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*Title:* Los Alamos: A National Security Science Laboratory  
Providing a Safe Secure and Effective Deterrent

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A credible nuclear deterrent requires a clearly articulated policy that can be sustained over many Congresses and Administrations.



# Los Alamos: A National Security Science Laboratory Providing a Safe Secure and Effective Deterrent

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EST. 1943  
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# A credible nuclear deterrent requires

- Clearly articulated policy that can be sustained over many Congresses and Administrations
- Forces in being – missiles, subs, planes, warheads & bombs
- Robust scientific and engineering complex
- Capable and responsive manufacturing complex
- Demonstrated operational capability
- Political will to deploy and ultimately use force, if necessary





# World events shape U.S. national security policy and force composition

- 1945 Los Alamos tests the Trinity device (implosion)
- 1945 Los Alamos – designed Little Boy (gun) and Fat Man (implosion) bombs detonated over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan
- 1949 Soviet Union conducts first nuclear test
- 1952 Los Alamos tests the MIKE device – 1<sup>st</sup> full scale thermonuclear device in Pacific; yield of 10.4 MT
- 1952 UK conducts first nuclear test
- 1960 France conducts first nuclear test
- 1962 Cuban Missile crisis
- 1964 China conducts first nuclear test
- 1968 NPT signed
- 1971 SALT I signed
- 1974 TTBT signed
- 1974 India conducts first nuclear test
- 1979 SALT II signed
- 1987 INF Treaty signed
- 1992 Soviet Union dissolves
- 1998 Pakistan conducts first nuclear test
- 2001 WTC and Pentagon attacked by Al Qaida
- 2006 North Korea conducts first nuclear test



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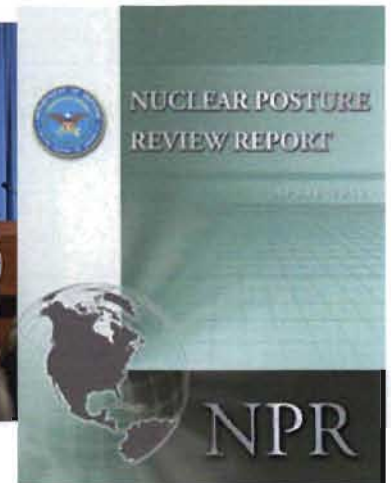
# Multi-polar realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century demand innovative approaches for U.S. national security

- Deterrence of near-peer competitors
- Nuclear proliferation
- WMD terrorism
- Assuring allies in the face of regional pressures
- Attribution of any WMD use
- Climate change and the environment
- Budget deficits and economic uncertainties



# A consensus on nuclear deterrence policy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century appears to be developing

- **Safe, secure, and effective stockpile with the ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons requires:**
  - Prudent management of the stockpile and LEP activities
  - Repair the nuclear infrastructure
  - Recruit and retain a workforce
- **The NPR supports 5 Presidential objectives**
  - Prevent nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism
  - Reduce the role of nuclear weapons
  - Maintain strategic deterrence and stability at reduced levels
  - Strengthen regional deterrence and reassurance
  - Sustain a safe, secure and effective arsenal



President Barack Obama signs the instrument of ratification of the New START Treaty in the Oval Office, Feb. 2, 2011



