
ARMS CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Fact Sheet

Current U.S. Strategic Nuclear Forces

As of January 31, 2003

September 2003

Press Contact: Daryl Kimball, Executive Director, at (202) 463-8270 x 107 or dkimball@armscontrol.org, and Christine Kucia, Research Analyst, at (202) 463-8270 x103 or ckucia@armscontrol.org

START ACCOUNTABLE ¹	STRATEGIC NUCLEAR DELIVERY VEHICLES	STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WARHEADS
ICBM	550	1,700
SLBMs	432	3,168
BOMBERS	251	1,106
TOTAL	1,233	5,974

KEY

ICBM	INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES
ICBM	SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED BALLISTIC MISSILE
ALCM	AIR-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILE

CHANGES IN UNITED STATES STRATEGIC FORCES SINCE 1990

START ACCOUNTABLE ¹	STRATEGIC NUCLEAR DELIVERY VEHICLES		STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WARHEADS	
	SEPTEMBER 1990	JANUARY 2003	SEPTEMBER 1990	JANUARY 2003
ICBMs				
MX/PEACEKEEPER	50	50	500	500
MINUTEMAN III	500	500	1,500	1,200
MINUTEMAN II	450	0	450	0
SUBTOTAL	1,000	550	2,450	1,700
SLBMs				
POSEIDON (C-3)	192	0	1,920	0
TRIDENT I (C-4)	384	144	3,072	864
TRIDENT II (D-5)	96	288	768	2,304
SUBTOTAL	672	432	5,760	3,168
BOMBERS				
B-52 (ALCM)	189	95	1,968	950
B-52 (NON-ALCM)	290	47	290	47
B-1	95	89	95	89
B-2	0	20	0	20
SUBTOTAL	574	251	2,353	1,106
TOTAL	2,246	1,233	10,563	5,974

For more information on this topic, please visit the Arms Control Association's Web site, at www.armscontrol.org to find additional fact sheets, U.S.-Soviet/Russian arms control treaties, and *Arms Control Today* articles.

¹The United States met the START I implementation deadline of December 5, 2001, seven years after the treaty's entry into force. The treaty limits the United States and Russia each to 6,000 "accountable" warheads and 1,600 delivery vehicles (missiles and bombers).

All figures are based on START counting rules, as negotiated between the United States and the Soviet Union and specified in the treaty text. Thus, numbers do not necessarily reflect those weapons systems that are operationally deployed. For example, under START I, heavy bombers that are not equipped to carry long-range nuclear air-launched cruise missiles (ALCMs) will be counted as carrying only one warhead, regardless of the number of bombs or short-range attack missiles that they actually carry. Moreover, 150 U.S. heavy bombers that are capable of carrying ALCMs will be counted as carrying only 10 missiles each, even though they have the capacity to hold 20 missiles each.

Sources: START Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of September 1, 1990 and the most recent MOU of January 31, 2003.