



THE DECK LOG

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

JULY 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

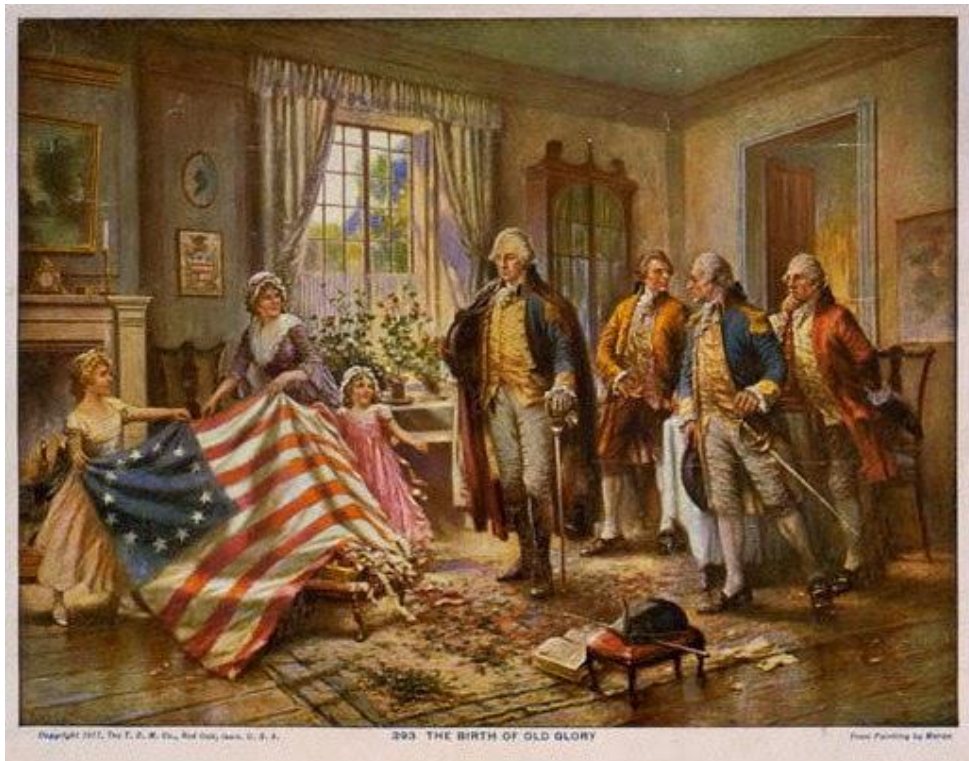


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EDITOR'S DESK



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 printed copy is mailed via USPS to those shipmates requesting a mailed copy.

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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



www.navyleague.org



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



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://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 - JULY

"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 S-28 (SS 133)

Lost on July 4, 1944 with the loss of 49 crew members. She was conducting training exercises off Hawaii with the US Coast Guard Cutter Reliance. After S-28 dove for a practice torpedo approach, Reliance lost contact. No distress signal or explosion was heard. Two days later, an oil slick was found near where S-28 where she had been operating, but the extreme depth of the waters there exceeded the range of available rescue and salvage equipment. The



USS Robalo (SS 273)

Lost on July 26, 1944 with the loss of 81 crew members while on her 3rd war patrol. She struck a mine about 2 miles off the coast of Palawan. Four men survived and swam ashore, then were imprisoned by the Japanese. Unfortunately, they were put on a Japanese destroyer and lost when that destroyer was sunk.



USS Grunion (SS 216)

Lost on July 30, 1942 with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third, but was never heard from again.



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



Happy Independence Day Shipmates!

July 4th is a few day days away and across America our citizens will be out celebrating. Hopefully we all realize the significance of this day and really understand how fortunate we are to live in a free country. Here at our base, it has long been a tradition to join in this celebration at the Round Rock 4th of July parade and we will be continuing the tradition this year. Our shipmates from the Brazos Valley Base will be joining us too and bringing their submarine float. Just a few short years ago we had over 25 shipmates plus family join in the parade. Lets see if we can do this again. See your email sent a few days ago with details. We will be meeting at Rudy's also for tacos and BBQ after the parade about 1030 for anyone who wants to join us. I know there is a lot going on, but I also wanted to let you know the Georgetown VFW will be having a 4th of July celebration that afternoon and evening and you all are invited to attend also.

Please see flyer elsewhere in this newsletter. Great spot to view the fireworks.

Last month was our regular month for our base social but due to the forecasted hot weather and outdoors venue we made the decision to cancel. I think at the time it was a good decision with the information we had at the time but in hindsight now looking back I think in the future given the same scenario we will move forward as planned and if people decide not to come due to the weather or whatever reason that's fine. Turn's out the day that was supposed to be crazy hot was overcast and about 90 at the time we would have been there, and it would have been tolerable for many. Lessons learned, I guess.

Fortunately, we had another opportunity to gather at the Round Rock Express baseball game on Friday June 23rd. This was a new thing for us, and I think cost may have deterred some from attending but I heard nothing but positive comments by those who attended and felt the value was great. We had 48 people there and we were situated up in the stands in left field out of the sun and in a breeze. It was very pleasant, and everyone had a lot of space. Additionally, we all could sit in the outfield seats and had access to the air-conditioned Intel Club right behind home plate. The free burgers and hot dogs were great, and we had all the beverages we needed to drink. Fireworks after the game were great too. Mostly though the best part was gathering with shipmates, meeting family and friends. We will definitely be doing this again next year. Soon as the schedule goes out, we will grab a date and get it on the calendar.

Don't forget our base meeting coming up on the 3rd Wednesday, July 19th. We will be at the Georgetown VFW as usual. I hope to see many of you there. We also have a Kap(SS)4 Kid(SS) visit scheduled for July 11th. Don't forget also it's not too late to register for the National Convention being held in Tucson this year being held end of August and beginning of September. It's a great chance to get out and see a new part of the country, meet new folks and participate in how your organization is run. Central Texas Base always has good representation at the conventions and looks like we have 4 primary and 1 dual member attending so far, maybe a few more will decide to join us this year. If nothing else come down for the weekend and attend the ABM Saturday and Awards banquet that evening. Check out all the info at ussvi.org.

Thanks for everything you all do!

Rick Mitchell - 512-639-0035 - rmitch2@yahoo.com

Dad Joke

Did you know Saturday and Sunday are the strongest days?

The rest are just weekdays...

BASE TREASURER'S REPORT

15 June 2023

Financial Report for Period Ending 5/31/2023

Beginning Balance - 6/1/2023	\$27,951.85
RBFCU Checking (General Fund)	\$24,128.11
RBFCU Savings (Memorial Fund)	\$4,157.30
Un-cleared Checks	-\$145.00
Ending Balance - 6/30/2023	\$28,140.41

Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer

JULY 2023



Rick Mitchell - 8 th
Joe Kruppa - 9 th
James Gee - 12 th
Chuck Trahan - 16 th
Carl Scott - 23 rd
Don McGriff - 24 th

CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEMBERSHIP

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

Members listed in Central Texas Database	84
Regular Annual Members	24
National Life Members	50
Base Life Members	41
Holland Club Members	41
Associate Members	1
Dual Members	2
Prospective Members:	0
War Veterans	73
Members pending:	0

Submitted: Chuck Malone, Membership

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.

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.

John Roberts, Chuck Trahan, 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.

4 July 2023, Annual 4th of July Parade, Round Rock, TX. Float on site at the staging area at 0700. Catch the shuttle at the Methodist church (see map at the back of the N/L) earlier than the last shuttle at 0800. See Rick's 6/25 email about the parade and maps.

