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*Captain's Call*

Navy Welcomes Women To Serve In Submarines

The commander of Submarine Group 10 announced the Department of the Navy's plan to allow women to serve on submarines, during a press conference at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga., April 29.

On February 19, 2010, the Secretary of Defense signed letters notifying Congress of the Navy's intention to change the policy regarding the assignment of women to submarines. The law required both houses of Congress to be in session for 30 days prior to the change in policy taking effect. Those 30 days have now passed and the Navy intends to proceed with the plan to integrate women into submarines.

Implementing the policy change will begin by assigning 24 female officer to the submarine force. Eight different crews of guided-missile attack (SSGNs) and ballistic-missile (SSBNs) submarines will be integrated with three female officers. The assignments involve two submarines on the East Coast homeported in Kings Bay and two on the West Coast homeported in Bangor, Wash., each of which is supported by a blue and gold crew. More living space is available aboard these platforms which will require no modification, permitting the Navy to move quickly on integrating female officers in submarines.

Guided-missile submarines provide the Navy with an unprecedented combination of strike and special operation missile capability within a stealthy, clandestine platform, while ballistic missile submarines are specifically designed for extended strategic deterrent patrols. There are currently 14 ballistic missile submarines and four guided-missile submarines in the Navy's inventory.

