

# Deterring Russian Nuclear Threats with Low-Yield Nukes May Encourage Limited Nuclear War

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**Jeffrey Taylor**

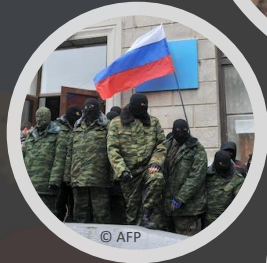
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“The risk of confrontation with the use of nuclear weapons in Europe is higher than in the 1980s.”

-Igor Ivanov, Former Russian Foreign Minister, 2016



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# Russian Strategic Deterrence (sderzhivanye)

## Fear inducement

- Demonstrative acts
- Dissuasion
- Peacetime/military threat

## Limited use of force

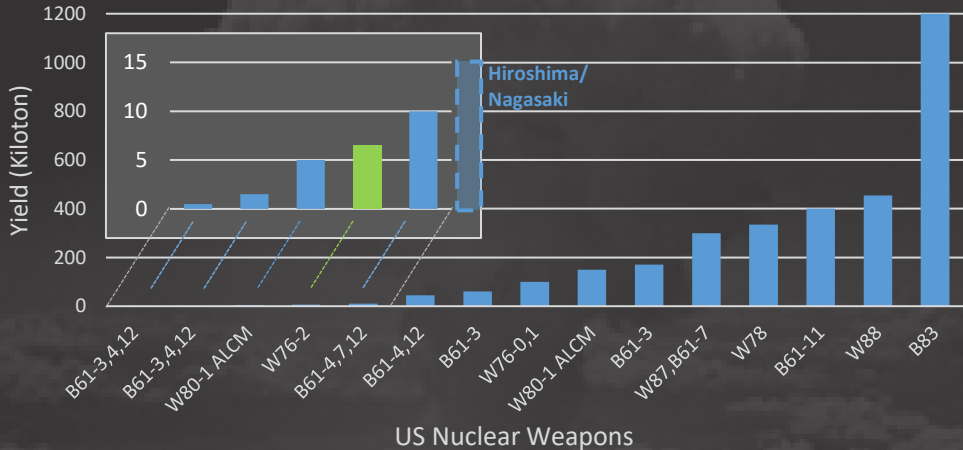
- Threats to critical targets
- Inflict “unacceptable damage”
- Imminent threat/conflict outset



Low-Yield



High-Yield



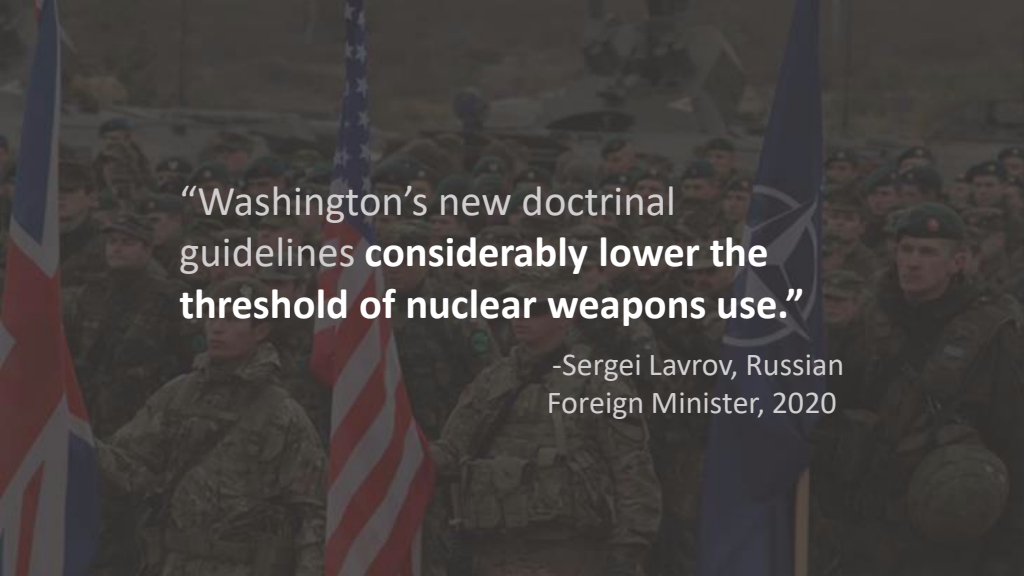


## 2018 Nuclear Posture Review (NPR):

**Limited & Graduated  
Options**

Variety of **delivery systems  
& explosive yields**

Deterrence against  
**regional aggression**



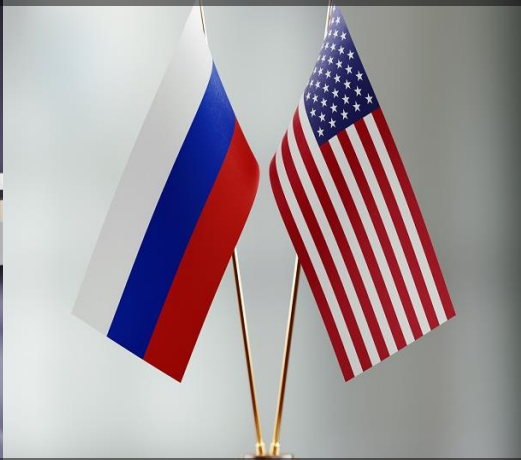
“Washington’s new doctrinal guidelines **considerably lower the threshold of nuclear weapons use.**”

-Sergei Lavrov, Russian Foreign Minister, 2020

# Resilience Measures: Redundancy & Adaptability



Revise Deterrence Thinking



Foster Strategic Communication

# Contact Information

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# For More Information

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Select References:



[cai.usu.edu](http://cai.usu.edu)

