

American Submariners Inc.
4370 Twain Ave.
San Diego, CA 92120-3404



The Silent Sentinel *October 2016*



Our Creed and Purpose

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today.



DON'T LET US DOWN!

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Chaplain
Position is Open

The Silent Sentinel via Email

To all of my Shipmates and families who currently receive our Great newsletter via the mail who would like it sent via email or continue to receive it via mail, please fill out the form and mail it to the base or myself. We are trying to cut the cost of the newsletter down from \$3700 to about \$1900 a year. By receiving the Silent Sentinel via email will cut down the printing and mailing cost. The other plus to receiving it via email is you can save it on your computer and not have the paper lying around the house.

A subscription to the Silent Sentinel newsletter will be available to surviving family members via internet email, at no charge, upon notification of the Membership Chairman. If a printed hard-copy is preferred, via US Post Office delivery, an annual donation of \$5.00 will be requested to cover costs.

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Would like the SILENT SENTINEL emailed: YES _____ NO _____

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*DUE TO LOGISTICS CONSTRAINTS, ALL INPUTS FOR THE SILENT SENTINEL MUST BE IN MY HAND NO LATER THAN **ONE WEEK** AFTER THE MONTHLY MEETING. IF I DO NOT RECEIVE IT BY THIS TIME, THE ITEM WILL NOT GET IN. NO EXCEPTIONS! MIKE*

OCTOBER 2016 MEETING

Our monthly meeting is held on the second Tuesday of the month at VFW Post 3787, 4370 Twain Ave., San Diego. Our next meeting will be on *OCTOBER 11th*. The post is located one-half block West of Mission Gorge Road, just north of I-8. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. The E-Board meets one hour earlier at 6 p.m.

*Check us out on the World Wide Web
www.ussvisandiego.org*

BINNACLE LIST

Harry (Hump) Humphreyville

Submarine Losses in October

Originally Compiled by C J Glassford



USS Seawolf (SS-197)

Lost on Oct 3, 1944 with the loss of 83 officers and men and 17 US Army troops when she was sunk just north of Moritai by USS Rowell, a Destroyer Escort (DE). In this tragic error, Rowell mistook Seawolf for a Japanese submarine that had just sunk another Destroyer. Seawolf ranks 7th for enemy ships sunk.

USS S-44 (SS-155)

Lost on Oct 7, 1943 with the loss of 56 men when it was sunk off Paramushiru, Kuriles. S-44 was on her 5th war patrol after attacking a target thought to be a merchant on the surface, S-44 found herself in a losing gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Two men were taken prisoner and survived the war.

USS Wahoo (SS-238)

Lost on Oct 11, 1943 with the loss of 80 men near La Perouse Strait. Under command of one of the great sub skippers of World War II, LCDR "Mush" Morton, Wahoo was on her 7th war patrol. Wahoo had won a Presidential Unit Citation and ranks 5th in the number of enemy ships sunk. She was lost to depth charges dropped by a Japanese patrol aircraft.

USS Dorado (SS-248)

Lost on Oct 12, 1943 with the loss of 77 men when she was sunk in the western Atlantic near Cuba. Newly commissioned, she had departed New London and was enroute to Panama. She may have been sunk by a U.S. patrol plane that received faulty instructions regarding bombing restriction areas or a German U-boat that was in the vicinity.

USS Escolar (SS-294)

Lost on Oct 17, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. She was on her 1st war patrol and was most likely lost to a mine somewhere in the Yellow Sea.

USS Shark II (SS-314)

Lost on Oct 24, 1944 with the loss of 87 men when she was sunk near Hainan. The second boat to carry this name during World War II, she was on her 3rd war patrol. Shark was sunk by escorts after attacking and sinking a lone freighter. Compounding the tragedy, it turned out that the freighter had 1,800 U.S. POW's on board.

USS Darter (SS-227)

Lost on Oct 24, 1944 when she became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Palawan and was then destroyed to prevent her falling into enemy hands intact. The entire crew was rescued by USS Dace. Winner of one Navy Unit Commendation, Darter had sunk a heavy cruiser and damaged another and went aground while attempting an "end around" on an enemy formation in hopes of getting in an attack on a battleship.

