

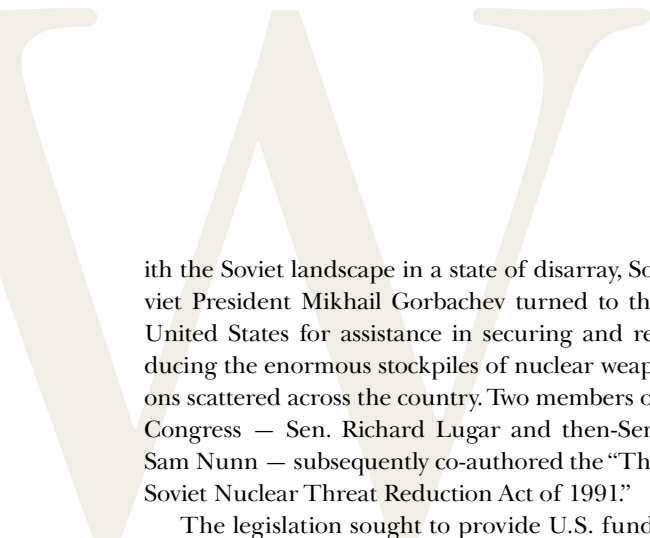
# DISMANTLING the COLD WAR

*Nunn-Lugar program is a triumph of U.S.-Russian cooperation*

ANNE MAREK

In the second half of 1991, people across the world watched in amazement as the Soviet Union collapsed before their eyes. The world rejoiced as the Cold War, which dominated world politics for the second half of the 20th century, was undoubtedly over. But as political, economic and military alliances repositioned around the globe, the dangers of uncertainty quickly became clear. The West's archrival in the Cold War had been dissolved but the Soviet arsenal had not — and while Moscow tried to adjust quickly to new political and economic realities, a half century worth of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons were scattered across four soon-to-be independent nations, many lacking the proper infrastructure or manpower to secure them.





With the Soviet landscape in a state of disarray, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev turned to the United States for assistance in securing and reducing the enormous stockpiles of nuclear weapons scattered across the country. Two members of Congress — Sen. Richard Lugar and then-Sen. Sam Nunn — subsequently co-authored the “The Soviet Nuclear Threat Reduction Act of 1991.”

The legislation sought to provide U.S. funding and expertise to help states of the former Soviet Union safeguard and dismantle their nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their delivery systems. With Congressional support, the act was signed into law and later renamed the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program, a broad set of initiatives across different agencies, primarily the U.S. Departments of Defense, Energy and State. The Nunn-Lugar program was applied widely across the former Soviet Union and demonstrated unparalleled success in securing, storing and eliminating weapons of mass destruction throughout Eurasia.

Through Nunn-Lugar, the U.S. supported the process to deactivate thousands of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems and contributed to the safe disposal and destruction of thousands of tons of lethal chemical and biological weapons. When the Soviet Union dissolved, individual states retained control over whatever factories, supplies, materials or resources physically remained, from power plants to car factories to nuclear weapons. Overnight, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus became independent countries and three of the world’s largest nuclear powers. Through the Nunn-Lugar program, these countries, within five years of the fall of the Soviet Union, voluntarily

removed nuclear warheads from delivery vehicles and decommissioned or stockpiled them. Strategic bombers, submarines, missile silos and ground vehicles were destroyed, ripped apart, blown up or otherwise made irreversibly unusable for war. After a half century of Cold War, former foes were working together to reduce the number of weapons that could literally be used to destroy humanity. The world’s greatest military superpowers were willingly standing down and openly reducing their arsenal.

Today, the threat of weapons of mass destruction remains a challenge. The Soviet Union had some of the largest and most advanced WMD programs in history and a significant amount of

Opposite Page:  
Ukrainian workers dismantle a Tupolev Tu-160 strategic bomber at an airbase in Pryluki in 2001. Ukraine promised to destroy all its nuclear strategic bombers under a disarmament deal with the United States.

## Nunn-Lugar Initiative by the Numbers

*\* figures current as of December 2010*

### PERCENT ACHIEVED

- 100%** Nuclear Weapons Storage Site Security Upgrades
- 100%** Nuclear Test Tunnels/Holes Sealed
- 100%** Bombers Eliminated
- 100%** Nuclear Air-To-Surface Missiles Destroyed
- 91.9%** Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Silos Eliminated
- 92.6%** Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBM) Eliminated
- 91.9%** Warheads Deactivated
- 88.9%** Ballistic Missile Submarines (SSBNs) Destroyed
- 90.4%** SLBM Launchers Eliminated
- 81.1%** Nuclear Weapons Transport Train Shipments Secured
- 75.8%** ICBMs Destroyed
- 69.0%** ICBM Mobile Launchers Destroyed
- 46.5%** Biological Threat Reduction Zonal Diagnostic Laboratories Built and Equipped
- 30.7%** Declared Chemical Warfare Agent Destroyed (Metric Tons)

Source: U.S. Department of Defense

these weapons still exist inside Russia. Thousands of former Soviet scientists and engineers specializing in WMD have not found gainful employment and there is concern that some may be willing to sell their expertise to the highest bidder. Iran continues to enrich uranium that could evolve into nuclear weapons. North Korea is expected to deploy a nuclear-tipped missile capable of reaching the U.S. within the next decade and terrorists have vowed to attack Americans with WMD. The continued existence and proliferation of these



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From left: Former U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn, Sen. Richard Lugar and U.S. Ambassador to Russia William Burns meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, second from right, in Moscow in August 2007.

weapons allows for the possibility that they might fall into terrorist hands, an event that could have cataclysmic consequences for the U.S. and its allies.

The Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program has evolved over the past two decades and is now a global initiative that addresses today's most pressing security needs, an effort supported by President Barack Obama that is building momentum in Congress. A key component of the latest Congressional budget is aimed at continuing Nunn-Lugar's success in the former Soviet Union and replicating that success with other weapons programs across the

world. Leading that effort is the Nunn Lugar Global Cooperation Initiative, a collaborative effort to engage a wide range of countries, international organizations and nongovernment partners to prevent, reduce and eliminate WMD threats to U.S. national security and global stability.

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency/U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction has been responsible for implementing and monitoring all components of the program, working to build global partnerships that address the WMD threat at every level, on every continent. Every day, DTRA/SCC-WMD's experts are working on the ground, across Russia, to help the country scale back its nuclear forces, providing tools and services to deactivate their nuclear warheads and dismantle their missiles, submarines, silos and ground-based launch systems. Through regular safety and security inspections, experts are helping Russia improve the integrity of their security systems at nuclear weapons storage sites and safeguard nuclear and radiological weapons during transportation. Nunn-Lugar program experts are also working to control and eliminate chemical and biological weapons across Eurasia.

From Azerbaijan to Georgia, Kazakhstan to Ukraine, these experts are helping prevent the proliferation of chemical and biological technologies and keeping them out of the hands of terrorists.

## Nunn-Lugar Initiative **TIMELINE**



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- 1991**
  - Boris Yeltsin becomes Russia's first democratically elected leader.
  - Mikhail Gorbachev resigns on Dec. 25 and the Soviet Union collapses.
  - Senators Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar visit the White House on December 9 to brief President George H.W. Bush on Nunn-Lugar. Three days later, the legislation is signed into law.
- 1992**
  - Russia, the world's largest nuclear power, agrees to implement the program.
  - Belarus, having inherited 81 single warhead missiles after the fall of the Soviet Union, agrees to implement the program.
- 1993**
  - Ukraine, the world's third largest nuclear power after the fall of the Soviet Union, agrees to implement the program.
  - Kazakhstan, having acquired 1,400 nuclear weapons from the Soviet Union at the end of the Cold War, agrees to implement the program.
- 1994**
  - All nuclear warheads and 600 kilograms of weapons-grade uranium are removed from Kazakhstan as part of Project Sapphire.
- 1995**
  - Science and Technology Centers open in Russia to help employ former Soviet weapons scientists.
- 1996**
  - U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry joins Ukraine Ministry of Defense and Russian Ministry of Defense to celebrate Ukraine's completed nuclear weapons arsenal dismantlement.
  - All intercontinental ballistic missiles are removed from Belarus.



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DTRA/SCC-WMD is coordinating with other government agencies, partner governments and internal programs to identify especially dangerous biological pathogens and chemical agents and enhance their capacity to contain these elements into secure national-level laboratories. Nunn-Lugar program experts are working to detect, diagnose, and report terror attacks and potential pandemics, improving the safety and security of chem-bio facilities throughout these countries.

As the world enters a new decade, it is clear that leaders across the international community agree that the Nunn-Lugar model should be applied globally. In April 2010, President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed a historic treaty to reduce long-range nuclear weapons, an agreement that replaced the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) that expired in December 2009. The deal marked a renewal of the level of trust and cooperation between the U.S. and Russia, setting limits on both sides' strategic nuclear warheads and reducing the permissible number of strategic launchers. Following the agreement to the New START, the president held a Nuclear Security Summit focused on securing weapons-grade plutonium and uranium to prevent nuclear terrorism. The summit was attended by delegations from 46 governments, marking the largest gathering of heads of state called by a U.S. president since 1945. □

A Ukrainian defense official examines an SS-19 nuclear missile before it is dismantled in the city of Dnipropetrovsk in February 1999. The U.S. has helped fund the dismantling of nuclear weapons infrastructure in Ukraine.



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PARSONS



WHITE HOUSE

## 1999

- President Bill Clinton calls for further expansion of the program. Russia, under the leadership of Boris Yeltsin, agrees to renew its implementation.

## 2001

- New York and Washington are attacked by foreign terrorists. Congress expands the program's funding at the request of President George W. Bush.

## 2004

- Program funds are used for the first time outside the former Soviet Union; Albania becomes the first nation to certify to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons that it completely eliminated its chemical weapons.

## 2005

- U.S. and Russia enact Bratislava Nuclear Security Initiative to upgrade 24 nuclear weapons storage sites in Russia, initiating training programs for personnel and enhancing the security of nuclear weapons during transportation. The program becomes one of the largest U.S.-Russian Cooperative Threat Reduction efforts.

## 2009

- The first Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility opens in Shchuch'ye, Russia. The facility is expected to eliminate approximately 2 million chemical weapons containing VX nerve agent and other chemical weapons that have been stored since the Soviet era.

## 2010

- President Barack Obama hosts leaders from 47 governments at the Nuclear Security Summit to find new ways to secure loose fissile material and prevent nuclear terrorism.