# Policy decisions drive Laboratory planning and actions



Experiments



Actinide sciences



Computations and simulations

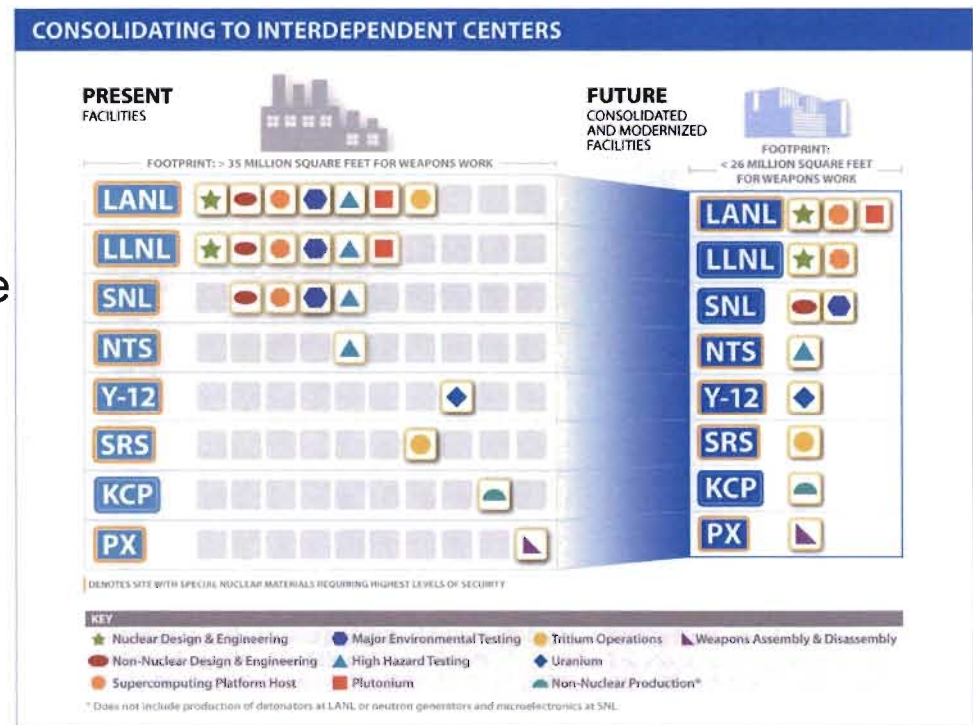
...as long as these weapons exist, the United States will maintain a safe, secure and effective arsenal to deter any adversary, and guarantee that defense to our allies..."

"...science holds the key to our survival as a planet and our security and prosperity as a Nation."



# LANL is managing weapons responsibilities while transforming the stockpile and the nuclear enterprise

- Reduce size of nuclear arsenal – and contribute to nonproliferation
- Ensure weapons are safe, secure, and effective
- No nuclear testing
- No new military capabilities
- No new production of fissile material for weapons
- Consolidated centers of excellence
- Recapitalize the infrastructure
- Train the next generation of scientists & engineers



