

Welcome Aboard

USS BLACKFIN (SS 322)



WELCOME ABOARD . . . It is with great pleasure that the officers and crew of **BLACKFIN** welcome you aboard on behalf of the Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet. It is hoped that you will enjoy your tour aboard **BLACKFIN**, which is a resolute and vital member of our nation's defense team.

Although comprising but a small number of the Navy's ships and men, the Submarine Service is an essential element of our nation's first line of offense as well as defense.

The Submarine Service boasts an esprit de corps rivalled by no other branch of the Navy. The officers and enlisted men, who man our submarines, are handpicked volunteers. They are joined together by a common bond, symbolized by the "dolphins," the insignia of a submariner.

Although only a half-century old, the history of the U. S. Navy's Submarine Service is dramatic and marked with valour.

In 1900 the U. S. Navy acquired the **USS HOLLAND**, its first submarine. However, it wasn't until World War II that U. S. Submarines had a real opportunity to prove their worth.

Submarines are weapons of stealth and surprise. They nearly won two wars for Germany and they accounted to a large degree for our World War II victory over Japan. Our submarines sank more than 200 Japanese warships, but it was their sinking of 1,750 Japanese merchant ships which so weakened Japan that she could not withstand the final allied campaigns.

Since the end of World War II, our submarine development has not remained static. In fact, the role of the submarine has greatly expanded. Even greater roles are planned for them in the future.

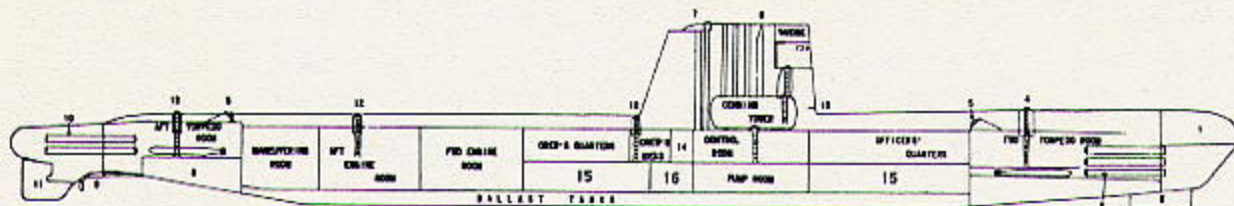
With our new nuclear powered attack submarines and Fleet Ballistic Missile (**POLARIS**) Submarines, the versatility and striking power of our undersea arm has been vastly broadened. The speed, endurance and "punch" of our modernized submarine forces are more than equal to the task of defeating any potential enemy.

It is hoped and encouraged that during your tour of **BLACKFIN** you will find the opportunity to stop and talk with members of our crew. They stand ready to assist you in any way possible.

Finally, I sincerely hope that you will have profited by your visit, and that you will leave with a better understanding of your Navy's Submarine Service which remains on the alert day and night, guarding our country's shores at home and our national interests abroad.

J. G. FLETCHER
Commanding Officer

GUPPY 1A SUBMARINE COMPARTMENTATION



1. BOW BUOYANCY TANK
2. SIX TORPEDO TUBES
3. SONAR DOME
4. FORWARD ESCAPE TRUNK
5. TORPEDO LOADING HATCH
6. PERISCOPES AND MASTS
7. SNORKEL MASTS
8. STORE ROOM

9. PROPELLERS
10. FOUR TORPEDO TUBES
11. RUDDER
12. DECK HATCHES
13. WHISTLE
14. GALLEY
15. BATTERIES
16. SONAR ROOM



