

MONITOR

NUCLEAR WEAPONS & MATERIALS

U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration ♦ Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy
...plus International Nonproliferation Initiatives (State, DoD, G-8, IAEA) ♦ Uranium Enrichment

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— INSIDE HIGHLIGHTS —

Gen. Kevin Chilton said last week that he is retiring as the head of U.S. Strategic Command, and former StratCom Deputy Commander Gen. Robert Kehler will be nominated to take his place. 2

Sen. Richard Lugar believes that the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with Russia will eventually enjoy support from a “large number of Republicans,” but he predicted that the treaty won’t be debated on the Senate floor until after the mid-term elections. 3

Senate opposition to Anne Harrington, the Obama Administration’s nominee to head up the NNSA’s nonproliferation program, is centered on Harrington’s role on a National Academy of Sciences panel assessing the technical questions surrounding the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty. 4

It took longer than expected, but Congress ultimately signed off on the NNSA’s request to reprogram approximately \$40 million on a refurbishment study involving the nuclear portion of the B61 nuclear warhead—in time to avoid major disruptions for the program, the agency says. 5

The NRC has rejected a call from six Congressmen to perform formal nonproliferation assessments as part of its work to license new nuclear technologies. 5

Procurement Tracker 6

With debate on the Obama Administration’s New START treaty with Russia heating up in the Senate, an article published in the September/October issue of *Foreign Affairs* says that the U.S. and Russia could easily reduce their nuclear arsenals to 1,000 total nuclear weapons and 500 delivery vehicles with little impact on strategic stability, 8

With the global shortage of helium-3 forcing the Obama Administration to ration the non-radioactive gas, the agency’s Second Line of Defense Program has started to look elsewhere for the technology that forms the backbone of its radiation portal monitors. 9

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