



2018 NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW

STARTING POINT: A CHALLENGING AND DYNAMIC SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

- > Russia is elevating the role of nuclear weapons, expanding and modernizing its nuclear forces, violating arms control treaties, and engaging in aggressive behavior.
- > China pursues new nuclear capabilities and challenges U.S. interests in the Western Pacific.
- > Regional actors, such as North Korea, threaten U.S., allied, and partner security by engaging in provocative behavior and by pursuing nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them.

ROLES FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- > Deter nuclear and non-nuclear attack, assure allies and partners, achieve objectives should deterrence fail, and hedge against uncertainty.
- > Deter large-scale, catastrophic war against Great Powers in ways non-nuclear capabilities cannot.

TAILORED NUCLEAR STRATEGY AND FLEXIBLE CAPABILITIES TO STRENGTHEN DETERRENCE

- > Tailored to different adversaries and scenarios to clearly communicate the unacceptable risks and intolerable costs of possible nuclear employment, of any scale.
- > Flexibility to respond to a variety of current threats while preparing for future uncertainties.

ENDURING COMMITMENT TO ARMS CONTROL AND NONPROLIFERATION

- > We will continue non-proliferation efforts, an essential complement to deterrence. The U.S. remains committed to its full range of arms control obligations.
- > Effective arms control can advance U.S., allied, and partner security but must be verifiable and enforceable.
- > Arms control agreements that are violated undermine the prospect for future arms control.

THE U.S. NUCLEAR TRIAD IS NECESSARY AND AFFORDABLE

- > The attributes of each individual leg of the triad together ensure survivability and enable flexibility.
- > Contemporary deterrence challenges call for modest enhancements to current capabilities.
- > Nuclear modernization has been long delayed and is essential now.
 - Replacements are needed for Cold War-era ICBMs, ballistic missile submarines, strategic bombers, and air launched cruise missiles last modernized in the 1980s.
 - Programs are optimized to minimize overall cost peaking at approximately 6.4% of the DoD budget; previous modernization efforts peaked at 10.6% in the 1980s and 17.1% in the 1960s.

NUCLEAR COMMAND, CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS (NC3)

- > NC3 provides the backbone for our nuclear forces, enabling safe and secure operation.
 - Modernization is essential to stay ahead of current and future threats in space and cyber space.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS LABS AND PLANTS

- > Recapitalizing the nuclear complex is long past due; it is vital that we ensure the capability to design, produce, and maintain nuclear weapons.
- > Sustained investment is needed to deliver nuclear weapons in time to support the nuclear deterrent.