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Continued from Page 1

military production to civil uses.

This is one way they can do it.

They no longer need the weapon-

ry, and can match what the U.S.

sue of long-range nuclear weapons is not as clear-cut.

"The Soviets are much more leery in this area," he said. "Most

of their nuclear forces are in

ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic

missiles), while most of ours are launched from submarines."

however, will not affect U.S. de-

this will have no real effect on the

U.S. military," he said. "Those

weapons were only a last resort if

Warsaw Pact forces were overrunning our own. Now that the

threat, and the Warsaw Pact, is

gone, there is nothing left that

could cause us to use a tactical nu-

alliance of Eastern European

countries, officially dissolved ear-

The Warsaw Pact, a military

The plan also includes elimina-

fense plans in Europe.

clear weapon."

lier this year.

Keuter said the eliminations,

"As far as tactical weapons go

Keuter said, however, the is-

U.S. nuclear arsenal remains adequate, Defense Secretary says Cheney reiterates nation's security

WASHINGTON (AP) America's most powerful and modern weapons will still be ready, in missile silos on land and

aboard nuclear submarines prowling the oceans, even after the cutbacks President Bush is ordering in the nation's arsenal.

"The world has changed, but insurance is still a good idea," Defense Secre-

tary Dick Cheney said over the weekend. "Under this plan, we believe we will

have enough."
And "enough" means some 2,000 nuclear warheads ready to be hurled aloft by 550 intercontinental nuclear missiles, as well as the more than 5,000 nuclear warheads that could be launched from the Navy's 24 ballistic missile submarines

The core of the nation's nuclear defense remains a mighty one, particularly until the Soviets say

they are willing to agree to further cuts in the most deadly weapons. structive power of the 2,000 most modern nuclear warheads.

Even though Bush ordered startling cuts in the nation's arsenal of nuclear weaponry, much remains untouched by his initiative.

In his Friday speech, the president moved to sharply reduce the number of nuclear arms used at sea and on the battlefield, known as tactical nuclear weapons.

He also took off hair-trigger alert status the front line of the nation's nuclear bomber forces, as well as the oldest sector of its intercontinental ballistic missiles, the Minuteman IIs.

"We are doing nothing that would put the nation at risk," Gen. Colin Powell said.

Bush ordered the 450 singlewarhead Minuteman II missiles off alert and accelerated moves that will mean their eventual elim-

That still leaves the nation defended by 50 MX missiles, with 10 warheads each, and 500 triplewarhead Minuteman III missiles in their silos. That means that a force now armed with 2,450 nuclear warheads will retain the de-

And there is no change in the alert status of the MXs or the Minuteman IIIs, Air Force officials

Even though Bush ordered the 280 premier long-range bombers, and their tankers, off their alert

☐ Soviet response to U.S. unilateral nuclear weapons cuts/Page 1

status, all the B-52s and the B-1Bs will be maintained.

Their nuclear bombs and nuclear cruise missiles will also be kept in storage, but could be reloaded in the bombers within a day's time, officials said.

And the Pentagon will retain its smaller bombers, capable of delivering either nuclear or conventional bombs, at their bases over-

Bush's proposal does not affect sea-based ballistic missile systems. The world's oceans and strategic sea lanes will still be patrolled by the Navy's 24 nuclear subtion of alert status from several Strategic Arms Command bases,

Expert analyzes U.S. military position

Keuter said. "For the Air Force this is a dream come true," he said.

'Crews that were on seven day alert, kept away from their families, have been removed from alert

Keuter said 40 B-52s, from an arsenal of about 280, will be removed from alert status.

"These planes will have their weapons downloaded," he said. "They will then be returned to regular duty, and put on a normal flight cycle.

Keuter said, however, that planes off alert status could still be used for nuclear strikes.

"The planes can be loaded back up in 12 to 24 hours," he said. "We lose some of our fast reaction capability, but there is no longer the same threat of an imminent attack. Tensions have eased

In addition to the B-52s, Keuter said 450 long-range Minuteman ICBMs have also been taken off alert status. He said the missiles were to be eliminated with the ratification of the START treaty soon, and the move is only a jump-start

on that program.
About 550 missiles, including Minuteman IIIs, will not be affected by the action and remain on

The SHRAM II, a short range nuclear missile presently under development would also be cut by

the plan, Keuter said.
"The elimination of the SHRAM II comes as a surprise," he said. "Although the program was a year behind schedule, the missile had not even been tested. The SHRAM A has already been taken off of alert due to technical problems.

While the cutbacks are a major step, other nations with nuclear capabilities need to join in the effort, Keuter said.

"The cuts are drastic for military planners," he said. "We will be cleaning out all of Europe, but what we really need is to get nations like Britain, France and China to make the same types of cuts. Maybe they will play the same

While other nations joining the bandwagon may not have been the main goal of Bush's proposal, Keuter says it is a sidelight he is looking for.

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