

Hansard 21 July 2005 –

Submarines (SSBNs)

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many warheads are carried by each SSBN on patrol; and if he will make a statement. [13372]

Mr. Ingram: As stated in the Strategic Defence Review, Para. 67, we have only one submarine on patrol at a time, carrying a load of 48 nuclear warheads.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which year each (a) SSBN and (b) SSN is due to be decommissioned; and in which year each replacement submarine is due to enter service. [13049]

Mr. Ingram [holding answer 20 July 2005]: No decisions have been taken on the out of service dates (OSDs) for the Royal Navy's Vanguard class SSBNs, nor about any potential replacement. The current planned OSDs for the Swiftsure and Trafalgar class SSNs are detailed as follows:

Swiftsure class SSNs:

OSD	SSN
2006	HMS Sovereign
2008	HMS Superb
2010	HMS Sceptre
2006	HMS Spartan

<u>launched</u>	<u>commissioned</u>	<u>planned life</u>	
73	Jul 74	32	
74	Nov 76	32	
76	Feb 78	32	(begin labels)
78	Sep 79	27	

Trafalgar class SSNs:

OSD	SSNs
2008	HMS Trafalgar
2011	HMS Turbulent
2013	HMS Tireless
2015	HMS Torbay
2017	HMS Trenchant
2019	HMS Talent
2022	HMS Triumph

<u>launched</u>	<u>commissioned</u>	<u>planned life</u>
81	May 83	25
82	Apr 84	27
84	Oct 85	28
85	Feb 87	28
86	Jan 89	28
86	May 90	29
90	Oct 91	31

The new Astute class SSNs will progressively supersede the current capability. The first of class is planned to enter service in 2009.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what means UK submarine-building capacity will be maintained after the completion of the order for three Astute-class boats. [13050]

Mr. Ingram [holding answer 20 July 2005]: We have already ordered two packages of long-lead items for the fourth Astute boat, and we expect to place contracts for a third package of long-lead items later this year.

We are working jointly with industry to develop a Maritime Industrial Strategy, as part of a wider Defence Industrial Strategy, which includes work to develop a longer-term solution to maintain the United Kingdom's submarine industrial base.

	<u>Com</u>		<u>Life</u>	
SW 11/14/15	Apr 73	92	19	
Splendid	Nov 71	03	22	
	63	80	17	
Brandyb	67	94	25?	(not used in last 3 yrs)
Valiant				
Warpick	68	90	22	
Resolute	68	94	26	
Republic	68	96	28	
Rend	68	95	27	(v long chix)
Revenge	69	92	23	
Cherhill	71	90	19	
Conquer	72	90	18	
Courage	72	92	18	