

REDUCING THE NUMBER OF US AND RUSSIAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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Summary

The United States and Russia have many more nuclear weapons than they need for their security

Reducing weapons will make the world safer, save a lot of money and reinforce efforts to limit the spread of nuclear weapons to new states

Reducing US and Russian nuclear weapons usually done, but not always, by legal treaty process

US political dysfunction makes treaties harder to do, may lead to other options

What Are Nuclear Weapons?

Unlike other weapons

Only released with President's direct authority

Massive destruction and political impact

Taboo against use well-earned, legacy lessons being forgotten

Political weapons, or terror weapons, not military useful

US-Russian Nuclear Stocks

US Arsenal

2100 deployed

2650 reserve

3000 awaiting dismantlement

~7700 total

Deployed on submarines, land based missiles and aircraft

Russian Arsenal

2500 deployed strategic

2000 tactical and non-deployed

~4500 total

Deployed on submarines, land based missiles, aircraft and missile interceptors, includes short range systems

History

US-USSR treaties

Even in cold war, we reduced by treaty

1972 ABM and SALT agreement

1991 START

**1991 Presidential Nuclear Initiatives –
tactical weapons**

US-Russian

2003 – Treaty of Moscow

2011 – New START Treaty

New START Process

Bipartisan approach in Senate breaking down

New START process, passed with 71 votes – 67 needed, hard process.

Opposition to Obama nuclear policies, vision

Path Ahead

US expected to spend \$1 Trillion on nuclear weapons over next 30 years. Unsustainable.

Treaty process unlikely to happen quickly, leaving other options for President

Russian priorities conflicting

Russian Approach

Russia linking new agreement to many issues, including missile defense, conventional weapons.

US unlikely to negotiate on such a basis

If US goes down, will Russia follow?

US considerations

Reductions not just a US-Russian issue

How will cuts affect allies in Europe and East Asia?

How will China respond to US reductions?

**When/How to broaden discussions to China, UK,
France**

**Connection to emerging nuclear programs in NK,
Iran**