



THE DECK LOG

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE
MARCH 2022



USSVI Creed

Section 1: To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country that their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments, and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

Camaraderie

Section 2: In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, USSVI shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for our mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. The USSVI supports a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

Perpetual Remembrance

Section 3: The organization engages in various projects and deeds that bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. USSVI also endeavors to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services United States submariners performed and how the sacrifices of lost shipmates made possible the freedom and lifestyle American enjoy today

When you forgot your morning coffee and
you wind up driving to the wrong place



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EDITOR'S DESK



The Deck Log is a monthly publication of the Central Texas Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. It is delivered via email in Microsoft Publisher PDF format to the Base Membership. A copy is printed and mailed via USPS to those shipmates not having email.

Deck Log Editor

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WEB SITE: <https://ussvicentraltexasbase.org/>

FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/ussvicentraltexas/>

INSTAGRAM: [ussvi.centraltexasbase](https://www.instagram.com/ussvi.centraltexasbase)

BASE MEETINGS - Base meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at M/SGT Ben D Snowden VFW Post 8587, 1000 N College St, Georgetown, TX 78626. We hold a quarterly social in lieu of a Base Meeting in March, June, September and December.




U.S. Submarine Service

JOIN USSVI

Have you ever worn the proud symbol pictured above? Are you related to, or know someone who is wearing, or has worn, Submarine Dolphins?

Visit our Web Site at:
<https://ussvicentraltexasbase.org/>



The original design for the U.S. Submarine Force insignia approved in 1924 by Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Acting Secretary of the Navy, is still in use today.



2012, 2013, 2016,
2018, 2019, 2020,
2021

2010, 2014,
2017, 2020

2020 Base

2021
Rick Mitchell
Bill Scott

NATIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES

A listing of Internet information addresses of the various organizations as places to obtain information on national items of interest. Shipmates, you are invited to add to the list (just let me know via email of any you use), so over time it would become more comprehensive.



<https://www.ussvi.org/home.asp>



<http://www.ussvi.org/base/CentralTexas.asp>



<http://www.csp.navy.mil/>



<http://www.navytimes.com/>



<http://www.navy.mil/swf/index.asp>



<http://www.military.com/>



<http://www.med.navy.mil/pages/default.aspx>



<http://www.fra.org/>



<http://defensetech.org/>



<http://www.subvetstore.com/index.php>



<https://www.sublant.usff.navy.mil/>



<http://www.vfw.org/>



www.navyleagueaustin.org



www.navyleague.org



<http://www.usni.org/>



<http://www.navy.mil/navydata/cno/n87/n77.html>



www.military.com/military-report/



www.moaa.org



www.shiftcolors.navy.mil



<http://www.va.gov/>



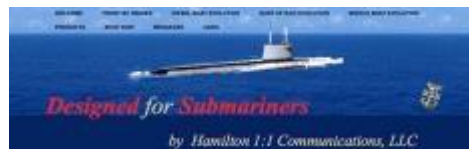
<http://www.submarinesailor.com>



<http://www.public.navy.mil/BUPERS-NPC/Pages/default.aspx>



<http://isasusa.org/>



WWW.DESIGNED4SUBMARINERS.COM



<http://www.dfas.mil/>



<http://www.usmilitaryforum.com/forums/>



<http://www.ausn.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/ussvicentraltexas/>

TOLLING OF THE BOATS – MARCH

"I can assure you that they went down fighting and that their brothers who survived them took a grim toll of our savage enemy to avenge their deaths." Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, USN



USS Perch (SS-176)

Lost on March 3, 1942 near Java with no immediate loss of life, while on her 1st war patrol. She survived 2 severe depth chargings in less than 200 feet of water by 3 Japanese destroyers. The crew abandoned ship and scuttled her. Of the 61 officers and men taken prisoner, 55 survived the war and six died as POWs.



USS Kete (SS-369)

Lost on March 20, 1945 with the loss of 87 officers and men at the end of her 2nd war patrol. Probably sunk near Okinawa, by a Japanese submarine that itself was subsequently lost.



USS Grampus (SS-207)

Lost on March 5, 1943 with the loss of 71 officers and men, on her 6th war patrol. She was lost in Vella Gulf, sunk after engaging 2 Japanese Destroyers. In company with USS Grayback, Grampus departed Brisbane, Australia on her 6th war patrol from which she failed to return, the manner of her loss still remains a mystery today.



USS F-4 (SS-23)

Lost on March 25, 1915 with the loss of 21 men. She foundered 1.5 miles off of Honolulu when acid corrosion of the lead lining of the battery tank let seawater into the battery compartment, causing loss of control. She was raised in August 1915.



USS H-1 (SS-28)

Lost on March 12, 1920 with the loss of 4 men as they tried to swim to shore after grounding on a shoal off Santa Margarita Island, off the coast of Baja California, Mexico. Vestal (AR-4), pulled H-1 off the rocks in the morning of 24 March, only to have her sink 45 minutes later in some 50 feet of water. She was originally named the USS Seawolf before becoming H-1.



USS Tullibee (SS-284)

Lost on March 26, 1944 with the loss of 79 officers and men, on her 4th war patrol. It's believed she was a victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. The lookout was the only survivor and he survived the war as a Japanese prisoner.



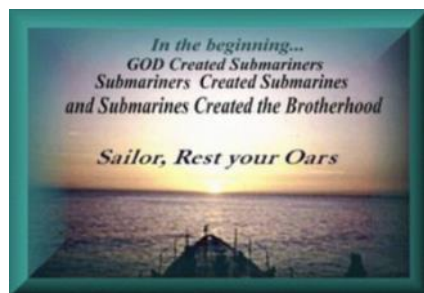
USS Triton (SS-201)

Lost on March 15, 1943 with the loss of 74 men. She was sunk north of the Admiralty Islands during a fight with 3 Japanese Destroyers. Triton was the 1st boat to engage the enemy in December 1941 off Wake Island, sinking 9 ships, 1 submarine and a destroyer.



USS Trigger (SS-237)

Lost on March 26, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men, on her 12th war patrol. She was lost during a combined attack by Japanese antisubmarine vessels and aircraft. Trigger ranked 7th in total tonnage sunk and tied for 8th in number of ships sunk.



We Remember For those who gave their lives in the defense of our country **We Remember**



27MC BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS

BASE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Welcome to March Shipmates!

Hopefully we have turned the corner on Winter and Spring is on its way and stays for more than a day or to before Summer arrives. Though after 21 years in the Submarine force of which Carla and I have figured I was submerged about 10 ½ years of that time all weather is good to me anymore. Guessing I'm not the only one in that boat.

As I write this report this month, we are getting ready to lay another shipmate to rest. Bill Strawser went on his Eternal Patrol Feb 21st, 2022. Bill has been an integral member of our base since 2009 leading our Kaps(SS) 4 Kid(SS) program for many years. Bill was also active in many other areas of USSVI, travelled to many conventions and had friends throughout the country. During his last few weeks one of the questions Bill asked time and time again is how the guys were doing and what sorts of things was the base busy doing. He thought very highly of all his shipmates as we dis him. As many of you did, I was fortunate to form a good friendship with Bill over the years. I will miss him.

This month we have our quarterly social scheduled for March 19th @ 1230. It will be at Springhill Restaurant in Pflugerville. We held an event there a couple years ago and it was well received. They have a buffet with Southern comfort food especially chicken and catfish and all the fixins. I believe the cost is \$13.50 and veterans get free drinks. I know the food is still as good as ever as I stopped by there for lunch with a shipmate recently. We both agreed it was good. Gene Hall will be heading the event up this month, wish I could attend but we have a family get together out of state that weekend (rescheduled from last December). Our social is one of my favorite things we do.

We also have a blood drive we are partnering with We are Blood. The drive will take place on March 29th from 1200-1800 at the VFW in Georgetown. Frank Espinosa has set this up for us and tells us we need 25 donors to make this happen. It is an appointment only event and you need to reserve your spot. Look for the link in email from the base, on the Bases FB Page, Web Page or you can go to the We are Blood Web Page and find the drive on the 29th. As I write this, we only have 8 signed up so far. Please strongly consider signing up for this as there is a critical need for blood. Tell you family, friends, co-workers and everyone you know about it and ask them to sign up too.

In April we have the 2nd Annual Lone Star Subvet Round-Up coming up on April 8-10 in Galveston. Currently we have shipmates coming from around the state and even a few from as far away as Kansas and Tennessee and even our shipmate from El Paso, Chip Pomeroy is coming out and bringing some of his wares. The room block cuts of on March 7th so make your reservations asap. There is a RV resort right across the street on the beech that many are staying at also. Get your spots now if you still can. Registrations are due by Mar 20th but as you all are aware it makes our planning much easier if you get them in sooner than that. There is a catered BBQ picnic Friday night at Seawolf Park. Saturday will be a combined ceremony with the Cavalla crew, and we have a banquet at Fisherman's Wharf Saturday evening with live music. Don't you think it's time for a weekend at the beach.

Wishing all of you the very best. Thank you for everything you all do!

Rick Mitchell



USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MINUTES - FEBRUARY 16, 2022



Location: Georgetown VFW Post 8587, Georgetown, TX and Zoom.

Meeting opened at 19:06 by Rick Mitchell, Central Texas Base Commander.

E-Board was present, with the exception of Bill Scott.

Sailing List: 27 Total, Local 20, Zoom 6 and 1 Zoom Guest.

Binnacle List: Bill Strawser, Bob Steinman, Charles Matula and Walt Whittingslow.

Please keep our Shipmates and their Families in your thoughts and prayers.

Bob Steinmann: Led the base in our opening Prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance: Rick Mitchell

Tolling of the Boats - February: Rick Mitchell, Gene Hall Tolling the Bell

History of the USS Tirante (SS-420): By Eric Heter, Base Historian. Commissioned 6Nov1944 and completed 3 War Patrols. She was decommissioned on 6Jul1946. On 26Nov1952 she was recommissioned as Guppy IIA. She served for another two decades and was decommissioned again on 1Oct1973. Commanding Officer CDR George L. Street III was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report (Virgil Claycamp)

Beginning Balance 1Jan2022	\$28,449.32
General	\$26,318.80
Memorial	\$3,973.74
Ending Balance, 1 Feb 2022	\$30,292.54

Kaps 4 Kids (Shawn O'Shea) The same 'hold' on interacting with the Kids is in place due to COVID restrictions.