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

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

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

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

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KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS)
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The K4K team is alive and well in Central Texas. Our K4K team members are such a great group of volunteers that always put a smile on the children's faces. Thanks for all your dedication, commitment and time to this wonderful program. Sam Amato will lead our next visit which is scheduled July 11, 2023 at 11am at Dell Children's Medical Center Round Rock. Two volunteer positions are still open. Contact me to get signed up for a visit. 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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The Lord Created a Submariner

When the good Lord created a Submariner, it was almost 2300 on the sixth day. An angel appeared and said, "You're having a lot of trouble with this one. What's wrong with the standard model?"

And the Lord replied, "Have you seen the specs on this order? It has to be able to think independently, yet be able to take orders; have the qualities of both a scientific mind and a compassionate heart; be able to mentor juniors and learn from seniors; run on black coffee; handle emergencies without a Damage Control Manual, respond competently to critical incidents, decipher cryptographic codes, understand pneumatics, hydraulics and sonar, have the patience of a saint and six pairs of hands, not to mention the strength of three its size."

The angel shook its head slowly and said, "Six pairs of hands - - No way!"

And the Lord answered, "Don't worry, we'll make other Submariners to help. Besides it's not the hands which are causing the problem. It's the heart. It must swell with pride when a Shipmate earns his Silver Dolphins - which above all else signifies the crew members trust it with their lives, sustain the incredible hardship of life at sea in a steel tube, beat on soundly when it's too tired to do so, and be strong enough to continue to carry on when it's given all it had."

"Lord," said the angel touching the Lord's sleeve gently, "Stop! It's almost midnight!"

"I can't," said the Lord. "I'm so close to creating something unique. Already I have one whose hands blend knowledge with skill to perform the most intricate procedures, yet are strong enough to patch a ruptured seawater pipe; whose ears can discern the sonar sounds of a myriad of ocean life, yet detect the slightest shift in ventilation; whose mind can practice the science of nuclear submarining, yet not lose sight of the art of teamwork; and whose eyes can peer through a periscope to identify a hull down ship, yet search within to embrace

and personify honor, courage and commitment."

The angel circled the model of the Submariner very slowly. "It's too serious," the angel sighed.

"But tough," said the Lord excitedly. "You cannot imagine what this Submariner can do or endure."

"Can it feel?" asked the angel.

"Can it feel! It loves Ship, Shipmates and Country like no other!"

Finally the angel bent over and ran a finger across the Submariner's cheek. "There's a leak," pronounced the angel. "I told you you're trying to put too much into this model."

"That's not a leak," said the Lord. "It's a tear."

"What's it for?" asked the angel.

"It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, frustration and pride!"

"You're a genius!" exclaimed the angel.

The Lord looked pleased and replied, "I didn't put it there."

Filled with pride, the Lord continued, "Great things are planned for this Submariner. It will be one of many and together they will lead a legacy of excellence like none has known before."

And with that the Lord rested. It was the seventh day.

CAPT Jane F. Vieira

Chaplain Corps, United States Navy



USSVI 2023 National Convention Updates

USSVI 2023 National Convention

Facebook Post, June 26, 2023

We are fast approaching our goal of 500+ members and guests at our convention. Current number of registrations stand at 315. Watch for updates weekly on ussvi.org. Easy way to get there is to click on the "Visitor" tab then the convention link. Once there the Convention tab will give options for hotel reservation, online or manual convention registration, Shipmates Attending, Sub Reunions, Plan of the Week and information on the offsites and other Southern Arizona points of interest.

Try it for up-to-date info, you'll like it.

You must book by 7/31/23



DARPA launches program in quest for "Red October" silent submarine drive

By David Szondy, June 04, 2023

<https://newatlas.com/military/darpa-launches-program-in-quest-for-red-october-silent-submarine-drive/>



An MHD drive could make submarines silently stealthy Hunter Ingals

Taking a plot point from the 1990 Sean Connery movie thriller *The Hunt for Red October*, DARPA is working on a super-silent submarine drive that has no moving parts and provides propulsion through the water using magnets and electricity.

In *Red October*, the titular Soviet super-submarine was equipped with a fictional stealth drive that was based on a very real technology. Since the late 1950s, engineers have been interested in an exotic concept called magnetohydrodynamics (MHD). It's a very simple principle that produces a very simple propulsion mechanism.

In an MHD drive, a fluid, like air or water, is given an electric charge and is then accelerated by an electromagnetic field, generating thrust. Basically, an MHD drive consists of a hollow tube with electrodes at one end and magnetic coils around it. Since the device doesn't have any shafts, gears, propellers, turbines, or jets, it produces very little noise and even the small amount it does generate can be attributed to natural sources.

Such a stealth drive would be invaluable for submarine warfare. Not only would it allow submarines to remain hidden from hunters, it would also be a big help on reconnaissance and intelligence missions by removing the boat's interfering audio signal as its sonar gathers data.

The question is, if this technology is so valuable, why hasn't it been used for over 60 years except in a couple of experimental surface boats? The answer is twofold. First, the electromagnetic coils need to be extremely powerful and making ones that are light enough and efficient enough to install in a submarine isn't easy. The second is that the electrodes must stand up to a lot of wear due to corrosion, hydrolysis, and erosion caused by the interaction of the magnetic fields, electrical current, and saltwater.

In recent years, there have been huge strides in the development of magnets, but there's still room for improvement and finding the right materials for making the electrodes remains a problem.

To overcome this, DARPA has established its 42-month Principles of Undersea Magnetohydrodynamic Pumps (PUMP) program that will take multiple approaches to resolving these issues to create a practical military MHD drive, though without Mr Connery's glowering presence.

"The best efficiency demonstrated in a magnetohydrodynamic drive to date was 1992 on the Yamato-1, a 30-m (100-ft) vessel that achieved 6.6 knots with an efficiency of around 30% using a magnetic field strength of approximately 4 Tesla," said Susan Swithenbank, PUMP program manager in DARPA's Defense Sciences Office. "In the last couple years, the commercial fusion industry has made advances in Rare-Earth Barium Copper Oxide (REBCO) magnets that have demonstrated large-scale magnetic fields as high as 20 Tesla that could potentially yield 90% efficiency in a magnetohydrodynamic drive, which is worth pursuing. Now that the glass ceiling in high magnetic field generation has been broken, PUMP aims to achieve a breakthrough to solve the electrode materials challenge."

In the case of the electrodes, a major obstacle is that gas bubbles tend to form over the electrode surfaces. This insulates them, reducing efficiency, and when the bubbles collapse they can damage the electrodes as if they'd been hit repeatedly with hammers. By developing computer models that evaluate the interactions of the magnetic field, the hydrodynamic, and the electrochemical reactions on different time and length scales, it may be possible to adjust the hydrodynamics, electrochemistry, and magnetics to decrease the damage while

boosting efficiency.

"We're hoping to leverage insights into novel material coatings from the fuel cell and battery industries, since they deal with the same bubble generation problem," said Swithenbank. "We're looking for expertise across all fields to form teams to help us finally realize a militarily relevant scale magnetohydrodynamic drive."

Source: [DARPA](#)

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Congress must summon General Dynamics Electric Boat executives and Navy to testify on submarine delays

Opinion by Tom Rogan, 6/9/23

[Congress must summon General Dynamics Electric Boat executives and Navy to testify on submarine delays \(msn.com\)](#)

When it comes to the U.S. military's greatest challenge, China's People's Liberation Army stands apart. The PLA's air defense destroyers, long-range missiles, and outsize forces pose potent threats. Fortunately, the United States retains at least one major advantage over the PLA: its undersea capabilities. In particular, submarine forces.

