

FACT SHEET ON "LOW-YIELD" NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- Deployment of "low-yield" nuclear weapons would lower the threshold for introducing nuclear weapons into a conflict, thereby increasing the likelihood of a nuclear war.
- An increased likelihood of a nuclear exchange would weaken national security.
- There is no adequate health or emergency response in the event of a nuclear attack. No existing emergency response system in any nation, including the United States, would be able to handle the mass health impacts and casualty levels that would result.
- To an adversary, a submarine-launched missile with a low-yield nuclear warhead may be completely indistinguishable on radar from missiles armed with high-yield bombs. Therefore, an adversary may respond to such a launch with a full attack, immediately escalating the conflict to full nuclear war.
- The term "low yield" is misleading. At 6.5 kilotons, the proposed weapon would be 591 times more powerful than the largest conventional weapon the United States has ever used, the GBU-43/B "Massive Ordnance Air Blast" bomb, and 2600 times more powerful than the 1995 Oklahoma City bomb.
- The proposed "low yield" nuclear weapon would have 43% of the yield of the bomb that leveled Hiroshima in 1945. According to the Columbia University Center Nuclear Studies, that bomb killed between 90,000 and 166,000 people.
- A 2017 Congressional Budget Office report estimated that it would cost \$1.2 trillion over the next 30 years (\$1.7 trillion after inflation) to update, sustain and modernize existing weapons, including \$800 billion to operate and sustain existing forces, and \$400 billion to modernize them, through 2046.

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