



OCTOBER 2002

COMNAVSUBFOR RESERVE NOTE

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RESNOTE DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE AND REQUIREMENTS:

This RESNOTE is distributed prior to the first drill weekend of each month. Paper distribution is mandatory for those reservists without E-mail. Unit COs should ensure the RESNOTE is distributed to all members in their unit. If you know of any Submarine Reservist presently serving outside of Program One, please forward a copy of this RESNOTE to them and invite them to send their e-mail address to the PCU. They will be added to the distribution list. Send e-mail input for upcoming RESNOTES to CWO3 Kevin Kilcoyne (kilcoynekw@ieee.org) (SUBLANT) or CAPT David Hill (hillhd@westinghouse.com) (SUBPAC).

HAIL AND FAREWELL

MOBILIZED PERSONNEL

A hearty WELCOME BACK to all of our Program One members who were mobilized in response to 9/11. Your dedication and willingness to shoulder the responsibilities of protecting our country when called is the embodiment of why Reservists are considered “twice the Citizen.” Thank you!

NEW COMSUBLANT RESERVE FORCE DIRECTOR

Welcome Aboard to CAPT Brett Ayotte as the new COMSUBLANT Reserve Force Director. He has just completed a successful tour as Commanding Officer, NR COMSUBLANT Det 106. CAPT Ayotte relieved CAPT Jay DeLoach, effective 1 OCT 02. CAPT DeLoach is the new Commanding Officer, NR COMSEVENTHFLT Det 111. We thank CAPT DeLoach for his outstanding leadership over the past two years and wish him great success in his new command.

NEW COMSUBLANT RESERVE MANPOWER DIRECTOR

Welcome Aboard to CAPT Chuck Beltz as the new COMSUBLANT Reserve Manpower Director. He is assigned to NR COMSUBLANT BGS 201, in Groton, CT (email contact: c.beltz@worldnet.att.net. CAPT Beltz relieves CAPT Rob Conway in this important position within Program 1. Our sincere thanks to CAPT Conway for his exceptional efforts to locate and recruit the best people to man our units.

WHAT'S NEW

PROGRAM ONE FY03 GOALS ISSUED

In recent weeks, Commanding Officers received a copy of the FY03 Goals and Objectives from RADM Feichtinger, USNR, Director, Submarine Reserve. While many of the metrics will be familiar, there are a number of changes in the overall focus for Program 1. Some of the more important changes to be aware of are:

- Priorities for filling Force Protection billets
- Start of a multi-year effort to enhance the warfighting skills of our unit members and brings those skills to bear on the operational needs of the submarine force
- Expanding the support the provided through our maintenance units
- Addition of a metric for professional development of unit members

Details on how we will implement these changes, while maintaining our current level of support to exercises, BGO schedules, and CAT A tender support, will be forthcoming over the next several months. FY03 will be a year of challenges and growth for the Submarine Reserve.

NEW ORDER WRITING SYSTEM

The New Order Writing System (NOWS) deployed 15 August @ 07:00 EDT for all fiscal year 03 AT, ADT and IDTT orders. This system is expected to make the order generation process much more time responsive to the individual and parent command needs and to provide better visibility on order status. Unit Commanding Officers and Training Officers should be fully conversant in how the NOWS process works. There is a wealth of information available on the NOWS web page: <http://www.navres.navy.mil/navresfor/now>. Review the documentation

contained there to assist your transition to this new system. A link to the web-based Nows application for drilling reservists to initiate their order request is provided. As with any new system, there will be a learning curve and, probably, some frustrations. As problems are found or solutions identified, unit Training Officers should ensure those lessons learned are passed on to the RLOs and Program 1 leadership, so that we can make sure that all benefit from our experiences.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

