



Weapons Reduction Treaty Provisions

Introduction

Many working in the Confidence and Regional Security Building domain are unaware of the possibility of building on established practices of physical destruction of major weapons systems under effective verification control. Such practices have included amongst others severing and demolition by means of explosive charges or use as target practice.

This document contains extracts on practices of physical destruction from some of the most important treaties on weapons reduction.

Listed in Appendix A are links to the treaties discussed below and others.

CFE Treaty and Destruction Protocol

Tanks, artillery, combat aircraft, and attack helicopters are all included in the CFE Treaty as arms to be destroyed or dismantled. The basic numerical provisions are as follows (there are also provisions for temporary deployment and regional standing forces versus reserve forces):

“Each State Party shall limit and, as necessary, reduce its battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, artillery, combat aircraft and attack helicopters so that, 40 months after entry into force of this Treaty and thereafter, for the group of States Parties to which it belongs, as defined in Article II, the aggregate numbers do not exceed:

(A) 20,000 battle tanks, of which no more than 16,500 shall be in active units;

(B) 30,000 armoured combat vehicles, of which no more than 27,300 shall be in active units. Of the 30,000 armoured combat vehicles, no more than 18,000 shall be armoured infantry fighting vehicles and heavy armament combat vehicles; of armoured infantry fighting vehicles and heavy armament combat vehicles, no more than 1,500 shall be heavy armament combat vehicles;

(C) 20,000 pieces of artillery, of which no more than 17,000 shall be in active units;

(D) 6,800 combat aircraft; and

(E) 2,000 attack helicopters.

Protocol on Procedures Governing the Reduction of Conventional Armaments and Equipment

The treaty's protocol on how to reduce current arms stockpiles gives nations a wide range of options for destruction or conversion of their weaponry. Within each type of weapon or military vehicle, signatory states have the option of destruction by severing and demolition, among other techniques depending on the specific item. The protocol also allows for installation or use as target practice as other ways to dismantle the arms – directions for which are also explicitly stated.

Example: Destruction of battle tanks by severing --

“(A) removal of special equipment from the chassis, including detachable equipment, that ensures the operation of onboard armament systems; (B) removal of the turret, if any; (C) for the gun breech system, either: (1) welding the breech block to the breech ring in at least two places; or (2) cutting of at least one side of the breech ring along the long axis of the cavity that receives the breech block; (D) severing of the gun tube into two parts at a distance of no more than 100 millimetres from the breech ring; (E) severing of either of the gun trunnions and its trunnion mount in the turret; (F) severing of two sections from the perimeter of the hull turret aperture, each constituting a portion of a sector with an angle of no less than 60 degrees and, at a minimum, 200 millimetres in radial axis, centred on the longitudinal axis of the vehicle; and (G) severing of sections from both sides of the hull which include the final drive apertures, by vertical and horizontal cuts in the side plates and diagonal cuts in the deck or belly plates and front or rear plates, so that, the final drive apertures are contained in the severed portions.”

Example: Destruction of Armoured Vehicles by demolition –

(A) an explosive charge shall be placed on the interior floor at the mid-point of the vehicle; (B) a second explosive charge shall be placed as follows: (1) for heavy armament combat vehicles, inside the gun where the trunnions connect to the gun mount or cradle; (2) for armoured infantry fighting vehicles, on the exterior of the receiver/breech area and lower barrel group; (C) all hatches shall be secured; and (D) the charges shall be detonated simultaneously so as to split the sides and top of the hull. For heavy armament combat vehicles and armoured infantry fighting vehicles, damage to the gun system shall be equivalent to that specified in paragraph 2, subparagraph (D) of this Section.

INF Treaty

The INF Treaty covers the destruction of intermediate-range missiles and launchers and all supporting structures and equipment, the details of which are outlined in an accompanying annex protocol.

