

Publisher: Telegraph Media Group Limited  
Title Website: Telegraph.co.uk  
Published Date: 04 May 2010 08:31:03.447  
Article Id: 151736  
Version: 4  
Word Count: 675  
Character Count: 3172  
ABCe Unique Browsers: 1557118  
[ABCe Certificate](#)



VERSION:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/7674962/US-has-more-than-5000-nuclear-warheads.html>

# Telegraph.co.uk

## US has more than 5,000 nuclear warheads

By Alex Spillius in New York  
04 May 2010 08:31:03.447

It has done so to encourage more openness from other nuclear states and to further President Barack Obama's goal of global disarmament.

The Pentagon said 5,113 warheads were either operationally deployed, kept in active reserve or held in inactive storage. On a fact sheet detailing numbers that had been classified for decades, it said that the arsenal has been reduced by 84 per cent from its maximum level of 31,225 warheads at the end of 1967.

The total disclosed by the Pentagon did not include the number of warheads that have been retired and scheduled for complete dismantlement, an estimated 4,600 according to the Federation of American Scientists.

The Pentagon did not detail the size of the remaining warheads. But according to previous analysis many weapons in the arsenal are far more powerful than the 15 kilotons of TNT used at Hiroshima and the 22 kiloton bomb dropped on Nagasaki.

The only country to use nuclear weapons, the US has developed warheads up to 25 megatons, which would be thousands of times more powerful than either bomb used on Japan at the end of the Second World War. Most are in the 5 to 400 kiloton range.

The US government had only made partial announcements about its arsenal before, revealing it had 1,968 operational warheads at the end of last year. In 1993 it disclosed the numbers only up to 1961.

Hillary Clinton, the Secretary of State, said: "We think it is in our national security interests to be as transparent as we can be about the nuclear programme of the United States.

"We think it builds confidence, we think it brings more people to an understanding of what President Obama is trying to do."

Acknowledging that there had been a "vigorous debate" within the administration about releasing the figures, she said there had in the end been "general agreement" that releasing information to the public that was already known by most experts would not do anything to endanger the security of the stockpile.

"The United States and Russia together have more than 95 of all the nuclear weapons in the world," she said. "We have more than enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world many times over. We are attempting to rein that in, we are attempting to make progress towards a world without nuclear weapons in a clear-eyed practical way consistent with our national security."

Since taking office 15 months ago Mr Obama has made nuclear arms reduction and non-proliferation a central goal. He has signed a new treaty with Russia that pledged to reduce their arsenals to 1,500 within seven years. He recently convened a summit on nuclear security and yesterday Mrs Clinton made further commitments at a United Nations conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

She said the administration wanted to join nuclear-free treaties governing Africa and the South Pacific that would mean the US would pledge not to test atomic weapons or to use or threaten to use them against countries in the zones.

The US was also prepared to back "practical" steps for creating a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, she said.

Of the nuclear-armed countries, Russia has an estimated 12,000 warheads, France about 300, China about 200 and Britain about 160.

There are four countries that are not signatories to the NPT but which have nuclear weapons or devices. According to the Natural Resources Defence Council, India has an estimated 250 warheads, Pakistan 100, North Korea 10 and Israel 80, though it has never confessed to possessing any weapons.

Richard Burt, a former Start I treaty negotiator who is now US chairman of the Global Zero pressure group, said the US announcement was a "really helpful step".

"If you are going to make progress you have to bring in every nuclear power. It brings some pressure on other countries to be more helpful."

An official in the Obama administration, said: "We hope that others will follow. In particular we'd like to see more transparency from China. We have really quite little visibility into their programmes and plans."

RELATED IMAGES



The US has developed warheads up to 25 megatons, which would be thousands of times more powerful than either bomb used on Japan at the end of the Second World War  
EPA



Reproduced by the NLA with permission from Telegraph Media Group Limited. This work is copyright of the Telegraph.co.uk.

Publisher: Telegraph Media Group Limited  
Title Website: Telegraph.co.uk  
Published Date: 04 May 2010 03:04:49.17  
Article Id: 151736  
Version: 3  
Word Count: 675  
Character Count: 3172  
ABCe Unique Browsers: 1557118  
[ABCe Certificate](#)



VERSION: 1 2 3 4

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/7674962/US-has-more-than-5000-nuclear-warheads.html>

# Telegraph.co.uk

## US has more than 5,000 nuclear warheads

By Alex Spillius in New York  
04 May 2010 03:04:49.17

It has done so to encourage more openness from other nuclear states and to further President Barack Obama's goal of global disarmament.

The Pentagon said 5,113 warheads were either operationally deployed, kept in active reserve or held in inactive storage. On a fact sheet detailing numbers that had been classified for decades, it said that the arsenal has been reduced by 84 per cent from its maximum level of 31,225 warheads at the end of 1967.