Unfortunately, the U.S. has a problem: Construction of the latest version of the Virginia-class attack submarines is greatly delayed. The sneaky *USS Jimmy Carter* aside (which has an intimate familiarity with Chinese and Russian coastlines), the Virginia-class attack submarines are the best submarines in the world. They are rivaled only by the United Kingdom's Astute-class attack submarines (capability comparable but significantly cheaper). The problem is that the U.S. Navy doesn't have enough Virginia-class vessels. Considering that the U.S. military may soon be at war with China over Taiwan and that the submarine manufacturing problems are long-standing, the Navy and manufacturer General Dynamics Electric Boat (a subsidiary of General Dynamics) must be made to answer for these delays.

A new report from the Government Accountability Office lays out the grave measure of the problem.

The report notes that Electric Boat has systematically failed to resolve existing problems with its manufacturing schedule. As the GAO puts it, "The program now estimates construction of each Block V submarine will take an average of over 2 years longer than reported last year. The delays are due to problems meeting original staffing and work efficiency estimates."

Costs are also going up. The GAO reports, "While the fixed price incentive contract set target and ceiling prices for each submarine, program officials reported that the [Virginia-class] shipbuilders have not met the work efficiency and material cost estimates that informed the target pricing. Consequently, the Navy plans to request more funds to complete Block V, as its prior budget requests covered the target prices, but not up to the ceiling prices."

More money for less product. What great value. It gets worse.

To advance construction of the new Columbia-class ballistic missile submarines (which will carry nuclear weapons), Electric Boat has reassigned workers from the Virginia-class construction efforts. But even Columbia faces problems. The GAO reported, "In September 2022, we reported that the Navy cannot rely on the shipbuilder's schedule for the lead submarine to plan for on-time delivery because it did not substantially meet all of our leading practices for program schedules. Meeting these leading practices would enable the program to determine how schedule risks affect the program's ability to meet key dates, such as delivery."

Congress should find this intolerable.

While it's true that Electric Boat has suffered staffing shortages and supply chain challenges, company President Kevin Graney suggested in November 2021 that these problems were on a path to resolution. The GAO has shown that the problems are unresolved. The PLA is set to benefit most and taxpayers least. Electric Boat's website claims it "has established standards of excellence in the design, construction, and life-cycle support of submarines for the U.S. Navy." Yes, Electric Boat's situation is only part of a broader military-industrial malaise. Still, these delays demand accountability.

Sadly, Electric Boat doesn't seem terribly interested in offering it. Asked by the *Washington Examiner* for comment on the GAO's report and the related staffing-supply crisis, an Electric Boat spokesperson responded, "We appreciate you reaching out to us for your story. However, I need to refer you to the Navy for comment on the GAO report."

Translation: Blame the Navy, not us.

The House Armed Services Committee should act. It should summon the head of the Navy's Sea Systems Command, Adm. William Galinis, Graney, Electric Boat's Chief Supply Officer Beth Rafferty, and Virginia-class manager Larry Runkle to testify. They must answer as to why these delays have not been resolved and what they intend to do to address these failures.

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One nuclear-armed Poseidon torpedo could decimate a coastal city. Russia wants 30 of them.

By Silky Kaur | June 14, 2023

<https://thebulletin.org/2023/06/one-nuclear-armed-poseidon-torpedo-could-decimate-a-coastal-city-russia-wants-30-of-them/>



Computer-generated image of a "Poseidon" long-range nuclear-powered torpedo. (Image: Russian Defense Ministry)

Imagine finding yourself on a serene seashore, only to realize that a catastrophic tsunami is imminent. However, this is no ordinary tsunami; this one is radioactive.

In January 2023, the Russian news agency TASS reported that Russia had produced the first set of nuclear-powered, very long range, nuclear-armed torpedoes known as "Poseidon." Strategic experts are warning that the Poseidon torpedo would have the potential to devastate a coastal city, cause radioactive floods, and result in millions of deaths. Over the past few years, tabloid news outlets have painted a hauntingly vivid picture of a towering, 1,000-foot-tall radioactive tsunami violently crashing onto British shores, pulverizing everything in its path, and transforming whole cities into barren, lifeless lands.

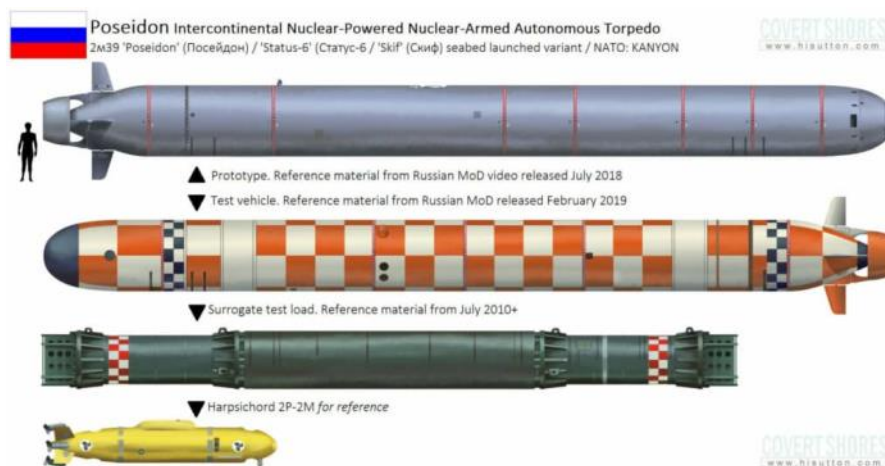
Is Poseidon even real? In ancient Greek mythology, Poseidon was revered as the god of the oceans, protector of sailors and those who worked or traveled at sea. In the current context, "Poseidon" takes on a different meaning, with a destructive weapon capable of causing catastrophic events.

Russia's Poseidon—also known in the United States as Canyon, Ocean Multipurpose System, and Status-6—was first revealed by the Russian Navy in 2015 and reportedly tested for the first time in November 2016. The torpedo—a nuclear-powered underwater drone equipped with nuclear weapons—is designed to be launched from submarines. The first Poseidon is expected to be deployed by 2027.

There is buzz that this new weapon is poised to shake the landscape of modern warfare. And this may owe less to its borrowed name than to some unmatched features—at least on paper.

Powered by a compact nuclear reactor, it is believed the Poseidon could travel at unprecedented speeds of 100 knots (185 kilometers per hour), have a range of approximately 10,000 kilometers, and operate at depths of up to 1,000 meters. Designed to evade detection by acoustic tracking devices and other traps, the Poseidon has a diameter of approximately 1.6 to two meters. Particularly riveting is the torpedo's devastating payload: a nuclear warhead with a likely yield of at least several megatons (with early reports suggesting it could yield up to 100 megatons). For comparison, Russia's Tsar Bomba—the most powerful nuclear weapon ever tested—had an estimated blast yield of about 50 megatons.

While some reports claim that Russia's Poseidon may exist only as a propaganda scheme, experts generally agree that the system is "very real" and has received significant resources from the Russian armed forces, although many details remain unknown. Intelligence reports have suggested that Poseidon has undergone many trials, evidenced by the fact that some submarines have been modified and some are being specially built to accommodate for the larger and heavier Poseidon. For instance, the Sarov submarine is believed to have been modified to test Poseidon prototypes. According to TASS, the Russian Navy intends to purchase at least 30 Poseidon torpedoes and deploy them on four submarines.



Prototype of Russia's Poseidon nuclear-powered/nuclear-armed torpedo next to the silhouette of a human being and other Russian underwater weaponry. (Image courtesy of HI Sutton/Covert Shores – hisutton.com)

Poseidon's origin and roles. The idea of torpedoes fitted with a nuclear warhead was first conceived in the 1950s, when the Soviet Union began two separate programs to develop submarine-launched nuclear torpedoes—the T-5 and the T-15. These programs were part of a broader strategy to expand the Soviet Union's nuclear capabilities and gain an edge in a nuclear crisis.

