



*The USS Alaska docked in Resurrection Bay July 2, and it remained until July 7.*

photo by Steve Pilkington

*Submarine carries 24 missiles*

## 200 gather for *USS Alaska* visit

by Steve Pilkington

for the Tundra Times

SEWARD — The *USS Alaska*, a 560-foot Trident submarine with nuclear capabilities, last week visited its home port of Seward for the first time and about 200 people gathered for the event.

The *USS Alaska*, expecting to meet demonstrations from anti-nuclear protestors, cruised into Resurrection Bay surrounded by about 10 Coast Guard vessels determined to keep demonstrators 200 yards from the ship.

In spite of all their precaution, the Coast Guard was met with only a few protesters in kayaks.

Capt. C.J. Chotvaes, former commanding officer of the *USS Alaska* was not particularly worried about demonstrations.

"Our job is to defend that right to protest. If we weren't out doing what we're doing, they wouldn't have that right," he said.

Sen. Ted Stevens, also present at the docking ceremony, said he was pleased the submarine came to Alaska.

"It represents the deterrent force of

the United States," he said. "We possess a terrible force to retaliate.

"I have never argued to increase the presence of nuclear arms in Alaska. But it is significant," he said before his speech. "We fully intend to have a deterrent force to counter that of the Soviet Union."

The *USS Alaska* began its recent patrol after visiting Anchorage during the Fourth of July weekend.

The \$13 million submarine carries 24 missiles and a crew of 160. On patrol, it is out for 70 days.