



Russian Tactical Nuclear Weapons Drills

U.S. ARMY

(U) This infographic provides an overview of Russian Tactical Nuclear Weapon Drills. Russia said on 6 May that it would practice the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons as part of a military exercise after what Moscow said were threats from France, Britain and the United States. The Russian Defense Ministry has stated, "The doctrine and basics of state policy in the area of nuclear deterrence explicitly state the possibilities for the first use of nuclear weapons. At the moment, nothing has changed in this regard, but the situation itself is changing. As a result, the way basic documents in this field relate to the needs of maintaining our security is constantly analyzed."

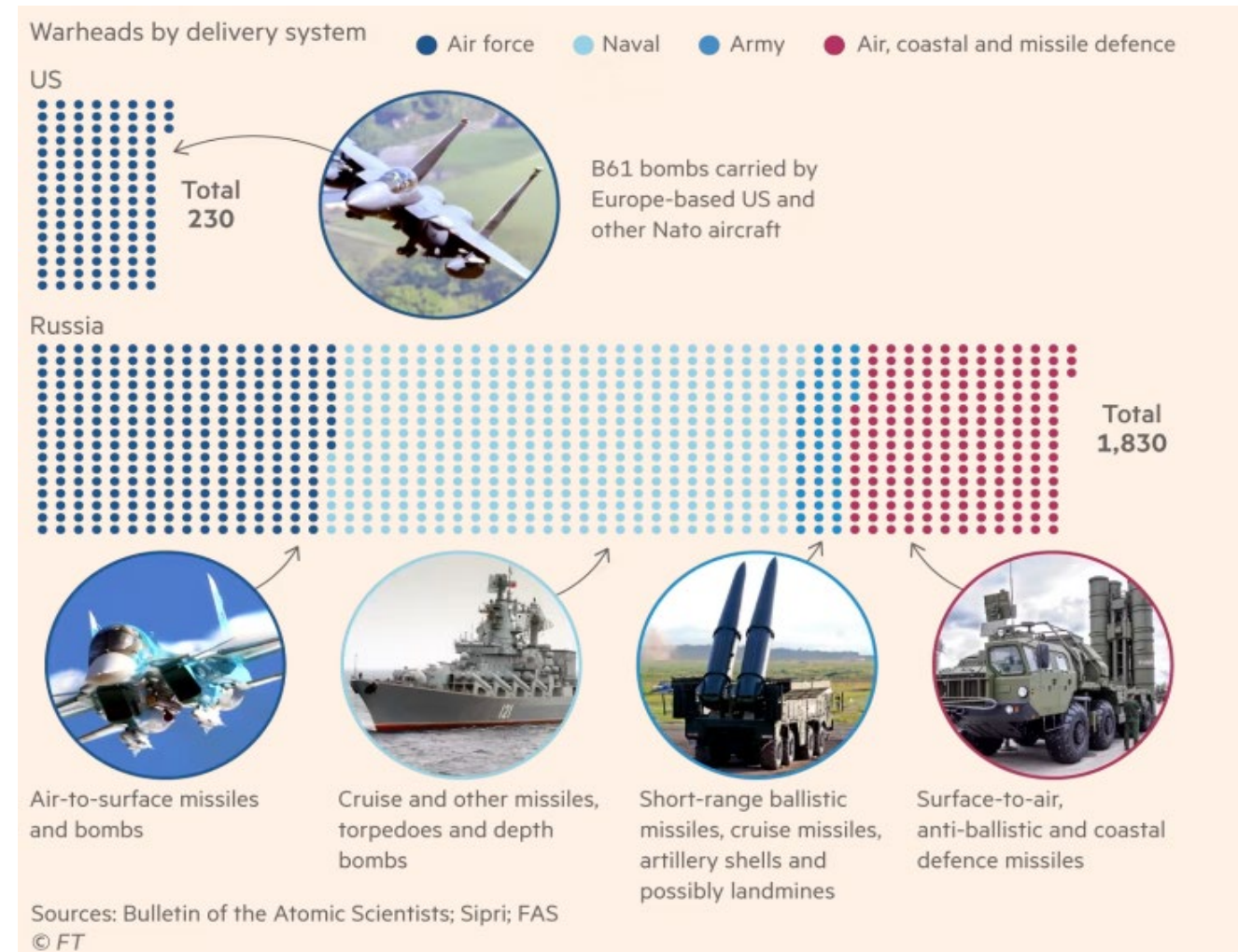
Russian Defense Ministry

Warning

- There is an increased risk of nuclear weapons use as Western allies continue their military support of Ukraine

Tactical nuclear drills

- Russia will exercise a set of measures for the preparation and use of non-strategic nuclear weapons
- The exercise will be based on a scenario aimed at ensuring Russia's territorial integrity and sovereignty
- It will involve undisclosed missile and aviation formations in the Southern Military District as well as naval forces



Typical tactical weapon yields*



What are tactical nuclear weapons?

No consensus definition exists

Non-strategic nuclear weapons:

- Low-yield nuclear weapons
- Designed for use on the battlefield
- Tactical nuclear weapons
 - Nuclear mines
 - Torpedoes
 - Artillery
 - Some gravity bombs

Strategic nuclear weapons:

- Intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs),
- Submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs)
- Heavy bombers.

Sources: [A look inside the cyberwar between Israel and Hamas reveals the civilian toll](#) (Reuters)
[Russia's Low Threshold For Nuclear Weapons Use Detailed In New Report](#) (TWZ)
[What are tactical nuclear weapons and why did Russia announce it would hold drills?](#) (PBS)

[Putin Orders Tactical Nuclear Drills In Response To Western "Threats"](#) (TWZ)
[Putin Ally Warns Russia's Nuclear War Policy May Change](#) (Newsweek)
[Military briefing: Which nuclear weapons could Putin use against Ukraine?](#) (Financial Times)