

Possible Military Dimensions (PMD)

Preventing a nuclear Iran means more than just limits on fissile material. Inspectors need a full and clear picture of the possible military dimensions (PMD) of its nuclear program, to judge whether Iran could actually use this material in a nuclear weapon.

The JCPOA makes this impossible:

- It does not address the PMD issue; instead, this is covered in a separate “Roadmap” between Iran and the IAEA.¹
- The IAEA is not given unrestricted access to Iran’s nuclear program, which it would need to resolve concerns that Iran has worked on nuclear weapons.
- Given Iran’s history of obstruction on this issue, the JCPOA’s December deadline for the IAEA to resolve this matter is highly unrealistic.
- Moreover, the JCPOA would still be implemented if this deadline is not met.

This could severely undermine the effectiveness of the final deal:

- The United States and its allies would be implementing the agreement without accurate knowledge of Iran’s actual progress toward nuclear weapons capability.
- Iran would receive sanctions relief without having to come clean on PMD.

1. International Atomic Energy Agency, “IAEA Director General’s Statement and Road-map for the Clarification of Past & Present Outstanding Issues regarding Iran’s Nuclear Program,” July 14, 2015.