

TABLE I United States Strategic Nuclear Forces

System	Missiles	Warhead(s)/ Missile	Total Warheads	Yield/ Warhead (Mt)	Total Yield (Mt)	Range (km)	Throw- weight (× 1000 lbs)	Counterforce Characteristics	
								CEP (nm)	SSKP (H = 2000 psi)
ICBMs									
Minuteman II	450 ^a	1	450	1.200	540.00	11300	1.60	0.120	0.89
Minuteman III	240 ^b	3	720	0.170	122.40	14800	2.20	0.110	0.51
Minuteman III Mk12A	300	3	900	0.335	301.50	12900	2.40	0.120	0.62
Titan II	5 ^c	1	5	9.000	45.00	15000	8.30	0.700	0.22
MX (Peacekeeper) ^d	10	10	100	0.300	30.00	11000	7.00	0.050	0.99
	<u>1005</u>		<u>2175</u>		<u>1038.90</u>				
SLBMs^e									
Poseidon C3	256	10	2560	0.040	102.40	4600	3.30	0.240	0.06
Trident C4	384	8	3072	0.100	307.20	7400	3.00	0.120	0.35
Trident D5 ^f	0	8	0	0.475	0.00	7500	5.08	0.080	0.93
	<u>640</u>		<u>5632</u>		<u>409.60</u>				
Air-launched missiles									
ALCMs	1488	1	1488	0.200	297.60	2500	n/a	0.016	1.00
SRAMs and Bombs ^g	2066	1	2066	0.170	351.22	220	n/a	0.100	0.58
	<u>3554</u>		<u>3554</u>		<u>648.82</u>				
Bombers^h									
	Number							Payload ^j	
B-52G	98					12000		12 ALCMs	
	69							14 SRAMs/bombs	
B-52H	26					12000		12 ALCMs	
	70							14 SRAMs/bombs	
B-1B ⁱ	15					12000		8 SRAMs/bombs	
	<u>278</u>								
Total launchers (ICBMs, SLBMs, Bombers)	1923		Total Warheads 11361		Total Yield (Mt) 2097.32				

^a In place of their warheads, ten Minuteman II missiles are equipped with the Emergency Rocket Communications System (ERCS), which transmits the authority to release nuclear weapons. There is speculation that these communications packages may be removed and replaced with Minuteman warheads, however no decision has yet been taken. The number of Minuteman II warheads is, however, assumed to be 450. See: "ERCS Future in Doubt," *Air Force*, June 1985, p. 30.

^b Ten Minuteman III silos at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming have been modified to house MX missiles.

^c The Titan II missile continues to be phased out at a rate of about one per month.

^d Characteristics for the MX are taken primarily from T.B. Cochran *et al.*, *US Nuclear Forces and Capabilities*, Nuclear Weapons Databook, vol. 1, 1984, which states that the CEP is "less than 400 feet"; other sources estimate the CEP at 300 feet. The more recent value of 300 feet is used in the tables. See, for example: John Collins, *US/Soviet Military Balance*, CRS Report, No. 85-83 F, 15 April 1985.

^e The United States maintains 36 ballistic missile submarines:
8 Ohio-class with 24 Trident C-4 missiles
28 Lafayette- and Benjamin Franklin-class:
16 with 16 Poseidon C-3 missiles each
12 with 16 Trident C-4 missiles each

A 12 September 1986 decision by the Reagan Administration to overhaul, rather than dismantle, the *Alexander Hamilton* and *Kamehameha* resulted in the US exceeding the SALT II limits when the 131st B-52

bomber was deployed in November. A further decision on dismantlement or overhaul will have to be made with respect to *John Adams* and *Andrew Jackson* in the summer of 1987.

^f The Trident D-5 is expected to be operational in 1989 on Ohio-class submarines. The warhead characteristics used in the table are taken from Robert S. Norris, "Counterforce at Sea," *Arms Control Today*, September 1985. A mix of two warheads is being considered; the heavier warhead, which would be deployed on the majority of missiles, is used here. Estimates for the CEP of the warhead extend as low as 100 metres (0.05 nm). See: *Jane's Defence Weekly* (JDW), 24 August 1985, p. 347.

^g Weapons characteristics such as range and CEP refer only to SRAMs.

^h The Soviet Union counts all American B-52 bombers, including those in storage, for a total of 518 heavy bombers. See: "The Armaments of the USSR and the US: Data to Compare," *Soviet Embassy News Release*, no. 10, 23 January 1987.

ⁱ The first squadron of fifteen B-1B bombers was activated on 1 October 1986. However, Hugh Lucas reports that only one B-1B is considered to be fully operational because of unexpected problems. See: H. Lucas, "Pentagon concerned over B-52 to B-1B transition," *JDW*, 22 November 1986, p. 1219.

^j Estimates of bomber loadings vary considerably. The figures used here are taken from "Strategic Nuclear Forces of the United States and the Soviet Union," a factsheet printed by the Arms Control Association, 7 October 1986. IISS lists only 90 B-52G and 90 B-52H bombers. The conversion of B-52 bombers to cruise missile carriers is ongoing.