OCTOBER – Unit Changes of Command, dates vary with RESCEN schedules

1 OCTOBER – Regional Command Career Counselor applications due to ETCM(SS) Clark

7 OCTOBER – Naval Reserve TAR Transfer/Redesignation Board #1 convenes

8 OCTOBER – Naval Reserve O-7 Staff Selection Board convenes

13 OCTOBER – Navy Birthday

22 OCTOBER – Naval Reserve O-7 Line Selection Board convenes

NOVEMBER

1 NOVEMBER – Submarine Warfare Reserve Planning Board (SWRPB)

6 NOVEMBER – Naval Reserve O-8 Line Selection Board convenes

6 NOVEMBER – Naval Reserve O-8 Staff Selection Board convenes

11 NOVEMBER – Veterans Day

DECEMBER

7 DECEMBER – Army vs NAVY football

7 DECEMBER – COMSUBLANT Commanding Officers VTC

JANUARY

13 JANUARY – Naval Reserve O-6 Line Selection Board convenes

31 JANUARY – SUBPAC Reserve CO/SEA Conference

FEBRUARY

6 – 8 FEBRUARY – COMSUBLANT Total Force Conference

10 FEBRUARY – Naval Reserve O-4 Staff Selection Board convenes

10 FEBRUARY – Naval Reserve O-5 Staff Selection Board convenes

10 FEBRUARY – Naval Reserve O-6 Staff Selection Board convenes

24 FEBRUARY – Naval Reserve O-5 Line Selection Board convenes

CMC NOTE

In 2000, the Naval Reserve launched the Senior Enlisted Academy Non-Resident Course (SEA-NRC) for eligible E8 and E9 personnel. This course is based on the USN SEA curriculum, but is presented in an 18-week Distance Learning (DL) module combined with a 15-day Annual Training (AT) On-board Learning (OBL) module. The OBL phase is held at the Naval Reserve Professional Development Center, New Orleans, LA. The course convenes twice a year; with the

DL module convening in April for one class, and October for the other. The annual training period covering the OBL phase for these classes occurs in August and March respectively. There are 60 seats per class which are divided up into smaller working groups.

The DL phase is an action packed, paced and facilitated course accomplished on your home computer. During the DL phase, you will participate through online studies and computer based training (CBT) studies. Your work, directed by the CBT and your facilitator, will include selected readings from included books, a book report from the MCPON reading list, writing assignments, participation in collaboration and study groups, and weekly quizzes.

During the OBL phase, students attend regular classes, 7 days per week. During this very busy phase of the course, students will work on group projects, facilitate discussions, give several presentations, participate in a formal dining in, participate in daily PRT, and complete a regulation PFA prior to graduation. The course is somewhat demanding, but, I assure you, it will be one of the most richly rewarding experiences of your career.

You don't need a stellar computer to participate in this course, a tired old Pentium 166 machine will do although something modern would be better. You'll also need an e-mail account and must be connected to the Internet. You can check your computer's compatibility by going to www.nrpdc.nola.navy.mil. Application instructions can be found at <http://www.nrpdc.nola.navy.mil/SEAWEB/seanrc.htm>. For anyone interested in applying and would like for me to review their package, I would be happy to do so. If you have further questions about what to expect or anything else pertaining to this course, by all means call or e-mail me. To get your package reviewed, you should also give me a call so we can make arrangements to get your package to me either via e-mail or regular postal service. Phone: W-937-253-8379 or E-mail: cclark@mrccday.com.

I strongly encourage all of our E-8 and E-9 personnel to participate. It is the best military leadership course available to our enlisted community and it is limited to this select group. If you are eligible, you owe it to yourself and your shipmates to take the challenge, be a leader, set the example, and attend this course!

SUBMARINE WARFARE DIRECTORATE N77

SWRPB

The twenty-fourth meeting of the Submarine Warfare Reserve Planning Board (SWRPB) is scheduled for Friday, 01 November 2002, in the N77 spaces, Presidential Towers (formerly NC-1), located at 2511 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington VA. The SWRPB will address issues that affect the Submarine Reserve Program and review policy issues submitted for consideration. The Board will provide recommendations on the action items and policy affecting the Submarine Reserve Program to the Submarine Reserve Flag Executive Committee. Policy items for consideration are welcome and should be submitted using the format below. Please forward the policy items to CDR Peter Jacobus (peter.jacobus@jhuapl.edu) [*Note: CDR Jacobus is now CO, COMSUBEASTLANT – is there someone else who should be getting these? -BDA*], CAPT Jakubowski (wayne.j@erols.com), and CSP/CSL/N77 RLOs (DunanGE@csp.navy.mil);

OkeefeTJ@hq.sublant.navy.mil ; Jabs.Eric@hq.navy.mil . Due date for policy items is 20 October 2002.

