



ANNEX 3-72 NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

**ASSURANCE**

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Complementing [extended deterrence](#), where the objective is to influence the decision-making of an adversary, assurance involves the easing of the fears and sensitivities of allies and partners.

US assurance of allies and partners has been conveyed through various alliances, treaties, and bilateral and multilateral agreements. For example:

- ✦ The *Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security Between the US and Japan* specifies a commitment to defense cooperation, regular consultations, and peace and security in the Far East
- ✦ The *Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea* declares the countries' shared determination to defend themselves and preserve peace and security in the Pacific area
- ✦ The *North Atlantic Treaty* reaffirms the goal of promoting stability, uniting efforts for collective defense, and for the preservation of peace and security among NATO partners

A key Air Force contribution to assurance is through [shows of force](#):

"The United States flew two Stealth bomber practice runs over South Korea on Thursday, in a second show of force to North Korea after a B52 bomber made a similar run earlier this week amid rising tensions on the Korean peninsula.

The flights came after North Korea said it would attack American bases in the Pacific following a U.S.-led drive to impose sanctions on North Korea for its third nuclear weapons test. ....

"This mission by two B-2 Spirit bombers assigned to 509th Bomb Wing...demonstrates the United States' ability to conduct long-range, precision strikes quickly and at will," the United States Forces in Korea said in a statement.

-- "[U.S. flies Stealth bombers over South Korea in warning to North](#)," Reuters, 28 March 2013

If proliferation increases, it can be expected that allies and partners will demand tangible assurance from the US. This, in turn, will continue to drive demands on the force structure and capability requirements.

For additional discussion on effects, see "[Practical Design: The Coercion Continuum](#)" in Annex 3-0, *Operations and Planning*.

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