

Political Science 378
The Politics of American National Security Policy
Midterm Exam October 20, 2003

INSTRUCTIONS

There are 2 parts to this exam: short answer questions and essays. You must do 3 short answer questions from the reading, 3 from the lecture, and one essay. If you have any questions, contact me. Good luck.

A couple of hints: do the essay first, and do an outline before you begin the essay.

PART I. ESSAYS (30 points)

Write an essay on one of the following two questions. It is worth 30 points.

A. In May, 2001, President Bush announced that the goal of the US for the size of its strategic nuclear forces would be to have between 1700 and 2200 operationally deployed strategic warheads. Consider the current ICBM and SLBM arsenal of the US:

Weapon	Number of SNDVs	Warheads per SNDV	Total Warheads	Total EMT
ICBM				
Minuteman III Mk 12a	300	3	900	438.27
Minuteman III Mk 12	50	3	150	46
Minuteman III DL	150	1	150	73
MX	50	10	500	224
		Total ICBM	1700	781.3
Trident C-4 6 warheads	96	6	576	124
Trident C-4 8 warheads	240	8	1920	413.3
Trident D-5	48	8	384	233.7
		Total SLBM warheads	2880	771
		Total ICBM + SLBM	4580	1552.3

You are to advise the President on how to restructure US ICBM and SLBM forces to get to the lower level of forces. Consider the following options:

1. Eliminate all SLBMs, and keep all 1700 ICBM warheads and 781.3 EMT.
2. Eliminate all ICBMs, and keep only 1920 Trident C-4 warheads with 413.3 EMT (all subs with C-4 missiles that have 8 warheads; note that this would be 10 submarines).

What are the pros and cons of each option? In the end, you must recommend one choice or the other to the President. Which option would you recommend, and make a convincing argument for the choice you made.

B. Currently Russia maintains about 2900 EMT on 991 SNDVs (680 ICBMs, 232 SLBMs, and 79). Some observers question the ability of the Russians to keep any of their SLBM force and any of their bomber force operational. It is also likely to become difficult for the Russians to spend enough money to maintain the current ICBM force. One can argue that the only sensible thing for the Russians to do is to make drastic cuts in their strategic forces. One idea would be to abandon all forces except their mobile ICBMs. If this were done, the Russians strategic forces would have the following characteristics:

Type of Weapon	SNDVs	Warheads per SNDV	Pairs of Warheads	EMT per SNDV	Pk2,2 H=2200
SS-24	36	10 x .55MT	180	241.6	.886
SS-25	342	1 x .55 MT	171	229.5	.886
TOTALS	378	702	351	471.1	

What are the pluses and minuses of reducing the forces to this level? Would you advise President Putin to do this?

PART II. SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS.

Do 3 short answer questions from each of the two sets of short answer questions.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE READINGS (5 points/answer).

1. According to Thomas Ricks ("The Widening Gap Between the Military and Society"), why is the estrangement between the military and civilians more complete now than in the past?

2. According to Donald Rumsfeld (“Transforming the Military”) what is the “new triad?”
 3. According to Williams in chapter 1 (“Introduction”) of Holding the Line, what are the two major problems faced by America as it considers the future of its armed forces.
 4. In chapter 2 (“Military Readiness and Overseas Commitments”) of O’Hanlon (Defense Policy Choices) he recommends reducing some longstanding military deployments. What deployments does he recommend be reduced?
 5. According to O’Hanlon in chapter 5 (“Homeland Defense”) what are the major categories (“categories of specific effort”) of US spending to combat terrorism?
- SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE LECTURES (5 points/answer).
6. What are the names and purposes of the general ways in which military force can be used?
 7. What 3 characteristics of the officer corps in Vietnam contributed significantly to our problems?
 8. What general roles can nuclear weapons serve in American national security policy?
 9. Name & define the different categories of nuclear weapons policy.
 10. What conditions have an impact on the chances of the US using military force?