

American Submariners Inc.  
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San Diego, CA 92120-3404



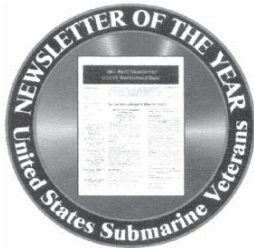
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## *The Silent Sentinel*

### *JANUARY 2013*



#### *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.

## **NOMINATIONS FOR NEW BASE OFFICERS**

At our next meeting, January 8, 2013, we should be nominating our new officers for the next year. The only position that will not have a clear candidate is Junior Vice (Jim Bilka will be off to another job and not available.) The offices that will be available are Sr Vice Cdr; Jr Vice Cdr; Secretary; and, Treasurer, they have not committed to serve again. We should know for certain if the current officers will want to continue by next meeting, otherwise we will need candidates for those offices. The office of Base Commander will not be open until next year. PLEASE come to our meeting on January 8 and nominate your choice for the offices listed above. I hope to see many of you there.

Smooth sailing,

Charlie Marin, Nominations Chairman

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### 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.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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**

## ***JANUARY 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 8 January, 2013. 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**

### Al Strunk

# ***Submarine Losses in December***

Originally Compiled by C J Glassford



- GRAMPUS (SS 4) - 16 Men on Board:  
 Main Engine Fuel Explosion, on 10 Dec 1910 :  
 " 1 MAN LOST "
- CARP (SS 20) - 19 Men on Board:  
 Sunk, on 16 Dec 1917, after Collision with USS F - 3, (SS 22), off the Coast of San Diego, California :  
 "ALL HANDS LOST "
- S - 4 (SS 109) - 39 Men on Board:  
 Rammed and Sunk, on 17 Dec 1927, by Coast Guard Cutter Spaulding, Off Provincetown, Massachusetts, \* Later Salvaged:  
 "ALL HANDS LOST "
- SEALION (SS 195) - Duty Section on Board:  
 Severely Damaged, on 10 Dec 1941, by 2 Bombs, during Air Attacks at Cavite Navy Yard, in the Philippines. Later Scuttled on 25 Dec 1941:  
 " 4 MEN LOST "
- MINNEAPOLIS-SAINT PAUL ((SSN708) - 110 Men on Board:  
 Heavy Seas, on 29 Dec 2006, Washed 4 Crewmen Overboard in Plymouth Sound, England, while exiting Devonshire, England, on the Surface, after a Port of Call :  
 " 2 MEN LOST " - " 2 MEN RESCUED "



**Minutes for Submarine Veterans San Diego, 11 Dec 2012.**

1900 – Meeting of the Submarine Veterans Inc., San Diego Base was called to order by Base Senior Commander Bill Earl.

**Conducted Opening Exercises:**

Reading of Our Creed:

Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by Charlie Marin.

Chaplin Lead in Prayer:

Conducted Tolling of the Boats:

Observed a moment of Silent Prayer:

Past E-Board members, Past Officers and guest present recognized.

Secretary posted the sailing list – 29 members and guests aboard.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer absent, no report available.

**Call for Committee Reports:**

Chaplain's Binnacle List: Al Strunck and Ed Farley. Chaplin requested a moment of Silence for all shipmates who are on Eternal Patrol. Chaplin has provided a list of recent shipmates: Joesph Talbert (11-30-12), David Follo (12-3-12), Bill Lee (12-10-12, Vic Lee (11-5-12), Harlan DeGood (9-14-12), Harold Gillespie (11-11-12), Edward Biele (11-3-12), Llewellyn Price (10-7-12), Jim Hall (11-7-12).

Parade Committee: Jack Kane: No parades this month. The next parade will be in Linda Vista sometime in March.

Membership Committee: Ray Ferbrache: We presently have 311 members.

Scholarship Committee: If you have a candidate please get any applications ready by March.

Storekeeper: We have some items here and patches can be ordered. Let me know if you would like to order anything special. We now have Submarine calendars.

Breakfast Committee: Commander pointed out that Breakfasts will fall on New Year's Eve and Easter weekend. The membership voted to pass on having Breakfast on these two dates.

Elections: Charlie Marin presented to the membership that we need to elect new officers. All positions are open except the Base Commander. If you desire to run or want to elect someone please contact him after the meeting or sometime this month. Positions open are Senior Vice Base Commander, Junior Vice Base Commander, Secretary, and Treasurer. Elections will be held in March.

1915 – Commander called for a Break....

1930 – Meeting called to order.

**Unfinished Business**

We are attempting to move to an all electronic system so please make sure we have your correct email address, you can check it on line.

Float Committee report: Dave K. reported that the committee has not met and no movement has been made on this issue. However, member Joel Eikam has volunteered the use of his trailer, Joel has sent a letter to the E-board stating the particulars. The E-board has taken this under advisement, and will report to the membership.

Christmas party this Saturday, if you have not paid you can pay at the door but let us know what you would like to eat. The choices are Roast Beef and Cornish Hen. The party starts at 1330 and the food will be served at 1400. There will be door prizes.

The Printer is still unable and but needs to be removed from its present location. If we cannot find a user we will have to recycle to unit. We do not need to use the machine for printing the Sentinel.

**New Business**

No new business.

**Good of the Order**

Jack Lester reported on special Memorial service in Mazatlan were he represented Submarine Veterans. It was a very special and meaningful service.

Dave K. reported some problems with the size of the fonts on the web site and presented some solutions to increase the font size.

Seymour P. asked if anyone could provide a ride from Solano Beach area.

Commander encouraged all members to attend the Christmas party this coming weekend.

2020 – Meeting adjourned.

**Sailing List for 11 DEC 2012**

JACK LESTER	BILL EARL	JIM BILKA
JACK KANE	AL POBLETE	CHARLIE MARIN
PETE LARY	M. BURCIAGA	JACK ADDINGTON
DAVID KAUPPINEN	D. MORTENSEN	JESSIE CHANG
RAY FERBRACHE	SEYMORE PHILLIPS	FRED FOMBY
MIKE COSGROVE	JOEL EIKAM	PHILL RICHESON
ED FARLEY	PAUL HITCHCOCK	TOM POLEN
BOB OBERTING	JACK STANGLE	BOB FARRELL
RON GORENCE	MIKE HYMAN	DENNIS MCCREIGHT
PHI LLIP RICHESON	DON MATHIOWETZ	RICHARD A SMITH

## Women in Navy submerge for 1st time

CNN, Jan. 4

Women in the military are definitely making strides under water. CNN's Pentagon correspondent Chris Lawrence talks to an officer who's on track to become the Navy's first female submarine commander.

Transcript: Women in the military are definitely making strides under water. CNN's Pentagon correspondent Chris Lawrence talks to an officer who's on track to become the Navy's first female submarine commander.

Chris Lawrence, CNN Correspondent: It's a new frontier for female Sailors. Submerged for months, no sun, no space, no sleep. Lieutenant Junior Grade Marquette Leveque is one of the first women to qualify for submarine duty.

Is it everything you expected?

Navy Lt. Junior Grade Marquette Leveque: I got a lot less sleep than I imagined I would.

Lawrence: We met Leveque a few years ago when she went by her maiden name, Reed. She was a cadet at the Naval Academy when the Pentagon opened sub duty to women.

Leveque: At the time I was flying. I was a pilot, selected to be a pilot after graduation.

Lawrence: Leveque decided her future was under the water, not soaring above it, and she wasn't afraid of breaking a barrier.

Leveque: I see it being just like our male counterparts. And I think that we'll be accepted the same way.

Lawrence: We reminded her of what she said then and read some of the reaction from fellow and former Sailors. "Way to go, ladies. Welcome to the pride of the fleet. And wear those gold dolphins proudly."

But also "this is about giving feminists what they want. Glad I got my dolphins pinned on before the Navy went P.C." And "keep the eye candy upwardly mobile."

Leveque: There's always going to be an aversion to change, and so the best way to deal with that is just go and do my job like any other officer would.

Lawrence: Male and female officers do not sleep in the same state room, but that's about it. I mean, I can't imagine there's very much room for separating men and women.

Leveque: Honestly, I didn't even notice it.

Lawrence: Since all officers share one bathroom, they use a sign to warn each other.

Leveque: We just have a sign that we flip back and forth for either "occupied by male" or "occupied by female."

Lawrence: This month, Leveque earned her dolphin. A gold chest device that means she's mastered operations.

Lawrence: It took a year of nuclear training, three more months at submarine officer school. And then her first sea tour.

Leveque: It's a huge honor to finally really feel like I'm a part of the submarine community.

Lawrence: In fact, Leveque is one of only three women to qualify as unrestricted line officers. That's big because it means down the road she would be eligible to one day assume command of a nuclear-powered sub. And it's pretty clear that, whenever a war is waged under water, women are going to be a part of that fight.

