

Russia's Tactical Nuclear Weapons: Posture, Politics and Arms Control

Prof. Andrei Zagorski

Geneva, UNIDIR

22 February 2011

Definition

- ❑ All nuclear weapons not covered by US-Russian nuclear arms control treaties (START and INF)
 - ❑ It is diverse weapons, including for platforms of intermediate range
 - ❑ This is why they are often called non-strategic or sub-strategic weapons
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Apart from this

- ❑ The concept of TNW does not include delivery systems
 - ❑ **It is nuclear munitions (warheads)**
 - ❑ TNW are non-deployed weapons stored separate from their platforms
 - ❑ The delivery systems themselves are multi-purpose and are also designed for conventional missions
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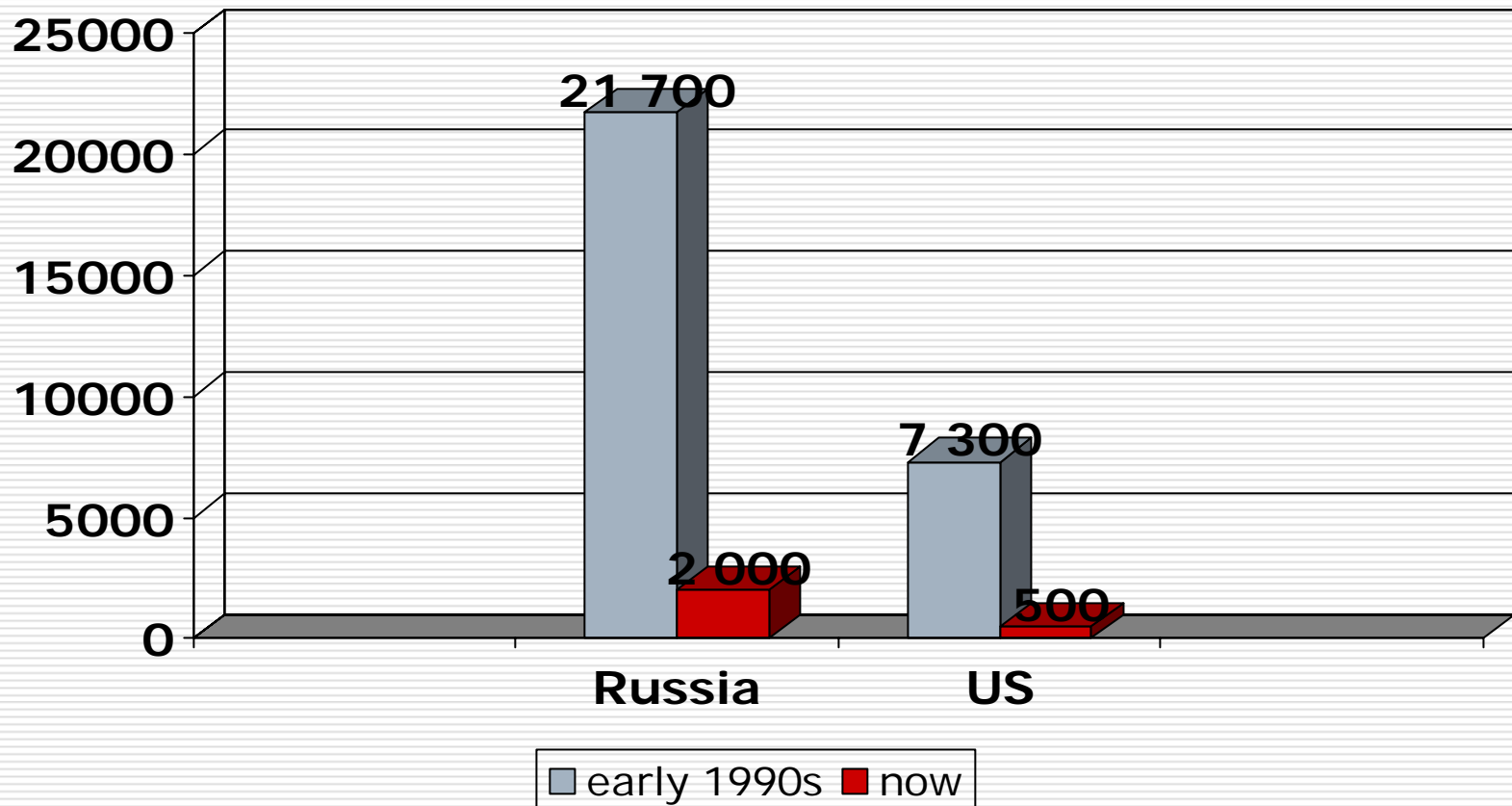
Presidential Nuclear Initiatives (PNIs)

- The comprehensive TNW definition was underlying the PNIs of 1991 and 1992

 - According to PNIs, TNW were
 - moved to central storage facilities and

 - partially retired and destroyed
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TNW reductions under the PNIs (deployable weapons)



Russia's TNW arsenal

- Is not only more sizeable but also more diverse
 - Air Force – frontal and intermediate aircraft
 - Navy – tactical and intermediate aircraft
SLCMs
anti-ship and anti-submarine weapons
naval air defence
 - Air and Missile defence

 - The greater diversity of maintained TNW is an indication of more diverse military options
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Two challenges to TNW arms control

