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(S.D.) - Navy says new submarine named in honor of SD

By: John Thayer Posted at: 04/13/2012 09:20 AM

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) - South Dakota's name is going on a new attack submarine.

The USS South Dakota will join other submarines named for Illinois, Washington, Colorado and Indiana. Workers started building the sub last year.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus (MAY'-bus) says none of the five states has had a vessel named for it for almost 50 years.

The last Navy ship named for South Dakota was a World War II battleship.

Mabus says the new submarines will be able to launch cruise missiles, carry naval commandos and conduct surveillance operations.

The Navy is also building a sub that's named for North Dakota. It's scheduled to be commissioned in 2014.

The last North Dakota ship was a World War battleship that was sold for scrap in 1931.

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