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CZECH REPUBLIC

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The Czech Republic is a member of both the EU and NATO and a signatory to multiple international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties. The Czech Republic vocally supports continued nuclear-sharing arrangements within NATO and a step-by-step approach to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The Czech Republic is an active participant of the NPT review process, and in cooperation in the fields of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear security and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Czech WMD unit has also taken part in numerous international operations.

NUCLEAR

The Czech Republic does not possess, produce or host nuclear weapons on its territory.¹ The Czech Republic is party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), as the first European country to do so. The country is a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee, has an Additional Protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency

(IAEA) in force, and is a participating state in the Wassenaar Arrangement.

The Czech Republic's capital, Prague, has hosted important nuclear-disarmament-related events, particularly the introduction of the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons issued by U.S. President Barack Obama in a 2009 speech and the signing ceremony of the U.S.–Russia New Start Treaty in May 2010.

NUCLEAR DETERRENCE, DISARMAMENT AND POSITION REGARDING NATO NUCLEAR POLICY

The Czech Republic became a NATO member in 1999, two years after the Alliance declared in the NATO-Russia Founding Act that it had “no intention, no plan and no reason

to deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of new members.” Still, the Czech Republic has been taking part in the works of the Nuclear Planning Group, and Czech armed forces and

¹ However, Czechoslovakia reportedly hosted Soviet non-strategic nuclear missile forces and three related storage sites in the years 1968–1990. See: E.N.Rózsa, A. Péczeli, *Nuclear Attitudes in Central Europe*, Non-proliferation Paper No. 42, EU Non-proliferation Consortium, January 2015, p. 3.

infrastructure could possibly perform supportive tasks in potential NATO nuclear operations.²

During discussions on the Alliance's 2010 New Strategic Concept 2012 Deterrence and Defence Posture Review (DDPR), the Czech Republic's overall stance was similar to the general positions of other Central-Eastern European (CEE) allies. Prague objected to a radical reconfiguration of NATO's nuclear policy, although it did not oppose partial modifications, including an "appropriate level of appreciation of disarmament and arms control processes."³

However, in comparison to most CEE states, the Czech Republic has expressed much more vocal support for the deterrent role of nuclear weapons, taking a stance analogous to Hungary's. The 2011 Czech security strategy openly endorsed the NATO deterrence policy "based on a combination of nuclear and conventional capabilities."⁴ Moreover, Czech representatives have directly advocated for continued basing of U.S. non-strategic nuclear weapons (NSNWs) in Europe, and stressed that

NATO should avoid far-reaching changes to its deterrence posture, arguing that the prospects for further nuclear disarmament have seemed unpromising given the current state of the security environment.⁵

Prague has seemed to value the presence of American NSNWs in Europe, primarily in terms of Allied solidarity and NATO cohesion. The Czech Republic has apparently perceived the U.S. tactical nuclear arsenal as a measure that substantially strengthens the transatlantic link and underlines the U.S. commitment to the defence of European Allies, especially in light of the withdrawal of U.S. conventional forces from Europe that was taking place during the debates on NATO's 2010 New Strategic Concept and 2012 DDPR.⁶ At the same time, Prague has given the impression that it has not considered itself to be directly threatened by the nuclear arsenal of any particular state, including Russia.

Although Prague has opposed the complete elimination of U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe, it has shared the view of other CEE states that the U.S. NSNW arsenal could be

² Ł. Kulesa, "The New NATO Member States," in: P. Foradori (ed.), *Tactical Nuclear Weapons and Euro-Atlantic Security*, Routledge, Abingdon, 2013, pp. 143–144. The Czech Republic is reportedly one of nine NATO countries actually assigned with "active nuclear tasks," including "air control missions, reconnaissance, radar and communications support and refuelling." See: S. Snyder, W. van der Zeijden, *Withdrawal Issues: What NATO Countries Say about the Future of Tactical Nuclear Weapons in Europe*, IKV Pax Christi, p. 17.

