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

The Silent Sentinel
September 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.

University of West Virginia Half Time Show (2011)

U.S. Submarine Veterans
San Diego Base

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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: _____

EMAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

Would like the SILENT SENTINEL emailed: YES_____ NO_____

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USSVI Base Commander
c/o VFW Post 3787
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San Diego, CA 92120-3404

*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*

September 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 September 10, 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

ETERNAL PATROL
Bobby Medina

Submarine Losses in August

Originally Compiled by C J Glassford

GRUNION (SS 216) - 70 Men on Board:
Sunk, on 16 Aug 1942, by Gunfire from Torpedoed Japanese Transport, 10 Miles North of Segula, near Kiska Island, Aleutians : " ALL HANDS LOST "

S – 39 (SS 144) - 46 Men on Board:
Destroyed, on 16 Aug 1942, after Running Aground on a Reef, South of Rossel Island : " NO LOSS OF LIFE "

BASS (SS 164) - 51 Men on Board:
Fire in After Battery Room, on 17 Aug 1942, Asphyxiates part of the Crew : " 25 MEN LOST "

POMPANO (SS181) - 76 Men on Board:
Sunk, on 29 Aug 1943, Causes unknown, Possibly a Japanese Mine, or combined Air and Surface Attack, off Northeastern Honshu, Japan : " ALL HANDS LOST "

FLIER (SS 250) - 80 Men on Board:
Sunk, on13 Aug 1944, by a Japanese Mine, South of
Palawan, in the Balabac Strait :
" 78 MEN LOST – 8 SURVIVORS "

HARDER (SS 257) - 79 Men on Board:
Sunk, on 24 August 1944, by Japanese Coastal Vessel, Off the West Coast of Luzon, Philippines
" ALL HANDS LOST "

BULLHEAD (SS 332) - 84 Men on Board:
Probably Sunk, on 6 Aug 1945, by Japanese Army Aircraft, off the Bali Coast, in East Java Sea. * Last Submarine Sunk During World War Two : " ALL HANDS LOST "

COCHINO (SS345) - 68 Men on Board:
Foundered and Sank, on 26 Aug1949, Caused by After Battery Explosion and Fire, During a Severe Storm off the Northern Coast of Norway : " 1 MAN LOST "

TUSK (SS 426) - 81 Men on Board:
Six Crew Members washed Overboard, on 26 August 1949, while trying to rescue Crew Members of Fire damaged USS COCHINO (SS 345), in the Norwegian Sea: " SIX MEN LOST "

Minutes for Submarine Veterans San Diego 13 August, 2013

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

Conducted Opening Exercises:

Reading of Our Creed:

Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by David Kauppinen

Ass't Chaplain Russ Mohedano lead us in prayer

Conducted Tolling of the boats for August

Observed a moment of Silent Prayer

Sr. Vice Commander recognized past E-Board members and Past Officers

Secretary Ferguson announced 40 members present.

Treasurer Report: Dave Ball announced $16,806 in the bank, $814 in scholarship fund, and $318 from June breakfast to be added to the bank account.

The minutes of 9 July 2013 were approved.

Call for Committee reports:

Binnacle List: Al Strunk, Tommy Cox, Bobby Medina

Ass't Chaplain Mohedano announced the following members on eternal patrol:
VADM Eugene Wilkinson, RADM Paul Lary, and MMMC Gary Johnson.

Parade Committee: Joel Eikam reminded the members of the next parade at Poway on September 7 and Borrego on October 26th. A big weekend is scheduled for Borrego and Bill Earl will be there in the RV Park. Members are encouraged to attend the weekend parties.

Membership: Ray Ferbrache stated that we have 304 active members paid up. The National is slow on updating the website so members should be patient.

Scholarship: Paul Hitchcock announced next March start for 2014.

Breakfast: Fred Fomby reported very good turnout in June and $318 profit. Next breakfast September 29th at 0800-1200 for $7 and help is needed. We will have a breakfast in December on the 29th.
Storekeeper: Phill Richeson reported some members looking for shoulder patches but National requires at least 25 for an order. Not enough members interested.
Float Committee: David Kauppinen announced he had submitted an article to the American Submariner and that Joel had provided an excellent storage area for the float.
Holland Club Presentation: Bill Earl announced following new Holland Club members: Derek Cook, D. Tony Dack, Donald Guilihum Sr., James Harer, Eugene Rillamos (Gino), Laurence Glacey, Clarence Sloan Jr., Richard Wedge Jr. (Bud), and Murdock Weltzien. Past National Commander Charlie Marin presented plaques to those present.
1929 Sr. Vice Commander called for a Break.
1937 Sr. Vice Commander called the meeting back to order.
Member David Lemly, recently retired CO of the Undersea Rescue Command gave us a video review of his past Command activities which was very well received.

Unfinished Business:

Disposal of old float.
2013 National Convention August 25 – September 1, 2013 in Rochester, MN.
Chula Vista Veterans Walk – Oct 12 Team rally, walk on 2 November...
Christmas party 21 December 1:30-5PM dinner served at 2PM.
Recruiting cards.

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

Richard Smith is looking for an Engineman to assist with an author friends book and would like some advice. If interested, send email to jimmusgrave@cox.net.
This months Birthdays include Jack Kane and Peter Lary.
A reminder to wear vests if attending VADM Wilkinsons services at Ft. Rosecrans.
The USS Silversides submarine museum announced that the engines will be run 5 to 6 times a year.
Sr. Vice Commander Earl adjourned the meeting at 2025.
Jack Ferguson, Secretary

Sailing List for August 13, 2013.

Fred Fomby
Bud Wedge
Jack Kane
Bill Earl
Jack Ferguson
Ed Farley
Ed Welch
Ray Ferbrache
Chris Stafford
Al Poblete
Russ Filbeck
Clancy Sloan
Gino Rillamas
Warren Branges
Meb Weltzien
Joe Sasser
Bob Chapman
David Ball
Dennis Mortensen
Tom Polen
Dave Lemly
Russ Mohedano
Jack Addington
Jose R. Acay
Dennis McCreight
Bob (Doc) Coates
Peter Lary
Joel Eikam
Jim Harer
Michael Hyman
David Kauppinen
Charlie Marin
Ron Gorence
\ Bob Farrell
Paul Hitchcock
Phill Richeson
John Grienenberger
James Pope
Glenn Gerbrand
Joe Debois

Current News

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

USS Cod Submarine Memorial in Cleveland Starts Engines After More Than 40 Years, Fires Cannons
Bob Fenner, Newsnet5.com, Sep 2

CLEVELAND - On Monday, USS Cod Submarine Memorial in downtown Cleveland honored the men and women who built the 312-feet long submarine 70 years ago with a Labor Day Sea Show.

In addition to touring the outside and inside of the submarine, visitors witnessed hourly cannon salutes from USS Cod's 5-inch deck gun.

For the first time in more than 40 years, the main engines of the fully restored Cod were also started up. The sight of smoke and diesel smell of the Cleveland built engines did not seem to bother curious onlookers.

USS Cod was one of 275 submarines American industry built during World War II.

"The workforce was about one-third women. It turns out they were better welders," said USS Cod Submarine Memorial director Paul Farace. "They had more consistent, more quality welding, according to what the Navy said."

For some, visiting USS Cod on Labor Day is a family tradition.

"Every Labor Day I come out here with my family, with my husband and my son," said Vania Mahon of Willowick. "I like to teach my son about history."

"My favorite part is usually just sitting down right by the cannon," said Vania's son, Francis Miekeley-Harris.