# Weapons responsibilities require extraordinary intuition based on encyclopedic knowledge

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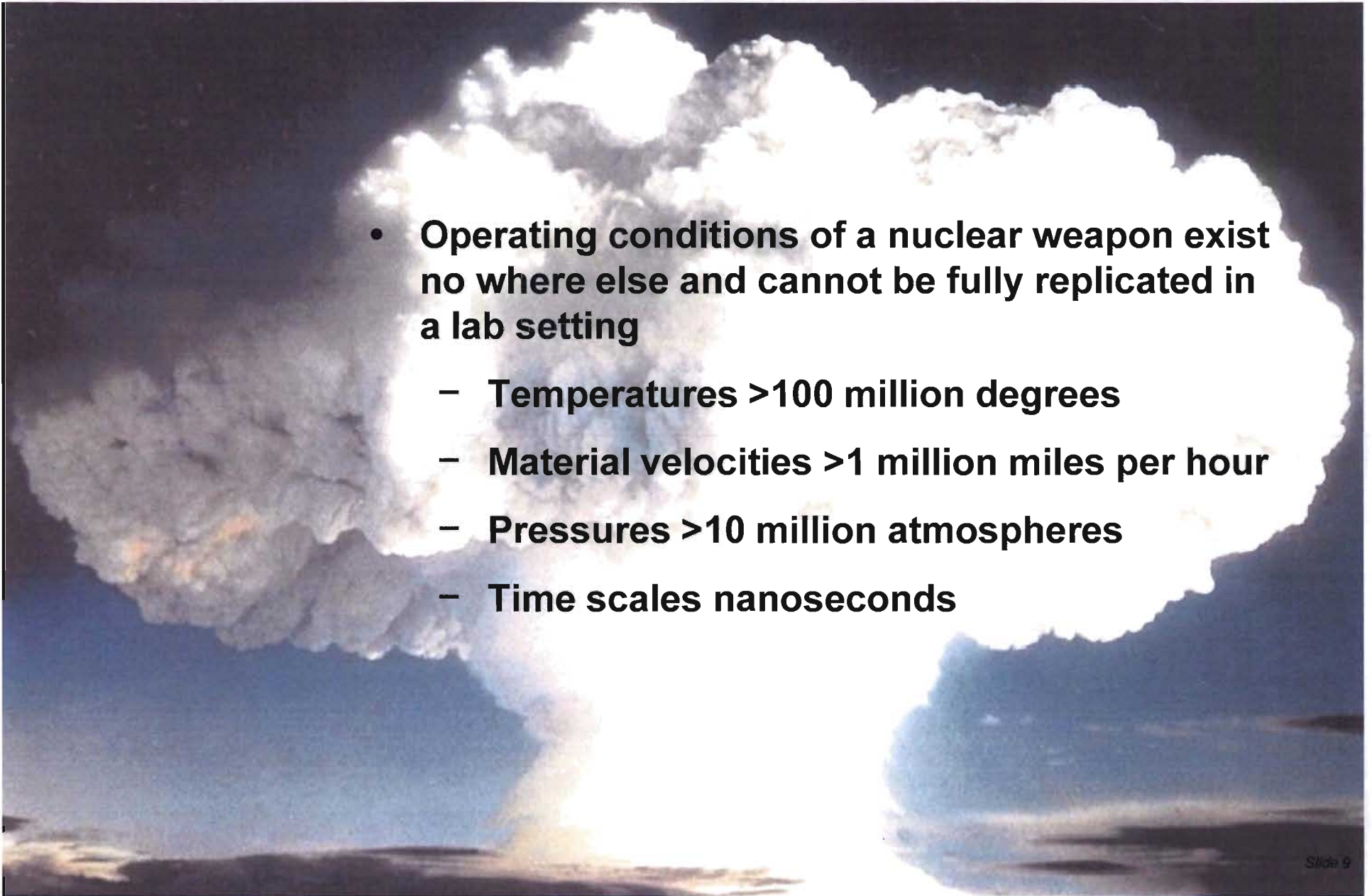


- For mission success, we need:
  - To know the stockpile intimately (aging and evolution)
  - Robust science, engineering, and manufacturing
    - Accurate, fast, usable, reliable simulations of warheads
    - Experimental data that validate models and discover new weapons science
  - A skilled, focused, and motivated workforce
  - Facilities and infrastructure
    - That are operational and efficient
    - Supporting infrastructure and services that are responsive and cost effective



# Meeting nuclear deterrent responsibilities is technically challenging because:

- Operating conditions of a nuclear weapon exist no where else and cannot be fully replicated in a lab setting
  - Temperatures  $>100$  million degrees
  - Material velocities  $>1$  million miles per hour
  - Pressures  $>10$  million atmospheres
  - Time scales nanoseconds





# Scientists at Los Alamos developed two paths to the atomic bomb

- **Uranium-235 (produced by enrichment)**

- Uranium ore (0.7% U-235, the fissile isotope, the rest is U-238)
- Enrich uranium in U-235, typically > 90% (HEU)
  - Gas centrifuge
- A few tens of kg required for a hypothetical bomb

Hiroshima – Aug. 6, 1945

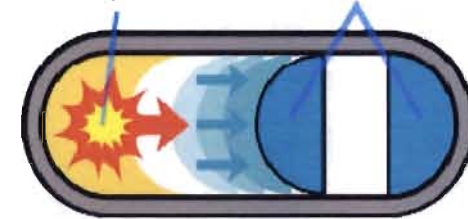
- **Plutonium-239 (produced in reactors)**

- Uranium ore to fuel rods or reactor targets
- Irradiate U-238 in reactor to make Pu-239
- Separate (extract) Pu-239 from spent fuel
- Pu-239 metal, typically >93% Pu-239 for bombs
- Reactor-grade Pu (> 19% Pu-240) can be used for bombs, but is less desirable

