

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD

Question from Commissioner Skinner: What is the attack submarine force structure requirement and how does that compare with what Navy leadership would like it to be as well as the anticipated Quadrennial Defense Review?

Answer:

- The current 2001 Quadrennial Defense Review requirement is 55 attack submarines.¹ Over the past ten years, several warfighter requirements studies have validated a force level of at least 55 attack submarines.² Warfighter requirements for attack submarine operational mission days are *increasing* not decreasing.³
- The 2004 Force Structure Plan submitted by the DoD in compliance with BRAC legislation in March 2004 is consistent with that force level for twenty years (2024).
- The 2005 Force Structure Plan submitted by the DoD in compliance with BRAC legislation in March 2005 is consistent with the QDR level of about 55 submarines for 15 years (until 2019) at which time the force level declines to levels consistent with the 30-year shipbuilding plan submitted by Navy to Congress in March 2005.⁴
- CNO testimony to BRAC Commission on May 17th indicated Navy is moving to a force level of 41 attack submarines.⁵ That is the 30-year shipbuilding plan level in 2035 for the 325-ship option.⁶ For 2024, the last year of the 20 year force structure plan submitted in compliance with the BRAC legislation in March, 2005 the number is 45 not 41 no matter which shipbuilding option (260 or 325) is used.⁷
- Importantly, with all of these plans, the submarine maintenance industrial capacity remains stable at or near its current level for over ten years.
- The only relevant factor in the base closing process is the force structure plan.⁸ The 2005 Quadrennial Defense Review will not be available until February 2006 – well beyond the end of the 2005 BRAC round.⁹ DoD has not provided any insight into that document.
- At Nov. 18, 2004 IJCSG meeting, Navy indicated FY2005 Force Structure Plan was used to preclude closure of Portsmouth until three drydocks were replicated elsewhere.¹⁰ In May 2005, Department of Navy Analyses and Recommendation (Vol. 4) said the Surface/Subsurface Operations used a number “21%” less than the Force Structure Plan “consistent with force structure projected for 2024” or 45 submarines.¹¹ ADM Willard, Vice Chief of Naval Operations testified to the Commission that the Navy used a number of 56 submarines to calculate capacity.¹²
- It appears that a wide spectrum of force levels may have been used to underlie capacity calculations. The Commission is encouraged to ensure capacity calculations are consistent with the FY2005 Force Structure Plan.

SSN Force Level Studies/Reviews Chronology

The following studies/reviews have looked at attack submarine force levels. In addition there have been guidance documents such as Quadrennial Defense Reviews and Navy's budget submissions that speak to force structure. Below is a listing of those documents and the attack submarine force level put forth therein.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Document</u>	<u>No. of Subs</u>
1995	Fleet SSN Peace Time and War Time Requirements Study	72
1997	Quadrennial Defense Review	50
1998	Defense Science Board Task Force	> 65
1999	CJCS SSN Study	68
2001	Quadrennial Defense Review	55
2002	N81 SSN War Fighting Study (4-2-1 Force Sizing)	55
2003	CFFC Study	55
2003	N81 Sub Force Level Study	37-67
2004	PA&E Study	45-50
2004	2004 Force Structure Plan	~ 55
Feb. 2005	FY2006 Budget Submission	~ 55 to 2019; falls off to 41 in 2035 (2 inacts)
Mar 2005	2005 Force Structure Plan	same as FY2006 budget
Mar 2005	30 yr shipbuilding plan	same as FY2006 budget
May 2005	Vol IV, DoN Analyses and Recommendations	Shipbuilding Plan 2024 level (basically 2004 FSP – 21%)

¹ 2001 Quadrennial Defense Review, available at <http://www.comw.org/qdr/qdr2001.pdf>

² See attached SSN Level Studies/Reviews

³ CRS Report RL32418, Navy Attack Submarine Force-Level Goal and Procurement Rate: Background and Issues for Congress, June 24, 2005, p. 15.

⁴ Navy's 30 Year Shipbuilding Plan, available at www.navytimes.com/content/editorial/pdf/032805navy_30yr_fleetplan.pdf See also CRS Report RL32665 -- Potential Navy Force Structure and Shipbuilding Plans: Background and Issues for Congress, June 23, 2005, Table 1, pg. 5

⁵ Testimony of ADM Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations before the BRAC Commission, May 17, 2005

⁶ CRS Report RL32665 -- Potential Navy Force Structure and Shipbuilding Plans: Background and Issues for Congress, June 23, 2005, Table 1, pg. 5

⁷ Navy's 30 Year Shipbuilding Plan, available at www.navytimes.com/content/editorial/pdf/032805navy_30yr_fleetplan.pdf

⁸ Defense Base Closure And Realignment Act Of 1990 (as amended through FY 05 Authorization Act), Sec. 2912

⁹ Jim Garamone. *Quadrennial Defense Review Process Revs Up*. American Forces News Service. July 6, 2005. available at <http://www.defenselink.mil>

¹⁰ RADM Klemm, NAVSEA-04, Industrial Joint Cross Service Group Meeting Minutes from November 18, 2004

¹¹ DoD Base Closure and Recommendation Report to the Commission, Department of the Navy Analyses and Recommendations (Volume IV), May 2005, pg.21

¹² Testimony of ADM Robert Willard before BRAC Commission, July 18, 2005.