



THE DECK LOG

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

DECEMBER 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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USSVI CENTRAL DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER

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

CENTRAL TEXAS BASE OFFICERS

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|------------------------------|--------------|--|
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| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--|
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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.

Deck Log Editor

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

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

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

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

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

U.S. Submarine Service
JOIN USSVI
Have you ever worn the proud symbol pictured above? Are you related to, or know someone who is wearing, or has worn, Submarine Dolphins?
Visit our Web Site at:
<https://ussvicentraltexasbase.org/>



2017 Tom Williams



2021 Rick Mitchell
2021 Bill Scott
2023 Carl Repp



2010, 2014,
2017, 2020



2020 Base
2023 Bill Bellinghausen



2020
Bob Steinmann,
Hubert Jackson



2023 Bill Brinkman



2012, 2013, 2016,
2018, 2019, 2020,
2021, 2022, 2023,

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/)

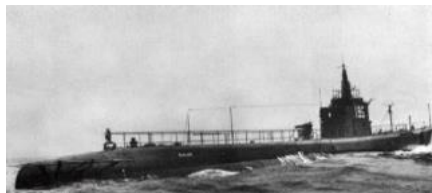
SILENT RUNNING - DECEMBER

"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 Capelin (SS-289)

Lost on Dec 2, 1943 with the loss of 76 men. She was on her 1st war patrol, but her exact location and cause of loss remain a mystery. She may have been lost to mines or an operational casualty.



USS Sealion (SS-195)

Lost on Dec 10, 1941 with the loss of 5 men. To prevent her from falling into enemy hands, she was scuttled in Manila Bay after incurring severe bomb damage during the initial Japanese attack. The destruction of the Navy Yard made repairs impossible, and Sealion was ordered destroyed. All salvagable equipment was taken off, depth charges were placed inside, and the explosives were set off to prevent her from being made useful to the enemy.



USS F1 / Carp (SS-20)

Lost on December 17, 1917 with the loss of 19 officers and men when it was sunk after collision with the USS F-3 (Pickerel) (SS-22) off San Clemente, CA. While maneuvering in exercises at sea, F-1 and F-3 collided, the former sinking in 10 seconds, her port side torn forward of the engine room. 19 of her men were lost, while 3 others were rescued by the submarines with whom she was operating.



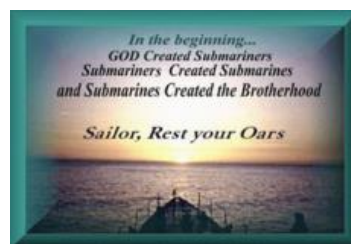
USS S-4 (SS-109)

Lost on December 17, 1927 with the loss of 40 officers and men when it was sunk after being rammed by USCG Paulding. Salvaged in 1928 and re-commissioned.

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



Hello Shipmates,

Well, here we are with another year almost past us. Together we did a lot and I think it made a difference and positive impact on many. No long announcements or anything this month. Hope to see you at our base's Christmas Party coming up on the 9th! If not then, hopefully we will see each other at our 1st meeting next year.

Wishing you and your families a Happy Holliday season, a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with many blessings. Working alongside all of you this year has been a true joy and privilege. I'm very excited to see what we can achieve together next year.

Thanks for everything you all do and Oh Yeah, Get Your Dues paid please!

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



USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEETING MINUTES



Date: 11/15/2023

Location: VFW Post 8587

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

E-Board was present

Meeting Minutes from 18 Oct 2023 Approved

Sailing List: 20 Total at VFW

Binnacle List: John Roberts, Chuck Trahan, Don Atkins and Floyd Smith

Prayer: Rick Mitchell led the base in our opening Prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance: Rick Mitchell

Tolling of the Boats – Rick Mitchell Reading, Chuck Trahan Tolling

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: Virgil Claycamp
Current Total Funds as of 1 Nov 2023

1 Oct 2023 Balance \$28,264.14

General: \$30,339.47
Memorial: \$4,162.54

1 Nov 2023 Balance \$34,405.01

Storekeeper – Virgil Claycamp

The 2024 United States Submarine Veteran Calendars are HERE. If you ordered them ahead of time they were \$7.50, if any are leftover, they will be \$10 each.