In October 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, a Soviet submarine armed with a T-5 nuclear-tipped torpedo came close to launching it against US forces because its commander, Valentin Savitsky, believed that a US-Soviet Union war had already started. It is only because the submarine's deputy commander, Vasili Arkhipov, convinced other top officers that launching the torpedo would be a fatal mistake that a potential nuclear catastrophe was prevented.

The Poseidon torpedo, however, will have no human onboard to make critical decisions after it has been launched. It will be controlled through a combination of remote communications and onboard automation. These forms of guidance may lead to problems that include hacking by third parties, loss of control because of technical malfunctions, and environmentally caused accidents that may lead to wrong signaling and thus inadvertent escalation.

The Poseidon can be viewed as an evolution in Russia's nuclear deterrence strategy. Russia currently possesses the Dead Hand, an automated nuclear weapons command system also known as the Perimeter. Established during the Cold War, the Perimeter was created to ensure that, in a crisis, the Soviet Union could respond to a nuclear first strike, even if Russia's armed forces were destroyed and all its leadership was eliminated. But with the technological advances of US ballistic missile defense systems, the Russian Perimeter system, which concerns intercontinental ballistic missiles only, has lost its preeminence.

Russian authorities describe the Poseidon torpedo as a multi-purpose system, suggesting that it could serve several roles.

It is widely speculated that the Poseidon may have been developed as a reaction to advances in US ballistic missile defense capabilities. In March 2018, Russian President Putin stated that Poseidon and other advanced weapons were developed because of the demise of the 1972 US-Soviet Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which Putin said was "the cornerstone of the international security system." After the United States pulled out of the treaty in 2002 to build its new national missile defense system, Russia started working on improving their military equipment and weapons to maintain a strong nuclear deterrent capability against US assets.

Besides being touted as a weapon that can circumvent US ballistic missile defenses for use against aircraft carrier groups and coastal targets, Poseidon also reflects Russia's larger nuclear strategy and doctrine. After

the Cold War ended, the United States shifted its focus to de-emphasizing the role of nuclear weapons in its security strategy. But Russia continued to greatly rely on nuclear weapons and even adopted a nuclear doctrine of “escalate to de-escalate,” which consists of using nuclear coercion and messaging tactics to achieve strategic goals. The development and deployment of new nuclear weapons like the Poseidon are considered to contribute to Russia’s broader strategy.

Effect on strategic stability. Advances in artificial intelligence and the use of autonomous platforms for nuclear delivery such as unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned underwater vehicles, and hypersonic glide vehicles have raised concerns over potential negative impacts on strategic stability. Weaker nuclear-armed countries would remain unable to keep up with progress in AI technologies, which also pose new risks by reducing the direct human control over nuclear weapons use. In this context, the deployment by Russia of its nuclear-capable, autonomous Poseidon torpedo could be seen to also threatening strategic stability.

However, many experts and US officials—including former US Defense Secretary James Mattis—believe that the addition of the Poseidon torpedo to Russia’s nuclear arsenal would not alter the existing strategic nuclear balance with the United States because Russia already possesses the capability to launch nuclear-armed missiles at US cities. The introduction of Poseidon would not significantly increase the existing threat and, even if used, its impact would be limited to coastal areas.

Instead, many see Poseidon primarily as a psychological weapon intended for nuclear signaling rather than for its actual use. Some even speculate that the Poseidon will remain at the prototype stage and serve mainly political objectives, such as renewed talks with the United States on ballistic missile defense systems. The weapon’s primary intent may be in the uncertainty, speculation, and fear it can provoke.

How to respond? Automated weapons like Poseidon, especially if controlled by artificial intelligence, undoubtedly add complexity to decision-making in a crisis. It effectively transforms AI into an active participant during times of strategic adversity. This has sparked a heated debate on whether these systems should be fully automated or not, as automation brings significant risks of misjudging the intentions of an opponent. To better understand the challenges posed by unmanned automated nuclear vehicles like Poseidon, further research is imperative, which requires gathering more information about the weapon itself.

While ensuring that research in automation only aims to reduce any risks associated with accidents or inadvertent use, it is equally important for countries to continue engaging in arms control and risk reduction talks whenever possible. Such dialogues may play a crucial role in providing insight into each other’s nuclear forces, helping to alleviate uncertainties about possible new weapon systems, including the Poseidon.



Navy to Christen Submarine Iowa

Defence.gov., June 16, 2023

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3430625/navy-to-christen-submarine-iowa/>

The Navy will christen one of its newest Virginia-class fast-attack submarines, the future USS Iowa (SSN 797), during a 10 a.m. EDT ceremony Saturday, June 17, 2023, General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut.

The principal speaker will be the Honorable Erik Raven, Under Secretary of the Navy. Remarks will also be provided by the Honorable Senator Richard Blumenthal; Vice Adm. Frank Morley, principal military Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition); Mr. Kevin Graney, president of Electric Boat; Mr. Bryan Caccavale, vice president, Huntington Ingalls Newport News Shipbuilding; U.S. Representative, Iowa's 3rd District, Zach Nunn; and U.S. Representative, Connecticut's 2nd District, Joe Courtney

In a time-honored Navy tradition, the submarine's sponsor, Mrs. Christie Vilsack, will christen the boat by breaking a bottle of sparkling wine across the bow. Vilsack, an Iowa native, most recently served as the education advisor to the chancellor of Colorado State University. She also served as the senior advisor for International Education at USAID during the Obama Administration. As Iowa's First Lady, she led a focus on education and advocacy for Iowa's public libraries. She and her husband Mr. Tom Vilsack, the Secretary of Agriculture, live in rural Iowa.

The future USS Iowa (SSN 797) is the fourth U.S. Navy vessel and first submarine named in recognition of the state. Previous ships named after the state were battleships, as well as, a converted merchant ship that was never activated.

Virginia-class submarines are built to operate in the world's littoral and deep waters while conducting anti-submarine warfare; anti-surface ship warfare; strike warfare; special operations forces support; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; irregular warfare; and mine warfare missions. Their inherent stealth, endurance, mobility, and firepower directly enable them to support five of the six maritime strategy core capabilities – sea control, power projection, forward presence, maritime security and deterrence. These capabilities allow the submarine force to contribute to regional stability and preservation of future peace while operating everywhere international law allows, so everyone else can too.

Media may direct queries to the Navy Office of Information at (703) 697-5342. More information about the Virginia-class attack submarines is available online at <https://www.navy.mil/Resources/Fact-Files/Display-FactFiles/Article/2169558/attack-submarines-ssn/>.

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How A Russian Nuclear Submarine Accidentally ‘Surfaced’ Under a U.S. Attack Sub

Story by Sebastien Roblin, 6/4/23

[How A Russian Nuclear Submarine Accidentally ‘Surfaced’ Under a U.S. Attack Sub \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/defense/how-a-russian-nuclear-submarine-accidentally-surfaced-under-a-u-s-attack-sub)



Los Angeles-Class© Provided by 1945

It's tempting to think of sonar as a sort of radar that works underwater. However, water is a far less compliant medium than air even for the most modern sensors, and wind conditions, temperature variations and sounds rebounding off the ocean floor can all dramatically degrade its performance. When attempting to detect the extremely quiet submarines currently in use, just a few adverse factors can turn a very difficult task into an impossible one.

Therefore, a submarine spying close to an adversary's homeport might not be able to spot another submarine heading towards it until after the collision—which can be worse than embarrassing for everyone involved.

On February 11, 1992, the USS Baton Rouge, a nuclear-powered Los Angeles-class attack submarine, was lurking twenty meters deep in the shallow waters off of Kildin Island, fourteen miles away from the Russian port of Murmansk. The Soviet Union had dissolved just two months earlier—but the Navy still wanted to closely monitor what had become of Russia's powerful navy.

