



# THE DECK LOG

## USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

### AUGUST 2023



#### *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*

#### USS Bullhead SS-332



Lost on August 6, 1945 with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her 3rd war patrol when sunk by a depth charge dropped by a Japanese Army plane. U. S. and British submarines operating in the vicinity were unable to contact Bullhead and it was presumed that she was sunk during Japanese anti-submarine attacks. Bullhead was the last boat lost in WWII.

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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 Mi-crosoft Publisher PDF format to the Base Membership. A printed copy is mailed via USPS to those shipmates requesting a mailed copy.

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**USSVI WEB SITE:** <https://www.ussvi.org/>

**BASE WEB SITE:** <https://ussvicentaltexasbase.org/>

**FACEBOOK PAGE:** <https://www.facebook.com/ussvicentaltexas/>

**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://ussvicentaltexasbase.org/>



2021  
Rick Mitchell  
Bill Scott

2017 Tom  
Williams

2010, 2014,  
2017, 2020

2020 Base

2020  
Bob Steinmann,  
Hubert Jackson

2012, 2013, 2018,  
2019, 2020,  
2021, 2022

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



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



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



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



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



Sub Vet Store (americommerce.com)



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



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



[www.navyleagueaustin.org](http://www.navyleagueaustin.org)



[www.navyleague.org](http://www.navyleague.org)



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



[www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)



[www.shiftcolors.navy.mil](http://www.shiftcolors.navy.mil)



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



<http://www.submarinesailor.com>



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



<http://isausa.org/>



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



<https://www.silent-service-challenge-coins.com/>



[Naval History and Heritage Command](http://www.history.navy.mil/)

## ***SILENT RUNNING - AUGUST***

*"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 Bullhead (SS 332)**

Lost on August 6, 1945 with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her 3rd war patrol when sunk by a depth charge dropped by a Japanese Army plane. U. S. and British submarines operating in the vicinity were unable to contact Bullhead and it was presumed that she was sunk during Japanese antisubmarine attacks. Bullhead was the last boat lost in WWII.



### **USS Flier (SS 250)**

Lost on August 13, 1944, with the loss of 78 crew members while on her 2nd war patrol. Flier was transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute. 13 survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. 8 survived and 6 days later friendly natives guided them to a Coast Watcher and they were evacuated by the USS Redfin.



### **USS S-39 (SS 144)**

Lost on August 14, 1942 after grounding on a reef south while on her 3rd war patrol. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by the HMAS Katoomba. S-39 grounded on submerged rocks off Rossel Island and took on a 35° list to port. The crew was rescued. The S-39 was abandoned and left to "break up" on the rocks.



### **USS Harder (SS 257)**

Lost on August 24, 1944 with the loss of 79 crew members from a depth charge attack by a minesweeper near Bataan while on her 6th war patrol. Harder had won a Presidential Unit Citation for her first 5 war patrols and CDR Dealey, "a submariner's submariner," was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously. Harder is tied for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk.



### **USS Cochino (SS 345)**

Lost on August 26, 1949 after being jolted by a violent polar gale off Norway caused an electrical fire and battery explosion that generated hydrogen and chlorine gasses. In extremely bad weather, men of Cochino and Tusk (SS-426) fought to save the submarine for 14 hours. After a 2nd battery explosion, Abandon Ship was ordered, Cochino sank. Tusk's crew rescued all of Cochino's men except for one civilian engineer. Six sailors from Tusk were lost during the rescue.



### **USS Pompano (SS 181)**

Lost on August 29, 1943 (between Aug 8 and Sept 27) with the loss of 77 men while on her 7th war patrol. Before being lost, she sank two enemy cargo ships. The exact cause of her loss remains unknown, but she probably fell victim to a mine. This boat's last known ship sunk happened on Sept 25th, so she probably hit that mine on or after that date but before Oct 5th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.

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





## USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE NEWS

### *BASE COMMANDER'S REPORT*



Howdy Shipmates!

Has anyone noticed its hot out there lately? Nothing but bright sunny days on the horizon too. Usually that's a good thing but it just goes to show too much of a good thing may not always be. Mark Twain once said: "Too much of anything is bad, but too much good whiskey is barely enough." I don't know about the whiskey but how about "Too much of anything is bad, but too much fellowship with other bubbleheads is barely enough." I don't know, but getting out and getting to talk and listen to you all at our various functions and at your homes or wherever always encourages me. I love hearing your stories, thoughts, and ideas and how things are going in your lives. There's not one of you that I have not learned something of value from. I hope you all feel the same also. We all have a common bond that only a small percentage of the population will ever know. Whether you were a 2 or 40 year Submariner we all experienced

a brotherhood that no one else can ever understand and we have the opportunity to continue that. Whether you want to admit it or not, it's part of all of us and who we became. No, not that it made us or anything like that, but it helped shape our habits and viewpoints and in a ways part of who were are and will always be. At least that's the way I see it.

We started off July with our traditional participation in the Round Rock 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. The Brazos Valley base also came out and brought their float. It was an early start, but we had a full crowd of Submariners, family, and friends on our float. The city of Round Rock was out in force and really cheered us on. We came home with the Stars and Stripes Award this year. It is awarded to the best veteran's organization entry. In some years past we were the only ones and won by default but this year there were numerous other veteran orgs entered in the parade. Thanks to everyone who came out and played a part. We even ran across a couple Submariners who did not know about us and are interested in getting more involved.

Speaking of new members, we welcomed a couple of new members to USSVI and our base this month at our meeting. Welcome aboard shipmates. They were:

**David Lewis** from out in Bertram - Qualified in 1969 onboard the USS Sea Robin (SS-407)

**Mark White** from Cedar Creek - Qualified in 1994 onboard the USS Parche (SSN-683)

We may have another new member who is transferring into our base after relocating to Burnett from Minnesota and a few more new members on the horizon. Looking forward to getting to know you all a little better.

Hope to see many of you at our August meeting August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Georgetown VFW. After that we have our quarterly social scheduled for Saturday Sept 16<sup>th</sup> in Cedar Park. It will be a cookout with the meal provided by the base. Of course, pot luck dishes are always welcome and we will be conducting our annual member donation drive where any donation to the base will provide 1 chance to a drawing for a prize or 2. This helps pay for the meal here and goes towards our Christmas party also.

Hope you all stay cool and enjoy the rest of your summer. I know many of you are traveling and hope for safe and enjoyable travel. Thanks for everything each of you do!

Rick Mitchell - 512-639-0035 - [rmitch2@yahoo.com](mailto:rmitch2@yahoo.com)

#### **Dad Joke**

Did you know Saturday and Sunday are the strongest days?

The rest are just weekdays...



**USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Location:** VFW Post 8587 and ZOOM

**Meeting opened** at 19:00 by Rick Mitchell, Base Commander.

**E-Board was present**

**Minutes from April Meeting were approved.**

**Sailing List: 27 Total, 24 VFW and 3 Zoom**

**Binnacle List:** John Roberts, Chuck Trahan, Don Atkins, Cynthia Whittingslow and Bob Steinman

**Prayer:** Chuck Malone led the base in our opening Prayer.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Rick Mitchell

**Tolling of the Boats – July**

**Officer and Committee Reports**

**Treasurer's Report:** Virgil Claycamp

Current Total Funds as of 1 May 2023

1 Jun 2023 \$29,285.41

General: \$24,260.28

Memorial: \$4,158.33

In Line with the Budget

1 Jul 2023 \$28,418.61

**Memorial (Gene Hall):** Contractor is now onsite per Calvin Story

**Kaps 4 Kids (Shawn O'Shea):** The 11 July event was a Dell Childrens in Austin. Sam Amato was lead with Carl Repp, Harry Ullmann and Frank Abernathy participating. Six children and their parents or guardians were there. The next K4K is expected to be in early September at McLean Childrens. Bryan Eaton let us know that his wife works at the Cedar Park Dell Childrens and may be a possible future venue.

**Parade:** The Round Rock 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade was well attended. The Central Texas Base was joined by members of the Brazon Valley Base; they loaned their Submarine Float for this event. We won the 'Stars and Stripes Award' at the Parade.

**Membership (Chuck Malone):** 85 Current Members, 49 USSVI National Life, 41 Base Life and 41 Holland Club Members. Welcome Aboard David Lewis and Mark White.