- Would Russia agree to abandon associated military options?
 - What measures should be elaborated to verify limitations and reductions of non-deployed warheads?
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The mission of TNW

- ❑ Deterrence and/or termination of a conventional attack which exceeds Russia's conventional capabilities
 - ❑ Is seen as a temporary policy until Russia's conventional inferiority is overcome
 - ❑ It appears to remain a long-term factor determining Russia's posture
 - ❑ TNW reductions are not in Russia's interest until other disparities are addressed in a comprehensive manner
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Other disparities

- ❑ Missile defences
 - ❑ Conventionally armed long-range strategic systems (Global Prompt Strike Capability)
 - ❑ Weaponization of outer space
 - ❑ Precision-guided munitions (PGMs) for stand-off war fighting
 - ❑ Conventional disparities in Europe (CFE)
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TNW arms control measures

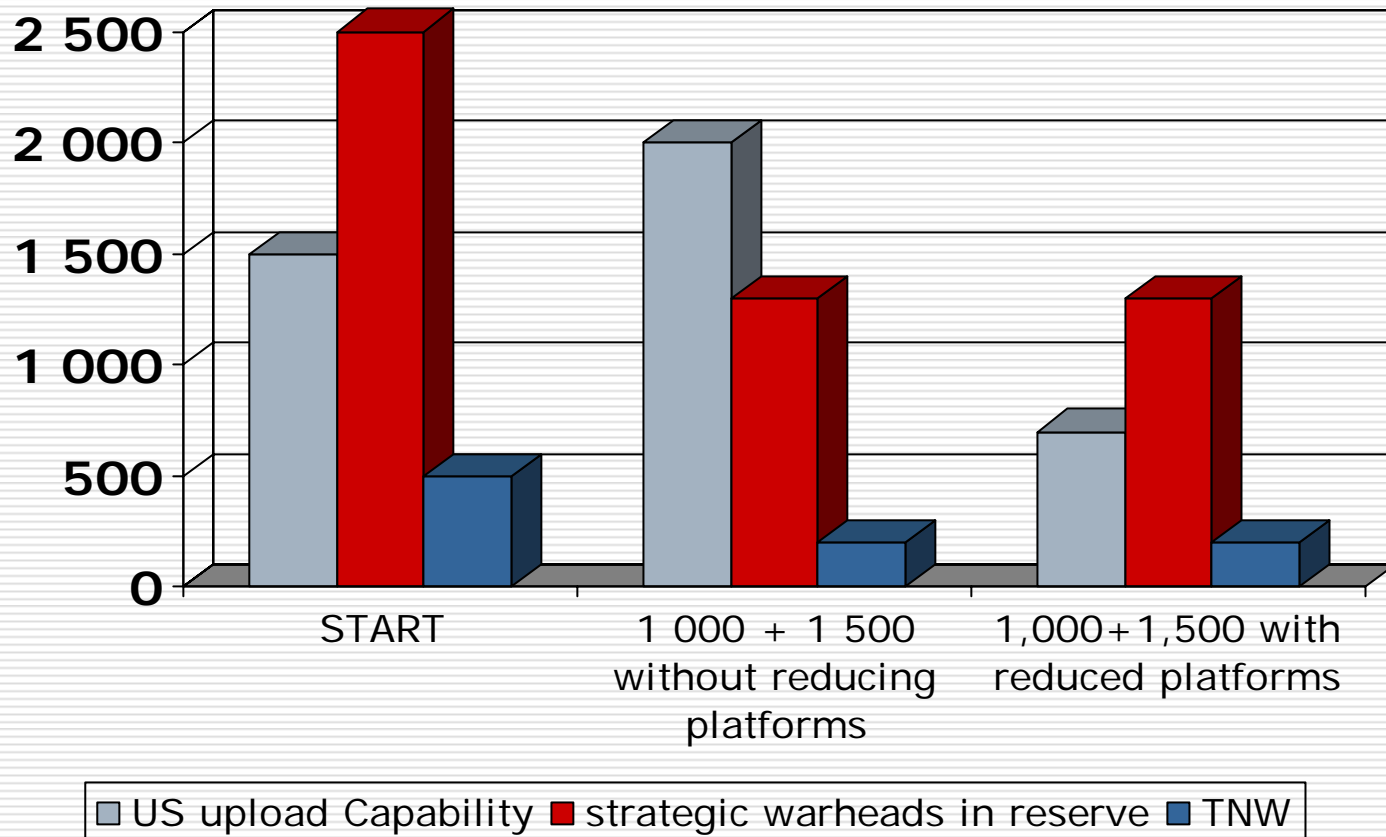
- Shall provide for the verification of non-deployed warheads
 - in nuclear storage facilities, and
 - in transfer between nuclear sites

 - This is the major challenge as it addresses the most sensible area
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Recent proposals

- Russia's TNW should be stored away from NATO and EU borders
 - The follow-on negotiations to START shall address the issue of non-deployed nuclear warheads, both strategic and TNW
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Effect on the US upload capability



Gradualist approach

- Resumption of information exchange under the PNIs
 - Data exchange

 - Consultations within the NRC
 - Data exchange
 - Discussion of nuclear postures
 - Confidence-building measures
 - Cooperative measures

 - Consolidation of TNW in centralized storage facilities

 - Resumption of Lab-to-Lab cooperation concerning warhead and fissile material verification
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