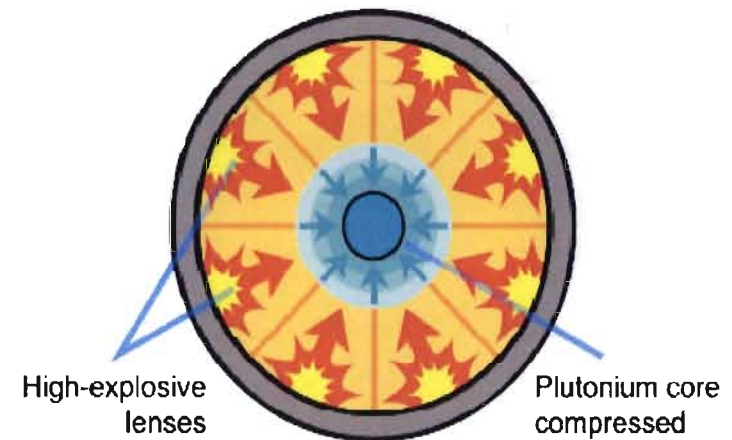
Trinity – July 16, 1945

Nagasaki – Aug. 9, 1945

Conventional chemical explosive      Sub-critical pieces of uranium-235 combined



**Gun-type assembly method**



**Implosion assembly method**

# LANL's three part weapons program strategy sustains the Nation's deterrent without underground testing

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- Stockpile management
  - B61 Life Extension Program (LEP)
  - Support to plants on W76 LEP
  - Complete build of W88 pits begin work on W87 pits
- Science, technology and engineering investments
  - Use science tools to generate data to support assessment
- Infrastructure investments
  - Create modern, state of the art facilities to sustain laboratory capabilities
  - Hire and train next generation



# LANL is the design laboratory for warheads in all legs of the of the Nation's triad

- LANL is the design laboratory for:
  - W76 SLBM
  - W88 SLBM
  - B61 Gravity bomb
  - W78 ICBM
- Each Triad leg offers complimentary and reinforcing benefits





# Annual Assessment of the stockpile is a statutory requirement and the highest priority of the Lab Director

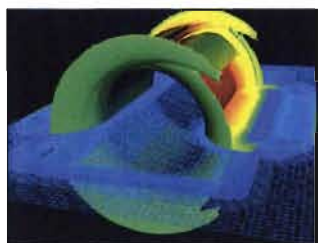
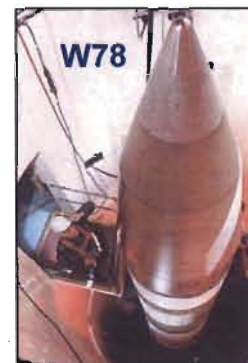
- Detailed reports are prepared by lab staff on each warhead
- Lab Director briefed in detail by staff
- Lab Director issues letter to Secretaries of Defense & Energy and Chair of the NWC
- Lab Director briefs the Secretary of Energy
- STRATCOM prepares separate report and briefs the Secretary of Defense
- Secretaries of Defense & Energy brief the President
- President advises Congress



# Excellence in managing the stockpile is even more important as its size and composition are reduced



- Nuclear weapons design will remain strong capability for the lab
  - Annual assessments of the stockpile
  - Accurate baselines of all warheads for certification and assessments
  - We must take action to extend the lives of systems



Large-Scale Simulation

- Simulation will remain the principal means to certify and assess warheads, and experiments will validate and discover new physics
- Plutonium, high explosives, other weapons materials will become increasingly understood

# Supercomputing is essential to stewarding the stockpile and other scientific missions

- Stockpile challenges are increasingly complex as systems continue to age
- Experimental tools are providing large data sets to resolve stockpile challenges
- Data sets require ever more capable machines that can quickly process information
- Road Runner world's first machine to operate at 1.105 Petaflops



