COMMANDER NAVAL SUBMARINE FORCES
COMMANDER SUBMARINE FORCE, U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET
COMMANDER SUBMARINES ATLANTIC

23 January 2003

Dear Dr. Roca,

This year the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory celebrates the 25th anniversary of the National Security Technology Department (formerly the Submarine Technology Department), which has provided distinguished and significant contributions to the Navy, and especially the submarine force. The Department was established as a direct result of APL's selection as the technical lead laboratory for SSBN Security. APL then and now provides world-class technical expertise and operational support to maintain the unchallenged survivability of the undersea portion of the US strategic forces. The fundamental "first principles" approach established by the program and the Laboratory set a high standard of disciplined research and testing that remains a model for all Navy technology programs.

From its early focus on SSBN security, the Department has expanded its role to include support of attack submarines and of undersea warfare in general. Distinguished contributions include advances in acoustic and nonacoustic science and technology, the Total Signature Monitoring System, the Advanced Processing Build/Advanced Rapid COTS Insertion program, multi-line towed array technology, tactical decision aids, future submarine concepts, and many others. The Department has maintained a critically important "hands on" relationship with the fleet, including invaluable on-site representation, to assure understanding of the fleet's needs and the operational value in the Laboratory's products. A unique and valuable capability of the Department has been its outstanding ability to plan and execute major at-sea scientific and operational tests to prove out theories and demonstrate operational potential.

The Laboratory and the Department deserves to be congratulated on this 25th anniversary for its past and continued contributions to the Navy and the security of the nation. It remains a unique and critically important asset to the Navy in its pursuit of fundamental understanding of undersea warfare science and technology, and in the assessment, development and testing of future submarine and undersea warfare technologies and systems. On behalf of the Navy, I extend my appreciation and congratulations to APL, and to the National Security Technology Department on its 25th anniversary. Moreover, I challenge you as you embark on your next quarter century to continue to provide the technological discipline of your staff's expertise, rigorous analysis based on real data, and system engineering grounded in understanding of operational needs that has been the hallmark of your first twenty-five years.

Sincerely,

JOHN J. GROSSENBACHER
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy

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