## Big Changes To INSURV

### Five things every sailor should know

Navy Times, Jan. 14

The Navy overhauled the Board of Inspection Survey process Jan. 1 and will now subject ships to the rigorous test twice as often.

Instead of inspecting a ship's material readiness every five years, INSURVs will be done every 2½ years, and there will be two different types of inspections. Officials also revamped scoring to involve a point system.

It's a huge shift for the inspections and will affect everyone from the commanding officer to the most junior sailor. The first ship to be surveyed under the new rules will be the destroyer Momsen this month.

What you need to know:

Why They're Doing It.

Five-year inspections didn't work because the crucial evaluation made ships put an inordinate amount of resources into getting their crews and ship to standards, said INSURV President Rear Adm. Robert Wray.

These tests too often occurred as a ship was winding down after a tough deployment, he added.

"The goal is to make this a standard part of the pre-deployment prep," he said.

Additionally, the old scoring system did not give a detailed-enough perspective on the extent of a ship's problems. In some cases, a ship could receive an "unsatisfactory" and be ready to deploy days later, Wray said.

Nor could the three-grade score allow for easy statistical comparisons between vessels.

The Good News.

Navy brass hopes more regular inspections will create a "culture of material readiness" where ships are always fit for combat. They hope crews will no longer preen their ship for an upcoming INSURV and that inspectors will get a more candid, "come as you are" look at a ship's condition. Maintaining material readiness will be a major part of the deployment preparation process, and officials expect that this pre-deployment work will prepare a ship for a successful inspection.

The Bad News.



Not only will inspections be more frequent, ships also will have to prepare on their own — they can no longer bring in outside help. And the inspections will occur in pre-deployment periods, a time frame when crews are already busy prepping for their upcoming cruise.

#### Two Inspections.

There will be two types of inspections, and they will occur 30 months apart. One will be a traditional INSURV during the ship's fleet readiness plan cycle. On a destroyer, for example, this evaluation will include a total of about 75 civilian and military inspectors and take around four days, Wray said.

Then, 30 months later, there will be another inspection with the type commander, assisted by INSURV. On a destroyer, this will include 25 uniform officers and just over two days to complete the inspection, he said.

#### How Scoring Will Work.

The new scoring will use a point system to evaluate ships. Under the old system, a ship could be deemed "satisfactory" at best, or "degraded" if one fault mission area was discovered or "unsatisfactory" if two or more areas were lacking.

About 6 percent of ships were unsatisfactory since the establishment of the three-tiered grading. In 2012, both the destroyer John S. McCain and fast-attack submarine Hampton didn't make the cut.

Now the board will use a weighted average of 30 scores based a 100-point scale. There is not a pass or fail, Wray said, but rather a sliding scale of how positive or negative a ship is compared with others in its class.

### Russian Navy to Get Over 50 New Warships by 2016

*RIA NOVOSTI, Jan. 3*

MOSCOW – The Russian Navy will get over 50 new warships by 2016, including strategic nuclear submarines and special operations support vessels, the Defense Ministry reported on Thursday.

"By 2016, the combat strength of the Navy will be replenished with 18 surface warships of various ranks and designation, and also 30 special-purpose and counter-subversion vessels. It is also planned to put 6 multi-purpose and strategic submarines into operation," the ministry said in a statement.

The quality of new generations of surface warships and submarines being built for the Russian Navy will improve with stronger state acceptance control at the shipyards involved in the Navy's shipbuilding program, the statement said.

"The implementation of the shipbuilding program envisages serial construction along with the introduction of new technical and modernization solutions into each subsequently built warship," the statement said.

Russia is currently in the middle of a huge rearmament program, with \$659 billion to be spent on arms procurement by 2020, according to the Defense Ministry.

Russia's Defense Ministry announced on Wednesday unprecedented naval drills in the Mediterranean and Black Seas in late January with the involvement of warships from the Northern, Baltic, Black Sea and Pacific Fleets.

"The Russian Navy's drills of this scope will be held for the first time over the past few decades and are designed to improve control, ensure and practice multiservice force interaction of the fleets in the far-off maritime zones," the ministry's press office said. The drills will be held in line with the Russian Armed Forces' 2013 combat training plan and will aim to "practice the issues of establishing a multiservice grouping of forces (troops) outside Russia, planning its use and conducting joint actions as part of a united naval grouping based on a common plan," the press office said.

### Past submarine mistakes make a case for going nuclear

*The Australian, Jan. 5*

ON Tuesday, the National Archives released the 1985 cabinet submission that led to the decision to build six Collins-class submarines in Adelaide. A key question is whether the lessons from that experience have been learned by the current government as it moves to buy a new class of replacement submarines for the navy.

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In May 1985, cabinet commissioned project definition studies by Swedish and German submarine builders on how to construct a new class of six or eight large submarines in Australia. Each builder was asked to evaluate how it would install specified US or European combat systems into the new boats. They were also asked to supply detailed budgets and delivery schedules.

This approach was opposed most strongly by the departments of finance and prime minister and cabinet, as well as Treasury. Finance foresaw a serious risk of cost escalation, argued for a reassessment of cost-capability trade-offs and pressed for consideration of a four-boat option.

Treasury wanted to greatly reduce program risks and pressed for further consideration of a fully proven submarine, the Dutch Walrus class. It noted: "With few exceptions, local industry has a dismal record in the construction of high technology equipment". Moreover, Treasury noted that "nowhere has the Minister (for Defence) detailed the facilities and human skills resulting from local construction are of genuine ongoing relevance to our marine and engineering industries".

Kim Beazley was a very strong and convincing defence minister and his arguments won the day. But we now know that although six Collins-class submarines were eventually delivered to the RAN, they cost well over double the estimated figure, they arrived late and they suffered from serious ongoing technical and support problems. Only rarely have more than two of the six boats been operational at any given time and the costs of sustaining the force are now approaching \$1 billion a year and rising.

Nearly 30 years on, while the strategic circumstances have changed, there are similarities in the issues the Hawke government faced then and the Gillard government now faces.

The first and most profound similarity is the current government appears as confused about its goals as its predecessor. Precisely what does the government want to buy? Does it want to buy a strong submarine force able to deter major conflict and defend the country against serious attack?

Alternatively, does the government really want only a token submarine force? Is it primarily interested in a make-work scheme, disguised as a cost-effective strategic program to rebuild Australia's high-technology marine industry? The cabinet papers suggest that in 1985 the government wanted almost all of the above.

A second similarity with 1985 is there remain serious doubts about the ability of domestic industry to develop, build and put into service a new class of large submarines on time and on cost.

Recent assessments suggest Australia's maritime industry is incapable of building a new class of submarines while simultaneously building 10 new future frigates and 19 new offshore patrol vessels, announced in the 2009 defence white paper and supporting and maintaining the massive infrastructures required by the burgeoning offshore oil and gas industry. Australia simply does not have the depth and breadth of maritime skills and facilities to undertake all these highly complex programs in parallel.

A third similarity is that neither the Defence Minister, nor anyone else, has made a convincing case that the skills and facilities developed for local submarine construction will be of ongoing relevance to Australia's marine and engineering industries.

Another echo from 1985 is the ruling Labor cabinet is confronted by a tight fiscal outlook in the short term, though with some greater financial flexibility in the medium term. But while our construction capability is still in question today, the current cabinet faces a markedly different set of circumstances.

First, the strategic outlook is fundamentally different. The major global powers are now all located in our region, not on the other side of the world.

Tensions and the potential for major conflict are growing on our doorstep and, in the event of many potential crises, we can expect to be targeted.

China's dramatically expanding military capabilities are of particular concern and Beijing now looks like matching Washington's defence spending within 20 years.

In the underwater domain, China has commissioned 45 advanced submarines since 1995 and currently has no less than five new submarine programs.

At the same time, the US is cutting its defence expenditure and in the event of a major crisis in the 2030s would struggle to deploy 20 attack submarines in the western Pacific.

In the light of this far more troubling outlook, the government is yet to show it is serious about deterring major threats and effectively defending the country in a serious crisis.

A second major difference from the situation in 1985 is that the US now has a very powerful, fully sorted and proven submarine in series production that would meet all of Australia's deterrence and defence needs. These submarines are very fast, with almost unlimited endurance, and have markedly superior sensors that can routinely "see" other submarines and surface ships long before they can be "seen" and they can carry far more powerful weapons and other payloads.

Acquiring these boats would signal strongly to any potential opponent that Australia is not to be trifled with and assure allies and friends that we are serious about reinforcing their security.

Moreover, a squadron of these submarines could be bought or leased within Australia's budget and they could be delivered on time and at low risk.

