



Nuclear Posture Review

Background Briefing for Media

April 5, 2010

The President's Nuclear Security Agenda

- **First articulated in Prague in April 2009**
 - Reduce nuclear dangers and pursue the long-term goal of a world without nuclear weapons
 - Sustain a safe, secure, and effective nuclear arsenal as long as nuclear weapons exist
- **Key events in the President's nuclear security agenda**
 - Nuclear Posture Review
 - New START Treaty
 - Nuclear Security Summit
 - NPT Review Conference

Congressional Direction

- **DoD-led review in consultation with Departments of State and Energy**
- **Review nuclear posture for the next 5 to 10 years**
- **Serves as basis for establishing U.S. arms control objectives**
- **7 elements of the review:**
 - Role of nuclear forces in U.S. military strategy, planning, and programming;
 - Objectives for U.S. to maintain a safe, reliable, and credible nuclear deterrence posture;
 - Relationship among U.S. nuclear deterrence policy, targeting strategy, and arms control objectives;
 - Role missile defenses & conventional strike play in determining roles and size of nuclear forces;
 - Levels and composition of the nuclear delivery systems;
 - Nuclear weapons complex we require, including plans to modernize or modify the complex;
 - The nuclear stockpile that will be required for implementing U.S. strategy.

NPR Scope, Conduct, and Product

- **Scope:**
 - President's nuclear agenda
- **Conduct:**
 - Interagency
 - Consultative
 - Senior Leader engagement
- **Product:**
 - Unclassified report to Congress

Key Objectives

- 1. Prevent nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism**
- 2. Reduce the role of nuclear weapons**
- 3. Maintain effective strategic deterrence and stability at lower nuclear force levels**
- 4. Strengthen regional deterrence and reassurance of U.S. allies and partners**
- 5. Sustain a safe, secure and effective nuclear arsenal as long as nuclear weapons remain**

The NPR and the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty

- **Early priority to analytically derive negotiating positions for the New START negotiations.**
 - Considered a range of solutions to maintain strategic stability while reducing operationally deployed strategic nuclear force levels.
- **The NPR determined that the United States should maintain a nuclear Triad of ICBMs, SSBNs, and heavy bombers.**
- **New START:**
 - 1,550 accountable warheads
 - Combined limit of 800 deployed and non-deployed ICBM launchers, SLBM launchers, and nuclear-capable heavy bombers
 - Separate limit of 700 deployed ICBMs, deployed SLBMs, and deployed nuclear-capable heavy bombers
 - Does not constrain U.S. programs or plans for missile defense or conventional systems.

The NPR and the FY 2011 Budget Request

- **The United States will sustain a safe, secure, and effective nuclear deterrent as long as nuclear weapons exist.**
- **President's fiscal year 2011 budget request includes a 13 percent increase for stockpile modernization efforts.**
 - Supports the W76 and B61 LEPs
 - Follow-on study of the W78
 - Funds the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement nuclear facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory
 - Builds a new Uranium Processing Facility at Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge
 - Funds science, technology, and engineering
- **The NPR will outline this Administration guidelines for managing the U.S. nuclear stockpile.**