



Hans M. Kristensen
Director, Nuclear Information Project
Federation of American Scientists

Presentation to

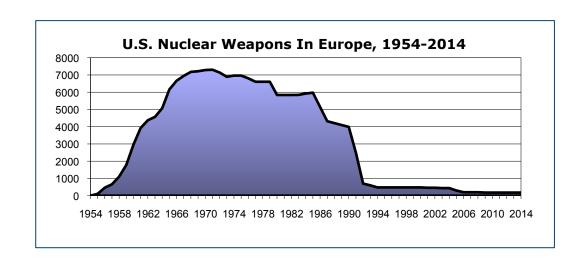
Dutch and Belgian Parliament Committees

January 2014



## **B61 Numbers**

- 180 B61 bombs in Europe
- · Cold War deployment peaked at 7,300 in 1971
- Post-Cold War deployment reduced by more than half since 2004 unilaterally

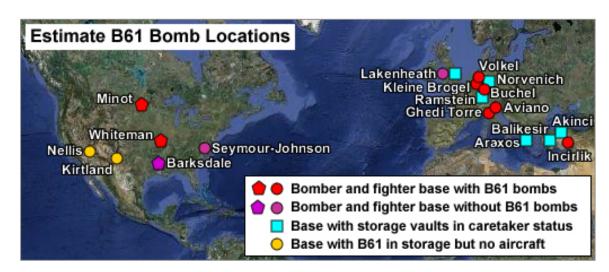


US Nuclear Weapons In Europe 2014			
Country	<u>Base</u>	<u>Vaults</u>	<u>B61s</u>
Belgium	Kleine Brogel	11	20
Germany	Buchel	11	20
Italy	Aviano	18	50
	Ghedi Torre	11	20
Netherlands	Volkel	11	20
Turkey	Incirlik	25	50
Total		87	180

- Current deployment at six bases in five countries
- 4 national bases for delivery by national aircraft; 2 US bases for delivery by US aircraft
- 87 underground storage vaults (348 capacity); additional vaults at other bases in caretaker status
- Despite reduced readiness compared with Cold War, weapons are stored near delivery aircraft
- Additional weapons stored in the United States



### **B61 Locations**



- B61 bombs estimated at 10 locations in Europe and United States:
  - 6 bases in 5 NATO countries
  - 4 bases in United States
- 8 other facilities have no B61s present but nuclear-capable aircraft or storage vaults in caretaker status

#### **Strategic Bomber Bases**

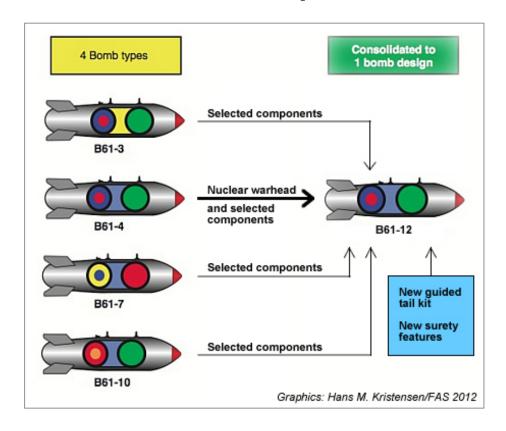
- Minot AFB (ND): B-52H and B61-7
- Whiteman AFB (MO): B-2A and B61-7/B61-11
- Barksdale AFB (LA): B-52H

#### **Tactical Fighter Bases**

- Volkel AB: B61s for Dutch F-16s
- Kleine Brogel AB: B61s for Belgian F-16s
- Buchel AB: B61s for German Tornados
- Ghedi Torre AB: B61s for Italian Tornados
- Aviano AB: B61s for US F-16s
- Incirlik AB: B61s for US and Turkish F-16s (no aircraft on base)
- Lakenheath AB: US F-15Es (no bombs on base)
- Seymour-Johnson AFB: F-15Es (no bombs on base)



## **B61-12: The Concept**



- Consolidate four existing B61 versions into one type
- Retain nuclear bombs for U.S. strategic bombers and fighter-bombers deployed in NATO.
- Add new safety and security features
- Use smaller warhead (B61-4) to reduce HEU available to theft
- · Reduce total stockpile
- Save money



