

The Unique Value of the Submarine Force

The Submarine Force performs unique and important missions that help to secure the United States from direct attack and to advance our nation's interests around the world. The concealment provided by the sea enables U.S. submarines the ability to conduct undetected and non-provocative operations, to be survivable, and to attack both land and sea targets without warning around the world. The success of the Submarine Force is made possible by the highly skilled and dedicated professional

cadre of Sailors who are trained and ready to conduct a wide range of important missions. These crews operate the world's finest submarines anywhere in the global ocean, with the ability to quickly respond to alternate tasking. The 11th Annual UNDERSEA WARFARE Photo Contest, sponsored by the Naval Submarine League (NSL), pictorially displays our Force's ongoing efforts to maintain the dominant Submarine Force in the world.

Achieve Combat Readiness through Operational Excellence

On any given day, an average of 30 U.S. submarines are underway. Typically, 10 attack submarines and 2 guided missile submarines are forward deployed and 6 SSBNs are at sea. These warships provide U.S. Combatant Commanders highly capable, multi-mission, cost-effective platforms needed to support both the Maritime Strategy and the U.S. National Security objectives around the globe.

On Scene, But Unseen In many situations, only U.S. submarines can monitor potential adversaries and possible terrorists without their knowledge. The submarine's ability to persistently and clandestinely observe, from any ocean in the world, provides our national security decision makers with a non-provocative option to monitor emerging threats to our nation. The requests of our Combatant Commanders for Submarine Force presence exceeds our capacity to provide assets.

Reliable Deterrence for an Uncertain Future For 48 years, strategic ballistic missile submarines have stood ready to defend our nation. The nation's sea-based strategic deterrent force, armed with the highly-reliable TRIDENT Strategic Weapon System, is always ready and remains the most survivable component of the U.S. strategic nuclear forces.

Invest to Build, Maintain, and Modernize the Force

The Submarine Force investments are guided by two principles: sustain our record of proven combat readiness, and prepare to face adversaries of increasing capability in the future. This requires a focus both on maintaining existing submarines and systems, and pursuing the technologies required to ensure that U.S. submarines will continue to dominate the undersea battlespace.



Virginia Class The Virginia Class SSN is the right attack submarine for today's uncertain world. The Virginia Class SSN is the most capable submarine in the world and performs across a wide range of missions in both the littorals and deep waters. In addition, Virginia Class SSNs provide capability at great value. By achieving a 20 percent cost reduction goal, the Virginia Class program signed a contract last December for eight submarines in the next five years.

SSGN Innovation The SSGN is the Navy's premier Irregular Warfare platform and is delivering today on its promise of unmatched Special Operations Forces and Strike capability and capacity. All four SSGNs completed conversion on time and on budget and all four have deployed to our Combatant Commanders.

(Above) Pearl Harbor Fourth of July Fireworks above USS Ohio (SSGN-726).

Photo by Lt. Cdr. David Benham

(Left) USS Hawaii (SSN-776) inbound past the USS Missouri (BB-63) and USS Arizona (BB-39) memorials in Pearl Harbor.

Photo by Sgt. Kevin Link



USS Rhode Island (SSBN-740) outside Port Canaveral during a Dependents' Cruise.
Photo by Kristen Amy



Weapons are loaded onto USS Annapolis (SSN-760).
Photo by John Narewski



Christening of the nuclear powered attack submarine New Mexico (SSN-779) at Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding Newport News, Dec. 13, 2008.
Photo by John Whalen



Helicopter torpedo recovery during ICEX 09.
Photo by Capt. Steven Benke

Continue to Develop our People into a Diverse, Professional Workforce

The Submarine Force is widely known for its exceptional personnel. By continuing to attract and retain high quality people, the future force will maintain people with the right mix of skills, motivation, and character. The Submarine Force provides our Sailors and career civilians the training and educational opportunities needed to succeed while also providing exciting challenges to stimulate their personal growth. The highly trained and motivated Sailors, government civilians and industry partners who design, build, maintain and operate our submarines are an indispensable team that serves our Navy and our nation.



A World War II submarine vet displays his Bronze Star.
Photo by Chief Petty Officer Marlowe Dix



Chief Petty Officer Wavy Threat, USS Los Angeles (SSN-688), directing his line handling team for precise coordination.
Photo by Seaman Richard Stafford



Cmdr. Mark Benjamin, commanding officer of USS Montpelier (SSN-765), salutes the pier as the submarine heads out for deployment.
Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Todd A. Schaffer

Exceptionally High Standards

Submariners and submarine support personnel are recognized both inside and outside the Navy for their high standards of technical excellence, personal responsibility, and dedication to self-improvement. Submariners value dedication and hard work essential to mission accomplishment.

(Left) On the bridge of USS North Carolina (SSN-777).

Photo by Cmdr. Pat McNally

(Right, above) Family members wave goodbye to the crew of USS Hawaii (SSN-776) as the submarine departs for its new homeport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Photo by Lt. Patrick Evans

(Right, below) Petty Officer 1st Class Chris Yaras kisses his daughter, born while he was at sea on USS Hartford (SSN-768), for the first time.