USS Cod officials held the Labor Day Sea Show in response to the cancelation of the Cleveland National Air Show.

Navy Looks To Reduce Timing Interval When Firing Tomahawks From Subs
Lee Hudson, Inside Defense, Aug 30

The Navy is looking to industry in cutting down the amount of time it takes to fire successive Tomahawk missiles from the service's Virginia-class submarine fleet.

Minimizing the interval between missile shots reduces the risk of adversaries detecting the submarine, Naval Sea Systems Command spokeswoman Brie Lang wrote in an Aug. 30 email.

The service is looking to industry to provide a cross blast analysis to determine the minimum allowable launch interval for the Block III Virginia-class subs, according to a Federal Business Opportunities notice.

"The analysis shall specifically address a 15-second interval but also determine the shortest interval for missiles launched within the same multiple all-up-round canister (MAC) or from alternating MACs," the notice reads. "The analysis will be multi-disciplinary and address potential impacts by the pressure/vent system, gas generator and weapon control system timing on the structural capability of the capsule closure assembly, effects on missile pull-out accuracy."

Lang said the analysis is scheduled to begin and end in fiscal year 2014. The next steps for this effort are to conduct the analysis and study the results, she wrote.

Since this is a software effort, the submarine force would be able to implement any changes during its biennial technology insertion-advanced processor build process, she added.

Naval Air Systems Command intends to award this contract to Raytheon Missile Systems, the contractor for the Tomahawk missile.

Last week, Raytheon's stock was trading at its highest level at about $77 a share while unrest continues in Syria. The Tomahawk was last used to take out targets in Libya during a 2011 operation to cause a regime change in Libya.

The Navy has bought extra Tomahawks to replenish its inventories following the civil war in Libya, awarding Raytheon two contracts last year, one for 361 missiles and the other for 252.

DARPA Seeks Input On Unmanned Undersea Payload-Launching System
Jordana Mishory, Inside Defense, Aug 30

The Pentagon's advanced research arm is seeking industry input for an unmanned undersea system that will help insert multiple remotely piloted air and underwater vehicles into operational environments.

According to an Aug. 22 broad agency announcement, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's Hydra program is designed to be a scalable, cost-effective way to rapidly deploy capabilities above, on and below the ocean's surface.

"The rising number of ungoverned states, piracy and proliferation of sophisticated defenses severely stretches current resources and impacts the nation's ability to conduct special operations and contingency missions," the announcement states. "The Hydra program represents a cost-effective way to add undersea capacity that can be tailored to support each mission."

This type of system is especially important as the number of Navy vessels shrink because of force reductions and fiscal constraints, according to a DARPA press release accompanying the announcement. "The goal is to create a force multiplier that enables rapid, scalable and cost-effective deployment of assets close to the point of use," the release states.

To help with this endeavor, the agency seeks proposals looking at five Hydra technical areas: the modular enclosure, the air vehicle and undersea payloads, the system's concepts of operation and supporting technologies.

The modular enclosure is designed to transport, house and launch Hydra's payloads. This enclosure should have a ballast system for controlled descent and ascent and ideally operate in water near the shore for long periods of time. DARPA hopes to be able to reconfigure the enclosure's internal components in order to rapidly integrate multiple types of payloads. A high degree of autonomy is also expected for the enclosure, the announcement states.

The air vehicles are designed to be released from the modular enclosure underwater, float to the surface and then fly. "The air vehicle payload is envisioned to consist of individually encapsulated air vehicles within a module that fits into the standard Hydra modular enclosure," according to DARPA.

The undersea payload, in contrast to the air vehicle one, is based more on "safely transporting existing undersea vehicles, providing the required energy for long endurance, efficiently transferring energy, transferring and transmitting collected information, and launching and docking the vehicles," the announcement states.

The agency is seeking air and undersea payload proposals that look at leveraging existing vehicles or "maximizing the use of existing components" as a cost-saving tactic.

DARPA is also seeking proposals to develop concepts of operation for the system that look at everything from deployment and retrieval "using subsurface craft and tactical air transport aircraft" to evaluating the impact of the system's payloads.

The program, which could deliver more than just the air and undersea payloads in the future, is going to be conducted in three phases.

This broad agency announcement seeks information for the first phase, which is slated to last for 18 months and looks at defining concepts, developing component capabilities and reducing subsystem risks. More than one contract could be awarded in each technical area. Alternatively, no awards could be issued, DARPA states. The amount of resources available depends on the proposal quality and fund availability.

As the first phase progresses, performers will be invited to submit updated proposals for the next two phases. "Although this BAA solicits firm proposals for Phase 1 only, a preliminary statement of work (SOW), schedule and rough order of magnitude (ROM) program cost for Phases 2 and 3 are also required to facilitate DARPA's understanding of the scope of the program of the proposer," the announcement states.

U.S. Would Rely on Missiles in a Strike on Syria
U.S. Officials Say They Expect an Attack to Begin at Night with Missiles Launched from Sea and Air in an Operation that Could Last Up to Three Days

Los Angeles Times, Aug. 29

WASHINGTON-A U.S. attack on Syria is likely to begin at night with fiery explosions at military installations, artillery batteries and headquarters near the capital, Damascus, and other government strongholds around the country, according to current and former U.S. officials.

The strikes, involving dozens of cruise missiles launched from U.S. warships, attack submarines and possibly warplanes, would probably last up to three days. The Obama administration is seeking to punish President Bashar Assad's government for its alleged use of chemical weapons while avoiding a messy intervention in the country's civil war.

U.S. planners expect Syria to activate its sizable air defense system once the attack commences, firing antiaircraft guns and surface-to-air missiles into the night sky in an effort to shoot down the low-flying Tomahawk missiles whizzing over buildings and mountains at more than 500 mph. Most of the weapons are likely to get through, though, because the U.S. will be jamming Syrian radars, analysts say.

With diplomatic efforts still underway, President Obama said Wednesday that the United States had concluded the Syrian government was responsible for a chemical weapons attack last week in Damascus suburbs. He insisted he has not decided whether to authorize an attack, but a strike on Syria appears likely.

The United States has a clear interest in responding to use of chemical weapons to deter further use and to keep them from terrorists, he said.

Syria is a "volatile country in a very volatile region," Obama said on PBS' "NewsHour." He noted its proximity to Israel, Jordan and Turkey, all key allies, as well as U.S. bases throughout the region.

"Then there is a possibility in which chemical weapons … could be directed at us," Obama said. "We want to make sure that that does not happen."

If Obama decides he wants more targets destroyed, some analysts say, the Pentagon may also employ warplanes, which can fire additional cruise missiles and other munitions from outside Syrian airspace. It could also send stealth bombers over Syria to destroy an important target while seeking to avoid civilian casualties.

The relatively brief air campaign under consideration is unlikely to inflict major damage on Assad's considerable conventional forces, and it would not seek to destroy dozens of widely dispersed sites where chemical weapons are stored, out of concern that doing so could release poisons or leave the sites open to looting.

Instead, planners at the Pentagon's Joint Staff and U.S. Central Command, which will oversee the attack, have presented the White House with a target list that includes some of the Assad government's most loyal military units, including those believed to have been involved in the Aug. 21 suspected chemical attack that is reported to have killed hundreds, one official said.

"They want to send a signal that those units are being targeted as much as possible because of their specific involvement" in the chemical attack, said one military official.

But planners are also worried that, as administration officials have signaled an attack is imminent in recent days, the Syrian military has begun dispersing its forces in order to protect them, raising the likelihood that the bombardment could hit facilities and installations emptied of troops and equipment, one official said.