The 14th Virginia-class submarine is in production with some 25 extra boats planned. It is certainly open to the Australian government to negotiate the lease or purchase of 10-12 Virginias for delivery well before any domestically built boats could be commissioned.

The primary reason why the government has ruled out Virginia boats has nothing to do with their superior capacity to meet Australia's defence needs. The problem is they are nuclear-powered. However, in contrast to the previous classes of nuclear-powered submarines, the Virginias never need refuelling and the support requirements would be manageable if negotiated within an expanded alliance co-operation initiative.

This type of attractive US option was not available in the 1980s.

Third, in the 1980s it was widely assumed that if Australia wished to provide quality through-life maintenance and support for its new submarines, it was essential to also build the boats. This proved to be wrong.

In fact, most of the skills required to design and assemble a class of submarine are not those needed for system trouble-shooting, modification, repair, maintenance, testing and set-to-work. The work processes, skill-sets and the cultures are quite different. That's why owners of Range Rovers don't return their cars to the factory for servicing.

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But has the government taken on board the lessons of the past 25 years? During recent months, the government has confirmed that a new class of 12 diesel-electric submarines will be built in Adelaide, with the first boat not to be delivered until 2033-36. With an anticipated budget of \$36 billion, this will be the largest Australian defence acquisition program ever.

Some \$214 million is being spent on studies to evaluate the merits of buying an existing small European submarine, moving to a new class of modified European boat, selecting an evolved design, such as an upgraded Collins, or designing a completely new submarine in Australia from scratch.

At the same time, the government has cut defence spending to 1.56 per cent of gross domestic product, its lowest level since 1938, and so the scope for actually paying for new submarines is diminishing.

What is the public to make of this? Has the current government learnt the lessons from the past 25 years? The strategy on which the government has embarked may deliver submarines, but they will almost certainly be late, greatly over budget, experience serious technical problems, have low reliability, deliver limited deterrence and defensive power and, by the late-2030s, they will probably be obsolete. It is hard to see this story ending well. The consequences for the country's security are serious.

**PASADENA, Calif. (Jan. 1, 2013)** - *Electrician's Mate 1st Class (SS) Phillip Alampi, who is assigned to the Los Angeles class attack submarine USS Pasadena (SSN 752), sits in front of the City of South Pasadena's themed float, Sail the Sea of Knowledge, with his wife, Veera. Alampi, Pasadena's Sailor of the Year, and his wife, rode in the City of South Pasadena's float during the 124th Rose Parade, Jan. 1. The Alampis were invited by the Pasadena Foundation to take part in the Rose Bowl Kick-off Luncheon, participate in the Rose Parade and meet with various Pasadena Foundation civic leaders during their namesake visit to Pasadena, Dec. 29 - Jan. .*  
(Photo courtesy of Ross S. Selvidge, Ph.D.)



### **General Dynamics Awarded \$309 Million for Sub Work**

*Seattle Post Intelligencer, Dec. 29, 2012*

On Friday, the U.S. Department of Defense announced it has awarded General Dynamics' Electric Boat Corp. subsidiary a \$307.9 million "undefinitized" contract modification to a previously awarded contract. The funds are to be used to purchase long-lead-time materials needed for construction of three Virginia-class nuclear fast attack submarines: SSN 792, scheduled for procurement in 2014, and SSN 793 and SSN 794, both scheduled for procurement in 2015. (Note that the years in question refer to when Congress will officially procure money to pay for the subs, not the years they will enter service.)

Purchasing of the materials in question is expected to be complete by December 2013, but dates for the actual construction of the submarines have not yet been established.

Shares of General Dynamics closed down 1.6% ahead of the announcement on Friday, at \$67.88.

### **Iran Showcases Special Forces During Naval Drills: Report**

*Reuters, Dec. 30, 2012*

**DUBAI** – Iranian special forces and military diving units practiced defending their ports and coastline against attacks on Sunday, state-linked media reported during naval war games meant to warn off states threatening the Islamic republic.

The highly-publicized "Velayat 91" exercises are taking place across a wide area from the Strait of Hormuz, a vital oil and gas shipping route, to the Gulf of Oman and northern parts of the Indian Ocean.

Naval commanders have made regular appearances on Iranian television since Friday saying the six-day drill would show how Iran could defend its territory.

"Today there are attacks from invading forces on our ports and coasts and engagement of them by marine units and special operations forces (from helicopters)," said commander Amir Rastegari, according to Fars news agency.

Diving teams were also practicing attacks on enemy vessels, Rastegari said.

Cyber attack simulations and submarine and mine-laying exercises took place on Saturday, he said in a separate report on state news agency IRNA.

Israel has repeatedly threatened to launch strikes against Iran's nuclear program which many in the West fear is aimed at developing an atomic weapons capability.

Iran says it is only interested in generating electricity and other peaceful projects.

Over the last year, commanders of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards have threatened to block the Strait of Hormuz if their country comes under attack.

The United States has responded by saying it would not tolerate any obstruction of commercial traffic through the Strait, which carries more than a third of the world's sea-borne oil traffic.

Washington maintains a sizeable military presence in the region.

Iran holds military exercises several times a year and regularly unveils advances in domestically-produced military hardware. Defense analysts say Iran often exaggerates its military strength.

### **Guam Lobbies For A Wave Of Chinese**

*Wall Street Journal, Dec. 29, 2012*

**TUMON, Guam**—David Su is betting this tropical U.S. outpost in the Pacific is about to become a testing ground for a bold immigration experiment: allowing Chinese tourists to visit U.S. soil without a visa.

In the past two years, he and his brother have invested \$80 million to rehabilitate dilapidated hotels and buy empty plots to cater to what he expects will be a "massive" mainland Chinese influx of tourists that will rival the Japanese tourism boom here in the 1980s.

"We are convinced of that and putting our money where our mouth is," says Mr. Su, a Taiwanese-American real estate developer who has lived in Guam for 32 years. "We are buying whatever is available."

Under current law, Chinese nationals must go through a time-consuming visa screening before coming to U.S. soil, and as a result only about 8,000 of Guam's 1 million mostly Asian visitors this year came from China.

But Guam's elected officials and tourism industry see a golden opportunity. The U.S. territory, which is 15 time zones away from Washington, is just a 4 ½ hour flight from Shanghai, and the Chinese are increasingly traveling abroad more as their incomes rise.

So, Guam officials are lobbying Washington to make the island the first U.S. visa-free zone for Chinese. Their effort is complicated by security concerns: Guam is home to some of the biggest U.S. military bases in the Pacific.

The U.S. military and the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees immigration policy, have expressed fears to Guamanian officials that among the tourists would be spies observing the island's fighter jet squadrons and nuclear submarines.

“The department believes that travel and trade security and facilitation go hand-in-hand and is regularly reviewing whether and how it is possible to take additional steps to streamline international travel while enhancing security,” says Marsha Catron, a Homeland Security spokeswoman.

Local officials say discussions with the department are progressing. They view its granting last year of a trial visa waiver for Russians traveling to Guam as a good sign. That move prompted a rush of sun seekers from Vladivostok, in Russia’s far east, to Guam, where Russian-language signs are popping up in hotel lobbies to cater to the influx.

“The issues there are not insurmountable. We do believe that Homeland Security has also been moving in that direction,” says Eddie Calvo, Guam’s governor. “You can’t take highway 5 and hit Los Angeles. We are in Asia,” he says.

Guam’s proximity to China makes it a valuable base for the U.S. military as it beefs up its presence in the region to fulfill the Obama administration’s foreign-policy pivot to Asia. Almost 5,000 Marines are moving to Guam in the next few years on top of the 14,000 military personnel already here.

Military and government spending make up nearly half the \$4 billion economy. Andersen Air Force Base takes up much of the north end of the island. Fifteen miles south down Marine Forces Drive is Naval Base Guam, what locals call “Big Navy,” a port where nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carrier support ships dock for maintenance and restocking.

“Given cyberhacking and intelligence breeches, I can’t blame them for being hesitant. You have huge military presence here,” says Lee Webber, owner of a Guam scuba-dive company and former publisher of the Pacific Daily News, Guam’s main newspaper.

Tourism is the island’s largest private-sector employer, drawing mostly Asian tourists who come to splash in the blue waters, play golf and shop. But Guam’s tourist facilities have taken on a threadbare feel since Japan’s economic malaise hit 20 years ago. Black mold stains the facades of beachfront hotels. Luxury shopping areas sit alongside strip malls of handgun shooting galleries and all-night massage parlors.

More than 80 million Chinese are expected to go abroad this year, double from five years ago. They are crowding vacation destinations across Asia, from Korea to Thailand, boosting local economies.

Gov. Calvo calls a potential influx of Chinese tourists “manna from heaven” for the island of 160,000 people, where unemployment is 12%.

