

USS NEVADA (SSBN 733), SECRETARY OF THE NAVY 2010 SAFETY EXCELLENCE AWARD, SUBMARINE

The Honorable Robert O. Work, Under Secretary of the Navy, presented the 2010 Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Safety Excellence Award, Large Deck Combatant, to the Trident ballistic missile submarine USS NEVADA (SSBN 733) at the Oct. 4, 2010 awards ceremony. The ceremony was held at the Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center Theater, Washington, D.C.

Receiving the award on behalf of NEVADA was Commanding Officer (Gold) Cmdr. Peter Hudson and Command Master Chief (SS) Michael Nilsen, NEVADA's Chief of the Boat.



From left to right: Brig. Gen. Gary L. Thomas (Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation), The Honorable Jackalyne Pfannestiel (Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations & Environment)), Cmdr. Peter Hudson (Commanding Officer, NEVADA [Gold]), The Honorable Robert O. Work (Under Secretary of the Navy), Command Master Chief Michael Nilsen (Chief of the Boat), and Vice Adm. John Bird (Director, Navy Staff).

The Safety Excellence Awards were established in 2002 by then-Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England. The awards recognize Navy

and Marine Corps commands that demonstrate “extraordinary excellence by sustained mission success with simultaneous exemplary safety performance.”

In addition to a citation and plaque, SECNAV Excellence Award winners receive the Secretary’s distinctive safety flag. They are entitled to fly the flag for one year from the date of presentation.

“I am extremely proud of the NEVADA Sailors for their continued focus and effort placed on safety,” said Hudson. “In a complex industrial environment with increased risks, the crew did a superb job, making sure safety was never sacrificed in the name of production. Safety is an all-hands effort, and the crew consistently demonstrated a ‘safety first’ mentality.”

Homeported at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, Wash., NEVADA is the eighth of 18 Ohio-class fleet ballistic missile submarines. NEVADA has carried out its mission of strategic deterrence for more than two decades since its commissioning in 1986. NEVADA competed for the SECNAV Excellence Award with other Navy submarines.



Sailors assigned to the ballistic-missile submarine USS Nevada (SSBN 733) secure the submarine’s banner to the brow at Naval Base Kitsap. (U.S. Navy photo by Ray Narimatsu - Released)

Some of the 2009 safety successes that led to the command’s selection included:

- Zero mishaps during potentially high-risk events, including more than 1,400 shipyard integrated test procedures requiring more than 6,800 man-hours to complete, restoration of five major subsystems within the strategic weapons system, 24 operational sequence tests, and 900 missile tube muzzle hatch operations.
- A reduction in Lost Workday Case Rate to 1 percent, as compared to previous projects that had rates ranging from 8 to 17 percent.

Additionally, Total Case Rate (rate of all injury/illness cases per 100 employees) was 4.5 percent vice 6 to 7 percent for previous projects.

- A highly respected safety program cited by the Naval Safety Center as “best in the submarine Fleet.”

For more information on this success story, please contact Commander, Submarine Group 9 Public Affairs at (360) 396-5482 or csg9pao@navy.mil.