Parade (Tom Sprague): Red Poppy Festival Georgetown, 23Apr2022. A motion was made by Gene Hall for us to participate, Joe Keller seconded the motion and it was approved by the members present. We'll decorate the flat bed trailer as our float.

Memorial (Gene Hall): Project is still on hold, no progress while Round Rock works on replacement contractor.

Membership (Chuck Malone): 81 Current Members, 48 National Life, 38 Base Life, 38 Holland Club and 69 War Vets.

Birthdays 2022: NONE in Feb. But LOTS in March. 1Mar Don Atkins, 9Mar Calvin Story, 11Mar Bill Scott, 11Mar Chris Munn, 15Mar Charles Matula, 16Mar Bob Steinmann, 22Mar Ray Wilgeroth, 23Mar Kim Newman, 24Mar Bob Wakefield and 31Mar Chuck Malone. Happy Birthday Shipmates!

Unfinished, Ongoing and Old Business

March Social: The March Social will be at the Springhill Catfish Restaurant in Pflugerville on 19Mar22 at 12:30. We've been there before and they have a good buffet and a room where we can meet in. Located at 2505 W Pecan Street, Pflugerville, TX. <http://www.springhillcatfish.net>

Recent POC's:

2022-04 Expired Id Cards
2022-05 Hosts for 2024 Convention
2022-06 VSO Newsletter-Jan
2022-07 VSO Newsletter-Feb
2022-08 National Officers Search
2022-09 Awards Bulletin
2022-11 Convention Registration is live.

Blood Drive: Frank Espinosa will be heading up the Blood Drive with "We Are Blood". The event will be on 29Mar2022 from 12:00-18:00 at the VFW 8587 Post at 1000 N College St, Georgetown, TX. Please let others know, this is open to the public. You can go to <https://weareblood.org/> to see if you are eligible to give blood on that date.

2nd Annual Lone Star Subvet Round-Up!

This Year's Event will be in Galveston, TX from April 8th to the 10th, 2022.

Celebrating the Submarine Force's 122nd Birthday! Friday evening BBQ, Saturday Morning Ceremony at Seawolf Park and a Saturday Evening Banquet. For more information call 512-639-0035 or visit the Central Texas Base Facebook Page. Hope to see you there!

May 21st Tolling Ceremony

This will be hosted by **P.C. Stryker Base** and will be held at the **National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, TX**. The **Silent Service Motorcycle Club (SSMC)** will have their **Annual Rally** that weekend as well.

This is on a **Saturday and Starts at 09:00**, so Rise and Shine Early to get there, or stay the night before at a local hotel.

Custom Ball Caps Order

The ball caps have been ordered and will be going out for embroidery.

Mini-Events: From time to time informal meetings of members occur at different restaurants, usually at breakfast time. The most recent was at Rudy's BBQ in Round Rock, on 15Feb at 0900 and was attended by approximately 10 shipmates. There will usually be a 'shout out' either via email or on the CTB Facebook Page. Feel free to join us.

Any Other Old Business?

New Business.

Jack Collins' nephew won the 2021 Central Texas Base Raffle, a \$750 gift card to Cabella's and Bass Pro Shops, and graciously gave it back to the Base to do with as we choose. It was suggested by Rick Mitchell and others that we see if the \$750 can be exchanged for multiple cards in smaller amounts and used as Door Prizes at the Lone Star Subvet Roundup.

Fred Maynard made a Motion to do this and Gene Hall Seconded the Motion with the membership present Approving the Motion. The proceeds from such sale would likely benefit the USSVCF (Charitable Foundation). 9 Base Commanders will be involved in the final decision.

USSVI Longevity Pins

The USSVI Longevity Pins are in and Chuck Malone handed them out to the local members at the meeting.

Rick Mitchell mentioned that Bill Bellinghausen sends, on behalf of the USSVI, a Recognition Certificate and Patch to new Eagle Scouts at his expense and needs more patches. Bill McCoy placed a Motion that we provide the approximately \$125 for more patches. The Motion was Seconded by Chuck Malone and Approved by the members present.

Good of the Order

50/50 Raffle – \$41 Cash was won by Eric Heter. The 2nd drawing prize was a White Subvet Ball Cap and was won by Fred Maynard.

Next Meeting – 19Mar2022 12:30 Base Social at the Springhill Restaurant, 2505 W. Pecan Street, Pflugerville, TX.

Sailing List

Base Members: Local at the VFW Post 8587: Frank Abernathy, Don Atkins, Harry Boyer, Virgil Claycamp, Frank Espinosa, Mike Gauthier, Gene Hall, Eric Heter, Hubert Jackson, Joe Keller, J. Weldon Koenig, Joe Kruppa, Chuck Malone, Fred Maynard, Rick Mitchell, Shawn O'Shea, Garrett Onderdonk III, Garrett Onderdonk IV, Tom Sprague, Harry Ullmann.

Members via Zoom: Ron Bennett, Bill Brinkman, Chris Matula, William McCoy, Chris Munn, Bob Steinmann, Gene Whitenack.

Guests via Zoom: John Donahue

Meeting Adjourned by Rick Mitchell, 2023 hours

Minutes submitted by Frank Abernathy, Secretary, 18Feb2022



William Raymond “Bill” Strawser



November 27, 1947 – February 21, 2022

In the Care of Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Funeral Home & Cemetery

William Raymond “Bill” Strawser was born November 27, 1947 in Newton, Iowa and was a resident of Round Rock, Texas. Born in Iowa but a Texan at heart.

Bill passed on Monday, February 21, 2022 of cancer. Bill was a wonderful friend and his kindness well loved. He is the son of George and Thelma Strawser (deceased) and is survived by his brother; Fred Jones (Phyllis) of Texas; sister, Carol Hammon of Michigan; Godson, Stephen Grant (Haley) and Great Godson Heston of Texas.

Bill also enjoyed the many lasting friendships from Lanier High School, Texas State College and his job at General Motors.

Bill was very proud of his time in the Navy (1967-1971), serving as the radioman on the submarines the USS Sturgeon and the USS Pargo. For 9 years he was chairman of Kaps for Kids, going to local Austin Hospitals with special hats and encouragement for young patients with his team. Also, he was awarded a certificate for submarine veterans by the Holland Club. Bill was so proud of his submarine veteran friends and their accomplishments.

A service to honor Bill Strawser’s life and military service was held on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 11:00 a.m., with visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Funeral Home. Military interment will follow in Cook Walden Capital Parks Cemetery. Rev. Steve Ski of Christ the Rock Lutheran Church of Hutto will officiate services.

Jesus was waiting, Bill was ready, we will miss him and his smile.

BASE TREASURER’S REPORT

15 February 2022

Financial Report for Period Ending 1/31/2022

Beginning Balance - 1/1/2022	\$28,449.32
RBFCU Checking (General Fund)	\$26,318.80
RBFCU Savings (Memorial Fund)	\$3,973.74
Ending Balance	\$30,292.54

Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer

STOREKEEPER CORNER

The Central Texas Base (CTB) Supply Store is open for business. The Supply Store can obtain most of the items you need for memorabilia, your vest, gifts for others, etc. You can order them from the Storekeeper at a meeting or online at vclaycamp@yahoo.com. CTB can often get items at a lower than normal price, so you save money. The SK can search the net to find out-of-the-ordinary items, for all branches of the service. When requesting a ship’s patch, tell the SK which coast you served on board, as the patches are often different for each coast.

The Base E-board is working on a way to inform you of the SK items in stock and prices and a way for to you purchase them either at the in-person meetings, or via an online email system to the SK for in-stock items.

MARCH 2021



- Don Atkins - 1st
- Calvin Story - 9th
- Bill Scott - 11th
- Chris Munn - 11th
- Charles Matula - 15th
- Bob Steinmann - 16th
- Ray Wilgeroth, Sr - 22nd
- Kim Newman - 23rd
- Bobby Wakefield - 24th
- Chuck Malone - 31st
- Jack Pitts - 31st

CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEMBERSHIP

Report presented to Base Commander w/copy to Yeoman.

Members listed in Central Texas Database	80
Regular Annual Members	21
Associate Members	1
Base Life Members	38
National Life Members	49
Holland Club Members	42
Dual Members	4
Prospective Members:	0
War Veterans	68
Members pending:	0

Submitted: Chuck Malone, Membership

BINNACLE LIST

We ask Lord, in your Son's Name, that you be with our Brother's and Sister's who are sick and ask that you hold them in your arms and heal them so that they might again join us around our table. In your Son's name, We pray, Amen.

Prayers for Bob Steinmann who fell and fractured his hip. Surgery went well and he's recovering.

Prayers for the family and friends of Bill Strawser who went on Eternal Patrol on the 21st of February 2022 from cancer.

Prayers for Charles Matula who has suffered a stroke and is paralyzed on his right side.

Please keep us informed of any person who should be listed. These are the people that we know about, so please e-mail any E-Board member if you know of any member or his family that might be in crisis. Also please keep the Base Chaplain, Shipmate Bob Steinmann informed as well.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Unless otherwise promulgated, the Base Monthly meetings will be held in-person and/or a combination of in-person and Zoom meetings.

19 March 2022, Central Texas Base Quarterly Social, Springhill Catfish Restaurant in Pflugerville, 1300.

8-10 April 2022, Second Annual Lone Star Round-up, Seawolf Park, Galveston, TX. See the Flyer, RV camping details and Registration Form at the end of the newsletter.

20 April 2022, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, VFW Post #8587, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1900 meeting. In-person and Zoom.

18 May 2022, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, VFW Post #8587, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1900 meeting. In-person and Zoom.

21 May 2022, Tolling ceremony, National WW II Museum of the Pacific, Fredericksburg, TX, hosted by the PC Stryker Base, 0900.

KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS)

I have been staying in touch with the Children's hospitals. Due to the Coronavirus they have canceled all volunteer visits until further notice. I am checking with them monthly to reschedule as soon as it is safe to do so for the children and our volunteers. Any questions please do not hesitate to call me at 702-682-9170. Stay safe and be well. Thanks for all your support.

Shipmate Shawn O'Shea, Chair, Kap(SS)4Kid(SS)

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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Eight Gifts That Don't Cost a Cent

1. THE GIFT OF LISTENING - But you must REALLY listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.
2. THE GIFT OF AFFECTION - Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.
3. THE GIFT OF LAUGHTER - Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."
4. THE GIFT OF A WRITTEN NOTE - It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.
5. THE GIFT OF A COMPLIMENT - A simple and sincere, "You look great in red," "You did a super job" or "That was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.
6. THE GIFT OF A FAVOR - Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.
7. THE GIFT OF SOLITUDE - There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.
8. THE GIFT OF A CHEERFUL DISPOSITION - The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone, really it's not that hard to say, Hello or Thank You.

Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.



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Rudy's BBQ Gathering 2-15-22

USSVI Central Texas Base - Facebook post by BC Rick Mitchell

Some CTB shipmates getting together at Rudy's this morning for chatting and some breakfast. We had a good time catching up and meeting some new shipmates.



Bill Scott & Harry Ullmann



Chuck Malone, Bill Brinkman,
Chris Munn



Mike Gauthier & Chuck Malone



Mike Gauthier



Frank Abernathy, Harry Boyer,
Chris Munn, Bill Scott, Harry
Ullmann, and Shawn O'shea



Harry Ullmann,
Shawn, Frank, Harry
Boyer, and visitor



USSVI Central Texas Base Blood Drive

USSVI Central Texas Base

Come help us fill a critical need. We are partnering with [VFW Post 8587](#) and [The American Legion Abe Harrison Post 174](#) to join with [We Are Blood](#) for a blood drive on Tuesday March 29th from Noon - 6PM at the VFW Post 8587. Please sign up here:

<https://weareblood.org/donor/schedule/?location=61033&date=03/29/2022&reschedule=>



Three Local Veterans Service Organizations In Georgetown Collect And Deliver Largest Contribution Of New And Used Clothing For Communities Of Williamson And Bell Counties

Author: Frank Espinosa, Jr.

Veterans of American Legion Post 174; Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8587; and, Central Texas Base U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI), delivered 75 boxes of new and used clothing on October 12th and October 26th with an estimated weight of 1,875 pounds.

This was the first year of participation for the USSVI.

The donations were spread across three non-profit organizations, each receiving 25 boxes of the clothing. The non-profits included: The Caring Place, Georgetown; Families in Crisis, Inc., Killeen; and, the Salvation Army, Temple.

Delivery of the donations to the three non-profit organizations was a first-time event for the three local Veterans Service Organizations. Similar but smaller donations in the past 12 years were always delivered to a department of the Veterans Administration (VA) in Temple. The department assumed responsibility for further distribution of donations to homeless and at-risk Veterans of Central Texas. However, due to a recent change in policy by the VA, used clothing is no longer accepted, only new clothing is accepted.

Frank Espinosa, Jr., the Event Coordinator for the three local Veterans Service Organizations stated the success of this year's collection was greatly attributable to local businesses in Georgetown who allowed collection containers in their building. The businesses were: David's Barber Shop at 3010 Williams Drive, Suite #228; and, Mel's Lone Star Lanes at 1010 N. Austin Avenue.

Espinosa stated American Legion Post 174 intends to continue to lead this program next year collecting only new clothing. Photos were taken by CTB USSVI member Frank Espinosa, Jr.



(L-R) VFW Post 8587 member Barry Richard and American Legion Post 174 Commander BJ MacMillan hand boxes to The Caring Place's Donations & Facilities Director David Earl, October 12th.



(L-R) Holding the box, Juana Wright of the Families in Crisis, Inc., cautions VFW Post 8587 & American Legion Post 174 member Grant Gee to move out of her way, October 26th.



Case Worker Grace Ruiz of The Salvation Army, Temple is happy to hand the first of 25 boxes to one of her co-workers, October 26th.



USSVI Central Texas Base Blood Drive

USSVI Central Texas Base

Come help us fill a critical need. We are partnering with [VFW Post 8587](#) and [The American Legion Abe Harrison Post 174](#) to join with [We Are Blood](#) for a blood drive on Tuesday March 29th from Noon - 6PM at the VFW Post 8587. Please sign up here:

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The previous Undersea Warfare News weekly news bulletin email articles have been discontinued.

"As a result, as your newsletter editor, I contacted the PAO at [USFF COMSUBLANT NFLT PAO@navy.mil](mailto:USFF_COMSUBLANT_NFLT_PAO@navy.mil) for information on these newsletter articles being discontinued and have not received a response. Therefore I have been saving articles of interest posted on Google News website for publishing in The Deck Log."

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Russia's Improved Kilo-Class Submarine Entering Black Sea

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2022/02/russias-improved-kilo-class-submarine-entering-black-sea/>

Tayfun Ozberk, 12 Feb 2022

In the midst of Ukraine-Russia tensions, Russia's improved Kilo-class (Project 636.3) submarine "Rostov-na-Donu (B-237)" entered the Dardanelles on February 12 en route to the Black Sea. The submarine belongs to the Black Sea Fleet's 4th Independent Submarine Brigade.

Rostov-na-Donu will transit Bosphorus tomorrow morning and enter the Black Sea. Following the deployment of *Rostov-na-Donu*, the Russian Black Sea Fleet will have four improved Kilo-class submarines equipped with Kalibr land-attack missiles in the Black Sea. According to the OSINT reports, the Black Sea Fleet's other two Project 636.3 submarines (B-262 *Stary Oskol*, B-265 *Krasnodar*) are currently in Russia's Tartous Naval Base in Syria.

Russia has been reinforcing its Black Sea Fleet since last week. As *Naval News* reported on February 08, the first part of a Russian Navy amphibious landing ship force consists of three Ropucha-class amphibious assault ships (*Minsk* (127), *Korolev* (130), and *Kaliningrad* (102)), which can carry troops, tanks, and supplies, has entered the Black Sea. On February 08, three additional amphibious vessels (Project 775 (Ropucha-class) *Georgy Pobedonosets* (016), *Olenegorsky Gornyyak* (012), and Project 11711 (Ivan Gren-class) *Pyotr Morgunov* (017)) of the Russian Navy transited the Bosphorus tonight to enter the Black Sea.

In addition to the current tensions in the region, Russia issued NOTAMs in the Black Sea on February 9, effectively blocking the entrance to the Sea of Azov as well as the ports of Mariupol and Berdyansk. The NOTAMs were released in preparation for the Black Sea Fleet's live missile and gun firing exercises, which will take place from February 13 to February 19, 2022.

The naval capabilities of both countries and the Russian Black Sea Fleet's possible course of action are given in our January analysis.

About Improved Kilo-class submarines:

Improved Kilo-class submarines are referred to as the third generation of large diesel-electric submarines, which were built at the JSC Admiralty Shipyards for the Russian Navy's main fleets. Originally, these submarines are called Project 636.3, in Western countries, they are defined as Improved Kilo-class, which are the upgraded version of Project 877 (Kilo-class) subs.

The improved Kilo-class submarines are designed to conduct anti-shipping and anti-submarine missions in shallow waters and feature stealth technology with extended combat range to strike land, surface, and underwater targets.

According to Russia, the Project 636.3 submarines are among the world's quietest submarines. It is 74 meters long, has a displacement of over 3,900 tonnes, and has an operational depth of 240 meters. It can operate at a maximum depth of 300 meters and has a range of 7,500 nautical miles.

The submarines have a cruising speed of 20 knots, a range of 400 nautical miles using electronic propulsion, can patrol for 45 days, and can accommodate a crew of 52. They are equipped with 6×533 mm torpedo tubes with 18 torpedoes and eight Strela-3/Igla-1 surface-to-air missiles. Alternatively, the torpedo tubes can deploy 24 mines.

These submarines are powered with two 4DL-42M diesel generators, 1500 kW each (1000 kW each for the first 2 diesel generators). Different from Project 877 submarines which have a 6 bladed propeller, Improved Kilo-class subs are fitted with a 7 bladed propeller.

The MGK-400EM digital sonar is installed on Type 636.3. The sonar suit, according to Robosonexport, detects submarine and surface ship targets in sonar listening mode, echo-ranging in a 30° sector of the target

relative bearing, telephone and telegraph communication in both long and short-range modes, detection of underwater sound signals, and signal-bearing determination.



US denies submarine was in Russian waters as Moscow claims

[US denies submarine was in Russian waters as Moscow claims | Fox News](#)

A U.S. Navy spokesperson said there was no contact of any kind between the Russian ship and the U.S. submarine

By Brie Stimson | Fox News

The United States denied Moscow's claim Saturday that an American submarine was conducting operations in Russian territorial waters, breaking international law as tensions are high amid a possible invasion of Ukraine.

"There is no truth to the Russian claims of our operations in their territorial waters," U.S. Navy Capt. Kyle Raines, a spokesperson for the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, said, according to Reuters. "I will not comment on the precise location of our submarines but we do fly, sail, and operate safely in international waters."

Vladimir Putin's government claimed the submarine ignored commands from the Russian navy via sonar to surface near the Kuril Islands in the Pacific Ocean early Saturday, forcing it to chase the U.S. vessel away using unnamed "appropriate means," the Navy Times reported.

The Russian claim was reported by the country's Interfax news agency, citing the Russian Defense Ministry. Raines said there was no contact of any kind between the Russian ship and the U.S. submarine, the Navy Times reported.

The U.S. military often monitors other nations' military exercises without entering territorial waters, according to Reuters.

President Biden and Putin held a phone call on Saturday as U.S. officials say a Russian invasion of Ukraine could be imminent as its military has amassed more than 130,000 troops along the Ukrainian border. It's unclear if the two leaders discussed the submarine issue.



New Chinese Diesel-Electric Submarine Breaks Cover

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/44214/new-chinese-submarine-breaks-cover>

BY THOMAS NEWDICK FEBRUARY 8, 2022

The latest Chinese submarine design to emerge remains enigmatic but seems to utilize a notably small hull.

Another new and previously unknown Chinese submarine design has appeared, continuing the country's prodigious naval shipbuilding program. The emergence of this submarine comes after a new subclass of a conventionally-powered type broke cover last year and the reveal of a highly intriguing "sail-less" design three years before that, though there are no clear indications one way or another that any of these are directly related to each other.

Video showing the new Chinese submarine underway, apparently taken during early tests, appeared earlier today on social media. The submarine is a relatively small design, likely significantly smaller than the Type 039 Yuan class, several iterations of which have already appeared. H. I. Sutton, an author and an expert on submarine warfare, estimates that the new submarine is around 160 feet long, compared to a little over 250 feet for the Type 039A.

Sutton has suggested that the size of the new Chinese submarine design might point to a relationship of some kind to the mysterious sail-less type that first appeared in 2018. Based on satellite imagery, that earlier design has been assessed as being around 150 feet long, much closer to this new boat. Sutton believes the new design likely features a single hull, which would be another parallel with the still-unnamed sail-less type, while the Type 039 features a double hull.