### **B61-12: Claims**

#### **Official Explanation:**

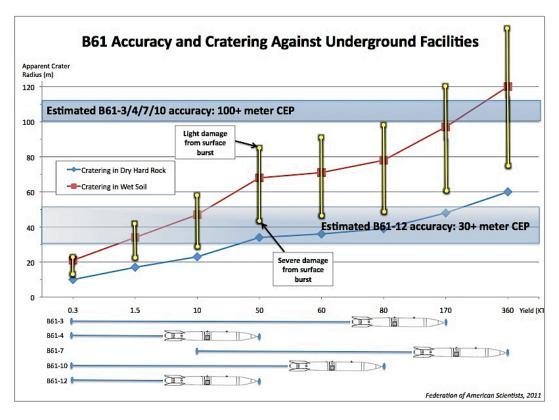
- Not a new nuclear bomb but simply a lifeextension of an existing version
- No new military capabilities
- Will result in cost savings
- Will result in reduction of stockpile
- Needed to improve nuclear surety
- Full LEP urgently needed

#### **But in Reality:**

- It is a new "new" nuclear bomb type that is not currently in the nuclear stockpile
- It has improved military capabilities
- It is the most expensive nuclear bomb project ever; many costs are still unknown
- Yes it will reduce stockpile some, but those reductions could be made anyway
- It is already one of the most secure warheads in the stockpile
- A simpler LEP can fix urgent aging issues at a lower cost



# **B61-12: Improved Military Capabilities**



Question: Will improved accuracy and lower vield affect the way the military thinks about the use of the B61 bomb?

**Answer:** Without a doubt. Improved accuracy and lower yield is a desired military capability.

**Question:** Will that result in a different target set or just make the existing weapon better?

**Answer:** It would have both effects.

General Norton Schwartz, USAF (Ret.), 16 Jan. 2014

- B61-12 will be more accurate and capable than the B61s currently deployed in Europe
- First guided standoff nuclear bomb
- New guided tail kit "will provide a modest standoff capability, for safe aircraft escape. and sufficient delivery accuracy so that the lower yield of the B61-12 can achieve the same military effect as the original B61."
- Lower yield options can be used against targets that today require higher yield
- Lower yield means less radioactive fallout and more "useable" weapon



# **B61-12: Integration**



- Integration on six different platforms: B-2A, B-52H (?), F-15E, F-16, F-35A, Tornado
- From late-2020s, also integration on the next-generation bomber (LRS-B)
- F-35A will replace F-16 and Tornado in NATO nuclear mission
  - Initially, B71-12 tail kit will be "locked" on NATO F-16 and Tornado
  - Increased military capability will become available with transition to F-35

Why does NATO and the United States need to deliver a nuclear bomb from so many platforms?

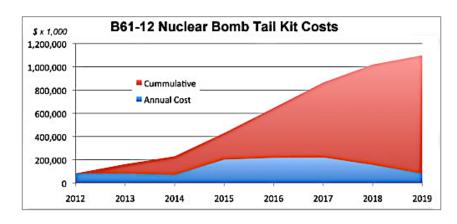


### **B61-12: Cost**



Is this the best way for NATO and the United States to spend their defense money?

- NNSA B61 LEP cost estimate doubled between 2010 and 2012 from \$4 billion to \$8 billion
- DOD CAPE study in 2012 projected \$10.4 billion
- Guided tail kit assembly estimated at \$1.4 billion
- Plan for nearly 500 B61-12s makes this the most expensive bomb project ever: each bomb will cost more than its own weight in solid gold
- Add to that the cost of integrating the B61-12 on bombers and fighter-bombers; \$350 million for F-35 alone
- European deployment: \$100 million per year





## **Conclusions**

- B61-12 program is in excess of national and international needs and fiscal realities; simpler and cheaper life-extension can meet short-term needs
- Improved military capabilities contradict Nuclear Posture Review promise not to add military capabilities during LEPs and DDPR conclusion that current posture already meets NATO needs
- Improved capabilities of B61-12 bomb and F-35 stealth fighter undercuts efforts to make Russia reduce its non-strategic nuclear weapons; signals that it is acceptable for Russia to modernize its non-strategic nuclear weapons as well
- Conditioning further NATO reductions on Russian reciprocity surrenders initiative to hardliners in the Kremlin; Russian non-strategic nuclear posture not determined by NATO's non-strategic nuclear posture but by Russia's inferior conventional forces
- European deployment is fake reassurance: least likely to ever be used for Allies' security needs; stealing scarce resources from real-world non-nuclear capabilities
- Phase-out of deployment would realign NATO's nuclear posture with nuclear arms control policy