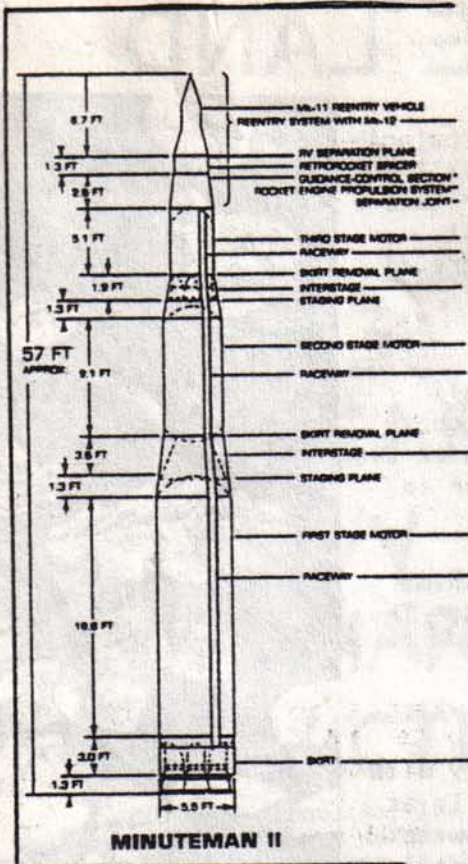


THE MINUTEMAN MISSILE



United States nuclear weapons are delivered by three principal means: land-based, sea-based, and bombers. The Intercontinental land-based missile force currently consists of 1000 Minuteman missiles (450 Minuteman II and 550 Minuteman III) armed with 2100 warheads, and 10 MX missiles armed with 100 warheads. This force is deployed in hardened underground launching sites, ~~with 350~~ ^{150 MINUTEMAN II'S SURROUND} Presently in place at Whiteman Air Force Base, Knob Noster, Missouri.

"Fifty seven feet long and weighing approximately 73,000 pounds, the Minuteman II travels at a speed of 15,000 m.p.h. with a range of 7000 miles. It carries the W56 (Mark 11) thermonuclear warhead with a yield of 1.2 megatons, which is equivalent to 1 million 200 thousand tons or 2 billion 400 million pounds of TNT.

What do these dry facts mean in human terms? We can know only by comparing the potential of this weapon to the bomb actually dropped on Hiroshima. The Hiroshima bomb killed 305,000 people; 155,521 immediate civilian fatalities, the remainder within a few years of their bomb injuries. Thousands more suffered genetic damage and die, to this very day, of radiation-induced cancers. The Hiroshima bomb, which reduced to rubble everything within three square miles, had a yield of only 12.5 kilotons (12,500 tons of TNT). The Minuteman II has a yield one hundred times greater and would destroy everything within 72 square miles.

Our imaginations strain to comprehend the toll in human life and suffering from even one such missile; yet 150 of these monsters lie beneath the fields of Missouri. Long before they are used, the very existence of such evil destroys the spirit of our people.

After the fact, we questioned why people of conscience allowed the slave ships and auction blocks to remain in their midst. After the fact, we insisted that the German people should have cut the fences and torn down the gas chambers and crematoria. After the fact...but there will be no after when the Minuteman missiles have done their demonic work.

Let us act now to give the world's children a future. Let us act now to

CHOOSE LIFE