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DETERRENCE: Jury out: do advanced conventional weapons make nuclear war more likely? Elaine Grossman, Global Security Newswire (22 August 2012)

Could conventional weapons make a nuclear blast more likely? "The big problem…is that U.S. conventional war plans and doctrine are likely to create circumstances that will force our adversaries to threaten the use of nuclear weapons--or to use nuclear weapons--against us or our allies," according to Keir Lieber of Georgetown University.

- Conventional arms no substitute for nuclear: strategic command official, Elaine Grossman, Global Security Newswire (29 February 2012)
- Nuclear disarmament and Russian perceptions of US conventional superiority, Security

Challenges, Vol. 6, No. 4 (Summer 2010)

- U.S. conventional forces and nuclear deterrence: A China case study, Christopher Bolkcom, Shirley Kan, Amy Woolf, Congressional Research Service (11 August 2006) [PDF, 0.2MB]

Blog: Old Sea Dogs In New Battles With Fancy Labels

by Peter Hayes – Deterrence Contributor *These days, airlines fly direct to DC, and the diplomatic power of CINCPAC, the commander-in-chief of the entire Pacific Command based in Hawaii, has receded…*

DPRK: North Korea and Iran signed a technology cooperation agreement against a common enemy, Shaking China Military Matters (3 September 2012) [Mandarin Chinese]

North Korea was busy at the most recent Non-Aligned Movement in Tehran, Iran. Claiming a "common enemy" the two countries signed a Science and Technology agreement in the fields of information technology, energy, environmental protection and agriculture. They will also cooperate to establish a laboratory with mechanisms for researchers to communicate. North Korea also held other talks at the conference.

- Fiji signs MOU with North Korea, The Jet Online (3 September 2012)
- Kim Yong-nam converses with heads of state and government of foreign countries, Korean Central News Agency (31 August 2012)
- The reduction of tension in Korea, part I, Peter Colm, Rosemary Hayes, Karl f. Spielman, Nathan N, White, Institute for Defense Analyses, FOIA release (June 1972) [1.91 MB PDF]

ENERGY SECURITY: Working in a low incentive world: PV still facing a bumpy ride, Paula Mints, Renewable Energy World (July-August 2012) [Free subscription required]

For solar PV, these are the best of days (for many buyers); these are the worst of days (for many makers). Who knows what tomorrow will bring with FITs (feed-in tariffs), guarantees, and subsidies? Euphoria and despair both abound. Bees crowd near flowers and gatherers hunt honey-combs. Vain politicians are happy to grow a green image using people's money; flighty scientists egg on. Still a better bet than nuclear. Trade wars ahead to save jobs before saving the earth.

- US solar PV market grows despite PV manufacturer failures, Jennifer Runyon, Renewable Energy World (22 August 2012)
- Chinese solar firms sink as bad news rolls in, AP (29 August 2012)

- Merkel seeks Chinese concessions in solar row, Andreas Rinke, Reuters (1 September 2012)
- Indian solar energy: clouds loom, The Lex Column, Financial Times (28 August 2012) [subscription required]

GOVERNANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY: Clinton calls for ASEAN unity on S. China Sea, Al Jazeera (4 September 2012)

US Secretary of State Clinton reconfirmed US commitment to the Asia region, calling for the settlement of numerous regional territorial disputes and an ASEAN “code of conduct” to settle disputes. China questioned US interference and the true meaning of the US’s “Asia Pivot”, while other regional publications argued that these disputes are the result of past US policy.

- US eyes spoiler role in Japan-China dispute, Jian Junbo, Asia Times (5 September 2012)
- China protests Japan’s moves to purchase islands in disputed chain, Kim Yeon-ji, Arirang News (4 September 2012)
- Seoul, Tokyo show signs of easing diplomatic tension over Dokdo, Korea Times (3 September 2012)

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION: Vulnerability of US and European electricity supply to climate change, Michelle T. H. van Vliet et al., Nature Climate Change (2012) [1.53 MB, PDF]

In the United States and Europe, at present 91% and 78% of the total electricity is produced by thermoelectric power plants. During recent warm, dry summers several thermoelectric power plants in both countries were forced to reduce production owing to cooling-water scarcity. Considering the increase in future electricity demand, there is a strong need for improved climate adaptation strategies in the thermoelectric power sector to assure future energy security.

- Modeling thermoelectric power generation in view of climate change, Hagen Koch and Stefan Vogele, Regional Environmental Change, vol. 11, no. 1, pp. 207–209 (2011)
- Impact of drought on US steam electric power plant cooling water intakes and related water resource management issues, National Energy Technology Laboratory (2009) [1.47 MB, PDF]

AUSTRAL PEACE AND SECURITY: Silence over general's appointment leaves public in the dark, Hamish McDonald, Sydney Morning Herald (1 September 2012)

In an intriguing appointment that has been called ''unprecedented'' by American defence reporters, Australian major-general, Rick Burr, is to become a deputy commander of the US Army Pacific. The appointment was virtually unreported here, because Australia's Department of Defence didn't announce it. His main task will be to help the US army engage with the forces of third countries. ''Shades of the deputy sheriff,'' one ex-ambassador remarks.

- U.S. owes China convincing explanation of true intentions of its Asia Pivot policy, Xinhua (3 September 2012)
- Prime Minister Dung lauds defence ties with Australia, Viet Nam News (30 August 2012)
- Is heightened diplomatic activity in Indonesia arousing China's suspicions? Karen Snowdon, ABC, Radio Australia (3 September 2012)

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*The **Nautilus Peace and Security Weekly Report** presents articles and full length reports each week in six categories: Austral security, nuclear deterrence, energy security, climate change and security, the DPRK, climate change adaptation and governance and civil society**.** Our team of contributors carefully select items that highlight the links between these themes and the three regions in which our offices are found—North America, Northeast Asia, and the Austral-Asia region. Each week, one of our authors also provides **a short blog** that explores these inter-relationships.*

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