

J119.1(A83)

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Proposal Abstract J119.1(A83)

1. **Arms Control Problem:**
Nuclear weapons - mobile ballistic missiles
2. **Verification Type:**
 - (a) Remote sensors - satellite
 - (b) On-site inspection - selective
3. **Source:**
Finch, Louis C. "Verification of Arms Control Limits on Land-Mobile ICBM Launchers". Reproduced in Congressional Record (7 April 1983): E1424.
4. **Summary:**

Adequate verification of limits on land-mobile ICBM launchers depends in part on how these launchers are based. Two basing methods are discussed: unrestricted operating areas and restricted operating areas.

Under the first basing method wide dispersion of launchers makes it difficult for an enemy to locate and attack the launchers and the operating area would be too large to permit an effective barrage attack. Launchers could therefore be "soft" and less conspicuous. Verification by national technical means (NTM) would be difficult for two reasons. First, the areas are too large to permit complete coverage at one time. Counting would therefore have to be done by sampling parts of the whole area which might involve large estimation errors. Second, the large areas involved would likely contain many structures capable of hiding small ICBM launchers from satellites. NTMs would therefore be inadequate for verification. Other verification means might involve posting on-site inspectors at production plants to count the number of launchers produced. There would also have to be confidence that no secret production facilities exist.

In the case of restricted operating areas, the launchers themselves would likely be "hardened" against attack and therefore more conspicuous. If operating areas could be limited while maintaining ICBM survivability, a complementary arms control regime might be negotiated with the following elements to assist verification:

 - (1) Each side would have to declare the specific boundaries of the operating areas for their mobile launchers.
 - (2) Within these designated areas, the only buildings allowed which could contain the launchers would be the designated garages for the launchers.
 - (3) Each designated garage would have a sliding roof which would be opened at agreed times to permit satellite verification.