

GLOBAL NUCLEAR CAPABILITY MODERNIZATION:

GLOBAL NUCLEAR-CAPABLE DELIVERY VEHICLES

Revisionist states – including Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran – are expanding and modernizing their nuclear-capable delivery systems.

RUSSIA

- Russia has recently deployed a new type of intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), is modifying a second, and is well on its way to fielding two new ICBMs – all of which can employ multiple reentry vehicles (MIRV).
- It has fielded a new type of submarine-launched ballistic missile and sea-launched cruise missile, while also putting to sea a new class of ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) and guided missile submarines.
- Russia is developing a diverse range of other strategic and non-strategic nuclear capabilities, including the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty-violating SSC-8 and the “Status-6” torpedo
- Additionally, over the last decade Russia has also deployed a variety of low-yield nuclear capabilities

CHINA

- In the last decade Beijing has developed and fielded road-mobile and MIRV’d ICBMs, as well as far more capable SLBMs and ballistic missile submarines.
- China is also expanding and modernizing its non-strategic nuclear weapons, including the CSS-5 Mod 6 and DF-26, intended to threaten its neighbors and challenge the U.S.’s ability to conduct regional operations.

NORTH KOREA

- Pyongyang is developing a diverse range of ground- and sea-based nuclear weapons, capable of striking its neighbors and the United States homeland.
- The expansion and modernization of its nuclear-capable delivery vehicles strongly suggest that North Korea believes its nuclear weapons have “warfighting” benefits.

IRAN

- Tehran has advanced its missile delivery vehicle program, thereby reducing the time necessary to achieve an operational nuclear weapon – were it to choose this path.
- More troubling, Iran and North Korea are cooperating to accelerate their missile programs, which raises the specter of cooperation on other issues.

| STATE | ALCM | GRAVITY BOMBS | CRBM | SRBM | MRBM | IRBM | ICBM | GLCM | SLBM | SLCM | TORPEDO | ANTI-SHIP MISSILE | DEPTH CHARGES | ASM | ANTI-AIR MISSILE | ABM |
|-------|------|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|-------------------|---------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| RF | X | | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| PRC | X | | | | X | X | X | | X | X | | | | | | |
| DPRK | | | | X | X | X | X | | X | | | | | | | |
| Iran | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USA | X | X | | | | | X | | X | X | | | | | | |