

4. Conventional Armed Forces in Europe

The Treaty places limits on five categories of conventional weapons in Europe. Under Article IV of the Treaty, each side is bound to an upper limit of armaments as follows:

Tanks	20,000
Artillery	20,000
Armoured combat vehicles	30,000
Aircraft	6,800
Helicopters	2,000

These limits refer to the entire area of application of the treaty which includes all of the European territory of states party to the treaty, stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ural Mountains in the former Soviet Union. US and Canadian territory is not affected. Separate regional sub-limits are established for specified zones within the area of application. All reductions must be completed forty months after the treaty enters into force.

In order to guard against any one state having a preponderance of the arms limited by the Treaty, no one state may possess more than approximately one third of the total arms permitted in a given category. Specific maximum levels are outlined for each category. For example, no individual state, including the US and the Soviet Union, can possess more than 13,300 tanks, 20,000 armoured combat vehicles or 13,700 artillery pieces within the zone (Article VI).

Extensive verification measures have been developed to ensure compliance with the CFE Treaty. For example, detailed exchanges of information and notifications are required. Such information includes the structure and peacetime location of the command organization of land, air and air defence forces, designation and location of units holding specified conventional armaments and equipment, and the location of designated permanent storage sites and reduction sites, all within the zone affected by the Treaty.

The Treaty outlines specific measures for the destruction of each category of weapon. With respect to aircraft and helicopters, states have the option of disarming and reconfiguring the equipment for training purposes rather than simply destroying it. Methods outlined in the Treaty must be used and the process will be monitored by inspectors.