Cielo – 2nd LANL computer in top 10



# Our computing future is at exascale

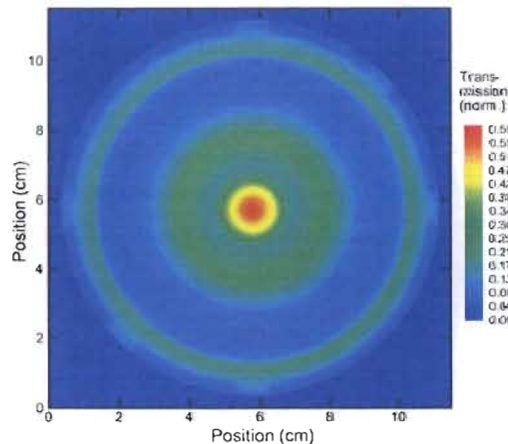
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- Codes accurately simulate behavior and performance of warheads across the Stockpile to Target Sequence
  - We are moving from “fitting” to physics - predictions
  - We see phenomena in simulations that we knew was there but couldn’t previously resolve
- Weapons Science calculations will require exascale to explore and understand key physics and define appropriate sub-grid models for:
  - Material Science
  - Thermonuclear Burn
  - Turbulent Hydrodynamics
  - Uncertainty quantification
- Confirmatory calculations with full physics and refined resolution will be required at exascale to establish confidence in sub-grid model



# Experimental data provide “ground truth” for our models and uncover important new physics

DARHT Radiograph of FTO



pRad Cu:  $A_0=55\mu\text{m}$  pRad Cu:  $A_0=35\mu\text{m}$



- Large-scale experiments will elucidate implosion dynamics and test integrated physics models
  - ↑ DARHT and NTS will be supported and return high data rates
- Small-scale experiments will provide fundamental data (EOS, damage, strength, detonation, etc) for weapons materials and surrogates to feed theory and modeling
  - ↑ Weapons Program will support pRad, WNR, Lujan at LANSCE, which will provide needed data
  - ↑ Weapons Program will adequately support selected small-scale science facilities and future large-scale science tools such as MaRIE

# DARHT provides experimental data on the health of the deterrent

- World class X-ray radiography for hydrodynamic tests to gather data to support stockpile
- Axis 1 single image, operational since 1999
- Axis 2 up to four images
- World's first dual axis experiment successfully executed December 2009
- Experiments fully contained to reduce environmental impacts and increase shot rate





# Our plutonium strategy will ensure we lead this important science for the nation

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- Reinvigorate Pu science and engineering
- Pu science as a sustainable and desirable field of study
- Success and priority for actinide science
- Manufacturing and actinide R&D share a symbiotic relationship at TA-55
- Certification of new pit types conducted in reasonable time frame ( $\leq 5$  years)
- Provide intellectually stimulating work while sustaining core capabilities
- Reduce operational difficulties of working with Plutonium

# LANL experimental infrastructure is supported to ensure robust operations and high weapons science data output

- DARHT
  - Adequate RTBF, equipment, skilled workforce
- HE firing sites / HE chemistry, formulation
  - Adequate RTBF, equipment, skilled workforce
  - EMCF with interim investments in TA-9-21
- LANSCE: pRad, WNR, Lujan
  - Adequate RTBF, equipment, skilled workforce
  - LANSCE-R supported by Weapons Program
- MaRIE
  - Partnership between DP and Ofc of Science
  - Advance construction project



DARHT



Chamber 8 10kg firing vessel



LANSCE

# LANL is implementing transformation plans: consolidation, modernization, D&D

- Nuclear Facilities Consolidation by end of next decade, given adequate budget
  - CMRR
  - RLWTF
  - TA-55 Re-investment
  - TRU waste
- Non-nuclear facility consolidation
  - Contained Firing
  - EMCF
- Construction integration/support requirements
- FIRP, and hopefully its follow-on, will address deferred maintenance and D&D





# Maintaining CMRR project momentum is critical to ensure project success

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- Currently working with NNSA to identify and implement significant project cost saving opportunities
- Phased approach to construction
  - Infrastructure Package (Site work and lay-down areas) to initiate in FY12
  - Nuclear Facility Structure and Major Equipment items to initiate in FY13
- Continued partnership with UPF in project execution and risk mitigation
- Stable funding required through the FYNSP Period