USS Tang (SS-306)

Lost on Oct 25, 1944 with the loss of 78 men in the Formosa Strait. Tang was on her 5th war patrol. Tang ranks 2nd in the number of ships sunk and 4th in tonnage, and had won two Presidential Unit Citations. During a daring night surface attack, Tang was lost to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner, including CDR. O'Kane and five who had gained the surface from her final resting place 180 feet below. All survived the war, and CDR O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

USS O-5 (SS-66)

Lost on October 29, 1923 with the loss of 3 men when rammed and sunk by SS Abangarez off the Panama Canal.



San Diego Base, United States Submarine Veterans Inc.

Minutes of Meeting - 13 September 2016

1900 - Base Commander Bob Bissonnette called the meeting to order

Conducted Opening Exercises - Pledge of Allegiance lead by Junior Vice Commander Manny Burciaga

Treasurer David Ball lead the prayer

Base Treasurer David Ball conducted Tolling of the Boats for boats lost in the month of September.

Base Commander Bob Bissonnette recognized Past Commanders, dignitaries and guests.

Secretary Jack Kane announced 24 members and 2 guests (Dewey and Dottie Reed, Sea Poacher Base) present.

Treasurer David Ball gave his report. General Fund is \$3692.80, Savings Balance is \$15,244.92. Charlie Marin Scholarship Fund is \$955.00. A copy of the Treasurer's Report will be filed with these minutes.

The minutes of the 9 August 2016 meeting were approved as presented at the meeting with one correction.

Base Commander Called For Committee Reports

Acting Chaplain David Ball reported the following on the Binnacle List: Jack Ferguson and Benny Williams.

Base Secretary reported in the absence of Parade Chair. The next parade is Borrego Springs on 22 October. The float will not be going to the Long Beach Veterans Day Parade on 5 November or the Chula Vista Starlight Parade on 2 December.

Chairman Ray Febrache reported 256 members. He has a card for Jessie Taylor in hand.

Scholarship Chairman Paul Hitchcock has letters from the three scholarship awardees. All three were read to the membership. Those letters will be published in the Sentinel. Paul announced that the Navy Commissary has a new scholarship available. He suggested each Sponsor check the packages to the Committee. Check that the applicant has included any and all extra-circular activity as those activities sometimes make the difference as to who is awarded the scholarships.

Storekeeper Phil Richeson has Pearl Harbor Patches, San Diego Base Coins and some shirts available.

Base Commander reported the next Breakfast is 30 October.

Base Commander announced the next All Flags day is 16 September POW/MIA Day and then 7 December - Pearl Harbor Day.

1925- Base Commander called for a break.

1938 - Base Commander called the meeting back to order. 50/50 drawing was held. \$60 went the General. Shipmate Mert Weltzien donated his winnings (\$60) to the Charlie Marin Scholarship Fund.

1934 - Unfinished Business

Base Commander Bob Bissonnette briefed and/or reported on the following

The National Convention recap:

The Awards and Scholarship Banquet was shorter than previous years as only the top Awards (Negri, etc) were handed out.

The Business meeting focused on several things,
including Rush Insurance.

Lack of volunteers for leadership positions at many bases

Website costs

Kaps for Kids

The next two conventions (Orlando 2017 and Caribbean Cruise 2018)

The just completed election and the Amendments that passed.

Minutes of the meeting will be available on the National Website.

The Joint SUBVET Christmas Party is scheduled for 3 December 2016. Social Hour will be 1300-1400 - Dinner at 1400. Menu Choice will be Cornish Hen or Pork Chops. Cost will be \$20 per person. See Ray Febrache to sign-up.

We have some memorabilia to be sold on E-Bay. Sentinel Editor Mike Hyman and Treasurer David Ball will make arrangements for EBay and Pay Pal Accounts.

The 2017 Western Region Roundup will be held at Sam's Town in Las Vegas the last week in April. Room cost will be \$35.00 a night.

1959 - New Business

A motion was made and passed that the base enter a team in The Chula Vista Veterans Home Fundraiser walk on 4 November 2016. Cost is \$100.00.