Jim Beighley, executive vice president of DFS Group Ltd, a luxury shopping chain that caters to Chinese travelers in Indonesia, Thailand, Macau and the U.S., says he has lobbied U.S. lawmakers on Capitol Hill to make the visa change. “The biggest challenge in Washington is that most people think Guam is just a giant military base,” he says. Nevertheless, he thinks a trial China visa-free program could be implemented in the next year or so.

The U.S. government adopted pilot visa-waiver programs in Guam for South Korean and Taiwanese in the early 1990s into national U.S. immigration policy, with Taiwan gaining the visa waiver for the mainland U.S. in November.

Mr. Su, the real-estate developer, is planning to build shopping centers adjacent to his hotels to cater to Chinese taking advantage of Guam’s zero-sales tax and the strong Chinese currency. He is also trying to bring in mainland investors to help him build, but so far he has no takers.

“They are all waiting for the announcement of the visa waiver,” he says.

### **Silent killer: Nuclear submarine is latest in new fleet of Russian missile-carriers to have started sea trials nearly seven years after building began**

*Dailymail.co.uk, Jan. 1*

Russia has begun testing the latest in its fleet of new nuclear submarines nearly seven years after it was started to be built.

The silent submarine, the Vladimir Monomakh, which is the third ship in Russia’s Borei project, began its sea trials on Sunday as it bids to become fully operational this year.

The submarine was laid down at Russia’s largest shipbuilding complex Sevmasch on the shores of the White Sea in Severodvinsk, northern Russia in March 2006, which, coincidentally, was the 100th anniversary of the Russian submarine fleet.

It has been armed with a new missile system featuring between 16 and 20 Bulava missiles, which are intended to become the cornerstone of Russia’s nuclear triad, and is the most expensive weapons project in the country.

The submarine is part of a class of cruisers with the latest generation of nuclear reactor, which allows the ship to dive to a depth of 480 meters, [www.rt.com](http://www.rt.com) has reported.

It is also able to spend up to three months in autonomous navigation.

The sub forms part of the Borei family of ships, which Russia hopes will provide the basis of its nuclear naval forces over the next few decades.

The first of the Borei class is the Yury Dolgoruky, which has reportedly cost \$770m and has recently completed its test programme. It was due to be taken on by the Russian Navy on Sunday.

In a statement on Saturday the Rubin design bureau that designed the submarine said: ‘The hoisting of the flag and the signing of the acceptance act is to be adopted at the Sevmasch shipyard in Severodvinsk on Sunday, December 30.’

Another missile cruiser in the Borei family, the Aleksandr Nevsky, is undergoing tests, Borisov has said.



Meanwhile, the Knyaz Vladimir, the fourth, more advanced submarine, is currently being built. The Russians plan to have built ten Borei submarines over the next eight years, according to the state armaments program of 2011-2020.

### **Submarine base security's role is focus of internal dispute**

*The Day, Dec. 23*

Navy says protecting boats is paramount, but officers fear law enforcement takes a back seat

Groton - Civilian police officers at the Naval Submarine Base say they spend so much time guarding the perimeter of the base, they're not enforcing state and federal laws within it.

Many officers, some of whom spent years working in municipal police departments, said things have to change to keep the people on the base safe. They describe a climate where drunken driving, speeding and other motor vehicle violations are tolerated.

Capt. Marc W. Denno, the commander of the base, and Patricia Adams, the director of security, say the officers are there to keep the submarines safe. If the subs aren't safe, the base has no reason to exist, Denno said.

"The security department is here for security. That is 90 percent of their job," he said, with public safety in the other 10 percent.

The officers have been at odds with their bosses for months over whether law enforcement should have a higher priority.

Interviews with current and former employees and Navy personnel, as well as documents obtained through the federal Freedom of Information Act or provided by employees, revealed that officers are expected to act more like guards than cops, and that the department has been experiencing a series of disciplinary issues, including the following:

- Fourteen sailors - or about 10 percent of the staff at the time - were implicated in drug activity in May and removed.
- Staff complained that the director, who has no law enforcement experience, set an informal tone by bringing her children and father to work and let Navy chiefs deal with problems however they saw fit.
- In September, a chief who was not in uniform grabbed a gun and ran to the main gate when he heard a suspect in a robbery was headed there. The chief was not mistaken for the suspect, but Adams admits he could have been.
- And while the stated mission is "force protection" - security of the submarines - someone nearly managed to get onto one during a drill this spring.

Morale reached such a low point that the union representing civilian officers, the National Association of Government Employees, Local R1-100, told Denno in a letter that the department was "on the verge of a crisis."

The union voted "no confidence" in Adams' ability to lead in May, and officers filed complaints with the Naval Inspector General.

The Inspector General found that some of their allegations of mismanagement and regulatory violations could be substantiated but redacted the recommendations for addressing them in the documents released to The Day.

A mix of civilian and military personnel

About 50 of the 120-person security force are civilians. The rest are Navy security specialists, from young sailors just out of training to the Navy chiefs and a lieutenant who help run the department.

Denno said they are not law enforcement officers, but rather, highly trained security personnel. The force is mixed civilian and military because the base does not have enough sailors to fill all the security jobs.

"We're fortunate a lot of our civilian force is retired police officers. They bring quite a bit of experience to the base in that area," he said.

Their mission is anti-terrorism, force protection and maintaining good order and discipline on the base.

Civilian officers are leaving the department at a rate of about 10 per year, about a 20 percent turnover. Robert Faulise, the union president and a base police officer, finds the number high, but Denno said he expected it to be higher since young veterans use the job as a stepping stone.

As a public safety operation, officers on the midnight shift used to park outside the main gate to observe approaching cars and look for signs of drunken driving.

A civilian supervisor who is not in the union said officers are no longer told to look for drunken drivers or enforce traffic laws, which he said is "ridiculous."

"How are we supposed to protect the community if we don't do that?" said the supervisor, who asked not to be named because he feared losing his job for criticizing the department.

The union has documented three cases in the past 18 months in which officers were told to allow vehicles lacking insurance or registration documents to leave the base and go out onto public roads, said Faulise.

Another employee complained to the safety office because he was worried someone would get hurt with many people speeding, talking on their cellphones while driving or not wearing seat belts.

After he did so, he said, he saw security officers use radar guns for one day on the lower base and write dozens of tickets. He said he hasn't seen that since.

"I've been on all kinds of bases and I've never heard of any base that doesn't enforce traffic violations," said the employee, who asked to remain anonymous.

Denno said the department does use detection devices for speeding, and drunken drivers will be pulled over and processed, but he leaves some discretion to the personnel at the gate.

Eight people were stopped on the base for driving under the influence in 2010, four in 2011 and three this year, according to statistics from the base.

The number of traffic citations dropped from about 1,050 in 2010 to roughly 700 in 2011, but then increased to nearly 1,200 this year.



“The ticket-writing, the enforcement of parking, the other side of the law enforcement aspect, they don’t have time to focus on that,” Adams said. “We get to do it some when we have the manning to do it, but our main priority and focus has to be force protection.”

Adams said she tells officers to pull people over and tell them to slow down, but “you don’t have to be a jerk and write a ticket.” ‘Black marks’ against the department

Last spring, while the Naval Inspector General was investigating complaints by members of the security force, an individual posing as a contractor in an unannounced drill was let onto an area of the pier where he should not have been.

In the April drill, Adams said, the sentry at the fence let the person pass, and a crew member at the submarine walkway did not thoroughly question the individual. A third crew member stopped him at the entrance to the sub’s hatch, she said.

Adams said the Navy had made security departments responsible for training the sentries, and no one in Groton knew about it. The department has since adopted the new training.

Denno said no unauthorized personnel have gotten onto submarines.

In May, 14 active-duty sailors assigned to security were charged with drug use, possession or distribution.

Four of the sailors, John W. Elder, James M. Gutierrez, Nicholas B. Duerson and Derrick A. Sanders, later pleaded guilty at courts-martial.

Duerson was found guilty of conspiracy to distribute methydone, wrongful use of methydone and marijuana, and other charges. He was sentenced to six years’ confinement, forfeiture of pay, reduction in rate and a dishonorable discharge.

Sanders was found guilty of distributing ecstasy, methydone and marijuana, wrongful use of ecstasy, methydone and marijuana, and other charges. He was sentenced to five years’ confinement, a fine, reduction in rate and a bad conduct discharge.

Elder and Gutierrez were both found guilty of wrongful use of methydone and other charges. Elder was sentenced to hard labor, restriction, a reprimand, forfeiture of pay and a bad conduct discharge. Gutierrez was sentenced to confinement for four months, reduction in rate and a bad conduct discharge. The other 10 were given non-judicial punishment and administrative separation from the Navy.

