

Fact Sheet

Transparency in the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Stockpile

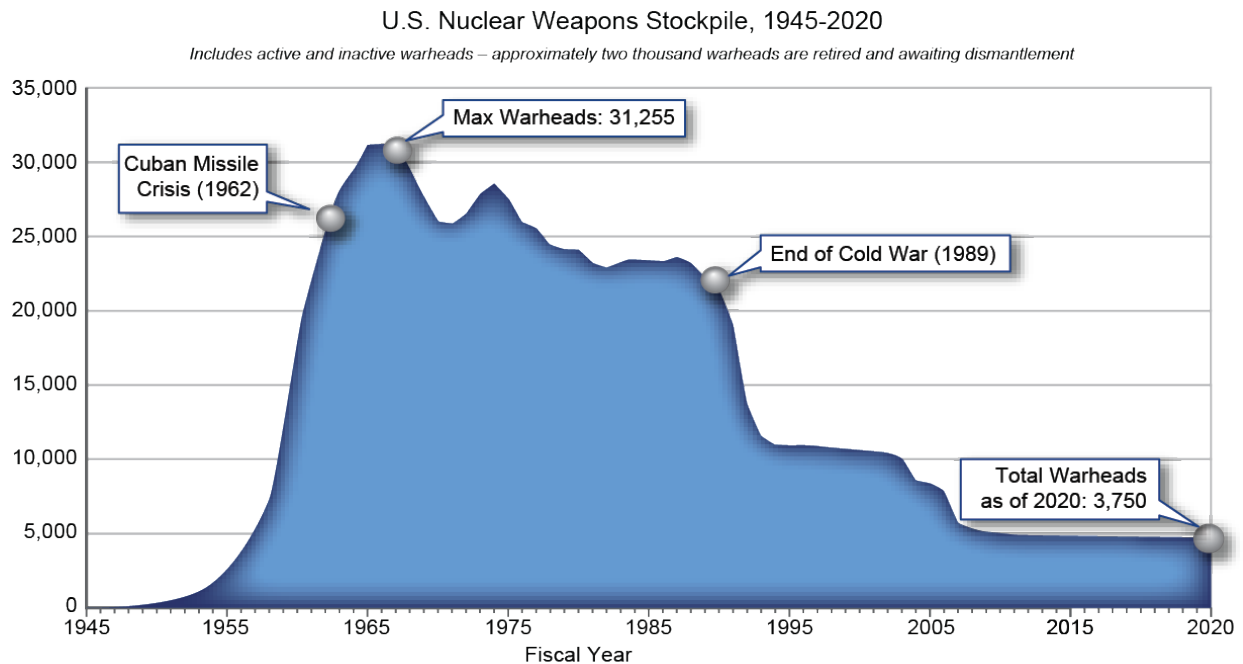
The United States is releasing newly declassified information on the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile to update the information previously released in September 2017. Increasing the transparency of states’ nuclear stockpiles is important to nonproliferation and disarmament efforts, including commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and efforts to address all types of nuclear weapons, including deployed and non-deployed, and strategic and non-strategic.

Stockpile. As of September 2020, the U.S. stockpile of nuclear warheads consisted of 3,750 warheads. This number represents an approximate 88 percent reduction in the stockpile from its maximum (31,255) at the end of fiscal year 1967, and an approximate 83 percent reduction from its level (22,217) when the Berlin Wall fell in late 1989. The below figure shows the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile from 1945 through September 30, 2020.

Warhead Dismantlement. From fiscal years 1994 through 2020, the United States dismantled 11,683 nuclear warheads. Since September 30, 2017, the United States has dismantled 711 nuclear warheads. Approximately 2,000 additional nuclear warheads are currently retired and awaiting dismantlement.

Non-Strategic Nuclear Weapons. The number of U.S. non-strategic nuclear weapons has declined by more than 90 percent since September 30, 1991.¹

Figure 1: 2020 U.S. Nuclear Warhead Stockpile



¹ During the Cold War, the United States possessed large numbers and a wide range of non-strategic nuclear weapons, also known as theater or tactical nuclear weapons. Since 1991, the United States has retired and dismantled nearly all of those weapons. Note, non-Strategic Nuclear Weapons are non-accountable systems under the New START Treaty.

Figure 2: U.S. Stockpile Numbers, End of Fiscal Year 1962-2020

Stockpile Numbers – End of Fiscal Years 1962-2020*				
<i>Data prior to 1962 released by Department of Energy in December 1993</i>				
1962	25,540		1992	13,708
1963	28,133		1993	11,511
1964	29,463		1994	10,979
1965	31,139		1995	10,904
1966	31,175		1996	11,011
1967	31,255		1997	10,903
1968	29,561		1998	10,732
1969	27,552		1999	10,685
1970	26,008		2000	10,577
1971	25,830		2001	10,526
1972	26,516		2002	10,457
1973	27,835		2003	10,027
1974	28,537		2004	8,570
1975	27,519		2005	8,360
1976	25,914		2006	7,853
1977	25,542		2007	5,709
1978	24,418		2008	5,273
1979	24,138		2009	5,113
1980	24,104		2010	5,066
1981	23,208		2011	4,897
1982	22,886		2012	4,881
1983	23,305		2013	4,804
1984	23,459		2014	4,717
1985	23,368		2015	4,571
1986	23,317		2016	4,018
1987	23,575		2017	3,822
1988	23,205		2018	3,785
1989	22,217		2019	3,805
1990	21,392		2020	3,750
1991	19,008			

** Does not include weapons retired and awaiting dismantlement*

Figure 3: Department of Energy Weapon Dismantlements, Fiscal Year 1994-2020

Department of Energy Weapon Dismantlements (Fiscal Year 1994 – 2020)	
1994	1,369
1995	1,393
1996	1,064
1997	498
1998	1,062
1999	206
2000	158
2001	144
2002	344
2003	222
2004	206
2005	280
2006	253
2007	545
2008	648
2009	356
2010	352
2011	305
2012	308
2013	239
2014	299
2015	109
2016	258
2017	354
2018	243
2019	284
2020	184
Total Dismantlements	11,683

Definitions

The **nuclear stockpile** includes both active and inactive warheads. **Active warheads** include strategic and non-strategic weapons maintained in an operational, ready-for-use configuration, warheads that must be ready for possible deployment within a short timeframe, and logistics spares. They have tritium bottles and other Limited Life Components installed. **Inactive warheads** are maintained at a depot in a non-operational status, and have their tritium bottles removed. A **retired warhead** is removed from its delivery platform, is not functional, and is not considered part of the nuclear stockpile. A **dismantled warhead** is a warhead reduced to its component parts.
