

DE-ALERT U.S. NUCLEAR ICBMs

HIGH ALERT

U.S. nuclear warheads on ground-based intercontinental and submarine-launched ballistic missiles are maintained on **high alert**, i.e. they are ready to launch within **minutes** of receiving a launch order.



COLD WAR

The practice began during the Cold War to enable a **retaliatory** nuclear strike within minutes. Some nuclear weapons remain on high alert today, 25 years after the end of Cold War.



RISKS

Having silo-based ICBMs on high-alert increases the risk of their use accidentally, or intentionally in response to a **false** warning.



BENEFITS

De-alerting silo-based ICBMs increases national security by reducing the risk of nuclear use without negatively impacting U.S. deterrence.



DE-ALERTED BOMBERS

In 1991 the U.S. unilaterally de-alerted its nuclear bombers by removing all nuclear weapons from planes and placing them into storage. In reciprocity, Russia followed suit.



DETERRENCE MAINTAINED

U.S. submarines loaded with nuclear missiles are designed to retaliate against a first-strike surprise attack. Nuclear-armed bombers further serve as a reinforcement. De-alerting ICBMs does not reduce the U.S. deterrent.



It's time to **de-alert ICBMs.**