**Birthdays 2023:** 7/8 Rick Mitchell, 7/9 Joe Kruppa, 7/12 James Gee, 7/16 Chuck Trahan, 7/23 Carl Scott, 7/24 Don McGriff, 8/9 Leonard Snyder, 8/12 Garret Onderdonk III and 8/18 Hubert Jackson.

**Operation Ivy Bells (Eric Heter):** This was a joint operation of the US Navy and NSA during the Cold War as an effort to learn strategic information about our enemy movements. Much of the basic information about the operations that involved 'tapping' communications cabling on the ocean floor can be found in the book "Blind Man's Bluff"

**Unfinished, Ongoing and Old Business**

**Annual Base Raffle**

This is a primary fund raiser for the base, this is a line item in our Annual Budget. We need to discuss what will be raffled, etc. We have earned ~\$6-8K per raffle we've done in the past. Gene Hall said that he'd take care of ticket distribution and handle the funds. Please think about this and what we should do. The drawing has typically been in November around Veteran's Day.

**2023 National Convention**

August 28 thru Sep 3 at Tucson, AZ

The event hotel is the Hilton El Conquistador with rooms at \$99/night.

In support of the convention the Central Texas Base will place a FULL Page Ad in the program guide for \$315.

Currently Chuck Trahan, Weldon Koenig, Rick Mitchell and Joe Kruppa are registered.

### **Blood Drive**

This will be on a Saturday Oct 8 from Noon-1600. More details will follow. We Are Blood will be drawing the blood.

### **Round Rock Express 23 Jun 2023 Ball Game Gathering**

Great time had by all on the Party Deck, good company, good food, drinks, shade and fireworks at the end. The RR Express won. We plan to do this again next year.

**Chuck Trahan** asked about the status of our new Base Float. Still in construction.

### **NEW Business:**

#### **Texas Fallen Project**

Rick Mitchell spoke about the Texas Fallen Project and suggested that we may want to support their activities that remember and support our veterans. Carl Repp placed a Motion to donate \$200 to their projects; Chuck Trahan seconded the Motion and after a brief discussion it was Passed by all present.

#### **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Snowden Cup 6 November 2023**

Frank Espinosa said the VFW Post 8587 will hold their Annual Fundraiser at the Georgetown Country Club with their Golf Tournament and are looking for Sponsorships and Teams to Play. Please Contact either Mikey McPhail, 254-715-5208, mmzyd@yahoo.com or Abe Yates. 916-606-6571, abran Yates135@gmail.com in the first weeks of October 2023 for details and to sign up.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Scholarship Mini-Golf Event – American Legion Post 174**

Frank Espinosa indicated that the American Legion Post 174 will be holding a Mini-Golf Event on 9 Oct 2023 to raise funds for Student Scholarships. This will be held at the Cen-Tex Mini Golf located at 5020 Airport Road in Georgetown. Registration cutoff for the two man teams is

1 September 2023. Please contact Amery Vasso 973-349-4777, Bill Catron 561-351-9625 or BJ MacMillian 512-635-3729 or go to <https://alpost174gtx.wixsite.com/georgetown> for more information or to register.

**Base Cookout on Saturday 16 September at Veterans Memorial Park:** More Details to follow.

#### **SubVet Roundup for 2024**

Currently planned to be held in Fredericksburg, TX from May 16 to 19. Further details will be coming in the future.

#### **Ball Caps for our Ships Store**

Rick had several Submarine Ball Caps for us to look and would like feedback on which we may want to stock in the Ships Store.

#### **Shipmate of the Month**

Gene Hall, was this month's Shipmate. Gene has been a member of USSVI since 1998. He has been qualified in subs since 1972, has served on 5 submarines and 2 surface ships. He has been a member of the Central Texas Base since 2006. His presentation was enjoyed by all.

**50/50 Raffle** – \$63 of \$125 was won by Bryan Eaton.

**Next Event** – 16 Sep 2023 Base Cookout

**Next Meeting** – 16 Aug 2023 at VFW 8587

### **Sailing List**

#### **Base Members and Visitors:**

**Local at the VFW Post 8587 (24):** Frank Abernathy, Sam Amato, Harry Boyer, Bill Brinkman, Ed Carr, Virgil Claycamp, Jack Collins, Bryan Eaton, Frank Espinosa, Michael Gauthier, Gene Hall, Eric Heter, Hubert Jack-

son, Chuck Malone, Fred Maynard, Dale Messing, Rick Mitchell, John Odom, Shawn O’Shea, Carl Repp, Bill Scott, Calvin Story, Chuck Trahan and David Lewis (Hubert Jackson’s Guest).

**VIA ZOOM (3):** Bill Bellinghausen, Gene Whitenack and Mark Lewis.

Meeting Adjourned by Rick Mitchell, ~2045 hours

Minutes submitted by Frank Abernathy, Yeoman, 26 July 2023

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***BASE TREASURER’S REPORT***

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**15 June 2023**

**Financial Report for Period Ending 5/31/2023**

<b>Beginning Balance - 6/1/2023</b>	<b>\$29,285.41</b>
RBFCU Checking (General Fund)	\$24,260.28
RBFCU Savings (Memorial Fund)	\$4,158.33
<b>Ending Balance - 6/30/2023</b>	<b>\$28,418.61</b>

Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer

*AUGUST 2023*



Leonard Snyder - 9 <sup>th</sup>
Garrett Onderdonk III - 12 <sup>th</sup>
Hubert Jackson - 18 <sup>th</sup>
Virgil Claycamp - 27 <sup>th</sup>
Jack Bellinoff - 21 <sup>st</sup>

*CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEMBERSHIP*

Report presented to Base Commander w/copy to the Yeoman.

Members listed in Central Texas Database	85
Regular Annual Members	24
National Life Members	50
Base Life Members	41
Holland Club Members	42
Associate Members	1
Dual Members	3
Prospective Members:	0
War Veterans	74
Members pending:	0

Submitted: Chuck Malone, Membership

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***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](mailto: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.

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***BINNACLE LIST***

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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.



John Roberts, Chuck Trahan, Don Atkins, Cynthia Whittingslow, Bob Steinmann, Other Shipmates not CTB members, and others?

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.

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*CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

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

16 August 2023, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, VFW Post #8587, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1900 meeting.

28 August 3 - September 2023, USSVI National Convention, Hotel El Conquistador, Tucson, AZ

16 September 2023, Kap(ss)4Kid(ss), , Details TBD

16 September 2023, Quarterly Social, Central Texas Base, Details TBD

7 October 2023, 1200-1600, We Are Blood Drive, VFW Post #8587, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, .

18 October 2023, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, Zoom and VFW Post #8587, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1900 meeting.

6 November 2023, 11th Annual Snowden Cup Golf Tournament, Georgetown Country Clu, Georgetown, TX. Ed. - See flyers at the back of the newsletter.

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*KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS)*

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Shipmate Sam Amato led our Kaps4Kids team at Dell Children’s Medical Center Round Rock on July 11<sup>th</sup> with the following committed volunteer shipmates; Harry Ullmann, Frank Abernathy and Carl Repp. Our CTB submarine veterans provided 7 children with a wonderful time and definitely put a smile on those kids faces. Awesome job by CTB K4K volunteers! Next visit is scheduled for September 7 at 11 am at Baylor, Scott, White McLane’s Children’s Medical Center Temple TX. We are restricted to 5 volunteers per visit. Please contact me to get signed up for a visit, first come first serve. Sharing our experiences with the children is priceless.

"No one stands so tall as when they stoop to help a child" - Abraham Lincoln

Sincerely, Shawn O’Shea  
Chairman K4K CTB

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*CHAPLAIN’S CORNER*

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**They’re all Hypocrites**

A lady went to the Pastor and said ... "I won’t be attending Church anymore."

He said, "May I ask why???"

She said, "I see people on their cell phones during the service, some are gossiping, some just ain’t living right, they are all just hypocrites."

The Pastor got silent and he said, "Ok... But can I ask you to do something for me before you make your final decision?"

She said, "What’s that?"

He said, "Take a glass of water and walk around the Church 2 times and don’t let any water fall out the glass."

She said, "Yes I can do that."

She came back and said "It's done."

He asked her 3 questions:

1. Did you see anybody on their phone?
2. Did you see anybody gossiping?
3. Was anybody living wrong?

She said, "I didn't see anything because I was so focused on this glass, so the water wouldn't fall."