Jeffrey White, a former Defense Intelligence Agency officer and a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said the U.S. knows headquarters and barracks locations of Syria's 4th Armored Division and Republican Guard units, which may have been involved in the chemical attack.

"I think we can target their facilities right now," he said. "If they have moved, it's harder."

Central Command has significantly boosted satellite and other types of surveillance of possible target areas in Syria over the last two weeks in order to track government attempts to move its forces, one official said.

Along with units suspected of involvement in chemical attacks, the strikes are expected to target artillery units that can fire munitions carrying chemical agents or conventional explosives, as well command facilities and bunkers, a military officer briefed on the planning said.

Obama needs "to find the right target set that will be punitive and that will have a strong deterrent impact on Assad's potential future use of chemical weapons," said Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Burbank), who sits on the House Intelligence Committee. "But at the same time it should not go so far beyond the instrumentalities of chemical weapons use that it appears we're trying to topple the regime."

The Tomahawk cruise missiles that the Pentagon is planning to use have a range of nearly 1,000 miles, allowing them to be fired from U.S. warships hundreds of miles off the Syrian coast, well beyond the range of anti-ship missiles.

Four U.S. guided-missile destroyers – the Ramage, the Gravely, the Barry and the Mahan – are now in the eastern Mediterranean, each carrying up to 90 cruise missiles. In practice, said Christopher Harmer, a retiree Navy officer and former operational planner in the Middle East, most are probably carrying about 45 missiles. They carry a relatively small, 1,000-pound warhead.

Nuclear-powered attack submarines that can also fire Tomahawks are likely to be in the Mediterranean as well. Some submarines carry only a dozen cruise missiles, but some specially configured Ohio class subs carry up to 154 of those.

Even without an Ohio class submarine within range of Syria, the Navy could fire about 200 missiles. Harmer, an analyst with the Institute for the Study of War, said that "is more than enough to conduct a medium-intensity strike against a variety of targets."

British submarines also carry cruise missiles and joined the U.S. in firing them during the 2011 war in Libya that ousted Moammar Kadafi. But it is unclear whether Britain is planning on joining the U.S. in striking Syria.

With U.S. forces likely to stay well outside Syria, the Assad government's ability to strike back is severely limited, according to current and former U.S. officials. Antiaircraft fire might succeed in hitting some of the cruise missiles, but Syria's air defenses are likely to be overwhelmed. Cruise missiles can be programmed to take routes that avoid air defense sites.

"If you put up enough flak, you might get lucky," said White, the former defense intelligence officer. But "most of the cruise missiles will get through."

http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-attack-syria-20130829,0,5321181.story

Syria Action 'Would Involve Submarine Cruise Missiles'

www.itv.com, Aug. 28

Any UK military action in Syria would involve submarine-launched cruise missiles rather than air strikes, a military expert has predicted.

Nick de Larrinaga of IHS Jane's Defence Weekly told ITV News: "I'd be very surprised if any military action by the UK didn't consist of cruise missile strikes.

"Equally, I'd be very surprised if it did involve air strikes. It would be very risky given the strength of Syrian air defences."

Reports emerged today that warplanes had arrived in the UK's Akrotiri airbase in Cyprus, but De Larrinaga does not believe these would be used against Syria.

"The Akrotiti base could play a supporting role to any military action, but it's highly unlikely that manned aircraft would be involved at this point - although it's possible the UK could support the US by monitoring airspace."

De Larrinaga, the magazine's Europe Editor, said the chances of western military action are increasing and strikes could occur "quickly" after a decision was made.

"The likelihood of small scale, precision strikes using Tomahawk cruise missiles has significantly increased since Britain, France and the US essentially accused Assad of using chemical weapons," he said.

Submarines would likely be deployed in eastern Mediterranean waters or in the Gulf.

De Larrinaga added that airstrikes could be possible "to a limited degree" within Syria using stand-off weapons, without entering Syrian airspace, but cruise missiles remained "the far most likely option".

Parliament is being recalled on Thursday for MPs to discuss the issue, although De Larrinaga says military action would not get UN backing.

"UN Security Council-endorsed military action is a no-go because Russia and China would veto it. It could be a US-led coalition, or possibly a NATO-endorsed mission," he said.

In 2011, the UK carried out strikes on Libya two days before Parliamentary approval was sought, although there had been a UN resolution endorsing a no fly-zone.

DARPA Seeks Input on Unmanned Undersea Payload-Launching System

InsideDefense.com, Aug. 28

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British Nuclear Submarine 'Surfaces off Gibraltar' as Row with Spain Heats Up

www.dailymail.co.uk. Aug. 26

A British nuclear submarine has reportedly been spotted off the Gibraltar coast.

Witnesses said they saw the vessel surface on Saturday as tensions between Spain and Britain continue to rise over fishing rights around the Mediterranean enclave.

The sighting comes days after Royal Navy warship HMS Westminster arrived in Gibraltar.

A spokeswoman said if it was in Gibraltar then it was for 'routine business'.

The Sun quoted an 'insider' as saying: 'There is only one reason a submarine breaks the surface - and that is to be spotted.

Last time the Trafalgar-class sub docked by the Rock it provoked anger and protests from activists (pictured)

'These things do not show themselves unless they want to be seen.'

The website shipspotting.com reported that HMS Tireless - a Trafalgar-class nuclear submarine - was seen in Gibraltar in Z Berth last month.

Local news in Gibraltar reported that HMS Tireless sailed into the area last month for a 'short stay as part of (the submarine's scheduled operational tasking'.

If confirmed, it will be the first time the nuclear submarine has docked in the contested region since 2004.

The docking of HMS Tireless, which is due to be decommissioned this year, sparked protests from Spanish activist nine years ago - the same year as the 300th anniversary of the capture of Gibraltar from Spain.

The submarine caused diplomatic tensions between Britain and Spain once again in 2000 when it docked in Gibraltar for a year after the submarine developed a serious leak in the nuclear reactor primary cooling circuit.

Another Trafalgar-class submarine, HMS Talent, stopped in Gibraltar this year and the enclave's first minister Fabian Picardo and his deputy Dr Joseph Garcia were given a tour.

Tensions between the two countries have ramped up this year over fishing rights.

Gibraltar's creation of an artificial reef with concrete blocks has provoked fury from Spanish fisherman, which they say blocks their access to certain waters.

Spanish police were criticized last week when they unfurled a Spanish flag during an inspection of the reef.

Gibraltar accused the police of violating 'British sovereignty' by attempting to exercise jurisdiction in its territory.

Last week, a fleet of almost 40 boats sailed into British waters to demand the reef be removed.

Spain has also increases border checks, leading to long queues for workers and tourists entering Gibraltar.

The Gibraltar government has tried in recent days to defuse tensions by proposing a change in local law to let the Spanish resume fishing in parts of the sea near the Rock.

2 Charged for Trying to Smuggle P5-M Submarine

www.abs-cbnnews.com*, Aug. 29*

MANILA, Philippines-A Caloocan City-based trader and his customs broker are in hot water for attempting to smuggle a P5-million recreational submarine from South Korea.

The Bureau of Customs charged trader Roberto M. Navarra and licensed customs broker Lucman A. Calbe Jr. at the Department of Justice (DOJ) for trying to smuggle the submarine into the country.

In a statement, Customs commissioner Ruffy Biazon said Navarra and Calbe misdeclared the submarine as outboard motor parts and accessories at the Manila International Container Port last March 12 . The submarine shipment from South Korea was consigned to Dionysus Trading, a company owned by Navarra.

