



# SUBMARINE INDUSTRIAL BASE COUNCIL

## COLUMBIA CLASS BALLISTIC MISSILE Submarine Program

The Columbia Class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) program will deliver a **minimum of 12 submarines** to replace the current Ohio Class fleet and provide the required strategic deterrence capabilities for decades as set forth in the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review. The Columbia Class SSBN program completed Acquisition Milestone B on January 4, 2017, and is in the Engineering and Manufacturing Development Phase.

**SSBNs are foundational to national security and are “... the Navy’s contribution to our nation’s strategic nuclear deterrent and our highest shipbuilding priority” (Admiral John Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations, May 2017)**

- U.S. strategic deterrence promotes global stability by protecting the homeland, assuring allies and dissuading adversaries.
- SSBNs carry 70 percent of the nation’s strategic arsenal as the most survivable leg of the nuclear triad.
- The Columbia Class SSBN is already well into design. Advance construction has started and must be fully supported in FY19 to prevent a gap in U.S. deterrent capabilities when the Ohio Class SSBNs begin to retire.

**The SSBN force is the robust, reliable and cost effective foundation for the nation’s strategic defense**

- With a planned 42-year service life, the Columbia Class is being designed to deter strategic threats late into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- A first for a U.S. SSBN, the Columbia Class has a life-of-the-ship reactor that never needs to be refueled. This increases mission availability and reduces procurement and life cycle costs, enabling the Navy to build 12 Columbia Class SSBNs to replace the fleet of 14 Ohio Class SSBNs in operation today.
- Over its four-decade service life, the Columbia Class will require less than one percent of the Department of Defense budget, a share comparable to that for previous classes of SSBNs.

- Aggressive affordability initiatives have driven projected costs down to 40% (\$50B) less than at program inception. The Department of Defense, Navy, and industry are applying techniques such as lessons learned, mature technology and commonality with the Virginia Class submarine program to further reduce costs for Columbia Class design, construction, and life cycle costs.
- Flexible acquisition authorizations such as multiyear procurement, continuous production and block buy contracting 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 to meet both the United States’ and United Kingdom’s strategic deterrence requirements**

- Delivery of the Columbia Class on schedule maintains the minimum SSBN force structure necessary to meet U.S. Strategic Command’s requirements.
- The joint U.S. & U.K. Common Missile Compartment (CMC) design and construction is in progress. The CMC must stay on schedule to support the U.K.’s Dreadnought Class SSBN. This joint effort is saving each country hundreds of millions of dollars.

**Columbia Class requires increased capacity from the U.S. submarine industrial base**

- Submarines have unique requirements of stealth, survivability and other specialized capabilities which have no commercial equivalency. This requires an expanded 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 capacity to support the Columbia Class construction. Greater numbers of high-skilled, high-wage manufacturing jobs will be created in all 50 states.

**REQUEST  
FOR ACTION**

DOD funding of \$3.71 Billion (\$705M in RDT&E, \$3.005B in SCN)

DOE funding of \$138 Million in FY19 for Columbia Class development