³ J. Durkalec, "NATO Defence and Deterrence Posture: Central and Eastern European Perspectives," *PISM Policy Paper*, no. 29, May 2012, pp. 2–3, 8–10, www.pism.pl; "Responsibility for a Strong NATO," Declaration of the Visegrad Group, 18 April 2012. Quote: I. Dvorák, "NATO Summit in Chicago—Czech Perspective," *Transatlantic Files*, 1, 2012, p. 9.

⁴ "Security Strategy of the Czech Republic 2011," p. 14.

⁵ E. Svobodová, J. Šedivý, "Czech Expectations for the Chicago Summit," *The Polish Quarterly of International Affairs*, vol. 21, no. 1, 2012, p. 14.

⁶ Ł. Kulesa, "Polish and Central European Priorities on NATO's Future Nuclear Policy," *BASIC NATO Nuclear Policy Papers*, issue 2, 2010, p. 5; T. Valasek, "Central Europe and NATO's Nuclear Deterrent," in: M. Chalmers, A. Somerville (ed.), *If the Bombs Go: European Perspectives on NATO's Nuclear Debate*, RUSI Whitehall Report No. 1-11, May 2011, p. 22.

partially reduced, as long as such moves were reciprocated by Russia.⁷ Moreover, Prague officially supported a “non-paper,” submitted by Poland, Norway, the Netherlands and Germany, that called for the introduction of greater transparency and confidence building measures regarding Allied and Russian

NSNWs.⁸ The Czech Republic, along with the rest of its regional allies, has reportedly been also willing to accept the potential consolidation of U.S. NSNWs deployed in Europe.⁹

In light of the Ukraine crisis, the Czech Republic has not advocated for any changes in NATO nuclear posture.¹⁰

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT EFFORTS IN THE GLOBAL ARENA

Since Barack Obama’s 2009 disarmament speech, the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs has organised four “Prague Agenda” conferences, devoted to issues of arms control and disarmament. The latest conference took place in December 2014.¹¹ Additionally, the Czech government contributes annually to the Generation Prague Conference in Washington D.C., organised by the U.S. State Department.¹²

During the NPT review process, Prague has fully associated itself with statements delivered by the European Union.¹³

In national statements, the Czech Republic has stressed that the 2010 NPT Action Plan should be realised through a step-by-step approach to disarmament, noting that it “should not be deviated from in any way.”¹⁴ Prague stated that “the longstanding objective of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons may be achieved only under certain conditions,” and noted that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is dependent on the “effective functioning of the non-proliferation regime on a global scale coupled with a powerful verification regime

⁷J. Durkalec, *op. cit.*, p. 8.

⁸See “Non-paper submitted by Poland, Norway, Germany and the Netherlands, about increasing transparency and confidence with regard to tactical nuclear weapons in Europe,” Berlin, 14 April 2011.

⁹J. Durkalec, *op. cit.*, p. 8.

¹⁰Nonetheless, Jiri Schneider, who had previously served as Czech deputy foreign minister, hinted in April 2014 that the Czech Republic would agree to host U.S. NSNWs on its territory. See E. Braw, “After Ukraine, Countries That Border Russia Start Thinking about Nuclear Deterrents,” *Newsweek*, 15 April 2014, www.newsweek.com.

¹¹*The Prague Agenda 2014*, The Institute of International Relations, 4 December 2014, www.iir.cz.

¹²Czech contribution to the “Prague Agenda,” Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C., www.mzv.cz/washington/en.

¹³“Statement by Mr. Ladislav Steinhubel, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the UN, at the third session of the Preparatory Committee to the NPT, Cluster I,” New York, 2 May 2014.

¹⁴“Statement by Mr. David Cervenka, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the UN, at the Thematic Debate on Nuclear Disarmament of the First Committee of the 68th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations,” New York, 21 October 2013.

that could provide assurances of irreversibility of nuclear disarmament.”¹⁵

Consequently, the Czech Republic endorsed the “Building Blocks” concept and was one of 20 countries that submitted a working paper entitled “Building blocks for a world without nuclear weapons” to the 2014 NPT Preparatory Committee. The paper outlined a series of “practical” disarmament measures, based on the 2010 NPT Action Plan. The working paper notes that the establishment of a “multilateral nuclear disarmament framework or a nuclear weapons convention” could be considered as a conclusive step in the disarmament process. Such a move would, however, depend on the progress of multilateral efforts to shape the “prevailing environment of trust and confidence.”¹⁶