The submarine arrived as a "complete knock down" and stuffed in a one forty-footer container van.

"We will prosecute and go for the maximum penalties allowed by law for all those caught attempting to violate our laws," Biazon said.

The smuggling charges against Navarra and Calbe brings to 146, the total number of smuggling cases filed by the BOC at the DOJ during the Aquino administration.

Indian Navy's Quest for Deep Sea Rescue Vehicle Almost Over

Gautam Datt, India Today, Aug. 26

The Indian Navy's much delayed plan to acquire the Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV), a pressurised capsule meant to rescue sailors from disaster-struck submarines at sea, has made some headway with the completion of technical evaluation of two contenders.

Two companies, one each from the United Kingdom and Russia, are in the fray for the project. Sources said the technical evaluation of both has been concluded, and the process is set to move forward pending the defence ministry's nod.

The navy is hopeful that the DSRV will be acquired within the next two years.

The need to procure a DSRV has long been felt by the Navy, but the pursuit has gained a sense of urgency in the wake of the accident involving the INS Sindhurakshak which killed all 18 personnel on board.

INS Sindhurakshak was rocked by explosions when the submarine was berthed in the dockyard, but the danger of the navy's ageing fleet of underwater boats meeting a mishap in deep sea is frighteningly real.

India has 15 submarines, most of which are old. Apart from the nine Russian kilo class submarines equipped with land attack missiles, the navy operates four German type 209 attack submarines and a single nuclear powered INS Chakra, an Akula class submarine leased from Russia.

The process to acquire the DSRV was started more than five years ago, and bids invited in 2010. The navy is looking for a vehicle in the 3,000-tonne category and at the time, platforms still under development were also under consideration.

IAF's airlift jewels set for induction in September Defence Minister A.K. Antony will formally induct C- 17 heavy lifters, Globemaster III , into the Indian Air Force on September 2 at the Hindon air base.

Three of the 10 strategic airlifters ordered from the US have arrived and are set to join the IAF's new 81 squadron.

After the induction, the Hindon base will become home to C-17s as well as the C-130J Super Hercules special operations aircraft - making it one of India's premium air bases.

The first C-17 Globemaster III touches down at the Hindon air base in June.

In the 75-80 tonne category, the C- 17 Globemaster III will be IAF's heaviest aircraft and is roughly double the size of the existing IL-76, hitherto the biggest in the Air Force's fleet.

All the 10 aircraft are expected to join the squadron by the end of next year. The super heavy transporters were bought to enhance the air lifting capability of the IAF and extending its reach.

Along with C-130 J Super Hercules, they will form the backbone for IAF's special operations.

Indian Sub Tragedy Blamed on Mishandling of Russian-Made Missiles

Special to WorldTribune.com, Aug. 27

Last week's disastrous

submarine explosion in India which killed 18 Indian sailors was caused by Russian-made Klub missiles inside the vessel, according to the Indian newspaper Mumbai Mirror, citing sources from the Indian Navy.

Indian Navy divers near the stricken INS Sindhurakshak.

The explosion and sinking of the Russian-made diesel-electric submarine INS Sindhurakshat occurred right after midnight on Aug. 14, killing 18 sailors trapped inside the sub.

According to the report, the crew placed the Klub anti-ship and anti-submarine missiles into two designated chambers, each containing missiles.

While the first chamber was successfully loaded, two missiles in the second missile chamber were misplaced, causing an electric short circuit that triggered the accidental launch of one missile which hit the bulkhead and exploded.

Fateh Sub's Torpedo Power Up

HispanicBusiness.com, 22 Aug 13

Iran has increased the power and efficiency of the missiles and torpedoes mounted on its newly made Fateh submarines, Lieutenant Commander of the Iranian Navy Rear Admiral Gholam Reza Khadem Bigham announced on Tuesday.

"Naturally, the power of Fateh's missiles and torpedoes are greater than Ghadir class submarines (which are equipped with sonar-evading technology and can fire missiles and torpedoes simultaneously)," Khadem Bigham told Fars News Agency.

He underlined that Iran will undertake any improvement in systems and weapons of its new submarines in older subsurface vessels like Ghadir class and even Kilo class which are used by the Navy.

Khadem Bigham described the Navy'sIran-made submarines as the country's strategic weapons, and said the enemies are fearful of these subsurface vessels which are possessed by the Iranian Navy in high numbers and any of them may be patrolling in any region at any moment.

In relevant remarks earlier this month, Khadem Bigham had informed that Fateh submarines would be unveiled soon, and added that the vessel would be handed to the naval force in the next few months.

The Iranian commander said last Tuesday that the construction process of Fateh submarine is underway and nearing completion.

Airsea Battle VS Offshore Control: Can The U.S. Blockade China?

James R. Holmes, The Diplomat, Aug 19

Retired Marine Corps colonel T. X. Hammes and Center for Naval Analyses researcher Elbridge Colby have been trading salvoes over the merits of AirSea Battle for the past couple of weeks. (Coolest names ever for a pair of debaters.) Writing over at The National Interest, Colby mounts a defense of the ASB doctrine. He maintains in effect that the U.S. armed forces must develop some way to kick in the door should China slam it shut in the Western Pacific. In his rejoinder, Hammes denies that AirSea Battle is a strategy while propounding his alternative concept of "offshore control." It's a good, and necessary, debate. Have a look at all three installments.

In a nutshell, offshore control means sealing off the first island chain to keep PLA Navy shipping from reaching the broad Pacific; waging submarine and aerial warfare to deny China access to its own offshore waters and skies; and imposing a distant blockade to bring economic pressure on Beijing. Over time, China might relinquish its goals to stop the pain. Offshore control abjures strikes at sites on the mainland – the most objectionable part of AirSea Battle – as needlessly escalatory in a campaign for limited aims.

On the whole, methinks Colonel Hammes has the better of this exchange of fire. My stalwart coauthor Toshi Yoshihara and I have floated similar ideas over the past three years or so, albeit in scattershot fashion and without the catchy bumper sticker (see here) (and here). The point of such strategies is to put asymmetric warfare to work for the United States and its allies, harnessing such advantages as undersea combat to exhaust the adversary without sending a limited conflict spiraling toward the nuclear threshold.

By Clausewitzian cost/benefit logic, Beijing should abandon the effort should it cost too much, drag on without end, or appear unwinnable. Let's not kid ourselves, though. Neither offshore control nor some kindred concept would bring about a quick, neat, or sure victory. If China attaches inordinate – or what looks inordinate to outsiders – value to political objects such as Taiwan or its maritime territorial claims, the Clausewitzian formula suggests Beijing may expend massive resources, indefinitely, to fulfill its goals. Or, as a great man once said, "No war is over until the enemy says it's over. We may think it over, we may declare it over, but in fact, the enemy gets a vote."

Even a limited maritime conflict, then, would involve a trial of wills in which the adversary would cast his vote against America, and might stand by that vote. How would such a struggle play out? One running debate among maritime strategists is whether navies win wars and, in particular, whether naval blockades can be strategically decisive. Mahan thinks so. The Mahanian algorithm instructs the good guys to vanquish the enemy's battle fleet. Battle represents a prelude to blockading his shores and doing the other things mastery of the sea empowers victorious navies to do. Corbett is a heretic by contrast, urging naval commanders to work with the army to shape events on land. For him, joint action at the land/sea interface constitutes the essence of maritime strategy.