He told her, "When you come to Church, you should be just that focused on God , so that you don't fall. That's why Jesus said 'Follow me.' He did not say follow Christians. Don't let your relationship with God be determined by how others relate with God. Let it be determined by how focused YOU are on God."



**National Commander Email**

**From the Desk of National Commander Bill Andrea**

NC Bill Andrea [via](mailto:blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com) blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com , 7-10-2023

Shipmates,

The current Issue (Issue #3, 2023) of American Submariner is now on line on both the old and new websites. You must be signed into access it.

Thank you for using the on-line version of our magazine

V/R, Bill Andrea, NC



**A US Ohio-class submarine carrying 20 Trident II ballistic missiles and nuclear warheads may visit South Korea in July for the first time in 42 years**

By: Maksim Panasovskyi | 7/3/23

<https://gagadget.com/en/271665-a-us-ohio-class-submarine-carrying-20-trident-ii-ballistic-missiles-and-nuclear-warheads-may-visit-south-korea-in-july-fo/>



This year, the US and the Republic of Korea signed the so-called "Washington Declaration", under which a US submarine carrying nuclear weapons will be sent to the Asian country for the first time in decades. This is likely to happen before the end of this month.

#### Here's What We Know

The US will send an Ohio-class submarine carrying intercontinental ballistic missiles and nuclear warheads to South Korea. It will be a move in response to the growing threats from North Korea. The last time a US submarine of the Trident system was in the Republic of Korea was in 1981.

The next submarine is expected to dock in the country on 27 July. That day will mark the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War Armistice Agreement. The document halted hostilities that took place from 1950 to 1953.

It is not yet known which strategic missile cruiser will go to South Korea. One of the candidates was the submarine [USS Maine \(SSBN-741\)](#). Apart from it, 13 other Ohio-class submarines are also equipped with ballistic missiles:

In total, they are capable of launching up to 20 Trident II (D5) intercontinental ballistic missiles, each armed with eight nuclear warheads. The maximum launch range is more than 12,000 km.



The USS Michigan (SSGN-727), which you can see in the photo above, recently visited the country for the first time since 2017. It too is an Ohio-class submarine, but it carries up to 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles without a nuclear warhead.

Source: [The Korean Times](#)



### **French Navy Submarine 'Perle' Is Operational Again**

By [Xavier Vavasseur](#) 06 Jul 2023

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2023/07/french-navy-submarine-perle-is-operational-again/>



Rubis-class SSN Perle during sea trials in May 2023. French Navy picture.

The French Navy announced that its Rubis-class nuclear-powered attack submarine (SSN) "Perle" is operational again. The submarine started a refit period in 2019, during which it suffered damages during a fire in

June 2020.

### Rubis-class SSN *Perle* suffered damages during a fire in June 2020.

According to the French Navy, the SSN *Perle* completed its period of “unavailability for maintenance and repairs” (dubbed “IPER” in French) on June 30, 2023, following successful sea trials. This means that the submarine is back in the operational cycle of the French Navy and able to deploy on missions.

The submarine started a refit period back in 2019. A fire broke out in June 2020 while the submarine was in dry dock in Toulon naval base. Following unprecedented repair work, carried by Naval Group at its submarine shipyard in Cherbourg, the SSN resumed its “IPER” in Toulon at the end of 2021. It began its dockside trials after leaving the dry dock on November 10, 2022. At sea trials began in May 2023. The start of the sea trials was marked by the first static dive carried out on May 22, in the harbor of Toulon.

During its IPER, *Perle* received a number of upgrade. The SSN is now capable of implementing the F21 heavyweight torpedo initially designed for Suffren-class submarines. During its operational qualifications, the crew will fire a practice F21 torpedo.

*Perle* now has an operational potential until 2028, the French MoD said in a statement released today.

About *Perle*’s unique repairs



Repair yard of *Perle* SSN at Naval Group shipyard in Cherbourg.  
Naval Group image.

*Perle* was transferred from Toulon to Cherbourg in December 2020. During the fire which lasted 13 hours, the high temperature altered the the quality of the submarine’ steel in the forward section of the hull. In order to “save” the submarine, the forward section of *Perle* was cut off and the forward section of another Rubis-class SSN, the *Saphir*, was welded back to *Perle*’s aft section. The Rubis-class SSN *Saphir* (second boat of the class) was **decommissioned in July 2019**.

The “transplanting” operation of the two submarines took place in the following way: cutting of the two submarines – January to March 2021; movement and alignment of the submarines halves – May 2021; welding of the thick hull; and splicing of hundreds of cables and manifolds (130 electrical cables and 70 hydraulic pipes had to be reconnected).

This operation was a first in France. The decision to proceed with this solution was taken following careful analysis by the technical experts of Naval Group, the DGA and French Navy.

About *Perle*’s fire



French Navy picture taken on 17 June showing the aftermath of the fire aboard *Perle* SSN, in its dry dock in Toulon; ©Benoit Emile/ Marine Nationale/Défense

For the record, on June 12 2020, at 10:35 am, **a fire broke out** in the fore zone of the Rubis-class SSN *Perle* in a basin within the naval base of Toulon. **The blaze was put out** at 12:50 am the next day, after more than 14 hours of a fight that mobilized a hundred firefighters and more than 150 sailors in support.

*Perle's* fire left a capability gap affecting the French submarine force as well as the security of the French nuclear deterrence. The French Navy is left with only 4 operational SSN. The next class of SSN, the first ship-in-class *Suffren*, won't be fully operational for a few weeks still.

About French Navy Rubis-class SSN



Rubis-class SSN Emeraude

According to *Covert Shores' World Submarines Recognition Guide*, the first of the six Rubis-class submarines was commissioned in 1983 and the final one in 1993. They are the smallest nuclear-powered submarines in the world with a length of just 73.6 meters and a submerged displacement of 2,600 tons.

From the beginning, the boats were disappointingly noisy and failed to achieve some of the performance objectives (such as top speed). As a consequence, the French Navy and industry embarked on the *Amethyste* upgrade program in 1989. AMETHYSTE stand for Amélioration tactique, hydrodynamique, silence, transmission, écoute (Silent Acoustic Transmission Tactical Hydrodynamic Improvement). It brought a number of upgrades including a major change to the hull form and bow. By 1995, all six boats of the class had been upgraded. Rubis-class submarines are now regarded as very capable boats. The French Navy deployed the *Emeraude* all the way to the Pacific Ocean earlier this year. It also conducted a South China Sea patrol.

### Rubis-class submarine specifications



Displacement: 2,400 tons surfaced; 2,600 tons submerged  
 Length: 73.6 meters (241 feet)  
 Beam: 7 meters (25 feet)  
 Speed: 18 knots surfaced; 25+ knots submerged  
 Depth: 300 meters (984 feet) operational  
 Propulsion: K48 pressurized water reactor (64,000 hp); 2x turbo-alternators; 1x 9400 hp electric motor, one shaft  
 Complement: 70 sailors  
 Weapon systems: 4x 533mm torpedo tubes for 14x F17 torpedo (F21 aboard *Perle*) or 14x Exocet SM39 anti-ship missiles  
 Sensor systems: DMUX-20 active/passive sonar; DSUV-62C towed array

Posted by : Xavier Vavas seur

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## Hey, Boomer: What Happened to North Korea's Ballistic Missile Subs?

BY: VANN H. VAN DIEPEN, JULY 10, 2023

<https://www.38north.org/2023/07/hey-boomer-what-happened-to-north-koreas-ballistic-missile-subs/>

In July 2019, North Korea revealed a conventionally powered ballistic missile submarine (SSB) in the late stages of construction and [announced](#) that it would be deployed in the near future. However, since then, there has been no evidence of the SSB's launch, despite numerous occasions when that was expected. It is unclear what is holding up this process, although there are likely three key factors at play.

- i. SSB efforts are much lower in priority than the North's land-mobile missiles.
- ii. The submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) program is in flux, with three increasingly larger missiles having been unveiled since July 2019, but not yet flight tested—one of which may be too big for the new SSB to carry.
- iii. Problems may have been encountered in the construction of the new SSB that Pyongyang has still not overcome, or that may not be cost-effective to rectify, or the SSB may no longer meet the North's operational needs.

It remains to be seen when or if the new SSB ever sees the light of day. It is possible that the sub will be reconfigured once a suitably sized SLBM completes development or that it will be reconfigured for use in another role, such as supporting minisubs or special operational forces. Pyongyang may decide to dismantle the new SSB altogether in favor of building a larger sub. The SSB may just be left in the construction hall until a course of action is decided or even indefinitely.

