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### **The Future of the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Program**

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This paper will examine our plans for the future of the U.S. nuclear weapons program including efforts to “transform” the stockpile and supporting infrastructure. We proceed from the premise that the United States will need a safe, secure, and reliable nuclear deterrent for the foreseeable future. Moreover, the Stockpile Stewardship Program is working. Today’s stockpile—comprised of legacy warheads left over from the Cold War—is safe and reliable. That said, we see increased risk, absent nuclear testing, in assuring the *long-term safety and reliability* of our current stockpile. Nor is today’s nuclear weapons complex sufficiently “responsive” to fixing technical problems in the stockpile, or to potential adverse geopolitical change. Our task is to work to ensure that the U.S. nuclear weapons enterprise, including the stockpile and supporting infrastructure, meets long-term national security needs. Our approach is to develop and field replacement warheads for the legacy stockpile—so-called Reliable Replacement Warheads (RRW)—as a means to transform both the nuclear stockpile and supporting infrastructure.