2013 – Good of the Order

Several members spoke on several subjects including:

The Sonar Convention in San Diego 21-25 September

John Jacques will run for National President next year

A moment of silence was observed for Captain Baker who fell ill at the Convention and subsequently passed away.

2020 - Auction

Donated Items were auctioned with the proceeds going to the General Fund.

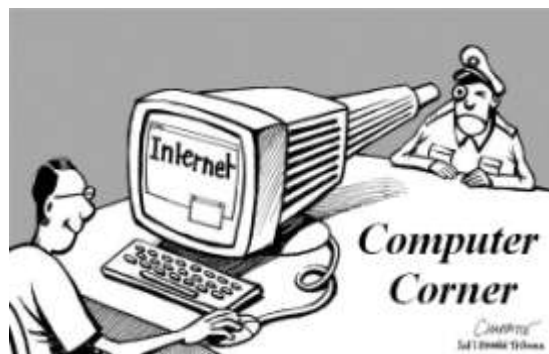
The Meeting was adjourned at 2028.

Jack Kane, Secretary

/s/ Jack E. Kane

Sailing List for 9 August 2016

Jack Kane	Bob Bissonnette	Phill Richeson
Bob Farrell	Bill Earl	David Ball
Ed Farley	Dennis Mortensen	Matt Baumann
Dottie Reed (Guest)	Dewey Reed (Guest)	Mike Hyman
Paul Hitchcock	John Lynch	Ron Gorence
Peter Lary	Manny Burciaga	Robert Golembieski
Mert Weltzien	Ray Febrache	David Martinez
Jim Potts	Bob Welch	



In our homes, the Internet of Things (IoT) refers to electrical devices with on-off switches or sensors that can be controlled by a computer or smart phone from local or remote locations. Examples include lighting, entertainment systems, security systems, baby monitors, medical devices, garage doors, heating and air conditioning, and appliances. The goal is to enhance the customer experience and add value to our lives. However, data about our behavior is sent from these products to the respective companies and that can create security and privacy issues. Recently, Bitdefender tested one of these IoT devices called a “Smart Plug” which is inserted into an electrical outlet in order to control any device that is plugged into it. This particular Smart Plug used an App downloaded onto a smart phone. That App had security flaws that would allow a hacker to gain access to a home network to control devices and steal the user's email password. The manufacturer is currently working on a fix. If you plan on going the IoT route in your home, then there are a few things you can do to avoid this pitfall: do extensive research on the product, read the privacy statement, test the device thoroughly to understand its use, change the default password during setup, ensure firmware is kept up-to-date, and consider installing a “IoT home security device” like Cujo, Dojo, F-Secure Sense, or Bitdefender Box. One final note, the anti-virus and anti-malware software on your computer or phone will not protect all those IoT devices in your home. *David Kauppinen, Webmaster, San Diego Base and Scamp Base*

Current News

“Plataginet, I will; and like thee, Nero,
Play on the lute, beholding the towns burn” (*Henry VI*, Shakespeare)

Underwater Drone Launches Mini-Drones **Michael Peck, C4ISRNET, October 5**

A General Dynamics Bluefin-21 launched several Bluefin SandShark M-UAVs at the Navy-sponsored 2016 Annual Naval Technology Exercise (ANTX) in Newport, Rhode Island.

"The Bluefin SandShark M-AUVs surfaced and functioned independent of the heavyweight-class Bluefin-21," a General Dynamics announcement said. "In one mission scenario, the Bluefin-21 simulated data collection and transfer of target imagery and other information to two Bluefin SandSharks. Those Bluefin SandSharks then surfaced to communicate with a Blackwing unmanned aerial vehicle. The Blackwing relayed the information back to a submarine combat control system ashore for decision-making authority and subsequent command of Bluefin SandShark M-AUVs."

"Our successful ANTX demonstrations showed that unmanned vehicles can deliver capabilities across the undersea and air operating domains," said Tracy Howard, a senior manager for AUVs at General Dynamics Mission Systems. "This system of systems approach leverages Bluefin-21's larger payload delivery, longer endurance and superior navigation capabilities to deliver smaller payloads such as autonomous underwater vehicles or unmanned aerial vehicles and sensors, providing the Navy with additional mission capabilities."

