

Mission to rescue Argentine submarine

A U.S. Navy submarine rescue team equipped with a mini sub has joined an international effort to locate an Argentine submarine missing in the South Atlantic

PRESSURIZED RESCUE MODULE (PRM)

Remotely-operated vehicle can submerge up to 600m to mate with submarine and seal over hatch, allowing safe transfer to rescue chamber. PRM can rescue up to 16 personnel each time

Length: 7.3m

Control van

Navigation, video, propulsion, and life support systems mounted on frame and hull

PRM can dock with submarine settled on ocean floor at up to 45-degree angle in both pitch and roll

Height: 4.5m

Capacity: Up to 16 rescues (seated on both sides of module)

Crew: Two attendants

Transfer skirt

Before going missing, submarine reported electrical breakdown related to "short circuit" in battery system

ARA SAN JUAN (S-42)

Inaugurated 1983. Four diesel engines and electric propeller engines replaced during maintenance in 2008

Length: 65m
Beam: 7.3m
Endurance: 30 days

Speed, surface: 15 knots
Submerged: 25 knots

Nov 15: Submarine vanishes 430km off Argentine coast while returning from routine mission in Ushuaia to its base at Mar del Plata. Ships and aircraft from at least 10 countries involved in search

Ushuaia, Nov 8: Submarine departs

Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)

400km
250 miles

Generators
Electric motor

Batteries

6 x 533mm torpedo tubes