Whatever happens with the new SSB, a several-boat SSB *force* that could truly serve as a consequential and credible "leg" of a nuclear dyad or triad does not seem to be in the cards anytime soon. Pyongyang's land-based missiles, which are much more survivable and cost-effective than an SSB force, are highly likely to remain the mainstay of its nuclear and missile forces.

### A Long Time Coming

In July 2019, North Korean media reported that Kim Jong Un had "inspected a newly built submarine" and that the sub's "operational deployment is near at hand." Associated photos showed the presence of what appeared to be a substantially externally complete SSB inside a covered construction hall at the Sinpho South Shipyard. The sub seemed to be based on North Korea's [ROMEO-class submarine](#), which uses old Soviet technology, and apparently had room for three missile launch tubes in the sail.

North Korea began work on the infrastructure to build a new type of submarine in June 2014, according to analysis of commercial imagery, and by September 2016, construction of the SSB [appeared](#) to be underway. Since mid-2019, there have been several instances where experts and analysts have predicted the imminent rollout of the new SSB based on various shipyard activities, upcoming North Korean ceremonial days, or trends in the North's missile activities. These include:

In September 2019, based on the [erection](#) of a concealment structure at the shipyard.

In October 2019, based on the first flight test of the [Pukguksong-3 \(PKS-3\) SLBM](#) from a submersible test platform.

In December 2019, given "[growing speculation concerning a North Korean end-of-year 'surprise.'](#)"

In May 2020, given speculation, [triggered](#) by Pyongyang's touting of "new policies for further increasing the nuclear war deterrence," that an SSB rollout would be "the most probable step North Korea may take" to make good on December 2019 warnings of a "new strategic weapon."

In October 2020, based on the belief by some of an "[increasing](#)" probability of an SSB rollout, reinforced by the upcoming October 10 Korean Workers' Party Foundation Day celebration.

In March 2021, based on the opportunity [presented](#) by the end of the North's annual winter training cycle or presented by the upcoming July-September summer cycle.

In April 2021, based on [repositioning](#) of the SLBM submersible test barge at the Sinpho South Shipyard.

Also in April, based on "[mounting speculation](#)" of an SSB rollout given the additional impetus of the impending celebration of Kim Il Sung's birthday.

Yet again in April 2021, based on the imminence of the mid-month "Day of the Sun" [anniversary](#), used in the past for tests of missile technology.

In September 2021, based on the "[considerable pressure](#)" that was "likely" placed on North Korea to roll out the SSB by "South Korean reports during the past month describing their development and launching of a new class of ballistic missile submarine and reported testing of a submarine-launched ballistic missile."

In May 2022, based on the "[increasing probability](#)" of an SSB rollout, "considering the North's accelerated testing rate of various ballistic missile systems during the past seven months."

Most recently, in October 2022, based on an [atypical level of activity at the shipyard](#).

North Korea could have rolled the SSB out of the construction hall at any time since at least the summer of 2020, when the parts yard apparently used to stage components flowing into the construction hall has been empty, suggesting the [end of major construction](#), or July 2021, when the South Korean press [claimed](#) the Republic of Korea (ROK) and US intelligence assessed construction of the SSB was complete. As of June 10, 2023, there was still no open source [evidence](#) the SSB has been launched, although it is and will remain the case that the sub could be rolled out at any time in the future.

### What's Taking So Long?

The long period of time since Pyongyang publically reported the SSB's "operational deployment is near at hand" strongly suggests there are some compelling reasons why the sub has remained in the construction hall.<sup>[1]</sup> Based on analysis of the available information, one or more of the following three key factors probably explains why the new SSB has been a no-show for almost four years.

**Missile subs are not a high priority.** When the new SSB was revealed, the US media often [claimed](#) that Kim Jong Un was "determined to deploy it as soon as he can" and had a "full steam ahead program to perfect his submarines." Such commentary was bolstered by [assessments](#) that North Korea was seeking to develop a "second leg of the nuclear triad," even "[undeniably](#)" so.

Clearly, the SSB program has not actually proceeded in this fashion and has not taken any central role in North Korea's nuclear force. Pyongyang thus does not appear to have put much priority on ballistic missile submarines, and so there seems to be little pressure to finalize the new sub. (This lack of priority also is reflected in the associated SLBM program, discussed below.) A contrary example of what the North can do when it decides to ramp up the priority of a program is the recent attempt to place a reconnaissance satellite into orbit: a new satellite and space-launch vehicle—the Chollima-1—were developed, and in just over a month a new launch pad was erected from scratch and used to conduct the first (albeit unsuccessful) [launch](#) on May 31, 2023.

There are good operational and cost-effective reasons for the SSB [not being a priority](#) for North Korea, although we do not know the extent to which those reasons have influenced its decisions. The North's large, longstanding force of road-mobile, land-based ballistic missiles offers substantially more survivability than noisy ROMEO-based SSBs that would be at substantial risk of acoustic detection and operate under conditions of allied air and naval superiority. SSBs will not expand the target coverage of land-mobile missiles or add meaningfully to the number of warheads North Korea can deliver—which can be done more cost-effectively by adding more truck- or railcar-based land-mobile missile launchers than by adding more resource-intensive, slow-to-build SSBs that only carry three SLBMs each.

**The SLBM program is in flux.** When the SSB was first unveiled, it was widely assumed that the sub would carry the [Pukguksong-3 SLBM](#) (about 8 meters long and 1.6 meters in diameter), a missile [revealed](#) by the North in 2017 and flight tested for the first and only time in October 2019. Since then, the North has displayed—but has not yet flight tested—three progressively larger (and thus longer-ranged) SLBMs:

- ✦ The Pukguksong-4 (about 2 meters longer than the PKS-3 and about 2.05 meters in diameter), paraded in October 2020;
- ✦ The Pukguksong-5 (about 1.7 meters longer than the PKS-4, but the same diameter), paraded in January 2021; and

A new large SLBM (presumably [Pukguksong-6](#), about 1.6 meters longer than the PKS-5 and about 2.21 meters in diameter), paraded in April 2022.

This lack of SLBM developmental flight testing also suggests lower priority for SSBs. In stark contrast, North Korea has flight tested six new types of land-based ballistic missiles since the only Pukguksong-3 SLBM test in October 2019: two short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs), two “hypersonic” medium-range ballistic missiles, and two intercontinental ballistic missiles. It also tested two new types of land-attack cruise missiles (LACM).

Having the longest-ranged SLBMs possible makes the most military and operational sense for Pyongyang. This allows the associated missile sub to strike targets that are farther away while staying in waters closer to North Korea (and thus farther from allied anti-submarine assets, and closer to North Korean air and naval assets that can help protect the SSB). The delays in flight testing any of the new SLBMs (reinforced by the lack of any known ejection testing<sup>[2]</sup>) may well have contributed to the delay in rolling out the new SSB, which would need to have its sail section modified to accept progressively larger launch tubes for the series of new SLBMs.

Moreover, if the new large SLBM is now the missile of choice, it is possible that the [new SSB](#) is simply too small to accommodate that missile. This might mean that the SSB has become obsolete even before seeing the light of day.

Further confusing the picture, North Korea launched a KN-23 SRBM from its single-tube GORAE (or SINPO)-class ballistic missile test submarine in October 2021. The test sub apparently is still configured to launch that much smaller, shorter-range missile (about [7.5 meters long and 0.9 meters in diameter](#)) and would need to be reconfigured if it was going to be used in the flight testing of one of the larger SLBMs for ultimate deployment on the new SSB. Moreover, the GORAE's [missile hatch](#) appears to be only 1.8 meters in diameter, which is too small to accommodate the new large SLBM. In any case, a deployed sub-launched KN-23 makes very little military sense, given the North's large [existing force](#) of more survivable land-based SRBMs.

**The SSB itself has problems.** It is possible that the North encountered problems in the construction of the new SSB (or its conversion from a preexisting ROMEO) that it has still not overcome, that any such problems were somehow insurmountable or not cost-effective to rectify, or that the North came to realize the SSB would not meet its operational needs.<sup>[3]</sup> An example of the latter reason could be that, as noted above, the sub may be too small to accommodate the new large SLBM.