EB Seeking New Suppliers As Sub Workload Continues To Grow

Julia Bergman, The Day, October 4

NORWICH — A summit held here Tuesday provided Electric Boat with an opportunity to connect with potential new suppliers that will be in high demand as the company's workload continues to grow.

About 50 manufacturers attended the summit at the Holiday Inn in Norwich, where they were able to meet face-to-face with Electric Boat supply chain executives and procurement managers to discuss the company's current needs and the process for becoming part of its supply chain.

The company currently has 454 suppliers in the state. That number is expected to grow as the company expands its industrial base to keep up with the pace of submarine construction, said Jim Cassidy, EB's director of materials acquisition.

U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, D-2nd District, who hosted the event along with the Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance and the U.S. Department of Commerce, said it was an opportunity for the manufacturers to understand the supply chain process and also "the horizon in terms of the Navy and the overall shipbuilding plan for the Navy over the next 30 years."

The procurement of two Virginia-class attack submarines a year, and work on the Virginia Payload Module, an 80- to 85-foot-long section addition to Virginia boats that will provide additional Tomahawk missile capacity, and a new fleet of ballistic missile submarines, called the Columbia-class program, have kept EB busy in recent years.

A handful of those in attendance Tuesday already work with EB, such as Bozrah-based Collins and Jewell, a metal-fabrication manufacturer that has worked with EB in various capacities for 35 years. The company has 75 employees.

"From my perspective, as an existing Electric Boat supplier, there's more work than any one business can handle. We all recognize that. We all see that over the long-term, and we need to work together with other manufacturers to get through the boundaries of entry in the EB supplier chain," said Chris Jewell, the company's chief financial officer.

Jewell offered some advice to potential EB suppliers, noting that the process is "not as difficult as people want to think."

"It's a matter of having your ducks in a row, filling out the paperwork and going through the process," he said, noting that it's a slow process and that companies must be patient.

He added that small businesses have to be willing to take a risk and put "that initial investment out there." He also advised them to seek out grant programs, which don't have as much red tape as one might think.

Suppliers must meet rigorous requirements to work with EB. A potential welding supplier, for example, would have to meet a series of qualifications for its equipment, processes and welders.

"With some time, some investment and some help from Electric Boat, we can get new suppliers qualified," Cassidy said.

Peter Obuchowski, president of Norwich-based XUARE, a fairly new company with a desire to get into more computer-based machining, said that it was "great to recognize the barriers of entry and how to overcome them."

"But it is possible to overcome them even as a small company," he said.

The Global Submarine Market 2016-2026

Staff, PR Newswire, October 3

Summary

During the forecast period, the demand for military submarines is expected to be driven by the need to replace aging submarines, and disputes over maritime borders and trade routes. In addition to a nuclear deterrent role, submarines play more

crucial roles such as surveillance and reconnaissance, intelligence gathering, and patrolling and securing maritime borders and trade routes. The growing importance of submarines in these roles is driving the demand for submarines and related MRO services in countries with substantial maritime borders, by compelling them to invest heavily in procurement, mid-life upgrades, and MRO submarine programs.

Key Findings

- The global submarine market is worth US\$22.8 billion in 2016, and is expected to increase to US\$36.3 billion by 2026, at a CAGR of 4.74% during the forecast period
- The market is expected to be dominated by North America, occupying 37% of market share, followed by Asia Pacific and Europe, with shares of 32% and 24% respectively. The Middle East, Latin America, and Africa are expected to account for the remaining 7% of the overall submarine market
- The SSN segment is estimated to account for 38.3% of the global submarine market. SSK and SSBN segments are also expected to account for a significant portion of the total submarine market during the forecast period, with shares of 35.3% and 26.4% respectively
- Global spending on submarine MROs is projected to increase from US\$2.8 billion in 2016 to US\$3.3 billion in 2026, registering a CAGR of 1.67% during the forecast period

Synopsis

The Global Submarine Market 2016-2026 report offers a detailed analysis of the industry with market size forecasts covering the next ten years. This report will also analyze factors that influence demand for Submarines, key market trends, and challenges faced by industry participants.

