

Overnight Watch Bill Description

About the Overnight Watch. A navy vessel never sleeps! This was true aboard ships of the past and is still true today. When *Torsk* was on patrol, three lookouts, enlisted men, and one watch-stander, an officer, would be on the bridge with binoculars looking for enemy ships, mines, land, etc. The officers would stand four hour watches while the lookouts rotated every 20 minutes to rest their eyes because, unlike the officers, they were never allowed to take their binoculars down. Even when secured dockside, as *Torsk* is now at her berth alongside Pier 3, at least two crew members remained attentive throughout each night to insure the ship's safety and security.

Today, on board USS *Torsk*, the Overnight Watch is an integral part of the Overnight Program. It provides a unique opportunity for participants to learn about some of the shipboard procedures and routines carried out on a submarine, and, perhaps, most importantly, it fosters responsibility and the concept that a few will serve throughout the night so that everyone else can sleep.

Overnight Watch Procedure. Upon completion of the day's programming, the Chief of the Boat (COB), will sit down with the overnight group and explain the importance and duties of the Night Watch. The COB will then assign racks according to the Watch Bill, which identifies each adult and child standing watches.

Watch Requirements. As long as there are people onboard the submarine, there must be at least one adult, at least 21 years or older, awake at all times during the evening so that everyone else can sleep soundly. When filling out the Watch Bill for an overnight, one adult must be assigned for each one hour shift. In the event that there are not enough adults to complete the Watch Bill, the *Torsk* crew will take over and complete the night watch until reveille at 0600. Overnights under the age of 21 are not required to stand a watch, but it is encouraged for the overall experience. To expedite preparations for Lights Out, please have the Watch Bill filled out before arriving for your overnight and remember that if you want to be bunked near your child, please make sure your child is signed up for the same watch (whether or not he or she will be standing the watch with you).

More details about the night watch will be revealed by the COB before Lights Out or you may obtain more information from Sarah Rauscher at 410.396.3453 or srauscher@historicships.org.



Overnight Watch Bill for _____

(Group & date)

Time & Bells	Watch Leader (adult)	Watch Crew (youth)
<u>First Watch</u> 10:00 PM		
11:00 PM		
<u>Mid Watch</u> 12:00 AM		
1:00 AM		
2:00 AM		
3:00 AM		
<u>Morning Watch</u> 4:00 AM		
5:00 AM		
6:00 AM	Reveille!	Reveille!

DO NOT HESITATE TO AWAKEN THE CAPTAIN OF THE BOAT!
for any circumstances or reasons about which you are unsure or doubtful.