Of course, the presence of a sail signals a major diversion from the sail-less design, and the sail is itself noteworthy. Blending smoothly into the hull, its configuration is broadly reminiscent of those found on the German Type 212 and Type 214 designs, among others developed around the world, but which has not been seen so far on Chinese submarines. However, such a shape has previously appeared on some Chinese sub-

marine models, including the MS200 midget submarine, S600 small patrol submarine, and the larger S1100 design, all from the China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation, or CSIC. So far, however, there is no indication that the new design is necessarily a CSIC product.

Other prominent features of the new design include dive planes fitted on the forward casing, as found on the Type 214. There are also prominent white markings on the sail, which are a regular feature of Chinese submarines during their testing phase. H. I. Sutton also told *The War Zone* that, based on models of similar-sized designs seen in the past, the new submarine is likely armed with four torpedo tubes without reloads.

Overall, very little is known about the new Chinese submarine, but it does yet again reinforce the fact that Beijing is investing heavily in smaller conventional submarines as well as larger nuclear-powered designs.

The latest development follows last year's appearance of a new version of the *Yuan* class, known in the West, unofficially for now, as the Type 039C. The key feature of this design is the revised sail design, compared to other Type 039 boats, perhaps chosen to increase its stealth characteristics or to contain a sonar or communications system, or a combination of these.

The Type 039A/B class, of which around 17 are in service with the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN), is meanwhile the current baseline standard for Chinese conventionally powered submarines and is also being built, in modified form, for export to Pakistan and Thailand.

Indeed, the success of the Type 039A/B as an export product raises the possibility that the new Chinese submarine is also intended, perhaps primarily, for sale to foreign clients. In this way, Beijing could bring a high-technology submarine design into a highly dynamic marketplace and potentially challenge more established designs from France, Russia, and Sweden, to name just a few.

At this stage, it's not possible to determine the particular propulsion system used in the new design, although the Type 039A/B boats are already thought to use air-independent propulsion (AIP), a technology that *The War Zone* has examined in detail in the past. A Stirling-type engine of the type that's thought to power the Type 039A/B submarines burns liquid oxygen and diesel to drive electrical generators that can be used for either propulsion or charging batteries. In this way, the submarine is able to remain submerged for much longer than a traditional diesel-electric boat, without needing to surface or use a snorkel.

China is also believed to be working on even more advanced propulsion technologies, including lithium-ion batteries of the type used in Japan's latest Soryu class submarines. Compared even to some AIP configurations, these offer a number of advantages, including increased endurance at high speeds when submerged, quicker charging and longer battery life, and reduced maintenance requirements. Running on pure battery power is also the quietest option available. There has been speculation that the Type 039C may use lithium batteries, perhaps as a testbed for these and other advanced technologies that may then find their way onto production submarines.

Clearly, China still sees a place for conventionally powered submarines, whether for domestic use or for export, in stark contrast to the all-nuclear U.S. Navy. Not only are conventionally powered boats significantly cheaper to build, suiting the requirements of the fast-growing PLAN, but they also offer particular advantages for the kinds of warfare that China is likely to find itself engaged in.

Potentially quieter than nuclear-powered submarines, modern conventionally powered boats with AIP capabilities are also better suited to the shallower waters of the littoral environments that the PLAN would be expected to try and dominate as part of wider anti-access/area-denial strategies. Smaller overall hull size and reduced displacement, which the new design would appear to embody, could be ideally suited to these kinds of scenarios. The fact that these submarines could potentially be built at a significantly cheaper cost than their larger counterparts could help China achieve a greater numerical advantage over potential foes, as well.

In a report to the U.S. Congress on Chinese naval modernization published last year, it's stated that the PLAN will field at least 25 *Yuan* class submarines by 2025, demonstrating the country's impressive production output. Although it remains to be seen whether this all-new design, the improved Type 039C, or even other further developed variants enter service, it seems clear that the PLAN will continue to combine a mix of quantity and quality as it continues to ramp up its submarine capabilities.

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Israel's Submarine Secret: New Dolphin-IIs Could Have VLS

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2022/01/israels-submarine-secret-new-dolphin-class-boat-could->

[have-vls/](#)

The Israeli Navy maintains a high level of secrecy surrounding its submarine capabilities. And the latest boat, the INS Dragon, is more secretive than most. This may be driven by new weapon capabilities, possibly including a vertical launch system (VLS).

H I Sutton, 19 January 2022

Israel's latest Dolphin Class submarine, INS Dragon ('Drakon' in Hebrew) which is under sea trials in Kiel, Germany, is extremely camera shy. It is possible that the submarine may have been increased in length compared to earlier boats of the same class. The same could be true for the follow-on 3 boats currently on order. This would match rumors that the new submarine has been fitted with a vertical launch system (VLS).

Israeli media reported on January 18 that the cost of Israel's submarines has increased significantly. While reports cover the three follow-on boats, this resonates with the increased size and capability of the submarines from INS Dragon forward. It is the latest in a chain of very small hints about Israel's newest submarines.

A VLS would imply a significant leap in capabilities. Israel's Dolphin-I and Dolphin-II class submarines are already equipped with torpedoes and cruise missiles. But they are shot through the torpedo tubes. The inclusion of a VLS implies either more weapons, or our bet, new weapons.

If correct, the Israeli submarine is only the second modern AIP equipped submarine in the world designed with this capability. The first being the South Korean KSS-III class which has only recently entered service. The two classes can be seen as part of a wider trend to fit VLS on conventionally powered submarines.

Israeli Submarines, Evolving Roles

Initially in the 1960s Israel relied on ex-Royal Navy submarines. These included the highly modified 'Super-Ts' which added refined special forces capabilities. It was an early indication that Israel's submarines would be shaped by their specific needs. This resulted in boats which are different from those operated by other countries.

In the 1970s the first purpose-designed submarines, the Type-540 Gal Class, started to be delivered. These were better suited to Israel's needs, being much smaller to better operate in shallow waters. They were replaced from the late 1990s by the Dolphin-I Class.

This was a much larger and more sophisticated submarine, but still compact overall. And it added a whole new capability, nuclear deterrence.

Israel's submarines are believed to carry the sea-based arm of the country's nuclear deterrent. Israel is not a declared nuclear state, but has long since been regarded as such. As ArmsControl.Org puts it, "Israel ... does not admit or deny having nuclear weapons". However, "Israel is universally believed to possess nuclear arms".

The latest class, the Dolphin-II, is essentially an enlarged Dolphin-I. These are lengthened to accommodate Fuel-Cell based AIP (air independent power). INS Dragon is the third and last of these, but as we have indicated, it is expected to be a different length again. And that may be the big deal.

What Is In The VLS?

It does not seem unlikely that the VLS can carry nuclear-armed missiles. But which missiles? Historically Israel is believed to deploy a variant of the Turbo Popeye cruise missile in the strategic land attack and/or nuclear strike role. The first four Dolphin-I/II class boats are equipped with four larger 650mm torpedo tubes in addition to the six regular 533mm (21") tubes. These four extra tubes are believed to vary the Israeli-developed missiles.

To carry a VLS we estimate that the submarines will be extended by between 2.4 and 4 meters overall (8-13 feet). The increase is likely to be driven by the frame spacing of the hull (meaning the gap between the reinforcing rings). This would fit between four and six vertical launch tubes, depending on their diameter. 650mm would be a reasonable guess at this stage.

Stepping back, we can explore a few explanations. The first is that the current boats' four missiles are not considered sufficient for future needs, and that the VLS represents additional slots. However it is unlikely that the current Turbo-Popeye type missile, designed to be ejected from a torpedo tube, can also simply be launched vertically.

And at any rate, that missile is relatively old. So it is possible that the VLS will bring with it a new missile. This

may represent the future of Israel's at-sea deterrent, a new weapon to be carried by Drakon and subsequent boats. This could be another cruise missile, or possibly a ballistic missile. We can speculate that it ties in with the trend in hypersonic weapons.

Alternative explanations

We should be careful placing too much weight on rumors. It is possible that any size increase relates to other technologies, such as propulsion. Or that rumors are getting mixed up between the last Dolphin-II class boat, Dragon, and the next batch. However, the VLS theory has been persistent and cannot be ignored. After all, where there is smoke, there is sometimes a Dragon.



China's Surprise Submarine Move Shows Its Growing Power

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2021/12/chinas-surprise-submarine-move-shows-its-growing-power/>

H I Sutton, 29 Dec 2021

Submarine sales are a powerful weapon in the game of international power and influence. China is increasingly combining it with the Belt and Road Initiative in ways which shape the geopolitical landscape. The latest surprise submarine supply illustrates this.

When a Chinese submarine entered the Malacca Strait on December 20, heading towards the Indian Ocean, there was speculation about where it was going. This was answered when it **pulled into the Yangon River, Myanmar**, on December 23. Literally the next day it was **commissioned into the Myanmar Navy** as UMS Minye Kyaw Htin.

The sale, or transfer, had not been announced in advance. It highlights the growing influence of China in the region and the role submarine sales play in the geopolitical arena.

And China's impact on the world submarine market. China is now supplying 4 countries with submarines. More may follow.

Submarine Diplomacy

Buying submarines is not like cars, where you select a model, and pick from a catalogue of features. They are not bought off the shelf, instead each aspect has to be defined. The location where they are to be built, the degree of customization, crew training, and ongoing maintenance are all part of a typical deal. And there is always a geopolitical aspect, and often government-to-government negotiations.

And it is not simply commercial. Governments can supply submarines to help create, or reinforce, alliances. Or at least expect favorable future relations going forward. This is especially true if the submarines are provided free, or at a major discount. One way to do this is by supplying older submarines from their own inventory. It can be a win-win and limits the risk if politics change in the future.

The Chinese submarine for Myanmar is more complex than most in a few ways. Although China has been Myanmar's main defense supplier for many years, it had not been in the frame for submarines. Instead, India and Russia had. Externally, it might be seen as a stab in the back to Indian efforts.

Myanmar has been trying to establish a submarine capability for about two decades. Exactly a year earlier on December 24 2020 the Myanmar Navy commissioned its first submarine, the UMS Min Ye Theinkhathu. Significantly, that submarine had been transferred by India, China's immediate rival in the Indian Ocean region.

Both submarines are relatively old types, and both are second-hand. The Chinese one is a Type-035 Ming Class, and the Indian one is a Russian-built KILo class boat. Despite arriving second, the Chinese boat is hardly an upgrade over the Indian supplied one. In fact, the KILo is generally considered the more capable platform, although the exact details of their equipment fit are naturally harder to pin down.