In particular, it provides an in-depth analysis of the following:

- Market size and drivers: detailed analysis during 2016-2026, including highlights of the demand drivers and growth stimulators. It also provides a snapshot of the spending and modernization patterns of different regions around the world
- Recent developments and industry challenges: insights into technological developments and a detailed analysis of the changing preferences of Submarine segments around the world. It also provides trends of the changing industry structure and the challenges faced by industry participants
- Regional highlights: study of the key markets in each region, providing an analysis of the key segments of the market that are expected to be in demand
- Major programs: details of the key programs in each segment, which are expected to be executed during 2016-2026
- Competitive landscape and strategic insights: analysis of the competitive landscape of the global market. It provides an overview of key players, together with information regarding key alliances, strategic initiatives, and financial analysis

Reasons To Buy

- Determine prospective investment areas based on a detailed trend analysis of the global Submarines market over the next ten years
- Gain in-depth understanding about the underlying factors driving demand for different Submarine segments in the top spending countries across the world and identify the opportunities offered by each of them
- Strengthen your understanding of the market in terms of demand drivers, industry trends, and the latest technological developments, among others
- Identify the major channels that are driving the global Submarine market, providing a clear picture about future opportunities that can be tapped, resulting in revenue expansion
- Channelize resources by focusing on the ongoing programs that are being undertaken by the internal ministries of different countries within the Submarine market
- Make correct business decisions based on thorough analysis of the total competitive landscape of the sector with detailed profiles of the top Submarine service providers around the world which include information about their products, alliances, recent contract wins and financial analysis wherever available.

Naval Rivalry With China, North Korean Missile Threats Await Next President Wyatt Olson, Stars and Stripes, October 2

Building partnerships to counter China's growing naval strength, Russia's submarine force and North Korea's missile threat are high on the agenda of challenges facing the next president in the Pacific Ocean — for decades considered “America's lake.”

At the same time, the U.S. military will likely be called on to respond to natural disasters growing ever more powerful and frequent due to climate change. That could be an opportunity to earn goodwill but are also drain limited military resources.

These hazards in the Pacific won't come as a surprise to the new commander in chief.

Earlier this year, Defense Secretary Ash Carter ticked off the top "major, immediate challenges" that drive U.S. defense planning and budgeting. Four of the top five — North Korea, China, Russia, Islamic State terrorism and Iran — are all concerns in the Pacific region.

Carter said the problems would be confronted with "new strategic and operational approaches, new force posture in many places, and large investments in new and enhanced capabilities."

China's emerging navy

China is on its way to having the largest navy in the world, with a goal of about 350 ships by 2020.

The U.S. fleet now stands at roughly 275, and shipbuilding plans — depending upon congressional funding — would expand the fleet to slightly more than 300 by 2020, according to the Pentagon. China's fleet already dwarfs the roughly 80 ships of Pacific Fleet, a number projected to increase to 108 by 2020.

"Of course, numbers alone do not tell you everything," said Mohan Malik, a China expert and professor at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu. "But numbers in peace time play a very important role in changing perceptions and have a psychological impact on friends and allies about the balance of power."

China's surging navy has sparked an arms race in the Pacific, particularly submarines, anti-submarine capabilities and coast guard vessels, Malik said. China has made clear that it intends to use its growing navy assertively in the Pacific region.

In early August, Chinese Defense Minister Chang Wanquan called for preparations for "a people's war at sea" in light of an international tribunal's decision last summer that China's territorial claims over small reefs in the South China Sea were not supported by international law.

The U.S. military must now cope with China's growing capability to prevent opposing forces from entering a specific area, referred to as anti-access/area denial, or A2/AD. Long-range anti-ship cruise missiles and ballistic missiles are ideal for A2/AD.

"I think the real big challenge in the next two to three years is how the U.S. tries to deal with this maturing A2/AD threat throughout the Pacific," said Zack Cooper, an Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank.

