



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

"We have submarines being built, the likes of which there's nothing anywhere in the world like the submarines we build..."

President Donald Trump

March 23, 2018

[Remarks at Consolidated Appropriations Act Signing](#)

"The United States must maintain its advantage in undersea warfare....There are four-hundred foreign submarines in the world, of which roughly 75% reside in the Indo-Pacific region. One hundred and sixty of these submarines belong to China, Russia, and North Korea. While these three countries increase their capacity, the United States retires attack submarines (SSNs) faster than they are replaced."

Admiral Philip S. Davidson, U.S. Navy Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command

February 12, 2019

[Testimony before Senate Armed Services Committee on U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Posture](#)

"We're building the Navy the nation needs and the Marine Corps of the future.... As directed by the 2018 National Defense Strategy, we're building a model of a more lethal, resilient and agile force, capable of deterring and defeating any enemy in this age of, as we know it, renewed power competition. We're determined to increase our competitive advantage over our adversaries by focusing on people, capabilities and process."

Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer

May 2, 2018

[Pentagon News Briefing](#)

"In order to retain and expand our competitive advantage, it is imperative that we continuously adapt to the emerging security environment – and do so with a sense of urgency. This requires the right balance of readiness, capability, and capacity, as well as budget stability and predictability. Together, we can ensure our military's capability, capacity, and readiness can continue to deliver superior naval power around the world, both today and tomorrow."

Honorable James F. Geurts, Asst. Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition

Vice Admiral William R. Merz, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Systems

Lieutenant General David H. Berger Deputy Commandant Combat Development and Integration & Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command

April 17, 2018

[Testimony before Senate Armed Services Committee, Subcommittee on Seapower](#)

“The VIRGINIA Class program (SSN 774) program continues as one of the Navy’s most successful shipbuilding programs with 17 ships delivered within budget and increased capability in each block.”

"The COLUMBIA class program, the Navy’s number one acquisition priority, is on track to start construction in October 2020 and deliver to pace the retirement of our current ballistic missile submarines, deploying for its first patrol in FY 2031.”

***Honorable James F. Geurts, Asst. Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition
Vice Admiral William R. Merz, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Systems
Lieutenant General David H. Berger Deputy Commandant Combat Development and Integration &
Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command***
November 27, 2018

[Testimony before Senate Armed Services Committee, Subcommittee on Seapower](#)

"The shipbuilding industrial base is a national asset and absolutely vital to America’s ability to build and sustain the Naval fleet. The Navy is focused on improving the health of the industrial base to meet its requirement of a 355 ship fleet with a long range plan anchored by industrial stability....

U.S. Department of Defense Interagency Task Force
September 2018

[Assessing and Strengthening U.S. Manufacturing and Defense Industrial Base and Supply Chain Resiliency](#)

"The United States currently operates OHIO-class SSBNs equipped with Trident II (D5) SLBMs to provide its sea-based deterrent force. Ballistic missile submarines are the most survivable leg of the [nuclear] triad. When on patrol, SSBNs are, at present, virtually undetectable, and there are no known, near-term credible threats to the survivability of the SSBN force."

U.S. Department of Defense
February 2018
[Nuclear Posture Review](#)

"Yes, that vehicle [the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund] does provide us authorities that do provide us the flexibility to address Columbia specifically, which is going to be, as you know, the biggest modernization leg of the nuclear triad. And it is our number one priority in the Navy."

Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer
April 19, 2018
[Senate Armed Services Committee Hearing on Navy Posture](#)

“The COLUMBIA Class is our #1 acquisition priority and we know our shipbuilding team and its infrastructure need to be prepared and stable in order to ensure success....

The Navy's top investment priority is to maintain and modernize the undersea leg of the triad. Our ballistic missile submarines and the weapon system they carry ensure no adversary can threaten the United States with nuclear attack without certain retaliation....

I cannot emphasize enough how these programs are fundamental to our survival as a nation."

Admiral William F. Moran, U.S. Navy Vice Chief of Naval Operations
March 8, 2017

[Testimony before House Armed Services Committee](#)