Nuclear Europe

UK Nuclear Weapons

Faslane, Scotland The UK housed US nuclear bombs until 2008. There remains the UK's so-called 'independent' nuclear capability. Trident. leased from the US. Four submarines rotate at sea.

US Nuclear Weapons

Kleine Brogel, Belgium Up to 20 nuclear bombs are in Belgium, which is also home to NATO HQ. Bombs will be 'delivered' by Belgian air forces when required. No other nuclear capabilities.

Key



Austria, Ireland and Malta have ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons



Submarine-based nuclear weapons



Nuclear Bombs



Aegis Ashore ballistic missile system + hypersonic missiles



Airforce with nuclear capabilities

US Nuclear Weapons

Volkel. Netherlands Up to 20 nuclear bombs are stored in The Netherlands and will be 'delivered' by Dutch air forces when required. No other nuclear capabilities.

Büchel, Germany Up to 20 nuclear bombs are stored in Germany. As with other NATO member states. German aircraft will 'deliver' the bombs. Germany is also home to a large number of US armed forces.

US Nuclear Weapons 'Nuclear Weapon-Free-

Zone' Germany Article 5, subsection 3, of the Treaty on the Final Settlement with respect to Germany, signed in 1990, prohibits the deployment of nuclear weapons in the former GDR. See END Info 7.

Expanding Nuclear Risks

The 2025 edition of this 'Nuclear Europe' map is rather more crowded than the original, which was published in END Info 19 (September 2020). Much has changed since and some of it was entirely predictable following the collapse of the INF Treaty. The nuclear-bootprint has expanded across Europe and along with the expansion has come an intensification: there are more nuclear weapons over a greater geographical area and the technology and capabilities have increased. The replacement of existing US nuclear bombs in Europe with the B61-12 nuclear gravity bomb is one such example. The B61-12s, unlike their predecessor bombs, will now be located in the UK. The B61-12 has a variable nuclear-vield and increased accuracy. Both elements serve to increase nuclear risks across the board. Another change since 2020 has been the expansion of nuclear alliances and nuclear arrangements within alliances. The UK looks set to join NATO nuclear-sharing arrangements. NATO itself has expanded to include new state members. Russian nuclear weapons now find a home in Belarus.

US Nuclear Weapons

Lakenheath & Marham There is now substantial evidence that US nuclear bombs have been delivered to the USAF base at Lakenheath. From 2029, the RAF will operate nuclear-capable F35As from Marham under nuclear sharing arrangements.

Russian Nuclear Weapons

Belarus

Following a referendum, Belarus is no longer nuclear weapon-free. In 2023, Russia confirmed the transfer of nuclear warheads to Belarus which is now home to 'tactical' nuclear weapons. See END Info 37.



Russian nuclear capabilities

Russia has thermonuclear-armed since 1955. It currently deploys nuclear weapons on land, sea and in the air in a variety of systems. Russia has a hypersonic missile capability, which has been used against target in Ukraine. Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, a number of nuclear threats have been issued. END Info 30 carried a series of statements from the Russell Foundation addressing these threats.

US Hypersonic Missiles Germany

Multiple reports indicate that the US plans to station the 'Dark Eagle' hypersonic missile system in Germany from 2026. These are 'first strike' conventional weapons designed to avoid missile defence systems.

Italy

US Nuclear Weapons

Aviano & Ghedi-Torre,

Around 70 bombs are

stored in Italy. Some of

these had previously

been stored at RAF

Lakenheath, UK, before

removal in 2008.



US Missile 'Defence'

Poland and Romania There are claims that the missiles used on this defence system breached the INF Treaty due to adaptability. See The Spokesman 142 for more information.



Incirlik. Turkev Turkey. important

Nuclear Risk Ukraine War

can begin.

The war in Ukraine continues to serve as both a driver of increased nuclear deployment and ever-sharper nuclear risks. The sooner this war comes to an end, the sooner these risks will abate and the difficult work of denuclearisation

US Nuclear Weapons

It is estimated that 50 US nuclear bombs are stores at the Incirlik air base in Strategically increasingly dangerous location.



French Nuclear Weapons: Submarine

No US nuclear bombs stored. France maintains submarine-based nuclear capability, the 'Strategic Ocean Force', consisting of four Triomphant class SSBN's. Also see Airbased.

French Nuclear Weapons: Air-based

This component of the French nuclear forces is comprised on land- and sea-based Rafale BF3 aircraft each of which is armed with mediumrange cruise missiles (ASMP-As).



Still needed: A European Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone

The first version of this map was created as an aid to a new call for a 'European Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone'. The call itself was issued by the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation in March 2019 as a response to the collapse of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. Of course, in launching the call we drew inspiration from the 'European Nuclear Disarmament' Appeal of the 1980s (also issued by the Foundation). The 1980s Appeal came at a moment of enormous nuclear tensions and growing nuclear dangers. It grew into a genuine, Europe-wide movement that encompassed massive demonstrations and a series of Conventions that

gathered significant numbers from across geographical and political divides. These efforts propelled the nuclear powers towards agreeing the INF Treaty in 1987. The INF Treaty has now been destroyed and along with it a number of other vital treaties and agreements have been thrown on the bonfire. The 2019 call met with some positive responses and resulted in the 'Nuke Free Europe' campaign which quickly went into abeyance following the emergence of the pandemic. There are nuclear-weapon-free zones across the world. Why can't Europe have one? This map suggests a reason. It also suggests that there is an urgent need for such a zone, a need much greater than at any point since 1987. Can we build a movement to achieve such a zone? Can the call for such a zone be put into the new campaigns against European rearmament? Surely it must.