



PARTNERSHIP *for* GLOBAL SECURITY

LEADING THE WORLD TO A SAFER FUTURE

Translated from the Chinese language news website “Duowei News” article “霸主地位不再？美坦言正在输给中俄” published on May 4, 2017.

Hegemon no more? The United States admits to falling behind China and Russia

The United States Secretary of Defence claims that the United States is concerned about the eroding military advantage they hold over China and Russia. Moreover, American media has also reported that in some specialized fields, the United States is slowly losing ground to China and Russia.

Various media sources have reported that Bob Work, the Deputy Secretary of Defense of the United States, expressed the United States’ concern over the eroding military advantage they hold over China and Russia at a Senate Appropriations Committee Hearing on May 4.

“Since the end of the Cold War, the United States has enjoyed military technical dominance over all potential adversaries. This is a highly unusual time. In the past 25 years, the United States has not been challenged in any field of combat, be it space, air, land, or sea. However, the United States’ competitors have begun developing their respective advanced capabilities. Two countries have invested the most to achieve this aim: China and Russia,” says Work.

Work also commented that the United States’ competitors are concentrating on restricting the freedom of maneuver and action of the United States Army at potential combat sites. He claims that the overwhelming majority of the action and military advantage the United States holds has begun eroding, which is a worrying trend.

The worries of the American military are not entirely baseless. According to an article by *The National Interest* released on May 3, a new study by the Global Nexus Initiative has found that the United States is losing global influence to Russia and China by allowing its nuclear power industry to stagnate. The study argued nuclear power is a significant element of a country’s geopolitical influence. Technological exchanges and long timeframes involved in building and operating a nuclear plant create diplomatic relationships between nations, and those ties are threatened as the nuclear industry of the United States continues to decline.

“The US is losing ground to Russia and China on nuclear power,” Ken Luongo, president of the Partnership for Global Security, a non-governmental organization in the United States, said during a press conference on May 2.

According to the report, China is set to triple the amount of nuclear power it generates by 2026, overtaking the United States. as the country with the most nuclear power. In addition, Russia’s nuclear power program is also on the rise. Some of the world’s first floating nuclear power plants are being developed in Russia, and the country is pioneering fast reactors, according to experts.

“Preserving the existing United States fleet is fundamental. Without the existing fleet and the associated infrastructure it will be increasingly difficult for technological innovation to occur or to maintain a robust supply chain for our nuclear navy,” Maria Korsnick, president of the United States Nuclear Energy Institute, said in a press conference.

On the other hand, according to an article in Russia’s “*Izvestia*”, this is not the first time the United States has expressed such a concern. In early April, the United States even claimed that China and Russia have created a weapon that can keep the United States in check in space. This weapon can prevent the United States’ satellites from functioning normally.