

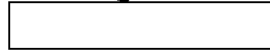


Directorate of Intelligence

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CIA SW

84-10053

Handbook of Foreign Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles and Their Platforms



A Reference AM

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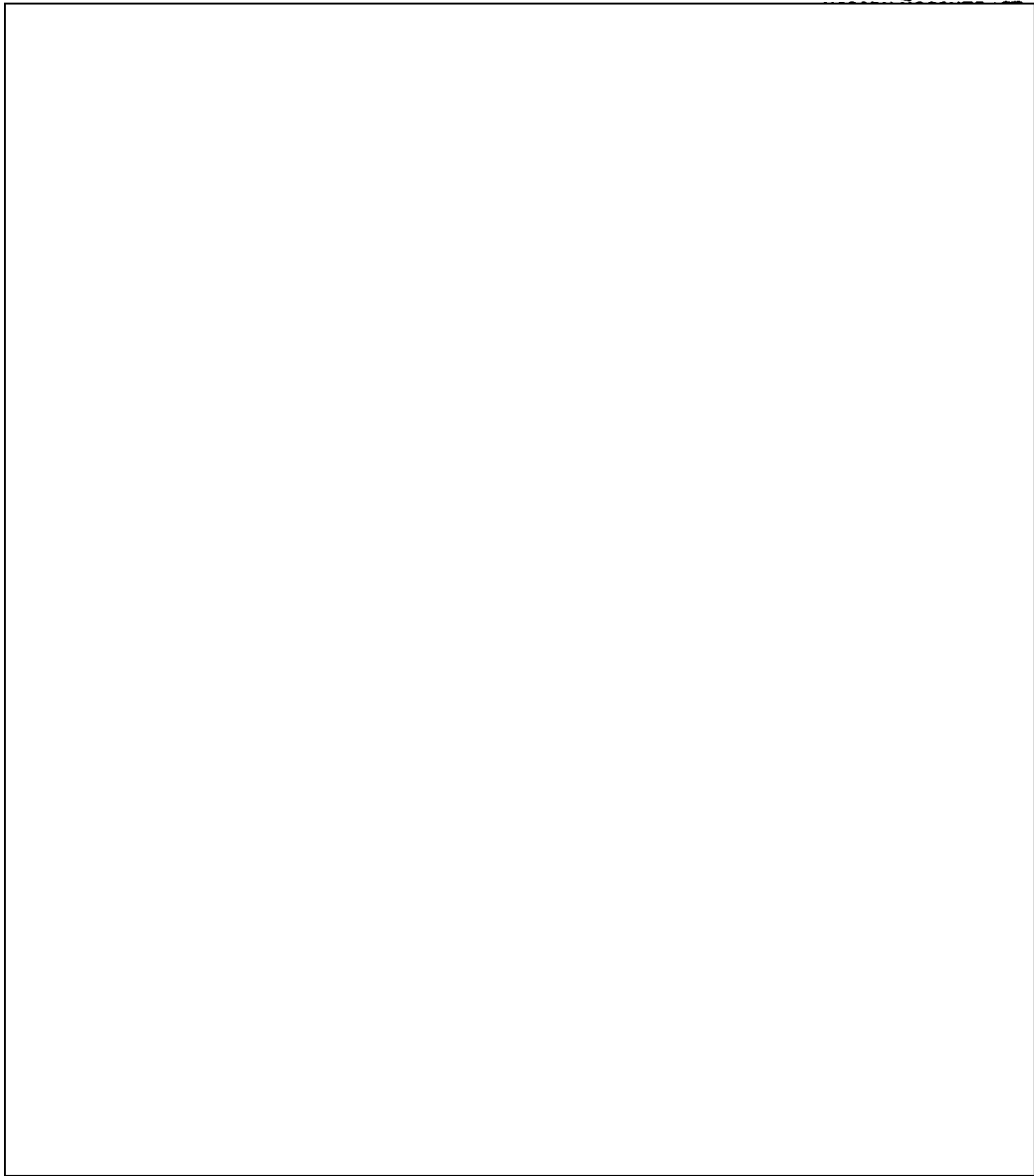
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Chinese SLBM

The first Chinese SLBM, the CSS-NX-3, is currently under development and will be launched from the Xia-class SSBN. Operational command of the nuclear forces presumably rests with the highest political authority in China, but virtually nothing is known of command and control arrangements. [redacted]

During the early 1960s, the Soviets supplied the Chinese with the components of a G-I-class diesel-electric ballistic missile submarine (SSB). This SSB was assembled at the Luda Shipyards during 1962-64. After serving in several roles, it was converted to serve as an SLBM test-launch platform in the early 1970s. [redacted]

CSS-NX-3

[redacted]

