

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Pentagon Accuses China of Accelerating Nuclear Build-Up](#)

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| Publication | Financial Times |
| Publication Date | October 20, 2023 |

Tweet: According to a new Pentagon report, China is accelerating the expansion of its nuclear arsenal and likely developing conventional ICBMs to target major US population centers.

Summary: An annual survey of Chinese military capabilities mandated by Congress said its stockpile of operational nuclear warheads reached 500 by May 2023, putting it on track to exceed projections. It forecast that China would likely have more than 1,000 operational nuclear warheads by 2030. The US has 1,550 deployed strategic nuclear warheads, as permitted under the New Start arms control treaty. Dennis Wilder, a former top CIA China expert, said the warning about conventional ICBMs was very concerning because they could destabilise the military balance and complicate the situation for military planners. "China could, in a US-China crisis, for the first time threaten strikes against major US population centers without having to cross the nuclear threshold, which risks a massive US nuclear barrage in response."

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