Base Challenge Coins for \$10 each for members, \$20 for others.

The Submarine Coloring Books that we use at Kaps4Kids events are available for \$5 each.

Memorial (Gene Hall): No Update from last report.

Kaps 4 Kids (Shawn O'Shea): Shawn was not present, next event is scheduled for 7 Dec.

Parade (Tom Sprague): Next event will be the Red Poppy Festival in Georgetown, Apr 2024.

Membership (Chuck Malone): 87 Current Members. 49 National Life, 40 Base Life. 40 Holland Club Members. Dues season in here. National 22 are due and Base 31 are due.

Please consider multi-year or Lifetime Options and Please get your Dues in as soon as you can. Annual dues are \$30/National and \$15/Base. 2024 Stickers and Membership Cards are available. Please log on to USSVI.ORG and ensure your information is current and correct.

Birthdays 2023: 11/19 Tom Sprague, 11/28 Ray Holloway, 12/3 Bill Brinkman, 12/4 Harry Boyer, 12/5 Fred Maynard, 12/9 Dick Witte, 12/11 Jack Odom, 12/15 David Miller, 12/16 Jim Bowls, 12/24 Shawn O'Shea, 12/28 Kyle Nix, 12/31 Ron Bennet

Unfinished, Ongoing and Old Business

Annual Base Raffle

The winning tickets for the 2023 Raffle were drawn and the results follow:

1st Prize, \$1000 was won by Lacy Pierson, Ticket #355

2nd Prize \$750 was won by Raymond Simpson, Ticket #808

3rd Prize \$500 was won by Sam Amato, Ticket #649

4th Prize \$250 was won by Charles Davidson, Ticket #619

Christmas Party will be held on **9 Dec 2023** at 1200. Location is **Stiles Switch BBQ** located at 6610 N Lamar Blvd, Austin. There will be a choice of 2 meats. Bar available. Cost is \$20 each for member and 1st Guest.. Additional guests will be \$35 each.

The **Base Float** is currently at **Rick Mitchell's** and is expected to be ready by early 2024.

2023 Georgetown Field of Honor

This year was held at the Hammerlun Center for Leadership and Learning, 507 E University Ave, Georgetown, TX. On Saturday, 4 Nov 2023 1400 we held a Tolling Ceremony.

Parade of Colors was on Sunday 5 Nov at 1330.

NEW Business:

Wreaths for Vets

Held at the Central Texas Veterans Cemetery on 25 Nov 2023 at 10:00.

Parking is at the Texas A&M Central Texas Campus and shuttle busses will run from 08:30 to Noon.

<https://www.wreathsforvets.org/category/latest-news/> for more information.

Officer Elections for 2024

Current Nominees:

Vice Commander- Carl Repp

Treasurer- Bryan Eaton

Secretary/Yeoman- No current nominees. Frank A. will continue if no one else.

Rick will be emailing the Ballots soon.

Sailor of the Year

Current Nominees are Frank Espinosa and Gene Hall

Rick will be emailing the Ballots soon.

Charitable Support – Rick Mitchell

Every year we provide support to various organizations.

We have \$2500 left in the budget to give to nominated organizations.

These are the currently nominated:

Samaritan Center [Counseling for Veterans, Individuals, Relationships & Families | Texas \(samaritan-center.org\)](http://samaritan-center.org)

Rick Mitchell - Georgetown Caring Place [Assistance to Families in Need | The Caring Place Georgetown, TX \(caringplacetx.org\)](http://caringplacetx.org)

Operation Phantom Support [Operation Phantom Support - Welcome!](#)

Bring everyone in the Zone [Bring Everyone In The Zone](#)

Shawn O'Shea - Hero's Below (\$250 request) [Heroes Below Underwater Stress Reduction and Relaxation |](#)

A motion was raised by Chuck Trahan to give \$500 each to the first four and \$250 for Heroes Below. The motion was seconded by Gene Hall and after a brief discussion was approved by the members present.

Help Wanted

We can always use help from our members, ask what you can do. Rick specifically mentioned assistance with the Treasurer's duties. Thank you.

Budget Being Prepared for 2024 – Rick Mitchell

Please provide any suggestion and input to the E-Board. Budget approval will be in Dec 2023.

Good of the Order

Ed Carr's wife, Bonnie, Donated a Quilt to the Base.