Quoth Corbett, the only way a navy can win all by itself is through "a process of exhaustion." It can sever the enemy's economic and military lifelines and seize control of his "national life." He sounds skeptical, though, and that's because he sees a drawback. Prolonged economic warfare cuts both ways. It exhausts not just the enemy but friendly powers, not to mention one's own constituents who depend on foreign commerce for their livelihoods. Keeping the populace and the allies on the same sheet of music while their economic self-interest suffers poses a challenge, to say the least.

This is a prospect no strategist relishes. War Plan Orange, the interwar U.S. Navy's plan for fighting Japan, predicted a long grind. And that was against a small island state that could be cordoned off far more easily than can continental China. Nor does the United States enjoy the lopsided economic and industrial advantages over China that it commanded over Imperial Japan. In a way, then, offshore control renews the old grudge match between Mahan and Corbett and bets on Mahan. If Corbett (Colby) has it right, a distant blockade could prove indecisive, politically unsustainable, or both. What then?

Another dimension of this debate bears mentioning. Chinese sea power fuses seagoing and shore-based assets into a single implement. PLA commanders would presumably use all assets at their disposal, sea and land, once Chinese vessels started descending to Davy Jones' locker. What if anti-ship cruise or ballistic missiles or combat aircraft flying from airfields ashore started landing heavy blows against allied fleets, whether underway or berthed in ports like Yokosuka or Sasebo? Would Washington or Tokyo really exempt land-based PLA weaponry from counterstrikes should Beijing unleash it?

If so, they would be granting the adversary one heckuva sanctuary. In short, two can escalate. Whether allied political leaders could resist popular pressure to retaliate against the source of attacks on their ships, their sons, and their daughters is a question worth pondering.

Proponents of peripheral strategies can critique AirSea Battle all they want. It needs to be vetted. But at the same time, they need to tidy up their own alternatives. Clausewitz warns against Monday-morning quarterbacking, daring would-be RG3s to come up with better strategies of their own. An alternative then has to undergo the same exacting scrutiny as the strategy its backers want to replace. Something better may emerge from the give-and-take process.

Thesis, antithesis, synthesis; that Hegel guy was on to something.

James R. Holmes is a professor of strategy at the U.S. Naval War College.

U.S.S. Minnesota Set to Sink to Oceans Depths

KARE 11 News, Sep 5

MINNEAPOLIS - Delivered to the United States Navy in June, the U.S.S. Minnesota is set to be commissioned and hit the depths of the oceans.

"She's going to look pretty for the ceremony," said Senior Chief Charles Hystad.

Hystad and First Class Tony Finley are from Minnesota and are two of the 134 crew members that will operate the U.S.S. Minnesota.

"It's actually fun to be on one that's actually named after your home state, so you can see your home state's name when you're coming to work," smiled Hystad.

"It's like coming home every time I come to work, seeing the name of the state, to me it kind of seems a little unreal that they finally named a sub after our state," said Finley.

The last naval ship named after Minnesota was de-commissioned back in 1921.

The state was represented by the U.S.S. Minneapolis-St. Paul submarine in the 1990s, but it's run ended in 2008.

The crest for the U.S.S. Minnesota also has a Minnesota connection.

Roseville's Jakob Bartels designed the logo for the ship.

It depicts an intimidating walleye, the colors maroon and gold for the U of M, and a Viking which is prominently displayed with the North Star.

"Us being submariners and warriors, we like the little angry viking that's on there, it's got a nice manly crest," said Hystad.

The $2 billion sub is 377 feet long and weighs 7800 tons.

It is scheduled to hit the seas September 7th, 2013.

Navy Faces Possible Layoffs, Fewer Ships

Top Navy Officer Discusses Impact Of '13 Budget Cuts, Looks To Future

Janette Steele, San Diego Union-Tribune, Sep 5

The Navy's top officer on Wednesday described the impact of having $11 billion less to spend this year, with an eye toward a possible $14 billion cut in the coming fiscal year that could mean civilian layoffs, fewer vessels built and more ships tied to piers.

Adm. Jonathan Greenert, chief of naval operations, said the sea service cancelled five ship deployments due to the 2013 budget cuts. And, the service's ability to "surge" warships, which means dispatching them at short notice when conditions demand, was diminished.

"Usually, we have three carrier strike groups and three amphibious ready groups able to respond within a week," Greenert told an audience at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C. "We have one now, and that's going to be the story in fiscal 2014."

In San Diego, the aircraft carriers Carl Vinson and Ronald Reagan often have been sitting at the pier this year because their deployments were delayed to mid 2014 and later. Two San Diego frigates and a submarine had their tours scratched.

The Navy's proposed 2014 base budget is $155.8 billion, down from $160 billion this year.

In the coming fiscal year, starting Oct. 1, the Navy has decided to exempt sailors from the cuts, which means their pay is safe. All other areas are facing a 14 percent reduction, Greenert said.

Training and shipbuilding would drop in fiscal 2014, he told the audience, according to the Pentagon's Armed Forces Press Service.

"I would see the loss of a littoral combat ship, an afloat-forward staging base and advanced procurement for a Virginia-class submarine and a carrier overhaul," Greenert said. "We might lose two more – a submarine and a destroyer – if we are unable to reprogram and move money into those accounts."

The Navy will lose about 25 aircraft, from helicopters to P-8s to F-35s, the admiral said.

A civilian hiring freeze will continue, Greenert said, adding that there's "great potential" of a "reduction in force," or layoffs.

The Navy will start a voluntary civilian retirement program Oct. 1.

"We need about a billion dollars to get into the operations and maintenance account and a billion into the procurement accounts so we can get it into shipbuilding, which will be my No. 1 priority in the Navy," he said.

Barring "help" from Congress in the next budget, Greenert told the audience, the Navy will have to cancel half of its planned ship maintenance appointments. Aircraft maintenance will take a hit, as well.

"If we restored the budget after [fiscal 2014] and said, 'You have a full-up operations and maintenance budget,' it'll take about five years to get that backlog in aircraft maintenance down," he said.

Looking beyond 2014, Greenert said the overall size of the Navy will likely shrink, but officials want to do it while preserving the ability to fight one major combat operation.

U.S. Vessels, Aircraft Approaching China May be Investigating Ports and Submarine Bases

People's Daily Online, Sep 6

Recently, a face-to-face meeting was held between the Defense Minister of China and the Secretary of Defense of the U.S. During the meeting, China expressed concerns over three obstacles hampering the development of relationships between the U.S. army and the PLA, and clarified its position. One of the three obstacles is frequent close reconnaissance of U.S. vessels and aircraft in China's exclusive economic zone. Military expert Zhang Zhaozhong suggested in a media interview that the purpose of these approaches may be to investigate ports, submarine bases and aircraft carrier bases under construction.

According to Guan Youfei, director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Ministry of National Defense, there are three main obstacles to the development of the relationship between the U.S. army and the PLA. These are weapon sales to Taiwan, the discriminatory U.S. Congress act that places restrictions on the development of the relationship between the U.S. army and the PLA, and frequent close reconnaissance of U.S. vessels and aircraft in China's exclusive economic zone. Coinciding with the meeting between the Defense Minister of China and the Secretary of Defense of U.S., China expressed concerns about these three obstacles, and clarified its position.

Guan Youfei proposed on behalf of China that a working group could be established to discuss and investigate detailed solutions to the three obstacles. The U.S.'s response was positive, saying that the establishment of a working group would be an effective way to establish positive communication between China and U.S. in pursuit of constructive solutions.

With regard to the frequent close reconnaissance of U.S. vessels and aircraft in China's exclusive economic zone, Guan Youfei said that these incursions were becoming increasingly frequent, and the distances involved were growing steadily shorter, leading to a feeling of unease and a sense that the country was under threat. Additionally, such conduct went against the trend for the two countries to build a new style of relationship between great powers with increasing strategic trust.

