

Picture Story No. 801

POLARIS--AN INSTRUMENT OF PEACE

The U.S. Navy's Fleet Ballistic Missile system--nuclear-powered submarines ready to launch long-range missiles carrying nuclear warheads--is a major part of America's arsenal of weapons to deter any aggressor nation from attack and, thereby, maintain the peace. The virtually undetectable underwater missile-launching submarines remain submerged on their two-month long patrols, ready to retaliate against any aggression against the Free World.

14-15 The slim nose of the missile breaks through the surface (panel 1) and begins to shed water. Completely free of the water, the rocket engines ignite (panel 2), creating a turmoil of steaming sea water beneath its exhaust. Gaining altitude, the missile's guidance system sets the proper trajectory to target and the rocket turns down range (panel 3). The submarine is equipped to fire its full complement of 16 missiles within 15 minutes. (63-4564)