POLICY ITEM FORMAT

- Use 10 or 12 point font
- Limit the length of the description/recommendation of the policy item to one page
- Provide a separate page for each policy item

ITEM NUMBER: A tracking number will be issued by the Board

SUBJECT: Please limit to 1 sentence

SUBMITTED BY: Rank name; Unit, Contact information (work & home phone numbers/email)

DISCUSSION: State problem/situation as simply and clearly as possible, describe why you think this is an issue that should be addressed on a Submarine Reserve Program level, provide sufficient background information to put the issue into context, and provide reference to existing instructions or other pertinent documentation.

RECOMMENDATION: Please make a specific recommendation on what you believe is the necessary action to resolve the issue. Try to limit the recommendation to 1 sentence. If there are multiple parts to your recommendation or options to be considered, please number each item.

ACTION: The Board will complete the form with the actions taken.

COMSUBPAC

NEW COMSUBPAC RESERVE PROGRAM CO

Captain John Donahue has been selected as Reserve Programs CO. He has relieved Captain Steve Keough as of 01 October.

SUBPAC RESERVE CO/SEA CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars - The SUBPAC Reserve CO/SEA conference will be held at Fleet ASW Training Center San Diego, CA, on Friday, 31 January 2003 and Saturday, 01 February 2003.

SUBPAC PROGRAM DIRECTOR OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are being sought by 21 October for the SUBPAC Reserve Maintenance, Manpower and Battle Group Operations Director positions. For job description and submission details, see below. POC is Captain John Donahue at "john.g.Donahue@hp.com".

COMSUBPAC RESERVE BATTLE GROUP OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Applications are currently being accepted for the position of COMSUBPAC Reserve Battle Group Operations (BGO) Director.

Job Description: Responsible for the formulation of training policy and coordination of manning and unit management for 15 Program One BGO units under COMSUBPAC Rep West

Coast reporting responsibility. The Reserve BGO Director will also work on Program One strategic planning issues and possess excellent communication and people skills.

Rank: O-5 or O-6. The preferred candidate will have strong experience in Submarine Advisory Team watchstanding and had at least one CO and/or XO tour in a BGS/SAT/USWC detachment.

Drilling Location: The BGO Director is required to periodically drill at COMSUBPAC Headquarters in Pearl Harbor to interface with the COMSUBPAC RLO and Deputy COMSUBPAC as well as participating in the Program One CO training VTC, and the CSL/CSP CO and BGS Conferences.

Commitment: Ideally, the applicant should be prepared to serve in this position for at least one year to ensure the best staff stability. This commitment may be modified with the approval of Deputy COMSUBPAC.

Mobilization Status: This job does not come with a permanent pay billet. The applicant is either already assigned to a current mobilization billet in a Program One unit or the VTU. He will report to Deputy COMSUBPAC on a full-time ADDU basis. Applicants from the VTU will be considered, providing that they agree to the drill requirements without pay.

Application Process:

1. Navy Reserve Resume or OQQ (including AT/ADT experience) that describes all past assignments;
2. Statement (one-page maximum) that explains why the candidate is qualified to serve in this position; and
3. Description of current mobilization billet including PRD and drill location.

Deadline: Submit electronic applications to CAPT Jim Crowder by 21 October 2002. E-mail your application to CAPT Crowder at crowder@spawar.navy.mil.

COMSUBPAC RESERVE MANPOWER DIRECTOR

Applications are currently being accepted for the position of COMSUBPAC Reserve Manpower Director.

Job Description: Responsible for the formulation of manpower policy and coordination of manpower and community management projects for 47 Program One units under the COMSUBPAC claimancy. The Reserve Manpower Director will also work on Program One recruiting issues and possess excellent communication and people skills.

