



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 is the Defense Department's #1 priority. It 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. Construction of the first submarine officially began in October 2020 with the most mature submarine design in our Navy's shipbuilding history. At the start of construction, design maturity was greater than 90% complete. For comparison, the Virginia program held the previous record at just about half that level of design completion.

The Columbia program has an aggressive construction and delivery schedule thus, it is critical to maintain full funding for the program to reduce risk of construction delays and prevent a gap in U.S. deterrent capabilities when the Ohio Class SSBNs begin to retire. The first Columbia Class SSBN is scheduled to be delivered to the Navy in 2027 to make her first strategic deterrent patrol in 2031.

SSBNs Are Foundational to National Security

- U.S. strategic forces promote global stability by deterring adversaries and assuring allies.
- SSBNs carry ~70% of the U.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 at least 12 Columbia Class SSBNs to replace the fleet of Ohio Class SSBNs in operation today.

- Over a service life of four decades, the Columbia Class submarines will require less than one percent of the Department of Defense budget, a share comparable to that of previous classes of SSBNs.
- Aggressive affordability initiatives have driven Navy's projected costs down 40% (\$50B) from program inception. Lessons learned, mature technology and commonality with the Virginia Class submarine program are being applied to further reduce costs.
- Design and construction of the joint U.S. and UK Common Missile Compartment saves both countries significant resources from the joint investment and collaboration that has endured since the 1960's.

Columbia Class Requires Increased Capacity from the U.S. Submarine Industrial Base

Submarines have unique requirements of stealth, endurance and survivability which have no commercial equivalency. This requires a robust industrial base with unique capabilities. Multi-Program Material Procurement, Production Backup Units and the Integrated Enterprise Plan directly support the industrial base and represent a prudent investment in Columbia Class schedule risk reduction. Congressional support for supplier development has been instrumental in increasing and improving the capacity and capability of the submarine industrial base. Over the past two years, alone over 350 million dollars have been invested in the U.S. submarine supply base.

The submarine industrial base has 2,708 first-tier suppliers across nearly all 50 states and must expand to meet the Columbia Class demand. This expansion supports tens of thousands of high-skill, high-wage manufacturing jobs across the country and enables sustained excellence in domestic capability.

REQUEST FOR ACTION

Support The President's Budget Request*

Navy funding of \$4.322 Billion (\$326M in RDT&E, \$3.996B in SCN)

DOE funding of \$55 Million in FY22 for Columbia Class development

*Funding amounts are based on PB21 data