

Perch Base, United States Submariners

Flash Traffic

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Subject: Submarine Dolphin Insignia Anniversary



The U.S. Navy Submarine Warfare Insignia ("Dolphins") was officially approved for wear on March 24, 1924, by Acting Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt Jr.

Proposed by Captain Ernest J. King in the summer of 1923, while serving as Commander, Submarine Division Three, the design features a bow view of an O-class submarine flanked by dolphins (mahi-mahi).

Key Historical Facts:

- Approval Date: March 24, 1924.
- Initial Proposal: June 13, 1923, by then-Captain Ernest J. King.
- Design: A bow-on view of an O-Class Submarine with Dolphins on either side.
- Evolution: Originally worn only while attached to submarine units; it became a permanent badge in 1941.

From 1924–47, "Qualified" enlisted personnel wore an embroidered cloth version of this design on their right sleeve, midway between the wrist and elbow. Officers wore a gold-plated metal pin on their left breast above their ribbons and medals. In 1947, new regulations dictated that enlisted personnel wear the embroidered insignia on their left breast—in the same position as officers. When the Navy began allowing officers to embroider a gold insignia on their uniforms in 1950, enlisted personnel were allowed to wear a silver-plated metal version of the pin.

Thai article was submitted by our shipmate Bob Saenz.

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