



☛ If fatigued, find a motel or a safe, guarded, rest area and sleep.

Safe driving demands your full attention. If you feel tired, plan ahead for what you are going to do. The actions you take may not just help you stay awake; they might keep you alive. ☛

*While on the subject of driving long distances, the sidebar that follows shows what a training command does for students before letting them head home for the holidays.—Ed.*

## Sub School Tunes Up for **Holidays**

With this year's holidays fast approaching, Sailors are anxious to prove there's no place like home to celebrate the yuletide season. Students at Submarine School, however, won't be getting on the roads for holiday leave until their cars have had a safety inspection.

These inspections are a "gift" from the Submarine School chief petty officers and the safety-office staff, working in conjunction with Submarine Base New London's Morale, Welfare and Recreation auto hobby shop and a local auto-parts supplier. Aimed at those Sailors driving home or at least a long distance from the base, the free inspections and low-cost repairs are available to Sub School staff and students, alike.

"We've had this [program] for a number of years," said FTC(SS) Christopher Dotson, organizer of last year's inspection teams. "In the past, we've had hundreds of students and staff members stop in and have us inspect their lights, hoses, tires, and what-have-you. Our emphasis was, and is, safety; it's what we call a 'common-sense safety check.'





“By working with the auto hobby shop,” he explained, “we can put vehicles up on a rack to check out bearings, examine shocks and struts, or to inspect for leaking seals, cracked housings, and worn-out exhaust pipes. A local auto-parts supplier has donated cases of oil, windshield-washer fluid, and other items to top off fluid levels or to replace defective minor parts right on the spot.”

During the week leading up to Thanksgiving and spread across six service bays, inspectors hope to get up close and personal with about 500 vehicles. Sailors who need to buy parts are directed to discount suppliers, and appointments are made for

a return trip to have those repairs done.

“We’re not talking about ‘clunkers’ that’ll break down while on base,” said Dotson. “That’s not what this inspection is about. Some might consider this [program] ‘intrusive leadership,’ but I like to think of it as all about peace of mind. It takes less than 15 minutes for each vehicle, and our students then have one less concern as they prepare to head home. And we have one more assurance we are doing our best to guarantee the safe return of every Sailor after the holidays to continue training.” ■