All that can be said at this point is that there has been no evidence that the SSB has been moved from the construction hall, and given the lack of activity in the construction hall's parts yard since the summer of 2020, it does not appear that the SSB has thus far been dismantled or subjected to major reconstruction, or that a replacement submarine is being built alongside it.

### Future Prospects Uncertain

It remains to be seen when or if the new SSB will ever be launched. There are four main possibilities for its future, listed in descending order of likelihood:



North Korea may decide to configure it for a suitably sized missile, such as the KN-23 SRBM; the Pukguk-song-3, -4, or -5 SLBMs if any of them complete development; or even a vertically launched version of the “Hwasal” LACM.<sup>[4]</sup>

It may decide to reconfigure the sub for use in another role, such as supporting minisubs or special operations forces—or even the “[Haeil](#)” nuclear-armed unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV) if that system truly is intended for deployment.

It may decide to dismantle the SSB, perhaps in favor of a larger sub able to carry the new large SLBM. Although likely aspirational in the near term, Kim Jong Un, in his [January 2021 report](#) to the Eighth Party Congress, set a task to “possess a nuclear-powered submarine.”

✦ Or it may allow the sub to lie fallow in the construction hall, either for another several years until it decides upon one of the above courses of action, or perhaps even indefinitely.

Whatever happens with the new SSB, a several-boat SSB *force* that could truly serve as a consequential and credible “leg” of a nuclear dyad or triad does not appear to be in the cards anytime soon. Pyongyang’s land-based missiles, which are much more survivable and cost-effective than an SSB force, are highly likely to remain the mainstay of its nuclear and missile forces.

[1] It should be noted, however, that true “operational deployment” probably would take a year or more after rollout due to the highly likely need for fitting-out, acceptance trials, commissioning, and shake-down cruises as with other North Korean submarines. See Joseph Bermudez and Victor Cha, “Sinpo South Shipyard: Construction of a New Ballistic Missile Submarine?,” *Beyond Parallel*, August 28, 2019, <https://beyondparallel.csis.org/sinpo-south-shipyard-construction-of-a-new-ballistic-missile-submarine>.

[2] Before conducting flight tests, SLBM programs usually conduct “ejection tests” or “pop-up tests,” in which the system used to eject the missile from the submerged submarine prior to ignition is tested using a dummy missile and a land-based rig or submersible platform.

[3] See Tianran Xu, “Constraints and Outlook: Future Deployment of DPRK Ballistic Missile Submarines,” *Open Nuclear Network*, January 5, 2022, <https://opennuclear.org/publication/constraints-and-outlook-future-deployment-dprk-ballistic-missile-submarines>; and Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., Victor Cha, and Jennifer Jun, “Sinpo South Shipyard Update: Vessel Movements and New Construction,” *Beyond Parallel*, September 15, 2022, <https://beyondparallel.csis.org/sinpo-south-shipyard-update-vessel-movements-and-new-construction>.

[4] See Vann H. Van Diepen, “Initial Analysis of North Korea’s “New Type Long-Range Cruise Missile,” *38 North*, September 15, 2021, <https://www.38north.org/2021/09/initial-analysis-of-north-koreas-new-type-long-range-cruise-missile>; and Vann H. Van Diepen, “North Korea Launches Four “Hwasal-2” LACMs to Show Strong Deterrence and Rapid Response,” *38 North*, March 1, 2023, <https://www.38north.org/2023/03/north-korea-launches-four-hwasal-2-lacms-to-show-strong-deterrence-and-rapid-response>.

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## Cuban government calls US nuclear submarine stop a 'provocative escalation'

The nuclear-powered submarine made a “logistics stop,” the U.S. Navy said.

By Matt Seyler, Ellie Kaufman, and Tanya Stukalova, July 12, 2023, 5:08 PM

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/cuban-government-calls-us-nuclear-submarine-stop-provocative/story?id=101184988>

The Cuban Foreign Ministry on Tuesday called the stop by a U.S. nuclear-powered submarine at the U.S. naval base at [Guantanamo Bay](#) a “provocative escalation.”

The U.S. nuclear-powered submarine, the USS Pasadena, stopped at the naval base in Guantanamo Bay earlier this month, the Cuban Foreign Ministry said. A U.S. Navy spokesperson told ABC News it was a “scheduled logistics stop” as the submarine transits to Colombia to participate in a multinational maritime exercise.

“The Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly rejects the arrival of a nuclear-powered submarine in Guantanamo Bay on July 5, 2023, that stayed until July 8 at the US military base located there, which is a provocative escalation of the United States, whose political or strategic motives are not known,” the statement read.

“The presence of a nuclear submarine there at this moment makes it imperative to wonder what is the military reason behind this action in this peaceful region of the world,” the statement continued.

The U.S. government notified the Cuban government that the submarine would stop in Guantanamo Bay on the morning of July 5, a U.S. Navy spokesperson said.

“This is not without precedent. Other nuclear-powered submarines have stopped at Guantanamo before without incident,” the spokesperson added.



The USS Pasadena returns to Naval Base Point Loma, San Diego, Mar. 30, 2017 after a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific. Petty Officer 1st Class Benjamin Lewis/U.S. Navy, FILE

On the other side of the island, a Russian naval vessel arrived at Havana's port on Tuesday.

The naval vessel -- a Russian training ship named the Perekop - entered the port carrying "humanitarian aid, as well as equipment delivered directly from the Russian Museum of St. Petersburg for multimedia exhibitions at the Museum of Fine Arts of Havana," Rossiyskaya Gazeta, the official state newspaper of Russia, reported.

The Perekop traveled across the Atlantic Ocean from the Russian port city of Kronshtadt to the Caribbean Sea. It departed Russia on June 20 and arrived in Cuba on July 11. The ship will go on to make other stops in the Caribbean, South America and Africa before returning to Russia in September, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

The presence of the Russian naval ship on Cuba's shores is a sign of [increased diplomatic relations](#) between the two nations.

Cuba, which was hit hard by the pandemic, has been experiencing severe shortages of basic goods like food and gas for months.



### Navy SEAL's Long-Awaited 'Dry' Mini-Submarine Capability Has Finally Arrived

Story by Joseph Trevithick • Yesterday 2:53 PM

[Navy SEAL's Long-Awaited 'Dry' Mini-Submarine Capability Has Finally Arrived \(msn.com\)](#)



Navy SEAL's Long-Awaited 'Dry' Mini-Submarine Capability Has Finally Arrived © Lockheed Martin

The U.S. Navy's newest special operations mini-submarine has now officially entered service. Unlike earlier [SEAL Delivery Vehicles](#), the [new Dry Combat Submersible](#) allows the occupants to travel to and from their destination submerged, but without being immersed in often frigid water the whole time. This is a capability the Navy has been working to acquire for decades now.



Navy SEAL's Long-Awaited 'Dry' Mini-Submarine Capability Has Finally Arrived© DOD

The Dry Combat Submersible (DCS) reached initial operational capability (IOC) with the Navy sometime in May, its manufacturer, Lockheed Martin, [announced](#) earlier today. Back in May, John Conway, the program manager for Undersea Systems within U.S. Special Operations Command's (SOCOM) Program Executive Office-Maritime (PEO-M), had said the initial DCSs would be operational [by the end of that month](#). To date, Lockheed Martin has delivered two DCSs to the Navy and is finishing work on a third example.



Navy SEAL's Long-Awaited 'Dry' Mini-Submarine Capability Has Finally Arrived© Provided by The Drive

A picture of one of the Navy's Dry Combat Submersibles (DCS) out of the water. DOD

"The Lockheed Martin team is proud of the work that has gone into the development and delivery of DCS and supporting USSOCOM to this IOC milestone," Jason Crawford, senior program manager for Manned Combat Submersibles, [said in a statement](#) in the press release. "We look forward to delivering the third DCS and supporting DCS into Full Operating Capacity."

The DCS is derived from a mini-submarine design called the S351 Nemesis from [MSubs in the United Kingdom](#). MSubs has been part of [the Lockheed Martin-led team](#) designing and building the DCS since the American defense giant began work on the project in 2016.

An S351 Nemesis. MSubs

Though details about the DCS's dimensions and capabilities are limited, the 30-ton displacement and 39-foot-long S351 has an all-electric propulsion system that gives it a maximum range of 66 nautical miles when traveling at a speed of around five knots, [according to MSubs](#). It can dive to depths of around 330 feet (100 meters). Nemesis required a crew of two to operate and has space for up to eight other individuals or suitably sized cargo weight up to approximately one metric ton.

