

**COMMANDER
ANTI SUBMARINE DEFENSE FORCE
U.S. PACIFIC FLEET**



VICE ADMIRAL JOHN S. THACH
UNITED STATES NAVY



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To the Officers and Men of Task Group 70.. 4:

Of all the different kinds of military operations, naval operations are the least understood. Of all the tasks performed by the Navy, antisubmarine warfare contains more complexities and seems to generate more misconceptions among our citizens, and sometimes even within the Navy itself, than any other.

As each day goes by and more missile launching submarines slide down the building ways, the submarine threat against cities, and against all military installations on land increases. The advent of nuclear powered submarines also makes the traditional job of the protection of shipping far more difficult.

The role of antisubmarine warfare in the Navy is an ever increasing one and is playing an important part in the defenses of our country today. The atomic power in submarines today gives them the ability to stay submerged for long periods of time. Our job is to see that we stay on top of them. The best deterrent to war today is the demonstration to unfriendly nations that we have the ability to sit on top of their submarines and can kill them if they make a hostile move.

The challenge of these modern-day submarines will be met if all of us work together as a coordinated team.

J. S. Thach
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