Denno held a meeting shortly after the incident for all enlisted sailors assigned to the base to discuss his expectations.

Later in July, a car drove in through the exit of the base, and the personnel at the main gate didn’t react, Adams said. It turned out the driver had accidentally gone the wrong way.

A meeting was held in August to discuss these “black marks” against the department, she said.

Adams said she reviewed procedures, simplified some and replaced outdated radios so sentries could easily communicate. No one was disciplined, she added.

In September, the Naval Federal Credit Union was robbed and the suspect drove toward the base. Several current and former officers say an off-duty Navy chief in the security force who was on the base grabbed a gun and ran to the main gate.

Base security, New London and Groton Town police jointly captured a suspect in the outbound lane of the main gate. The chief, who was not in uniform, could have potentially been mistaken for the suspect, Adams said.

“Do I think we’re doing the best we can with what we have to work with? Yes,” she said. “But if the world was perfect and we had all this money, could we do better? Yes.”

Director of security

The director of security position had been vacant or filled temporarily for at least seven years when Adams was hired in November 2010.

Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, which encompasses the Navy installations along the Eastern Seaboard, appointed her. Denno said he agreed with the choice.

Some of the department’s issues can be attributed to frequent turnover in leadership, Denno said, adding that like security departments across the Navy, it has been under-resourced for about two years.

The region’s Inspector General found that Adams was at least partly to blame, too.

The inspector’s report faulted Adams for bringing her children and her father to work and driving an emergency vehicle without proper training. It exonerated her of falsifying time cards or tasking subordinates to care for her children.

The investigator noted that Adams did not recognize the perception that it was inappropriate to bring her children into work, and that doing so posed safety issues, potentially distracted her from her official duties and disrupted others.

These type of actions, the report said, “sets the tone for what is considered acceptable conduct for the entire department.”

A chief, whose name was redacted in the report, was found to have abused his authority by using abusive language and intimidating subordinates on more than one occasion, the report said.

The investigator recommended a climate assessment to figure out why morale was so low.

Officer David Olson said Adams “tries” but lacks basic knowledge about the discipline it takes to command a department at a submarine base.

Adams said she is the first female leading the security department, which is predominantly male, and some of the officers don’t like that.

Others, she said, question her lack of law enforcement experience. An expert in physical security, Adams previously worked for the Air Force. She said she focuses on management issues while the department’s security officer oversees operations. Denno re-established the security officer position after the investigation.

Adams said in her previous jobs, the staff was like family and people often brought their kids into the office. In Groton, she said, she didn't "get the same vibe."

"There was a lot of 'us' and 'them' but not a lot of 'we,' and that's one of the things I wanted to see change," she said. "I wanted us to be more of a family. That's something I've been running into resistance on. They have to understand they're my extended family."

She said she never intentionally broke the rules and that her father was helping her paint her office. She said she provided a copy of records from her training to drive an emergency vehicle after the report.

Adams said she received a non-punitive "letter of requirement," describing what she must do to become a better leader.

Faulise said he wasn't sure why the findings focused on minor issues after officers told the investigator about all of the problems, from minimal time spent on law enforcement to poor training and low morale. He would like Adams to be replaced.

Turnover with the military supervisors has improved things somewhat, Faulise said.

"But the person in charge has to take responsibility, and we don't think that's being done," he said.

'The safest place and the most dangerous place'

Denno, the base commander, said he still has confidence in the department's "ability to carry out the mission."

He oversees the security operations but Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, headquartered in Norfolk, Va., has the final say on personnel decisions and the security department's budget.

It's a system with a built-in tension, said Sean Sullivan, a retired Navy captain who commanded the submarine base from 2004 to 2006. Sullivan said when he was in charge, he had the authority to make changes, but the region would have to pay for the personnel.

"When I said, 'Hey, we need more money for X or Y, they'd suggest if we changed our operations we wouldn't need that,'" Sullivan said. "You had this tension set up in the way the Navy set up the organization."

Starting Jan. 17, Denno said, the security department will become accountable to him. So, too, will the housing, fire, fleet and family services and morale, welfare and recreation departments.

Denno wants to implement additional field training, which the union requested.

"The biggest thing in general would be everywhere you see 'Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic' on the fire trucks or at the other departments that are now aligned to base, they will say they're part of Sub Base instead of Region," Denno said. "We have to change our internal messaging."

One officer who is new to the base but is a seasoned officer from a local police department, said he was baffled as he watched the events unfold over the past several months.

He said on a typical day, everything is fine. But he said he worries how a mismanaged and poorly trained department would respond in a serious incident.

The officer, who asked to remain anonymous, said, "This is the safest place and the most dangerous place I've ever worked in my life."

### **INF submarine 'sinks enemy ships'**

#### **Ahead of arrival of new German-made submarine, Navy releases rare video of underwater vessel's drill**

*Ynetnews.com (Isreal News), Dec. 24*

The Israel Navy (INF) released a rare video Monday, allowing a sneak peak at its most expensive weapon – the stealth submarine. The video shows an exercise in which the submarine's crew fires torpedoes at "enemy warships."

The exercise was held as part of the INF's preparations to receive its fourth German-made submarine, which is currently making its way to Israel. A fifth submarine has been contracted.

The Navy plans to add more sailors to its elite submarine unit and the current submarine crewmen course graduation will mark a new record in their numbers.

Graduates of the 16-month course will be given the rank of sergeant. Each has mastered a mechanical discipline of submarine operations, such as cruise control, navigation, electricity, weapons and sonar.

"The submarine – Israel's most complex marine weapon – is only as strong as its crewmen," INF Chief Admiral Ram Rotberg said Monday. "They are quality professionals with stern battle ethics."

### **Nuclear submarine INS Chakra facing problems with critical components: Navy**

*The Times of India (New Delhi), Dec. 24*

**NEW DELHI:** India's only Russian-origin nuclear submarine INS Chakra is facing problems with its critical components affecting its operational readiness.

The 8,000-tonne submarine has been facing problems with its critical components and Russia has been asked to provide the parts for the vessel which need to be replaced, Navy sources told PTI here.

However, they did not divulge the components which would have to be replaced but indicated they are critical for the operations of the submarine.

India had inducted the Akula-II Class 'Nerpa' nuclear submarine in its inventory in April this year at the Vishakhapatnam-based Eastern Naval Command. It was renamed 'Chakra' by the Indian Navy.

The Russian submarine had met with an accident in November 2008 when it was undergoing sea trials in the Sea of Japan in which around twenty sailors were killed and several others were left injured.

The submarine was launched in 1993-94 but its construction was held up since then due to lack of funds with the Russian Navy.

However, in 2004, the Russian side decided to build it after reaching a ten-year lease agreement for operation of the submarine with the Indian side.

With INS Chakra and the yet-to-be-inducted indigenously built INS Arihant, India is planning to have two nuclear submarines guarding its vast maritime boundary.

With a maximum speed of 30 knots, Chakra can go to a depth of 600 metres and has an endurance of 100 days with a crew of 73. However, as per the lease accord, it cannot carry nuclear warheads.

The vessel is armed with four 533mm and four 650mm torpedo tubes.

India had leased and operated a Charlie-class Russian nuclear submarine, also called 'Chakra', in 1988 for training its personnel on such submarines.

### **Russia builds deep-sea research submarine**

*World Nuclear News (Russia), Dec. 21*

Construction of a nuclear-powered deep-sea research submarine has started in Russia. The sub will also be used in search and rescue operations.

A ceremony was held at the Sevmash shipyard in Severodvinsk in northwestern Russia on 20 December to mark the start of construction of the vessel. It was attended by the commander of the Russian Navy, Admiral Viktor Chirkov and Sevmash general director Mikhail Budnichenko.

Designed by the St Petersburg-based Rubin Central Design Bureau, the submarine - dubbed 'Project 09852' - is based on the 949A Oscar-class naval submarine. It will be used to conduct multi-purpose research in remote areas of the oceans and to take part in search and rescue operations. The vessel will carry smaller rescue submersibles. In addition, the new submarine will be employed in the installation of subsea equipment and inspections; testing new types of scientific and research equipment; and monitoring transport routes.

The expected completion date of the submarine was not disclosed.

The Sevmash shipyard's main activity is the construction of ships and submarines for the Russian Navy. It is the only shipyard in Russia producing nuclear-powered submarines.

### **Report: Iran Plans Hormuz Strait Naval Maneuvers**

*Associated Press, Dec. 25*

**TEHRAN, Iran** – Iran is planning naval maneuvers in international waters near strategic Strait of Hormuz, where one-fifth of world oil supply passes, the official IRNA news agency reported Tuesday.

