

America's weapons of mass destruction: By the numbers

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The U.S. expects to finally finish getting rid of its chemical weapons in 2023. (AP Photo/U.S. Army, Diana Ricketts)

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3,000

Tons of chemical weapons [in the U.S. stockpile](#), mostly consisting of mustard gas and various nerve agents.

1,000

Tons of chemical weapons that Syria is [believed to have](#).

2023

The year the U.S. military believes it will finally be done [getting rid](#) of its chemical weapons, which are stored in facilities near Colorado Springs, Colo., and Richmond, Ky. The original deadline was 2007.

31,500

Tons of chemical weapons the United States [built up](#) from World War I until 1968. Pressure in the 1970s caused the country to cease production of chemical weapons and eventually start destroying them.

44,000

Tons of chemical weapons [amassed by Russia](#) in that same time period.

\$40 billion

Estimated total [cost to the U.S. government](#) of destroying all of its chemical weapons — if the task is finished on schedule.

90

Percentage of the U.S. chemical weapons supply that has [already been destroyed](#).

\$500 million

Amount spent by the United States each year [to assist other countries](#) in destroying their stores of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons.

7,650

Estimated number of nuclear warheads [possessed](#) by the United States.

2,150

Operational U.S. nuclear warheads [assigned](#) to land-based missiles, nuclear submarines, and bombs ready for deployment in military aircraft.

4,650

Operational [nuclear warheads](#) in Russia.

12

Maximum estimate of warheads that Kim Jong Un [can build](#) with North Korea's existing supply of plutonium.

31,225

[Nuclear weapons](#) possessed by the United States in 1967.

9 megatons

Amount of energy released by the B53 nuclear bomb, which is 900 times [more powerful](#) than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The bomb was dismantled in Amarillo, Texas, in 2011.

1,550

Nuclear weapons (not counting warheads in storage or awaiting dismantlement) allowed by the New START Treaty, [signed](#) by Russia and the United States in 2010.

Sources: [Associated Press](#), [BBC](#), [CNN](#), [Brookings Institute](#), [The Guardian](#) (2), [The Washington Post](#) (2)

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