

Strategic Systems Study II Further Requirements and Perceptions (U) Volume 2



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12 Sep 1989

Mr. Peter Hayes
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Dear Mr. Hayes:

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, identified as #FOI 218, item 10d, was forwarded to this Center by Counsel for the Office of Naval Research.

Although this Command retains cognizance over these documents, we were not the original classification authority and the documents were forwarded to the various DOD and DOE activities for security review.

The following exception to disclosure is cited concerning Volumes I, III, IV and VI: (copies of the covers of these documents are provided for identification purposes)

Title 5, United States Code, section 552(b)(3) (exception 3) exempts from disclosure information "specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552(b) of this title), provided that such statute; (a) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, or (b) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matter to be withheld." The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq., is an exemption 3 statute. Sections 141-146 of this Act (42 U.S.C. 2161-2166) prohibit the disclosure of information on the design and manufacture of nuclear weapons that is classified as Restricted Data.

Concerning Volumes V and VII, and portions of Volume II the following exception to disclosure is cited:

Five U.S.C. 552(b)(1) (Exemption 1) provides that an agency may exempt from disclosure information; "(a) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (b) are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order.

Recommended Citation

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In 1974, the United States Department of Navy made an assessment of the nuclear missile capabilities of the US military. In this portion of the report, focus was made on current and future developments in the field of strategic missile development with the time frame of 1985-1990. Future combat scenarios explored included the likelihood of small scale conflict in Europe, holocaust scale war, and general peace. Future world relations explored included peaceful unification, turmoil, bipolar world, and various levels of fragmentation. The Soviet Union was a major concern outlined in the report, stating that their level of nuclear weapon delivery systems closely matched that of the United States. Differences were that the Soviet nukes had greater destructive power. Response methods to Soviet nuclear attacks were suggested and analyzed.

The report aims to understand how to mold the U.S. missile systems to best prepare for the near future. The Soviet Union is a key nuclear weapons threat. In the report, it is suggested that the existing precision based nuclear weapons system would be most effective at dismantling Soviet counterstrike.

"The ICBM force, the heart of which is the Minuteman series, continues to give us the accuracy, flexibility, and control necessary to deal with and thereby deter a wide range of attacks on military targets. It provides the most reliable source of limited response options so essential to nuclear deterrence under conditions of nuclear parity."

This report was released to the Nautilus Institute under the US Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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