# Weapons capabilities will be needed to address external threats and to maintain technological advantage



- Key adversaries are:
  - Modernizing their stockpile
  - Training new cadre of nuclear weapons workers
  - Re-capitalizing their nuclear weapons enterprise
  - Maintaining their nuclear test readiness
- DPRK and Iran increasing their capabilities in nuclear weapons
- India and Pakistan eyeing each other suspiciously
- Non-state actors trying to acquire nuclear weapons or build improvised nuclear devices

# LANL's HE science capabilities are being applied to the IED problem

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- LANL's HE expertise in the areas of:
  - Homemade explosives - **explosives chemists**
  - Improvised explosive devices - **using HMEs in IED's or EFP's**
  - Small scale testing - **safety and sensitivity**
  - Detection - **properly identifying HMEs**
  - HME database - **information tool for our troops**



# Realistic training scenarios reinforce class room knowledge to troops

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# Stockpile Stewardship is the core mission of Los Alamos and builds on decades of scientific excellence

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- Lab's tools also address other national priorities
- Technologies to reduce national security threats
- Solutions to challenges of energy security



December 2009 Meeting with the Vice President



**"A vibrant science, technology and engineering enterprise is essential to supporting the stewardship program and provides a powerful resource for issues such as nonproliferation, counter-terrorism and intelligence assessment."**  
DIR Anastasio 7/15/10 SASC



# Los Alamos had a great year! Continue to partner across the complex to execute the Weapons Program

## Key accomplishments

- Conducted 4 DARHT 2-axis experiments
- Delivered 2 key diagnostics (Gamma Reaction History, neutron imaging) to NIF
- Conducted Bacchus, Barolo A&B, and Z pinch
- Cielo delivering on applications from all 3 labs at 9X performance improvement
- Achieved Roadrunner success on weapons issues
- Completed B61LEP 90 day study
- Initiated B61 Phase 6.2/6.2a
- Completed 28 of 29 W88 pit builds
- Advise & support plants to sustain W76-1 builds
- Align CMRR requirements with risk, cost
- Delivered Q1 surveillance results
- Completed 15<sup>th</sup> annual assessment
- Identified \$20M RTBF funds for LANSCE LINAC Risk Reduction (FY12+)
- Selective hiring underway





## Challenges for the future

- Sustaining bipartisan consensus nuclear policy
- Squeeze on science
- Recapitalization of the infrastructure and maintaining the people pipeline

# Backups

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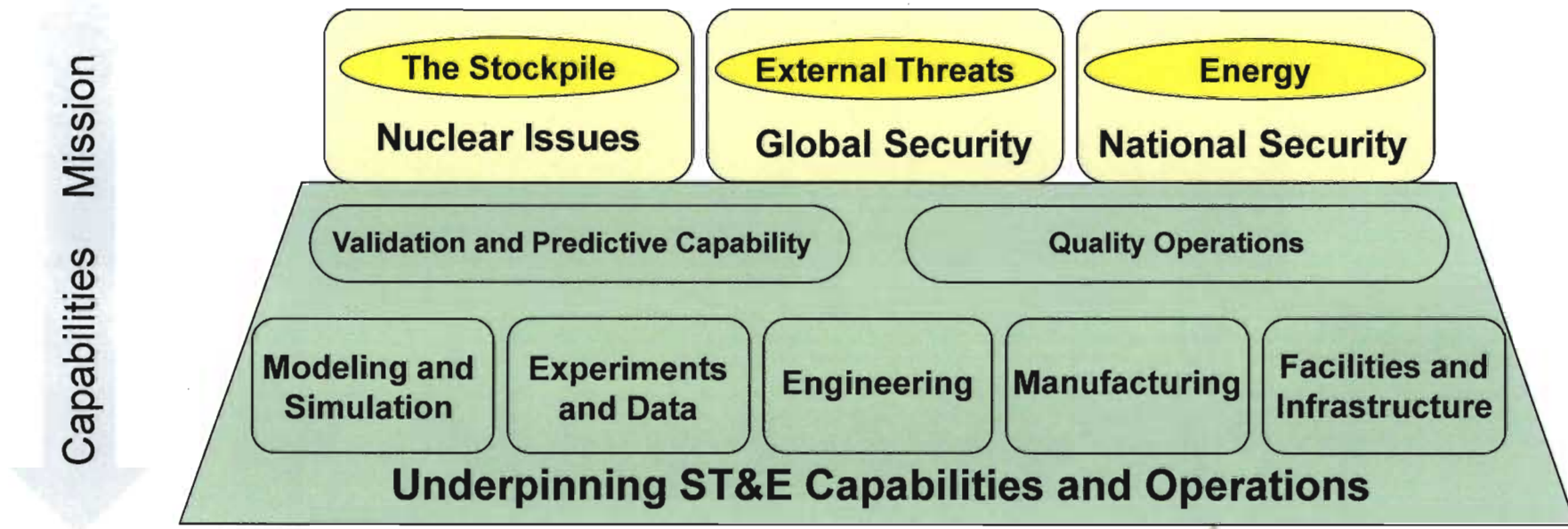
# Los Alamos has contributed to the Nation's deterrent posture for more than 65 years

