The Chart Page

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We Say/They Say (Military Force Levels in Europe)

NATO Warsaw Pact

You could arrive at radically different conclusions about the conventional force balance in Europe, depending on whose numbers you consulted. NATO's version of the count, published in November 1988 and May 1989, is far different from the Soviet Union's count, published in January 1989. Even allowing for differences in counting procedures-such as how to account for equipment in storage-everybody agrees that the Warsaw Pact outnumbers NATO considerably in most combat force categories. The discrepancy in force counts, however, is a major obstacle that must be dealt with before the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CAFE) talks can get down to discussions about cuts.

Source: US Department of Defense, Soviet Military Power 1989.

