

Trident – Britain's nuclear deterrent

Trident 2 missile: Length: 45.8 feet; Range: 6,500 nautical miles (12,000km)
Launch weight: 128,000lb (58,060kg) ; Warhead velocity: 17,000mph

Trident missile's deadly flight

Stage 3: 55 miles above earth third stage ignites, taking missile out of atmosphere. Warheads fired from around 600 miles, less than two minutes after launch

Stage 2: After one minute, first stage rocket falls away, second stage ignites

Stage 1: First stage motor fires as missile clears surface. Trident accelerates to 2,750 mph in less than 30 seconds

Super-heated steam propels missile to surface

Trident 2 carries up to 8 warheads, each equivalent to 475,000 tons of TNT

Contact sensor

Aiming and fusing section

Nuclear charge

Warhead

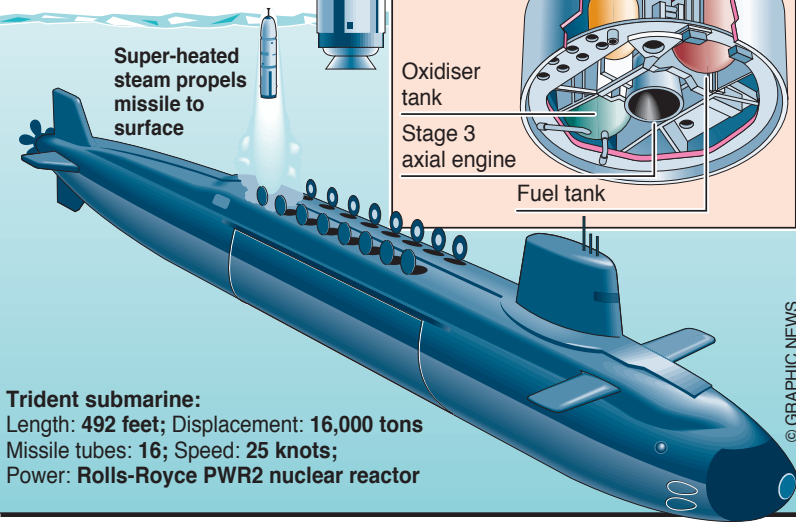
Aluminium outer skin

Oxidiser tank

Stage 3 axial engine

Fuel tank

Decoys



Trident submarine:

Length: 492 feet; Displacement: 16,000 tons
Missile tubes: 16; Speed: 25 knots;
Power: Rolls-Royce PWR2 nuclear reactor