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HISTORY OF THE PHASE OUT OF LARGE YIELD WEAPONS

On October 26, 1959, the proposed FY 1961 "firm stockpile guidance" for the Atomic Energy Commission was sent to President Eisenhower. It included:

a. The following Mark 36 phase out:

	(End)	<u>FY 60</u>	<u>FY 61</u>	<u>FY 62</u>
OSD 3.3(b)(4,5) MK 36 Normal				0
MK 36 Clean			0	0

b. The statement: "The trend initiated in [FY] 1960 toward the use of the 1.1 megaton light and compact weapon to provide the Strategic Air Command a substantial capability for multiple loading, highly selective and low altitude bombing by B-47 and B-52 aircraft will be continued in 1961."

OSD 3.3(b)(4,5) President Eisenhower approved this stockpile guidance on November 25, 1959. The FY 1960 number above was changed to on December 4, 1959 by Secretary of Defense Gates in a letter to the Atomic Energy Commission. However, our information on the end FY 1961 stockpile, shown in the accompanying table, indicates that the removal of the Mark 36 bombs was not actually so rapid.

Again in 1960, the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommended unanimously that Mark 36 bombs be eliminated. (JCSM-332-60, dated July 30, 1960, Subject: Desired Composition of the Atomic Stockpile for FY 1962 and FY 1963.)

On August 8, 1960, Secretary of Defense Gates submitted to President Eisenhower the FY 1962 nuclear weapons stockpile requested by the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Secretary of Defense Gates proposed to transmit it to the Atomic Energy Commission as firm stockpile guidance for the end of FY 1962. Among the general trends continued by this proposal he notes:

"c. Reduction in numbers of very high yield strategic aircraft weapons designed for high altitude bombing and replacement with lower yield weapons suitable for multiple-loading and both high and low level delivery. By 1963 the total yield of the strategic weapon stockpile will have been reduced about 25% from the 1961 level. The numbers and types of strategic air weapons are consistent with the 'on target' requirements set forth in the Net Evaluation Subcommittee study of November 6, 1959 and your instructions with respect thereto of February 17, 1960."

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HISTORY OF THE PHASE OUT OF LARGE YIELD WEAPONS
(Continued)

A file copy of Secretary of Defense Gates' letter contains a note signed by then Brigadier General Goodpaster saying that the submission had been "...noted in outline by the President and generally approved by him as a basis for action on August 22, 1960..."

The FY 1963 stockpile recommendations were forwarded to President Kennedy by Mr. Gilpatric on October 19, 1961, and continued the phase out of obsolescent weapons and the replacement of weapons for high altitude delivery by lay-down weapons, noting the need for low altitude delivery. The President approved the recommendations on November 8, 1961.

Further information has been obtained from a draft Memorandum for the President dated August 25, 1964, which was not sent, but which was prepared in connection with the refutation of a statement by Senator Goldwater about the reduction in "deliverable nuclear capacity". The Memorandum states that "... more than half of the obsolete large bombs were kept at buried storage sites at the Atomic Energy Commission because there was no foreseeable need for them in the Strategic Air Command" and that the retirement of

had occurred by 1962, resulting in a decrease of more than 40 percent in the gross megatonnage of the stockpile.

The actual inventory was as follows:

	<u>FY60</u>	<u>FY61</u>	<u>FY62</u>	<u>FY63</u>	<u>FY64</u>	<u>FY65</u>	<u>FY66</u>	<u>FY67</u>
Total Stockpile	18743	21576						
Total Megatons ^{a/}	20900	21400	12400	15800	16600	14900	14000	12800

The 40 percent was the actual reduction that occurred from FY60-61 to FY62. The 25 percent reduction from the FY61 to FY63 which Secretary Gates noted also actually occurred. The dip in FY62 existed primarily because

OSD 3.3(b)(4,5)

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^{a/} These figures are for the total stockpile, not just the strategic stockpile; however, over 90 percent of the total megatonnage was in the strategic stockpile in FY61-67.

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