


# 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SECURITY ENVIRONMENT


AN INCREASINGLY DANGEROUS, DYNAMIC, AND UNCERTAIN 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SECURITY ENVIRONMENT DRIVES THIS ADMINISTRATION'S POSTURE REVIEWS.

- › The international security environment has deteriorated since 2010. Many previous assumptions are no longer valid. Strategic competition among states characterizes today's environment as Russia, China, North Korea and Iran attempt to expand their influence.


## RUSSIA

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- Russian aggression in Georgia, nuclear threats during its intervention in Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea, and its violations of arms control treaties undermine Europe's and Asia's security and order.
  - Russia has increased its reliance on nuclear capabilities and is building a large, diverse, and modern arsenal of strategic and non-strategic weapons; and its doctrine emphasizes the coercive and military value of nuclear weapons.


## CHINA

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- China's rapid military modernization, growing and diversifying nuclear arsenal, and assertive approach to expanding its geopolitical power at the expense of the sovereignty of its neighbors undermine the stability of the Indo-Pacific region.
  - China is rapidly modernizing its strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons as part of its efforts to prevent the United States from defending its allies and partners in the region.

## NORTH KOREA

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- North Korea's continued pursuit of nuclear weapons, combined with threats against the United States and our South Korean and Japanese allies, are a major challenge to peace and security in Northeast Asia and around the world.
  - North Korea has dramatically increased its missile flight testing, including recent ICBM tests, and has conducted six nuclear tests since 2006.

## IRAN

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- Iran's continued actions to destabilize its neighbors and support violent extremists undermine stability in the region.
  - Iran's destabilizing regional actions, aggressive strategy, and development of increasingly longer-range missile capabilities calls into question its long-term commitment to foregoing nuclear weapons.

- › Others have chosen not to follow America's lead in reducing the roles of nuclear weapons.
  - Multiple countries have chosen to increase their reliance on nuclear weapons and the prominence of nuclear weapons in their security strategy, and are conducting extensive modernization programs for their nuclear forces while adding new nuclear capabilities.
- › Non-state actors and violent extremists remain a U.S. national security concern.
  - The United States, its allies, and partners must continue to deny access to weapons of mass destruction and related technology and materials.
  - The accelerated pace of technology advancement and its ready, worldwide availability can lead to the sudden emergence of new challenges and new threats.