The exact nature of Baton Rouge's espionage activities has never been clarified. It could have involved recording the sounds produced by Russian submarines for later identification, or depositing and recovering intelligence-gathering devices.

At 8:16, something massive struck the 110-meter long Baton Rouge from below, scratching the nuclear-powered submarine's hull and causing tears in its port ballast tank. Fortunately, the American submarine's hull was not further compromised.

It turned out a Russian Sierra-class nuclear-powered attack submarine, the B-276 Kostroma, had attempted to surface underneath the American submarine. Swimming at around eight miles per hour, the Russian boat's conning tower had impacted the belly of the American ship. The titanium-hulled Kostroma's sail was partially crushed from impacting the Baton Rouge's belly, and pieces of the American submarine's anti-sonar tiles were later found embedded in its surface.

Both submarines were designed to launch cruise missiles from their torpedo tubes, some of which could theoretically be armed with nuclear warheads. However, Russia and the United States had recently agreed to

withdraw such warheads under the START I treaty, and it was likely that the Baton Rouge at least no longer carried them. Still, a worse collision could have breached the reactors on either vessel, irradiating the submarines and the surrounding waters.

Fortunately, this did not occur. The Baton Rouge circled around and contacted the other submarine to make sure it wasn't in need of assistance, and then both vessels returned to port for repairs.

The accident caused one of the United States' first diplomatic incidents with the newborn Russian government, with Secretary of State James Baker having to meet in person with Yeltsin and assure him that the United States would scale back its spying in Russian waters, a message belied the following year by another submarine collision off the Kola peninsula.

The incident also highlighted differences on the definition of "international waters." The United States follows the standard of measuring them twelve miles away from the nearest landmass. The Baton Rouge was in compliance with this principle. Moscow, however, defined them as extending twelve miles from a line formed by the two sides of a gulf, by which standard it considered the Baton Rouge in violation of its territorial waters.

The second in the prolific Los Angeles class, the Baton Rouge was only seventeen years old. However, the cost of repairing the 110-meter-long vessel, combined with the already scheduled expenses of nuclear refueling, was judged excessive and the boat was decommissioned in January 1995.

The Kostroma, however, was repaired and put back to sea by 1997. Russian sailors have painted a kill marking on its conning tower to commemorate the "defeat" of the Baton Rouge.

Stealth in Shallow Water

How did this accident even happen? Some articles in the press characterized the subs as having been involved in a cat-and-mouse game that had gone too far. Indeed, such games were common between the attack submarines of rival nations, and had resulted in collisions in the past.

However, that account remains unlikely because a submarine can only play a cat-and-mouse game if it is able to detect the other ship. And in the shallow waters off of Kildin Island, it is unlikely either vessel could.

This is because in shallow water, breaking waves create at least ten times the background interference for sonar operators, making it extremely hard to discern a submarine's quiet propeller screw. Furthermore, even signals that are detected will have reflected off the ocean floor and the surf so that it would become difficult to isolate them against the background interference.

Analyst Eugene Miasnikov calculated in 1993 that the detection range using passive sonar of a slow-moving Sierra-class submarine in such a noisy environment would likely have been between one hundred and two hundred meters, or fewer if it was a windy day. And detection range might have fallen to zero if the Russian sub approached from a sixty-degree arc behind the Baton Rouge, which is not covered by the submarine's fixed sonar array.

The Russian submarine would also have had little chance of detecting the quieter Los Angeles-class submarine. More powerful fixed antisubmarine sensors might only have been effective at ranges of three to five kilometers in such conditions, too short to reach the Baton Rouge's position. Submarines can also deploy towed sonar arrays behind them to increase their sonar coverage, but these are difficult to control in shallow waters and were therefore not in use during the incident.

A submarine or surface ship could also use active sonar to emit sound waves that would reflect off another submarine's hull. In shallow water, this might have increased detection ranges to a few kilometers. However, doing so would also reveal the platform using the active sonar.

The Baton Rouge surely did not use active sonar so as to remain undetected. Nor did it detect active sonar from the Kostroma. Thus, neither vessel was using active sonar, and their passive sonars were likely not strong enough to detect the other in the noisy shallows.

This explains why submarines measuring longer than a football field in length can run into each other, oblivious to the other's presence until the crunch of impact. As evidenced by the alarming collision in 2009 between the nuclear missile-armed French Triomphant and the British Vanguard, the risks of underwater collisions between nuclear submarines remain quite real today.

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A US nuclear-powered sub arrives in South Korea, a day after North Korea resumes its missile tests

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and KIM TONG-HYUNG, June 16, 2023

<https://apnews.com/article/us-submarine-north-korea-missiles-3bf330fa9f8a19cb9b90f0af3d6bac3a>

The nuclear-powered submarine USS Michigan approaches a naval base in Busan, South Korea, Friday, June 16, 2023. The United States deployed the nuclear-powered submarine capable of carrying about 150 Tomahawk missiles to South Korea on Friday, a day after North Korea resumed missile tests in protest of the U.S.-South Korean live-fire drills. (Gang Duck-chul/Yonhap via AP)

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The United States deployed a nuclear-powered submarine capable of carrying about 150 Tomahawk missiles to South Korea on Friday, a day after North Korea resumed missile tests in protest of the U.S.-South Korean live-fire drills.

The USS Michigan's arrival in South Korea, the first of its kind in six years, is part of a recent bilateral agreement on enhancing "regular visibility" of U.S. strategic assets to the Korean Peninsula in response to North Korea's advancing nuclear program, according to South Korean officials.

With the deployment of the USS Michigan, the U.S. and South Korean navies are to conduct drills on boosting their special operation capabilities and joint ability to cope with growing North Korean nuclear threats, the South Korean Defense Ministry said in a statement.

It said the U.S. submarine arrived at the southeastern port city of Busan but didn't say how long it would stay in South Korean waters.



The USS Michigan is one of the biggest submarines in the world. The Ohio-class guided-missile submarine can be armed with 150 Tomahawk missiles with a range of about 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles) and is capable of launching special forces missions, according to the South Korean statement.

The South Korean and U.S. militaries have been expanding their exercises in reaction to North Korea's provocative run of missile tests since last year. North Korea has argued it was forced to ramp up testing activities to deal with its rivals' expanded military drills that it views as an invasion rehearsal, but experts say the North ultimately aims to modernize its arsenal and increase its leverage in eventual diplomacy.

In April, after their meeting in Washington, President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol agreed that the United States would enhance the “regular visibility of strategic assets to the Korean Peninsula.” Biden also stated that any North Korean nuclear attack on the U.S. or its allies would “result in the end of whatever regime” took such action.

The two leaders also announced other steps to reinforce joint deterrence capabilities such as the docking a U.S. nuclear ballistic missile submarine in South Korea periodically; bolstering joint training exercises; and the establishment of a new nuclear consultative group. The nuclear ballistic missile submarine hasn’t come to South Korea.

Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, slammed the Biden-Yoon summit agreements, saying they revealed the two countries’ “most hostile and aggressive will of action” against the North. She threatened to further bolster her country’s nuclear forces.

On Thursday, North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles off its east coast, shortly after it vowed responses to the just-ended South Korea-U.S. firing drills near the Koreas’ heavily armed border.

They were the North’s first weapons launches since it tried to put its first spy satellite into orbit in late May. The launch failed as the rocket carrying the spy satellite crashed into the waters off the Korean Peninsula’s west coast.

South Korea’s Defense Ministry said Friday that military search crews have salvaged what it believes is part of the crashed North Korean rocket. The ministry released photos of the white, metal cylinder, which some experts said would have been the rocket’s fuel tank.



