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#### Strategy and Conventional-Nuclear Integration for the Navy

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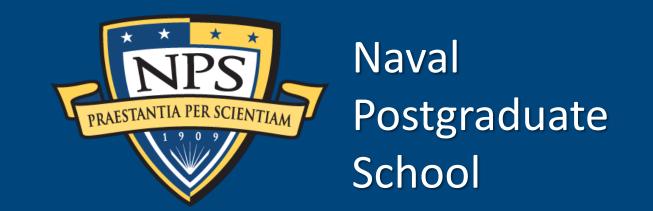


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# **Strategy and Conventional-Nuclear** Integration for the U.S. Navy



## **Cold War History**

- USN an active participant in development and lacksquaretesting of nuclear weapons in the Cold War.
- Led to extensive arsenal deployed at sea in support of nuclear strike operations that subsequently led to creation of the SIOP, or single integrated operational plan.
- Polaris, then Trident, now Columbia secured stability of balance of terror with invulnerable 2<sup>nd</sup> strike capability.



In July 1946 Navy tested two devices at Bimini Atoll in the Pacific, including a variety of surface ships to assess damage and effects.



### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Relevance?

- Multi-domain military operations are upon the USN: land, sea, air, cyber, space, information, nuclear, conventional.
- How does the USN fit into this framework?
- Cold War era behind us but ways of thinking  $\bullet$ about relationship between domains is relevant.

### Nuclear Weapons and the USN in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- Navy committed to nuclear program and weapons development in Columbia class submarine. Largest ongoing shipbuilding program.
- Other nuclear weapons not so much. lacksquare
- Removed from surface fleet at end of Cold War by President Bush.
- Integrated deterrence now cornerstone concept for all services.



USN must define its place in multi-domain operations, to include the prospect that nuclear and conventional weapons may be integrated on the battlefield.

Columbia class remains a backbone of US strategic deterrent.

## Geopolitics...

- Two principal US adversaries are nuclear armed: Russia and China, which retain a full range of tactical and strategic weapons.
- USN and its nuclear weapons remain part of the strategic deterrent framework, but its role in extended deterrent framework is less clear.



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