

Trident submarine to visit Alaska July 2-6

The United State Navy Trident submarine *USS Alaska* will visit Alaska July 2-6, Sen. Ted Stevens announced recently.

The submarine, as well as the submarine tender *USS McKee*, will be docked at Seward and available for limited visitation by the public. Tours of the *USS Alaska* will be by invitation, with tours of the *USS McKee* open to the public on a first-come basis.

The *USS McKee* will dock in Seward July 1, with the *USS Alaska* arriving July 2. Both vessels will depart on July 7.

A ceremony commemorating the *USS Alaska's* visit will be held. Sens. Stevens, Frank Murkowski, Congressman Don Young and Everett Pyatt, assistant secretary of the Navy

for shipbuilding and logistics, are among those expected to participate.

Additional events to be held in connection with the vessels' visit to Seward will be announced at a later date.

While the vessels are docked in Seward, the *USS Alaska's* Gold Crew will visit Fairbanks to participate in community events. These events will be held July 3 and 4 and will include commissioning ceremonies for the new floating dock at Golden Heart Park.

"Our Trident submarine fleet is a vital part of the defense of the North Pacific. The visit of Alaska's namesake Trident highlights the strategic importance of our state," Stevens said. "Extending a warm

welcome to the *USS Alaska*, the *USS McKee* and their crews is a particularly appropriate way of celebrating our freedoms during this year's Fourth of July holiday weekend."

USS Alaska tours for invited guests will be held during the afternoon and evenings of July 3-6, with the invitations specifying the exact time and date of the guest's visit. The Navy will extend invitations for special group tours of the submarine during the hours of 8 a.m. to noon, July 3-6.

Only those visitors with invitations will be allowed to board the *USS Alaska*.

The *USS McKee* is expected to accommodate as many as 8,000 Alaskans during general visitation from 1-5 p.m. and 6-9 p.m., July 3-6.

No invitations are necessary for these tours.

The *USS Alaska* is 560 feet long and displaces 18,700 tons when submerged. She has a Blue Crew and a Gold Crew of 157 men each. Seward and Fairbanks are the honorary home ports of the *USS Alaska*.

The *USS McKee* provides mobile support to nuclear-powered submarines. Her services include weapons repair, woodworking, electronics repair and pipe fabrication. The vessel also provides submarines with gases, steam, diesel fuel, water and electricity.

Additional information about tours, transportation, and special events during the visit of the vessels will be announced as it is available.