“These reductions shall be implemented in two phases so that:”

(a) by the end of the first phase, that is, no later than 29 months after entry into force of this Treaty:

(i) the number of deployed launchers of intermediate-range missiles for each Party shall not exceed the number of launchers that are capable of carrying or containing at one time missiles considered by the

Parties to carry 171 warheads;(ii) the number of deployed intermediate-range missiles for each Party shall not exceed the number of such missiles considered by the Parties to carry 180 warheads;(iii) the aggregate number of deployed and non-deployed launchers of intermediate-range missiles for each Party shall not exceed the number of launchers that are capable of carrying or containing at one time missiles considered by the Parties to carry 200 warheads;(iv) the aggregate number of deployed and non-deployed intermediate-range missiles for each Party shall not exceed the number of such missiles considered by the Parties to carry 200 warheads; and (v) the ratio of the aggregate number of deployed and non-deployed intermediate-range GLBMs of existing types for each Party to the aggregate number of deployed and non-deployed intermediate-range missiles of existing types possessed by that Party shall not exceed the ratio of such intermediate-range GLBMs to such intermediate-range missiles for that Party as of November 1, 1987, as set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding; and

“No later than three years after entry into force of this Treaty, all intermediate-range missiles of each Party, launchers of such missiles and all support structures and support equipment of the categories listed in the Memorandum of Understanding associated with such missiles and launchers, shall be eliminated.”

Missile Elimination Protocol

The INF's elimination protocol provides detailed instruction for a wide range of missiles, taking into account the destruction of the missiles themselves, launchers, and other accompanying components.

Example: Destruction of the Pershing II missile and launcher:

Missile:

“(a) Missile stages shall be eliminated by explosive demolition or burning; (b) solid fuel, rocket nozzles and motor cases not destroyed in this process shall be burned, crushed, flattened or destroyed by explosion; and (c) front section, minus nuclear warhead device and guidance elements, shall be crushed or flattened.

Launcher:

“(a) erector-launcher mechanism shall be removed from launcher chassis; (b) all components of erector-launcher mechanism shall be cut at locations that are not assembly joints into two pieces of approximately equal size;(c) missile launch support equipment, including external instrumentation compartments, shall be removed from launcher chassis; and(d) launcher chassis shall be cut at a location that is not an assembly joint into two pieces of approximately equal size.”

START Treaty

“Each Party shall reduce and limit its ICBMs and ICBM launchers, SLBMs and SLBM launchers, heavy bombers, ICBM warheads, SLBM warheads, and heavy bomber nuclear armaments, so that seven years after entry into force of this Treaty and thereafter, the aggregate numbers, as counted in accordance with Article I11 of this Treaty, do not exceed:”

(a) 700, for deployed ICBMs, deployed SLBMs, and deployed heavy bombers; (b) 1550, for warheads on deployed ICBMs, warheads on deployed SLBMs, and nuclear warheads counted for deployed heavy bombers; (c) 800, for deployed and non-deployed ICBM launchers, deployed and non-deployed SLBM launchers, and deployed and non-deployed heavy bombers.

Protocol on Procedures Governing Conversion or Elimination

The protocol which accompanies the START Treaty to govern conversion or elimination of arms covers the destruction of ICBMs and their accompanying equipment, Silo launchers and their accompanying components, mobile launchers, SLBM launchers, soft-site launchers, and heavy bombers.

Example: Elimination of Heavy Bombers and Elimination of Former Heavy Bombers --

(a) The tail section with tail surfaces shall be severed from the fuselage at a location obviously not an assembly joint; (b) The wings shall be separated from the fuselage at any location by any method; and (c) The remainder of the fuselage shall be severed into two pieces, within the area of attachment of the wings to the fuselage, at a location obviously not an assembly joint.

***These excerpts have been chosen to highlight specifically destruction methods of both conventional and nuclear arms as the matter is addressed in official treaty documents. Each of these documents also contains components for conversion of these same arms as well as the subsequent verification methods that can be used by other signatory nations to ensure destruction and/or conversion has been completed in accordance to treaty guidelines. For the sake of efficiency and space, these clauses are omitted from the above summary.*

Appendix A

Treaty Links

- i. Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
<http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/NPT.shtml>

- ii. 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
<http://www.un.org/en/conf/npt/2010>

- iii. Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty)
http://www.nti.org/e_research/official_docs/inventory/pdfs/cfe.pdf

- iv. Treaty on Open Skies
<http://www.osce.org/library/14127>

- v. Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I)
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/140035.pdf>

- vi. New START (START II)
<http://www.state.gov/www/global/arms/starthtm/start/start1.html>

- vii. Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty
<http://www.state.gov/www/global/arms/treaties/inf2.html>

- viii. Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
<http://www.state.gov/t/avc/trty/16411.htm>