Photo by Lt. Patrick Evans



Midshipmen Ken Oswald and Carl Steftel battle the flange in the DC wet trainer.
Photo by William Kenny



Lt. Cdr. Jeffrey Anderson gives his daughter a kiss after coming home from deployment on USS Seawolf (SSN-21).
Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Gretchen M. Albrecht

Recruiting and Retaining the Best

The quality of the submarine Sailor and their extensive training make them in high demand in the private sector. The Submarine Force understands that retention means more than the Sailor. A Sailor's family provides the foundation for mission accomplishment and long term career satisfaction.

Educational Opportunities

The Submarine Force provides stimulating and challenging avenues for personal growth, to include undergraduate and graduate education in relevant fields of study.

Superb Training and Experience

Submarine crews receive the best technical training using state-of-the-art facilities, instruction techniques, and certified instructors in fields such as electronics, navigation, weapons systems and nuclear propulsion. This training, combined with the experience that can only be gained from submarine duty, provides submariners with skills critical to their Navy careers. The Submarine Force is unique in its opportunities for leadership and significant responsibility early in the careers of Sailors.

Diversity

Diversity has made our nation and Navy stronger. Diversity of thought, experience, background and skill is essential to meeting mission requirements. The Submarine Force is committed to building crews reflective of the diversity of our society.

Rich Submarine Culture

The Submarine Force culture has a long and rich history of esprit de corps and camaraderie. Submariners exemplify the Navy's Ethos with integrity, effective leadership, discipline, honor, courage, and commitment to mission accomplishment.

Technologies for an Uncertain World

As the number and quality of foreign submarines increases, the Submarine Force must invest in technologies and capabilities to extend the operational reach and flexibility of the Submarine Force beyond the current battlespace horizon. This includes advancing stealth, communications, weapons, payloads, unmanned vehicles, and sensor technology; improving design, construction, and maintenance practices; and sustaining the open architecture capability and business model to maintain its long-term undersea dominance.

Industrial Base

The key to industrial base viability is stability. Two Virginia Class submarines a year starting in FY 11 and work on the Ohio Class Replacement will ensure the industry can affordably and reliably design, produce, and maintain the ships needed to meet the Department of Navy's force structure requirements.

Maintenance and Modernization

A properly funded and executed submarine maintenance and modernization program is critical to national security and mission effectiveness. The timeliness and quality of maintenance and modernization determines the operating force structure and has a direct impact on the safety of our sailors. The Submarine Force applies the lessons learned in major availabilities to future new-construction submarines as a means to minimize life cycle costs.

Ohio Replacement Capability

The Ohio-class celebrated the 1000th successful patrol of the TRIDENT weapons system and the 129th consecutive successful test flight of a TRIDENT D5 missile this year. In FY 2010, research and development funding will commence for the design and development of the replacement for the Ohio-class to prevent a gap in our sea-based strategic deterrent capability when the current SSBN fleet begins retiring in 2027.

Efficiency

The Submarine Force provides approximately one-third of our warships but uses only about 7 percent of the people and about 10 percent of the budget to achieve this effect. Submariners require no vulnerable underway logistics chain nor depend on mutual defense from other platforms for survivability.

Early, Assured Wartime Access and Maritime Dominance

Submarines, enabled by the combination of nuclear propulsion, stealth, firepower and forward presence, are often the only component of the joint force able to gain assured access in the early stages of a contingency or campaign. They can quickly respond and provide critical leverage to open the door for follow on forces, and can ensure the door remains open by gaining control of the sea and influencing events ashore.

Building Partnerships and Trust

With nearly 40 countries operating almost 400 submarines, the U.S. Submarine Force will continue to be a world leader in the establishment and maintenance of cooperative relationships. Our ability to provide mutual benefit through multinational programs and exercises ensures our friends and allies that, if required, our collective contribution will be greater and more effective than any singular contribution.

Important Irregular Warfare Role

Submarines play a large and critical role in Overseas Contingency Operations and Irregular Warfare campaigns. Submarines, often in conjunction with Special and Joint Forces, are working around the world to detect and neutralize terrorists everyday.



(Above) USS Pittsburgh (SSN-720) departing Bizerte, Tunisia in January 2009.

Photo by Capt. Jeffrey Trussler

(Right, top) A brother and sister watch USS Wyoming (SSBN-742) depart on patrol out of the St Mary's River from Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga.

Photo by Jessica Sattler



USS Florida (SSGN-728) in Naples Harbor with Mt. Vesuvius in the background, April 2009.

Photo by Capt. Jeffrey Trussler



The crew of the USS New Hampshire (SSN-778) marches through downtown Bergen, Norway with sailors from Norway, Germany, and the United Kingdom.
Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Stephen Dill



Topside personnel clear ice from USS Helena (SSN-725) prior to mooring.

Photo by Capt. Steven Benke



USS Seawolf (SSN-21) is assisted by tugs while going alongside the pier after returning from deployment June 3, 2009.

Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Gretchen M. Albrecht