Rank: O-5 or O-6. The preferred candidate will have strong experience in manpower issues and had at least one command tour in Program One at the O-5 or O-6 level.

Drilling Location: The Manpower Director is required to periodically drill at COMSUBPAC Headquarters in Pearl Harbor to interface with the COMSUBPAC RLO as well as participating in the Program One CO training VTC, and the CSL/CSP CO Conferences.

Commitment: Ideally, the applicant should be prepared to serve in this position for at least one year to ensure the best staff stability. This commitment may be modified with the approval of Deputy COMSUBPAC.

Mobilization Status: This job does not come with a permanent pay billet. The applicant is either already assigned to a current mobilization billet in a Program One unit or the VTU. He/she will report to Deputy COMSUBPAC on a full-time ADDU basis. Applicants from the VTU will be considered providing that they agree to the drill requirements without pay.

Application Process:

1. Navy Reserve Resume or OQQ that describes all past assignments;
2. Statement (one-page maximum) that explains why the candidate is qualified to serve in this position; and
3. Description of current mobilization billet including PRD and drill location.

Deadline: Submit electronic applications to CAPT Randy Westhaus by **21 October 2002**. E-mail your application to CAPT Westhaus at randy.griffith@tetrattech.com.

COMSUBPAC RESERVE MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR

Applications are currently being accepted for the position of COMSUBPAC Reserve Maintenance Director.

Job Description: Responsible for the formulation of maintenance priorities and coordination of maintenance projects for 17 Program One units under the COMSUBPAC claimancy.

Rank: O-5 or O-6. The preferred candidate will have strong experience in maintenance issues and had at least one command tour in a Program One maintenance unit at the O-5 or O-6 level.

Drilling Location: The Maintenance Director is required to periodically drill at COMSUBPAC Headquarters in Pearl Harbor to interface with the COMSUBPAC N4, NSSC as well as participating in the Program One CO training VTC, and the CSL/CSP CO Conferences.

Commitment: Ideally, the applicant should be prepared to serve in this position for at least one year to ensure the best staff stability. This commitment may be modified with the approval of Deputy COMSUBPAC.

Mobilization Status: This job does not come with a permanent pay billet. The applicant is either already assigned to a current mobilization billet in a Program One unit or the VTU. He/she will report to Deputy COMSUBPAC on a full-time ADDU basis. Applicants from the VTU will be considered providing that they agree to the drill requirements without pay.

Application Process:

1. Navy Reserve Resume or OQQ that describes all past assignments;
2. Statement (one-page maximum) that explains why the candidate is qualified to serve in this position; and
3. Description of current mobilization billet including PRD and drill location.

Deadline: Submit electronic applications to CAPT John Donahue by **21 October 2002**. E-mail your application to CAPT Donahue at john.g.donahue@hp.com.

ANNUAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

There are numerous AT opportunities available for FY03. Submariners drilling in a non-Program 1 unit who are interested in a Program 1 related AT opportunity should contact CDR Dunan, CSP RLO at (888) 471-9440 or: DunanGE@csp.navy.mil.

COMSUBLANT

SUBLANT RESERVE WEBSITE

The SUBLANT Reserve website is now available. Go to <http://www.sublant.navy.mil/> and then click on "The Role of the Naval Reserves" to connect you to the COMSUBLANT Naval Reserves information page.

DECEMBER VTC FOR NEW CSL COs

The date for the CSL COs VTC is 7 December 2002, from 1300 to 1500. Although attendance is mandatory for new COs, all COs are strongly encouraged to participate or at least have a representative present. There will be information about Program 1 initiatives that may be pertinent to your units. SEAs are also welcome and encouraged to participate. Definitely scheduled VTC sites are D.C., Kings Bay, and New London. Other possible sites (if more than three units sign up for the site) are Bangor, San Diego, Newport, and Atlanta. Because of technical limits of the dial in capacity, COs are encouraged to make arrangements to participate at one of the listed VTC sites or to assemble in one place for conference calling.

