

**EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY
REMARKS AS PREPARED
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PATRICK SHANAHAN
NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW ROLL-OUT**

Pentagon Briefing Room
Friday, 2 February 2018

WELCOME & THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AS WE RELEASE THE 2018 NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW, OR 'NPR.'

TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: THIS ADMINISTRATION'S HIGHEST PRIORITY IS YOUR SAFETY & SECURITY.

ONE YEAR AGO, WE BEGAN A FOCUSED, COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT WHAT WE NEEDED TO MEET THIS FUNDAMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY.

IT STARTED WITH PRESIDENT TRUMP'S NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY.

IN SUPPORT, SECRETARY MATTIS LED THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY.

BOTH STATE THE NEED FOR A SAFE, SECURE, EFFECTIVE NUCLEAR DETERRENT.

AT THE PRESIDENT'S DIRECTION,

THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, ENERGY & DEFENSE WORKED TOGETHER ON A DAILY BASIS,

FOR THE PAST YEAR,

FOR A COORDINATED, WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT ANALYSIS OF OUR NUCLEAR DETERRENT.

WE LEVERAGED CENTURIES OF COMBINED EXPERTISE FROM ACROSS THE GOVERNMENT & THE NONPROLIFERATION COMMUNITY,

FOR A STRATEGY TO KEEP AMERICA SAFE IN THIS CENTURY, WITH A DETERRENT THAT IS MODERN & CREDIBLE.

THIS NPR IS THE RESULT.

THAT I'M JOINED TODAY BY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE SHANNON & DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ENERGY BROUILLETTE, REFLECTS THE TEAM EFFORT.

TO UNDER-SECRETARY SHANNON: EVERY DAY, WE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ASK OURSELVES:

'HOW CAN WE GIVE OUR DIPLOMATS LEVERAGE SO THEY ALWAYS SPEAK FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH?'

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY, DIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY THIS 2018 NPR, IS OUR ANSWER.

NOW, TO THE NPR ITSELF...

THIS REVIEW IS CONSISTENT WITH U.S. NUCLEAR POLICIES SINCE THE END OF THE COLD WAR.

IT REAFFIRMS THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL ROLE OF U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY IS DETERRENCE & CONTINUES OUR CLEAR COMMITMENT TO NON-PROLIFERATION & ARMS CONTROL.

SINCE THE END OF THE COLD WAR, THE UNITED STATES HAS WORKED TO REDUCE THE NUMBER & ROLE OF OUR NUCLEAR WEAPONS. BUT THE WORLD LOOKS DIFFERENT SINCE THE LAST NPR IN 2010.

THE CHALLENGING & DYNAMIC SECURITY ENVIRONMENT REQUIRES STEADY ACTION TO STRENGTHEN DETERRENCE.

THIS NPR RESPONDS TO TODAY'S SECURITY NEEDS WITH A TAILORED NUCLEAR DETERRENT STRATEGY...

AND FLEXIBLE CAPABILITIES FOR EFFECTIVE DETERRENCE.
A "ONE-SIZE FITS ALL" APPROACH HAS ITS LIMITS.

THIS NPR ENSURES WE CAN DETER ANY POTENTIAL ADVERSARY, BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT ALL ALIKE.

WE MUST KEEP AMERICA'S DETERRENT CREDIBLE BY MAKING IT MODERN.

THE 2018 NPR CALLS FOR MODERNIZING THE NUCLEAR TRIAD & COMMAND & CONTROL SYSTEM – WHICH IS NECESSARY, AFFORDABLE & LONG OVER-DUE.

- OUR NUCLEAR TRIAD HAS KEPT US SAFE FOR MORE THAN 70 YEARS
- WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LET IT BECOME OBSOLETE

THE NPR ALSO MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO KEEP OUR DETERRENT EFFECTIVE FOR OUR WORLD TODAY, NAMELY:

- LOWERING THE YIELD OF SOME EXISTING SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED BALLISTIC MISSILE WARHEADS
- AND BRINGING BACK A NUCLEAR SEA-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILE, A CAPABILITY OUR NATION HAD FOR DECADES

NEITHER RECOMMENDATION REQUIRES DEVELOPING NEW NUCLEAR WARHEADS.

NEITHER WILL INCREASE THE SIZE OF OUR NUCLEAR STOCKPILE.

THEY BREAK NO TREATY.

THEY ALIGN WITH OUR NON-PROLIFERATION COMMITMENTS.
THEY STRENGTHEN AMERICAN DETERRENCE.

SOME WILL SAY ANY ADDITIONAL CAPABILITY,

NO MATTER HOW MEASURED,
INCREASES THE CHANCES OF USING ONE OF THESE WEAPONS.
ON THE CONTRARY – IT IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE.

THE NPR STATES: “THE **UNITED STATES** WOULD ONLY CONSIDER THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES TO DEFEND THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS ALLIES & PARTNERS.”

THE NPR CLARIFIES LONGSTANDING POLICY THAT “EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES” COULD INCLUDE SIGNIFICANT NON-NUCLEAR STRATEGIC ATTACKS.

THIS CLARIFICATION IS STABILIZING. IT LOWERS THE RISK OF NUCLEAR USE BY ANYONE.

THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT WANT TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

WE DO WANT TO MAINTAIN AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT TO KEEP AMERICANS & OUR ALLIES & PARTNERS SAFE & SECURE.

UNDER-SECRETARY SHANNON WILL SPEAK TO OUR NPR ENGAGEMENT WITH ALLIES & PARTNERS.

BUT BEFORE HE DOES, I WANT TO THANK THE MEN & WOMEN OF OUR NUCLEAR FORCES.

YOUR DEDICATION KEEPS AMERICA SAFE.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH CONGRESS AS WE IMPLEMENT THESE RECOMMENDATIONS...
AND FOR ON-GOING SUPPORT FOR NUCLEAR MODERNIZATION.

WE ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH OUR ALLIES & PARTNERS TO REDUCE THE CHANCES THAT THESE WEAPONS WILL EVER BE USED.

NOW, UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE SHANNON.

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