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DETERRENCE: [Unmanned systems integrated roadmap, FY2013-2038](#), US DOD (24 December 2013) [PDF, 4.4MB]

The US pivot to the Pacific requires affordable unmanned systems to operate in and near North Korea and China. The Roadmap examines unmanned systems in relation to interoperability and modularity; communication systems, spectrum, and resilience; security (research and intelligence/technology protection; persistent resilience); autonomy and cognitive behavior; and weapons.

- [Redesigning the SLOCUM glider for torpedo tube launching](#), Alberto Alvarez, Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation, NURC-PR-2012-002 (April 2012) [PDF, 0.5MB]
- [Autonomous underwater vehicles: a transformation in mine counter-measure operations](#), Bao Nguyen, David Hopkin, Handson Yip, Defense & Security Analysis, 24:3, 247-266 (2008) [PDF, 1.5MB, subscription required]



DPRK: [China and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missiles: policy issues](#), Shirley Kan, Congressional Research Service (3 January 2014) [PDF 698KB]

North Korea continues to push the U.S. and South Korea closer in a way that broadens and solidifies the diplomatic and military alliance. The U.S. is moving more combat equipment to Korea and Korea agreed to pay over \$800 million toward Alliance management. China seems to accept the dynamics as long as the Alliance doesn't target third countries such as China. The United States and China discussed a North Korean collapse scenario as recently as 2009 according to a Congressional Research Service report that was recently released. Image source: KCNA

- [U.S., South Korea vow to face DPRK threat](#), Xinhuanet (7 January 2014)
- [South Korea, U.S. to discuss deterrence plan against N.Korean nuke](#), Kim Eun-jung, Global Post (14 January 2014)
- [U.S. South Korea hold high-level talks in wake of Pyongyang purge](#), Global Security Newswire (7 January 2014)



ENERGY SECURITY: [Energy for centuries: Is methane hydrate the energy source of the future?](#), Clare Foran, National Journal (29 December 2013)

Fracking for shale gas has become controversial because of the local environmental effects at production source, in particular by contamination of groundwater. But shale supplies have also lowered gas prices and led some coal plants to shut down. This is exhilarating news for the professional worrywarts of global environment, who have never had any legal power or responsibility, but now drooling at the prospect of proposed US EPA regulations that make new coal plants prohibitive compared to shale gas plants. After shale gas will come methane hydrates, and both together will drive up methane emissions into the atmosphere. Let's all hope and trust that climate models are wrong.

- [Fracking's Achilles' Heel](#), Joe Nocera, Opinion, New York Times (18 November 2013)
- [The fracturing of public opinion: Bulgaria's fracking controversy](#), Catherine Boyle (January 2014) [Film, 71 minutes]
- [A fresh look at America's gas lands](#), Andrew Revkin, New York Times blog DotEarth (26 November 2013)

GOVERNANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY: [Japan delays energy plans amid public concern regarding nuclear power](#), John Hofilena, Japan Daily Press (15 January 2014)

Japan's government has delayed the release of energy plans as public opposition to nuclear power rises. Candidates in the race for the next Tokyo governor include former PM Hosokawa, focusing on a strong anti-nuclear position with the backing of former PM Koizumi, possibly further hindering the Abe administration's plans. Protestors in Kyushu marked the 1,000 day of demonstrations against the use of nuclear power since the Fukushima disaster.

- [Abe-Koizumi duel looms in gubernatorial election](#), Asahi Shimbun (15 January 2014)
 - [Protestors mark 1,000th straight day of fight against nuclear power](#), Maan Pamintuan, Japan Daily Press (14 January 2014)
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CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION: [The new normal: A Hong Kong business primer on climate change adaptation](#), Climate Change Business Forum, (2013) [6.47 MB, PDF]

Businesses can assess trends related to climate change, identify risks, and build resilience into their operations and supply chains. Their appraisals may also disclose opportunities for new products and services to serve the emerging low-carbon economy. Action on predicted climate change impacts is called climate adaptation. Apart from the drivers, espousal of climate adaptation is like taking up any sort of corporate change, which needs leadership at the top, steadiness between messages and actions, and persistent follow-through.

- [Hong Kong business survey on energy efficiency and climate change](#), Climate Change Business Forum, (2012)
 - [The Hong Kong guide to emission reduction - capitalising on the business opportunity](#), Climate Change Business Forum (2013)
-

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