- 1943 Los Alamos established as part of the Manhattan project
- 1945 Trinity device (implosion) tested in New Mexico
- 1945 Little Boy (gun) and Fat Man (implosion) detonated over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan
- 1952 MIKE test—1<sup>st</sup> full scale thermonuclear device tested in Pacific yield of 10.4 MT
- 1989 LANSCE proton radiography facility dedicated
- 1989 U.S. halts the design and manufacture of nuclear weapons
- 1992 U.S. conducts last underground nuclear weapons test
- 1994 Stockpile Stewardship Program established to ensure the safety, security and reliability of the stockpile w/o UGT
- 1998 New supercomputer (Blue Mtn @ 3 teraOPS) operational
- 1999 DARHT experimental machine phase 1 operational
- 2002 New supercomputer (Q machine@ 30 teraOPS) operational
- 2007 1<sup>st</sup> LANL manufactured pit delivered
- 2008 Road Runner world's 1<sup>st</sup> supercomputer to achieve 1 petaFlop operations
- 2009 Full DARHT capability online





# We will meet our national security responsibilities with world class science, workforce, and facilities



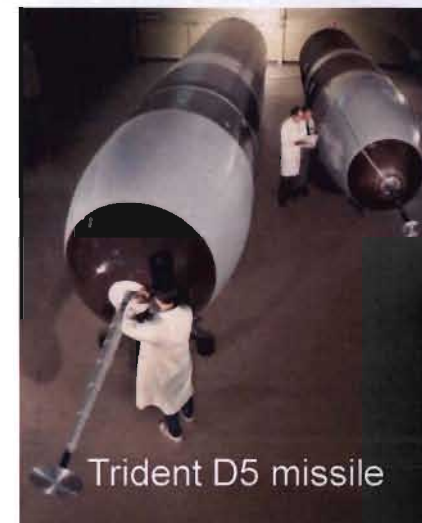
*"As long as these weapons exist, the United States will maintain a safe, secure, and effective arsenal to deter any adversary, and guarantee that defense to our allies..."*

*President Barack Obama, Prague, April 5, 2009*

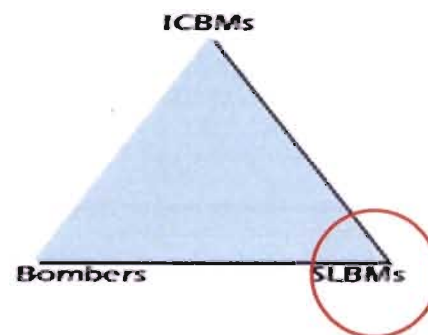
# Sea leg of the TRIAD offers greatest survivability

## SLBMs

- W76 (LEP underway) W88
- Highly compact for submarine deployment
- Highly optimized yield/weight to extend range
- Kings Bay, Georgia
- Bangor, Washington



