

Lesson 3

READ THIS STORY #2, Advanced

Submarines

A submarine is a naval vessel that can operate while it is submerged below ocean waves. A submarine is built out of two shells with empty space between them. When the crew wishes to have the submarine dive, water is allowed to flow into the space between the two shells. When the crew wishes to bring the submarine back to the surface, compressed air is injected into the space between the shells. This pushes the water back into the ocean and allows the ship to rise.

Historians tell us that the first underwater attack using an American submarine occurred during the Revolutionary War in the 1770's. It was operated by a crew of one. The attack failed because that man could not discharge the explosive device.

Today's submarines are very complex. The United States uses nuclear submarines, such as the "Sturgeon," as part of its policy of deterrence. Nuclear subs can remain submerged for months at a time. They carry missiles and torpedoes and can fire them while they are under water.

The United States doesn't initiate attacks. But we are prepared to retaliate if an enemy should attack us.