So the sudden acquisition of an older Chinese boat is not about modernizing Myanmar's capabilities. It is instead part of a bigger picture. China is presumably expecting to bag the follow-on order or more modern boats. And solidify its geopolitical position in the Bay of Bengal in the process.

China has done something very similar in the past. In 2017 it supplied two ex-PLAN (Chinese Navy) Type-035 Ming Class submarines to Bangladesh.

Market Warfare

For the past few decades, the submarine export market has been dominated by France and Germany. These

big players are already being challenged. These include new entrants South Korea, Spain and Japan, and reemerging established players like Sweden. And of course Russia has a stake in submarine exports. Now China is joining the club and rapidly rising towards the top.

China is already supplying four nations with a total of 12 submarines. The largest, and likely most sophisticated, deal is for Pakistan. The Pakistan Navy is getting eight Type-039B Yuan Class submarines, with four being built locally. These missile-capable submarines come with AIP (Air Independent Power).

Thailand is getting another Yuan, designated S26T. Meanwhile ex-PLAN Type-035 Min Class boats, which are less capable than the Yuans, have been supplied to Bangladesh (2) and now Myanmar (1). China is known to be courting other countries with submarines, **notably Nigeria**.

Commissioning ceremony of Type 035B submarine UMS Minye Kyaw Htin

Like Russia, China is willing to supply submarines to countries which western governments may not. But unlike Russia its new-build submarines come with AIP. Thrown together with the classic Belt-and-Road incentives this may make them particularly appealing to internationally isolated governments.

Western leaning submarine builders will also be watching Chinese developments. On the one hand, there are many prospective customers who would not consider Chinese submarines. But equally, the markets undoubtedly overlap with many countries being open to both China and the West. Chinese submarine designs will increasingly be competing directly against Western types.

Belt And Submarine

The game will not only be about money, but strategic influence and position. For China there is the added dimension of the Belt and Road Initiative. This is a Chinese government strategy to invest in key infrastructure developments around the world. Countries brought into this in a big way include Myanmar.

While the Belt and Road projects are infrastructure, many will see a very blurred line between them and the submarine sales. Said another way, the submarines are part of an influence game and strategic positioning. They can be leveraged in a similar way to port or shipyard projects.

In the case of Myanmar, it will be interesting to see the sales conditions. Not just the price, which is surely cheap or free, but the future restrictions it places on Myanmar.



Russia And China's Kilo-Class Submarines Are 'Black Holes' For A Reason

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2021/12/russia-and-chinas-kilo-class-submarines-are-black-holes-for-a-reason/>

By [Caleb Larson](#) December 3, 2021

The Kilo-class Submarine, Explained in 2 Minutes: Known colloquially as the “Black Holes” by some in the [U.S. Navy](#), the Improved-Kilo-class of [submarines](#) are quite deadly — and could turn the balance of power in the [South China Sea](#) in China's favor.

“Stealthy” Subs

Small and compact, the Kilo- and Improved-Kilo-Class subs are meant for operations in shallower, coastal waters, and are tasked with anti-ship and anti-submarine warfare. In contrast to the direction of American submarine development, Kilo-class submarines are [diesel-electric](#), rather than nuclear powered, and very, very quiet.

The original Kilo-class is a product of the Soviet Union, having first entered service with the Soviet Navy forty years ago — in 1980.

The so-called [Improved-Kilo-Class](#) (also known as the project 636.3 Kilo-class) is “an improved variant of the original Project 877 *Kilo*-class design. The updated version is slightly longer in length — the sub's submerged displacement is around 4,000 tons — and features improved engines, an improved combat system, as well as new noise reduction technology.”

While both the Kilo- and Improved-Kilo-Class are quiet, the latter has reportedly been called “Black Holes” by the U.S. Navy due to their noise-reduction measures.

The diesel engines sit on a rubber base rather than being rooted to the hull. This dampens and absorbs vibrations caused by the running of the engine. [These subs](#) are known for “their quietness and feature some of Russia's most advanced submarine technology.”

Apparently the submarines also have a rubberized, sound-absorbent coating on the inside, which deadens noises originated from inside the sub, such as the engines, talking, or walking.

Small But Mighty

They're also no slouch when it comes to endurance or armament either. Both submarines have a compliment of 52, with a maximum dive depth of 300 meters — not very deep, but also not necessary near coastal waters.

Their operational range is roughly [6,000 to 7,500 kilometers](#), and speed is roughly 17 knots, or nearly twenty miles per hour.

Both classes can fire standard 533-millimeter torpedos, but the Improved-Kilo can also fire Kaliber cruise missiles — optimal for a localized conflict.

Export Success

Both the original Kilo-class as well as the Improved-Kilo-class have seen a moderate amount of success exported worldwide, most notably to several countries that have an interest in the South China Sea — Vietnam and China among them.

In the event of a conflict in the South China Sea, the United States, which has tended to favor larger, less maneuverable nuclear-powered subs, maybe at a distinct disadvantage against a smaller, quieter, and more maneuverable enemy.

Caleb Larson is a Defense Writer based in Europe. He holds a Master of Public Policy and covers U.S. and Russian security, European defense issues, and German politics and culture.



Wife of Navy nuclear engineer pleads guilty in submarine spy case

<https://www.nbcnews.com/investigations/wife-navy-nuclear-engineer-pleads-guilty-submarine-spy-case-rcna16850>

Ken Dilanian, Feb. 18, 2022

Under the terms of her plea deal, Diana Toebbe will serve a sentence of not more than 36 months, the Justice Department said.

A former private school teacher will serve up to three years in prison after pleading guilty Friday to helping her husband in what both believed was a plot to sell closely guarded American secrets to a foreign power.

The plea by Diana Toebbe, 46, comes after her husband admitted guilt on Monday, Valentine's Day, and implicated her in his crimes. Both are being held in a jail in West Virginia, where they were arrested in October.

The Justice Department said Diana Toebbe, who has a Ph.D. in anthropology, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to communicate restricted data related to nuclear designs, which carries a maximum statutory penalty of up to life in prison.

Under the terms of her deal, she will serve a sentence of not more than 36 months, the Justice Department said. A federal judge will decide the exact sentence after a pre-sentence investigation and hearing.

Her husband, Jonathan Toebbe, 43, is a former Navy nuclear engineer who was accused of trying to pass information about designs for nuclear-powered submarines to an undercover FBI agent posing as a representative of a foreign government. Prosecutors say Toebbe hid memory cards containing the sensitive information inside peanut butter sandwiches, Band-aid wrappers and chewing gum packages.

At a hearing Monday in a West Virginia courtroom, Jonathan Toebbe pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to communicate restricted data. The plea agreement calls for a possible sentence of 12 ½ to 17 ½ years in prison.

Prosecutors said in court filings that the scheme began in April 2020 when Jonathan Toebbe, who worked on the Navy's nuclear propulsion program, mailed a package of restricted information to representatives of a foreign country, offering to reveal many more secrets in exchange for up to \$5 million in cryptocurrency.

After the U.S. government learned about the offer, the FBI reached out to him, pretending to be from the country he contacted. The country was not identified in the court filings.

Prosecutors said he at first wanted to deal strictly by email but later agreed to store the data on SD cards,

which he would leave at designated “dead drop” locations.

Investigators said he concealed the cards in half a peanut butter sandwich, a chewing gum package and a sealed Band-Aid wrapper, making the drops in June, July, August and October. Court documents said the cards included designs for the Navy’s Virginia-class submarines, nuclear-powered fast-attack vessels incorporating stealth technology that are able to fire cruise missiles.

By Aug. 28, the FBI had paid Jonathan Toebbe \$100,000 in cryptocurrency, the documents say. The next day, he sent an email thanking the person he believed was his foreign intelligence handler, according to the court documents.

“One day, when it is safe, perhaps two old friends will have a chance to stumble into each other at a cafe, share a bottle of wine and laugh over stories of their shared exploits,” he wrote, according to the court filings.

“I will always remember your bravery in serving your country and your commitment to helping me,” he added, the filings say.

Jonathan Toebbe has agreed to give back the \$100,000 and the restricted data he took.

The couple, who live in Maryland, has two young children.

The plea documents don’t specify a motive, but court documents previously filed in the case suggest the company had money problems and also were extremely frustrated with the direction of the country under President Donald Trump.

Ken Dilanian

Ken Dilanian is a correspondent covering intelligence and national security for the NBC News Investigative Unit.



Metallurgist Sentenced to 2.5 Years for Faking Submarine Steel Tests

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/metallurgist-sentenced-to-2-5-years-for-faking-submarine-steel-tests>

THE MARITIME EXECUTIVE FEB 15, 2022

The former chief metallurgist for the U.S. Navy's top supplier of high-strength steel for nuclear submarines has been sentenced to 2.5 years in prison for her role in falsifying quality tests.

According to lead prosecutor Seth Wilkinson, the suspect - named as Elaine Thomas, 67 - ran one of the "longest-running military procurement fraud schemes in history." The alleged fraud spans a period of nearly four decades beginning in the mid-1980s.

Thomas' former employer, Bradken Inc., was the U.S. Navy's leading supplier of high-yield steel castings for submarine construction. In 2008, the company acquired a Tacoma foundry that makes the castings that the Navy's two prime contractors use to make submarine hulls. The Navy requires that the steel must meet demanding test standards for strength and toughness.

Thomas, as the Tacoma foundry's director of metallurgy, has admitted that she falsified results to hide the fact that the steel had failed certain strength tests - in particular, a test for resistance to cracking in extreme cold conditions. According to charging documents, Thomas faked the results for over 240 batches of HY-80 and HY-100 steel, covering a "substantial percentage" of the castings that the foundry produced for the Navy from 1985 to 2017. Federal investigators were notified, and Thomas was charged with fraud; she pled guilty last November.

According to Bradken, this pattern of fraud resulted in the installation of "hundreds of substandard castings on Navy vessels" built by General Dynamics Electric Boat and Huntington Ingalls Industries. Prosecutors say that Bradken's management was not aware of the fraudulent test results until May 2017, when a new lab manager took over the role and reported that Thomas' test cards appeared to have been systematically altered.

Prosecutors sought a six-year sentence for Thomas, citing the cost of testing for the Navy and the uncertain extent of any deficiencies Thomas may have allowed into the construction of some of America's most important weapons systems. In sentencing, the judge noted the absence of a compelling motive or any financial gain, describing Thomas' long-running deceit as a "baffling" crime of "pride and ego," according to the Kitsap Sun.