Guan Youfei said that previous lessons showed that close reconnaissance encroachments were a source of conflict between China and the U.S. on the sea. If the U.S. continued to maintain this policy, the number of encounters between Chinese and U.S. vessels and aircraft was sure to increase, as was the likelihood of an incident. China and the U.S. were working towards the establishment of mutual trust, and measures appropriate to the cold war were totally unnecessary. China had been expressing this position for some time, and urging the U.S. to consider the problem on strategic level and to reduce or even cease the incursions.

Zhang Zhaozhong said that the primary source of incursions was flights by the ferret aircraft from Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, which usually conducted reconnaissance in the exclusive economic zone just beyond China's 12 nautical mile limit. This reconnaissance was probably aimed at acquiring the operating frequency of radar stations on the coast or the offshore islands of China, as well as plotting the network of radio communication stations along the coast. It might also be intended to identify the location of some radar stations and electronic units that were not yet ready for use or had not yet entered service.

In addition, some reconnaissance vessels could be investigating the hydrography, meteorology, water depth, navigation channels, and water flow along the coast of China, as well as existing infrastructure and infrastructure under construction, such as ports, submarine bases, and aircraft carrier bases.

The Future of Deterrence? Ballistic-Missile Defense

Maxwell Cooper, Proceedings, September 2013

The Ohio -class replacement program should be canceled; it is a costly anachronism in a changed global nuclear landscape.

Ballistic-missile submarines, or "boomers," may best be known for their ability to remain undetected, but there is no hiding the massive bill that follows in their wake, namely, the Ohio -class replacement (SSBN(X)). Also impossible to hide is the fact that modern international nuclear politics have changed from those of past decades and that the circumstances under which boomers were created have changed. Ballistic-missile submarines came into existence because the theory of mutually assured destruction (MAD) required a guaranteed second-strike capability. Land-based missiles and strategic bombers were considered too vulnerable to a first strike, and without a guaranteed second strike, MAD lost its deterrent capability.

The collapse of the Soviet Union and rise of regional nuclear powers have altered the nature of strategic deterrence and require new solutions that better address modern security and fiscal challenges. The United States can best meet the dual challenges of modern international nuclear politics and declining budgets by canceling SSBN(X) and focusing on ballistic-missile defense (BMD).

In the Days of the Triad

Nuclear weapons drove the development of political theories designed to minimize the likelihood of direct conflict between the United States and Soviet Union. The possibility that such conflict could result in a nuclear war required a new way to address security concerns, and the policies of containment and deterrence were created. Both strategies were designed to prevent the Soviet Union from becoming too aggressive, and both required a nuclear arsenal equal to or greater than the Soviets. The resulting

arms race was destabilizing as it created an incentive to launch a preemptive nuclear strike to destroy your opponent's nuclear capability before he could respond.

The need for a more stable deterrent informed the development of MAD and created the strategic triad of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), strategic bombers, and ballistic-missile submarines. If one could not preemptively destroy all three legs of an opponent's strategic triad, the instigator became susceptible to a retaliatory nuclear strike from the remaining legs, the results of which would be so catastrophic as to effectively prevent a preemptive attack. MAD required two things: both sides had to consider the other to be a rational actor capable of making decisions based on logic and their best long-term interests, and both sides had to possess near-invulnerable second-strike capabilities. The fear that the Soviets could destroy U.S. land-based nuclear missiles and bombers through a preemptive attack drove the requirement for the development of a new, near-invulnerable second-strike platform. The submarine's natural stealth allowed it to fill this second-strike requirement, and the ballistic-missile submarine was created.

Today's nuclear political landscape is different from that of the Cold War. The bipolar system of two superpowers representing opposing ideologies and equipped with large nuclear arsenals became a U.S.-dominated unipolar system with no clear nuclear rival. Whether the system returns to bipolar between the United States and China or a series of regional multipolars within a larger unipolar, neither outcome is likely to require a guaranteed second strike. The 2010 Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) states that "the nature of the U.S.-Russia relationship has changed fundamentally since the days of the Cold War . . . Russia and the United States are no longer adversaries, and prospects for military confrontation have declined dramatically." 1

Russia has become an important partner in reducing nuclear stockpiles, but a need to ensure strategic deterrence still exists. The United States and Russia should continue to reduce their nuclear arsenals through treaties such as New START, which sets the number of deployed nuclear warheads at 1,550, a number more than sufficient to ensure deterrence against both one another as well as new nuclear threats. As noted in the NPR, "Since the end of the Cold War, the United States and Russia have reduced operationally deployed strategic nuclear weapons by about 75 percent, but both still retain many more nuclear weapons than they need for deterrence." 2 Far fewer nuclear weapons are required to deter China, Iran, and North Korea, as none of them is capable of destroying all U.S. land-based nuclear missiles in one attack.

Changed World = Changed Nuclear Needs

Russia is the only state representing the possibility of nuclear parity, which is increasingly unnecessary as Russia and the United States continue to reduce nuclear stockpiles and improve diplomatic relations. Given that in-service Ohio -class SSBNs are not scheduled to begin decommissioning until 2027 and will not be totally phased out until 2039, the United States has a minimum of 14 years to continue improving relations with Russia to the point where a guaranteed second-strike capability is no longer required. 3 During that time, should relations with Russia deteriorate or another state decides to begin a massive buildup of its nuclear inventory that genuinely threatens to overwhelm U.S. nuclear capability, the United States would still be able to maintain strategic deterrence by extending the life of existing systems while working to develop replacement capabilities. While the NPR concludes that "the current alert posture of U.S. strategic forces—with heavy bombers off full-time alert, nearly all ICBMs on alert, and a significant number of SSBNs at sea at any given time—should be maintained for the present," other reports support shifting from a triad to a dyad or monad. 4 Different combinations have been suggested (e.g., SSBN and ICBM, ICBM only, etc.) but all rest on the premise that replacement systems cost too much to develop and maintain and are increasingly unnecessary in a post–Cold War world.

The diminishing possibility of open warfare with Russia and lack of other near-peer nuclear powers has shifted the emphasis from traditional deterrence to preventing nuclear terrorism and proliferation. The NPR identified five objectives for making the world safe from nuclear attack:

- Preventing nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism
- Reducing the role of U.S. nuclear weapons in U.S. national-security strategy
- Maintaining strategic deterrence and stability at reduced nuclear-force levels
- Strengthening regional deterrence and reassuring U.S. allies and partners
- Sustaining a safe, secure, and effective nuclear arsenal. 5

The prominence of nuclear terrorism and proliferation over traditional strategic deterrence in the NPR shows that modern nuclear fears are based on terrorist groups using nuclear weapons, or states ignoring the threat of a retaliatory strike and launching small numbers of nuclear-armed ballistic missiles. Modern nuclear strategy addresses those fears by securing existing nuclear stockpiles, preventing new states from developing nuclear capabilities, deterring existing states from using nuclear weapons, and developing and fielding BMD. These efforts are focused on Iran and North Korea, where the threats of state-sponsored nuclear terrorism and ballistic-missile launches are intertwined.

Iran and North Korea are similar in terms of their nuclear aspirations and status as rational states. While there is debate as to whether either can be considered a rational actor, it is difficult to believe either country's leadership would launch a nuclear attack knowing the consequences of a U.S response. Regardless, neither country possesses enough nuclear weapons to require a guaranteed second strike to maintain deterrence, which removes the need for SSBN(X). Of greater concern is that both countries possess large and growing inventories of conventional ballistic missiles, against which strategic deterrence has no value, as it is U.S. policy not to respond to a conventional attack with nuclear weapons. In either case, SSBN(X) provides no added benefit as it is

not required to maintain deterrence and, in the event of a missile launch, whether conventional or nuclear, BMD-equipped ships would be the next line of defense.