A suitable U.S. response is still being debated in Washington, which has spawned several concepts for responding but not a full-throttled strategy, he said.

Cooper said there has been "a sense that the Defense Department has become a little bit disconnected" from the White House and the State Department on some elements of Asia strategy, which will require a refocus to ensure that the DOD and Pacific Command are "completely in line on their thinking."

The commander of China's navy, Adm. Wu Shengli, is implementing a plan that calls for sea denial in the so-called first island chain of defense from the Yellow Sea down to the South China Sea by the year 2020, Malik said.

"It puts pressure on the U.S. to increase its presence, to reassure its friend and allies that the U.S. will come to their aid if they come under pressure from China," he said. "It's already happening."

Adm. Harry Harris, commander of Pacific Command, has repeatedly said U.S. forces will continue routine operations and patrols in the South China Sea and elsewhere. He told a Senate committee this year that "the best way to go forward is to present and maintain our credible military power and to maintain our network of like-minded allies, partners and friends in the region and encourage them to operate in the South China Sea."

Asian military alliance

Broad agreement exists that it will take an alliance of Asian countries to countervail China's clout and defend the region from missile attacks by North Korea.

In a speech in Tokyo in July, Harris said that to effectively combat the North Korean threat, America, Japan and South Korea must cooperate in the full spectrum of military operations, with the sharing of more tactical information among the three being "essential."

The challenge for the United States in the next decade is to evolve away from the "hub-and-spoke alliance system" — in which American forces are the hub — into a true multilateral alliance, said Derek Reveron, a professor of national security affairs at the U.S. Naval War College.

One path to a more robust multilateral alliance in the Pacific is sales of weapons to partner countries that will enable greater cooperation in exercises and operations, he said.

"It has the added benefit of helping countries overcome their security deficits," he said. "For every F-35 [fighter jet] Japan, South Korea and Australia fields, the U.S. can reduce the number of its combat aircraft needs."

Stepped up nuclear weapon and missile tests by North Korea's young leader, Kim Jong Un, during the past year have heightened the need for a broader alliance.

“If there’s anything positive about Kim Jong Un and North Korea, it’s that he’s pushing South Korea, Japan and ourselves closer together,” said Stephen Cheney, a retired Marine Corps brigadier general and chief executive officer of the American Security Project, a Washington-based think tank. That same dynamic has pushed the United States and Philippines closer militarily as China’s presence in the waters off that nation has grown, he said.

“The future is that as China becomes more aggressive, you’re going to see trilateral groupings: US-Japan-Korea, U.S.-Japan-Australia, Australia-Indonesia-India, U.S.-Japan-India,” Malik said. “We are moving away from bilateral to trilateral and quadrilateral groupings to deal with this power shift that is underway.”

The long-term goal is “a kind of Asian NATO,” said Chung Min Lee, a professor at Yonsei University in Seoul and author of “Fault Lines in a Rising Asia,” published this year.

The path to that broader coalition is complicated by changes in leadership in two longtime American allies – Thailand and the Philippines.

A 2014 military coup in Thailand overthrew the democratically elected president, and promised elections by the controlling junta appear distant.

Meanwhile, the Philippines is undergoing a wave of human-rights abuses, fully sanctioned by newly elected President Rodrigo Duterte. More than 1,800 people have been killed by police and vigilante groups in the past two months as part of his war on drugs.

In April, the United States and Philippines signed an agreement to allow U.S. troops to rotate through five bases in that country, and the incoming U.S. president will be faced with balancing the need to support the Philippines as an ally and censoring state-sanctioned human rights abuses.

What’s not likely to change in the near future is America’s military posture regarding North Korea, said Cooper.

“I don’t think an incoming administration would early on necessarily focus on North Korea, just because it’s such a hard problem and the options are so limited,” he said. “I think a new administration would look elsewhere, where it would hope to get more effects for its time than to focus on big changes in North Korea.”

Submarine dominance

Adm. Harris has described U.S. submarine capability as the “biggest asymmetric” advantage America has over any competitor in the world.

“The submarine gives us an advantage over any other adversary we might face,” he told a House committee this year. “Unfortunately, those adversaries recognize that and they are improving and increasing their own undersea warfare capabilities.”

