

Zero Nuclear Weapons

An Observation and Opinion, by Robert Holt

I just read that there is increasing pressure to expand the American stockpile of nuclear weapons. It's easy to guess that any such move comes from the corporations that directly profit from the production of these dangerous weapons, which are useless because they *must never be used*.

Remember that these weapons have been mounted already into a triad of delivery systems:

- the real weapons, all kept on high alert in underground silos
- a fleet of submarines, some of them always under water
- an array of bomber planes

No one who understands nuclear explosives, other than those who make money by producing them and their carriers, would think that it is a good idea to enlarge our stockpile. The American stockpile of nuclear weapons already contains more than enough to wipe out civilization if only a *part* were accidentally launched.

Even if just held in reserve as “a deterrent,” those delivery systems pose far too much threat to their possessors to justify the number we already have. To date, there have been accidental launches, and luckily so far, they have been harmless. They require a kind of command and control that is unattainable because it *must be perfect*. Nothing less is safe enough.

We must start, now, down the road to their total abolition, to a goal of zero nuclear weapons! Conventional, usable weapons should make a better deterrent against being attacked, if one truly is needed.