In compliance with the current concept of operations (CONOPS) of nuclear SLCMs, they are maintained for 30-day readiness for deployment on submarines and are concentrated at coastal strategic nuclear weapons storage facilities in Bangor, Washington and King's Bay, Georgia.[115]

The current plans envision using as carriers of nuclear SLCMs only a small part of the 54 US attack submarines that were in the active force at the beginning of 2004. The submarines intended for nuclear missions undergo annual certification. By mid-2002 the US Navy totaled 14 attack submarines of this type.[116] Open sources also reported that less than half of the nuclear submarines in the US Pacific fleet have been certified for nuclear missions, and later nuclear missions were withdrawn from some of them because of a shortage of resources for conventional missions.[117] Attack nuclear submarines underwent training in nuclear missions during the Global Guardian annual joint exercises conducted by the US Strategic Command.[118]

Though the lifetime of TLAM/N will come to an end by 2010, there are no plans yet for extension, modernization or replacement of these missiles.[119] According to published data, the lifetime of the W80-0 nuclear warhead expires in 2008.[120] However, it is possible that the decision, in 2006-2010, about the future reassembly of about one third of the existing arsenal of W80 warheads[121] will include both air-based and sea-based cruise missiles.[122] Refurbishment of the remaining W80 warheads is planned for 2011-2017.[123]

3.4. The Status of Dual-Capable Aircraft

The nuclear arms of non-strategic US aircraft include B61-3, -4 and -10 bombs, the yield of which can vary from 0.3 to 170 kt, depending on the mission. The total number of these bombs in the active nuclear arsenal of the United States is estimated at 800, with about 500-600 bombs in reserve.[124] Most of them are concentrated at the Kirtland (New Mexico) and Nellis (Nevada) air bases. In addition, non-strategic nuclear bombs are kept at air bases in Seymour-Johnson (Northern Carolina), Cannon (New Mexico), and on the territories of six European countries who are US NATO allies (see Section

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[115] "NRDC Nuclear Notebook: U.S. Nuclear Forces, 2002", *The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, May – June 2002, pp.70-75.

[116] Michele A. Flournoy, Clark A. Murdock, *Revitalizing the U.S. Nuclear Deterrent*, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2002, p.96.

[117] "NRDC Nuclear Notebook: U.S. Nuclear Forces, 2003", *The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, May – June, Vol.59, 2003, pp.73-76.

[118] "NRDC Nuclear Notebook: U.S. Nuclear Forces, 2002", *The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, May – June, Vol. 58, 2002, pp.70-75.

[119] Michele A. Flournoy, Clark A. Murdock, *Ibid.*

[120] *Ibid.*

[121] *Statement of John A Gordon, National Nuclear Security Administration, Before The House Armed Services Committee Procurement Subcommittee*, June 12, 2002.

[122] Nuclear strategic air-launched cruise missiles ALCM and ACM carry W80-1 warheads, the characteristics of which are similar to W80-0 warheads.

[123] *Statement of John A Gordon, National Nuclear Security Administration, Before The House Armed Services Committee Procurement Subcommittee*, June 12, 2002.

[124] It is interesting that the same authors give different numbers of non-strategic B61 nuclear bombs in the US reserve arsenal. In particular, according to annual reviews of the US nuclear forces in 2002 and 2003 ("NRDC Nuclear Notebook: U.S. Nuclear Forces, 2003," *The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, May-June, Vol.59, 2003, pp.73-76; "NRDC Nuclear Notebook: U.S. Nuclear Forces, 2002," *The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, May-June 2002, pp.70-75) the number of reserve warheads was estimated as 500. According to a publication of early 2003 ("NRDC Nuclear Notebook: The B61 family of bombs," *The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, January/February 2003, Vol. 59, No.1, pp. 74–76), the number of reserve bombs B61 is 600.