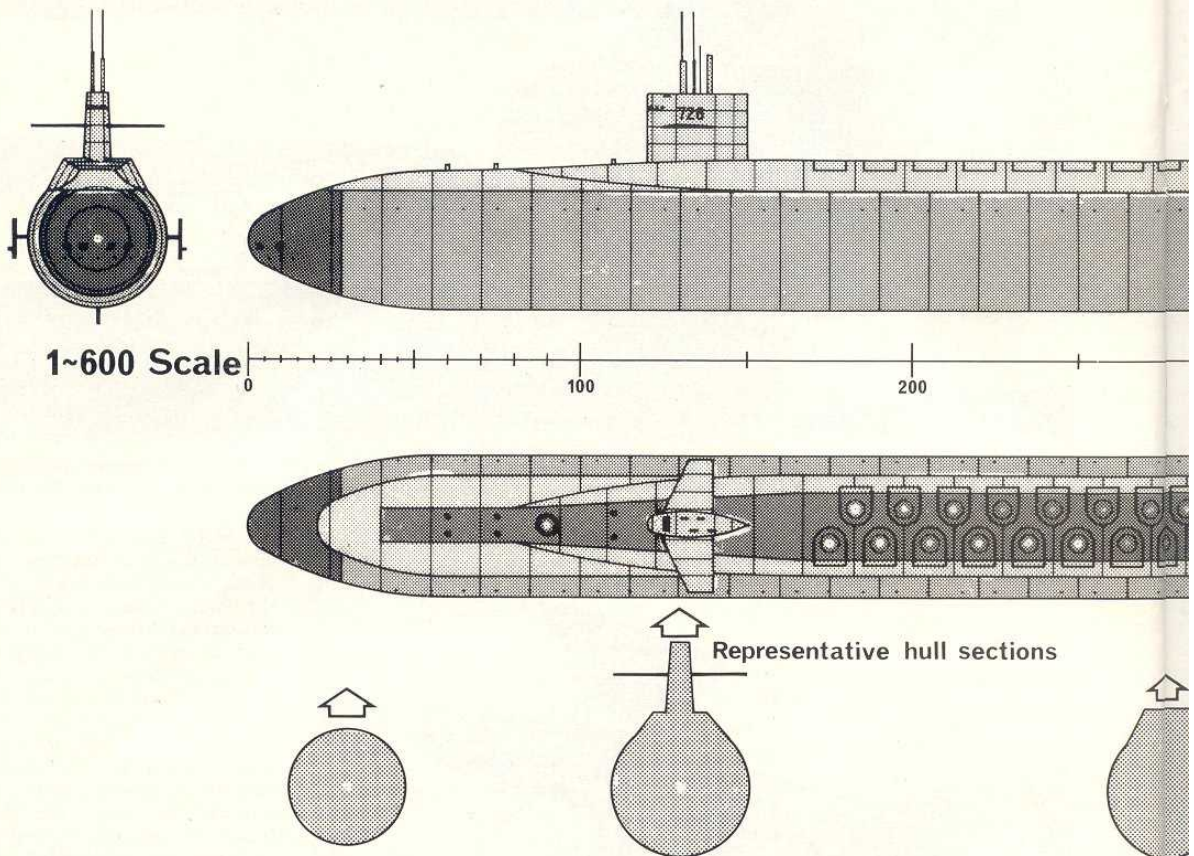


# USS OHIO—SSBN 726

## THE ULTIMATE WEAPONS SYSTEM

By M.W. Williams.



The USS *Ohio*, laid down on 10 April 1976, launched in November 1978, and commissioned in 1982, will be by far the largest SSBN to serve in the USN, and the first to carry the new Trident, Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) system.

Besides illustrating the *Ohio*, this drawing also shows the possible development path of the Royal Navy's submarines with the recent British decision to retain an independent SSBN force through developing its own Trident-carrying submarines.

The drawing above, made from the interpretations of rough sketches and some photographs, is to 1:600 scale, to enable a size comparison between ships in the existing Airfix range, and the next generation of Trident carrying submarines clearly show the massive dimensions of this leviathan.

The model — The basic construction of the *Ohio*, could either be carried out in the method outlined in a previous issue, using layered plastic card, or it could be shaped from wood. Whichever approach you use, you should find the outline of the simple hull, sail and fins, easy to reproduce. The paint scheme is surprisingly quite colourful, the boat having a red hull, dark blue upper casing, black bow sonar area and dark grey walkways. The official USN photograph of *Ohio* under construction at the yard of the The Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics, Grafton, Conn., shows clearly the colour divisions, notably the black area at the bow.



The USS OHIO displaces 18,700 tons when submerged, is 560' overall and 42' in the beam.

The TRIDENT 1 below, is a MIRVed SLBM, 34' long and weighs 34 tons.