The Czech Republic has taken part in all three conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, in Oslo in March 2013, in Nayarit, Mexico, in February 2014, and in Vienna in December 2014.¹⁷ Czech statements delivered in Nayarit and Vienna

stressed Prague’s awareness of “the horrific impact of any use of nuclear weapons,” described as “an additional motivation” to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.¹⁸ Prague reiterated that realisation of this goal should be pursued through a step-by-step approach, taking into account the “security interests of all parties.”¹⁹ The Vienna statement also noted that “the Czech Republic, along with its allies, considers the reality of the international security environment such that it leaves no room for re-assessing our current commitments, including the nuclear deterrence doctrine.”²⁰

The Czech Republic has also called for ratification of the CTBT and for an “early conclusion” of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty-FMCT) within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament (CD).²¹ As an observer to the CD and a coordinator of the Informal Group of Observer States to the CD since 2012, the Czech Republic advocated

¹⁵ “Statement by Mr. Ladislav Steinhubel...,” *op. cit.*

¹⁶ “Building blocks for a world without nuclear weapons,” Working paper submitted by Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine, Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, New York, 15 April 2014.

¹⁷ On EU states’ involvement in the Humanitarian Initiative see: J. Nielsen, M. Hanson, *The European Union and the Humanitarian Initiative in the 2015 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Cycle*, Non-proliferation Paper No. 41, EU Non-proliferation Consortium, December 2014.

¹⁸ “Statement of the Czech Republic at the third conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons,” Vienna, 9 December 2014.

¹⁹ “Statement of the Czech Republic at the second conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons,” Nayarit, 14 February 2014.

²⁰ “Statement of the Czech Republic at the third conference...,” *op. cit.*

²¹ “Statement by Mr. Ladislav Steinhubel...,” *op. cit.*, 2 May 2014.

for the enlargement of CD's membership.²² The Czech Republic is a participant of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE), CD's advisory body on FMCT negotiations, for the period April 2014–June 2015.²³

Furthermore, Czech statements at the NPT forum called especially for universal recognition of the Additional Protocol as the core verification standard. Prague also attached significant attention to issues related to the potential withdrawal of NPT signatories from the regime. Prague emphasised that any countries leaving the NPT should be held accountable for their violations of the treaty prior to withdrawal, and that any non-compliance with the NPT should be reported to the UN Security Council and General Assembly. It was also underlined that withdrawing states ought to return all nuclear materials, technology and equipment at the request of their suppliers, whereas remaining items should be monitored under IAEA safeguards and serve strictly peaceful purposes.²⁴

The Czech Republic supports the universalization of export controls and chaired

the meetings of the Nuclear Suppliers Group from June 2013 to June 2014.²⁵

Since 2002, the Czech Republic has taken part in IAEA Member State Support Programme. Czech activity has included, inter alia, organisation of training courses, as well as cooperation with the IAEA in the analysis of nuclear materials and development of safeguards. For example, at the invitation of the director general of the IAEA, the Czech Republic agreed to support the IAEA Safeguards Information System Re-engineering Project (IRP) by making financial contributions and testing new IAEA verification systems.²⁶

Moreover, in 2004 the Czech Republic joined the G-8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction and the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). Apart from participation in PSI exercises and meetings, the Czech Republic hosted the ground-interdiction exercise Bohemian Guards 05 in 2005, which was co-led by the Czech and Polish governments.²⁷

²² "Conference on Disarmament," The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva, www.mzv.cz/mission.geneva/en.

²³ "Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) to make recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to but not negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices," The United Nations Office at Geneva, www.unog.ch.

²⁴ "Statement by Mr. Ladislav Steinhubel, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the UN at the third session of the Preparatory Committee to the NPT, Cluster II," New York, 1 May 2014.

²⁵ "Statement by Mr. Ladislav Steinhubel, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the UN at Third session of the Preparatory Committee to the NPT, Cluster III and Article X issues," New York, 5 May 2014.

