



MEDIA ADVISORY

New Report Examines the NATO Policy Debate on Reducing the Role of Tactical Nuclear Weapons In Europe

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(Washington, D.C.) A report released today on the future of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe finds that upcoming NATO policy decisions about the approximately remaining 180 warheads on five European NATO bases will affect relations among NATO members, and help determine the pace and shape of the next round of U.S.-Russian nuclear arms reductions.

The report, *Reducing the Role of Tactical Nuclear Weapons in Europe: Perspectives and Proposals on the NATO Policy Debate*, examines the debate about NATO nuclear policy leading up to and beyond the November 2010 Lisbon summit.

Several of the authors also analyze the options and issue for the NATO Defense and Deterrence Posture Review, which Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in April would report to the next NATO summit in 2012. This review will determine the mix of conventional, nuclear, and missile defense forces NATO will need going forward.

President Obama has said that he wants tactical nuclear weapons to be included in the next round of U.S.-Russian arms reduction talks, along with strategic weapons and those in storage. U.S. and its NATO allies are seeking to encourage Russia to take reciprocal measure to increase transparency relating to its relatively larger tactical nuclear weapons stockpile left over from the Cold War.

The report, produced by the Arms Control Association (ACA), the British American Security Information Council (BASIC) and the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH), contains a selection of views from participants in series of ACA-BASIC-ISFSH policy seminars held in 2010 and 2011.

The report includes essays by leading European and American experts and officials,

including German Ambassador **Peter Gottwald**, **Lukasz Kulesa** from Poland, former British defense secretary **Des Browne**, **Mustafa Kibaroglu** of Bilkent University in Turkey, **Paul Zajac** of the French embassy in Berlin, and **Steven Pifer** of the Brookings Institution.

As co-editor and ACA International Representative Oliver Meier writes in the volume, “NATO can and should reduce its reliance on nuclear weapons. The remaining U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in Europe do not have a military value. The most politically viable course of action would be a decision to phase out nuclear sharing and to develop more credible non-nuclear instruments that would provide assurance and spur constructive dialogue with Russia over European security.”

The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

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The Arms Control Association is an independent, membership-based organization dedicated to providing authoritative information and practical policy solutions to address the threats posed by the world's most dangerous weapons.