

What are Tactical Nuclear Weapons?

March 28, 2023 • vajiramandravi.com



About Tactical Nuclear Weapons:

- **Nuclear weapons**, just like other weapons, can be **categorised into two types** — strategic and tactical.
- **Strategic Nuclear Weapons:** They refer to nuclear weapons that have **bigger objectives**, such as **destroying cities or larger targets**, with **larger war-waging objectives** in mind.
- **Tactical Nuclear Weapons (TNWs):**
 - They are nuclear weapons **used for specific tactical gains on the battlefield**.
 - They are intended to **devastate enemy targets in a specific area without causing widespread destruction** and **radioactive fallout**.
 - These are designed for **use in battle** as part of an attack **with conventional weapon forces**.
 - These **warheads can be delivered via a variety of missiles**, torpedoes and gravity bombs from naval, air or ground forces. They could even be simply **driven into an area and detonated**.
 - **The explosive yield** of tactical nuclear weapons can **range from under one kiloton to about 100 kilotons**, whereas strategic nuclear weapons can have a yield of up to one thousand kilotons.
 - **Delivery systems** for tactical nuclear weapons also tend to **have shorter ranges, typically under 310 miles (500 kilometres)**, compared with strategic nuclear weapons, which are typically designed

to cross continents.

- They are the **least-regulated category of nuclear weapons** covered in **arms control agreements**.

- **Countries possessing TNWs:**

- **Nine countries** have tactical nuclear weapons, according to the Federation of American Scientists.
- They are **Russia, the United States, China, France, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, India, Israel and North Korea**.
- **Russia** has a stockpile of an estimated **2,000 tactical nuclear missiles**.
- The U.S. has an estimated **200 tactical nuclear bombs**, half of which are **at bases in Europe**.

Q1) What is a Nuclear Weapon?

A nuclear weapon is a device that uses a nuclear reaction to create an explosion. This explosion is much more powerful than that of conventional explosives (like TNT). When a nuclear weapon explodes, it gives off four types of energy: a blast wave, intense light, heat, and radiation. Nuclear weapons can be in the form of bombs or missiles.

Source: [Russia Will Deploy Tactical Nuclear Weapons In Belarus, Says Putin](#)

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