This is a turnover item for outgoing COs. Incoming COs should notify the POC by the end of the October Drill Weekend which site they expect to utilize or how they intend to participate. Any known conflicts between the scheduled date and gaining command requirements should be discussed at that time. POC is CDR Kevin Hickey at kmhickey2@comcast.net.

COMSUBLANT TOTAL FORCE CONFERENCE 2003

Mark your calendars. We are planning to hold our 2003 conference in February 2003 at Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek. To facilitate meeting all the reserve and active goals for the conference, we are considering starting the conference on Thursday afternoon to get some of the reserve issues out of the way, leaving all of Friday to concentrate on those issues that are common to both active and reserve. Saturday morning would be used to address any reserve issues that arise on Friday, ending the conference at noon on Saturday. This is the model that has been effectively used by our CSP counterparts. Your input on this proposed schedule is strongly desired and should be provided to CDR Kevin Hickey at kmhickey2@comcast.net not later than 24 November 2002.

Registration forms will be attached to the December RESNOTE and following months. All unit COs are expected to attend this conference and unit senior enlisted advisors should also plan to attend. The theme for this year's conference is Undersea Warfighting. COs are requested to make sure their parent commands are aware of the conference and to encourage their participation. It is an excellent opportunity to work on building a teaming relationship.

ANNUAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

SUBLANT OPCON EXERCISE BILLETS

Listed below are the exercises, dates and billets available for the beginning of next fiscal year. These are good opportunities to prepare for other exercise billets including OUTCONUS and at-sea exercises. If you are interested in participating in any of these exercises, contact LCDR Todd Motley at (757) 380-4506 or via email at MOTLEY_TR@NNS.COM. Previous submarine exercise or opcon experience is required for COMPTUEX watchstanders.

Exercise watchstander training will be offered periodically during the FY. Contact LCDR Motley for more details.

Exercise	Dates *	Billets	Rank/Rate
JTFEX 03-1	28 OCT - 06 NOV 2002	EWO	(3) O3-O5 (1125)
JTFEX 03-1	28 OCT - 06 NOV 2002	ETOW	(3) E4-E6
COMPTUEX 03-2**	22 JAN – 31 JAN 2003	EWO	O3-O5 (1125)
COMPTUEX 03-2**	22 JAN – 31 JAN 2003	ETOW	E4-E6
COMPTUEX 03-2**	31 JAN – 11 FEB 2003	EWO	O3-O5 (1125)
COMPTUEX 03-2**	31 JAN – 11 FEB 2003	ETOW	E4-E6
COMPTUEX 03-2**	10 FEB – 20 FEB 2003	EWO	O3-O5 (1125)
COMPTUEX 03-2**	10 FEB – 20 FEB 2003	ETOW	E4-E6

*All dates subject to change based on operational scheduling

**Must have previous OPCON experience

UNDERSEA WARFARE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COMING OF AGE: THE SSGN CONCEPT (Part III of III)

By Rear Admiral John D. Butler, USN

[BDA Note: I would like a short paragraph that provides a very brief overview of what was covered in the previous two parts of the series – that way if this is the first issue of the RESNOTE someone sees, they can put this information in context. – Also, if this article was pulled from the Naval Submarine League quarterly publication, we need to give them credit]

WHAT IT IS – AND IS NOT

The SSGN is a Navy “Force Multiplier.” The most obvious example of that is the simple fact that a deployed SSGN greatly increases on-station TLAM availability. Combined with the OHIO-class submarine’s proven history of high operational availability, the SSGN frees up other Naval Forces for priority tasking, such as anti-submarine warfare, controlling the airspace, and even theater ballistic missile defense. What I said earlier bears repeating – consider that each SSGN will spend fourteen of its remaining twenty-plus operational years after conversion forward deployed – an achievement made possible by leveraging the existing Trident maintenance and training infrastructure.

