



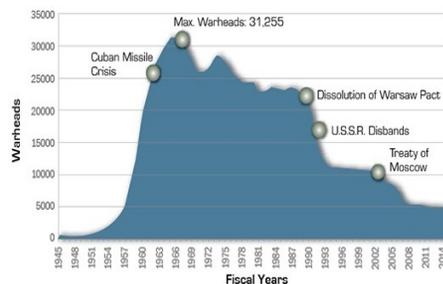
The 2018 Nuclear Posture Review

Flexible Capabilities for Tailored Deterrence

The Strategic Environment

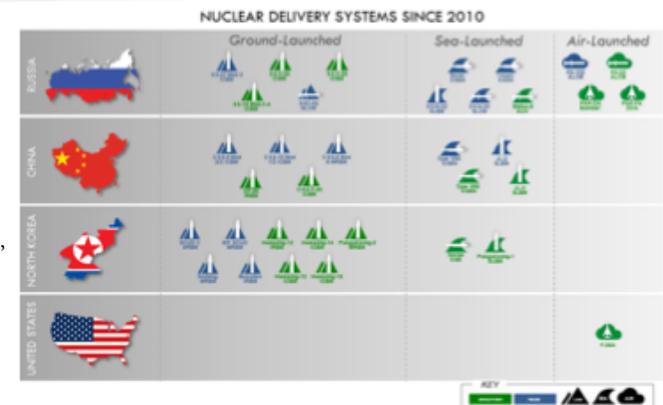
- Since 2010 we have seen the **reemergence of long-term, strategic competition.**
- **While the United States has reduced the number by 85% and role of nuclear weapons, others have moved in the opposite direction.**
- There is now an **unprecedented range and mix of threats**, including conventional, 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



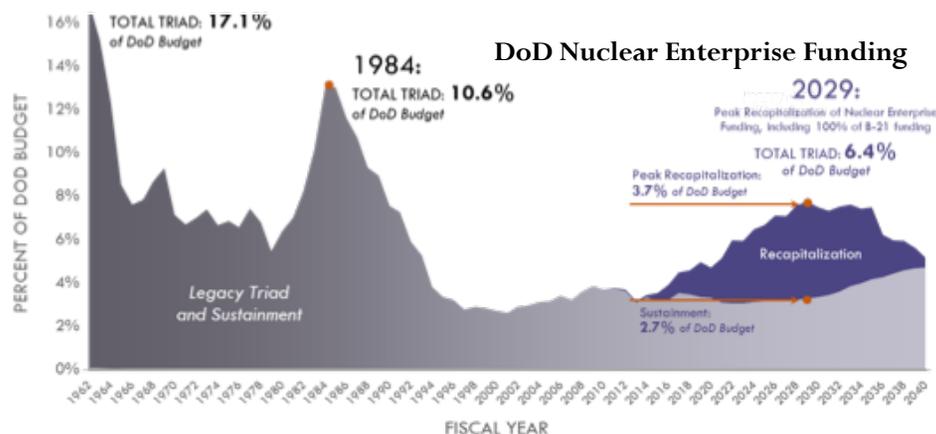
Foreign Nuclear Weapons Capabilities

- 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.



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