The UK's newest aircraft carrier has already encountered a century-old undersea threat

Vivienne Machi, Feb 23, 2022, 5:14 PM

A US Marine Corps F-35B lands on HMS Queen Elizabeth in the South China Sea, July 29, 2021. Royal Navy/PO Jay Allen

- **British aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth was trailed by Chinese submarines as it sailed through the South China Sea this fall.**
- **That encounter, during the carrier's maiden deployment, was an introduction to the challenge that subs pose to aircraft carriers.**
- **After Decades focused elsewhere, navies are reemphasizing anti-submarine warfare to counter that increasingly sophisticated threat.**
- **After decades focused elsewhere, navies are reemphasizing anti-submarine warfare to counter that increasingly sophisticated threat.**

During its maiden deployment this fall, the British Royal Navy's newest aircraft carrier launched into anti-submarine-warfare training when it detected Chinese submarines nearby.

The encounter was a taste of what Western navies can expect in an era of renewed great-power competition with peer adversaries — namely, China and Russia.

A UK carrier strike group led by the HMS Queen Elizabeth detected Chinese subs as it sailed through the Indo-Pacific region and was ready to intercept any incoming aircraft with fighter jets aboard the carrier, Sky News reported in November.

Royal Navy officials told the outlet how the carrier's accompanying frigates and helicopters, equipped for anti-submarine warfare (ASW), held the Chinese boats at bay until the carrier could "literally side-step" them.

The run-in served as training for both the Chinese submarines — which without a doubt intended to gather reams of data on the Queen Elizabeth — and for the British-led multinational carrier strike group, comprising eight supporting ships, including a Dutch frigate and a US guided-missile destroyer, along with a British Astute-class submarine and five air squadrons.

The carrier sailed with a blended air wing of US Marine Corps and Royal Air Force F-35Bs, along with British Merlin helicopters, during the seven-month deployment that featured interactions and exercises with over 40 countries.

The deployment was an opportunity for the United Kingdom's newest naval asset to venture into the Indo-Pacific — a region of growing interest and activity for many of the world's militaries.

It also tested the navy's ASW acumen after many years of atrophy and provided an opportunity for the fleet to understand "the issues involved in deploying a task force of this size and capability, at this range, into that region, and how it fits in with working with allies and partners," said Nick Childs, a senior naval analyst at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

The navies that took part in the deployment have had limited occasion to practice real-world ASW since the end of the Cold War. Some, including the US Navy, have reemphasized ASW in recent years, but it remains a challenging discipline.

The different platforms helped the strike group detect the subs nearby, but unmanned systems and more varied sonar techniques could help fill gaps in Western navies' anti-submarine warfare strategies.

Old threat, new methods

A British Astute-class submarine sails with HMS Queen Elizabeth, June 13, 2021. Royal Navy/PO Jay Allen

Submarines have posed an undersea threat to surface fleets for over a century, but recent technological advancements make them particularly menacing for aircraft carriers.

Many navies, including China's and Russia's, have introduced newer generations of submarines that are much quieter than their predecessors. Others, such as North Korea and Iran, are using subs to "level the playing field" with regional and Western competitors, according to a report by the Hudson Institute, a US think tank.

For over a decade, Beijing's submarines have shadowed US carrier deployments for training purposes. Their presence, in turn, becomes a training opportunity for the carrier strike group to "hunt a sub," said Bryan Clark, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute and a coauthor of the report.

There are plenty of ways to respond to an identified submarine threat, but actually detecting it in the first place is the tough part, Clark said. "Finding it means you've got to use sonar. Sonars have a limited range, and they can only cover certain sectors. So you've really got to have multiple platforms out there ... to be able to cover the 360 degrees around the carrier."

The Royal Navy likely anticipated that it would encounter some Chinese submarines over the course of this deployment and approached that as its own training mission, Clark told Insider.

Beijing "will want to get as much data as possible on the UK strike group, particularly the Queen Elizabeth," Clark said. That includes acoustic and electromagnetic data, along with information on different radars and radio systems.

While submarines themselves have become more technologically sophisticated, the main way navies find subs — using receivers to detect vibrations and sound waves in the water via passive sonar — is largely unchanged since the Cold War.

But new undersea vessels are so quiet that the range on a passive sonar system is too restricted to detect them, Clark said. The Merlin helicopters aboard the Queen Elizabeth have dipping sonar systems, but those are only really effective at a short range, he added.

European navies are shifting back to "active sonar" technologies that send sound waves through the water in order to find those boats, a method that will probably be "the future of anti-submarine warfare for the next couple of decades," Clark said.

The arrival of HMS Queen Elizabeth in 2017 was a renewal of the Royal Navy's carrier capability after its last carrier left service in 2014. As with its carriers, the Royal Navy is renewing its focus on ASW, which it neglected for more than a decade.

In 2016, the UK committed to buying nine P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft from the US, and it received the last of them in January. The P-8 is considered the most capable sub-hunting aircraft in operation.

The Type 26 City-class frigate in production for the Royal Navy "will probably be the best anti-submarine frigate in the world, when it finally arrives," Childs said. The first, HMS Glasgow, is being built and is scheduled to enter service in the mid-2020s.

The next-generation frigate will host multiple ASW features, including an acoustically quiet hull and multiple sonar systems. It will have space to accommodate unmanned aerial systems and be capable of carrying anti-submarine rockets.

Unmanned systems could also fill in the gaps in ASW coverage for Western navies.

The Royal Navy has selected the maritime variant of the General Atomics-built MQ-9 Reaper drone. The MQ-9, which can stay aloft for more than 18 hours, has a dedicated ASW package that it can use to conduct an eight-hour patrol over a radius of 1,200 nautical miles.

With that kind of range, a drone like the MQ-9 could easily deploy from an airfield on shore, fly down to the ship, and operate from there, Clark noted.

The US navy is also developing an unmanned surface vessel that could eventually counter the submarine threat.

"Those are two unmanned systems that could help a lot in terms of giving [navies] more capacity for searching for submarines," Clark said.

Childs said that with renewed concern about great-power competition and with "the challenges of complex naval warfare," ASW is "back on the agenda in a way that it hadn't been in the last two or three decades."

"Everyone, from the Americans downwards, in terms of particularly carrier operations, is having to adapt to that," Childs said.

Vivienne Machi is an award-winning reporter based in Stuttgart, Germany. Her writing has appeared in outlets including Foreign Policy, Defense News, the Counter, and Via Satellite. Twitter: @VivienneMachi

History

National Medal of Honor Museum

<http://www.mohmuseum.org/>

Medal of Honor Monday: Navy Cmdr. Howard Walter Gilmore

By Katie Lange, February 7, 2022 DOD News

On this day in 1943, Commander Howard Gilmore earned the Medal of Honor. During World War II, Gilmore commanded the submarine U.S.S. Growler, which was damaged after ramming a Japanese gunboat and taking fire from its machine guns. Mortally wounded by the gunfire, Gilmore ordered the bridge cleared and his executive officer and a few wounded men went through the hatch. Realizing he could not get down the in time, he gave his legendary order: "Take her down." Gilmore's sacrifice ensured the sub's survival.

Read the full story of his heroic sacrifice below for [#MedalofHonorMonday](#), <https://bit.ly/35PYPyS>

Medal of Honor Citation

For distinguished gallantry and valor above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the U.S.S. Growler during her Fourth War Patrol in the Southwest Pacific from 10 January to 7 February 1943. Boldly striking at the enemy in spite of continuous hostile air and antisubmarine patrols, Comdr. Gilmore sank one Japanese freighter and damaged another by torpedo fire, successfully evading severe depth charges following each attack. In the darkness of night on 7 February, an enemy gunboat closed range and prepared to ram the Growler. Comdr. Gilmore daringly maneuvered to avoid the crash and rammed the attacker instead, ripping into her port side at 11 knots and bursting wide her plates. In the terrific fire of the sinking gunboat's heavy machineguns, Comdr. Gilmore calmly gave the order to clear the bridge, and refusing safety for himself, remained on deck while his men preceded him below. Struck down by the fusillade of bullets and having done his utmost against the enemy, in his final living moments, Comdr. Gilmore gave his last order to the officer of the deck, "Take her down." The Growler dived; seriously damaged but under control, she was brought safely to port by her well-trained crew inspired by the courageous fighting spirit of their dead captain.

See more at:

[Medal of Honor Monday: Navy Cmdr. Howard Walter Gilmore > U.S. Department of Defense > Story](#)

Commander, Submarine Forces

<https://www.sublant.usff.navy.mil/>

February 1 at 11:07 AM ·

On this day in 1902, USS Plunger (SS 2), the lead ship of the Plunger-class submarine, launched. She is commissioned Sept. 19, 1903, at the Holland Company yard at New Suffolk, Long Island, N.Y. In August 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt became the first U.S. President to dive in a submarine when he descended in Plunger.

Ensign Chester W. Nimitz is the submarine's final commander when Plunger is decommissioned Nov. 6, 1909 at the Charleston Navy Shipyard.

(In this photo, USS Plunger is underway off the New York Navy Yard, Brooklyn, N.Y., circa 1909. This print is autographed in red ink by Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN, who was one of Plunger's Commanding Officers.) [#SubmarineForce](#) [#USNavy](#) [#NavalHistory](#)

October 1960 – HMS Dreadnought, the UK's first nuclear submarine

By Jason Ford 4th October 2021

In October 1960 The Engineer reported on the introduction of the Royal Navy's first nuclear submarine – HMS Dreadnought

March 2022

In October 1960 Queen Elizabeth II continued a tradition that began in Barrow-in-Furness in 1886 and continues to this day at a site that is only one of a handful worldwide capable of building nuclear submarines.