²⁶ "Czech Republic Support Programme to The IAEA Safeguards Efforts," The State Office for Nuclear Safety, www.sujb.cz/en.

²⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Calendar of events," Proliferation Security Initiative, www.state.gov.

NUCLEAR SECURITY

The 2014 NTI Nuclear Materials Security Index ranked the Czech Republic as eighth out of 151 countries without weapons-usable nuclear materials. The Czech Republic ratified the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism as well as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), and accepted an amendment to the CPPNM. Prague participates in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and, since 2010, has been involved in the Nuclear Security Summits (NSS) process.²⁸

Currently there are two Czech nuclear power plants. These are Temelin power station, with two nuclear reactors, and Dukovany power station, with four nuclear reactors.²⁹ Both sites are operated by the CEZ Group, a mostly state-owned electricity conglomerate. There are also three nuclear research reactors, two at the Research Institute in Rez, operated by CEZ, and one at the Technical University in Prague.³⁰

All reactors have been converted from HEU to LEU fuel.³¹ In 2005, the Technical University's reactor became the first Russian-supplied reactor successfully converted from HEU to LEU.³² The last shipment of HEU to Russia took place in April 2013. HEU removal and the conversion of reactors were carried out in cooperation with the Russian and U.S. governments under the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI), in which the Czech Republic has participated since 2004.³³ The country also cooperates with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) within the "Second Line of Defence" programme, aimed at countering nuclear material smuggling.³⁴

Prague has provided support for IAEA activities related to nuclear security through various contributions to the agency's programmes and funds. From 2003 to 2008, the Czech Republic donated almost \$500,000 to the Nuclear Security Fund.

²⁸ On the Czech Republic's participation in the NSS process see: K. Kubiak, "A Little-Known Success Story: Implementation of the NSS Goals in Central Europe," *PISM Policy Paper*, no. 9 (92), May 2014, www.pism.pl; "Nuclear Security Summit 2014, National Progress Report: Czech Republic," www.nss2014.com.

²⁹ Plans to build two additional reactors in Temelin were shelved in 2014. "CEZ Cancels Temelin Expansion tender," *World Nuclear News*, 10 April 2014, www.world-nuclear-news.org.

³⁰ "Nuclear Facilities in the Czech Republic," The State Office for Nuclear Safety, www.sujb.cz/en.

³¹ "Nuclear Security Summit 2014, National...", *op. cit.*

³² "NNSA Completes Czech Research Reactor Conversion," National Nuclear Security Administration, 4 November 2005, www.nnsa.energy.gov.

³³ "U.S. Removes Last Remaining HEU from Czech Republic, Sets Non-proliferation Milestone," National Nuclear Security Administration, 5 April 2013, www.nnsa.energy.gov.

³⁴ "U.S. and the Czech Republic Increase Cooperation to Prevent Nuclear Smuggling," National Nuclear Security Administration, 7 September 2012, www.nnsa.energy.gov.

After becoming one of 18 members of the Peaceful Uses Initiative in 2010, Prague has, since the following year, provided \$300,000 to the Armenian nuclear power plant Medzamor and \$170,000 to the Armenian National Regulatory Authority. The Czech Republic is also a regular contributor to the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund and “National Participation Costs.”³⁵

The Czech Republic, which signed the 2012 Joint Statement on Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres, has undertaken substantial efforts aimed at international development of highly qualified nuclear personnel. In 2006, Prague established the NATO Joint CBRN Defence Centre of Excellence in Vyskov. The Czech Republic has also launched the Centre of Excellence at the Nuclear Research Institute Rez, which

specialises in nuclear safety and nuclear fuel research.³⁶

Workshops and training in the field of nuclear security, as well as student and personnel exchange programmes, are held in the U.S.–Czech Civil Nuclear Cooperation Center, which opened at the Czech Technical University in Prague in 2014.³⁷ Nuclear safety-related collaboration between Washington and Prague also includes joint research conducted by Texas A&M University and Czech universities.³⁸

Moreover, Czech experts have participated in national and international missions and provided advisory assistance regarding nuclear security to numerous countries, for example by organising a “Performance Testing Workshop” for participants from Poland, Hungary, Serbia and Romania.³⁹

MISSILES

MISSILE DEFENCE

The Czech Republic strongly supports the establishment of the NATO ballistic missile defence (BMD) system, perceived by Prague

as an essential instrument of collective defence and as a symbol of the indivisibility of Allied security. Although the Czech Republic

³⁵ “Nuclear Security Summit 2014, National...,” *op. cit.*; “Cooperation with the IAEA,” The State Office for Nuclear Safety, www.sujb.cz/en.