A Time for BMD

The lack of realistic nuclear threats requiring a guaranteed second strike and the limited utility of strategic deterrence against Iran and North Korea raise the question of which platform best addresses modern nuclear-armed ballistic-missile threats. In the event that deterrence fails, BMD becomes the best way to reduce an attack's likelihood and minimize its consequences. The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is responsible for developing the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS), which is used by the Navy, Army, and Air Force, and includes Aegis-equipped ships conducting patrols, sea-based sensors, land-based versions of Aegis, ground-based interceptors and sensors, deployable land-based radars and missiles, and space-based sensors. BMDS is designed to protect against Iranian and North Korean missile launches (nuclear and conventional) and has made significant strides in recent years, particularly the Aegis-integrated radar, tracking, and weapon system equipped on board Ticonderoga - class cruisers and Arleigh Burke –class destroyers (DDG). The successful completion of the April 2011 flight test, FTM 15, demonstrated that an Aegis destroyer can launch a ballistic-missile interceptor (SM3 Blk IA) and successfully destroy an enemy ballistic missile based on tracking data from an Army radar relayed through an Air Force satellite. 6 The Navy and MDA followed up this test with another successful launch, FTM 20, in February, when an SM3 Blk IA destroyed a ballistic missile based solely on track data provided by an Air Force satellite. 7 Additionally, the Navy and MDA have demonstrated the next series of ballistic-missile interceptors (SM3 Blk IB) can successfully discriminate a target from potential decoys and debris and destroy the proper target. 8

The Navy and MDA are building on these achievements by developing and fielding more powerful BMD capabilities as well as working with European and Middle Eastern allies to defeat Iranian missiles through the European Phased Adaptive Approach. In response to North Korea, the United States has developed a special partnership with Japan, which is co-developing the SM3 Blk IIA ballistic-missile interceptor, has four Aegis-equipped ships, and provides basing rights to land-based BMD systems. The BMDS has proven itself in both testing and real-world conditions and should continue to be developed and deployed to defend against Iran and North Korea.

What About the Burkes ?

Arleigh Burke –class destroyers are being upgraded with increasingly more sophisticated BMD capabilities but are hindered by funding shortfalls and competing requirements. The Congressional Budget Office's (CBO's) analysis of the Navy's current 30-year shipbuilding plan projects a DDG shortfall below the required 90 by 2029:

The current shipbuilding plan calls for buying 70 destroyers based on the existing Arleigh Burke –class destroyer (DDG-51) design. Those purchases would allow the Navy's inventory of large surface combatants to meet the goal of approximately 90 ships (defined by CBO as 88 or more) for 11 years over the next 30. Specifically, it would meet that goal for seven years in the mid-2020s, then would fall to a low of 78 in 2034 before increasing back to the high 80s by 2039. 9

Such analysis assumes DDGs will meet a 40-year expected service life. The report concedes this is unlikely, and "if the DDG-51 class met the same fate [as previous surface combatants that failed to meet an expected service life of 40 years], the shortfall in meeting the Navy's inventory goal for destroyers and cruisers would grow substantially." The Ohio -class replacement program exacerbates that shortfall by claiming funding and lengthening the time DDGs fall below the 90-ship requirement. 10 As Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Ashton Carter noted in the Navy's Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report to Congress on Long-Range Plans for Construction of Naval Vessels :

The greatest planning concern during the far-term period involves our Large Surface Combatant force (which includes DDGs). The 33 Flt III DDG 51s to be procured between FY 2016 and FY 2030 will replace legacy CG 47-class Guided Missile Cruisers, and improve the integrated air and missile defense of the battle forces. Due to the already pressurized funding situation in the mid-term planning period due to the SSBN(X), however, the DoN will not be able to start building the follow-on LSCs soon enough to keep up with the large number of legacy DDGs scheduled to retire in the FY2033–FY2042 timeframe . . . . as this problem demonstrates, the impact of the SSBN(X) program will be wide and deep throughout the mid-and-far-term planning periods. 11

SSBN(X) pushes the shipbuilding budget $5–15 billion over the 20-year historical average and is unlikely to be funded in the best of times, let alone the current economy. The CBO report further defines the funding required to develop and field the Ohio - class replacement and its effect on the shipbuilding budget:

To cover both the SSBN(X) program as well as other shipbuilding programs, yearly shipbuilding expenditures during the mid-term planning period will need to average about $19.5B/year. This is over $4B more per year than in the near-term planning period, and nearly $3B more per year than the steady-state 30-year average requirement of $16.8B/year . . . . sustaining a viable overall ship construction plan during this period will be the key challenge for the Department over the 30-year panning period covered by this report. 12

The SSBN(X) Money Pit

If the Navy cannot count on additional shipbuilding funds, it will likely have to shift money from other shipbuilding accounts to cover the required funding. Further complicating the 30-year plan is a lack of consensus on SSBN(X) costs. Estimated cost per SSBN(X) has varied between $3.6 billion and $7.5 billion per ship, but if the actual costs exceed projected amounts, more funding will have to be shifted to cover shortfalls. 13 As Ashton Carter noted, "The [30-year] plan is affordable within the Future Years

Defense Plan (FYDP) but presents a resourcing challenge outside the FYDP largely due to investment requirements associated with the SSBN(X) program." 14 By comparison, Arleigh Burke –class destroyers have established and stable prices. The Navy has delivered DDG-51s since the early 1990s and average procurement unit cost (APUC) in FY 87 dollars has increased by only 9.63 percent, from $684 million in 1988 to $750 million in 2011. During the same time period, program acquisition unit cost (PAUC) in FY 87 dollars increased by only 8.63 percent, from $727 million in 1988 to $789 million in 2011. 15 More impressive is that while APUC and PAUC have remained relatively stable, overall capability has improved, including two major in-service flight upgrades and increases in system performance. Flight III is the next major upgrade and includes the Air and Missile Defense Radar, which is specifically designed to counter modern ballistic-missile threats. Flight III will cost more than previous DDGs but even with increased unit costs the Navy could procure at least two Flight III DDGs ($2.3 billion per ship in FY 13 dollars) for every one SSBN(X) ($5.6 billion per ship in FY 13 dollars). 16 Stated differently, the Navy will lose at least two DDGs for every one SSBN(X).

To put the cost in even more glaring terms, the Missile Defense Agency's entire yearly budget is equal to the cost of a single SSBN(X). 17 As Carter stated, "Obviously, spending $5–6 billion per year for a single ship over a 10- to 12-year period will strain the DoN's yearly shipbuilding accounts." 18 Canceling SSBN(X) would relieve the strain on DDGs and accelerate BMD deployment.

