

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 red-to-blue gradient is positioned behind the text. Above the bar are five blue stars. A stylized graphic of a blue and red swoosh is positioned behind the text.

NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW  
★★★★★  
2010

## FACT SHEET

*Issued: 6 August 2009*

### Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) Background

#### **NPR Objective**

- To establish U.S. nuclear policy, strategy, capabilities and force posture for the next 5 - 10 years.

#### **NPR Themes**

- Maintain a safe, secure, effective and reliable nuclear deterrent
- Maintain extended deterrence to allies; consult with allies and friends
- Continue to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. national security strategy
- Continue concrete steps toward a world without nuclear weapons
- Enhance the effectiveness of the global nonproliferation regime
- Provide a basis for defining national arms control and non-proliferation objectives

#### **NPR Approach, Process and Structure**

- The NPR is led by the Department of Defense (DOD) in conjunction with the Departments of State and Energy (DOE). This “whole-of-government” approach is essential to its success.
- In addition to daily, working-level interactions among DOD, DOE/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and State Department, semi-monthly Senior Integration Steering Committee meetings bring together all interagency stakeholders to review NPR analyses and shape results.
- Primary DoD responsibility for the NPR resides with the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and the Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Assistant Secretary of Defense, Global Strategic Affairs, provides overall supervision of day-to-day operations, reporting to the Under Secretary and Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Policy.
- Day-to-day operations of the review are directed by the NPR Co-Directors: Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Ballistic Missile Defense Policy and the Joint Staff Deputy Director for Strategy and Policy (J-5).
- Four working groups, consisting of interagency stakeholders, are tasked to address the primary issues to be resolved by the NPR:
  - Policy and Strategy Working Group
  - Capabilities, Force Structure and Programs Working Group

- Nuclear Weapon Stockpile and Infrastructure Working Group
- International Dimensions Working Group
- The Nuclear Posture Review is a legislatively-mandated (National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, Section 1070/Public Law 110-181) comprehensive review of U.S. nuclear deterrence policy, strategy and force posture for the next five-to-ten years. Previous NPRs were conducted in 1994 and 2001. The results of the current NPR will be submitted to Congress in February 2010, concurrently with the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR). The NPR will produce an unclassified report as one of its final products.

### **NPR Communications and Outreach**

- NPR leadership and staff consulted with nuclear experts that participated in previous nuclear posture reviews to obtain recommendations that would strengthen the 2010 Review. Several recommendations emerged early and have shaped the approach of the 2010 NPR:
  - *Communication*: if a review is worth doing, it is worth communicating.
    - NPR leadership is committed to producing a broadly disseminated unclassified report, with classified annexes as appropriate.
  - *Engagement*: a proactive engagement strategy is required to consult with key stakeholders.
    - NPR leadership is committed to broad-based consultation across the stakeholder communities throughout the course of the review to effectively integrate views from Congress, think tanks and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Allies/friends and the public.
  - *“Whole-of-government” approach*: interagency partners must take part in the analysis and assist in shaping findings.
    - The NPR is being conducted as a DOD-led, interagency review with ongoing interagency coordination at all levels.
  - *Planning*: a coherent and robust communications plan must serve as a foundation for all consultations and outreach.
    - The NPR Strategic Communications and Outreach plan has been developed to detail the context and purpose of consultations with all NPR stakeholders.
- Government leadership has consulted extensively with U.S. allies as the NPR process began and has continued to unfold, and will be central to ongoing analysis.
- The initial phase of NPR consultations with Congressional members and staff focused on better understanding Congressional views as well as providing an update on the NPR’s progress.
- Consultations with Congressional members, key committees and staff will continue on at least a monthly basis, and more frequently if requested, during and throughout the period of implementation of approved NPR recommendations.
- Similar to the congressional engagements, NPR leadership will seek to become informed by views of nuclear scholars from various think tanks, NGOs and academia. Consultations with those communities will begin in August and continue throughout the conduct of the NPR and the period of implementation of approved NPR recommendations.