

Indecent Explosives*

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Nuclear Weapons States, Who They Are And How Many Weapons Each Possesses

Estimates of the global nuclear stockpile range from a low of **24,700** to a high of **33,307** suspected nuclear weapons. Below is a country by country breakdown of nuclear stockpiles.

Declared Nuclear Weapons States (5)

China: China has **290** suspected strategic nuclear weapons, with an emphasis on land-based missiles, and **120** non-strategic nuclear weapons for a suspected total of **400-410** nuclear weapons. China currently has only one working ballistic missile submarine. Information about China's tactical nuclear weapons is limited and there is no official evidence of their existence.

France: France has an estimated total of **400-482** strategic nuclear weapons. The French arsenal is currently undergoing a widespread modernization, including its sea-based deterrent force. In January 2000, France deployed a second Triomphant class submarine and a third is expected to enter into service in 2001. France also plans to deploy two more by 2007. Each submarine carries **16** missiles with **6** nuclear warheads on each.

Russia:** Russia has **6,000** suspected strategic nuclear weapons and between **7,000** and **15,000** suspected non-strategic nuclear weapons for a suspected total of some **13,000-20,000** nuclear weapons. Although Russia has made dramatic reductions since the end of the Cold War, some nuclear modernization continues. In 2000, the Russian Duma signed and ratified START II. However, its entrance into force is dependent on US plans to deploy a national

Bill Clinton to reduce strategic weapons to 1,000-1,500 each, a number below proposed START III levels of 2,000-2,500. Russia maintains some **2,000-2,500** nuclear weapons on high-alert status, ready to launch at a moment's notice.

United Kingdom: The United Kingdom's nuclear capability has been concentrated on its Trident submarine fleet under the command of the British Royal Navy. The submarines are powered by nuclear reactors and the missiles in the UK Trident submarines are leased from the US. British nuclear weapons are incorporated into NATO strategic planning and are dependent on targeting information from the US. According to the UK Strategic Defense Review, there is always "one submarine on patrol at a time, carrying a reduced load of **48** warheads." There are **58** missiles in service and a "stockpile of less than **200** operationally available warheads." Each warhead has an explosive yield of 100 kilotons, which is approximately 5 times the destructive power of the plutonium bomb dropped on Nagasaki.

United States:** The United States has **7,300** suspected strategic nuclear weapons and between **4,700 and 11,700** suspected non-strategic nuclear weapons for a suspected total of **10,500-12,000** nuclear weapons. The US is the only country to station land-based nuclear weapons outside of its borders. Nuclear modernization continues in the US with scheduled modifications on B-2's and sea-launched ballistic missiles. The US also has plans to deploy a national missile defense (NMD) system, despite warnings from Russia, China and even some allies that such a system will initiate a new arms race. Like Russia, the US also maintains some **2,000-2,500** nuclear weapons on "hair-trigger" alert, ready to launch at a moment's notice. Although the Department of Defense (DoD) claims that these weapons are not targeted at any specific country, the missiles can be assigned a target on short notice.

Defacto Nuclear Weapons States (3)

India: India has a suspected stockpile of separated weapons-grade plutonium to produce at least 85 to 90 weapons. It also has a ballistic missile submarine, "Sagarika," under development with aid from Russia.

Israel: Israel has enough estimated weapons-grade fissile material to produce **100** suspected nuclear weapons. Israel also has three Dolphin class submarines and is reportedly developing submarine-launched cruise missile (SLCM) capability.

Pakistan: Pakistan has a suspected capability of between **15 and 25** nuclear weapons.

Potential Nuclear Weapons States

Iran: Iran is suspected to be actively pursuing a nuclear weapons program, but as of yet is not considered to have nuclear weapons capability.

Iraq: Iraq is suspected to be actively pursuing a nuclear weapons program, but as of yet is not considered to have nuclear weapons capability.

Libya: Libya has a theoretical capability of delivering nuclear weapons in the form of Scud and FROG missiles and missiles delivered by medium-range Tu-22 bombers.

North Korea: According to US, Chinese and Russian intelligence sources, North Korea has as many as **10** operational nuclear warheads for its missiles and two nuclear devices that can be carried by truck, boat or aircraft.

The remaining countries in the world have NO nuclear weapons. There are **433** nuclear reactors worldwide. There are **44** countries with nuclear reactors. Any country with a nuclear reactor is considered to have the capability to produce nuclear weapons.

*Revised January 2001.

**Estimated totals for US and Russia warheads include those in active, operational forces as well as retired, non-deployed warheads awaiting dismantlement and weapons in reserve.