



# Tailored Deterrence Strategies and Flexible Capabilities

## Strategic Environment

- Return to Great Power, long-term competition.
- Nuclear-armed states did not follow U.S. lead in reducing role and numbers of nuclear weapons.
- U.S. reduced 85% since 1991.
- Russia modernizing and expanding strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons; strategy for nuclear escalation
- China modernizing military; fielding new nuclear capabilities and expanding their arsenal.
- North Korea expanding its missile and nuclear capability.
- Iranian nuclear ambitions remain a concern.
- Threat of nuclear terrorism.
- U.S. nuclear weapons approaching end of life.
- Changes in uncertain strategic environment may come suddenly and unpredictably.

## Roles of Nuclear Weapons

- Deter nuclear attack on the U.S. and its allies and partners.
- Contribute to deterrence of non-nuclear attack.
- Assure allies and partners regarding U.S. extended deterrence guarantees.
- Achieve U.S. objectives if deterrence fails.
- Hedge against an uncertain future.

### Posture

- Force modernization.
  - Strategic nuclear triad.
  - Non-strategic nuclear forces.
  - Robust nuclear command and control.
  - Responsive nuclear infrastructure.
  - Hedge capabilities.
- Force structure
  - 400 ICBM
  - 240 SLBM
  - 60 bombers with cruise missile and bombs
  - Dual-capable fighter aircraft

## Tailored Deterrence and Flexible Capabilities

- Tailored for specific adversaries and circumstances to deny benefits, threaten what they most value.
  - **Russia:** preserve rough strategic parity; hold at risk valued assets.
  - **China:** counter A2AD and decoupling strategies, hold at risk most valued assets.
  - **North Korea:** maintain escalation dominance, counter missile threats, end Kim regime if they launch nuclear attack on U.S., or our allies and partners.
  - **Iran:** dissuade from developing a nuclear weapon.
- Flexibility derived from diverse set of nuclear capabilities adaptable to changing conditions in a highly uncertain security environment.

## Declaratory Policy

- Policy integrates deterrence and nonproliferation objectives.
- Nuclear weapons may be used in extreme circumstances to defend the vital interests of the United States, its allies and partners.
- Not limited to deterring nuclear threats; may deter or respond to significant non-nuclear strategic attacks (e.g. attacks on population or infrastructure, warning capabilities).
- Will not use or threaten to use against non-nuclear states in compliance with non-proliferation commitments.

## Non-proliferation and arms control

- Commitment to NPT regime.
- Maintain New START, INF; set conditions for future arms control.
- Improve capabilities to prevent proliferation and terrorism.
- Transparency and risk reduction measures.
- INF integrated strategy to compel Russian compliance