Managed Instability: The NATO-Russia Strategic Relationship

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• Fundamental differences in interpretation of international law and norms

• Nuclear weapons have played large implicit and explicit roles throughout the Ukraine crisis
The Good News

• New START
  – On track to meet 2018 numbers of deployed warheads and delivery systems (but Russian numbers worrying)
  – Verification mechanisms remain fully functional and fully utilised

• INF (for now: non-compliance charges)

• Treaty on Open Skies
  – Surveillance flights still taking place – crucial confidence building measure
  – Turkey-Russia rift threatens this process
The Bad News

- Russian rejection of New START expansion
- INF challenges
- Russian withdrawal from Nuclear Security Summit process
- Shuttering of NATO-Russia Council
Bad News Continued

- **NSNW and dual use systems**

  Russian air-launched cruise missile demonstration, 18/11/15

  Military encounters, large portion involve strategic aviation
Prospects for the Future

• Strategic relationship cannot be viewed in isolation – Action must be incremental

• New START
  – Dual-capable systems must be addressed more thoroughly

• Playbook of Euro-Atlantic not well enough developed – risk of unintended escalation
  – Memorandum of Understanding would reduce risk: Better environment for strategic talks

• NSNW issue must continue to be raised