



THE SUBMARINE FORCE

112 YEARS: RUNNING SILENT THROUGH HISTORY, RUNNING DEEP INTO THE FUTURE

11 April 2012

"For 112 years, the broad military advantages created by undersea concealment have resulted in a wide range of undersea platforms and missions that have enhanced our national security. Throughout history, what has remained constant is the bold character of submariners."

-RADM Frank Caldwell, Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet

Undersea Warfare

- We strongly support our CNO's tenants of "Warfighting First, Operate Forward and Be Ready" and to maintain dominance in the Undersea Domain.
- The [Design for Undersea Warfare](#) calls us to action to provide – "Ready Forces, Effective Employment, and Future Forces."
- The fundamental purpose of our undersea forces has remained constant: to hide under the seas to the advantage of our nation and its allies, and to impose cost on those who would be our enemies.
- Submarines provide our national decision makers with the full range of decision options – from undetectable clandestine operations to full-on attack.

Our Past Generations of Heroes

- On April 11, 1900, the U.S. Navy purchased what would become the [USS HOLLAND](#) - the first U.S. Navy Submarine. Our early years as a force saw brave men diving deeper and going longer. It took decades of fortitude and creativity, but in the late 1930's and early 1940's, the first generation of undersea warfare came to a close as the Navy produced fleet boats with the speed, endurance, weapons and payload that would make the submarine a warfighting platform.
- These Fleet Boats came just in time – literally on the dawn of World War II. And once again it was a few bold visionaries who built a submarine force that was to dominate the seas and make a decisive difference in the war. It was this second generation of undersea warriors – our WW II heroes – that set the high standards of performance that still defines our Submarine Force.
- The third generation of undersea warfare was defined by the advent and adaptation of nuclear power – in weapons and propulsion. Again here, we see the unbeatable mix of bold, creative people putting advanced technology to use to secure our nation's interests. The decisive professionalism and perseverance of the SSBN crews, coupled with an SSN team that constantly threatened the Soviet submarines and the rest of their navy, smothered the Soviet Union, defeating them while avoiding a nuclear world war – the ultimate testimony to the value of deterrence

A New Security Environment = A New Challenge!

- Generation IV is being defined by more aggressive approaches to [area and access denial](#), made possible by the proliferation of long-range precision sensors and weapons.
- This new generation of undersea warfare will also be characterized by pervasive Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, increased use of [unmanned systems](#), and cyber and other "soft" attacks.
- This new security environment will again require that we undersea warriors dig deep to stay ahead of the threats and preserve our superiority in the undersea domain. WE must continue to define the destiny on and beneath the seas.

"I am incredibly proud of each and every member of the undersea warfare team, including our families who sacrifice along with us. Just as earlier generations did before us, we fourth generation undersea warriors will be ready to surge to any crisis – first to arrive and last to leave. Let it always be a comforting reassurance to our friends and the worst nightmare for our enemies to know that the U.S. Submarine Force is on the job."

- VADM John Richardson, Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic