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For more recent information about Area 51, see the new [Area 51 Research Center](#) maintained by Don Emory.

## Sea Shadow stealth ship seen on TLC

From: BaDge <baj7d@avery.med.virginia.edu>  
Date: Fri, 1 Aug 1997 19:47:06 -0800

Some of you who know me from the SkunkWorks list know I'm fond of the navy's Sea Shadow.

Since it's stealthy, and A51 is intimately tied to stealth, I thought I'd share this.

TLC, 'How'd they do That', just played the most in-depth review of this boat I've seen yet. (Sat 7/26 1930ish)

They also showed it in drydock, and we finally see the undepinnings in great detail. Basically twin mini-submarines powered by twin engines in the bowels of the hull, are driven by bubble-formation resistant props, with the only other underwater feature being twin airplane-style rudders near the end of each pontoon.

This ship was used mainly as a test bed for technologies to reduce heat, wake, sound, radar, and visible signatures.

I see no reason why it couldn't almost completely submerge, nor why it couldn't make 40-50 kts as a hydrofoil.

The black skin is exactly that. You can see a skeleton of ribs over which the black coating/covering is stretched in one shot.

Catch it if you can! ;-)

regards,

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