

The logo for the Nuclear Posture Review 2010 features the text "NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW" in a serif font, with "2010" below it. A horizontal bar with a blue-to-red gradient is positioned behind the text. Above the text, there are several blue stars and a stylized blue and red swoosh.

NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW

2010

FACT SHEET

Issued: 6 August 2009

The NPR, Arms Control and Deterrence

- In his April 5, 2009 speech in Prague, President Obama made clear his intent to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. national security strategy and to take concrete steps toward a world without nuclear weapons. He also promised that as long as nuclear weapons exist, the United States will maintain a safe, secure, and effective arsenal to deter any adversary, and guarantee that defense to our allies.
- The President's speech sets the stage for the Nuclear Posture Review. The NPR is addressing the United States' nuclear deterrence policy and strategy for the next five-to-ten years. The review will analyze the role of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy, the size and composition of nuclear forces necessary to support that strategy, and the steps necessary to maintain a safe, secure, and effective nuclear deterrence posture.
- The NPR will recommend actions consistent with the President's goals and will support a new approach to arms control that reflects the current and future international environment. The desired objective is to develop a U.S. nuclear posture that enhances the safety and security and preserves the effectiveness of our nuclear deterrent for as long as it is required, reduces the potential for conflict and nuclear use, enhances strategic stability world-wide, and strengthens the non-proliferation regime.
- There is no pre-determined level of reductions for the U.S. arsenal. The DOD, in conjunction with the Departments of State and Energy, are committed to ensuring that decisions about nuclear force structure and posture continue to be based on strong analysis of the potential threat and a deep understanding of our deterrence and assurance requirements. The purpose of the review is to determine the appropriate strategy, force levels, and structures to meet national security objectives and extended deterrence requirements.
- The review will examine ways to reduce both the role and number of nuclear weapons, although the complete elimination of nuclear weapons is not anticipated in the timeframe of this review.
- Extended deterrence to allies will remain a central element of U.S. nuclear policy. Extended deterrence to allies meets our formal Treaty commitments and contributes to our non-proliferation goals. The NPR is examining how to continue to provide extended deterrence to allies in a manner consistent with the long-term goal of eliminating nuclear weapons and reducing the role of nuclear weapons in national security of the United States and that of other countries around the globe.

NPR and START Follow-on Treaty Negotiations

- NPR and Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) Follow-on treaty negotiations are closely coordinated to ensure that the U.S. negotiating positions are fully consistent with ongoing NPR analysis concerning nuclear policy, strategy, and force structure.
- The Nuclear Posture Review, in its support for the START Follow-on treaty negotiations, is positioning the United States, together with Russia, on the path toward reducing the nuclear weapon capabilities of both countries in a stabilizing manner.
- The NPR made it an early priority to accomplish the analysis necessary to support the START Follow-on treaty negotiations, which President Obama and President Medvedev directed should be completed by December 2009, when START expires.
- The interagency NPR team, including the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the Department of Energy, and the US Strategic Command and other combatant commands analyzed and provided detailed consideration of a range of solutions to maintain strategic stability with operationally deployed strategic nuclear force levels that would represent significant reductions in nuclear weapons, presuming Russia will be similarly constrained.
- After rigorous analysis, the NPR team determined that maintaining a nuclear triad with a significantly reduced number of operationally deployed strategic nuclear weapons (ODSNW) and accountable strategic delivery vehicles (SDV) would enhance our national security objectives and provide extended deterrence to allies and friends.
- These findings were reviewed by military and civilian leadership and vetted through the interagency. START Follow-on treaty negotiating positions were then subsequently identified and approved at the Cabinet level. Although the specific guidance to our negotiating team remains classified, the results to date of the bilateral negotiations are reflected in the Joint Understanding resulting from the Presidential Summit.
- The NPR is continuing analysis of the alternative strategic approaches beyond the immediate confines of the START Follow-on negotiations to frame options for strategic nuclear decisions for the next 5-10 years.
- Alternative postures and force structures are being analyzed in this NPR to address other possible futures including security environments in which relations with Russia dramatically improve, implications if the START Follow-on treaty does not enter into force and if reset of the US-Russian relationship does not continue.