The total disclosed by the Pentagon did not include the number of warheads that have been retired and scheduled for complete dismantlement, an estimated 4,600 according to the Federation of American Scientists.

The Pentagon did not detail the size of the remaining warheads. But according to previous analysis many weapons in the arsenal are far more powerful than the 15 kilotons of TNT used at Hiroshima and the 22 kiloton bomb dropped on Nagasaki.

The only country to use nuclear weapons, the US has developed warheads up to 25 megatons, which would be thousands of times more powerful than either bomb used on Japan at the end of the Second World War. Most are in the 5 to 400 kiloton range.

The US government had only made partial announcements about its arsenal before, revealing it had 1,968 operational warheads at the end of last year. In 1993 it disclosed the numbers only up to 1961.

Hillary Clinton, the Secretary of State, said: "We think it is in our national security interests to be as transparent as we can be about the nuclear programme of the United States.

"We think it builds confidence, we think it brings more people to an understanding of what President Obama is trying to do."

Acknowledging that there had been a "vigorous debate" within the administration about releasing the figures, she said there had in the end been "general agreement" that releasing information to the public that was already known by most experts would not do anything to endanger the security of the stockpile.

"The United States and Russia together have more than 95 of all the nuclear weapons in the world," she said. "We have more than enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world many times over. We are attempting to rein that in, we are attempting to make progress towards a world without nuclear weapons in a clear-eyed practical way consistent with our national security."

Since taking office 15 months ago Mr Obama has made nuclear arms reduction and non-proliferation a central goal. He has signed a new treaty with Russia that pledged to reduce their arsenals to 1,500 within seven years. He recently convened a summit on nuclear security and yesterday Mrs Clinton made further commitments at a United Nations conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

She said the administration wanted to join nuclear-free treaties governing Africa and the South Pacific that would mean the US would pledge not to test atomic weapons or to use or threaten to use them against countries in the zones.

The US was also prepared to back "practical" steps for creating a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, she said.

Of the nuclear-armed countries, Russia has an estimated 12,000 warheads, France about 300, China about 200 and Britain about 160.

There are four countries that are not signatories to the NPT but which have nuclear weapons or devices. According to the Natural Resources Defence Council, India has an estimated 250 warheads, Pakistan 100, North Korea 10 and Israel 80, though it has never confessed to possessing any weapons.

Richard Burt, a former Start I treaty negotiator who is now US chairman of the Global Zero pressure group, said the US announcement was a "really helpful step".

"If you are going to make progress you have to bring in every nuclear power. It brings some pressure on other countries to be more helpful."

An official in the Obama administration, said: "We hope that others will follow. In particular we'd like to see more transparency from China. We have really quite little visibility into their programmes and plans."





Publisher: Telegraph Media Group Limited  
Title Website: Telegraph.co.uk  
Published Date: 04 May 2010 00:34:29.347  
Article Id: 151736  
Version: 2  
Word Count: 583  
Character Count: 2777  
ABCe Unique Browsers: 1557118  
[ABCe Certificate](#)



VERSION: 1 2 3 4

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/7674962/US-has-more-than-5000-nuclear-warheads.html>

**Telegraph.co.uk**

## US has more than 5,000 nuclear warheads

By Alex Spillius in New York  
04 May 2010 00:34:29.347

It has done so to encourage more openness from other nuclear states and to further President Barack Obama's goal of global disarmament.

The Pentagon said 5,113 warheads were either operationally deployed, kept in active reserve or held in inactive storage. On a fact sheet detailing numbers that had been classified for decades, it said that the arsenal has been reduced by 84 per cent from its maximum level of 31,225 warheads at the end of 1967.

The total disclosed by the Pentagon did not include the number of warheads that have been retired and scheduled for complete dismantlement, an estimated 4,600 according to the Federation of American Scientists.

The US government had only made partial announcements before, revealing it had 1,968 operational warheads at the end of last year. In 1993 it disclosed the numbers only up to 1961.

Hillary Clinton, the Secretary of State, said: "We think it is in our national security interests to be as transparent as we can be about the nuclear programme of the United States.

"We think it builds confidence, we think it brings more people to an understanding of what President Obama is trying to do."

Acknowledging that there had been a "vigorous debate" within the administration about releasing the figures, she said there had in the end been "general agreement" that releasing information to the public that was already known by most experts would not do anything to endanger the security of the stockpile.

"The United States and Russia together have more than 95 of all the nuclear weapons in the world," she said. "We have more than enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world many times over. We are attempting to rein that in, we are attempting to make progress towards a world without nuclear weapons in a clear-eyed practical way consistent with our national security."

