Adam Gincel

HST 325EV

29 January 2016

In the above graph You can see the US’s Total Nuclear Arsenal over time, with lines for total number of nuclear weapons, total megatonnage of the arsenal, how many nukes were retired per year, and the average megatonnage of the retired nukes each year. The graph for average megatonnage retired per year is interesting; if this number is exceptionally high, it means we are retiring our stronger nukes in favor of holding onto weaker ones. If the number is low, it means we are stockpiling only the strongest of our nuclear weapons. Unfortunately neither seems to be the case; the graph for Average Megattonage Retired per Year basically follows the graph of Megatonnage per year, which implies that the strength of a nuke does not necessarily have much of an affect on whether or not the nuke is retired. There are some deviations in the early seventies that suggest that we might have been “optimizing” our arsenal by removing weaker nukes and hanging onto stronger ones, but for the majority of the time these graphs line up normally.