The report quoted Iran's navy chief, Adm. Habibollah Sayyari, as saying the maneuvers will begin Friday from the Strait of Hormuz to the northern part of Indian Ocean in an area of about 1 million square kilometers (400,000 square miles).

Iran in the past threatened to close the strait over Western sanctions aimed at its suspect nuclear program but has not repeated the threat lately.

Sayyari said Iran will test-fire missiles and deploy vessels and submarines during the six-day war games.

The semi-official Fars news agency reported that navy of the powerful Revolutionary Guards began a limited naval drill Tuesday in central part of the Persian Gulf.

It said the four-day maneuver is meant to test and assess its forces and includes missile firing, the report said.

Iran regularly holds military exercises to test and upgrade its military equipment as well as to boost its regional military standing.

The latest drills come as the West increases its pressure over Iran's nuclear program. The West suspects Iran may be aiming to produce nuclear weapons.

Iran denies the charge, insisting its nuclear activities have peaceful purposes like power generation and cancer treatment.

### **Haunting images show Soviet submarine lost since World War Two found in Baltic sea**

*dailymail.co.uk/ (England), Dec. 17*

The wreck of a Soviet submarine lost during World War Two has been found in the Baltic Sea, 71 years after it sank.

The Swedish Armed Forces said the submarine, believed to have been lost on patrol in late 1941, was found in the Swedish economic zone southeast of the Baltic island of Oland.

It is thought to be that of the S-6, which disappeared in August or September 1941.

It was an area which German forces had mined during the war.

In a statement, the armed forces said: ‘In the autumn of 1941, several Russian submarines left their home bases to patrol the Baltic Sea. ‘Several of them never returned. One of them has now been found, blown up into large pieces, southeast of Oeland. ‘There is much to indicate that the submarine headed straight into the minefield while on the surface and was blown apart by a mine.’ The vessel was found in international waters in Sweden’s economic zone, in a heavily-mined area known as the ‘Wartburg minefield’. According to rusnavy.com, the submarine was identified by letters which were still readable on the ship’s hull and the year 1936 stamped on its main 100mm gun.

On its website, the military has posted a video and still images of the wreckage, which had broken into two large sections.

The wreck was first reported by civilian divers during the summer months in the middle of this year.

In the following months, Swedish submarine salvage ship HMS Belos confirmed the find and photographed it, the military said.

Swedish authorities have now informed Russia of the find in order to give family members and the Russian navy the opportunity to conduct a memorial ceremony at the site.

The S-6 was a diesel-electric attack submarine which belonged to the S-class of vessels nicknamed the Stalinets or ‘follower of Stalin’.

She was laid down on December 28, 1935, at shipyard in Stalingrad and put afloat on March 31, 1938.

The submarine measured 77.80m long, had a crew of 50 men, was armed with 12 torpedoes and had a top speed of 19.5 nkts on the surface or 9 knots submerged.

On August 2, 1941, the submarine started on her last deployment to Bornholm Island when her contact was lost.

S-class boats were the most successful for Russia during World War Two. In total, they sank 82,770 gross register tons of merchant shipping and seven warships.

That accounted for around one-third of all tonnage sunk by Soviet submarines during the war.

Several Soviet submarines sunk during World War Two have been found in Swedish waters over the years.

In June 2009, divers found the wreck of the S-2, another Soviet sub sunk by mines in January 1940 with some 50 crew members on board, in waters further north between Sweden and Finland.

### **Top-secret submarine may settle Russia’s claim in the Arctic**

*Indrus.in/articles (Russia), Dec. 14*

A unique Arctic expedition has brought a top-secret Russian submarine into the limelight. The AS-12 bathyscaphe Losharik has now been enlisted to help Russia gain evidence of its right to territorial waters in the Arctic. Moscow is prepared to present evidence to the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea that would expand Russia’s territorial waters in the Arctic, thus asserting its right to the bed of the Arctic that is extremely rich in hydrocarbons. Russia filed a similar application once before, but the bid was turned down due to a lack of geological samples. The new evidence has been obtained by AS-12 Losharik – Russia’s top-secret deep-sea nuclear-powered bathyscaphe.

The North Pole expedition was undertaken in late September as part of the Arctic 2012 research project. The mission required working at a depth of 1.5-1.8 miles for 20 days. The deep-sea station collected earth samples using robotic arms, a dredging device (a rock filtration system), a clamp bucket (a scoop with a video camera) and a hydrostatic sampler. The results of the sample tests will be released in early 2013, when they are also expected to be handed over to the United Nations.

Until recently, the competing territorial claims to the Arctic made by Russia, Norway, Canada, the U.S. and Denmark have been ineffectual, since, apart from political statements, none of the countries has been able to provide any factual evidence to justify their claims. If Losharik’s recent operation does not close the matter for good, then it at least puts Russia ahead of the game. Before Losharik, no one had been able to bring up any actual samples from the seabed that could formally prove Russia right.

Meanwhile, little is actually known about the main character in the story – the nuclear-powered deep-sea bathyscaphe AS-12, nicknamed Losharik (NATO reporting name NORSUB-5).

One of the reasons behind the scarce public knowledge is the fact that the submarine was created for the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Defense Ministry and, given the specific nature of the ministry’s mission, was never intended to be declassified – just like an undercover spy. However, Moscow eventually decided to go all in and play for the sake of winning the territorial dispute.

The submarine was dubbed Losharik for its extraordinary shape: Its hull consists of spherical titanium modules. The nickname comes from the name of a Soviet cartoon character – a funny little horse with a body made up of small spheres.

According to its engineers, the unusual hull construction permits the 196-foot-long bathyscaphe to withstand the enormous pressure of ocean depths of up to 3.7 miles. Losharik is powered by a small nuclear reactor with a fundamentally new model of nuclear steam generating plant: the KTP-7I Fenix. The reactor enables the bathyscaphe to travel at a speed of up to 30 knots (37 miles) per hour and does not limit the time it can stay submerged in virtually any way. The crew consists of 25 officers.

The bathyscaphe is carried by the K-129 Orenburg submarine, which is a Project 667BDR Kalmar strategic nuclear submarine redesigned specifically for the purpose.

While assigned to Russia’s Northern Fleet, the submarine is not actually part of it, as it remains an asset of the Main Intelligence Directorate. It is stationed at Olenya Bay, where Russia’s naval spies are based.

While the AS-12 does not carry any weapons, it still poses a serious threat to the national security of many countries, since it is equipped to perform intelligence and diversion operations at depths out of reach of any other vessel in the world.



The kind of operations that the vessel could perform include using its mechanical arms not only to collect seabed samples, but also to disrupt telecommunications between continents or, conversely, plant wiretaps, which, even if detected, would be impossible to remove because of the depths.

There is also an apocalyptic theory that the work of designing the bathyscaphe was launched back when a nuclear conflict between Moscow and Washington was still on the table. The bathyscaphe is believed to have been intended to become an invincible carrier of a gigantic T-15 thermonuclear torpedo (5 feet in diameter) developed by Nobel Prize-winning physicist Andrei Sakharov.

The Soviets believed that, if detonated at a depth of 3.7 miles, the torpedo could generate an unprecedented and deadly tsunami that would wash away an entire coast of the United States, West or East.

Whatever their past plans, Moscow and Washington are now partners intent on resolving their disagreements at the negotiating table. This was the main reason why, in the mid-1990s, Russia almost stopped financing the Losharik project. The country even invited the United States to be a co-investor, suggesting that the deep-sea bathyscaphe could be involved in rescue operations.

While Losharik failed to become a rescue vessel, it has nevertheless proved a very valuable national security asset.

## Japan Retools Defense To Face New Threats

*Wall Street Journal, Dec. 12*

**TOKYO** — The North Korean rocket launch over Japanese territory highlights the growing security risks facing America's biggest Asian ally, and comes as the long-pacifist nation is retooling its military to face new regional threats—from Pyongyang as well as from Beijing.

North Korea's most successful test yet of long-range missile technology Wednesday came two days after four Chinese battle ships sailed less than 27 miles from Yonaguni, a southern Japanese island that also lay near the rocket's trajectory. That was the second time Chinese military vessels had entered the waters by that island, following a similar incursion in November, amid rising territorial tensions in the area.

The rocket launch also came four days ahead of Sunday's parliamentary elections in Japan, a vote that will likely accelerate the modernization and expansion of Japan's military. In a country dominated for decades by pacifist politics, the campaign has been unusual for its focus on defense. Opposition leader Shinzo Abe, the front-runner for the premiership, has regularly called for more military spending and a new constitution giving Japan's Self Defense Forces the title of a formal "military," something Japan renounced with its World War II defeat.

