

**Commander,
Submarine Group SEVEN**

December 23, 2010

Dear Mr. Kibbe,

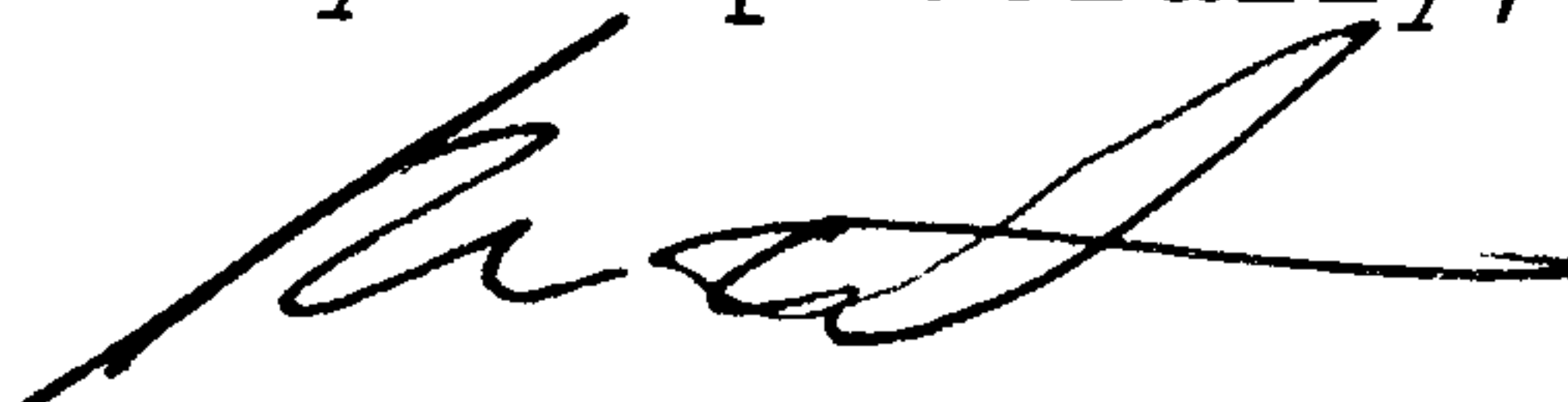
I sincerely appreciate the significance of locating the USS POMPANO to the families of the lost Sailors, especially the submarine community.

Because the presumed site is in Japanese territorial waters, this would have to be a coordinated search with permission and possible participation from the government of Japan. I have referred this matter to the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVO), located in Mississippi, which conducts U.S. Navy survey operations. NAVO will evaluate whether a combined survey expedition with the Japanese is feasible, and what assets would be appropriate to dedicate to this mission.

I am sure you understand that resources are at a premium here in SEVENTH FLEET, and that operational requirements may limit the opportunities to task capable assets to conduct a search.

Thank you for your patience. I greatly appreciate your dedication to history and the memories of those who have gone before us.

Very respectfully,



J. C. BLEIDORN
Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy

Mr. R. Keith Kibbe
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