By comparison, from what has [been reported in the past](#), the Navy's newest SEAL Delivery Vehicle (SDV), the Mk 11, is just under 22 and a half feet long and can carry only six passengers along with its crew of two. Also known as [the Shallow Water Combat Submersible](#) (SWCS), it is unpressurized and therefore is not as capable in terms of its maximum depth as the DCS.

More importantly, for the Navy and [its elite SEALs](#), who will be the primary users of the DCS, it has a self-contained lock-in/lock-out chamber on top of the hull. As seen in the video below, the service's existing SDVs are so-called "wet" submersibles where their occupants ride fully exposed to the water around them on the way to their destination. This can make for a very cold ride, even in regions where average temperatures might trend on the warmer side. This, in turn, increases operator fatigue and can present potentially serious health risks.



Navy SEAL's Long-Awaited 'Dry' Mini-Submarine Capability Has Finally Arrived© Provided by The Drive

Lockheed Martin's press release also highlights how current SDVs do not allow their occupants to hydrate, since they have to wear wet suits and scuba gear the entire time. This is another potentially significant issue for longer transits.

"The Dry Combat Submersible has the potential to transform undersea warfare for special operators," Gregg Bauer, C6ISR vice president and general manager at Lockheed Martin, [said in a statement today](#). "DCS provides safe, clandestine delivery for occupants over long distances in a completely dry environment and features a lock-in and lock-out chamber. Occupants arrive at the mission warm, rested, hydrated and ready."

**DRY DECK SHELTER**

**Dry Deck Shelter Modernization Project**

**Mod DDS Configuration Changes**

- Field Change (FC) 167 – Remotely Operated Hanger Outer Door
- FC 168 – Extended shelter 50 inches
- FC 169 – Increased capacity Payload Launch and Recovery System
- FC 170 – Remote Control from the host submarine

**Mod DDS Objectives**

- Increase payload volume
- Increase weight capacity
- Remote hanger operation from Virginia Class host submarine
- Reduce risk to host submarine
- Reduce operator fatigue

**Project Status**

- Preliminary Design Review completed Sep 2016
- Critical Design Review completed Dec 2017
- Technical Data Package approved Jul 2020
- Technical Demonstrator Production Complete – Mar 2022

**Target Payloads**

- Naval Special Warfare (NSW)
- SEAL Delivery Vehicle Mk III (SDV Mk III)
- Large Displacement Unmanned Undersea Vehicle (LDUV)
- Littoral Battlespace Sensing – AUV, Submarine (AS-AUVES)





Navy SEAL's Long-Awaited 'Dry' Mini-Submarine Capability Has Finally Arrived© Provided by The Drive

This also means operators can return to their recovery point in the same way after a mission, which may have been conducted entirely underwater. The SEALs, in particular, are trained to conduct a variety of missions below the waves, [including sabotage and demolition](#). DCSs could also be used to help insert SEALs and other special operations forces ashore or extract them.



Navy SEAL's Long-Awaited 'Dry' Mini-Submarine Capability Has Finally Arrived© Provided by The Drive

The Navy has been publicly trying to acquire a DCS-like capability for decades now. The service had begun to lay out requirements for what became known as [the Advanced SEAL Delivery System](#) (ASDS) in the 1980s. ASDS was canceled in 2009 after the prototype – a design roughly twice the size of the DCS – was destroyed in a fire the year before. Technical issues had already led to significant cost growth. A follow-on Joint Multi-Mission Submersible program was also axed in 2010.

The prototype Advanced SEAL Delivery System submersible seen here on top of the rear deck of the Los Angeles class attack submarine USS Greenville. USN

DCS has seen its own delays, as well. In June 2020, SOCOM said it expected the mini-submarine to reach IOC [within about a year](#).

The DCS does have limitations, largely due to its size. Unlike the Navy's SDVs, the new mini-submarine is too big to be launched from submerged submarines via currently available Dry Deck Shelters (DDS), as well as larger DDSs the service is working to acquire now. The Navy's [Virginia class attack submarines](#) and [Ohio class guided missile submarines](#) are also the only ones that can be configured to carry DDSs at present.

A briefing slide SOCOM released last year with details about work on an improved DDS design. SOCOM

Currently, the DCS will have to be deployed via a mothership on the surface, such [as an amphibious warfare vessel](#). The Navy has also been looking at ways to more rapidly deploy the first-generation DCSs [using U.S. Air Force C-17A](#) Globemaster III cargo aircraft to deliver them first to forward locations.

With this in mind, the Navy is already [eyeing a follow-on DCS Next](#) and wants that improved design to be deployable from a Virginia class attack submarine. Concept art that has been released so far shows what appears to be a mini-submarine with the ability to dock externally on the hull of its mothership submarine. This is how the Navy had expected to employ the abortive ASDS. It's not clear whether the service plans to subsequently modify its initial DCSs to that future configuration, or how feasible that might be.

An artist's conception of the follow-on DCS Next. SOCOM

Regardless, after the better part of a decade of work on DCS, and decades more before that on designs intended to provide similar capabilities, the Navy now has a way to transport SEALs and other special operations forces to and from their destinations in an all-new level of comfort.

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### This Month in History

(Information source is fresh, so I'm starting to include this info as I had done before I lost access.)

<https://www.history.navy.mil/today-in-history/august-1.html>

08/03/1943 PBM aircraft (VP 205) sinks German submarine (U 572), north of Dutch Guiana. Also on this date, USS Buck (DD 420) sinks Italian submarine, Argento, off Tunisia.

08/03/1958 USS Nautilus (SSN 571) becomes the first submarine to cross the "top" of the world during Operation Sunshine when the boat passes under an arctic ice cap at the North Pole. "For the world, our country, and the Navy - the North Pole," declared the boat's commanding officer, Cmdr. William R. Anderson. The mission had been personally authorized by President Eisenhower as a response to the USSR's Sputnik program.

08/04/1943 USS Finback (SS 230) sinks Japanese cargo ship Kaisho Maru in the Java Sea off the north coast of Java while USS Seadragon (SS 194) damages Japanese transport Kembu Maru east of Ponape.

08/05/1944 USS Barbel (SS 316) sinks Japanese merchant passenger-cargo ship, Miyako Maru, off Tokuno Jima while USS Cero (SS 225) attacks a Japanese convoy off Minanao and sinks oiler, Tsurumi, in Davao Gulf. Also on this date, PBV aircraft sinks small Japanese cargo vessel No.2, Eiko Maru, off Taelahat.

08/06/1988 USS San Juan (SSN 751) is commissioned at New London, Conn. The Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered fast attack submarine is the third to be named after San Juan, Puerto Rico. The boat is assigned to Submarine Group Two.

08/08/1942 USS Narwhal (SS 167) sinks Japanese crab boat, Bifuku Maru, southeast of Shiriya Saki while USS S-38 (SS 143) sinks Japanese transport, Meiyo Maru, at the southern entrance of St. George Channel, between New Britain and New Ireland. Also on this date, USS Silversides (SS 236) attacks a Japanese convoy emerging from Kobe Harbor and sinks freighter Nikkei Maru in Kii Strait.

08/10/1942 Off Kavieng, New Ireland, USS S-44 (SS 155) torpedoes and sinks the Japanese cruiser, Kako, as she retires from the Battle of Savo Island.

08/12/1944 USS Pompon (SS 267) and USS Puffer (SS 268) attack Japanese convoys and damage and sink Japanese destroyers.

08/13/1945 USS Atule (SS 403) sinks Japanese Coast Defense Vessel No.6 and damages Coast Defense Vessel No.16 off Hokkaido. Also on this date, USS Torsk (SS 423) sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship, Kaiho Maru.

08/14/1945 USS Spikefish (SS 404) sink the Japanese submarine (I 373), in the Sea of Japan. Also on this date, USS Torsk (SS 423) sinks Coast Defense Vessel (No.13), and Coast Defense Vessel No.47.

08/16/1944 USS Croaker (SS 246) sinks Japanese auxiliary minesweeper, Taito Maru.

08/16/1958 USS Seadragon (SSN 584) launches at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. USS Seadragon decommissions in 1984.

08/16/1986 USS Nevada (SSBN 733) is commissioned at Groton, Conn. The Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarine is the fourth named after the Silver State.

08/17/1942 The submarines USS Nautilus (SS 168) and USS Argonaut (SM 1) land more than 200 Marines on Makin Island, Gilbert Islands, in the first amphibious attack made from submarines.

