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Dan Summitt, **Tales of a Cold War Submariner**, College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press, 2004. 266 pp., illustrations

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*Tales of a Cold War Submariner* is a fantastic read! This author has provided a thoughtful, engaging, informative account of his naval service in the submarine community during the Cold War.

Summitt's autobiography reveals the challenges, dangers, and joys of being a submariner, commanding submarines, training submariners, and advancing the Polaris missile program. Summitt does not lose his reader in Navy lingo; he does a great job explaining terms and the military culture. The author placed his photos with the pertinent text eliminating the need for readers to repeatedly turn pages to try to determine where a topic was discussed and what was said about it. His best chapters are about commanding *Sea Dragon* during the first underwater Arctic Circle operations, working with Admiral Hyman Rickover, "the Father of the Nuclear Navy," and commanding *Alexander Hamilton*, a Polaris missile submarine.

Readers learn how submarines moved from diesel to nuclear power and how their weaponry changed over time. He also describes the hardships submariners' families experienced and the naval leaders' efforts to alleviate them. He has an interesting analysis of the Navy's strategies for manning the Polaris submarines. The author gives a surprising profile of Admiral Hyman Rickover that contradicts his public persona by revealing a kinder, more gentle person. Summitt gained a new and stronger respect for the admiral and his efforts to build, advance, and protect the Navy's powerful submarine force.

Summitt has provided an even greater appreciation for submariners and their families, as well as for their contributions to maintaining peace, deterring war, and defending our nation. One needs not to have served in the military to enjoy this fascinating memoir. I recommend that it be added to the curriculum at the Navy's officer and enlisted training schools and to the Chief of Naval Operations' professional reading list. Summitt has made a valuable addition to the Navy, Cold War, and submarine literature. Captain Dan Summitt is a voice worth listening to!



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