Maintaining a reliable and credible U.S. strategic deterrent

Stealthy and mobile, the U.S. Navy’s fleet of Trident II OHIO-class submarines patrols the world’s oceans. Always on guard, they carry the formidable Trident II D5 Fleet Ballistic Missile (FBM), a cornerstone of the nation’s strategic deterrent. When they deploy into the waters of the Pacific, they embark from Naval Submarine Base Bangor – the fleet’s western seaport.

At the base, the Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific (SWFPAC) serves a vital role in supplying strategic missiles to the submarine fleet safely, efficiently, on schedule. Under the leadership of the Navy’s Strategic Systems Programs, SWFPAC represents a partnership between the skilled men and women of the U.S. Navy and Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company, the Navy’s prime contractor for the Fleet Ballistic Missile for more than 50 years.

At SWFPAC, Lockheed Martin and its subcontractors conduct multiple operations related to maintaining the reliability of the Trident missile. Our responsibilities encompass the complete life cycle of the missile system from assembly, test and packaging of the D5 missile to processing of the missiles and reentry bodies.

When submarines return from patrol, Lockheed Martin engineers and technicians test, maintain and recertify the missiles as needed. They also support arms control inspections, flight testing and flight test data collection, perform all required equipment maintenance and calibration, and provide production support. Lockheed Martin is dedicated to providing superior support to the U.S. Navy’s critical strategic missions in the 21st century.
When Naval Base Kitsap Bangor Annex was activated in 1965, Lockheed Martin was there. We worked closely with the Navy from shore facilities and submarine tenders to supply missiles to Fleet Ballistic Missile submarines, precursors to today’s Trident fleet.

Today the working relationship between our managers, engineers and technicians and the Navy is as strong as ever. Lockheed Martin employees and other subcontractor personnel deliver an extraordinary breadth of capabilities, including:

- Trident II D5 missile assembly, processing and delivery to the SSBN fleet
- Fleet support for submarine-launched Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles
- D5 missile maintenance, including modification, repair, test and recertification
- Preventative, corrective and calibration of SWFPAC missile handling equipment and facilities maintenance
- Arms control inspection support
- Strategic weapons security services

SWFPAC’s Navy-Lockheed Martin team has received many accolades from government and industry, including two prestigious Raborn Awards, designed to recognize excellence in strategic planning and mission accomplishment, adherence to and promotion of Strategic Systems Programs (SSP) core values and innovation and technical excellence.

Today, as in the past, we sustain a high level of performance by conducting business according to a set of shared values, principles and tools proven over five decades. The FBM way of doing business includes (1) shared priorities and goals, (2) open, trusted communications—surfacing problems early and solving them together, (3) a focus on time-tested solutions, (4) disciplined technical and business management controls, and (5) commitment to maintaining a skilled FBM workforce.

Our guiding philosophy remains: “We never forget who we’re working for.”
The Navy-Lockheed Martin SWFPAC team has a stellar track record of meeting missile onload requirements for on-time submarine deployment. One key to this excellent performance is systems integration.

In concert with Navy leadership, Lockheed Martin engineers have devised a system that combines a complex network of systems and services into a smooth operation. Assembly, integration and test operations ensure that Trident submarines embark on schedule and are supplied with missiles that meet the highest standards of weapon system safety and reliability.

Rocket motors arrive by rail/truck and are thoroughly inspected. The D5 missiles are then assembled from these motors and other inert components. Once assembled and tested, the missiles are packaged into loading tubes and stored until needed. When ready, the completed D5 missiles are transported to the wharf and loaded into the Trident submarine.

Result: A Trident submarine, fully supplied and ready for patrol.

Safety First

At SWFPAC, safety is at the forefront of every process, every decision. The facility has been carefully designed with special magazines and equipment, security protocols, and adequate distances for the safe handling of explosives.

The Lockheed Martin team takes great pride in our safety record at SWFPAC. As with every other aspect of missile operations, we surface any problems or potential problems early with the Navy and solve them together, seeking long-term solutions.
Continuous Improvement Center of Excellence

At SWFPAC, the Navy and Lockheed Martin have established a Continuous Improvement (CI) Center of Excellence. Given today’s resource-constrained environment, the key to success is the ability to create and sustain customer value. At the SWFPAC Continuous Improvement Center of Excellence, a team of certified experts in lean manufacturing and LM21 Operating Excellence Lean Six Sigma (LSS) techniques does just that, continually looking to improve process, cost and technical effectiveness. Operating excellence is achieved using strategically targeted opportunities while following LM21 methods and processes.

SWFPAC has had many success stories because of leadership’s unwavering commitment to the operating excellence method. Since the roll out of LM21 LSS in 2003, SWFPAC has consistently exceeded financial savings targets and improved D5 missile production rates by reducing cycle times and eliminating waste.

Whether facilitating a KAIZEN, Root Cause or Value Stream Analysis, the CI Center of Excellence will continue to set the standard for operational excellence and creating sustainable customer value.

SWFPAC Navy Calibration Laboratory

As one of the premiere calibration labs in the country, the SWFPAC Navy Calibration Laboratory, operated by Lockheed Martin under Navy direction, provides state-of-the-art metrology products and services to strategic, attack and guided-missile submarines on the West Coast.

In addition to Naval Base Kitsap Bangor, the Calibration Laboratory supports other Navy commands in the Pacific Northwest, including the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Keyport, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island and numerous Aircraft Carriers under the cognizance of the Naval Aviation Systems Command (NAVAIR), as well as Coast Guard and ancillary support ships.

The Lab, which is certified by the Navy and accredited in accordance with the International Standard ISO/IEC 17025, processes over 18,000 items of test and measurement equipment (T&ME) yearly with a 95% confidence factor and has generated more than 10,000 updates to the MEASURE Program and Instrument Calibration Procedures (ICP’s) over the last 19 years.

Consistently recognized for ‘best practices’ by DoD audit teams, the employees at the SWFPAC Navy Calibration Laboratory are committed to safety, quality and continuous improvement. Their knowledge and can-do attitude ensures continued mission success for our nation’s Trident submarines.
An Enduring Partnership

SWFPAC is a world-class naval facility dedicated to maintaining our nation’s deterrent capability. Under the leadership of the Navy’s Strategic Systems Programs, and with Lockheed Martin as prime contractor, this strategic partnership ensures the safety, readiness and reliability of our TRIDENT II D5 missiles and Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles for our submarine fleet, constantly adapting to meet the changing needs of U.S. national security.