

Data is essential to dominance - and the U.S. Navy is on the job.

Since 1958, a fleet of 25 research vessels has sailed the globe collecting critical oceanographic data.

They are known as the **AGORs** - Auxiliary General Oceanographic Research ships.

BACKGROUND: DETAIL FROM THE 1977 WORLD OCEAN FLOOR MAP, SPONSORED BY ONR.

NAVAL TECHNOLOGY:
DELIVERING DOMINANCE



WORLD OCEAN FLOOR

BY BRUCE C. HEEZEN AND MARIE THARP

Based on Research and Exploration Initiated and Supported by the

UNITED STATES NAVY OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH

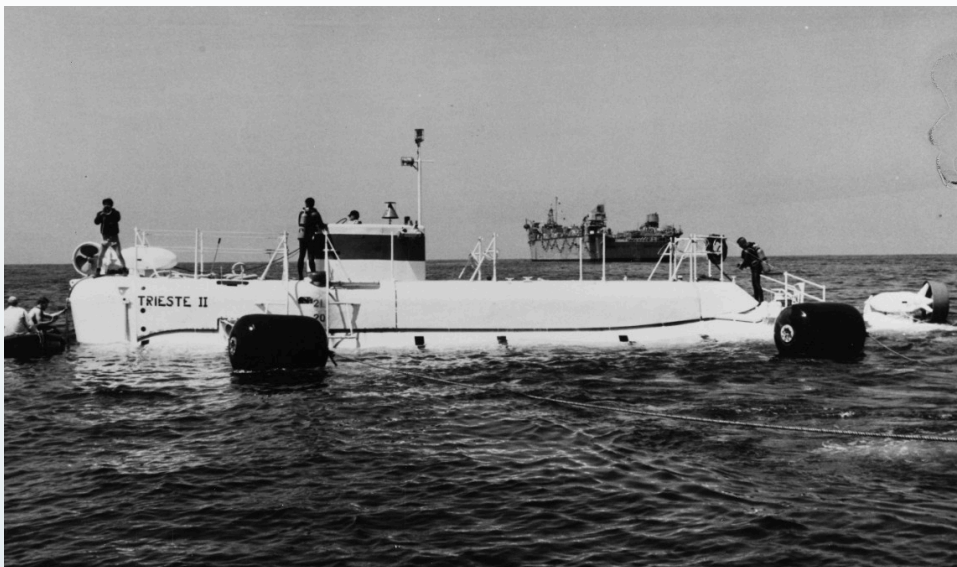
1977

Built and owned by the **U.S. Navy**, AGORs are managed chiefly by the **Office of Naval Research**, in partnership with U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Military Sealift Command, U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office, Industry, other civilian institutions and universities.

AGORs have supported some of the **most transformative scientific discoveries of the modern era** and constructed the technological foundation for some of today's most advanced naval capabilities.

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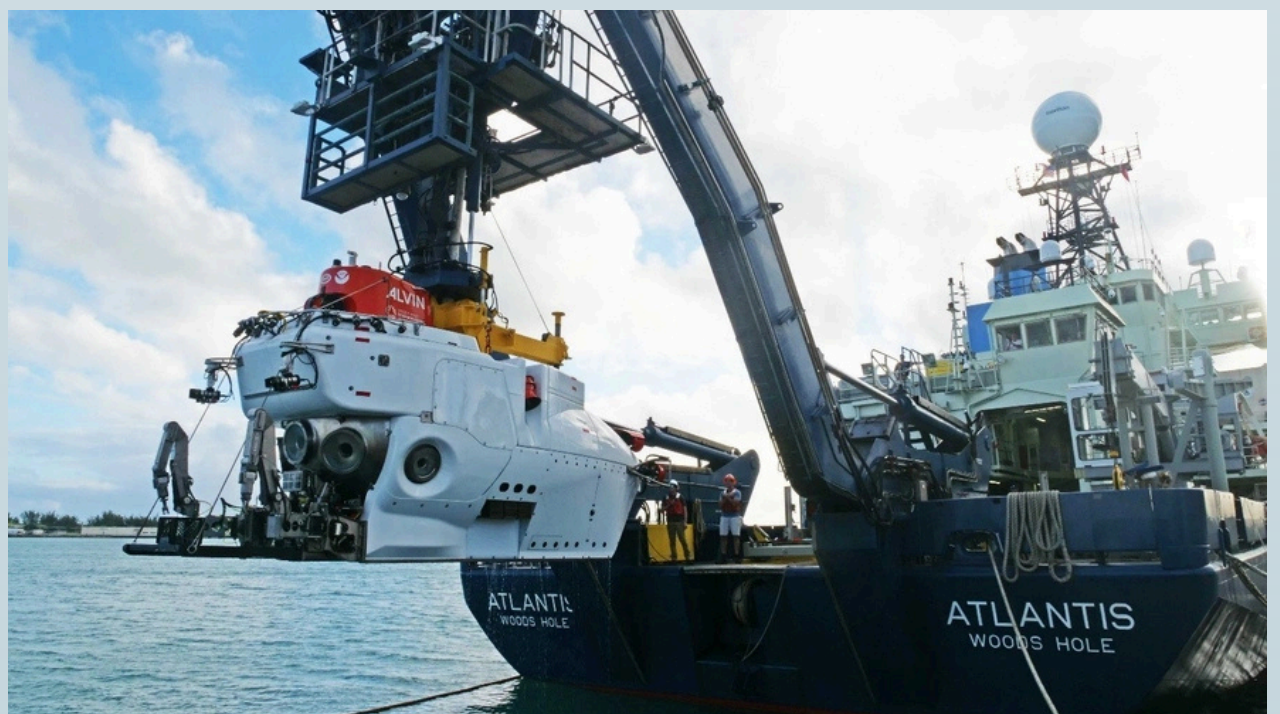


BATHYSCAPHE
TRIESTE II

In short order, deep diving bathyscaphes and autonomous vehicles launched from **AGORs began to gather valuable data for the Fleet – and discover undersea mysteries.**

In 1963, the Navy undertook the first-ever deep-sea wreck search, locating the sunken nuclear submarine *USS Thresher* using the bathyscaphe *Trieste II*.

Among its many accomplishments, Alvin, the renowned deep-ocean submersible, was instrumental in surveying the wreck of the *Titanic* and recently, in 2025, helped locate a long-lost WWI submarine off the California coast.



R/V ATLANTIS
RECOVERS THE ALVIN

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Armed with information, the **U.S. Navy - with technical support from ONR, NRL and other partners** - began applying this research directly to naval platforms:

- Undersea acoustic data informed the development of nuclear submarines.
- Satellite navigation systems tested aboard the AGORs delivered not just accurate seafloor maps, but precise awareness of what lies on, above and below the ocean's surface.
- Unmanned vehicles, proven and refined aboard AGORs, are now used fleet-wide for special warfare, mine warfare and explosive ordnance disposal.

R/V SALLY RIDE



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