

*The
American
University
Library*

WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR FISCAL YEAR

1967

Including the Reports of the
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1969

(ICBM) were just entering the weapons inventory with 28 considered operational. Five fleet ballistic missile (FBM) submarines had been commissioned. By June 30, 1967, the missile components of the strategic forces had grown to 1,054 ICBM's in "hardened" silos and 41 FBM submarines, while the aircraft component included 635 B-52's and B-58's. This force structure provided a deterrent power that no aggressor could ignore.

Strategic Offensive Missiles

Our strategic missile forces added 120 MINUTTEMAN ICBM's and four FBM submarines to their strength during fiscal year 1967, thus completing the buildup to the programmed level of 1,000 MINUTTEMAN ICBM's, 54 TITAN ICBM's, and 41 nuclear submarines carrying 656 POLARIS FBM's. Moreover, qualitative improvements further enhanced striking power, as MINUTTEMAN II and POLARIS A-3 missiles replaced earlier MINUTTEMAN I and POLARIS A-1 models. Progress in the development of the MINUTTEMAN III and of the POSEIDON FBM gave assurance of continued future growth.

The Air Force during the fiscal year completed the activation of three new MINUTTEMAN II squadrons and the retrofitting of two MINUTTEMAN I squadrons with MINUTTEMAN II missiles, thereby modifying and increasing the force from 800 MINUTTEMAN I's and 80 MINUTTEMAN II's to 700 MINUTTEMAN I's and 300 MINUTTEMAN II's. The latter model has an improved second stage engine with greater thrust that provides increased range and payload; it also incorporates a more accurate reentry vehicle and penetration aids for protection against enemy defenses. During the coming year, additional MINUTTEMAN I silo launchers will be reconfigured to fire the MINUTTEMAN II. MINUTTEMAN missiles continued to be supplemented by 54 TITAN II ICBM's with storable liquid fuel deployed in hardened silos. The long range and heavy payload of this weapon give it a special capability against large, unhardened targets. Test firings and operational readiness inspections of TITAN II and MINUTTEMAN missiles during the year confirmed the high reliability of both these weapon systems.

MINUTTEMAN III was being developed for the further enhancement of our deterrent capabilities. This advanced missile is being designed to provide marked improvements in accuracy and penetration over its predecessors. Major milestones in this program during the year included the static test firing of the third stage motor and the award of the contract for a new reentry vehicle, the Mark 17, to be used with the MINUTTEMAN II as well as the MINUTTEMAN III. Other efforts

While conducting major combat operations in Vietnam, the armed forces of the United States remained responsible for countering a wide range of other possible threats, from full-scale strategic nuclear attack to local subversion and insurrection. Discharge of these responsibilities required an increase in active duty military personnel strengths from 3,094,000 to 3,377,000 during the year; the introduction of new weapons, techniques, and tactics; and improvements in the combat readiness of the reserve components. These measures helped to meet the year's challenges and provided a firm foundation for our security in the years to come.

Strategic Forces

Deterrence of nuclear attack on the United States or its allies is the most vital task assigned to the Department of Defense. Accomplishment of this mission depends upon the maintenance of instantly ready strategic offensive forces of sufficient size and strength to inflict unacceptable damage upon an attacker, even after they themselves have absorbed a surprise attack. These forces also need to be supplemented by strategic defenses designed to limit the damage to our society, should deterrence fail. U.S. capabilities for assured destruction and damage limitation have grown appreciably since 1961 when major programs were initiated to increase the survivability of weapons systems, to assure receipt of timely and reliable attack warnings, and to upgrade command and communications channels. With these objectives now achieved, current programs of the Department of Defense stress steady technological improvement in our forces so as to sustain our deterrent capabilities in future years.

Strategic Offensive Forces

Technological advances have greatly altered the composition of the strategic offensive forces during the past 6 years. In mid-1961 our retaliatory striking power consisted primarily of bombers—more than 1,000 medium-range B-47's, over 600 long-range B-52's, and about 40 supersonic medium-range B-58's. Intercontinental ballistic missiles

to improve the accuracy and survivability of warheads for use against defended targets were undertaken as part of the advanced ballistic reentry systems (ABRES) program, through which a variety of flight tests were conducted during the year. The Air Force continued its studies and research for the development of the components to be incorporated in an advanced ICBM.

