



Sunday World-Herald

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WEAPONS UPGRADES

Democrats throw sand on StratCom nuclear plea

The new Congress wants to ask questions about a wish list that had met little resistance before now

By STEVE LIEWER
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Gen. John Hyten's nuclear wish list is long, and in recent years Congress has given the leader of Offutt-based U.S. Strategic Command what he wants.

New Columbia-class ballistic missile submarines? Check.

Updated nuclear B-61-12 gravity bombs? Done.

Nuclear-capable B-21 bombers? In the works.

New submarine-launched cruise missiles and low-yield weapons for "small" sub-based nuclear attacks? Just around the corner.

In his 2½ years leading StratCom — whose top task is to prepare the U.S. for nuclear war — Hyten has sounded off bluntly, and often, on the need to upgrade these weapons, most of which were built between the 1960s and the 1980s.

These upgrades are the most important part of the defense budget, Hyten told Congress this spring, and he urged them to fully fund StratCom's nuclear program to the tune of \$25 billion. That request included \$8.4 billion to put toward replacing subs, bombers and missiles expected to reach the end of their useful life between 2025 and 2035.

The Russians already have begun their own program, and they are ahead of us, Hyten has said. A modern nuclear arsenal is needed to deter Russia — or any other rival — from attempting an attack, he's said multiple times, noting that a world without nuclear weapons is the world that produced two cataclysmic world wars in the last century.

See Hyten: Page 2

Appeal made in murder case

An author asks the state to reopen the investigation of an Omaha officer's 1970 slaying. **Midlands**

Valmont crossing the road

The Omaha-based company will move to new headquarters, parts of which will be Valmont-made. **Money**

A star for Harry Friedman

An Omaha native is getting a spot on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. We fill you in on why. **Living**

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24th & Glory

The intersection of civil rights and Omaha's greatest generation of athletes

AN 11-PART SERIES BY DIRK CHATELAIN, WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

PART SEVEN: Not even star power could open up housing beyond North Omaha

Omaha?!? Where the heck is Omaha?

By 1967, Bob Boozer had played for NBA teams in Cincinnati, New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. His teammates shared something more than long legs: They couldn't find his hometown on a map.

"They laughed at Bob because he loved Omaha so much," wife Ella said. "They didn't even know black people lived in Omaha, I swear."

Ella could relate. The sassy Cincinnati native married her gentle giant in August 1966, just before he joined the expansion Chicago Bulls. Bob scored 18 points per game that winter, including 40 on Christmas night at the old Madison Square Garden. She, too, experienced the glamour of America's biggest cities. The shopping! The food! But after the playoffs, Boozer asked his bride to think about their life after basketball. To put down roots in ... you guessed it.

Did Ella want to move to Omaha? "Noooooo."

But Boozer had a unique stature there. As racial conflict ripped his city apart, the 6-foot-8 power forward bridged two worlds. He made friends in the black barbershops of North 24th Street and in the white boardrooms downtown. He taught basketball clinics at Bryant Center and trained for management at Northwestern Bell Telephone Co.

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Above, members of the Omaha Human Relations Board tour housing conditions at 1500 N. 20th St. in June 1964. As they toured the property, a rat ran across the yard. At top left is State Sen. Ed Danner in 1966. Danner, who represented North Omaha, was the only black state senator during the civil rights era. At top right is Omaha Tech grad and NBA player Bob Boozer at a press conference in 1967 where he talked about an Omaha real estate developer refusing to sell him a lot on which to build a home.

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