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/july-1.html>

07/02/1945 USS Barb (SS 220) bombards Japanese installations on Kaihyo Island, Japan in the first successful use of rockets against shore positions.

07/03/1943 Submarine chaser USS (SC 1048) rescues survivors of a U-boat attack who had been sighted by a Navy blimp in the North Atlantic Ocean. The survivors are from the tanker Bloody Marsh, which was previously torpedoed July 2 and sunk by German submarine (U 66), which during its career sinks 37 Allied vessels until sunk by aircraft from USS Block Island (CVE 21) and USS Buckley 51) nearly a year later.

07/05/1942 USS Growler (SS 215) torpedoes and sinks the Japanese destroyer, Arare, in the Salmon Lagoon, off Kiska. In the attack, USS Growler damages destroyers Kasumi and Shiranui.

07/06/1944 USS Paddle (SS 263) attacks a Japanese convoy northwest of Halmahera and sinks destroyer Hokaze off Sangi Island. Also on this date, USS Sealion (SS 315) attacks a Japanese convoy in the East China Sea and sinks merchant passenger cargo ship Setsuzan Maru off Ningpo, China while USS Tang (SS 306) sinks Japanese freighter Dori Maru in Chosen Bay.

07/07/1944 USS Mingo (SS 261) torpedoes and sinks Japanese destroyer Tamanami, 150 miles west-southwest of Manila, while USS Skate (SS 305) attacks a Japanese convoy in the southern Sea of Okhotsk and sinks destroyer Usugumo, 160 miles north of Etorofu, Kuril Islands.

07/08/1960 USS Thresher (SSN 593) is launched at Portsmouth, N.H.

07/04/1994 USS Rhode Island (SSBN 740) is commissioned at Groton, Conn. The Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarine.

07/10/1945 USS Runner (SS 476) sinks the Japanese minesweeper (No.27) off Tado Saki, Honshu.

07/10/1993 USS Nebraska (SSBN 739) is commissioned at New London, Conn., the 14th Ohio-class submarine.

07/11/1944 USS Sealion (SS 315), in the Yellow Sea off the west coast of Korea, near Shosei Jima, sinks two Japanese freighters.

07/11/1987 USS Helena (SSN 725) is commissioned at Groton, Conn. The Los Angeles-class nuclear attack submarine is the fourth named for the capitol of Montana.

07/13/1991 USS Kentucky (SSBN 737) is commissioned at Groton, Conn., the third Navy vessel to be named after the Bluegrass state. The thoroughbred of the Fleet is an Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine.

07/15/1942 USS Grunion (SS 216) sinks the Japanese submarine chasers (25 and 26) off Kiska, Aleutian Islands.

07/17/1944 USS Gabilan (SS 252) sinks Japanese minesweeper (W 25) northwest of Zenizu, Japan.

07/18/1981 USS Dallas (SSN 700) is commissioned at Groton, Conn., her first homeport. The Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered attack submarine is the first to be built with an all-digital fire control and sonar system.

07/19/1997 USS Seawolf (SSN 21) is commissioned at Electric Boat Shipyard in Groton, Conn.

07/20/1945 USS Threadfin (SS 410) sinks the Japanese minesweeper (W 39) northwest of Mokpo, Korea.

07/20/1960 In the first launch of the Polaris missile, USS George Washington (SSBN 598) successfully fires two operational Polaris missiles while submerged off Florida.

07/22/1964 Four Navy divers (Lt. Cmdr. Robert Thompson, Gunners Mate First Class Lester Anderson, Chief Quartermaster Robert A. Barth, and Chief Hospital Corpsman Sanders Manning) submerge in Sealab I at a depth of 192 feet, 39 miles off Hamilton, Bermuda for an intended three weeks. The crew surfaces early on July 31 due to an oncoming tropical storm.

07/24/1942 USS Narwhal (SS 167) sinks Japanese guardboat No.83 Shinsei Maru, at Utsutsu Bay, Hokkaido. USS Narwhal also sinks freighters Nissho Maru off Etorofu Maru, Kuril Island, and Kofuji Maru off Oito.

07/24/1993 USS Columbus (SSN 762) is commissioned onboard Submarine Base New London, Groton, Conn. The Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered attack submarine is the fifth ship to be named Columbus for the Navy.

07/27/1943 USS Scamp (SS 277) torpedoes and sinks the Japanese submarine (I 168), which had sunk USS Yorktown (CV 5) and USS Hammann (DD 412) at the Battle of Midway, south-south-west of Truk. USS Scamp also damages the Japanese oiler, Kazahaya.

07/27/1985 USS Providence (SSN 719) is commissioned at Groton, Conn., the fifth ship in the Navy to be named after the Rhode Island city.

07/28/1926 USS S-1 surfaces and launches a Cox-Klemin (XS 2) seaplane flown by Lt. D.C. Allen. The submarine recovers the aircraft and submerges, successfully completing an airplane transport on board a submarine.

07/29/1944 USS Balao (SS 285) shells and sinks Japanese sampan (No.7) Nissho Maru about 100 miles off Palau. USS Drum (SS 228) sinks Asahi Maru with gunfire in the same general area, and takes survivors prisoner. Also on this date, USS Perch (SS 313) sinks Japanese guardboat Kannon Maru I-Go in the Philippine Sea, east of Dinagat Island.

07/29/1995 USS Maine (SSBN 741) is commissioned at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine. The Ohio-class nuclear-powered ballistic-missile submarine is the third Navy vessel to be named after the state.

07/30/1919 During an inspection by a six-man maintenance crew, the submarine USS G-2 suddenly floods and sinks at her moorings in Two Tree Channel near Niantic Bay off the Connecticut coast. She goes down in 13 1/2 fathoms, drowning three of the inspection crew.

07/31/1959 President Dwight D. Eisenhower responds to Secretary of the Navy William B. Franke's recommendation to name three SSBNs (nuclear-powered fleet ballistic missile submarines) with these names: USS Sam Houston, USS Thomas A. Edison, and USS John Marshall. The proposed name from Secretary Franke, USS Nathan Hale, is used two years later.

07/31/1959 USS Missouri (SSN 780) is commissioned at Groton, Conn., her homeport. The seventh Virginia-class attack submarine is the fourth Navy vessel to honor the state of Missouri.



Submarine Warfare Insignia (Dolphins)

[Naval History and Heritage Command](#)



Pictured are crew members of the submarine USS *Mackerel* (SS-204). It is estimated this photo was taken between October 1944 and December 1945. Ensign Jack Junkin, a former machinist mate first class, is seated in the front row, second from left. Note the “dolphins” pin on his left breast. Some of the enlisted sailors have the dolphins embroidered on their right sleeves. Some are also wearing the Combat Patrol pin, which the Navy awarded to members of the U.S. submarine force during World War II for service on a submarine that sank an enemy ship or performed a comparable combat mission. Gold stars were added for each successful patrol; a silver star would represent five successful patrols. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Naval Undersea Museum)

In the summer of 1923, while serving as Commander, Submarine Division Three, Captain Ernest J. King proposed that the Navy create a warfare insignia device for qualified submariners. The insignia came to be known as “dolphins” or “fish,” and is one of the Navy’s oldest warfare devices. The hard-earned badge distinguishes and identifies the members of the submarine community and has since become a source of pride for the “silent service.”

Not only did King propose the idea for the submarine warfare device, he also submitted the initial design. His drawing, which he submitted to the Bureau of Navigation for consideration, included a shield mounted on the beam ends of a submarine, with dolphins forward and aft of the conning tower. The bureau considered a shark and shield motif as well but ultimately hired a Philadelphia jewelry design firm to create the design.

