With the aim of inhibiting the other side's recovery, Russia and NATO each target the other's 30 most populated cities and economic centers, using 5–10 warheads on each city depending on population size. Immediate casualties:

- Russia: 85.3 million
- NATO: 91.5 million

Number of immediate casualties, including fatalities (34.1 million) and injuries (57.4 million), resulting from the series of nuclear exchanges. Deaths from nuclear fallout and other long-term effects would significantly increase this estimate.

Watch the four-minute video: https://youtu.be/2jy3JU-ORpo

Alexander Glaser
APS Webinar, March 28, 2022

Revision 2
With the aim of inhibiting the other side's recovery, Russia and NATO each target the other's 30 most populated cities and economic centers, using 5–10 warheads on each city depending on population size. Immediate casualties | 85.3 million | over 45 minutes

Number of immediate casualties, including fatalities (34.1 million) and injuries (57.4 million), resulting from the series of nuclear exchanges. Deaths from nuclear fallout and other long-term effects would significantly increase this estimate.

Watch the four-minute video: [https://youtu.be/2jy3JU-ORpo](https://youtu.be/2jy3JU-ORpo)

Plan A was originally produced as part of a small exhibition at Princeton University that opened in November 2017.
Nuclear Warning Shots

[ PLAN A > PHASE 0 ]
The simulation begins in the context of a conventional conflict. In hopes of halting a US-NATO advance, Russia launches a nuclear warning shot from a base near the city of Kaliningrad.
The simulation begins in the context of a conventional conflict. In hopes of halting a US-NATO advance, Russia launches a nuclear warning shot from a base near the city of Kaliningrad.

NATO retaliates with a single tactical nuclear air strike.
The Tactical Plan

[ PLAN A > PHASE 1 ]
As the nuclear threshold is crossed, fighting escalates to a tactical nuclear war in Europe.

Russia sends 300 warheads via aircraft and short-range missiles to hit NATO bases and advancing troops.
As the nuclear threshold is crossed, fighting escalates to a tactical nuclear war in Europe.

Russia sends 300 warheads via aircraft and short-range missiles to hit NATO bases and advancing troops.

NATO responds with approximately 180 nuclear warheads via aircraft.

Immediate casualties: 2.6 million over several hours
The Counterforce Plan

[ PLAN A > PHASE 2 ]
With Europe destroyed, NATO launches a strategic nuclear strike of 600 warheads from US land and submarine-based missiles aimed at Russian nuclear forces.
With Europe destroyed, NATO launches a strategic nuclear strike of 600 warheads from US land and submarine-based missiles aimed at Russian nuclear forces.

Before losing its weapon systems, Russia launches on warning, responding with missiles launched from silos, road-mobile vehicles, and submarines.

Immediate casualties: 3.4 million over 45 minutes

PLAN A also includes a Phase 3, during which the most populated cities and economic centers in the United States and Russia are targeted.
The catastrophic effects of nuclear weapons are not limited to the intended target.

A counterforce attack on the Kozelsk missile field (about 150 miles from Moscow) would cause several million deaths in the region.

How do you think it ends?

It ends the same way every time. It does.
It ends bad. And the bad meaning it ends with global nuclear war.

General John E. Hyten (Commander, U.S. Strategic Command, 2016–2018) on the outcome of the annual Global Thunder Exercise

[Link to the article](http://www.stratcom.mil/Media/Speeches/Article/1577239/the-mitchell-institute-triad-conference)