³⁶ “Nuclear Security Summit 2014, National...,” *op. cit.*

³⁷ See: U.S.–Czech Civil Nuclear Cooperation Center, us-cz-cncc.cz; “Czechs, US start nuclear energy research center,” *Yahoo News*, 26 March 2014, www.news.yahoo.com.

³⁸ “Nuclear Security Summit 2014, National...,” *op. cit.*

³⁹ *Ibidem*.

does not possess antiballistic capabilities and is currently not scheduled to host any BMD facilities, Czech experts take part in BMD-related work in NATO bodies and cooperate with the U.S. Missile Defense Agency in the field of research and development.⁴⁰

The Czech Republic was, however, previously expected to host a U.S. X-band long-range tracking radar in Brdy, 150 kilometres south-west of the country's capital, Prague. According to the George W. Bush administration's plans, the radar and 10 ground based interceptors, which were to be deployed in Poland, would constitute the main element of the European segment (the "third site") of the U.S. missile defence (MD) system. The system was designed to protect the United States and Europe from limited long-range ballistic attacks from the Middle East.⁴¹

U.S.–Czech preliminary consultations on possible radar deployment began in 2002, and formal negotiations on a binding agreement started in 2007 at the request of the United States. The deal was signed on 8 July 2008 but it was never ratified.⁴²

Initially, problems in the ratification process resulted mainly from divisions between Czech political parties.

The biggest support for the MD project came from ruling coalition's leading member, the Civic Democrats Party (ODS), who not only suggested that deployment of the radar in Brdy would strengthen the transatlantic link and would enhance Czech political and security ties with the United States, but also stressed that proliferation of WMD and missile technologies posed a serious threat to the U.S. and to European countries.⁴³ ODS officially underlined that the Czech Republic was obliged to engage in activities that would contribute to the defence of Prague's allies. Eventually, the Czech government advocated for inclusion of U.S. MD elements in the broader NATO system, which would protect European member states from a wide range of ballistic attacks. After NATO members formally linked U.S. BMD assets to a possible Allied system at the 2008 Bucharest Summit, and ODS gained political support from the members of two junior coalition partners, the Christian Democratic Union (KDU-CSL) and the Green Party.⁴⁴

^E Svobodová, J. Šedivý, *op. cit.*, p. 14.

⁴¹ See: S.A. Hildreth, C. Ek, *Long-range Ballistic Missile Defence in Europe*, CRS Report, RL34051, 26 April 2010.

⁴² "Anti-missile defence in the Czech Republic," Government of the Czech Republic, 22 September 2009, www.vlada.cz/en.

⁴³ See: "Speech of the Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek given at the Heritage Foundation in Washington D.C., 26. 2. 2008," Government of the Czech Republic, www.vlada.cz/en.

⁴⁴ M. Gniazdowski, "Czeska debata o systemie obrony przeciwrakietowej" [Czech debate on missile defence system], *Biuletyn PISM*, nr 19 (433), 11 April 2007, www.pism.pl; A. Parecki, "System obrony przeciwrakietowej USA a stosunki polsko-czeskie" [US missile defense system and Polish–Czech relations], in: M. Chorośnicki, A. Gruszczyk [eds.], *Wpływ tarczy antyrakietowej na pozycję międzynarodową Polski. Konsekwencje umieszczenia elementów systemu obrony przeciwrakietowej Stanów Zjednoczonych na terytorium Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* [The influence of the missile defence shield on the international position of Poland: the consequences of locating United States' missile defence system elements on the territory of Poland], Kraków, 2008, pp. 344–352; N. Hynek, V. Střítecký, "The Rise and Fall of the Third Site of Ballistic Missile Defense," *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, vol. 2, no. 42, 2010, pp. 182–184.