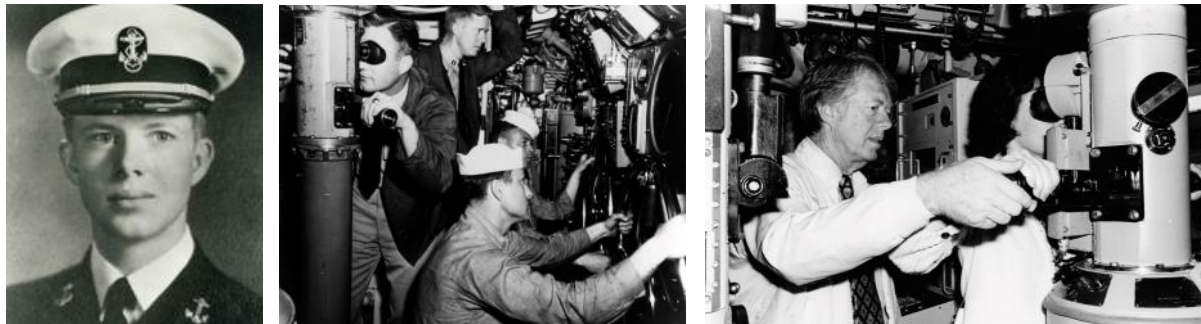
See more at: [October 1960 - HMS Dreadnought, the UK's first nuclear submarine | The Engineer The Engineer](#)



Commander, Submarine Forces

February 21 at 12:31 PM

Today, we celebrate President's Day by remembering the only president to serve in the Submarine Force, 39th President of the United States Jimmy Carter.



In 1946, Carter graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with distinction and reported to USS Wyoming (E-AG 17). After serving two years on surface ships, Carter applied for submarine duty. Upon completion of the U.S. Navy Submarine School in New London, Connecticut, Carter was assigned to his first submarine, USS Pomfret (SS 391) in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Detaching from Pomfret in 1951, Carter assumed the role as the engineering officer for the precommissioning detail for USS K-1 (SSK 1). After the boat's commissioning on Nov. 10, 1951, Carter went on to serve as the executive officer, engineering officer and electronics repair officer. It was during his service on K-1 that Carter qualified for command of a submarine.

In 1952, Carter began work with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), Division of Reactor Development. His work with the AEC was part of Admiral Hyman G. Rickover's program for the creation of nuclear-powered submarines. Carter helped prepare training for Sailors aboard USS Seawolf (SSN 575) as he prepared to become the engineering officer for the boat's upcoming nuclear power plant.

Unfortunately, his father became sick during this time and died in July of 1953. Lt. Jimmy Carter was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy to tend to family matters Oct. 9, 1953,

Carter would go on to enter Georgia politics and later become the state's governor in 1970. In 1977, Carter was elected as president of the United States.

The Seawolf-class attack submarine USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23) is named after the former president for his service in the Submarine Force and contributions to the creation of nuclear-powered submarines.

[#USNavy](#) [#SubmarineForce](#) [#PresidentsDay](#)



USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS



USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-007

NEWS-01:

Submitted by:

Shipmates,

NEWS-01: USSVI VSO Newsletter for February, 2022

Submitted by: John Dudas, USSVI VSO on 1/31/2022

Shipmates,

House Approves Bill to Automatically Enroll Vets in VA Health Care

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/01/20/house-approves-bill-automatically-enroll-vets-va-health-care.html?ESRC=navy-a_220126.nl

Drastic Cuts to Recruiting, Moves and New Ship Delays Are Inevitable Without a Budget, Navy Says

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/01/25/drastic-cuts-recruiting-moves-and-new-ship-delays-are-inevitable-without-budget-navy-says.html?ESRC=navy-a_220126.nl

2022 USAA Military Pay Deposit Dates

https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/usaa-military-pay-deposit-dates.html?ESRC=navy-a_220126.nl

Your 2022 State Veteran Benefits

https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/state-veterans-benefits-directory.html?ESRC=mr_220124.nl

New Mexico Considers Sending the Guard to Staff Schools as Governors Face Growing Labor Crisis

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/01/18/new-mexico-considers-sending-guard-staff-schools-governors-face-growing-labor-crisis.html?ESRC=mr_220124.nl

Thousands of Ineligible Medical Providers Are Enrolled in the VA's Community Care Program

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/01/19/thousands-of-ineligible-medical-providers-are-enrolled-vas-community-care-program.html?ESRC=mr_220124.nl

VA Tests New Automated System that Could Speed Up Claims Decisions

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/01/18/va-tests-new-automated-system-could-speed-claims-decisions.html?ESRC=mr_220124.nl

Exposed to Environmental Toxins in the Military? A House Committee Wants to Hear from You

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/01/18/exposed-environmental-toxins-military-house-committee-wants-hear-you.html?ESRC=mr_220124.nl

Few Details from Pentagon, VA After White House Unveils Suicide Prevention Plan Focused on Gun Safety

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2021/11/03/few-details-pentagon-va-after-white-house-unveils-suicide-prevention-plan-focused-gun-safety.html?ESRC=mr_220124.nl

Anticipating Boom of Aging Veterans, VA to Expand Care, Services for the Elderly

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/01/26/anticipating-boom-of-aging-veterans-va-expand-care-services-elderly.html?ESRC=mr_220131.nl

Navy SEALs Stop Training in State Parks as Locals Sue Over 'War Games'

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/01/26/navy-seals-stop-training-state-parks-locals-sue-over-war-games.html?ESRC=mr_220131.nl

The Navy's New Train Car Has All the Firepower and Tech You Need for Nuclear Security

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/01/27/navys-new-train-car-has-all-firepower-and-tech-you-need-nuclear-security.html?ESRC=mr_220131.nl

Navy Boots 23 Sailors for Refusing Vaccines as Leaders Push Rule Changes for Next Stage of Pandemic

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/01/26/navy-boots-23-sailors-refusing-vaccines-leaders-push-rule-changes-next-stage-of-pandemic.html?ESRC=mr_220131.nl

What Happens to Tricare When You Become Eligible for Medicare?

https://www.military.com/benefits/tricare/retiree/what-happens-tricare-when-you-become-eligible-medicare.html?ESRC=mr_220131.nl

13 Often Forgotten-About Military Family Benefits

https://www.military.com/spouse/military-life/often-forgotten-about-military-family-benefits.html?ESRC=mr_220131.nl

Pentagon Pumps the Brakes on Civilian COVID Vaccine Mandate

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/01/27/pentagon-pumps-brakes-civilian-covid-vaccine-mandate.html?ESRC=mr_220131.nl

Roughly 100 New Mexico Guardsmen Fill In as Substitute Teachers

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/01/26/roughly-100-new-mexico-guardsmen-set-fill-substitute-teachers.html?ESRC=mr_220131.nl

Two Army Vets Awarded \$110 Million in 3M Earplug Lawsuit

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/01/28/two-army-vets-awarded-110-million-3m-earplug-lawsuit.html?ESRC=mr_220131.nl

GI Bill Users Must Now Verify Their School Attendance to Get Paid

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/01/26/gi-bill-users-must-now-verify-their-school-attendance-get-paid.html?ESRC=mr_220131.nl

John Dudas

USSVI Veterans Service Officer

john.dudas.ssn571@gmail.com

928-636-9004

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USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-008

NEWS-01: 2022 National Officer Nominations

Submitted by: John E Markiewicz, IPNC on 2/1/2022

Shipmates,

2022 is an Election Year. The Following National Officer Positions and Requirements for Office Are Available:
SECOND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

National Commander: Nominees for National Commander must have completed at least two years as a voting member of the Board of Directors by the time they take office as National Commander.

National Senior Vice Commander: Nominees for Senior Vice-Commander must have completed at least two years as a Member of the Board of Directors and must certify that they have or will develop a working familiarity of the USSVI bookkeeping software (QuickBooks).

National Junior Vice Commander: Nominees for Junior Vice-Commander must have completed at least two years as a Member of the Board of Directors.

National Treasurer: Must be a Regular member in good standing and Nominees for National Treasurer must have some experience in bookkeeping, certify that they have, or will develop a working knowledge of the USSVI approved bookkeeping software (QuickBooks), use the USSVI approved software as part of his/her duties as National Treasurer, and cannot change to another software package without the Board of Director's approval.

National Secretary: Must be a Regular member in good standing.

Regional Director: Must be a member in good standing of a Base within the Region. The Nominee must be currently serving or has served as a Regional Director, District Commander or Base Officer.

Note: All nominations must be sent to the Nominations Committee Chairman on or before March 1st, 2022. The nomination is accompanied by a letter from the Nominee indicating his willingness to accept the nomination and willingness to serve if elected. The Nomination Letter includes details of the nominee's qualifications in less than one hundred (100) words.

The 2022 Nominations Committee Chairman is IPNC John E. Markiewicz, e-mail is markiewiczjohn4@gmail.com .



USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-009

NEWS-01: 2022 National Awards Bulletin

Submitted by: Submitted by: Harold W (Bill) Scott, Nat Awards Chair on 2/2/2022

Shipmates,

We have many individual Members and Bases that contribute untold hours working to help their shipmates, advance our organization and follow the directives of our Purpose/Creed. Unfortunately, too many of these efforts and accomplishments go unnoticed because they take place at the local level and remain under National's Radar.

Please don't procrastinate, read the individual award requirements and submission procedures described in the 2022 USSVI Awards Manual and take the painless steps to recognize these Shipmates, Bases and Newsletters.

The Manual can be found at the USSVI.org website on the Awards and Manuals Tabs.

2022 Awards Submission Timeline:

FEBRUARY 1: Award Nomination period opens and all USSVI Members in good standing submit Award nominations to the National Awards Chair.

APRIL 30: All Award nominations (with exception of Newsletter Award) must be received by the National Awards Chair at the close of business on this date.

MAY 15: All Newsletter Award nominations must be received by the National Awards Chair at the close of business on this date.

MAY 17: The National Awards Chair submits nominations to the respective Award on Committee Chair for voting and on of recipients.

JUNE 15: All Award SelCommittee Chairs report selections to the National Awards Chair.

Please submit questions and nominations to the National Awards Chairman, Harold W (Bill) Scott II at hscottss242@gmail.com or mail to the following address:

National Awards Program Chair
Harold W (Bill) Scott II
901 Busleigh Castle Way
Pflugerville, TX 78660-7474

Honored to Serve,
Harold W (Bill) Scott II, STSCS(SS) USN RET.
USSVI National Awards Chair
Chief of the Boat, USSVI Central Texas Base
CTB Newsletter Editor
512-826-8876



USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-010

NEWS-01: USSVCF Living Legacy Fund

Submitted by: Ken Earls on 2/9/2022

Shipmates,

Everyone is proud of their submarine experience. Some of us credit that experience as a highlight of our entire life.

You can memorialize that experience by creating your own Living Legacy with the US Submarine Veterans

Charitable Foundation.

Go to Legacy Fund - United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc. (ussvcf.org) to download the Living Legacy information sheet along with the Pledge Form.

Feel free to contact Ken Earls if you have specific questions.

Thank you.