"Japan is the one that feels the biggest threat" from North Korea's missile program, Mr. Abe said during a campaign stop in Nagasaki on Wednesday, after the news broke of the launch. "They launched it to demonstrate how Japan is well within their target range." His party's platform cites those tests as a reason to "review the 'quality' and 'quantity' of our defense."

In a magazine essay published earlier this week, Mr. Abe wrote that postwar Japan had "given up a nation's most important mission of protecting the safety of its own citizens." In a late November speech, he said "we must use physical power to block" the regular incursion of Chinese boats into territorial waters claimed by both countries that have continued since September.

It isn't just Mr. Abe's Liberal Democratic Party, which polls show is poised to win a majority of the seats up for grabs in Sunday's vote. The other two leading parties in the campaign also have platforms advocating new SDF powers, and beefing up protection of the country's far-flung territories.

That is a stark contrast from the last general election in 2009, when the Democratic Party of Japan won a landslide victory on a manifesto that made no mention of Japan's military, and pledged a loosening of the U.S.-Japan security alliance, along with friendlier ties with Beijing.

In power, however, the DPJ has instead steadily expanded the military's capabilities, including the extension of a sophisticated missile-defense system designed to protect the country against launches from Pyongyang. DPJ Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda made a point of interrupting his campaigning last week to issue an order to shoot down the North Korean launch if debris headed toward Japanese territory. No such order was issued Wednesday.

The backdrop for these changes: a growing public embrace of the long-shunned military, especially after the SDF's active relief role during last year's natural and nuclear disasters. A recent Pew poll of Japanese citizens found 89% of respondents said the SDF had a positive influence, far exceeding the 12% who cited the government. SDF enlistment applications have doubled over the past five years, while uniformed troops in June held their first urban drills in Tokyo in more than four decades.

All this has been accompanied over the past two years by a growing tendency to stretch—without rewriting—the meaning of the constitution, which allowed for only a narrowly defined self-defense. A number of policy changes under way, from an easing of a weapons-export ban to a renegotiation of the U.S.-Japan defense guidelines, are designed to give Japanese troops much more freedom to develop, train and fight.

A little-noticed shift of the country's guiding military philosophy from "basic defense" to "dynamic defense" gives the SDF more flexibility in mobilizing troops across Japan in anticipation of provocative action from China or North Korea, rather than waiting for an invasion.

The front lines for Japan's new defense posture are its islands in the East China Sea between the main island of Okinawa and Taiwan.

After North Korea announced its plans to launch the rocket, the SDF scrambled to install its Patriot anti-missile shield at four locations in the Okinawa chain, including Ishigaki, and sent in dozens of troops to other islands, such as Yonaguni, as a precaution

against fallen debris that could harm local residents. It was the second time for the shield to be rolling out in that area, following a similar drill for Pyongyang's last launch attempt in April. On Ishigaki, some 50 military trucks and trailers carrying radars and missile parts were unloaded Dec. 5 from the navy's transport ship, then slowly drove through the island's town center, creating a rare traffic jam on a tropical island known for pristine beaches and pineapples.

Yonaguni—located about 200 miles from the Chinese mainland—and Ishigaki also are potential homes for Japan's first new domestic military outposts in at least a quarter century, and the first-ever with combat troops in the largely unmanned East China Sea. The SDF plans to break ground in Yonaguni next June and, within three years, hopes to house 100 army troops specializing in coastal surveillance, as well as a radar site for the air force, on a cliff-top plot near a rock marking Japan's western-most point.

Currently, the closest military base with combat forces is nearly 310 miles away, on the main island of Okinawa. "Right now, we have two police officers and their two hand guns. That's not enough to protect the island," said Nobuhiro Kinjo, a 69-year-old gas station owner and head of a resident group supporting the new base on the sleepy island of 1,600 residents. "We want to host at least 500 troops. If possible, 1,000."

Residents compare photos taken on their cellphones of what they believe to be Chinese naval ships and submarines. A right-leaning party has put up banners on the island warning: "A Chinese Attack Is Imminent."

On Ishigaki, local officials are competing to be chosen to host the second new army base Tokyo plans to build in the area—a far bigger one with several hundred combat troops. "We face a territorial issue as those islands happen to be within our town limits. Since we live on the frontiers, we have a North Korean missile flying over our head," Yoshitaka Nakayama, Ishigaki's mayor, said in an interview last week. Since being elected mayor two years ago, Mr. Nakayama, also has invited naval ships to make regular calls for refueling and rest at its port, departing from the custom of allowing military vessels only for emergency drills.

Those two bases are part of a broader reorientation of Japan's military—in terms of geography, troop skills, and hardware—from the Cold War focus on a possible ground invasion from the north from the Soviet Union, to new threats from the south and west.

Japan's military is also beefing up its fleet of submarines and fighter jets, and expanding a missile shield to reinforce the aerial defense of the region facing the Korean peninsula and the Chinese mainland. Over the past two years, the number of ground troops on Okinawa has grown by 15%. Naval vessels have for the first time started making regular port calls at the smaller islands in the chain.

Without a marine corps, the SDF has few troops trained in water-to-land tactics for defending islands—the most likely form of any conflict with China—and no amphibious vehicles needed for such an event.

The military is rushing to fix that. One cold mid-November morning, 2,000 soldiers from the SDF's Western Army took part in a drill that envisioned defending an island from enemy forces making a surprise attack from the sea and air, an exercise started in 2010. The session took place on a vast training ground in the mountains of eastern Kyushu, originally set up by the Japanese Imperial Army in the 1890s. That followed an exercise on Guam in September where Japanese army troops were taught for the first time by U.S. marines how to retake an airport or land on the beach in rubber boats.

### **US to intercept Russian ICBMs in Europe – Karakayev**

*English.ruvr.ru (Russia), Dec. 14*

The missile defence system that the United States plans to deploy in Europe will be able to intercept Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles, deployed in European Russia.

This came in a statement at a news briefing in Moscow earlier today by the Commander of the Russian Strategic Missile Forces Sergei Karakayev.

The US claims that the European antimissile system will counter Iran's missile threat.

But it is only Russia that has ICBMs in Europe. In this context, we understand that the US antimissile system will target Russia, since ICBMs and submarine-based ballistic missiles are the backbone of Russia's nuclear containment force.

Voice of Russia, TASS

### **U.S. anti-submarine capability is eroding, and it may be too late to turn it around**

*Militaryaerospace.com, Dec. 12*

Here's a not-so-comforting thought. The U.S. Navy's anti-submarine warfare (ASW) skills are getting rusty during the same period that quiet submarine technology in China and Iran is improving at a noticeable rate.

I wish that were the only bad news on the submarine warfare front, but it isn't. We have U.S. ASW capability going backward, submarine capability of U.S. strategic adversaries going forward, and U.S. Navy capability as a whole in decline, according to a top Navy official.

"We're long past the point of doing more with less," says Under Secretary of the Navy, Robert Work. "We are going to be doing less with less in the future."

Work was quoted in an AOL blog by Sydney J. Freedberg Jr. headlined U.S. Military Will Have To Do 'Less With Less': Hill Must Vote On Money.

Freedberg wasn't finished there, however. "The capacity of the US and allied navies to hunt enemy submarines has suffered even as potential adversaries like China and Iran have built up their sub fleets," he blogged in a piece headlined Navy's Sub-Hunting Skills Declined While China, Iran Built More Submarines.

The subtle message here is that vital U.S. Navy ASW capability is eroding due to a longtime emphasis on counter insurgency, and with strong prospects for a dwindling future Navy budget, it might already be too late to turn around the ASW decline.

Yikes.

You can talk about stealth aircraft technology all you want, but there's really only one kind of military stealth vehicle on the planet, and that's the submarine.

Stealth aircraft might have low radar cross sections, but they still can be seen with the naked eye, and heard from long distances. Aircraft, no matter what their futuristic shapes, have a difficult time hiding from ever-more-sophisticated electro-optical sensors.

Land vehicles? They still have substantial infrared signatures, and they can be seen and heard just like aircraft. Surface ships? Please. Big metal objects against a cool, flat surface. Not much ability to hide there.

But submarines, they're a different story. It's true that ASW technology is advancing throughout the world, and today's advanced diesel-electric submarines are as close to silent as you can get.

The ocean, however, is a difficult and unpredictable environment in which to hunt submerged vessels. Water columns at different depths, water densities, and salinity levels often can be a difficult, if not impossible, barrier to even the most sophisticated sonar sensors.

Sophisticated U.S. submarines for decades have enjoyed the ability to hide from almost everyone. Today, however, it's getting tougher to do as adversaries make up technological ground quickly.

It wouldn't seem to be the most advantageous time to see U.S. ASW capability slipping, but there it is. Something else to think about as we careen ever-closer to that fiscal cliff.