The number of Russian and Chinese submarines is a “matter of concern,” Harris said. “I think the Russian submarine force never took a hiatus at the end of the Cold War, and we’re seeing some very impressive platforms come out of Russia.”

China is believed to have between 64 and 70 submarines, Malik said. In the last decade, the Chinese added one or two submarines to the fleet every year and are projected to have 90 submarines by 2025, Malik said.

By contrast, Pacific Fleet has 40 submarines, with that number expected to increase by only one by 2020.

Asian countries are expected to buy 120 new submarines by 2025, Malik said. Many of them will belong to American allies and partners and will contribute to maintaining the status quo in the Pacific.

But Harris has said Pacific Command must maintain the advantage of undersea warfare and needs weapons that are faster, farther reaching and more lethal.

“If funding uncertainties continue, the U.S. will experience reduced warfighting capabilities,” he said.

Islamist extremism

As the Islamic State group continues to lose ground in Iraq and Syria, security experts believe the terrorist organization could shift its emphasis to the Pacific region.

Cheney, the former Marine brigadier general, called this the “whack-a-mole” principle — once the extremists have been smacked down in the Middle East, they could pop up in Indonesia, Malaysia or the Philippines, all with significant Muslim populations.

Harris said in a July speech that he believed the Islamic State group was undergoing its own rebalance to the Pacific, calling it a “cancerous spread.”

The Islamic State group in the past recruited fighters from the Pacific to the Middle East, but recently its efforts in Asia have been aimed at terrorizing Muslims rather than recruiting them.

In January in Jakarta, Indonesia, attackers killed four people and injured 23 using bombs and firearms.

In July, five militants took hostages and opened fire in a tony neighborhood in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Before the siege ended, 29 people were killed, including 20 hostages, two police officers and the five gunmen.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for both attacks.

Special Operations Command in the Pacific has been coordinating the Red Phoenix campaign, which has involved joint and combined operations with certain Pacific nations to combat transnational terrorist networks, Harris said in June, but details of the campaign have not been made public.

Climate-related security

Climate change has increased the odds of extreme weather-related events, such as typhoons, flooding, drought and wildfires.

And with its logistical expertise and amphibious and air capabilities, the U.S. military is routinely asked to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in the Pacific. That mission will only grow in the coming decade, with the expected uptick in catastrophic typhoons like Haiyan, which devastated portions of the Philippines in 2013.

In the long term, Pacific forces will have to prepare for a rising sea level, which will inundate low-lying areas and create waves of refugees. A 2010 Defense Department report said 30 U.S. military installations worldwide were at risk from rising sea level, including the naval logistics hub Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

Pressure could build for humanitarian assistance and security from the U.S. military as partner nations face sea-level rise. Climate change could act as a threat multiplier by compounding security problems due to insufficient food and water, damaged infrastructure, infectious diseases and mass migrations.

Cheney called Bangladesh the “poster child” of climate-change calamity, where in 10 years sea level could rise more than one foot. The country expects 30 million “climate refugees” during the next three decades as they move away from the coastal region, he said.

“That will cause incredible turmoil in the Pacific region,” Cheney said.

At the same time, U.S. military assistance in such cases could be beneficial in making the case to Asian nations why U.S. presence is so important for the region.

“When there’s a big crisis and the U.S. can get forces there rapidly and in large numbers and help people who are in need, I think that’s tremendously important,” Cooper said. “[Disaster relief] has been central to forging a strong alliance relationship.”

USS Nautilus Began Navy’s Nuclear Propulsion Program 77 Years Ago Lt. Cmdr. Benjamin Amdur, Space Coast Daily, October 2

For the cost of a laptop today, the Navy’s nuclear propulsion program began 77 years ago.

It could only have been a Navy physicist who upon observing the energy created by the splitting of uranium atoms, would also wonder if that could be used for propulsion at sea.

It was in 1939 when Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) scientists met to determine if a “fission chamber” could generate steam to operate a turbine to propel a submarine. Dr. Ross Gunn, head of the Mechanics and Electricity Division, asked for \$1,500 to pay for initial research.

