The W93 is a new program of record being established to meet requirements set by the Department of Defense. The Navy’s ballistic missile submarine force is the most survivable leg of the Triad and is currently equipped with two warhead types: the W76 and W88. These warheads provide approximately two-thirds of the total U.S. deployed force. The W93 will reduce current over-reliance on the W76 system and will allow the U.S. to keep pace with future adversary threats.

All W93 key nuclear components will be based on currently deployed and/or previously tested nuclear designs, as well as extensive stockpile component and materials experience. However, the W93 will also incorporate modern technologies to improve safety, security, and flexibility to address future threats and will be designed for ease of manufacturing, maintenance, and certification. It will also ensure the continued viability of STRATCOM’s operational flexibility and effectiveness as we transition from Ohio-class submarines to a smaller fleet of Columbia-class submarines. The W93 will not require additional nuclear testing to certify.

The W93 program is vital for continuing the United States’ longstanding support to the United Kingdom, which is also modernizing its nuclear forces. As an allied but independent nuclear power that contributes to NATO’s nuclear deterrent posture, the UK’s nuclear deterrent is critical to U.S. national security per our partnership outlined in the Mutual Defense Agreement (MDA).

**OVERVIEW**

NNSA is a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy responsible for enhancing national security through the military application of nuclear science.