

UK SUBMARINE NUCLEAR WARHEAD MISSILES

(Compiled by Cdr R Forsyth RN Ret'd)

Resolution Class Submarines carried 16 x **A3 Polaris missiles** each fitted with 3 warheads

- Range 2500 nautical miles
- Each warhead (200kt) was approximately equivalent to 12 x Hiroshima
- 1 missile with 3 warheads was therefore equivalent to 36 x Hiroshima
- A full 16 missile salvo would have been equivalent to 576 x Hiroshima

Vanguard Class Submarines can carry 16 x **D5 Trident missiles** each fitted with up to 8 warheads

- Range 7500 nautical miles
- Each warhead (100 Kt) is roughly equivalent to 6 x Hiroshima
- 1 missile with 8 warheads is therefore equivalent to 48 x Hiroshima
- The UK has reduced the number of missiles and warheads embarked to 8 missiles with a total of 40 warheads dispersed amongst them. So total destructive capability is much reduced at 320 x Hiroshima
- Targeting data is not currently loaded into missiles on patrol until a threat is detected

Dreadnought Class Submarines – this successor to the present Vanguard Class and will carry 12 x missiles with up to 8 warheads each

- Range 7500 nautical miles
- Each warhead (100 Kt) is roughly equivalent to 6 x Hiroshima (see note below)
- 1 missile with 8 warheads is therefore equivalent to 48 x Hiroshima
- A full 12 missile salvo is equivalent to 576 x Hiroshima

Note: In February 2020 the UK Government, in response to an inadvertent leak by US Government officials, confirmed that the UK Government was working on a new generation warhead for Royal Navy Trident submarines as part of a joint US/UK W93 programme

Typical geographic effect of nuclear weapons: The website <http://nuclearsecrecy.com/nukemap/> enables the browser to enter figures as above in a location of your choice e.g. London, to assess damage radius. Note: This does not include fall out effect which is entirely dependent on blast height and wind direction/force and could affect hundreds of miles downwind. Nor does it replicate the effect of a number of similar weapons striking an area with a significant cumulative effect on the amount of radiation and dust put into the atmosphere.