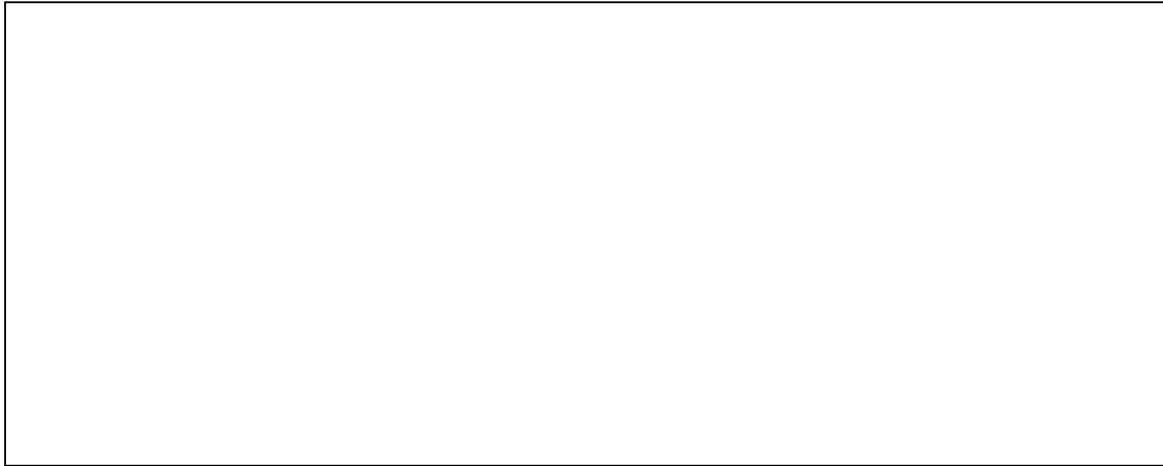
[redacted] The timing of these events and the slow conversion of the G-class to a test-launch submarine are indicators of the slow pace of development of an SLBM system. [redacted] superstructure pieces that appeared to be for the Xia SSBN were

[redacted] yard. Operational deployment of this SLBM system is not expected before the mid-to-late 1980s [redacted]

Our estimates of the capabilities and characteristics of the CSS-NX-3 are primarily engineering judgments based on limited data. We have had to judge the level of technology in China and have estimated it to be almost equal to that of the French M-1 SLBM. Thus, our best judgments are subject to wide confidence bounds. [redacted]

We believe that the CSS-NX-3 will not be considered by Chinese strategic planners as a destabilizing threat to the USSR. To effectively threaten the bulk of Soviet urban, industrial, and military centers, Xia-class submarines would have to patrol in the Norwegian Sea. The Chinese probably could achieve this goal before the end of the century if they chose to devote the necessary resources to such a program. [redacted]

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Xia SSBN

The Xia, China's only SSBN, was launched in April 1981 at Huludao shipyard and is still fitting out.

[redacted] a second Xia-class

SSBN is under construction. [redacted]

[redacted] the Chinese intend to build eight submarines in this class [redacted]

The Xia is based on the design of the Han SSN. Basically, the Xia was developed by adding a missile compartment of 12 tubes to the Han-class SSN hull and propulsion system. The Han-class SSN has operated little and is not yet a proven design. The first unit has been out of service for months because of possible reactor problems. Because the Xia shares this untested engineering, it might not become a fully effective ship for several years. [redacted]

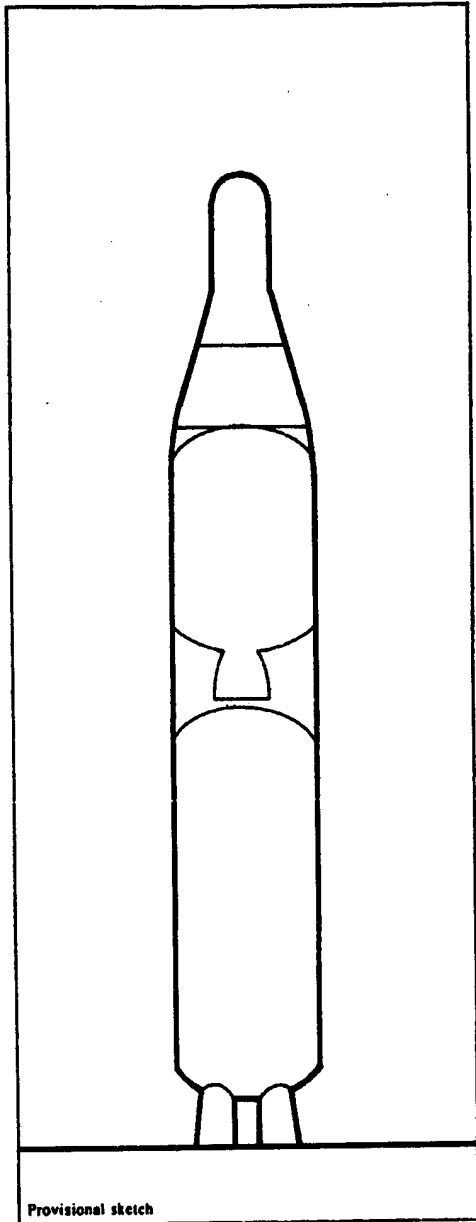
Deployment of the Xia probably will be restricted to the waters adjacent to China at first. As a deterrent force, its potential to strike the USSR from these waters is limited because only East Siberian targets would be within range. The Xia-class SSBNs eventually could patrol in the Norwegian Sea or off the west coast of the United States, but the Chinese Navy will have to develop the necessary skills and techniques to operate thousands of miles from China before such patrols are possible. [redacted]



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