

J116(A79)

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Proposal Abstract J116(A79)

1. **Arms Control Problem:**  
Nuclear weapons - mobile ballistic missiles
2. **Verification Type:**  
Remote sensors
3. **Source:**  
Drell, Sidney. "SUM". Arms Control Today 9, no. 9 (September 1979):  
1-3.
4. **Summary:**

The author proposes the use of a Shallow Underwater Mobile (SUM) basing scheme for the American MX missile. This would involve carrying the missiles on small conventionally powered submarines which would operate within several hundred miles of the US coasts.

Verifying SUM would simply involve an extension of procedures presently used to check SLBM deployment. This contrasts with the verification difficulties of the Horizontal Dash basing mode for the MX. In the latter configuration there is a conflict between maintaining security of the system and verifying the actual numbers of deployed missiles. Resolving this conflict using NTMs will require considerable cooperation between the two superpowers. At the least, there will need to be agreement on special procedures and locations for introducing only one missile on each track.