



# SUBMARINE INDUSTRIAL BASE COUNCIL

## COLUMBIA-CLASS BALLISTIC MISSILE Submarine Program

The Columbia-Class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) program consists of 12 submarines to meet the requirements for U.S. strategic deterrent force structure as set forth in the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review and 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review. The Columbia-Class program completed Acquisition Milestone B on January 4, 2017 and is in the Engineering and Manufacturing Development Phase.

### **SSBNs are essential to national security and are “... foundational to our survival as a nation.” (CNO Jan '16)**

- 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 survivable leg of the nuclear triad
- To meet strategic deterrence requirements in the 2030's, the USS COLUMBIA (SSBN 826) ballistic missile submarine must begin construction in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 to support its first deployment in FY 2031

### **The SSBN force is the cost-effective foundation for the nation's strategic defense**

- Procurement cost estimates have decreased nearly 40% (\$50B) since program inception. The DOD, Navy and industry are applying techniques such as lessons learned, mature technology, and commonality with the Virginia-Class program to further reduce costs for Columbia-Class design, construction, and life cycle costs
- Continuous at-sea strategic deterrence is cost efficient given the 42-year SSBN service life
- Over its service life the Columbia-Class will demand less than one percent of the Department of Defense (DOD) budget, a share comparable to that required for previous classes of SSBNs

- Flexible acquisition authorizations such as multiyear procurement, continuous production, block buy contracting, and advance multi-class procurement can further reduce costs. Both the Congressional Research Service and Congressional Budget Office stated that cost savings on the order of 10% could be achieved with additional acquisition authorities

### **Maintaining the Columbia-Class program on schedule is vital meet U.S. and U.K. strategic deterrence requirements**

- The Ohio-Class SSBNs begin to reach their end of service life in 2027. Between 2032 and 2040, the Navy will only have the minimum SSBN force structure necessary to meet USSTRATCOM's strategic deterrent requirements. Delivery of the Columbia-Class on schedule maintains the minimum force structure necessary to meet USSTRATCOM's requirements
- The joint U.S. & U.K. Common Missile Compartment (CMC) design and production is in progress. The CMC design and production must stay on schedule to support the ongoing construction of the UK's new Dreadnought-Class SSBN. This effort is saving each country hundreds of millions of dollars

### **Columbia-Class requires 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 and diversification from sole source suppliers will provide the needed industrial base resiliency to support the Columbia-Class construction, creating a significant number of additional high-skilled, high-wage manufacturing jobs in many states to build all 12 Columbia-Class SSBNs

**REQUEST  
FOR ACTION**

Support DOD funding of \$1.934 billion (\$1.147B in RDT&E, \$787M in SCN) and DOE funding of \$157 million in FY18 for Columbia-Class development based on the FY17 President's Budget submission