With the commissioning of the U.S.S. *Will Rogers* on April 1, 1967, the Navy completed its program for the construction of a POLARIS fleet composed of 41 submarines and five tenders. In addition, the Navy continued to upgrade the capability of the force by converting the first five of the submarines equipped with the A-1, 1,200-mile version of the POLARIS FBM to the A-3 with a range of 2,500 miles. The first converted vessel rejoined the fleet last year, three more re-joined during 1967, and the last one is scheduled for completion early in fiscal year 1968. The 41-boat fleet will then include 28 submarines armed with the A-3 and 13 with the 1,500-mile A-2. The Navy also increased the number of submarines deployed on patrols during the year from 27—15 A-3's and 12 A-2's—to 32—25 and 7, respectively. The remaining nine submarines, including the two most recently commissioned, were either in shakedown or overhaul on June 30, 1967.

The decision, announced in January 1967, to proceed with the production and deployment of the POSEIDON missile climaxed a development program for an advanced FBM that was initiated in 1965 and accelerated in 1966. Plans for this new weapon system call for a larger payload of warheads and penetration aids, greater accuracy, and increased flexibility in targeting. Its subsequent deployment should insure the continued effectiveness of POLARIS submarines, 31 of which are to be retrofitted with POSEIDON during the 1970's, while the remaining 10, not structurally adaptable to this large missile, would be armed with an improved version of the POLARIS A-3 that is also currently under development. Engineering development of the POSEIDON and its supporting equipment was proceeding on schedule under incentive-type contracts at the close of fiscal year 1967.

Strategic Aircraft

Retention of a mixed force of strategic missiles and manned bombers has been programmed by the Department of Defense in order to complicate and make more expensive the defensive problems of potential enemies and to maintain flexibility in the retaliatory options available to us. To preserve these advantages, the development of a new bomber and standoff air-to-surface missile continued on schedule. At the same time, however, the achievement of programmed goals for the buildup

of strategic missiles permitted a further adjustment in the size of the manned bomber force to lower levels projected some years ago.

During fiscal year 1967 the Air Force deactivated three squadrons of older model B-52's equipped with AGM-28A HOUND DOG missiles, thus reducing the number of operational strategic bombers by 45. Of the 635 remaining in service, 555 were B-52's and 80 were B-58's. The pre- and post-strike observation capabilities of these forces were enhanced during the year by deliveries of additional supersonic SR-71 long-range strategic reconnaissance aircraft—capable of surveying 60,000 square miles of territory in about an hour—and conversion of some C-135 transports to a reconnaissance configuration. As for the future composition of the bomber force, current plans provided for the gradual phasout of the 80 B-58's, of 300 C through F models of the B-52, and of all AGM-28A HOUND DOG missiles, and for the retention of 255 B-52G's and H's and of AGM-28B HOUND DOGs. The schedule for the deactivation of the older bombers is to be coordinated with the introduction of the new bomber currently under development, the FB-111, a modification of the F-111A tactical fighter.

Compared to the F-111A, the FB-111, as currently planned, will have longer wings, stronger landing gear, a more powerful engine, improved avionics for navigation and delivery of either nuclear or conventional weapons, and in-flight refueling equipment. Its range on a typical nuclear strike mission should exceed not only that of the B-58 but also of the B-52C-F. The aircraft will also carry external fuel tanks and air-to-surface missiles. Development began during the preceding fiscal year, utilizing two F-111A's for testing and evaluation—one for avionics and one for modification as a prototype FB-111. Shortly after the close of fiscal year 1967, this prototype flew its first test flight. Funds to initiate procurement were included in the 1967 budget. For the longer range future, the Air Force continued development of components for incorporation in an advanced manned strategic aircraft (AMSA) to replace B-52G's and H's. Nonflight demonstrator engines were tested during the year and concept formulation for avionics systems progressed satisfactorily.

Scheduled to enter the operational inventory at the same time as the FB-111, the short-range attack missile (SRAM) will provide manned bombers with an advanced air-to-surface capability for attack of heavily defended targets or suppression of enemy defenses without having to fly over them. The overall design was approved in August 1966 and the Air Force awarded a "total package" contract in October for completion of development and initiation of production. Although designed originally for the FB-111, the missile could also be carried by some modified B-52's.