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## U.S. Naval Sea Cadet ship Grayfox undergoes boatload of change

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"It's always been an informal certification," said Jim Semerad, commanding officer for the Grayfox. "I have determined that we need to go through this formal certification process, because the ship is training cadets and we should be a model for every ship in the Great Lakes, and if we are going to be a model, we need to set a very high standard.'

Thousands of area and visiting Sea Cadets have trained on the ship, hwas used to retrieve torpedoes in the Bahamas from around



Diver Mark Peltier reaches the surface through a hole in the ice during St. Clair County Sheriff Dive Team training underneath the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets ship Grayfox. / ANDREW JOWETT/TIMES HERALD

1986 to 1996. Sea Cadets are youths ages 13 to 17 who

participate in leadership and seamanship training. Part of their training includes twoweek trips on the Grayfox where they learn ship handling, navigation, engineering and mess duties.

The St. Clair County Sheriff Dive Team was hard at work Sunday near the Grayfox's mooring at the south end of the Blue Water River Walk.

The team dove through the ice and under the ship's hull to take thickness readings on the hull and clean off some zebra mussels attached to the bottom. Dive team chief Wayne Brusate said the crew used the task as training.

"They're going to dry dock sometime in the spring, and anything we can do ahead of time, we'll help them out," Brusate said.

Semerad said the dry dock maintenance period in the spring will be used to bring the ship up to code.

Other recent changes have been made to the management of the Grayfox.





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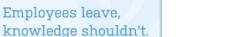






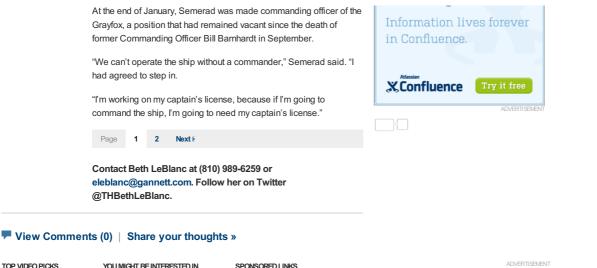


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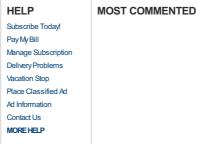
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