The final design of the device was approved for wear on 24 March 1924. It displays a bow view of a surfaced O-class submarine with two dolphins resting their heads on the submarine’s bow planes. The dolphins depicted on the insignia are actually dolphinfish, or mahi-mahi, not the marine mammal.



One of the earliest designs of the submarine warfare insignia, circa 1924. Enlisted personnel wore this insignia, embroidered in silk, with white silk for blue clothing and blue silk for white clothing. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Naval Undersea Museum)



Another example of the early enlisted submarine warfare insignia design, circa 1924. The insignia became official in March 1924 when it was approved by Acting Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt Jr. It has undergone only minor changes since its introduction. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Naval Undersea Museum)

From 1924–47, qualified enlisted personnel wore an embroidered cloth version of this design on their right sleeve, midway between the wrist and elbow. Officers wore a gold-plated metal pin on their left breast above their ribbons and medals. In 1947, new regulations dictated that enlisted personnel wear the embroidered insignia on their left breast—in the same position as officers. When the Navy began allowing officers to embroider a gold insignia on their uniforms in 1950, enlisted personnel were allowed to wear a silver-plated metal version of the pin.

Beginning in 1943, the Navy authorized a new design for medical officers in which the submarine motif was replaced by two fish flanking a silver acorn over a gold oak leaf. In 1950, submarine engineering officers were granted their own insignia wherein the submarine motif was replaced by a gold disc inlaid with the letter “E.” The letter was replaced two years later with a ship’s screw. Not to be forgotten, submarine supply officers received their own version of the insignia in 1964 that displayed three oak leaves bordered by acorns.

Submarine personnel also designed their own unofficial insignias specific to their submarine community. Deep-water submarines developed their own insignia as well as nuclear submarine personnel. Submariners with an affinity for diesel boats also created enlisted and officer metal badges emblazoned with the letters

“DBF” (diesel boats forever) on the bottom border.



Submarine medical officer "dolphins." (Photo courtesy of Naval Undersea Museum)



Submarine engineering officer "dolphins." (Photo U.S. courtesy of U.S. Naval Undersea Museum)



Submarine supply officer "dolphins." (Photo courtesy of U.S. Naval Undersea Museum)



Modern silver "dolphins" worn by enlisted members of the submarine force. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Naval Undersea Museum)

The device, however, is more than just another addition to the uniform. The process of “qualifying” for dolphins on board a submarine is not optional—it’s a requirement for submarine service so that everyone aboard can take immediate action when an emergency occurs. To qualify, sailors must learn everything about a submarine’s systems, operation, and construction. They learn where the damage control gear equipment is located in every compartment, how to plug and patch leaks, extinguish fires, and rig compartments for casualty situations.



Torpedoman Third Class J. T. Spinger points out the indicator panel for gas build-up in torpedoes to Lieutenant C. M. Clark. Photo taken during Spinger’s final qualification test for his silver enlisted "dolphins," circa 1968. (Naval History and Heritage Command photograph, NH-98802)

The qualification process for officers and enlisted is similar and typically takes a year to complete. Submarine officers and enlisted personnel must demonstrate extensive knowledge of all submarine systems, operations, and compartments as well as damage control, casualty procedures, and watchstanding.

Submariners under instruction complete a qualification card which lists all the submarine systems, compartments, and equipment. Personnel obtain signatures upon receiving proper training and showing understanding of the ship equipment. Upon gaining all their required signatures, they must then pass an oral board. Upon transferring to a new class of submarine, sailors must requalify on the new submarine.



The executive officer of *Bluefish* (SSN-675) reads from MM3 Shawn Vreeland's submarine qualification certificate on 6 June 1988. The pinning ceremony was held on board a barge at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in New Hampshire. (Photo contributed by Shawn Vreeland)



USS *Bluefish*'s (SSN-675) executive officer pins dolphins on MM3 Shawn Vreeland on 6 June 1988 at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. *Bluefish* was in dry dock undergoing an overhaul and a reactor refueling at the time. (Photo contributed by Shawn Vreeland)

In 2010, the Navy lifted the ban barring women from serving on submarines. In June 2012, Lieutenant Britta Christianson, Gold Crew supply officer for the guided-missile submarine *Ohio* (SSGN-726), earned her submarine supply corps dolphins, making her the first female supply corps officer to qualify in submarines. In December 2012, the first three female unrestricted line officers, Lieutenant (j.g.) Marquette Leveque, Lieutenant (j.g.) Amber Cowan, and Lieutenant (j.g.) Jennifer Noonan, qualified in submarines and were awarded their dolphins.



Lt. (j.g.) Marquette Leveque, left, and Lt. (j.g.) Kyle McFadden, both assigned to the Gold crew of the ballistic missile submarine USS *Wyoming* (SSBN 742), receive their submarine officer warfare devices at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay. Leveque is one of three sailors to become the first female unrestricted line officers to qualify in submarines. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class James Kimber/Released)



Master Chief Rusty Staub, assigned to Submarine Group 9 Command, congratulates Lt. (j.g.) Amber Cowan, assigned to the Blue crew of the ballistic missile submarine *Maine* (SSBN-741), for earning her submarine warfare officer device. Cowan and Lt. (j.g.) Jennifer Noonan (center), are two of three sailors to become the first female unrestricted line officers to qualify in submarines. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Ahron Arendes)

In 2016, Chief Culinary Specialist Dominique Saavedra became the first female enlisted Sailor to earn her silver dolphins.



Chief Culinary Specialist Dominique Saavedra, assigned to USS *Michigan* (SSGN-727) (Blue), is pinned with her enlisted submarine qualification pin during a ceremony at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard on 2 August 2016. Saavedra is the first female enlisted sailor to earn the "dolphins." She qualified aboard USS *Ohio* (SSGN-726) ahead of deploying aboard USS *Michigan* (SSGN 727). (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Kenneth G. Takada)

Other Resources:

[H-Gram 008-5: Admiral Ernest J. King—Chief of Naval Operations, 1942 Submarine Dolphins - U. S. Naval Undersea Museum](#)

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The Three Sieves

Here's why you should not GOSSIP.

In Ancient Greece, Socrates had a great reputation of wisdom. One day, someone came to find the great philosopher and said to him:

"Do you know what I just heard about your friend?"

"A moment, replied Socrates. Before you tell me, I would like to test you the three sieves."

"The three sieves?"

"Yes, continued Socrates. Before telling anything about the others, it's good to take the time to filter what you mean. I call it the test of the three sieves. The first sieve is the TRUTH. Have you checked if what you're going to tell me is true?"

"No, I just heard it."

"Very good! So, you don't know if it's true. We continue with the second sieve, that of KINDNESS. What you want to tell me about my friend, is it good?"

"Oh, no! On the contrary."

"So, questioned Socrates, you want to tell me bad things about him and you're not even sure they're true? Maybe you can still pass the test of the third sieve, that of UTILITY. Is it useful that I know what you're going to tell me about this friend?"

"No, really."

"So, concluded Socrates, what you were going to tell me is neither true, nor good, nor useful. Why, then, did you want to tell me this?"

"Gossip is a bad thing. In the beginning it may seem enjoyable and fun, but in the end, it fills our hearts with bitterness and poisons us, too!"

- Pope Francis

No, Freedom Isn't Free

Author Unkown

I watched the flag pass by one day.
It fluttered in the breeze.
A young Marine saluted it,
And then he stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform
So young, so tall, so proud,
With hair cut square and eyes alert
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him
Had fallen through the years.
How many died on foreign soil?
How many mothers' tears?
How many pilots' planes shot down?
How many died at sea?
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?
No, freedom isn't free.

