

Historically speaking, torpedo countermeasures have been a tool used to buy time for a ship or submarine trying to escape an attack, but 21st-century naval technology is changing the way they are used. Broadband acoustic masking devices that interfere with a sonar's ability to differentiate background noise from a contact, like the Naval Acoustic Electromechanical (NAE) Beacon Mk 3, are the simplest of torpedo countermeasures. So, let's take a dive into this shadowy world, starting with the four basic types of torpedo countermeasures: maskers, jammers, decoys, and anti-torpedo devices, as well as their differences and how they are tactically employed. Broadband passive sonar systems found on modern submarines identify a target by contrasting the broadband energy signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) with quieter background noise.