The SSGN will perform its mission with a much lower level of risk than what would normally be experienced when deploying this level of capability today. The potentially debilitating constraints imposed by vulnerability and support requirements are far less an issue. By definition, the proven OHIO-class platform capitalizes on its existing strengths – endurance and stealth – in maintaining long-term station keeping duty while forward deployed. In addition to having the ability to deploy over 150 tactical missiles, the platform can also be configured to support dedicated accommodations for significant numbers of special operations forces, with their equipment. A possible scenario would involve using missile tubes as air locks for SOF assets to leave the sub and deploy via the Advanced SEAL Delivery System and/or Dry Deck Shelter, also carried by the SSGN. Nuclear power provides station keeping time that is unmatched by conventionally powered warships. All of this, plus stealth. What a concept.

The SSGN will not serve as a simple replacement for existing platforms. Simply put, sometimes you just have to have a visible presence... “Showing the flag” is a powerful statement in its own right. A submarine of any kind is not an effective vehicle for that mission. Rather, the vision for the Trident SSGN focuses on stealth, payload, versatility, and endurance – a vision that does not lend itself to overt power projection.

Some further discussion on the topic of payloads is instructive. It is important to remember that the SSGN payload concept is being developed to take advantage of technologies and hardware that already exist – again, the essence of transformation as defined by the Secretary of Defense. At this stage of the game we are not seeking to create new weapons to support the mission of the SSGN – the beauty of it is that we don’t have to. Aside from the aforementioned use of the proven Tomahawk, other payload options are being designed to support weapons and sensors that are already in use. These designs are by definition modular, providing a flexible interface between the sea and the ship.

Development and demonstration of flexible payload modules and capsules is currently being funded to enable rapid insertion of offboard systems and technologies developed by others for SSGN. For example, we are funding an upcoming demonstration of the deployment of an existing intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance unmanned airborne vehicle (ISR UAV) from an expendable capsule, with the implications of the use of UAVs for battlefield surveillance, special operations force support, and as decoys against advanced surface-to-air missile sites being obvious.

Several other efforts are underway which have the potential to enhance the capability of the SSGN. The first is an Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration – ACTD – to mate a Navy penetrator warhead to an Army TACM type land attack missile. This delivery system would be intended for hard and deeply buried targets and mobile and other interdiction targets. The second is the demonstration of a buoyant capsule that would allow for submerged launch of standard Army TACM missiles from an SSGN. Again, the vehicle and the payloads already exist in the inventory – we are just interested in proving new ways of getting this package to its intended destination.

These efforts are being developed through the DARPA-Navy Payload and Sensors Program with industry teams *Forward Pass* and *Team 2020* – I administer these teams in my position as the

Deputy Commander for Undersea Technology (SEA 93) for the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA). Many extremely creative ideas on the use of encapsulation of pre-existing hardware and flexible modules have been offered – the only limitation to testing these ideas and developing the concepts behind them being the amount of funding available.

The common thread in the development of these concepts should be readily apparent – we are taking advantage of proven technologies and putting them to work in a way that’s never been done before...the definition of creative innovation, and a transformational concept in its purest form. It is this transformation that defines the entire philosophy behind the SSGN.

By now the near-term capabilities offered by the SSGN should be clear to the reader. But we are not neglecting the potential of the far term. The SSGN platform, with its ability to remain on-station for months at a time, offers joint expeditionary force commanders the possibility of something we’ve never been able to adequately do before – provide a vastly increased capability in preparing the battlespace. Some examples of this expanded battlespace preparation include advanced underwater mapping and mine reconnaissance with semi-autonomous hydrographic reconnaissance vehicles, expanded submarine surveillance via deployable autonomous distributed sensors, and the ability to gather intelligence over land and sea via high endurance inflatable UAVs and ISR UUVs.

Again, we are talking about what might be possible tomorrow, not what we can do today. This common undersea battlespace picture is a new capability – one that is still some years away. The holy grail of battlespace preparation in the far term – the deployment of a fully netted high-speed communications grid with underwater fiber-optic networks – is one of the goals. Ever since Admiral Lord Howe of the Royal Navy invented a secret system of numbered signal flags to coordinate his battle fleet over 200 years ago, covert, secure high-speed data and video communications between all the players of a joint expeditionary force is something that every battlespace commander has dreamed of having at their disposal. An SSGN on station to deploy and maintain an undersea communications net that would encompass the entire battlespace would go a long way towards making that dream a reality.