08/19/1936 Lt. B. L. Braun, pilot, completes test bombing against the submarine USS R-8 (SS 85) off the Virginia capes, sinking the old submarine and proving the value of properly armed aircraft in antisubmarine warfare.

08/19/1943 USS Finback (SS 230) sinks the Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser (No.109) off the eastern Celebes.

08/22/1944 Submarines Haddo (SS 255) and Harder (SS 257) encounter three Japanese escort vessels off the mouth of Manila Bay. Haddo sinks Sado 35 miles west of Manila; Harder sinks Matsuwa and Hiburi about 50 miles west-southwest of Manila.

08/23/1944 USS Haddo (SS 255) torpedoes Japanese destroyer Asakaze as the enemy warship is escorting tanker, Niyo Maru, 20 miles southwest of Cape Bolinao, Luzon, Philippine Islands. Asakaze later sinks near Dasol Bay after attempts at salvage fail.

08/23/1944 USS Tang (SS 306) attacks a Japanese convoy off Honshu, sinking cargo ship, Tsukushi Maru off Hamamatsu.

08/25/1944 USS Picuda (SS 382), in attack on Japanese convoy at the western entrance to the Babuyan Channel, sinks destroyer Yunagi 20 miles north-northeast of Cape Bojeador, Philippines and merchant tanker Kotoku Maru.

08/26/1949 While operating in stormy seas off northern Norway, USS Cochino (SS 345) suffers a series of serious battery explosions that result in her loss. Though Cochino's crew is successfully rescued by USS Tusk (SS 426), the submarine loses seven of her own men during this difficult effort.

08/27/1944 USS Stingray (SS 186), after being depth charged and lightly worked over while reconnoitering the designated spot lands a party of one Filipino officer, 14 men and 60 percent of the supplies earmarked for delivery to guerilla forces at Saddle Rock, Mayaira Point, on northwest shore of Luzon. Heavy Japanese shipping in the vicinity compels Stingray's departure before all stores land.

08/29/1915 After pontoons are brought to Hawaii from the west coast, and following extensive additional diving work, the submarine USS F-4 is raised from the bottom and taken into Honolulu Harbor for dry docking. Previously, in March 1915, during a routine dive a few miles off Honolulu, F-4 sinks in 51 fathoms of water, with the loss of her 21 crewmembers.

08/29/1944 USS Jack (SS 259) attacks Japanese convoy H3 and sinks minesweeper W28 and army cargo ship, Mexico Maru, northwest of Menado, Celebes.

08/30/1929 At New London, Conn., 26 men test the Momsen lung to exit an intentionally-bottomed submarine. The device was created by Lt. C.B. Momsen following the failure to save surviving crew members trapped in USS S-4 (SS 109) that sank after a collision with Coast Guard cutter USS Paulding in 1927.

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## NewsUK

### **Scientists ‘unearth’ submarine buried under naval town’s park**

Residents of Dartmouth have long believed HMS E52 is under Coronation Park.

Rod Minchin, 6/30/23

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/scientists-dartmouth-experts-university-of-winchester-royal-navy-b2367225.html>

Two scientists believe they have confirmed an urban legend which has intrigued a town for nearly a century.

Since the 1930s, residents of Dartmouth – home to naval officer training for more than 150 years – have been convinced the wreck of a submarine is buried under a coastal park.

Experts from the University of Winchester used ground penetrating radar to scan the site in Coronation Park where the submarine is believed to have been buried.

The vague outline of what is thought to be HMS E52 can be made out on the resulting scans – as well as a second object, a German torpedo boat, which is longer but also narrower.

The discovery comes after Lieutenant Tom Kemp, an officer from Britannia Royal Naval College, believed he had identified HMS E52 as the submarine that was unceremoniously buried alongside rubble and other land-fill at the five-acre park.

The findings were made by Dr Simon Roffey, reader in archaeology, and Dr David Ashby, who manages Winchester University’s soil laboratory.

The pair were intrigued by Lt Kemp’s research last year and, working with him, the scientists focused on one corner of the park.

The radar sent sound pulses through concrete and Tarmac and the resulting concentrations of red on the scans suggest large metallic objects lying about one metre beneath the surface.

The team concluded the E52 probably lies in the north-east corner of the park, while roughly at right angles to it is another large metallic object, most likely a German torpedo boat destroyer, S24, bought for scrap like E52 after the First World War.

The positions of the two “finds” correspond with a contemporary aerial photo of Dartmouth in the 1920s which shows the submarine and another craft sitting on the mudflats.

The park is located at the foot of the hill occupied by the naval college and was once mudflats.

After the end of the First World War, the UK had a surplus of ships and submarines, including scores seized from the defeated Germans.

Many were driven ashore, left up creeks and anchorages and forgotten about as they decayed over decades.

Coombe Mud and neighbouring Sandquay in Dartmouth became a similar breakers’ yard for unwanted war-ships, including at least two submarines.

The site was purchased by the local authority in the late 1920s and filled in to create the park, which opened in 1937 in time for the coronation of George VI.

Dr Roffey, a former submariner who served in O-class boats in the 1980s, said: “The ‘submarine under the park’ is a local legend, and it could make a wonderful tourist attraction if we could identify its exact location.

“We know that there was a torpedo boat there but everyone assumed that it had been moved. Maybe it was stuck fast in the mud and they just left it there.”

To compound the challenge of identifying the submarine is another Dartmouth urban legend, which suggests US troops who camped in the park in the latter stages of the Second World War buried some of their kit in the park rather than ship it home when they left.

The team is seeking permission from the local authority to dig small bore holes in the park to hopefully identify

a piece of equipment or metal unique to E52.

Lt Kemp said: "It's been my personal hobbyhorse for the better part of the past year.

"Confirming the final resting place of one of His Majesty's submarines – and a pretty successful one at that – would serve to remind and reiterate that our naval heritage is all around us and can often be clawed back from obscurity.

"Our time and energy could scarcely be better spent."

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## When World War II came to the Outer Banks

By WBOX Staff, 7/8/2023

<https://wobx.com/2023/07/08/when-world-war-ii-came-to-the-outer-banks/>

By Marni Patterson courtesy [Outer Banks Visitor's Bureau Blog](#)

Most people think World War II was fought on battlefields across Europe and on islands in the Pacific. They'd be surprised to know that one of the most violent naval battles was fought off the shores of the Outer Banks.

During the **Battle of the Atlantic** from January through July 1942, German U-boats sank over 400 ships off the North Carolina coast.



The Dixie Arrow is one of the many ships that sank off the Outer Banks in 1942 after being torpedoed by U-71. (Photo Credit: National Archives)

The Battle of the Atlantic was all about commerce. The Germans patrolled the Eastern Seaboard, particularly the New York and Florida coasts and Cape Hatteras, to stop merchant vessels bound for England with desperately needed food and military supplies.

Losses were high for both sides. Four U-boats never returned to Germany, and the allies suffered 1,657 casualties; 1,200 were merchant mariners. The fighting was so intense that the Outer Banks was called Torpedo Junction. Few people knew about the Battle of the Atlantic because President Roosevelt didn't want citizens to panic. But Outer Banks residents who were alive during World War II remember it very well.

Stanley Beacham was a child living on Currituck Sound in 1942. When a U-boat torpedoed a ship off Caffey's Inlet while he was sitting on his front porch, he told *Coastal Review*, "**it felt like the earth was shaking.**"

Frieda Gray French was just six years old at that time. Her father, Homer S. Gray, was chief of the Coast Guard base and had the unenviable task of taking charge of bodies that washed up on the shore." She told *Carolina Country*, "**He helped bury them and made sure they received full military honors.**"

Blackouts were strictly enforced even though the area was sparsely populated. As Cliff Perry told *Coastal Review*, the military patrolled neighborhoods to ensure no light was visible from houses. "**If they could see light from your windows, they'd come to your house and tell you.**" So, homeowners became used to turning off lights and adjusting their blackout curtains.





Blackouts were enforced throughout the Outer Banks. If lights were on inside homes, they couldn't be visible outside. (Photo Credit: Outer Banks History Center)

Kitty Hawk School was the K-12 school that served the entire area, and residents who attended school at the time recall what it was like to ride the bus. All school buses were required to pass through a security gate. One guard came on the bus and checked faces and a second guard looked under the seats. The kids knew it would happen, but it was still unnerving.

