

## Q&A: The New START Debate Simplified

**Q. Does this treaty really increase America's national security?**

**A. Definitely.** This treaty increases our national security because it provides for a stable, transparent and predictable relationship between US and Russian strategic nuclear forces, period.

**Proof:** [Secretary of Defense Robert Gates' Senate Testimony](#) and [Adm. Mike Mullen's Senate Testimony](#)

**Q. Does this treaty make the US vulnerable by limiting US missile defense plans?**

**A. No, it does not.** This treaty does not limit US missile defense plans and, in fact, *“actually reduces constraints on the development of the missile defense program,”* as stated by the Director of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, Lt. Gen. Patrick O'Reilly, in his Senate testimony in support of New START.

**Proof:** [The Truth about New START and Missile Defense](#) and [Lt. Gen O'Reilly's Senate Testimony](#)

**Q. Why does this treaty not take on tactical nuclear weapons?**

**A.** New START doesn't take on tactical nuclear weapons because **its purpose is to address strategic nuclear weapons** and to get trained weapons inspectors back on the ground in Russia. We can't get to tactical weapons unless we tackle strategic weapons first.  **Ratifying New START is the first step** in moving negotiations to tactical nuclear weapons.

**Proof:** [Former Secretary of Defense William Perry Carefully outlines the purpose of New START](#)

**Q. Why should the current Senate ratify New START and what's the urgency to do so in the 111th Congress?**

**A. Failure to ratify the New START treaty in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress means unnecessary delays and unwarranted risk to our security.**

It has already been more than one year since American inspectors left Russia. Any delay in sending them back serves no purpose but instead undermines our understanding of Russian nuclear forces, increases uncertainty, and diminishes our security.

The simple reality is that if we fail to ratify New START now, the new Senate will take many months, if not years, to ratify the treaty. Every day of delay is a day **we are blind to Russia's nuclear weapons stockpile.**

**Proof:** [Former Weapons Inspector David Kay Describes the Crucial Role Inspectors Play](#)

**Q. Is this treaty only supported by Democrats?**

**A. No.** This treaty has support from **prominent Republicans** such as:

George H.W. Bush, Former US President  
Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense  
Condoleezza Rice, Former Secretary of State and National Security Advisor to President George W. Bush  
Sen. Richard G. Lugar (R-IN)  
James Schlesinger, Former Secretary of Defense for Presidents Nixon and Ford  
Lawrence S. Eagleburger, Former Secretary of State for President George H.W. Bush  
Henry Kissinger, Former National Security Advisor to President Nixon and Secretary of State for Presidents Nixon and Ford  
Colin Powell, Former Secretary of State for George W. Bush and National Security Advisor to President Reagan  
Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME)  
Stephen Hadley, Former National Security Advisor to President George W. Bush  
George P. Schultz, Former Secretary of State for President Reagan  
Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)  
General Kevin Chilton, STRATCOM Commander  
James A. Baker III, Former Secretary of State for George H.W. Bush  
General Brent Scowcroft (Ret.), Former National Security Advisor to President George H.W. Bush

**This treaty also has unanimous support from our military leadership, including Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the entire leadership of the Joint Chiefs.**

**Proof:** [Republican Secretaries of State Support of START](#) and [New START by the Numbers: A Visual](#)

**Q. What happens if New START is not ratified before the end of the year?**

**A.** If the current Senate does not ratify this treaty, **it will go back to square one**. With newly elected Senators assuming their seats in January, other issues will compete for priority. With an influx of new members and staff, there will be new hearings, new briefings, and new negotiations that collectively will only add to the delay. The delay will diminish our insight into Russian strategic weapons, and also hinder our ability to move forward on other issues, such as tactical nuclear weapons.

The current Senate needs to ratify this treaty because it **has already debated the New START Treaty for over seven months, was approved in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with bipartisan support**, and has the overwhelming bipartisan support from our nation's most knowledgeable and respected national security leaders. The current Senate has thoroughly reviewed and considered this treaty, and should act to ratify it.

**Proof:** [Senator Gary Hart's Warning About New START Delay](#)

**Q. Why do we need arms control agreements?**

**A.** Arms control agreements are about **force planning**. They define not just what we can do but, more importantly, what others may do. Credible arms agreements, like this one, are backed with robust verification measures that produce transparency, predictability and stability. A credible arms agreement, like New START, **allows our military to focus its resources where they are really needed, such as providing support for our troops** in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Proof:** [Testimony from Stephen J. Hadley, Former National Security Advisor to President George W. Bush](#)

**Q. Does this treaty help us deal with North Korea and Iran?**

**A. Yes.** It allows both the US and Russia to take strategic nuclear weapons off the table, to allow us to focus on these issues. In fact, Ambassador Linton Brooks, former head of the National Nuclear Security Administration under President George W. Bush and lead negotiator of START I for President George H.W.

Bush, recently confirmed this, stating: *“The New START treaty is needed to inject transparency, predictability and stability into the US and Russian strategic nuclear relationship. With this treaty in place, both Russia and the United States can move to other pressing issues – such as tactical nuclear weapons, Iran and North Korea.”*

**Proof:** [Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of State and National Security Advisor, Details New START](#)

**Q. Why can't we trust Russia to reduce its nuclear arsenal without a treaty?**

- A.** Former President Ronald Reagan, who conceived the first strategic nuclear arms treaty with Russia (START I) said it best: **“Trust, but verify.”** To ensure predictability and stability between our strategic nuclear forces, we need to ensure compliance with the provisions set by the treaty. That is why we need a verification regime, which is one of the most important components of the New START treaty.

**Proof:** [Former Secretary of State James Baker, Negotiator of START I and START II, Puts New START in context](#)

**Q. Is this a complex treaty?**

- A. No.** This is not a complex treaty:

1) It sets out to create **mutual trust, openness, predictability, and cooperation** between the US and Russia- the countries that hold 90% of nuclear weapons globally.

2) It helps us **keep track of our current weapons** with a verification measure that includes inspectors on the ground in Russia.

2) It will help us **monitor and handle remaining weapons** stockpiles in the U.S. and Russia.

3) Our respected national security community, military leadership, and former leaders – including President George H.W. Bush have endorsed this treaty.

**There are no legitimate reasons to delay this treaty any further.**

**The time to ratify New START is now.**

**Proof:** [Text of New START treaty](#) and [Reality Check on the New START Treaty](#)

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For more proof, please visit:

<http://www.securityconsensus.org> and <http://www.securityconsensus.org/new-start/>