Nevertheless, some representatives of these parties shared the views of parliamentary opposition, the Social Democratic Party (CSSD) and the *Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia* (KSČM), which stood against deployment of the radar. It was also opposed by around two-thirds of the Czech population.⁴⁵

Due to lack of full support from coalition partners, the government feared that it would not be able to obtain a sufficient number of votes in the lower house of parliament, therefore voting was repeatedly postponed in 2008 and 2009. Moreover, delays in the ratification process followed partially from uncertainty over the missile defence plans of the newly elected U.S. president, Barack Obama.⁴⁶

In September 2009, the Obama administration shelved Bush-era plans and announced a modified vision of a missile defence system in Europe (the European Phased Adaptive Approach—EPAA), focused on the threat posed by short and medium-range Iranian missiles. Still, the U.S. and Czech governments held consultations regarding Prague's possible participation in

the revamped project. In July 2010, the U.S. announced that the Czech Republic could host an early warning centre, responsible for collection and analysis of satellite data on incoming ballistic missiles.⁴⁷

Prague turned down the offer, described by Czech defence minister Alexander Vondra as a "consolation prize," in June 2011. Vondra emphasised that there was no need to establish a bilateral U.S.-Czech centre, which would not be connected to the Allied network, after NATO agreed at the 2010 Lisbon Summit to provide a joint framework for BMD cooperation, which would also enable information sharing. He also stressed that the Czech Republic remained open to collaboration on missile defence, but in more meaningful ways.⁴⁸

During the discussions on NATO's 2012 Deterrence and Defence Posture Review, the Czech Republic took a stance similar to other CEE allies. Prague supported NATO-Russia cooperation regarding missile defence, but simultaneously stressed that the Alliance should proceed with the deployment of its own independent system regardless of progress in NATO-Russia talks.⁴⁹

⁴⁵ R. Johnston, "Poll: nearly two-thirds of Czechs against US radar on Czech soil," *Radio Prague*, 24 May 2008, www.radio.cz/en.

⁴⁶ "Czech Officials Delay Missile Defense Vote," *Global Security Newswire*, 18 March 2008, www.nti.org/gsn; "Czech Lawmakers to Wait for Obama before Deciding on Missile Defense," *Global Security Newswire*, 19 November 2008, www.nti.org/gsn; "Czech Lawmakers Delay Missile Defense Vote," *Global Security Newswire*, 5 February 2009, www.nti.org/gsn.

⁴⁷ "Czech Republic Could Host Missile Warning Centre," *Global Security Newswire*, 30 July 2010, www.nti.org/gsn.

⁴⁸ J. Druker, "Understanding U.S.-Czech Relations on Missile Defense," *The International Relations and Security Network*, 12 July 2011, www.isn.ethz.ch; K. Janicek, "Czech Republic exits U.S. missile shield plan," *Army Times*, 15 June 2011, www.armytimes.com.

⁴⁹ E. Svobodová, J. Šedivý, *op. cit.*, p. 14; J. Durkalec, *op. cit.*, pp. 7–8.

BALLISTIC AND CRUISE MISSILES

The Czech Republic does not currently possess, produce or host ballistic or cruise missiles on its territory.⁵⁰ Furthermore, the Czech Republic has not so far expressed an intent to acquire such capabilities. Prague is a member of Missile Technology Control Regime and a party to the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.

CHEMICAL

The Czech Republic does not possess or pursue chemical weapons. The Czech Republic is a founding member of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Prague is also a member of the Australia Group (AG). organised numerous training sessions and courses.⁵²

Czech representatives and experts have participated in works of most important bodies of the OPCW. For example, Czech officials were members of the Executive Council in 1998–2000, 2003–2005, 2007–2009, and 2012–2014, and chaired that organ from May 2003 till May 2004.⁵¹ Prague has also Moreover, the Czech Republic has made financial contributions to the OPCW. For example, in 2003 Prague provided more than \$70,000 for the elimination of Russian chemical weapons, and in November 2013 the Czech government decided to donate €100,000 to the OPCW Trust Fund for the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons.⁵³