Being in an (unofficial) war zone also brought unexpected rewards. After a battle, residents could walk along the beach after the Coast Guard cleared away debris and bodies. Occasionally they'd find delicacies that washed up on the beach, such as crates of oranges or lemons. This was like finding buried treasure because fresh produce was scarce and expensive. Stanley Beacham and his brothers found a stalk of bananas, and their mother hung them in the pantry until they ripened. As he joked to *Coastal Review*, **“The first banana I ever tasted washed up on the beach.”**



Tom and Lauren Pirozzi found a World War II helmet liner on the beach in Corolla, North Carolina. (Photo Credit: Tom Pirozzi)

Brothers James and Carroll Gray were 10 and 11 in 1942. They found thousands of little round containers they thought were snuff cans. They told *Carolina Country*, **“It was the first time we'd seen instant coffee.”** They also found five-gallon cans of oil and sold them to local stores for 50 cents each.

World War II relics still occasionally wash up along the coast. In November 2021, Tom and Lauren Pirozzi were strolling along the beach in Corolla and found a military helmet liner in a pile of seaweed. Helmet liners were used to cushion steel helmets, but sailors often wore them alone when they weren't in a combat zone.

The Pirozzis told the *Virginian-Pilot* they were considering **donating the helmet to a local museum**, such as the **Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum** on Hatteras Island or the **National WWII Museum** in New Orleans.

The U-boat attacks decreased after the federal government established an Army radar installation and observation tower in Kitty Hawk at what many locals still call Army Camp Hill. At the **Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum**, you can see items recovered from shipwrecks that occurred off the Outer Banks, including a German Enigma machine from U-85, the first enemy submarine sunk in US waters by a US Navy warship during World War II. **Read more about Shipwrecks along the OBX here.**



German Enigma machine recovered by divers from the U-85 submarine sunk off the Outer Banks coast. (Photo Credit: The Virginian-Pilot)

*About Marni Patterson: Marni is a freelance journalist writing about destination travel, local customs and cultures, and history. She's lived all over the U.S., spent a year in Belgium as an exchange student, and now calls Phoenix, AZ home. <https://mpttravelwriting.com/>*



## Thoughts

From a Cowtown Base Shipmate

Facebook post, 6/4/23

### The Midnight Watch

Now these were the tales whence no men told  
They were the bold and the brave and the true  
They would make you shiver, thru to the bone  
They were the tales of the midnight blue.

These were acts to remember but not to be told  
By those denizens of the deep  
An ocean's folly, a seaman's golly  
Remembered only in our sleep.

It was forty years if not a day  
Since the deed we did was done  
We had slipped in deep with not a peep  
We were hidden from the sun.

We had prowled about some hundred feet  
For our rabbit we had listened with ears  
And on her tail we had trailed her out  
In her baffles we had sat those years.

Well, we played our game of cat and mouse  
In the seas we bored along  
And we ate and we drank and we tossed about  
It was here that we sang our song.

And for my part, i had shared the helm  
And i kept the boat on true  
And charged the banks in Air Regen  
Until the midnight watch was thru.

Fried rice, fried rice, fried rice we called  
And we ate our bellies full  
Midrats was the best meal when  
The patrol was in a lull.

And then we slipped the burly bonds  
And crossed the line in the sand  
The charts went off as we slinked along



We were no longer in no man's land.

And crept we did behind our prey  
We were belly up to beam

And pictures there we took that day  
As if almost in a dream.

And so on it went this game of chance  
Routine what's was in store  
And this is how we plied our trade  
And played our game: Cold War.

And when it was that we were done  
And we crossed back into the blue  
We set our sails back home we did  
The Midnight Watch was thru.

Now these were the tales whence no men told  
They were the bold and the brave and the true  
They would make you shiver thru to the bone  
They were the tales of the midnight blue.

These were acts to remember but not to be told  
By those denizens of the deep  
An ocean's folly, a seaman's golly  
Remembered only in our sleep.

Therefore: I am not aware, nor am i allowed to discuss them,  
Should such actions exist.

@DLHoff 25 March 2018

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### **First Sign of Civilization**

"Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones.

But no. Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken and then healed. Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal.

A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts, Mead said."

We are at our best when we serve others. Be civilized.

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### **Rooneyisms – Too good to not share!**

I've learned.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned.... That when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned.... That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

I've learned.... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned.... That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned.... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

I've learned.... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned.... That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned.... That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned.... That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned.... That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

I've learned.... That money doesn't buy class.

I've learned.... That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned.... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned.... That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I've learned.... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've learned.... That love, not time, heals all wounds.



*SHIPMATES IN ACTION*



"Thank You Tuscon and Perch Base"

# OUR PRIDE IN OUR SHIPMATES RUNS

## DEEP IN THE DESERT

Everyone is invited to come visit us in the Texas Hill Country May 16-19, 2024 for the Lonestar Subvet Round-Up.

[LSRU.org](http://LSRU.org)



# 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SNOWDEN CUP Golf Tournament Fundraiser

M/Sgt Ben D. Snowden  
Veteran of Foreign Wars  
Post 8587



**FORMAT:** 4 – Person Scramble, Shotgun Start

**ENTRY FEE:** \$100/ PERSON  
(Includes 1 round of golf, golf cart, tickets for door prizes, and dinner upon completion of playing)

**VENUE:** Georgetown Country Club  
1500 Country Club Rd. Georgetown, TX

**WHEN:** TEE OFF 10:00 a.m. November 6, 2023  
• Registration starts at 8:30a.m.

Proceeds are used to further VFW goals of serving active duty military and veterans in need of benefits like the following:

Better VA healthcare, Educational assistance, Helping local homeless and needy veterans, Lobbying Congress for Veteran Friendly legislation

The VFW also serves our community through scholarship to our youth and educational programs highlighting Patriotism, Loyalty, Honor and Service

**CUT OFF FOR REGISTRATION  
OCTOBER 27, 2023**

\*\*\*\*Inclement weather date is schedule for November 14<sup>th</sup> at 10a.m (if needed)\*\*\*\*



### ENTRY FORM

Name/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Point on Contact (Name; Phone; Email): \_\_\_\_\_

**Payable to:** VFW Post 8587

- Checks: Include Driver License Number
- Pay online (QR code)

**Dress Code:**

**Men:** Shirt w/ Collar and Slacks or suitable length Golf Shorts  
**Women:** Slack, Skirt, or suitable length Golf Short  
**NO METAL SPIKES ON SHOES**

**Mail Entries to:** VFW Post 8587 ATTN: Golf Committee  
1000 N. College Street Georgetown, TX 78626.

### Additional Information:

Golf Chair: Mikey McPhail (254)715-5208 [mmjvd@yahoo.com](mailto:mmjvd@yahoo.com)

Or

Commander: Abe Yates (916) 606- 6571 [abranyates135@gmail.com](mailto:abranyates135@gmail.com)



### More Shipmates in Action

#### 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade 2023

Tom Williams and USSVI Central Texas Base is with Frank Abernathy.

Facebook post, 7/4/23

Happy Independence Day! Always a great day for a parade! We were joined by the [USSVI Brazos Valley SubVets](#) today in the [July 4th Parade and Frontier Days Parade](#) in Round Rock this morning. We can't express how much the crowd cheering us on and expressing their appreciation meant to us. They usually do but today it was over the top. If you were out there in the crowd today watching the parade and cheering us on know that we do not take that lightly and you made our day. Thank You and Happy 4th of July!









Central Texas Base Commander/ Central District 4 Commander Rick Mitchell and Brazos Valley Base Commander T.J. Robie share the Stars and Stripes Award presented by the Round Rock Pioneer Days Committee at the Independence Day Parade.

Here's a few pics from our recent July Base meeting held at the [Georgetown VFW Post 8587 M/SGT Ben D. Snowden](#).



Welcome to new member David Lewis from Bertram. Qualified 1969 on USS Sea Robbin (SS-407)



Eric giving monthly Submarine History talk. This month's subject was Operation Ivy Bells.



Eric again. "Man, it doesn't matter whether my glasses are on or not you all are beautiful either way."



Sam and Shawn guarding the cookies.



Shawn sharing about our recent successful Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) trip to Dell Children's Hospital in Austin.



Virgil (our base treasurer) giving his monthly report: "I have no idea where all the money went."



Shipmate of the Month, Gene H. sharing about his past including time at Deep Submergence Unit.