



2014 Navy League Scholarship Winning Essay

"The Importance of American Sea Power"

By Megan Hendricks

I am a United States Submarine.

In this world, there is my kind, and there are targets. They are the many and I am the few. Though my history is not as vast, it is great.

In little more than a century, underneath great storms and seas, I have taken men to depths never before ventured. In that time I have not only shown my prowess in battle and aptitude for breaching enemy defenses, but I have salvaged treasures, ships, and people.

I am invaluable to my county, those who use me for stealth and protection. I serve as the life-force of my nation's militaristic ability. Without me, my nation would be lost.

To my enemies, I am the threat to be reckoned with. The cost of my birth may be great, but this cost is far less than that which is used to defend against my iron will. I am strong in the face of hostility and I am the hand behind co-operation. Never has an adversary not trembled at the noiseless sound of my advancement. This is why I am so great, it is because I work so well.

I am one of the largest known secrets of the world, and it is my sworn oath to remain that way. Many may know me and many may know my name, but they will never find me. It is my duty to see and never be seen. I protect under the cover of the sea.

In times of great trial, when many of my sisters of the surface have fallen far below where I dare venture, I thrive and prevail. I have been present in battles where I did not see my enemy, but my effect was felt. With my might I have saved countless lives from ever being in danger and helped recover those that were. In this way, I have turned the tides of war when my mother nation was at its most dire.

I am the guide that keeps the tides of trade going. Without me our merchants and sailors would be vulnerable and unprotected in hostile waters. Our trade goods are essential to our economy and it turn they become precious to me. It is my job to defend them with my life.

My nation's strongest and bravest men and women serve as my lifeblood. Without their labor and vitality, I am silent and only a monument of what should be. For as long as I have been, my sailors have stood the watch.

I am the hand that makes the first strike; I am the strike that looms near. I am the strike that never needs to come. I ride in with a whisper and out with the tide. I can be at one moment and not at the next with many unaware I was ever there.

I am ever-present and ever-silent. I am ever-adapting. I continue to serve and I continue to be the face of my nation's great sea power. I will be ever-prevailing

I am a United States Submarine.

For me one of the most important aspects of American Sea Power is the submarine. Looking into statistics for our trade, one can discover that the majority of cargo is still shipped by sea. These sea lanes our cargo ships take become more crowded by the day, but they become no less crucial to maintaining our economy. Our Submarines control these lanes and provide protection enough to guide our everyday interactions and maintain power. These same Submarines are also a silent testament to the "walk softly and carry a big stick" principal. By providing militaristic power and control, our submarines prevent conflict and threats upon our nation as we have a re-occurring reminder that we can strike back at any time. Our Sea Power proves invaluable time and time again and it is hard to imagine what sort of society we would be living in otherwise.