

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

U.S. Nuclear Capabilities Make Essential Contributions to the Deterrence of Nuclear and Non-Nuclear Aggression



NNSA
National Nuclear Security Administration



U.S. nuclear weapons deter potential adversaries and prevent them from believing they can escalate their way out of failed conventional aggression. Coupling our conventional superiority with a nuclear capability that is second to none ensures that our deterrent remains credible and effective in the minds of potential adversaries. U.S. nuclear weapons combined with the U.S. commitment to extended deterrence also help convince allies that they do not need to develop their own nuclear capabilities.

- *Weapons modification and modernization are a prudent and pragmatic response to counter build-ups by potential adversaries.*
- *For decades, the United States has deployed low-yield nuclear options to strengthen deterrence and assurance. Expanding flexible U.S. nuclear options now, to include low-yield options, is important for the preservation of credible deterrence against regional aggression.*
- *Key to the current deterrent and the future deterrent is stable and consistent appropriated funding.*