Ken Earls
Executive Director & Treasurer
Charitable Foundation
United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.
kenearls.ss@gmail.com



USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2022-011

NEWS-01: 2022 Buffalo National Convention Registration info

Submitted by: Fred Marazita on 2/10/2022

Shipmates,

Registration for this year's National Convention in buffalo is now online. This year's registration will be a little different than in the past.

You may go directly to the National Convention website, ussviconvention.org/2022/ and click on the convention registration button, instead of going to a pdf as in the past, you will go to a new page that will allow you to complete your reservation online and pay by credit card, PayPal or check.

The "landing page" will give you information concerning the convention and Covid and identification protocols for entry into Canada. Please be sure to read this information.

There are two simple pages to enter information on. On the first page you the events/dinners/tours you want to go to and the number that will attend. On the second page you will fill out all of your personal information, emergency contact and select entrée for the awards banquet and size for your souvenir T-shirt if you selected that option.

You will then have the option of paying with a credit card now or by mailing in a check.

You will be able to immediately print out your itinerary and it will also be sent directly to your email.

Fred "Fritz" Marazita
Buffalo Base Commander



We Are Veterans

To understand a Military Veteran you must know:

We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.

We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.

We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.
We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.
We found new friends and new family.
We became brothers and sisters regardless of color, race or creed. We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.
We didn't get enough sleep.
We smoked and drank too much.
We picked up both good and bad habits.
We worked hard and played harder.
We didn't earn a great wage.
We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.
We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.
We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.
We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.
Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.
Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.
Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.
We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.
We participated in time honored ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.
We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.
We have dealt with victory and tragedy.
We have celebrated and mourned.
We lost a few along the way. When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.
We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.
We share an unspoken bond with each other that most people don't experience, and few will understand.
We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches.
We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.
Being a Veteran is something that has to be earned, and it can never be taken away.
It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.
People see a Veteran and they thank them for their service.
When we see each other, we give that little upwards head nod, or a slight smile, knowing that we have shared and experienced things that most people have not.
So, from myself to the rest of the veterans out there, I commend and thank you for all that you have done and sacrificed for your country.
Try to remember the good times and make peace with the bad times.
Share your stories. But most importantly, stand tall and proud, for you have earned the right to be called a Veteran.
We are VETERANS!

Author unknown



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Cranky

Cranky because her husband was late coming home again, decided to leave a note, saying, "I've had enough and have left you...don't bother coming after me".

Then she hid under the bed to see his reaction.

After a short while, the husband comes home and she could hear him in the kitchen before he comes into the bedroom. She could see him walk towards the dresser and pick up the note. After a few minutes, he wrote something on it before picking up the phone and calling someone.

"She's finally gone...yeah I know, it is about time, I'm coming to see you, put on that sexy French nightie. I love you...can't wait to see you...we'll do all the naughty things you like." He hung up, grabbed his keys, and left.

She heard the car drive off as she came out from under the bed, seething with rage and with tears in her eyes. She grabbed the note to see what he wrote.

"I can see your feet. We're outta bread; be back in five minutes.

=====

Dad Joke

When does a joke become a Dad Joke?

When it's full groan!

=====

British Army Humour

Ann innocent typo was made and all parties involved have gotten as much enjoyment as they could out of it.

Lt. Colonel Robert Maclaren retired from the British Army in 2001 after a long fulfilling career. On the day that he retired he received a letter from the Personnel Department of the Ministry of Defence setting out details of his pension and, in particular, the tax-free 'lump sum' award, (based upon completed years of service), that he would receive in addition to his monthly pension. The letter read,

"Dear Lt. Colonel Maclaren,

We write to confirm that you retired from the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards on 1st March 2001 at the rank of Lt Colonel, having been commissioned into the British Army at Edinburgh Castle as a 2nd Lieutenant on 1st February 1366.

Accordingly your lump sum payment, based on years served, has been calculated as £68,500. You will receive a cheque for this amount in due course.

Yours sincerely

Army Paymaster"

Colonel Maclaren replied;

"Dear Paymaster,

Thank you for your recent letter confirming that I served as an officer in the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards between 1st February 1366 and 1st March 2001 – a total period of 635 years and 1 month.

I note however that you have calculated my lump sum to be £68, 500, which seems to be considerably less than it should be bearing in mind my length of service since I received my commission from King Edward III.

By my calculation, allowing for interest payments and currency fluctuations, my lump sum should actually be £6, 427, 586, 619. 47p.

I look forward to receiving a cheque for this amount in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Maclaren (Lt Col Retd)”

A month passed by and then in early April, a stout manilla envelope from the Ministry of Defence in Edinburgh dropped through Col. Maclaren’s letter box, it read:

“Dear Lt Colonel Maclaren,

We have reviewed the circumstances of your case as outlined in your recent letter to us dated 8th March inst. We do indeed confirm that you were commissioned into the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards by King Edward III at Edinburgh Castle on 1st February 1366, and that you served continuously for the following 635 years and 1 month.

We have re-calculated your pension and have pleasure in confirming that the lump sum payment due to you is indeed £6, 427, 586, 619. 47p.

However, we also note that according to our records you are the only surviving officer who had command responsibility during the following campaigns and battles;

The Wars of the Roses 1455 -1485 (Including the battles of Bosworth Field, Barnet and Towton) The Civil War 1642 -1651 (Including the battles Edge Hill, Naseby and the conquest of Ireland) The Napoleonic War 1803 – 1815 (including the battle of Waterloo and the Peninsular War) The Crimean War (1853 – 1856) (including the battle of Sevastopol and the Charge of the Light Brigade), The Boer War (1899 -1902) and World War One (1914-1918).

We would therefore wish to know what happened to the following, which do not appear to have been returned to Stores by you on completion of operations:

9765 Cannons

26,785 Swords

12,889 Pikes

127,345 Rifles (with bayonets)

28,987 horses (fully kitted)

Plus three complete marching bands with instruments and banners.

We have calculated the total cost of these items and they amount to £6,427,518.119.47p. We have therefore subtracted this sum from your lump sum, leaving a residual amount of £68,500, for which you will receive a cheque in due course.

Yours sincerely”

=====

CALLING ALL SUBMARINERS!

Come join us in Galveston, TX April 8-10, 2022
for the 2nd Annual Lone Star Subvet Round-Up!

A gathering for all Submariners and their families and
celebrating the Submarine Force's 122nd Birthday



**2022 Lonestar
Subvet Round-Up**

**Galveston, Tx
April 8-10, 2022**

Come spend the
weekend or just a day!
Friday Evening BBQ Picnic
Saturday Morning Ceremony
@ Seawolf Park
Saturday Evening Banquet

**Rooms for \$159/night @ Homewood Suites
on Seawall Blvd. (requires 2 night stay)**
[Click Here for Room Reservations](#)
Room Block closes 7 March, 2022

**Camping/RV at Sandpiper Resort
on the beach right accross from
Homewood Suites**
Call 1-409-765-9431 for reservations

**Many Great Door Prizes
throughout the weekend!**

For more information
call 512-639-0035



**All Profits go to the
USSVI Charitable
Foundation**

All,

I spoke with Vena of Sandpiper RV Resort, and she gave me more information. Travel Trailers must be in good condition and look presentable. All guests must call for reservations (409-765-9431), no block reservations. At this time, they have many sites available but this will probably change by mid-January. Sites must be reserved for two (2) nights on weekend. You may cancel the reservation without cost up to one week in advance. I have attached the site map for reference.

Rates for our weekend:

Sites 1A -15/ 25-30 (Back in) = \$80/night
Sites 18-24A (Pull thru) = \$85/night
Sites 32-40 (Back in/ outside fence) = \$75/night
Sites 16, 17, 31 (Premium Beach front) \$90/night

Sunday thru Thursday, the rate is \$10/night less. A 10% discount is applied for military/veteran, AARP, AAA, and Good Sam's.

Website is <https://www.sandpiperrvresort.com/>

This RV Resort is across Seawall Boulevard from the Lone Star Round-up designated hotel. The swimming pool and hot tub will be open, and Vena said that by April the pool will have warmed up.

There are other RV Parks further south along Seawall Boulevard, and I will inquire about them if anyone shows interest, The State Park is fifteen (15) miles away and has only a few sites available for our time period.

If you have any questions, please contact me,

Tom Williams
USSVI Central Region Director
512-632-9439
texsubvet@1791.com

"Tenacity Dick... stay with the bastard until he's on the bottom."
Cdr. Dudley "Mush: Morton to Lt. Richard "Dick" O'Kane aboard USS
Wahoo (SS 238)

2022 Lonestar Subvet Round-Up

April 8-10, 2022

Galveston, Texas

Name: _____
Guest: _____
Guest: _____
Guest: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Base if USSVI Member: _____

I'll be staying at Homewood Suites or Other area Hotel
 I'll be camping at Sandpiper RV Resort or Other area campground
 I'll be coming for day trips only

Registration Fee \$10 single \$15 Couple/Family Total _____
Helps to offset costs and provide each registrant 1 or 2 door prize chances

8 April 2022 1800 Welcome Aboard BBQ Dinner

\$25 per # _____ Total _____

Dinner to be provided by Queens BBQ
Location expected to be Seawolf Park
2 Meat BBQ Plate w/ 2 sides and deserts. Non-Alcoholic beverages provided. BYOB (no glass allowed!)

9 April 2022 1800 - 2200 Dinner Banquet @ Fishermans Wharf

\$50 per # _____ Total _____

Dinner to be 3 or 4 entrée full buffet
Live Music playing an assortment of music
Door Prize drawings for those in attendance
50/50 winner drawn (attendance not required)

50/50 Drawing - Proceeds go to remaining balance on any event costs then to USSVI Charitable Foundation

Drawing to be held about 2100 during the Banquet
Presence not required (but preferred) to win

_____ \$5 each Total _____

There will be opportunity to purchase more 50/50 tickets at the events
There will also be opportunity to purchase more door prize tickets at the events

9 April 1000 Ceremony held at USS Cavalla at Seawolf Park

Information only attendance not required but we encourage all to attend
Ceremony planned to honor Lost Boats, Sub Force Birthday and highlighting the USS Cavalla
USS Cavalla is inviting us to be part of their Reunion Ceremony

Total Money _____

Please mail or email registration form and checks payable to: USSVI Central Texas Base

Rick Mitchell or rmitch2@yahoo.com

2000 CR 100

Georgetown, TX 78626

*CC and PayPal payment available upon request (3% service charge)

*CTB receives no funds from this event just using this account for accounting