

China plans to double nuclear arsenal

China could double its stockpile of nuclear warheads in the next decade and is close to completing its triad capacity – the ability to launch nuclear strikes by land, air and sea – according to the Pentagon

ESTIMATED NUCLEAR WARHEAD INVENTORIES

Stockpiled: Warheads assigned for potential use

Deployed: Warheads on ballistic missiles and at U.S. bomber bases

Retired: No longer in stockpile but intact and awaiting dismantlement

Russia: 4,315

1,326

2,060

Russia total: 6,375

United States: 3,800

1,373

2,000

United States total: 5,800

China: 320*

France: 290

UK: 215

Pakistan: 160

India: 150

Israel: 90

North Korea: 30-40



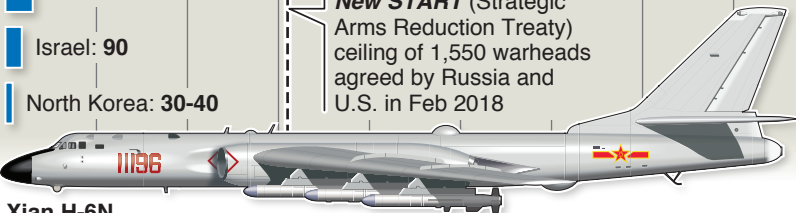
In military service with U.S. and Russia: 8,115

Awaiting dismantlement: 4,060

In military service with other countries: 1,265

*Pentagon says "low 200s"

New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) ceiling of 1,550 warheads agreed by Russia and U.S. in Feb 2018



Xian H-6N

Chinese nuclear-capable bomber with aerial refuelling capability revealed in Oct 2019

China developing nuclear-capable air-launched ballistic missile to complete its nuclear triad