



# 2018 NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW

## STARTING POINT: A CHALLENGING AND DYNAMIC SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

- > Russia is elevating the role of nuclear weapons, expanding and modernizing its nuclear forces, violating arms control treaties, and engaging in aggressive behavior.
- > China pursues new nuclear capabilities and challenges U.S. interests in the Western Pacific.
- > Regional actors, such as North Korea, threaten U.S., allied, and partner security by engaging in provocative behavior and by pursuing nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them.

## ROLES FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- > Deter nuclear and non-nuclear attack, assure allies and partners, achieve objectives should deterrence fail, and hedge against uncertainty.
- > Deter large-scale, catastrophic war against Great Powers in ways non-nuclear capabilities cannot.

## TAILORED NUCLEAR STRATEGY AND FLEXIBLE CAPABILITIES TO STRENGTHEN DETERRENCE

- > Tailored to different adversaries and scenarios to clearly communicate the unacceptable risks and intolerable costs of possible nuclear employment, of any scale.
- > Flexibility to respond to a variety of current threats while preparing for future uncertainties.

## ENDURING COMMITMENT TO ARMS CONTROL AND NONPROLIFERATION

- > We will continue non-proliferation efforts, an essential complement to deterrence. The U.S. remains committed to its full range of arms control obligations.
- > Effective arms control can advance U.S., allied, and partner security but must be verifiable and enforceable.
- > Arms control agreements that are violated undermine the prospect for future arms control.

## THE U.S. NUCLEAR TRIAD IS NECESSARY AND AFFORDABLE

- > The attributes of each individual leg of the triad together ensure survivability and enable flexibility.
- > Contemporary deterrence challenges call for modest enhancements to current capabilities.
- > Nuclear modernization has been long delayed and is essential now.
  - Replacements are needed for Cold War-era ICBMs, ballistic missile submarines, strategic bombers, and air launched cruise missiles last modernized in the 1980s.
  - Programs are optimized to minimize overall cost peaking at approximately 6.4% of the DoD budget; previous modernization efforts peaked at 10.6% in the 1980s and 17.1% in the 1960s.

## NUCLEAR COMMAND, CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS (NC3)

- > NC3 provides the backbone for our nuclear forces, enabling safe and secure operation.
  - Modernization is essential to stay ahead of current and future threats in space and cyber space.

## NUCLEAR WEAPONS LABS AND PLANTS

- > Recapitalizing the nuclear complex is long past due; it is vital that we ensure the capability to design, produce, and maintain nuclear weapons.
- > Sustained investment is needed to deliver nuclear weapons in time to support the nuclear deterrent.