

China's Type-096 submarine

According to Pentagon reports, China operates "near-continuous" submarine patrols in the South China Sea. Type-094 Jin-class boats are to be replaced by advanced Type-096s, equipped with new, longer-range Julang-3 ballistic missiles that can hit the continental U.S. from Chinese home waters

Bohai shipyard: Centre of China's nuclear submarine production



Type-096: Image based on open-source intelligence

Julang-3 (JL-3): 24 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs)

Single or multiple warheads
Range: **8,000-10,000km-plus**

Hull construction

Hull contains high-strength composite alloy steel with anechoic coating of silencer tiles

Length: **150m**
Beam: **20m**
Max diving depth: **600m**
Max speed: **35 knots** (submerged)

Natural circulation reactor cooling

Alternative system allows coolant to flow in pressurized water reactor without use of mechanical pumps, reducing noise levels

Rim-Driven Propulsion

Propeller blades rotated by outer ring – remove driveshaft and gearbox – less vibration than shaft-driven screw

Bohai shipyard (images from Nov 2020, Mar 2022)

Submarine construction hall

Dry dock

Possible stern hull section of Type-096

Dry dock with Type-094 Jin-class submarine

Rail tracks to move hull sections