The New Reality

Modern nuclear threats are different from those faced during the Cold War, and new strategies are required to address emerging security challenges. Russia is no longer an adversary and has significantly reduced its nuclear capability; China possesses only a few hundred nuclear weapons; North Korea can barely launch a single missile; and Iran has still not managed to develop a nuclear bomb. The strategic triad of land-based missiles, strategic bombers, and ballistic-missile submarines was an effective way to maintain relative peace between the United States and the Soviet Union, but modern regional nuclear powers require a different form of deterrence. As noted in the NPR:

Effective missile defenses are an essential element of the U.S. commitment to strengthen regional deterrence against states of concern. Thus, while the United States will maintain a nuclear deterrent to cope with such states, we are also bolstering the other critical elements of U.S. deterrence, including conventional and ballistic-missile defense capabilities. 19

Regardless of whether or not Iran and North Korea are rational actors, neither state possesses enough nuclear weapons to threaten the U.S. land-based nuclear arsenal, which removes the need to maintain a guaranteed second strike and develop the SSBN(X). This is a good thing, for as Carter observed, "the need to recapitalize our Fleet ballistic-missile submarine force will cause noteworthy risks to the Navy's overall shipbuilding plan." 20 Canceling the SSBN(X) will allow the Navy's 30-year shipbuilding plan to return to normal levels and accelerate development and fielding of new DDGs and BMD capabilities. This supports the NPR's goal of "lower[ing] nuclear force levels and with reduced reliance on nuclear weapons . . . without jeopardizing our traditional deterrence." 21

BMD is the future of strategic deterrence and should be viewed as the new sea-based leg of the strategic triad. Canceling the SSBN(X) and increasing the development of DDGs and BMD would represent full acceptance of this reality—and should be done before too much funding is spent on an unnecessary and outdated program.

Russia Boosts Mediterranean Force As U.S. Mulls Syria Strike

Jake Rudnitsky and Henry Meyer, BLOOMBERG, Sep 4

Russia is sending three more ships to the eastern Mediterranean to bolster its fleet there as a U.S. Senate panel will consider President Barack Obama's request for authority to conduct a military strike on Syria.

Russia is sending two destroyers, including the Nastoichivy, the flagship of the Baltic Fleet, and the Moskva missile cruiser to the region, Interfax reported today, citing an unidentified Navy official. That follows last week's dispatch of a reconnaissance ship to the eastern Mediterranean, four days after the deployment of an anti-submarine ship and a missile cruiser to the area, which were reported by Interfax. Syria hosts Russia's only military facility outside the former Soviet Union, at the port of Tartus.

The buildup is raising the stakes as the U.S. prepares for possible action against Syria, sending warships and submarines to the east Mediterranean armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will vote today on a resolution that supports the use of force by the U.S. military.

"Russia is sending a strong signal that the conflict surrounding Syria touches on its interests, to ensure that international law is upheld and there is no bypassing the UN Security Council," Ivan Safranchuk, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's Institute of Contemporary International Studies in Moscow, said by phone.

Temporary Boost

Russia is temporarily bolstering its naval presence in the region to improve its surveillance capability over U.S. ships and submarines deployed in the area and to ensure security for Russian citizens residing in Syria, according to a Russian official who asked not to be named, citing government policy.

President Vladimir Putin said today that congressional approval would "legitimize aggression," adding that only the United Nations Security Council can endorse the strikes. Putin, whose country wields a veto as a permanent member of the Security Council, said he needs proof that the Syrian government used chemical weapons to support a U.S.-led strike.

Russia, which has embarked this decade on the largest rearmament program since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union, is projecting naval power a day after its early-warning radar station detected what it misidentified as a launch of two ballistic missiles in the Mediterranean. Israel later said it carried out a joint missile test with the U.S.

China, Mediterranean

Russia in January held its biggest naval maneuvers in the Mediterranean in more than two decades, followed by its largest-ever naval exercises with China in the Sea of Japan in July. In March, Putin ordered unplanned exercises in the Black Sea involving 36 warships and almost 7,000 personnel.

Russia maintains a naval resupply facility at the Syrian port of Tartus.

A missile cruiser, the Moskva, is bound for the eastern Mediterranean after canceling its mission to a port in Cape Verde. It will arrive by Sept. 17 to assume leadership of a task force in the region, Interfax reported today, citing a Navy official in St. Petersburg. The Baltic and Black Sea fleets are each sending a destroyer, the news service said.

"Putin has clearly outlined his country's position in regards to Syria," Matthew Clements, an analyst at IHS Global Insight in London, said in e-mailed comments. "This includes a firm warning to the United States and its allies that military action against Syria without support from the UN Security Council would be an 'aggression.'"

Russian Navy spokesman Igor Dygalo couldn't be reached when Bloomberg called seeking comment.

Military Supplies

Russia will continue providing military supplies under contracts to the Syrian government, which it recognizes as the legitimate authority in the country, Putin said in an interview with the Associated Press and Russian state television broadcaster Channel One, a transcript of which was posted on the Kremlin website today.

While supplies of the advanced S-300 missile system have been halted, deliveries may resume if actions are taken against Syria violating international law, he said.

Choppy Waters

Harsh V. Pant, The Telegraph, Sep 4

India became the fifth nation in the world with the capability to indigenously design and build its own aircraft carrier recently. INS Vikrant, the new aircraft carrier, was launched by the defence minister amidst great fanfare. The launch came in the wake of the announcement that the reactor in India's first indigenously built nuclear-powered submarine, INS Arihant, has gone critical, marking a turning point in New Delhi's attempt to establish a nuclear triad. But the celebrations came to an abrupt end when INS Sindhurakshak, one of the 10 kilo-class submarines that form the backbone of India's ageing conventional submarine force, sank with its crew after explosions at the naval dockyard in Mumbai. Together these developments underscored the giant strides that India has taken as well as the challenges that confront its attempts to emerge as a global naval power.

INS Vikrant is likely to begin sea trials next year. With INS Vikrant, India will not only be able to protect its eastern and western flanks confidently but also be able to project its naval power further off its shores. INS Arihant is the first ballistic missile submarine built by a nation other than the recognized nuclear powers. This highly secretive project will complete India's nuclear triad, with the submarine's ballistic missiles giving India second strike capability.

India's naval expansion is being undertaken with an eye on China. But India has nautical miles to go before it can catch up with its powerful neighbour. The launch of the aircraft carrier is seen as critical for the navy, which is anxious to maintain its presence in the shipping lanes on the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea, in the light of China's massive naval build-up. China has commissioned its aircraft carrier, Liaoning. It is also working on an indigenous carrier while keeping an eye out for a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

Future role

India remains heavily dependent on imports to meet its defence requirements. Hence, its recent successes are important. But it will be five years before INS Vikrant can be commissioned and INS Arihant is yet to pass a series of sea trials. Indian naval planners have argued that to maintain operational readiness in the Indian Ocean, protect sea lanes of communication in the Persian Gulf, and monitor Chinese activities in the Bay of Bengal, it needs a minimum of three aircraft carriers and a fleet of five nuclear submarines. With Admiral Gorshkov on track to be delivered by Russia by the end of this year and a second indigenously built aircraft carrier in the wings, the navy is close to realizing its dream of operating three carriers.

But serious challenges remain. The disaster aboard INS Sindhurakshak has brought the focus back on issues of safety and reliability. The navy has had a poor accident record. Initial investigations have shown that the arms on board INS Sindhurakshak may have had a role in its sinking. India's indigenous defence production has been marred by serious technical and organizational

problems, leading to significant delays in the development of key defence technologies and platforms. The navy, like the other two services, has found it difficult to translate its conceptual commitment to self-reliance and indigenization into actionable policy, resulting in a dependence on external sources for modernization.

Yet India's reliance on its navy to project power is likely to increase. Apart from China, other nations such as Japan are developing their naval might. Moreover, India's naval engagement with east and southeast Asian nations is integral to its 'Look East' policy. The navy will remain indispensable for furthering national foreign policy goals. But the decline in growth rate means that naval planners will have to think carefully about balancing ends and means if India is to emerge as a serious naval power in the coming years.