One of the members mentioned that the **Texas Grill Restaurant** in Bastrop serves **Free Meals to Veterans on the 1st Monday of each month.** 101 Hwy 71 West in Bastrop, TX

Dale Messing suggested that we might tell 'sea stories' from time to time.

50/50 Raffle – \$40 of \$80 was won by Ed Carr,

Next Events – Base Christmas Party 9 Dec 2023 at 1200 in Austin at Stiles Switch BBQ, 6610 N Lamar. Optional White Elephant Gifts.

Next Meeting – 17Jan 2024 at VFW 8587 and Zoom

Sailing List

Base Members and Visitors: Local at the VFW Post 8587 (20): Frank Abernathy, Ed Carr, Virgil Claycamp, Jack Collins, Ken Dallman, Bryan Eaton, Frank Espinosa, Mike Gauthier, Gene Hall, Hubert Jackson, Gene Hall, Chuck Malone, Fred Maynard, Dale Messing, Rick Mitchell, John Odom, Bill Scott, Tom Sprague, Chuck Trahan and Harry Ullman.

Meeting Adjourned by Rick Mitchell, 2003 hours

Minutes submitted by Frank Abernathy, Yeoman, 20 Nov 2023

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BASE TREASURER'S REPORT

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15 November 2023

Financial Report for Period Ending 10/30/2023

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance - 10/1/2023 | \$28,264.14 |
| RBFCU Checking (General Fund) | \$30,339.47 |
| RBFCU Savings (Memorial Fund) | \$4,162.54 |
| Cash to be deposited | \$113.00 |
| Uncleared Checks | -\$270.00 |
| Ending Balance - 10/30/2023 | \$34,405.01 |

Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer

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DECEMBER 2023



- Walt Whittingslow - 2nd
- Bryan Eaton - 2nd
- Vern Williams - 5th
- Jake Ferrigan - 6th
- Colin King - 8th
- Chris Pomeroy - 11th
- Tom Sprague - 19th
- Ray Holloway - 28th

We want to thank everyone for your continued support by maintaining your membership with USSVI and the Central Texas Base!

Please Don't abandon Ship Now – It's wet and cold out there!

Dues can be paid to our Treasurer, Virgil Claycamp, by cash, check or CC. 1 Year Base \$15 and National is \$30. Many Multi-Year options are available also. 2024 and beyond dues are DUE NOW! For any Questions please Contact:

Virgil Claycamp - 512-632-4852
 Chuck Malone – 512-694-5294

CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEMBERSHIP

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

| | |
|--|----|
| Members listed in Central Texas Database | 87 |
| Regular Annual Members | 26 |
| National Life Members | 50 |
| Base Life Members | 42 |
| Holland Club Members | 42 |
| Associate Members | 1 |
| Dual Members | 2 |
| Prospective Members: | 0 |
| War Veterans | 76 |
| 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 you to 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, Don Atkins, Coy Smith, 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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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 sea-water 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

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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.

9 December 2023, 1200, Annual Christmas Party, Central Texas Base, Stiles Switch BBQ, 6610 N Lamar

Blvd, Austin, TX 78752

17 January 2024, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, Zoom and VFW Post #8587, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1900 meeting.

21 February 2024, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, Zoom and VFW Post #8587, 1000 N College St., Georgetown, TX 78626, 1900 meeting.

16 March 2024, Quarterly Social, Time and Location TBD

17 April 2024, Monthly meeting Central Texas Base, Zoom and 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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Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) team provided the children at McLane’s Childrens Medical Center a wonderful submariner experience on December 7th, 2023. This rounds out a good year of events provided by the Central Texas Base Volunteers on the Kaps4Kids team. A big shout out to all that volunteered to put a smile on kid’s faces this year from our base. The team represented the base with the highest level of professionalism and joy that was transferred to those sick children this year. We are looking forward to another wonderful year of opportunities to serve our community. If interested in volunteering please contact me to get signed up early for next years event roster.

"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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USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2023-013

NEWS-01: CF 11-27-2023

Submitted by: Ken Earls, Pres. USSVCF on 11/27/2023

Shipmates,

Tuesday, November 28th is Giving Tuesday, a national day of recognizing Nonprofits around the country for all of their charitable activities.