Nuclear Triad



# ICBM leg provides prompt, highly accurate response



W78/Mk12a RVs on a "bus"

## ICBM

W78 LEP underway  
W87 LEP complete

Ease of maintenance at remote sites

surety, compact delivery systems, robust performance

Optimized yield/weight

MIRVed - multiple reentry vehicles/missile



Minuteman III



W87/Mk21 RVs



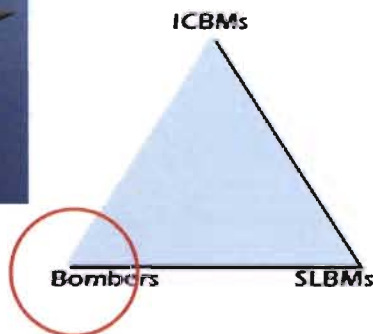
# Air Carried systems provide time for decision makers



## Gravity Weapons

- B61 Gravity Bomb LEP underway
- B83 Gravity Bomb

enhanced surety features  
extended STS environment  
compatibility  
IHE, PALs





# Scientific and engineering capabilities of LANL are being applied to counter proliferation activities

- **Nuclear monitoring** nuclear monitoring and physical security systems are being developed to reduce the threat of global nuclear proliferation
- **IAEA inspectors: trained every IAEA inspector since 1980**



# LANL's science and engineering infrastructure a critical component of U.S. deterrent



**Metropolis Center for Modeling & Simulation**



**High Explosive laboratories**



**Los Alamos Neutron Science Center**



**Plutonium Processing Facility**



**Chemistry and Metallurgy Building**



**Dual Axis Radiographic Hydrotest Facility**



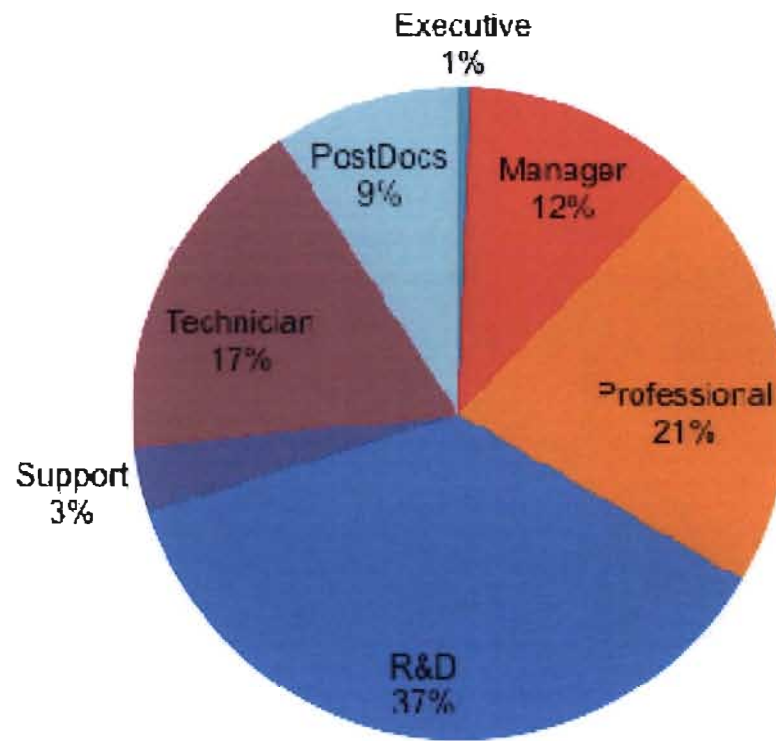
**SIGMA Building**



**Chemistry & Metallurgy Research Replacement (RLUOB)**



# Prudent management of new hire process has allowed weapons program to add technical staff



## •Staffing increases in PADWP 1/10 to 2/11

- Professional + 25;
- R&D +27;
- Students/PostDoc +14;
- Technicians +7

**PADWP Workforce breakout 1434 employees on board as of 2/11**

**86 new hires approved by DIR for weapons and plutonium ADs in 2011**