

News Release

Contact:
Stan Norris (NRDC) 783-7800
Bill Arkin (Greenpeace) 319-2511
Richard Fieldhouse (NRDC) 783-7800

May 3, 1990

U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE FACTSHEET

There are approximately 4125 US nuclear warheads, nuclear artillery shells and bombs currently deployed in seven West European countries. The 435 remaining warheads for Pershing Ia, Pershing II and GLCM missiles will be removed by the end of May 1991 under terms or agreements associated with the INF Treaty which leaves almost 3700 nuclear warheads of five types.

These include:

- 725 155mm artillery shells (W48)
- 725 8-inch artillery shells (W33 and W79)
- 680 Lance warheads (W70)
- 160 ASW bombs (B57)
- 1400 Bombs
- 3690

Approximately 2825 nuclear warheads, artillery shells and bombs are deployed with US forces in Europe, 1820 of those in Germany. The remaining 1300 are kept under US custody for use by the armed services of seven NATO nations. In addition there are 400 submarine launched ballistic missile (SLBM) warheads carried aboard several U.S. ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) allocated to NATO warplans. An estimated 100 US nuclear tipped sea launched cruise missiles (SLCMs) aboard various surface ships and submarines may also be available for NATO nuclear strikes. Normally two US aircraft carriers are deployed in the European region, each carrying about 100 nuclear bombs for their strike and ASW aircraft. There are an additional 350 British nuclear warheads (bombs and SLBMs) integrated into US and NATO warplans. The approximately 500 French nuclear warheads are not formally integrated into those warplans but would be available for a nuclear war in Europe. There are currently 19 airbases in these seven countries with nuclear bombs stored for various kinds of US and NATO aircraft. Nuclear detachments at two Turkish bases (Erhaç/Malatya and Fskışehir) will be disbanded by mid-1991. The base at Bentwaters in the UK is scheduled to host the F-15E nuclear capable Strike Eagle. The new SRAM-T (Short range attack missile-tactical) air-to-surface missile, now under development, could be deployed to many of these bases.

US NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE (May 1990)

GERMANY (63%)

Bombs for US aircraft	425
Bombs for FRG aircraft	75
155mm artillery shells for US units	525
155mm artillery shells for BE, UK, FRG	130
8-inch artillery shells for US units	400
8-inch artillery shells for BE, UK, FRG	180
Lance warheads for US units	320
Lance warheads for BE, UK, FRG	280
Pershing II missiles and warheads	100*
Pershing Ia warheads	100*
GLCM and warheads	<u>50*</u>
	2585

<u>UNITED KINGDOM</u> (15%)	
Bombs for US aircraft	400
ASW bombs for US, Dutch and UK aircraft	100
GLCM warheads	<u>100*</u>
	600

<u>ITALY</u> (11%)	
Bombs for US aircraft	150
Bombs for Italian aircraft	50
155mm shells for US units	50
8-inch shells for Italian units	15
Lance warheads for Italian units	40
ASW bombs for US and Italian aircraft	60
GLCM warheads	<u>85*</u>
	450

<u>TURKEY</u> (7%)	
Bombs for US aircraft	125
Bombs for Turkish aircraft	100
8-inch shells for Turkish units	<u>80</u>
	305

<u>GREECE</u> (2%)	
Bombs for Greek aircraft	25
8-inch shells for Greek units	40
155mm shells for Greek units	<u>20</u>
	85

<u>NETHERLANDS</u> (2%)	
Bombs for Dutch aircraft	25
8-inch shells for Dutch units	10
Lance warheads for Dutch units	<u>40</u>
	75

<u>BELGIUM</u> (<1%)	
Bombs for Belgian aircraft	25

* Warheads will be removed by May 31, 1991. There are also approximately 200 UK bombs for the UK aircraft stationed in FRG. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Compiled by the Nuclear Weapons Databook staff (Stan Norris, Bill Arkin, Richard Fieldhouse) from the Nuclear Weapons Databook, Nuclear Battlefields and the SIPRI Yearbook.