

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT THE NATION'S SUBMARINE FORCE AND THE INDUSTRIAL BASE

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“As outlets as diverse as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Times* have reported, submarine construction is the most effective way to project power. This naval strategy has been demonstrated by our nation’s allies, such as Australia and India, and competitors, China, Russia and Iran. Many nations are rapidly closing the gap in undersea capabilities, making the need for sustained U.S. submarine production increasingly important.”

*Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT)*  
*January 30, 2016*

“[The undersea domain] is one of the areas that we have a distinct advantage over all our potential competitors and adversaries. . . and we have to maintain that advantage in the face of increasing competition.”

*Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)*  
*March 4, 2015*

“Our superiority in [the undersea] domain has enabled the United States to surreptitiously collect sensitive intelligence, hold at risk foreign fleets, attack targets on land without warning and maintain the secure second strike capability that is essential for deterrence. While surface ships and forces ashore are coming under increased threat from anti-access area denial capabilities and being forced to operate at longer ranges, U.S. submarines still enjoy freedom to maneuver and the ability to operate with near impunity under the sea”

*Rep. Randy Forbes (R-VA)*  
*October 27, 2015*

“We know that the one capability that we have that is truly multidimensional, that can take on a traditional threat like the Russians or the Chinese, but also has these anti-terrorist and special operations capabilities are our submarines, our undersea power.”

*Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT)*  
*March 4, 2015*

“We are very pleased to see continued stability and performance in the Virginia-class attack submarine production at a level of two per year. And we have seen that stability helps drive down costs and improve productivity. We also support the Navy's continuing effort to drive costs out of the OHIO Replacement SSBN program. SSBNs will remain a vital link on the nuclear triad for the foreseeable future. Establishing and achieving cost-reduction goals in these Virginia-class and OHIO Replacement programs will yield significant stability to our nation's submarine industrial base, which will ensure the Navy has a modern, capable submarine fleet for years to come.”

*Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)*  
*March 18, 2015*

“I will continue to fight to make sure that our nation maintains its submarine procurement. I am committed to that effort. I don’t have to tell you how important it is, both for security and for prosperity, that we invest in our domestic advanced defense manufacturing base. That is critical to our future.”

*Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)*  
*March 4, 2015*

“We need to maintain this very vital [industrial] infrastructure for our submarine fleet.”

*Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA)*  
*March 4, 2015*

“As we look at going forward, it seems to me very important that we stay on track to continue building the two Virginia-class submarines a year. Otherwise, we're going to have a pretty significant gap, in terms of the capability that we need to defend the nation and the need for the attack submarine fleet.”

*Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-NH)*  
*March 18, 2015*

“We should look at the Ohio-class replacement as the reinvigoration of the TRIAD, our nuclear-TRIAD. This is the first step, but it’s not just a Navy program. It’s a defense-wide program.”

*Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)*  
*March 4, 2015*

“Maintain and modernize the undersea leg of the strategic deterrent TRIAD. This is foundational to our survival as a nation.”

*Admiral John Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations*  
*January 2016*

“Anything below the current authorized number of boats for the OHIO Replacement will prevent us from meeting our national commitment requirements. We simply can’t do it”

*Vice Adm. Terry Benedict*  
*August 2015*

“We need to look at how we evolve our SSNs for new roles. Our attack submarines are going to be the heart of this undersea family of systems. They need to be equipped and have the payload capacity to do so, so things like the Virginia Payload Module are very important.”

*Bryan Clark, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments*  
*October 27, 2015*