



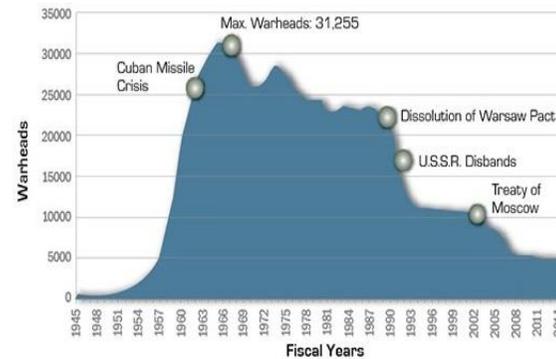
The 2018 Nuclear Posture Review

Flexible Capabilities for Tailored Deterrence

The Strategic Environment

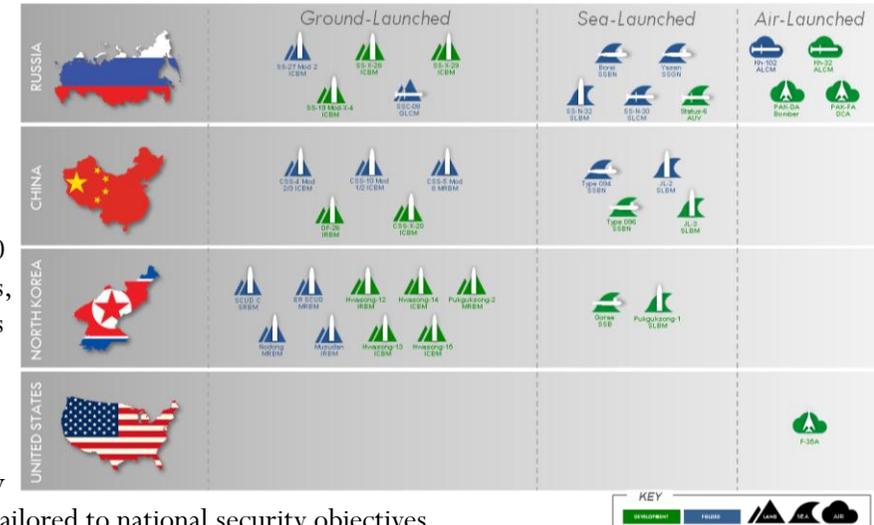
- Since 2010 we have seen the **reemergence of long-term, strategic competition**.
- While the United States has reduced the number by 85% and role of nuclear weapons, others have moved in the opposite direction.
- There is now an **unprecedented range and mix of threats**, including conventional, chemical, biological, nuclear, space, cyber, and violent non-state actors.
- This NPR identifies the nuclear policies, strategy, and capabilities needed to protect America in this environment. **Flexible, adaptable, and resilient U.S. nuclear capabilities are now required** to protect the United States, allies, and partners, and promote stability.

Size of the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Stockpile
4,016 weapons as of 2016



Foreign Nuclear Weapons Capabilities

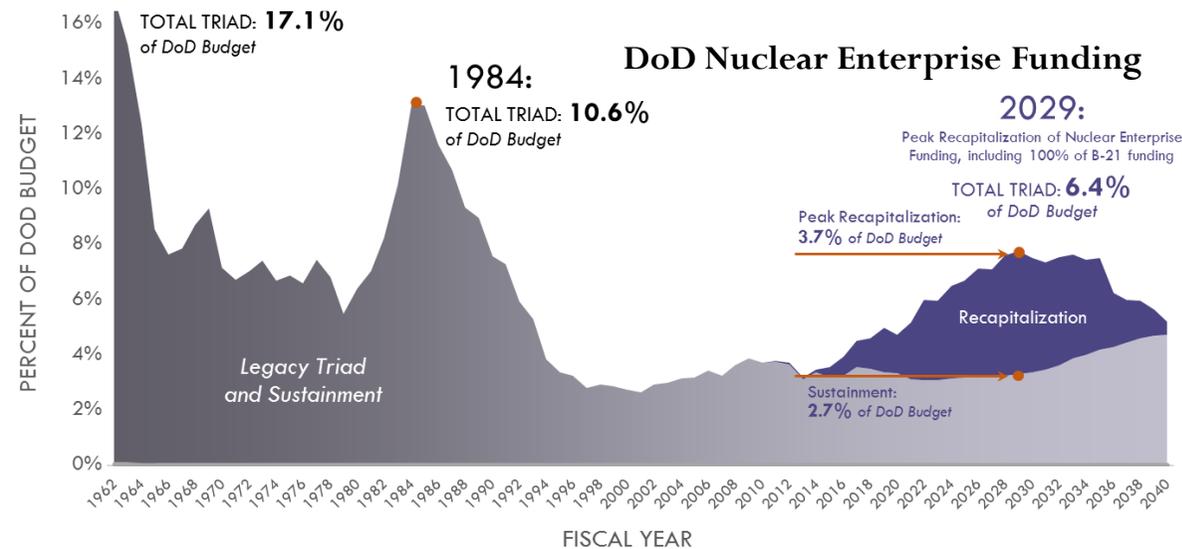
- Since 2010, no potential adversary has come close to meeting the U.S. reduction in the role and number of nuclear weapons.
- Russia is modernizing an active stockpile of up to 2,000 non-strategic nuclear weapons, has adopted military strategies and capabilities that rely on nuclear escalation for their success.
- China is pursuing entirely new nuclear capabilities tailored to national security objectives.
- North Korea continues its illicit pursuit of nuclear weapons and missile capabilities in direct violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions.



Affordable Continuity in a Changing Environment

- Projected DoD costs of sustaining and replacing needed nuclear capabilities represent a small fraction of the DoD budget.
- Maintaining and operating our aging nuclear forces now requires 2-3% of the DoD budget. The replacement program to rebuild the triad for decades of service will peak at only about 4% beyond sustainment spending.

DoD Nuclear Enterprise Funding



Flexible Capabilities to Enable Tailored Deterrence

- Existing elements of the nuclear force replacement program predate the dramatic deterioration of the strategic environment.
- The United States will now pursue modest supplements to the replacement program to enhance the flexibility and responsiveness of U.S. nuclear forces. These will:
 - Raise the nuclear threshold by demonstrating United States can credibly and decisively respond to limited nuclear escalation thereby ensuring potential adversaries perceive no possible advantage in nuclear use.
 - Enhance deterrence by denying potential adversaries any mistaken confidence that limited nuclear employment, regionally or otherwise, can provide a useful advantage

Low-Yield Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile (LYBM)

- Ensures prompt response option
- Able to penetrate adversary defenses
- Comparatively low-cost
- Near-term modification to existing capability.

Nuclear-Armed Sea-Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM)

- Survivable, non-strategic regional presence
- Provides assured response capability
- Treaty-compliant response to Russia's INF violation and destabilizing behaviors