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NATO's Tactical Nuclear Weapons and Missile Defence in Deterrence: Ensuring Your Security in an Uncertain and Dangerous World

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Overview

- Threat Assessment
- The Concept of Deterrence
- NATO's Capacities and the Holistic Approach
- Conclusions
- Q&A

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Threat Assessment

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Possible Addressees of Deterrence

- Established major Nuclear Powers
- States of Concern
- Extremist Actors / Non-State Actors



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The Concept of Deterrence

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Deterrence is a psychological concept with the aim of “persuading an adversary not to take aggressive action or attack by convincing him that he will be denied success if he proceeds or will suffer punishment exceeding the value of the gains he hopes to achieve.”

~ Schlesinger Report, 2008

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A potential adversary may therefore be deterred by:

- Denial or
- Punishment

The active and passive means applied can root in the

- Political
- Economic
- Military

Realm


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Preconditions

In order to fulfil the aforementioned purpose, a deterrent must be at all times

- Credible
- Reliable
- Safe



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NATO's Capacities and the Holistic Approach

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US Tactical Nuclear Weapons in Europe, Dual Capable Aircrafts and Missile Defence Systems are


- Visible
- Capable
- Reliable
- Flexible
- Reusable



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Burden Sharing



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Missile Defence

- physical protection against Ballistic Missile attacks for territory and deployed troops
- opens new measures for countering BM attacks
- elevates the costs of BM attacks on NATO Members
- fruitful field for international cooperation
- always to be seen as complementary to nuclear deterrence

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All NATO Members are members of, do strongly support and are fully committed to:

- All major Arms Control and Non Proliferation Regimes (NPT, CWC, BWC...)
- UN Security Council Resolution 1540
- UN Security Council Resolution 1373
- International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism

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Conclusions

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NATO's tactical nuclear Weapons as well as missile defence proposals fulfil the preconditions of the psychological concept of deterrence to unfold effect.

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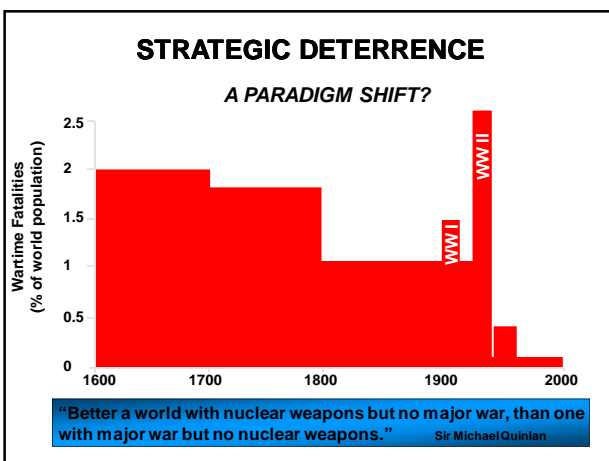
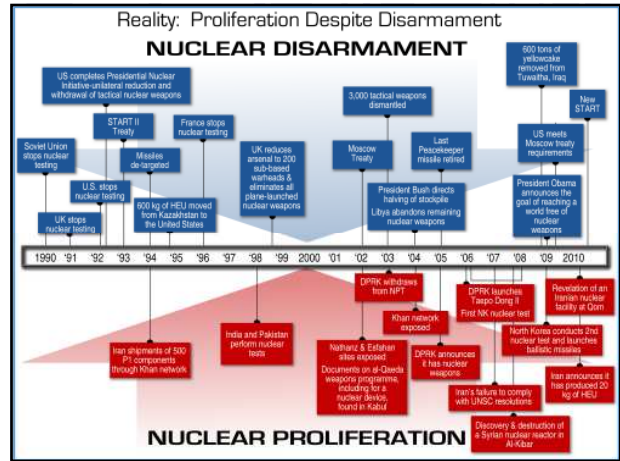
At the same time, NATO is reducing its reliance on its nuclear deterrent

- To an amount that the international security environment allows and
- Within multi- or bilateral arms control regimes.

Since the end of the Cold war

- 90% of US Nuclear Arms have been dismantled
- 97% of US Nuclear Weapons in Europe have been dismantled or drawn off
- Missiles and other means of delivery are no longer targeted
- Combat readiness in terms of months, not days

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“NATO’s core business, its raison-d’etre, is to protect our territory and our populations...And in a world where nuclear weapons actually exist, NATO needs a credible, effective, and safely managed deterrent.”

“Missile defence is no replacement for an effective deterrent. But it can complement it. Because there are states, or other actors, who might not be rational enough to be deterred by our nuclear weapons. But they might be deterred by the realization that their few missiles might not get through our defenses.”

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, 22.04.2010

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