

TWO NAVAL OFFICERS WHO MET AS STUDENTS (Fall 2006)

Russian Adm. Vladimir Avdoshin and U.S. Rear Adm. Ben Wachendorf met in 2004 when they studied at the Harvard JFK School of Government. A year later, on August 5, 2005, Wachendorf got a phone call from the Russian admiral: "I am calling you as a military officer and a friend as well. We need help, what should we do?"

A 45-foot mini-sub, the AS-28, with a crew of seven sat 600 feet below the Pacific Ocean, trapped by discarded fishing cables in the Russian Far East waters. They must be rescued before air ran out.

The phone call between the two men launched a chain of events in record time. U.S. and British equipment were rushed to the scene, successfully severing the cables and freeing the craft and its men, with only 12 hours of air left in the sub.



Friendships reaching across cultures and national boundaries make a difference in times of need. We need programs that promote personal relationships between leaders and future leaders of our world.