

OHIO REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

FOUNDATIONAL TO OUR SURVIVAL AS A NATION



OHIO Replacement (OR) ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) development began in 2010 to replace the nation's 14 Ohio-class SSBNs with 12 new SSBNs that will operate through 2080. The OR program supports the U.S. strategic deterrent force structure as set forth in the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review and 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review.

SSBNs are essential to national security

- U.S. strategic deterrence promotes global stability and a reduction of nuclear weapons proliferation by dissuading potential adversaries and reassuring allies of U.S. resolve.
- SSBNs will soon carry nearly 70 percent of the U.S. treaty accountable operational nuclear deterrent arsenal and are the most secure and survivable leg of the nuclear triad.
- To maintain a continuous at-sea strategic deterrent, the OHIO Replacement program must begin construction in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 to provide the first operational ship in FY 2031.

The SSBN force is a cost-effective contributor to the nation's strategic deterrent posture

- Continuous at-sea strategic deterrence is cost efficient given the 42-year SSBN service life.
- The OHIO Replacement will demand less than one percent of the DOD budget, a share comparable to that required for previous classes of SSBNs.
- The DOD, Navy and industry are all exercising the strictest cost controls to help achieve Navy affordability goals for OR design, construction and life cycle costs.
- Flexible acquisition authorizations can further reduce costs. Both CRS and CBO stated that cost savings on the order of 10% could be achieved with additional acquisition authorities.

Further delay of OHIO Replacement is not a viable option

- Replacement of the SSBN force has already been delayed 20 years. As a result, between 2032 and 2040, the Navy will have only 10 SSBNs, necessitating that no SSBNs be placed in lengthy maintenance or overhaul periods during this time.
- Common Missile Compartment (CMC) missile tube construction has begun, and CMC design must stay on schedule to support construction start of the UK's new SSBN in 2016. The remainder of the OR design must be aligned with CMC development.

OHIO Replacement will require full participation of the U.S. submarine industrial base

- Submarine-unique requirements of stealth, survivability, and other specialized capabilities have no commercial equivalency. This requires a robust industrial base with unique capabilities.
- The submarine industrial base has over 5,000 suppliers in all 50 states. Greater numbers will be needed to support the OR construction, creating a significant number of additional high-skill, high-wage manufacturing jobs in many states for the 20 years required to build all 12 OR SSBNs.

REQUEST FOR ACTION

Support DOD funding of \$1.864 billion (\$1.091B in RDT&E, \$773M in SCN) and DOE funding of \$214 million in FY17 for OHIO Replacement development