The funds were approved, and so began the Navy’s nuclear fission program.

The research took a back seat in 1942 when members of NRL’s nuclear program assisted with the Manhattan Project that would unleash the power of nuclear fission in the form of the atom bombs that would end World War II.

After the war, work on a nuclear propulsion system resumed in 1946 when then-Capt. Hyman G. Rickover, an engineering officer, joined the post-war Manhattan Project’s power reactor program at Oak Ridge, Tenn. He had a reputation as an “acerbic” personality, but also the determination to bulldoze through bureaucracy.

He berated a team of scientists at the Atomic Energy Commission’s General Advisory Committee in Sept. 1946 after they determined it would be 20 years before there could be a demonstration of atomic power for practical uses.

A Jan. 9, 1947 report to Chief of Naval Operations Chester W. Nimitz stated submarines capable of operating submerged for unlimited periods could be possible by the mid-1950s, “provided nuclear power is made available for submarine propulsion.”

The report was approved by Nimitz the following day. Rickover oversaw design of a nuclear-propelled submarine, and Congress approved it in the Fiscal Year 1952 shipbuilding program. President Harry S. Truman would sign the keel for the future USS Nautilus on June 14, 1952. Rickover had been involved for a mere six years.

The one of the biggest decisions with Nautilus was not that she would be powered by nuclear energy, but whether to make her an experimental, unarmed test vehicle or a fully operational warship.

On Jan. 21, 1954, the massive 319-foot submarine with a 28-foot beam was launched with a crack of a champagne bottle wielded by First Lady Mamie Eisenhower.

Nautilus was built for both comfort and speed. Accommodations included 2 and 3-berth staterooms for the 12 officers, a single room for the captain, and a wardroom.

For the more than 90 enlisted men, each had their own rack, a mess that could seat 36 of the crew, or up to 50 for movies and lectures. A juke-box was hooked to the boat's hi-fi system, along with an ice cream machine and soda dispenser. Better yet, the nuclear-powered system would provide unlimited fresh water and air conditioning.

The business end of Nautilus featured six torpedo tubes and carried 26 torpedoes. She was also outfitted with auxiliary diesel generators and a battery to "bring home" the boat if needed.

Nautilus would achieve a number of firsts during sea trials, including the fastest submerged transit undertaken by a submarine: 90 hours from New London, Conn., to San Juan, Puerto Rico at an average speed of 16 knots (the previous record for that speed had been for a single hour).

In exercises and war games with the fleet, Nautilus was nearly invincible. She could easily maneuver to either close on an enemy or escape one, all while remaining submerged. And she could outrun many of the Navy's destroyers and all of the anti-submarine homing torpedoes at that time.

Refueled four times during her 25 years in commission, Nautilus would sail more than a half-million nautical miles, most of them submerged.

In 1958, Nautilus completed a secret mission requested by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to prove American technology had not taken a backseat to the Soviet space program.

In a mission called Operation Sunshine, the nuclear-powered submarine passed under the North Pole on Aug. 3, 1958 – the first watercraft to reach the geographic "top" of the world – during a trip from Pearl Harbor to England and under the Soviet's collective noses through the Bering Strait.

Nautilus and her crew earned the Presidential Unit Citation (PUC), the first-ever awarded in peace time. Her commanding officer, Capt. William R. Anderson, was whisked away from Nautilus when she resurfaced near Iceland, brought to a White House ceremony, where Eisenhower would announce the success of Operation Sunshine. The president then presented Anderson with a Legion of Merit to go with his crew's PUC.

For the next 13 years, she would be involved in a variety of developmental testing programs while continuing to serve alongside many of the more modern nuclear-powered submarines.

Decommissioned and stricken from the Navy rolls in 1980, Nautilus' future was assured when the Secretary of the Interior designated the submarine as a National Historic Landmark May 20, 1982.

After a historic ship conversion, Nautilus opened to the public April 11, 1986, to continue her service as an example of the Navy's pioneering role in harnessing nuclear power, as the first in a fleet of nuclear-powered ships, and as steward of the American submarine force's reputation for and history of operational excellence.



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