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Guided Missile Submarines

“The return to service ceremony represents a significant milestone in USS Georgia's conversion to a guided missile submarine. This ship and crew are a major step closer to being a fully deployable and operational asset in the fleet.”
-- Capt. Brian McIlvaine, Commanding Officer, USS Georgia

On March 28, USS Georgia (SSGN 729) returns to service, the last of four in its class to undergo conversion from ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) to guided-missile submarine (SSGN). SSGNs provide a covertly positioned, quick response, large volume strike platform in theater.

Key element of the Navy's future force

- A single SSGN provides more than 50 percent of the Pacific Command's or Central Command's TLAM theater requirement, freeing other naval assets to respond to emergent tasking and missions.
- In a normal configuration, SSGN carries 105 Tomahawk cruise missiles and can carry up to 154 – providing a significant increase in capacity compared to other naval platforms.
- The SSGN also provides special operations forces (SOF) a sustained, clandestine support unit from a mobile offshore platform for training, rehearsal and operations during peacetime, pre-hostility and conflict.
- All four guided missile submarines are projected to serve the nation for another 20 years and were delivered with only minimal deviation in budget and schedule from the planned five-year class conversion.

SSGNs in action – providing a forward presence and power projection

- USS Ohio, the first SSGN conversion, arrived February 20 in Busan, Republic of Korea for a historic initial port visit and participation in exercise Key Resolve/Foal Eagle (KR/FE). USS Ohio is currently on a one year deployment to the Western Pacific, its first as a guided-missile submarine.
- For the first time in submarine history, USS Ohio hosted a Joint Special Operations Task Force (JSOTF) commander, staff and SOF personnel during KR/FE to demonstrate the joint command and control capability of the SSGN platform to our allies in the region.
- USS Florida will make its initial deployment as a guided missile submarine in April.
- USS Michigan is conducting testing of its Advanced SEAL Delivery System in the Hawaiian Operating Area and expects to deploy at the end of the year.
- Guided missile submarine deployments to the 5th Fleet and 7th Fleet areas of responsibility will further develop joint and combined capabilities and readiness between the United States and regional allies.

Key Messages

- SSGNs provide a covertly positioned, quick response, large volume strike platform in theater.
- All four SSGNs are projected to serve the nation for another 20 years and were delivered with only minimal deviation in budget and schedule from the planned five-year class conversion.
- SSGN deployments will further develop joint and combined capabilities and readiness between the United States and regional allies.

Facts & Figures

- Length: 560 feet, Beam: 42 feet, Speed: 20+ knots.
- Crew: 15 officers, 144 enlisted.
- Armament: Tomahawk missiles and MK 48 ADCAP torpedoes.
- Total cost of the class conversion: \$4.09 billion.
- When fully equipped for strike, the SSGN is able to launch up to 154 Tomahawks in rapid succession.
- Watch videos of [USS Ohio's maiden voyage as a SSGN](#) and the beginning of [USS Georgia's conversion](#).