

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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Iranian Submarine Departs Red Sea

by Gavriel Queenann, Israel
National News, July 8, 2011



The Iranian submarine *Yunis* returned to Tehran after a 66-day mission in international waters - mostly in the Red Sea. The *Yunis* accompanied Iran's 14th Fleet, comprised of the *Naqdi* destroyer and *Bandar Abbas* warship, on a mission that took it to the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. Iranian naval official Ahmad Reza Baqeri told reporters the presence of the *Yunis* submarine along with the 14th fleet, "has demonstrated the Iranian Navy's military power and astonished extra-regional powers." Once the Iranian military studies and assesses the results of the recent voyage, he added, it will consider deploying submarines in the far seas again, if necessary. The *Yunis* commander, Hussein Hariri, said the submarine traveled some 3,800 nautical miles and that "it was successful in registering a large number of underwater vessels." Iranian Navy Commander Habibollah Sayyari meanwhile, said that Iran's military capabilities do not pose any threat to any country, adding that Iran's Navy is ready to hold joint maneuvers with other countries. The submarine's official mission was to ward off Somali pirates who threaten Iranian merchant ships, but security analysts say the *Yunis* was likely tracking Israeli movements and testing ability to approach shore undetected. The 14th fleet's presence, analysts say, may also be intended to hint to Iran's allies - Syria, Hezbollah and Hamas - that it can provide them with assistance if

needed. Israeli defense officials refused to comment on the *Yunis*' mission.

New Zealand Government wants us back

The government of New Zealand wants the US to resume port visits by our ships to their ports. Most will probably recall that the New Zealand Government passed anti-nuke laws back in 1987 then New Zealand demanded that any ship entering their ports declare that they had no nuclear weapons aboard. The U S rejected that, as they will not commit to what weapons are aboard any ship. Port visits that were scheduled were canceled and the U S has not sent a warship to a New Zealand port since. I believe the last ship that refused to note they had nukes aboard and aborted the visit was a USCG icebreaker. Now, Prime Minister John Key is approaching the Obama Administration to resume visits, with the target being the U S Coast Guard to resume visits. Nothing has been mentioned about the real reason for the stoppage, except for a "schism" with the ANZUS treaty. So, will the administration bow to another nation and tell them no, we have no nuclear weapons aboard this ship. I say no, but I'll bet we do it. We now bow to other nations and their leaders.

Chinese Nuclear Accident Alleged Officiere, July 31



Chinese Jin-class submarine, photo from snoopdefence.com

A nuclear submarine in the port of Dalian in northern China has suffered an accident and is leaking radiation, according to a former Japanese fighter pilot-turned-blogger. "The area is strictly closed off by the Chinese military, and the situation is said to be very dangerous," Mamoru Sato wrote in Japanese of the alleged July 29 incident. As with all news stories

about Chinese military developments, Sato's account should be read with a healthy dose of skepticism. As of July 31, no major media had reported on the alleged accident. The only corroboration came from Twitter user "28481k(Alan Lai)," who wrote, "Bohai is closed after a suspected nuclear leak occurred on new nuclear submarine building in Dalian." Bohai is one of the shipyard complexes in the vicinity of Dalian. If true, Sato's report could spell big trouble for the Chinese navy. The People's Liberation Army Navy's first aircraft carrier, the former Soviet Varyag, is fitting out in Dalian ahead of her first cruise, possibly scheduled for sometime this year. Just last week, the PLAN officially discussed the carrier for the first time. China's submarine fleet, numbering around 50 diesel-electric boats and another 10 or so nuclear vessels, is on average old and out-moded, despite a surge in production in the last decade. The nuclear designs are reportedly highly unreliable. The PLAN's only confirmed nuclear ballistic missile submarine, the 33-year-old Type 092, has apparently never sailed on a deterrence cruise. A follow-on Type 094 class is under construction. Two of the new Type 094s have reportedly already moved to Xiaopingdao submarine base near Dalian, where China apparently stores its naval nuclear ballistic missiles. It's not clear if the vessel allegedly leaking radiation is a Type 094, or if Xiaopingdao is the precise accident site. China is no stranger to submarine accidents. An accident aboard a Ming-class diesel submarine in 2003 killed all 70 crew. The Type 092 reportedly suffered an explosion during construction.

Argentina to build nuke subs?

An article in Defence and Aerospace news reported that Argentina will convert two diesel submarines to nuclear powered submarines. *ARA Santa Fe S-21* is to return to service first, converted to nuclear power, followed by *ARA San Juan S-42*.