



SUBMARINE INDUSTRIAL BASE COUNCIL

COLUMBIA CLASS BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINE PROGRAM

The Most Survivable Leg of the Nuclear Triad

The Columbia Class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) program will deliver a **minimum of 12 submarines** to replace the current Ohio Class fleet and provide strategic deterrence into the 2080's as set forth in the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review. The Columbia Class SSBN program began in 2011. Advance construction has started and must be fully supported in FY20 to prevent a gap in U.S. deterrent capabilities when the Ohio Class SSBNs begin to retire.

SSBNs are foundational to national security and "...our highest shipbuilding priority"—Admiral John Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations, May 2017

- U.S. strategic forces promote global stability by deterring adversaries and assuring allies.
- SSBNs carry ~70 percent of the nation's strategic arsenal as the most survivable leg of the nuclear triad.

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 will deter strategic threats late into the 21st 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 operational availability and reduces procurement and life cycle costs by enabling the Navy to build 12 Columbia Class SSBNs to replace the fleet of 14 Ohio Class SSBNs in operation today.
- Over their four decade service lives, the Columbia Class submarines 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 Navy's projected costs down 40 percent (\$50B) from program inception. The Department of Defense, Navy and industry are applying lessons learned, mature technology and commonality with the Virginia Class submarine program to further reduce costs for Columbia Class design, construction and life cycle.

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 protect the U.S. and our allies.
- Design and construction of the joint U.S. and U.K. Common Missile Compartment (CMC) is in progress. 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, endurance, 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 across nearly all 50 states and must expand to meet demand for the Columbia Class SSBNs. This expansion supports tens of thousands of high-skill, high-wage manufacturing jobs across the country.

**REQUEST
FOR ACTION
IN FY 2020***

Navy funding of \$2 Billion (\$547M in RDT&E, \$1.453B in SCN)

DOE funding of \$76 Million in FY20 for Columbia Class development

*Based on the FY20 funding plan contained in PB19