One of our Shipmates, George Palmer of the Sailfish Base, has written and published about 20 novels. Most are about something we all know about - Liberty. He is offering to donate all proceeds from the sale of his books sold in November 2023 to the USSV Charitable Foundation. Not the profits, but the entire amount of his sales. This is a very generous offer.

All you have to do is log onto www.amazon.com and search for his books. It takes only a few minutes. If you have an e-reader you get the book almost immediately.

Or, click on this link and it will take you directly to his listings on Amazon: Amazon.com : Books by George W Palmer

Buy a book before the end of the day November 30th You will do two things: you will receive an interesting book to pass some time with and your purchase will go to the Charitable Foundation.

The LIBERTY Series: ("Sam Wilson" stories.):

Aegean Liberty* "What's a Grecian urn?"
 The Liberty Launch* "The stupid shall be punished."
 Liberty in the Kasbah* "A reel-to-reel adventure."
 Vampire Liberty "Take tomorrow off Sailor."
 The Liberty Risk "Nobody can be that stupid."
 Black Sea Liberty* "Now that's Glasnost!"
 The Liberty Hound "Where do they get these morons anyway?"
 The Liberty Swap "Sometimes ya just havta' get off the ship."
 Out of Bounds Liberty*
 Liberty for the Brave*
 Best Liberty Ever!*
 Lorelei Liberty "Watch out for the rocks and shoals!"
 Fleet Week Liberty
 The Liberty Idyll*
 Fleeting Up Liberty
 The Liberty Treat
 The Liberty Party
 Dungaree Liberty* "Sailors do get even!" A Tom Randal submarine story.

CATASTROPHE! The Fentanyl Scourge In America

Shipmates Caring About Shipmates

Thank you.

Ken Earls, President

USSV Charitable Foundation

keneals.ss@gmail.com - www.ussvcf.org



Future USS Arizona attack submarine assigned commanding officer

[Future USS Arizona attack submarine assigned commanding officer \(azfamily.com\)](http://azfamily.com)

By [AZFamily Digital News Staff](#)

Published: Oct. 30, 2023



Cmdr. Thomas Digan, commanding officer of PCU Arizona (SSN 803) is piped ashore following the PCU Arizona (SSN 803) establishment of command ceremony that was held at Historic Ship Nautilus (SSN 571) in Groton, Conn. on Friday, Oct. 27, 2023. (John Narewski/ U.S. Dept. of Defense)

GROTON, CONN. (3TV/CBS 5) -- The future USS Arizona has been assigned a commanding officer, marking the first time in over eight decades the U.S. Navy has named a skipper for a ship with the same name-sake.

Cmdr. Thomas Digan assumed command of the Arizona during a ceremony at the Submarine Force Museum in Groton, Conn., on Friday. It's an achievement he calls a highlight of his career.

"We are all very proud to be a part of the next warship named after the Grand Canyon State and look forward to completing this new construction process and eventually take Arizona out to sea to defend America for decades to come," Digan said.

The USS Arizona (SSN 803) will be the third U.S. Navy vessel named for the state. Currently dubbed "PCU Arizona," it will be the 30th nuclear-powered Virginia-class attack submarine to enter into service with the Navy. Capable of holding a crew of 135, it will ultimately join the SUBRON 12 and be one of two squadrons based out of the Naval base in Connecticut. It's standard protocol to classify ships as PCU if they have not yet been commissioned.

The last vessel to carry the name USS Arizona (BB 39) was a battleship attacked on the naval base at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and has long been memorialized in honor of the 1,177 who died on board. The latest ship will be sponsored by Nikki Stratton, the granddaughter of one of the last surviving members of the USS Arizona.

"My grandfather was a proud member of Battleship Arizona, and one of the fortunate few to survive that day," Stratton said. "Just as the men of BB 39, in 1916, forged their path into the history books, so too will the men and women of SSN 803."



An Ohio-class submarine, possibly equipped with ballistic missiles, has arrived in the Mediterranean

Katherine Tangalakis-Lippert

Updated Mon, November 6, 2023 at 10:26 AM CST

https://news.yahoo.com/ohio-class-submarine-possibly-equipped-010526748.html?fr=sycsrp_catchall



An Ohio-class submarine transits the Suez Canal, Nov. 5. US Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jonathan Word

- The US Central Command posted a photo Sunday of an Ohio-class submarine transiting the Suez Canal.
- Ohio-class submarines carry dozens of Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles.
- The sub was pictured appearing to sail through the Suez Canal.

