

# US Submarines of the Cold War Dichotomous Key

1A) The sub has two propellers.....*USS Clamagore, BALAO-Class Diesel*

1B) The sub has only one propeller.....Go to 2

2A) The sub has hatches behind the sail for vertically launching missiles.....Go to 3

2B) The sub does not have hatches behind the sail for vertically launching missiles.....Go to 4

3A) The sub has 12 pairs of hatches located behind the sail.....*USS Ohio, OHIO-Class SSBN*

3B) The sub has 8 pairs of hatches located behind the sail.....*USS James K. Polk SSBN\**

4A) From a top view, the towed sonar array is on the left side of the sail. Vertical stabilizers can be seen on the stern dive planes.....*USS Sturgeon, STURGEON-Class SSN*

4B) From a top view, the towed sonar array is on the right side of the sail. Stern dive planes do not have vertical stabilizers.....*USS Los Angeles, LOS ANGELES-Class SSN*

\*During the Cold War, the *USS James K. Polk* was built as a BEN FRANKLIN-Class SSBN but was later converted to an SSN after the Cold War.

Helpful hints for using the key:

Bow = front of the sub

Stern = back of the sub

The “towed sonar array” referenced in the key is housed on the top side of the sub and when deployed extends behind the submarine. The housing can be seen as a horizontal line running the length of the submarine.



**Vertical Stabilizers Present**



**Vertical Stabilizers Absent**