What Is The Risk Of Nuclear War?

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Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons
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Inadvertent Nuclear War

9 November 1979
USA/NORAD training tapes appeared to show real Soviet strike

3 June 1980
USA/SAC faulty computer chip shows Soviet missile launches

26 September 1983 – Stanislav Petrov incident
Sunlight reflects off clouds towards Soviet monitoring satellite

25 January 1995 – Norwegian rocket incident
Russia detects USA/Norway scientific rocket launch off Norway coast

http://sethbaum.com/ac/2013_NuclearWar.html
1 nuclear war per 700 years
700,000,000 deaths per nuclear war
→ 1,000,000 deaths per year
Summary

- Risk is the possibility of something bad happening. It is measured as the probability of the bad event happening multiplied by the consequences if it does.
- The probability of nuclear war may be small, but it is not zero. Deterrence can fail.
- The severity of nuclear war could be extremely large, making this a large risk.
- The risk increases as time progresses. The longer we wait, the more likely nuclear war is to occur.