

The U.S. Nuclear Agenda

Nuclear Posture Review Report (April 2010)

- Identifies the prevention of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism as the foremost objective of the U.S. nuclear agenda
- Commits to maintaining “strategic stability” with Russia and China
- Updates the U.S. understanding of its Negative Security Assurance, specifying that the U.S. pledges to refrain from using nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states in compliance with their nonproliferation obligations
- Clarifies that while this Negative Security Assurance applies in the instance of a chemical or biological attack, the U.S. “reserves the right to make any adjustment in the assurance that may be warranted by the evolution and proliferation of the biological weapons threat and U.S. capacities to counter that threat”
- Commits the U.S. to maintain the triad during the 10-year duration of New START, but states that the U.S. “will not develop new nuclear warheads...and will not support new military missions or provide for new military capabilities” for nuclear weapons
- Commits the U.S. to develop non-nuclear long-range strike capabilities
- Announces that nuclear-equipped Tomahawk missiles (TLAM-N) will be retired
- Commits the U.S. to de-MIRV its ICBMs
- Preserves the “ability to ‘upload’ non-deployed nuclear weapons on existing delivery vehicles as a hedge against technical or geopolitical surprise”
- Continues “open-ocean targeting” of all SLBMs and ICBMs
- Rejects the possibility of reducing alert rates for ICBMs and at-sea rates of SSBNs, arguing that de-alerting would undermine crisis stability

New START Treaty (Signed April 2010; ratified in Feb 2011)

- Includes a non-binding preamble that states: "Recognizing the existence of the interrelationship between strategic offensive arms and strategic defensive arms, that this interrelationship will become more important as strategic nuclear arms are reduced, and that current strategic defensive arms do not undermine the viability and effectiveness of the strategic offensive arms of the Parties..."
 - This preamble places no meaningful constraint on U.S. missile defense plans
 - However, the preamble reintroduces a link between offense and defense. Some have claimed this could limit U.S. freedom of action to pursue future capabilities and ease Russia’s ability to withdraw from the treaty under the supreme national interest clause
- Limits the number of deployed strategic warheads to 1550, reducing Moscow Treaty limits by 30%
- Limits the combined number of deployed and non-deployed delivery vehicles to 800, with a separate limit of 700 for deployed delivery vehicles
- Political opposition to New START was overcome, in part, because of robust funding commitments from President Obama to maintain and modernize the nuclear weapons complex

Ballistic Missile Defense Review Report (Jan 2010)

- Expresses U.S. commitment to the Phased Adaptive Approach (PAA) for European missile defense and to improved regional missile defense integration throughout East Asia and the Middle East
- Links missile defense to reductions in the role of nuclear weapons, stating that “the role of U.S. nuclear weapons in these regional deterrence architectures can be reduced by increasing the role of missile defenses and other capabilities”
- Advocates expanding strategic dialogue with China, and expanding technical and operational cooperation with Russia to improve shared early warning of missile launches
- Calls for increased investment in technology devoted to defeating missile defense countermeasures

European Phased Adaptive Approach (PAA) (Agreed to in Sep 2009)

- Responds to new threat assessments regarding the proliferation of ballistic missiles
- Endorsed by NATO’s Strategic Concept, as “core element of our collective defence, which contributes to the indivisible security of the Alliance”
- Deploys sea- and land-based missile interceptors and sensors to defend against incoming short- and medium-range ballistic missiles
- Will be implemented in 4 phases to eventually include defenses against IRBMs (Phase Three – 2018 timeframe) and ICBMs (Phase Four – 2020 timeframe)
- Expresses a commitment to explore the potential for NATO-Russia cooperation on missile defense, as expressed during the NATO-Russia Council Summit

Fiscal Year 2011 Budget (Proposed in Feb 2010)

- Requested \$11.2 billion for the NNSA, which would have been a 13% increase in funding from FY 2010. After Congressional debate on the budget, the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution lowered this figure to \$10.56 billion, a 7% increase.
- President Obama committed \$85 billion to sustain and modernize the nuclear weapons complex over the next decade. As part of this commitment, the FY 2011 budget:
 - Includes funding for a new Uranium Processing Facility and a new Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Facility.
 - Includes funding B-61 and W-76 life extension programs and a study on W-78 life extension options
- President Obama committed \$100 billion to sustain and modernize nuclear delivery systems over the next decade. As part of this commitment, the FY 2011 budget:
 - Includes funding for research and development for a nuclear-capable next generation bomber and a next generation ballistic missile submarine
- Allocates \$10.2 billion for the development of missile defense capabilities
- Allocates \$240 million for research and development for a Conventional Prompt Global Strike program and projects a total of \$1.6 billion in funding from FY2011 to FY2015