Since taking office 15 months ago Mr Obama has made nuclear arms reduction and non-proliferation a central goal. He has signed a new treaty with Russia that pledged to reduce their arsenals to 1,500 within seven years. He recently convened a summit on nuclear security and yesterday Mrs Clinton made further commitments at a United Nations conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

She said the administration wanted to join nuclear-free treaties governing Africa and the South Pacific that would mean the US would pledge not to test atomic weapons or to use or threaten to use them against countries in the zones.

The US was also prepared to back "practical" steps for creating a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, she said.

Of the nuclear-armed countries, Russia has an estimated 12,000 warheads, France about 300, China about 200 and Britain about 160.

There are four countries that are not signatories to the NPT but which have nuclear weapons or devices. According to the Natural Resources Defence Council, India has an estimated 250 warheads, Pakistan 100, North Korea 10 and Israel 80, though it has never confessed to possessing any weapons.

Richard Burt, a former Start I treaty negotiator who is now US chairman of the Global Zero pressure group, said the US announcement was a "really helpful step".

"If you are going to make progress you have to bring in every nuclear power. It brings some pressure on other countries to be more helpful."

An official in the Obama administration, said: "We hope that others will follow. In particular we'd like to see more transparency from China. We have really quite little visibility into their programmes and plans."



Reproduced by the NLA with permission from Telegraph Media Group Limited. This work is copyright of the Telegraph.co.uk.

Publisher: Telegraph Media Group Limited  
Title Website: Telegraph.co.uk  
Published Date: 04 May 2010 00:16:45.653  
Article Id: 151736  
Version: 1  
Word Count: 583  
Character Count: 2777  
ABCe Unique Browsers: 1557118  
[ABCe Certificate](#)



VERSION:    

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/7674962/US-has-over-5000-nuclear-warheads.html>

# Telegraph.co.uk

## US has over 5,000 nuclear warheads

By Alex Spillius in New York  
04 May 2010 00:16:45.653

It has done so to encourage more openness from other nuclear states and to further President Barack Obama's goal of global disarmament.

The Pentagon said 5,113 warheads were either operationally deployed, kept in active reserve or held in inactive storage. On a fact sheet detailing numbers that had been classified for decades, it said that the arsenal has been reduced by 84 per cent from its maximum level of 31,225 warheads at the end of 1967.

The total disclosed by the Pentagon did not include the number of warheads that have been retired and scheduled for complete dismantlement, an estimated 4,600 according to the Federation of American Scientists.

The US government had only made partial announcements before, revealing it had 1,968 operational warheads at the end of last year. In 1993 it disclosed the numbers only up to 1961.

Hillary Clinton, the Secretary of State, said: "We think it is in our national security interests to be as transparent as we can be about the nuclear programme of the United States.

"We think it builds confidence, we think it brings more people to an understanding of what President Obama is trying to do."

Acknowledging that there had been a "vigorous debate" within the administration about releasing the figures, she said there had in the end been "general agreement" that releasing information to the public that was already known by most experts would not do anything to endanger the security of the stockpile.

"The United States and Russia together have more than 95 of all the nuclear weapons in the world," she said. "We have more than enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world many times over. We are attempting to rein that in, we are attempting to make progress towards a world without nuclear weapons in a clear-eyed practical way consistent with our national security."

Since taking office 15 months ago Mr Obama has made nuclear arms reduction and non-proliferation a central goal. He has signed a new treaty with Russia that pledged to reduce their arsenals to 1,500 within seven years. He recently convened a summit on nuclear security and yesterday Mrs Clinton made further commitments at a United Nations conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

She said the administration wanted to join nuclear-free treaties governing Africa and the South Pacific that would mean the US would pledge not to test atomic weapons or to use or threaten to use them against countries in the zones.

The US was also prepared to back "practical" steps for creating a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, she said.

Of the nuclear-armed countries, Russia has an estimated 12,000 warheads, France about 300, China about 200 and Britain about 160.

There are four countries that are not signatories to the NPT but which have nuclear weapons or devices. According to the Natural Resources Defence Council, India has an estimated 250 warheads, Pakistan 100, North Korea 10 and Israel 80, though it has never confessed to possessing any weapons.

Richard Burt, a former Start I treaty negotiator who is now US chairman of the Global Zero pressure group, said the US announcement was a "really helpful step".

"If you are going to make progress you have to bring in every nuclear power. It brings some pressure on other countries to be more helpful."

An official in the Obama administration, said: "We hope that others will follow. In particular we'd like to see more transparency from China. We have really quite little visibility into their programmes and plans."



Reproduced by the NLA with permission from Telegraph Media Group Limited. This work is copyright of the Telegraph.co.uk.