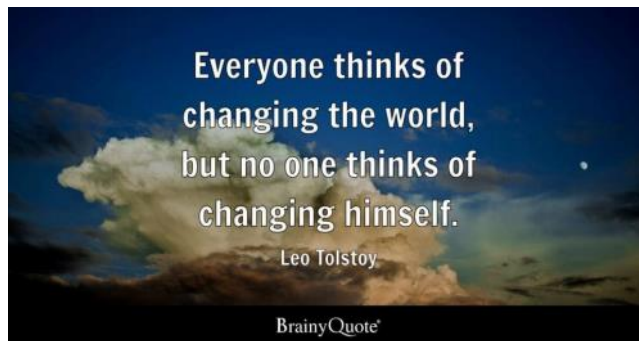
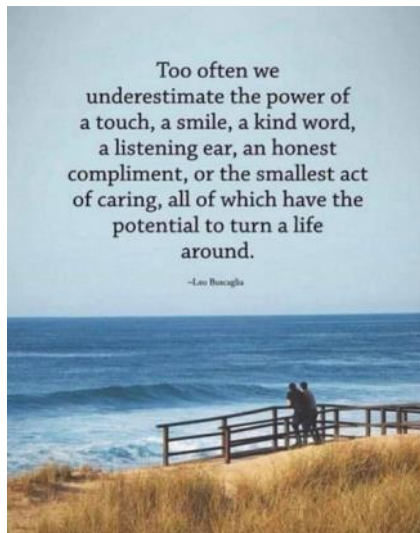
I heard the sound of taps one night,
When everything was still
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill.

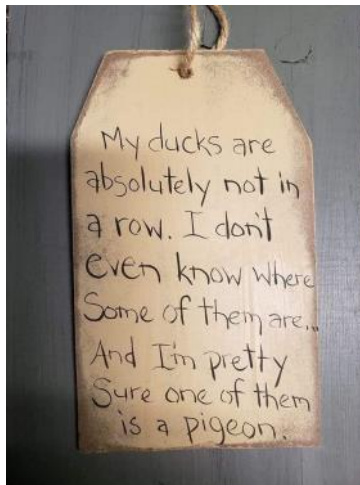
I wondered just how many times
That taps had meant "Amen,"
When a flag had draped a coffin
Of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands
With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard
At the bottom of the sea
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
No, freedom isn't free.







SHIPMATES IN ACTION

Round Rock Express Baseball at Dell Diamond, Round Rock, Texas

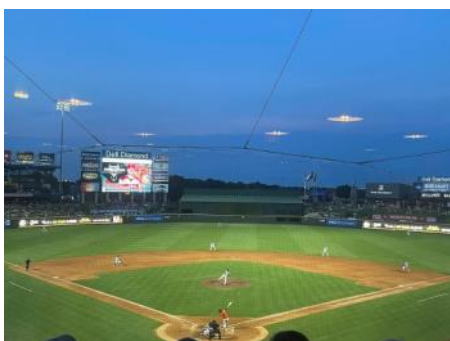
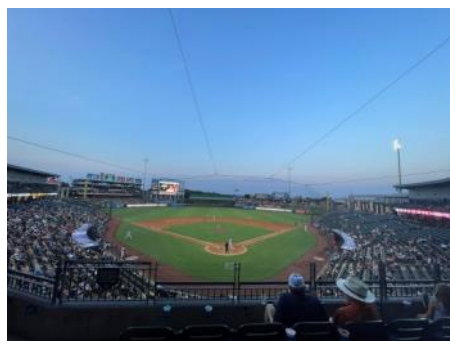
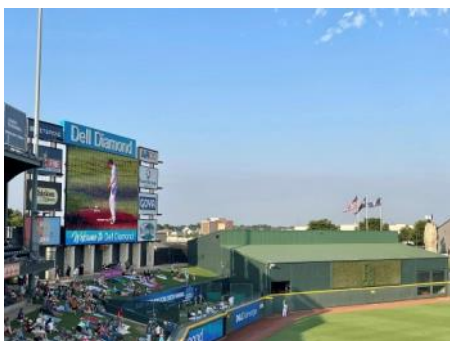
Facebook Post

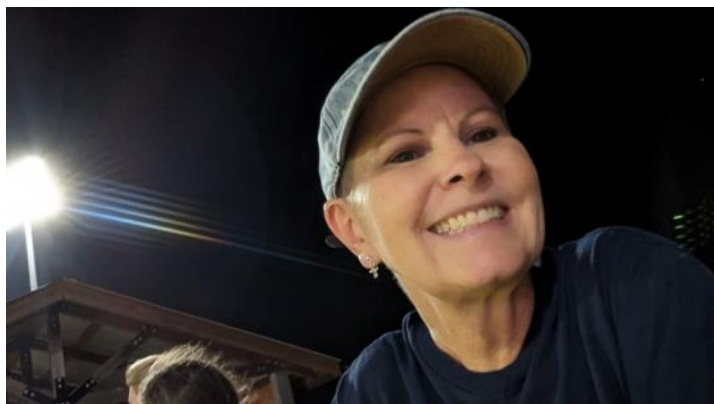
[USSVI Central Texas Base](#)

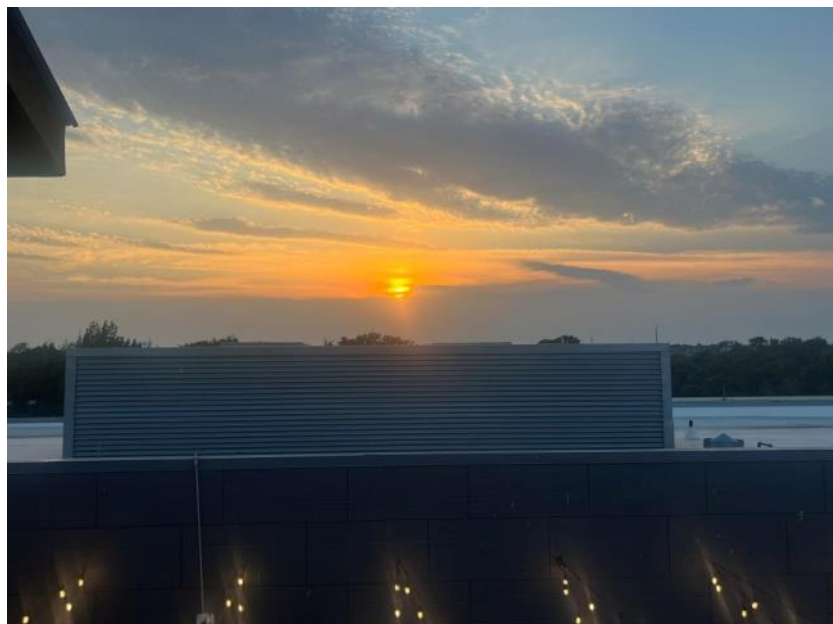
6/23/23, June 23, at 11:38 PM ·

Friday night baseball and fireworks! The Shipmates, families and friends gathered on the Party Porch in left field of the Dell Diamond to enjoy free beer, drinks, food and parking watching the Round Rock Express win, a couple of home runs, including a Grand Slam. Looking forward to doing it again next year! Enjoy the pictures.









VFW Post 8587 July 4th Celebration

1000 N. College St., Georgetown, TX

Picnic Begins at 1:00PM Hamburgers
and Hot Dogs for Donation



9 Hole Mini Golf



Family friendly event with fun and
games for all ages

Best Venue in all of Georgetown for
viewing!!



Fireworks begin at
9:30PM

**** OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ****

Arts and Crafts
Fair in Main Hall
12PM – 7PM



Presented by:
Texas Shoppers Market

LIVE MUSIC ALL DAY



Bob Case 1PM – 3PM



**Charlie Bishop
4PM -6PM**



**Garrett Pekar
7:30PM – 9:30PM**