So the SSGN’s role in battlespace *preparation* seems perfectly clear. It is the SSGN’s role in battlespace *attack* that cinches the deal in enabling Assured Access and Joint Force Transformation. The SSGN would be engaged in the suppression of enemy air defenses, attack hard or deeply buried targets far inland (recent operations against the Tora Bora redoubt in Afghanistan come to mind), and provide battlefield interdiction against enemy coastal defenses and surface combatants. It would greatly augment the current TLAM capability that submarines and surface combatants provide today, at speed and depth, with stealth. Currently the SSN can provide TLAM offensive capability, albeit limited to its relatively small payload. The modern surface combatant can provide a large TLAM payload, but cannot maintain stealth for protection or to support special operations. The SSGN provides both measures, in quantity and endurance, filling the capability gap between the SSN and the surface combatant. In this sense it is analogous to the aforementioned triad of nuclear deterrence we rely upon today – all legs of this particular triad being geared towards strike warfare.

Creating, deploying, and supporting the SSGN offers relatively low risk in return for the capabilities it provides. Ship conversion costs are well known – our shipyards have been bending existing submarines into new shapes and designs for nearly a century – we know how to do this. From a practical standpoint, actually turning an OHIO-class missile submarine into an SSGN with built-in special operations support is not terribly difficult – the technologies, designs, and build specifications have been around for a long time; we won't have to reinvent much of anything to actually create an SSGN force. The SSGN concept is flexible and relatively adaptable – ready to accept transformational payloads for a wide variety of missions...some missions I'm sure we haven't even thought of yet.

CURRENT STATUS

Earlier I used the word “Transformational” in describing the impact of the SSGN. What “Transformational” means is simply this – it gives us the opportunity to “reinvent the wheel” without having to build a new one. The SSGN project is a great example of how to do this sort of thing. Here we are taking an existing platform with existing weapons and recreating the entire package into something completely new and different, for a fraction of the cost of developing a comparable platform from scratch. How often do opportunities like that come around? Not very.

President Bush has made his wishes pretty clear on the need for smart investment and innovation in creating the force structure we need for the 21st century. The President has asked for a substantial increase in defense R&D between 2002 and 2006, describing this initiative in research and development as a search for new technologies to support the transformation of U.S. military capabilities. President Bush has called this budget a “Blueprint for New Beginnings” – that sounds appropriate, in my view. You can be sure that how this money is spent is going to be looked at very carefully by all interested parties.

In a speech at the US Naval Academy Commencement on 25 May, 2001 (before the September 11th terrorist attacks on the nation), President Bush referenced the SSGN program directly – the only future technology in tomorrow's defense force specifically identified by the President during that speech. Since that time, the President has followed up on that vision, asking for \$3.2 billion to be set aside for the SSGN land-attack submarine program between fiscal year 2002 and FY-07. Conversion of four Trident ballistic missile submarines into SSGNs – beginning with Ohio (SSBN-726) and Florida (SSBN-728) – is expected to get underway with their scheduled engineered refueling overhauls (ERO) that begin in FY-03, with the conversion work beginning approximately one year after each ERO.

THE BIG PICTURE – AND THE BOTTOM LINE

Aside from actually performing the ship conversions, equipping and deploying a four SSGN force is, in the final analysis, a transformational no-brainer. We don't need to build new ships to support this mission, or train new crews to operate a new platform. No new weapons systems need to be developed from scratch. No new technologies need to be carefully examined and evaluated. No new land attack missile production lines are needed to fully arm four SSGNs with up to 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles each.

Indeed, it is this payload example that neatly defines why SSGN is moving forward with such rapidity. The SSGN platform turns out to be the most efficient method yet invented to keep TLAMs in their forward-deployed role that they were intended to be in. Due to their high forward presence, which greatly minimizes theater transit and stowage in CONUS, and the aforementioned low cost of deployment, the cost of the SSGN on a per missile in-theater basis is a small fraction of the cost of any other platform. The American taxpayer would find that figure most agreeable.