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## USS HOLLAND: Former submarine tender heads south to new home

By Richard Horn, SunStaff

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USS Holland, a submarine tender that once serviced Cold War ballistic missile subs, left Bremerton's mothball fleet Tuesday for a slow tow to California.

The 37-year-old Holland, one of the two most visible ships in Bremerton's inactive fleet, has been moored to a buoy in the middle of Sinclair Inlet.

It was towed through Rich Passage on Tuesday morning.

Next it will be moored at the mothball fleet at Suisun Bay, Calif., where more than 100 other Navy ships await scrapping or some other fate.

The ship's title is being transferred from the Navy to the U.S. Maritime Administration, which manages the Suisun Bay fleet near San Francisco.

The Navy has no current plans to moor another ship at the buoy vacated by the Holland, said Mary Anne Mascianica, spokeswoman for Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

The ammunition supply ship USS Pyro, the other ship moored at a buoy in the inlet, will make the same move to California in September, she said.

The Holland was built in 1963 in Mississippi and serviced Cold War Polaris and Poseidon ballistic missile submarines during its career. It underwent an overhaul and conversion at PSNS in 1974.

Among its accomplishments, the Holland in 1989 performed the first open-ocean mooring of a ballistic missile sub.

Its crew also earned two Humanitarian Service medals: one for helping Charleston, S.C., recover from Hurricane Hugo in 1989; another in 1992, while based in Guam, for aiding victims of five typhoons and a magnitude 7.5 earthquake.

It was decommissioned in 1996.

Reach reporter Richard Horn at (360) 415-2673 or at [rhorn@thesunlink.com](mailto:rhorn@thesunlink.com).



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