includes the transparency and stability made possible by the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe - transparency and stability that we must strengthen in a 21st century security framework.

Fifth, we must reduce the role and number of nuclear weapons—as the United States is working to do - even as we maintain a safe, secure and effective arsenal to ensure our defense and that of our allies.

And as a final principle of European security, we must ensure the opportunities and rights of all people, as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act. As President Obama declared in Oslo, "America will

always be a voice for those aspirations that are universal.“ That includes the aspirations of all Europeans - such as the people of Ukraine, who will choose their next president this weekend. The United States of America will continue to work with partners to expand the sphere of democracy, prosperity and stability, in Europe and beyond.

These are the principles that can guide us in pursuit of greater European security. These are the challenges that the United States will address, in partnership with Europe, in pursuit of greater global security. These are the commitments we must make, to each other, to advance our common interests.

Our century is still young, and none of us can know what the future will bring. As the playwright Brecht once observed, “Because things are the way they are, things will not stay the way they are.“ But we do know this: in partnership and common purpose, the Trans-Atlantic relationship that ensured our security and prosperity in the 20th century, will continue to do so in the 21st.

Thank you very much.

9. Afghan Civilian Interests Central to Operation Moshtarak (02-19-2010)

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — The Afghan-led operations against insurgents in central Helmand province, with support from the International Security Force for Afghanistan (ISAF), are being conducted with the goal of not only ending Taliban control of the area, but also providing services to the civilian population and reassuring people that the Afghan government presence is there to stay.

British Army Major General Patrick Carter, who is the commander of ISAF Regional Command South, spoke to reporters from Afghanistan via teleconference February 18 and said the residents of Marjah and Nad Ali, the population centers at the focus of the operation, have wanted Taliban forces to leave, but need reassurance that Afghan government authority will remain in place after it is restored.

“What has been most encouraging to us has been how they wanted this operation to happen. They've been living under a very oppressive regime, particularly in Marjah, but also in northern Nad Ali as well,” Carter said. But while the Afghan residents are welcoming the arrival of Afghan security forces, they are looking for “confidence that the security forces will stay and hold.”

Ahead of the operation, which began February 12, Golab Mangal, the governor of Helmand province, identified what the population wanted and what the Afghan government needed to do to assert its authority. He worked with other Afghan officials to alert the population to the coming military activities and assure them that better governance would be provided.

Operation Moshtarak, which means “together” in both Dari and Pashto, is a cooperative effort between international and Afghan forces, with Afghan forces in the lead. Carter said the extent to which Afghan army and police forces have been fully involved in the decisionmaking process of the operation has been “impressive.”

Their active involvement, from the planning stage through the execution of the operation, “means that we're getting an exponential leap, in terms of our collective capability,” he said.

Carter said a key part of the new counterinsurgency strategy developed by the ISAF commander, General Stanley McChrystal, is to ensure that “we take the people with us, rather than simply defeating an insurgency.”

Afghan and ISAF forces have been using shuras, or traditional gatherings with community councils, to ascertain the needs of the population and provide a venue for full communication to outline concerns and help plan for greater stability and prosperity.

“First and foremost what Afghans want is security because at the moment that is something that has been lacking for 30 years or so,” Carter said. “They want the confidence to be able to send their children to school. They want the confidence to be able to go shopping. They want the confidence simply to be able to move their sick relative to a hospital, or whatever else it might be.”

Carter emphasized the importance of establishing the freedom of movement between Marjah and Nad Ali, where he said citizens have been “regularly fleeced at illegal checkpoints” as they attempt to transport their goods and services.

“If you can get Afghans to be able to move freely on those roads, you'll begin to get the economy to move and governance to be delivered more broadly across the region,” he said.

For longer term goals, the residents want better education opportunities for children and basic health care and other services, which civilian workers from the United States and other countries are providing as areas are secured. “They'd like to see female doctors working. They would like to see genuine agriculture. And they'd like to see an economy that gives them job prospects,” Carter said.

“It's those basic-level services that they are most looking for,” he said, adding that U.S. civilian efforts, alongside ISAF and their Afghan partners, seek to deliver those very services.

Operation Moshtarak will “take time,” the general said, due to the continued threats from land mines and improvised explosive devices, and also out of a desire to prevent civilian casualties wherever possible.

Afghan and ISAF forces “are being extremely careful” in how they are conducting the clearance phase of the operation. “They are minimizing collateral damage and they are using small arms wherever they possibly can,” he said.

Ultimately, the goal of the operation is to persuade the civilian population that “they're better off with their government than they are with the forces of the insurgents,” he said, and the operation will also permit more Taliban fighters who wish to lay down their arms to reintegrate into Afghan society.

“We just want to see that the end effect is a stable effect with people oriented in the right direction,” Carter said.