



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
(PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. - 20301

**PLEASE NOTE DATE**

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 22, 1994

No. 541-94

(703)697-5131(media)

(703)697-3189(copies)

(703)697-5737(public/industry)

## **DOD REVIEW RECOMMENDS REDUCTION IN NUCLEAR FORCE**

Secretary of Defense William J. Perry today announced the results of the Department of Defense's Nuclear Posture Review (NPR).

"In light of the post-Cold War era, President Bill Clinton directed the Defense Department to reexamine its forces," said Secretary Perry. "First, there was the Bottom Up Review of U. S. conventional force structure conducted under Secretary Aspin. Now we have just completed a review of our nuclear forces."

The NPR is the first such review of U.S. nuclear policy in 15 years, and the first study ever to include policy, doctrine, force structure, command and control, operations, supporting infrastructure, safety and security and arms control in a single review.

## **STRATEGIC NUCLEAR FORCES**

The most important results of the Nuclear Posture Review can be seen in the decisions made to reduce the strategic nuclear force structure the U.S. plans to retain after the START II Treaty is implemented. The NPR recommends the following strategic nuclear force adjustments:

- Fourteen Trident submarines carrying Trident II (D-5) missiles -- retiring four submarines-- rather than 18 submarines, 10 carrying D-5 and 8 carrying C-4 missiles.
- Sixty-six B-52 bombers, reduced from the 94 planned a year ago.
- No requirement for any additional B-2 bombers in a nuclear role.
- All B-1 bombers will be reoriented to a conventional role.
- Three wings of Minuteman III missiles carrying single warheads (500-450).

No new strategic systems are under development or planned.

**-MORE-**

2

“NPR decisions allow us to put U.S. nuclear programs on a stable footing. But a fundamental underlying judgment of the Review is that we are at the threshold of a decade of planned reductions, and we will continue to reassess the opportunities for further reduction or, if necessary, respond to unanticipated challenges as time goes on. The NPR strategic force provides that needed flexibility,” Secretary Perry said.

### **NON-STRATEGIC NUCLEAR FORCES**

In the Non-Strategic Nuclear Forces (NSNF) arena, the NPR makes the following recommendations, including eliminating entirely two of five remaining types of NSNF:

- Retain our current commitment to NATO of dual-capable aircraft based in Europe and the deployment of nuclear weapons in Europe (less than 10 percent of Cold War levels).
- Retain continental U.S.-based dual-capable aircraft.
- Eliminate the option to deploy nuclear weapons on carrier-based dual-capable aircraft.
- Eliminate the option to carry nuclear cruise missiles on surface ships.
- Retain the capability to deploy nuclear cruise missiles on submarines.

The effect of the NSNF recommendations is to eliminate the capability to deploy nuclear weapons on surface naval ships, while maintaining a non-strategic force capability to fulfill our commitments to allies.

### **NUCLEAR SAFETY, SECURITY AND USE CONTROL**

In addition to the reductions on overall numbers of weapons as noted above, since 1988 the U.S. has taken a number of steps to improve the safety and security of nuclear weapons. U.S. bombers no longer stand day-to-day alert and strategic missiles are no longer targeted against any country. The U.S. has reduced the number of nuclear storage locations by over 75 percent and the number of personnel with access to weapons or control by 70 percent. The NPR examined ways to ensure U.S. ability to continue to meet the highest standards of stewardship of its nuclear forces and identified several areas for further improvements in U.S. forces' safety, security and use control. The NPR recommends that:

- the U.S. equip all its nuclear weapons systems, including submarines, with coded control devices by 1997; and upgrade coded control locking devices on Minuteman III ICBMs and B-52 bombers.

**-MORE-**

## **COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE**

While dramatic changes have taken place in the area of command, control, communications and intelligence, the NPR recommendations ensure that our C3I structure will continue to be able to carry out key missions to maintain a viable nuclear deterrent capability.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

The NPR also made a number of recommendations regarding the infrastructure that supports U.S. nuclear forces. The Department will work closely with the Department of Energy, under the aegis of the stockpile stewardship program, to maintain a reliable, safe nuclear stockpile under a comprehensive test ban treaty. The U.S. will maintain selected portions of the defense industrial base that are unique to strategic and other nuclear systems.

## **THREAT REDUCTION AND PROLIFERATION**

The NPR recommended that the U.S. take advantage of the new opportunities for threat reduction through cooperative engagement; supports the Cooperative Threat Reduction (Nunn-Lugar) program to reduce the danger of unauthorized/accidental use or diversion of weapons or materials from or within the former Soviet Union. It also supports the U.S. Counterproliferation initiative to enhance conventional responses to the use of weapons of mass destruction in regional conflict.

“The NPR decisions allow us to put our nuclear programs in DoD on a stable footing after several years of rapid changes in our forces and programs. These adjustments reflect the changed political situation at the end of the Cold War and the reduced role nuclear weapons play in U.S. security,” said Dr. Perry.

“As we make adjustments in our future plans for the U.S. nuclear posture, uppermost in our minds is the fact that the states of the former Soviet Union are yet in the early stages of implementing the agreed reductions called for by the START I and START II agreements,” Dr. Perry said. “We are trying to hasten that process through, among other things, our Cooperative Threat Reduction programs with Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus. But we kept in mind as we conducted the NPR that START I has not yet entered into force, nor has START II be ratified. For this reason, and because of the uncertain future of the rapid political and economic change still underway in the former Soviet Union, we made two judgments in the NPR.

“First, we concluded that deeper reductions beyond those we made in the NPR would be imprudent at this time; and second, we took several actions to ensure that we could reconstitute our forces as the decade went along, if we needed to,” Secretary Perry said.

“The results of the NPR strike an appropriate balance between showing U.S. leadership in responding to the changed international environment and hedging against an uncertain future,” he said.

**-MORE-**

## **BACKGROUND: REDUCTIONS IN U.S. NUCLEAR FORCES UNDERWAY**

Since 1988, the U.S. has made a number of significant changes in its nuclear posture:

- The total U.S. active nuclear stockpile has been reduced 59 percent and will be reduced a total of 79 percent by 2003.
- Strategic warheads have been reduced 47 percent to date and will be reduced a total of 71 percent by 2003 with the implementation of START I and START II.
- Strategic bombers have been taken off alert.
- Nuclear weapons storage locations have been reduced by over 75 percent.
- We have eliminated the nuclear roles of the Army and the Marines. The Navy no longer routinely deploys non-strategic nuclear weapons, and the Air Force has dramatically cut its tactical nuclear stockpile.

We have terminated almost all of our nuclear modernization programs.

**-END-**