Is it time to update NATO’s deterrence and defence posture?

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Extended Deterrence + Nuclear Sharing

• Extended deterrence: commitment to intervene offensively or defensively on an ally’s behalf (US, UK, France).

• Collective-actor deterrence: nuclear sharing
  • Consultations on nuclear policy;
  • Maintenance of equipment for the use and delivery of nuclear weapons (Turkey, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium).
U.S. Nuclear Weapons on the Territories of 5 NATO States (FAS)
NATO process

North Atlantic Council (NAC)

Nuclear Planning Group (NPG)

High-Level Group

NPG Staff Group
Strategic Concept (Lisbon, 2010)

• Deterrence...remains a core element of our overall strategy. The circumstances in which any use of nuclear weapons might have to be contemplated are extremely remote. **As long as nuclear weapons exist, NATO will remain a nuclear alliance.**

• In any future reductions, our aim should be to seek Russian agreement to increase transparency on its nuclear weapons in Europe and relocate these weapons away from the territory of NATO members. **Any further steps must take into account the disparity with the greater Russian stockpiles of short-range nuclear weapons.**
Deterrence and Defence Posture Review 2012

- Nuclear Forces
- Conventional Forces
- Missile Defence
- Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation
- Maintaining the “Appropriate Mix” of Capabilities
Consistent with our commitment to remain a nuclear alliance for as long as nuclear weapons exist, Allies agree that the NAC will task the appropriate committees to develop concepts for how to ensure the broadest possible participation of Allies concerned\(^1\) in their nuclear sharing arrangements, including in case NATO were to decide to reduce its reliance on non-strategic nuclear weapons based in Europe.
Russia's aggressive actions against Ukraine have fundamentally challenged our vision of a Europe whole, free, and at peace. We condemn in the strongest terms Russia's escalating and illegal military intervention in Ukraine and demand that Russia stop and withdraw its forces from inside Ukraine and along the Ukrainian border.
Warsaw Summit 2016

• NATO's nuclear deterrence posture also relies, in part, on United States' nuclear weapons forward-deployed in Europe and on capabilities and infrastructure provided by Allies concerned.

• Any employment of nuclear weapons against NATO would fundamentally alter the nature of a conflict. The circumstances in which NATO might have to use nuclear weapons are extremely remote. If the fundamental security of any of its members were to be threatened however, NATO has the capabilities and resolve to impose costs on an adversary that would be unacceptable and far outweigh the benefits that an adversary could hope to achieve.
Disarmament and Arms Control with Russia

After the end of the Cold War, NATO dramatically reduced the number of nuclear weapons stationed in Europe and its reliance on nuclear weapons in NATO strategy. We remain committed to contribute to creating the conditions for further reductions in the future on the basis of reciprocity, recognising that progress on arms control and disarmament must take into account the prevailing international security environment. We regret that the conditions for achieving disarmament are not favourable today.
“For Russia, with its geopolitical position, the enhancement of cooperation with NATO as equal partners is one of the real embodiments of the multiple approach, to which there is no alternative and which we intend to pursue resolutely... Only by harmoniously combining our actions in all these areas will we open up wide-ranging possibilities for building a single security region – from Vancouver to Vladivostok.”

- President Vladimir Putin (2002)
Status of World Nuclear Forces
Hans M. Kristensen and Robert S. Norris