

Security

National Security Home

Nuclear Weapons

The Stockpile

Current Research

Threat Reduction

Analysis and Simulation

Battlefield Technologies

Biothreats

Nonproliferation

Center for Homeland Security



GLOBAL REALITY, NATIONAL PRIORITY



THE ONGOING ROLE

Our Mission

The mission of Los Alamos National Laboratory is national security.

Most Los Alamos employees are working to help ensure the safety and reliability of the nuclear weapons in our country's stockpile. Many others work to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction and to protect our homeland from terrorist attack. Much of their work relates to Laboratory's work on national security and must be kept secret. There is, however, a great deal about national security and the nuclear weapons work being done at Los Alamos that is unclassified.

(see also [History of National Security](#))

The Soviet Union's collapse in 1991 ended the Cold War. This change in global power created new threats to political stability, economic advancement, and human rights. Although America's modern defense strategy includes nuclear weapons, it also relies upon diplomacy, economic leverage, and conventional military forces.

THE COLD WAR

In 1949, the Soviet Union tested its first atomic weapon, leading to an "arms race" with the United States. The resultant stalemate between the two superpowers ensured a certain degree of global stability.

THE MANHATTAN PROJECT

On July 16, 1945, Los Alamos physicist Joe McKibben threw the switch that detonated the world's first atomic bomb. The resultant explosion ushered what would become known as the Atomic Age.

Los Alamos National Laboratory

The World's Greatest Science Protecting America

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