



What the Commission Report says on:

THE WORLD'S NUCLEAR ARSENALS

Country	Strategic		Other		To Be Dis-mantled	Total by Country	Yield Range (kt)	Total Yield (Mt)
	Deployed	Reserve	Deployed	Reserve				
USA	2200	2000 – 3000 ¹	500	500	4200	9400 – 10,400	Sub-kt – 455	647 ²
Russia	2800 ³	4750 ⁴	2000 – 3000 ⁴	3400 ⁴	? ⁴	12,950 – 13,950	Sub-kt – 1000	1,273 ²
China	130 – 186 ⁵	54	~ ⁶	~		184 – 240	200 – 3300	294
France	<300 ⁷	0 ⁸	0	0		<300	100 – 300	55
UK	160 ⁹	0	0 ¹⁰	0		160	100	16
Israel ¹¹	60 – 200 ¹²	~	0	0		60 – 200	~	1.6 – 12
India ¹³	60 – 70 ¹²	~	0	0		60 – 70	15 – 200 ¹³	1
Pakistan ¹³	>60 ¹²	~	0	0		>60	Sub-kt – 50 ¹³	1.3
North Korea	0	0	0	5 – 6 ¹⁴		5 – 6	Sub-kt – 8 ¹⁴	0.05
TOTALS (Rounded)	5770 – 5975	6800 – 7800	2500 – 3500	3900	>4200	23,200 – 25,400		2300

Sources: These figures represent the Commission's best judgment of the size of the world's nuclear arsenals in 2009, based on published estimates and compilations by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Center for Defense Information (CDI), Federation of American Scientists (FAS), International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), and input from the Commission's research consultants.

Notes to the Table:

¹ Most estimates agree on a lower figure of approximately 2000 reserve strategic warheads. However, due to discrepancies between the U.S. "operationally deployed" counting method and START-1 counting rules, U.S. strategic force may

have up to 3,000 reserve warheads which could be quickly deployed.

² Based on lower estimate. The type and yield of weapons in the higher estimate is not known.

The full text of *Eliminating Nuclear Threats: A Practical Agenda for Global Policymakers*, Report of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, Co-chairs Gareth Evans and Yoriko Kawaguchi (November 2009), is available at www.icnnd.org

³ Most of the sources used in this table agree on a figure of around 2800. However, both the Carnegie Endowment (3113) and CDI (3300 – 3400) give higher estimates.

⁴ Rough approximation due to lack of transparency on this category of weapon. The same applies to the figure given for Russian non-strategic weapons. It is also not clear how many are reserve weapons, and how many are scheduled to be dismantled. All observers agree that there are “many thousands” in storage, but the numbers vary. The figures given are derived from the FAS and IISS statistics, which are credible.

⁵ China releases no official figures on its nuclear forces. The above figures are thus approximations made from available sources. The FAS gives a figure of approx. 180 strategic warheads, but notes that some of these may not be fully operational. It also suggests that there may be some additional warheads in storage, for a total stockpile of approximately 240 warheads. SIPRI agrees with this total but gives a specific figure of 186 deployed warheads, the remainder (54) being in storage.

⁶ China strongly denies having tactical nuclear weapons, though this is queried by a number of observers who suggest there may be between 150 and 350 of them.

⁷ President Nicolas Sarkozy announced on 22 March 2008 that France would reduce the total number of nuclear warheads in its arsenal to under 300 in 2009, and that it would do so by removing a third of the weapons mounted on aircraft: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/03/21/europe/EU-GEN-France-Nuclear.php> Although by START-1 classification French aircraft would be counted as tactical or medium-range delivery vehicles, they are considered an arm of the French strategic strike force. Approximately 60 nuclear-armed air-to-surface missiles fall into this category, and are included in the Strategic list.

⁸ According to the FAS, France is thought to have a small inventory of spare warheads but no reserve of the sort that the United States and Russia have.

⁹ All sources used in this table agree the UK has “fewer than 160” nuclear warheads which are said to be “operationally available”. Forty-eight missiles are needed to arm three SSBNs with a maximum of 144 warheads. One submarine with “up to 48 warheads” is on patrol at any given time. In addition to the operationally available warheads, Britain probably has a small reserve.

¹⁰ Some warheads on British strategic submarines have sub-strategic missions previously covered by tactical nuclear weapons.

¹¹ Israel maintains a policy of opacity as to whether it possesses nuclear weapons or not.

¹² The arsenals of India, Pakistan and Israel are thought to be only partly deployed.

¹³ India and Pakistan release no official figures on their nuclear forces. The above figures are based on estimates derived from public statements by officials, media reports, projections made from analysis of known or suspected fissile material production and reserves, and data recorded at the time of the 1998 nuclear tests made by both countries. Indian atomic scientists were reported in September 2009 as saying that India had built weapons with yields of up to 200 kt.

¹⁴ North Korea conducted nuclear test explosions in October 2006 and May 2009. It is not publicly known if it has built operational nuclear weapons. The above figures are based on estimates of weapons-grade plutonium it may have produced and analysis of data recorded at the time of its nuclear tests. Some estimates suggest that plutonium reserves would be sufficient for twelve such weapons. North Korea has probably – although there are differing expert views on this – not yet been able to miniaturize any devices it may have produced sufficiently to allow their delivery by ballistic missile or aircraft.

[Section 2, Box 2-2]