

## Russian expert warns America about Chinese nukes

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Chinese DF-21 Land Attack ICBM

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Retired Col. Gen. Viktor Yesin yesterday wrapped up a visit to the United States during which he met with officials at the Pentagon, State Department as well as members of Congress [warning about underestimating China's tactical nuclear weapons buildup](http://freebeacon.com/number-the-nukes/).

Yesin's specific background as a former commander in [Russia](http://www.examiner.com/topic/russia)'s Strategic Rocket Forces does give him expert background in Russian nuclear weapons types, weapons deployment and storage procedures. His expertise extends to Chinese nuclear weaponry as well since like everything else [China](http://www.examiner.com/topic/china)'s military forces have, their nuclear weapons and delivery systems to carry those weapons are all of Russian design, or

derived from such designs.

Yesin warns that U.S. and Western arms specialists are dramatically underestimating China's nuclear arsenal. Yesin estimates China has 1,600 to 1,800 nuclear warheads, vice the 250 to 300 China is believed to have ready for use. He bases his information on Russian intelligence and what he described as "robust" discussions between Russian and Chinese nuclear scientists.

Somewhere between the higher and lower estimates is no doubt the truth. However, Mr. Yesin is a retired flag officer of the Russian military; a man who rose up the ranks during the Soviet Era. One did not rise to such heights in any career within the Soviet machine without knowing how to scratch the right backs and tow the 'party line'.

The Soviet Union is no more of course, but in its place is the Russian Federation and Mr. Yesin is no doubt entrenched in loyalty to it and its president, Vladimir Putin. President Putin finds it to Russia's advantage that President Obama has initiated the United States' 'pivot' of focus to Asia vice Europe. Anything that helps hasten this pivot along, Putin will spare no effort to exploit. Mr. Yesin's visit is no doubt one such effort being exploited.

Russia managed to stop further NATO expansion eastward with the shock and awe of the 2008 invasion of Georgia. NATO expansion to Finland, Ukraine as well as Georgia was halted then and there, leaving all three nations in geopolitical wilderness. Putin now has but to wait for the U.S. pivot

toward Asia to unfold, as it will eventually leave only NATO and the dysfunctional family of European Union governments for Putin to bully around at a time when nationalist politics also seems about to reemerge across Europe.

Along with encouraging the U.S. pivot to Asia, is another little discussed reality which Mr. Yesin alluded to; the growing mistrust and latent hostility between Russia and China. Mr. Yesin mentioned in his meetings with U.S. officials that China has stationed DF-11 & DF-15 tactical missiles (Chinese versions of the Russian Scud A and Scud B) and the DF-21 ballistic missiles on the Russian border. These missile types are offensive weapons which would be used in the opening salvos of a military ground campaign.

China indeed remains engaged in a massive military buildup, though the lion's share of that buildup is not concentrated in naval forces as is widely believed, or in 'wonder weapons' such as the alleged Chinese stealth fighter, but rather in Chinese surface to surface missiles and also in ground forces which are increasingly being organized around lean, highly mobile 'armor heavy' formations.

China does not have the sea lift capacity to move but a small fraction of these forces across the Taiwan Straits at once much less across the open ocean and no large fleet of warships to protect them in any case. No such logistics is required for a cross border invasion of Russia however.



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