### **Project moves ahead to develop mini-submarines for covert special operations forces**

*Militaryaerospace.com, Dec. 12*

MacDILL AFB, Fla., 12 Dec. 2012. Leaders of U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., are moving ahead with a project to develop mini submarines able to transport combat swimmers such as Navy SEALs covertly while minimizing swim time to maintain combat effectiveness.

USSOCOM awarded a potential \$44.3 million contract last Friday to submarine maker General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Conn., for the Dry Combat Submersible-Light (DCS-L) program to build a user operational evaluation system of a mini-submarine designed to deliver combat swimmers. The contract was announced this week.

This kind of mini-submarine is intended to operate from combat support surface ships or submarines. These subsea vessels are to deliver special operations warfighters to their mission areas ready to fight, rather than exhausted by long swims.

The USSOCOM contract to Electric Boat is a three-year phase II research and development letter contract that calls for the company to design, build, test, and deliver a complete commercially classed prototype dry combat submersible system.

Electric Boat designers will do work on the contract in the U.S. and in Italy, USSOCOM officials say.

U.S. Special Operations forces have been planning a submersible combat swimmer delivery system since cancelling the organization's Joint Multi-Mission Submersibles program two years ago because it was too expensive.

Last April USSOCOM awarded a contract to the Lockheed Martin Corp. Mission Systems & Sensors segment in Palm Beach, Fla., to design a prototype Dry Combat Submersible (DCS) to transport Navy SEALs directly to their underwater mission areas.

The Lockheed Martin-led DCS team includes Submergence Group LLC in Chester, Conn.; Northrop Grumman Undersea Systems segment in Annapolis, Md.; and Huntington Ingalls Newport News Shipbuilding in Newport News, Va.

The USSOCOM projects seek to design and build prototype one-atmosphere special operations dry combat submersibles of two different sizes, light and medium, which will be free-swimming vehicles capable of delivering and extracting teams of combat swimmers.

USSOCOM officials are interested in dry combat submersibles that can move at speeds of at least five knots, at depths to 200 feet, with provisions for two pilots.

These dry submersibles should be sized to transport aboard C-5 or C-17 cargo jets, or in standard 40-foot surface ship containers. The submersibles are to have military radios, military sonars, and high power silver-zinc batteries.

These submersibles would operate from surface support ships or submarines equipped with pressure-proof shelter systems either military or commercial, or future generations of the Dry Deck Shelter (DDS).

The Dry Combat Submersible-Light will be about 24 feet long with moderate endurance and moderate passenger and cargo capability that will be operated from specially configured commercial surface ships.

The Dry Combat Submersible-Medium, meanwhile, will be about 38 feet long with high endurance and high passenger and cargo capability that will be operated from specially configured commercial surface ships, and potentially from future submarine shelter systems.

For more information contact General Dynamics Electric Boat online at [www.gdeb.com](http://www.gdeb.com), USSOCOM at [www.socom.mil](http://www.socom.mil), or Lockheed Martin Mission Systems & Sensors at [www.lockheedmartin.com/us/ms2](http://www.lockheedmartin.com/us/ms2).

### **Russia Plans to Raise Lost Submarine**

*En.ria.ru/military (Russia), Dec. 13*

**MOSCOW, December 13 (RIA Novosti)** - Russia's Emergencies Ministry plans to carry out a study in 2013 to see if the sunken Soviet nuclear submarine K-27 can be recovered from its resting place on the seabed in Russia's Arctic waters, a ministry representative said.

"We have to check its condition and make a forecast of how the integrity of the hull might have been affected by corrosion in seawater," the representative said.

Divers will carry out an engineering analysis of the boat and collect samples of metal from its hull, he said.

"No radioactive nuclides were detected from the K-27 when tests were made this year," he added.

"Only after we have results from examining the integrity of the hull and the characteristics of the seabed will it be possible to devise options for raising the boat and removing its fuel," he said.

The K-27 is lying in shallow water, just 100 feet (30 meters) deep on an even keel, and its main hull has no apparent breaches, he added.

The boat is one of 24,000 objects on a Russian government register of potentially dangerous sunken objects in Russian territorial waters, according to the Emergencies Ministry. Most of the objects on the list are in water over 1,500 feet (500 meters) deep, making their recovery extremely difficult.

The Project 645 vessel was a one-off design powered by a pair of experimental VT-1 nuclear reactors with liquid metal (lead-bismuth) cooling. The boat received two nicknames from its crew: "Golden Fish" (from a Russian folk tale) and "Nagasaki" following a series of fatal incidents involving onboard radiation leaks from the reactors.

K-27 entered service in 1962 and on April 21, 1964 she completed a record length and duration submerged cruise in the mid-Atlantic. On May 24, 1968 she suffered another catastrophic radiation leak affecting all the crew and killing nine of them.

The boat was only formally decommissioned from the Soviet Navy's inventory on February 1, 1979 and her reactor compartment sealed up. She was then scuttled in September 1982 in the Kara Sea off northern Russia near the island of Novaya Zemlya.

### **Former Waterloo man awaits key terrorism court decision**

*TheRecord.com, Dec. 13*

**WATERLOO** — A former Waterloo man accused of supporting terrorists will get the final word Friday on whether he must face charges in the United States.

More than six years after his arrest, the Supreme Court of Canada is scheduled to decide an appeal by Suresh Sriskandarajah of an extradition order to stand trial in New York.

It is one of three rulings by the nation's highest court expected in cases challenging the validity of Canada's anti-terror law.

Lawyers for Sriskandarajah, 32, have argued the law — passed in the wake of the 9/11 attacks in the U.S. — is overly broad and therefore unconstitutional.

Then a student at the University of Waterloo, Sriskandarajah was arrested in the summer of 2006 after a joint FBI-RCMP investigation into support for the Tamil Tigers.

He was portrayed by U.S. authorities as the leader of four suspects with ties to UW who helped the terrorist group during a bloody civil war in Sri Lanka. Charges against two of the four were later dropped.

Ramanam Mylvaganam, a close friend of Sriskandarajah, pleaded guilty in New York earlier this year and was sentenced to time served after giving up his extradition battle.

Sriskandarajah is accused of researching and buying communications equipment and submarine and warship design software for the rebel group in the country he left as a boy.

He also allegedly enlisted students to smuggle goods into northern Sri Lanka under the code name Waterloo Suresh and laundered money in U.S. bank accounts.

If convicted in the U.S., he faces up to 25 years in prison.



An accomplished student, Sriskandarajah has an engineering degree from UW and a master of business administration degree from Wilfrid Laurier University, which he earned while on bail.

Now married, Sriskandarajah moved to Toronto more than a year ago to work for a law firm and started law school at the University of Ottawa in the fall.

His extended family put up almost everything it owned to secure his release on \$445,000 bail after his 2006 arrest and he has since spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on legal fees fighting extradition.

The Tigers sought an independent Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka for 26 years before their defeat by government forces in 2009.

## **Two Russians Face Retrial Over 2008 Nerpa Submarine Disaster**

*RTTNews.com*

The retrial of two Russian navy personnel accused of causing a deadly accident on board a Nerpa nuclear submarine in 2008 opened at a court in the eastern city of Vladivostok on Tuesday.

The opening session of the retrial mainly focused on a number of procedural issues, according to the state-run RIA Novosti news agency. It was subsequently decided to hold the next hearing on December 20.

The two defendants — Captain Dmitry Lavrentyev and Petty Officer Dmitry Grobov— were present in the court room for the opening session. They are accused of causing “death by negligence.” They have denied the charges, insisting that the accident was caused by faulty equipment.

Incidentally, both Lavrentyev and Grobov were acquitted by a military court in October 2011. But the Russian Supreme Court reversed that decision on appeal in May 2012, and remanded the case for reconsideration.

The case against the defendants stems from the deadly accident on board a Nerpa nuclear submarine on November 2008 in which 20 of the 208 people on board the vessel were killed. The accident occurred after the submarine’s fire extinguishing system was apparently activated without warning while tests were being conducted in the Sea of Japan.

The ill-fated Nerpa submarine’s extinguishing system used freon gas, which extinguishes fires by displacing oxygen. The deadly accident was apparently caused after the released freon gas displaced breathable air inside the submarine.

Notably, all the 20 fatalities in the deadly accident are believed to have been caused by suffocation. Besides, 21 others on board the K-152 Nerpa submarine at the time of the accident were hospitalized for toxicity.

The Nerpa is one of Russia’s latest nuclear-powered submarines, and it belongs to a class of attack submarines codenamed “Akula” by NATO. The “Akula” submarines are those armed with conventional torpedoes and cruise missiles.

It was transferred to Russian navy on December 28, 2009 after passing a series of tests. Though the work on the submarine began in 1993, it was only launched in 2008 because of frequent disruptions in funding its construction.