The Czech Republic is also known for its highly-trained chemical response military personnel, currently organised in the 31st Regiment of Radiological, Chemical

⁵⁰ However, Czechoslovakia was in possession of numerous types of Soviet-made short and tactical-range ballistic missiles, including conventionally-armed SS-23 missiles that were imported from the USSR in the mid-80s and dismantled by the Czech Republic by 1996. Czechoslovakia also hosted Soviet units armed with nuclear-capable missiles, including SS-12 systems. All Soviet missiles had been withdrawn and eliminated by May 1991. See: "OTR-23 (SS-23)," *Missile Threat*, missilethreat.com; "Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces [INF] Chronology," Federation of American Scientists, www.fas.org; A. Smale, "Soviet Missiles Leave Czechoslovakia, East Germany," *Associated Press News Archive*, 26 February 1988, www.apnewsarchive.com.

⁵¹ "Activities of the Czech Republic within the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons," Embassy of the Czech Republic in the Hague, 22 January 2005, www.mzv.cz/hague/en; "Chairmanship of the Czech Republic in the Executive Council of the OPCW," Embassy of the Czech Republic in the Hague, 22 January 2009, www.mzv.cz/hague/en; "Czech Republic finished its mandate in the OPCW Executive Council," Embassy of the Czech Republic in the Hague, 12 May 2014, www.mzv.cz/hague/en.

⁵² "Activities of the Czech Republic..." op. cit. See also, e.g.: "Assistance in the preparation of specialists in the field of protection against chemical weapons," The State Office for Nuclear Safety, 24 June 2014, www.sujb.cz/en/; "Advanced Practical Training Course on Assistance and Protection Against Chemical Weapons for East African Countries Held in Czech Republic," Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 27 May 2013, www.opcw.org.

⁵³ "Russian Chemical Weapons Disposal Program to Receive Czech Support," *Global Security Newswire*, 21 November 2003, www.nti.org/gsn; "Contribution Agreement between the Czech Republic and OPCW signed," Embassy of the Czech Republic in the Hague, 12 May 2014, www.mzv.cz/hague/en.

and Biological Protection in Liberec, also responsible for protection from the effects of other WMD attacks. Czech soldiers participated in military operations during the first Gulf War (as a part of the Czechoslovakian contingent), were deployed to Kuwait during the second Gulf War in 2003, and served in Afghanistan from 2007 to 2013.⁵⁴ Czech troops also protected events such as the 2002 NATO summit in Prague and the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens.⁵⁵

Furthermore, the Czech WMD unit provided chemical warfare training and advice to personnel from numerous countries, including Jordan in 2012 and Greece in 2004.⁵⁶ Czech soldiers have also served on a rotational basis in the NATO Multinational Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Battalion, with headquarters in Liberec, the Czech Republic.⁵⁷

BIOLOGICAL

The Czech Republic does not possess or pursue biological weapons. The Czech Republic is a party to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC).

In order to strengthen the implementation of the BWC and to facilitate the creation of a verification mechanism, the Czech Republic, together with Canada and Switzerland, came forward with the concept of national compliance assessment.⁵⁸

⁵⁴ M. Hrobský, "27 members of Czech chemical unit in Kuwait to return to the Czech Republic," *Radio Prague*, 22 January 2003, www.radio.cz/en; "Czech chemical experts leaving Afghanistan," 10 December 2013, *Prague Post*, www.praguepost.com; "Foreign operations of the Czech armed forces—history," *About CZ*, www.czech.cz/en.

⁵⁵ "Czech Republic to Deploy WMD Unit at NATO Summit," *Global Security Newswire*, 5 October 2006, www.nti.org/gsn.

⁵⁶ J. Reed, "Czech Anti-chemical Warfare Troops Are in Jordan," *Foreign Policy*, 21 November 2012, www.foreignpolicy.com; "Greek Soldiers Complete Chemical Attack Training," *Global Security Newswire*, 14 June 2004, www.nti.org/gsn.

⁵⁷ See "NATO Multinational Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Battalion," Ministry of Defence & Armed Forces of the Czech Republic, www.army.cz.

⁵⁸ "Biological Weapons," The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva, www.mzv.cz/mission.geneva/en.