A US Navy Ohio-class guided-missile submarine able to carry as many as 154 [Tomahawk cruise missiles](#), surfaced in the Middle East over the weekend, seemingly sending a message as the US continues to bolster its defensive posture amid the [Israel-Hamas war](#).

US Central Command, the Department of Defense combatant command with authority over US forces in the Middle East and West and Central Asia, [posted a photo](#) on Sunday of the powerful boat transiting the Suez Canal, which connects the Mediterranean and Red Seas, on X, the social media platform formerly Twitter, saying it had arrived in the region.

Though they declined to name the vessel, a Navy spokesperson told Insider it is a guided missile sub

(SSGN), not a ballistic missile sub (SSBN). The dry deck shelter used for special operations purposes is a giveaway though, as the Ohio-class SSGNs carry that.

CENTCOM told Insider that the vessel was transiting south toward the Red Sea when the picture was taken. It follows the Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group, which the Navy said a day earlier had traveled into the area. The disclosure of the submarine's location is somewhat uncommon as the whereabouts of the vessels are typically not made public for security regions.

The announcement on the submarine's movements, like those concerning other assets deployed to the Middle East amid the Israel-Hamas war, appears to be intended to send a deterrent message to other state and non-state actors in the region who might seek to take advantage of this conflict.

The submarine's deployment coincided with high-level diplomatic visits from [Antony Blinken](#) to the area, where the US Secretary of State met with senior Israeli leadership, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and officials from Jordan, Cyprus, Lebanon, and Qatar.

Last month, the Pentagon dispatched two US Navy carrier strike groups to the eastern Mediterranean — the [USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group](#) and the [USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group](#), the latter of which has since relocated.

The moves brought a significant amount of American firepower to waters near Israel amid mounting fears that the country's war with Gaza-based militant group Hamas could escalate into a regional conflict.

The massive display of US firepower in support of one of the country's closest allies is, military officials say, meant to act as a deterrent to hostile forces in the region, including Iran, which [provides financial](#) and [strategic support](#) to Hamas, as well as [Hezbollah, a militant group](#) based in Lebanon.

Update: November 6, 2023 — An earlier version of this article suggested the submarine was possibly an SSBN carrying nuclear weapons, but the US Navy confirmed the vessel is a SSGN armed with conventional land-attack cruise missiles. The article also stated the submarine had arrived in the Mediterranean, but it was transiting south through the Suez Canal into the Red Sea, per CENTCOM.

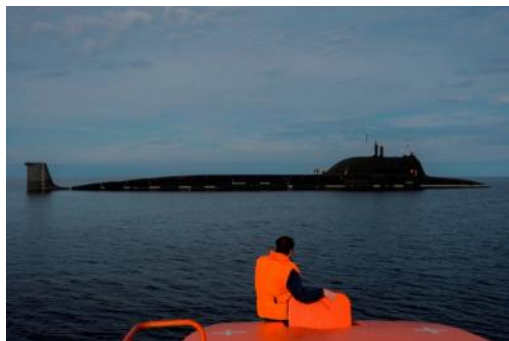
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Northern Fleet eyes six Yasen submarines as Russia approves largest ever defence spending

State-controlled news agency TASS reports the number of Yasen-class submarines to increase from nine to a total of 12, of which half will be based on the coast to the Barents Sea.

By Thomas Nilsen, 11/21/23

<https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2023/11/northern-fleet-eyes-six-yasen-submarines-russia-approves-largest-ever-defence>



The "Kazan" is the second Yasen-class multi-purpose submarine sailing with the Northern Fleet. Photo: Russian Navy

The State Duma, the lower house of Russia's parliament, on Friday approved the 2024 budget with a strong emphasis on the country's war economy.

Overall spending is expected to reach 37 trillion rubles (about €380 billion) an increase of around 25% from 2023. Almost a third of this, 10,8 trillion rubles is earmarked for defense- and security structures. The increase year-by-year is 68% and 2023 already had a doubling compared with the year before the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Russia has never spent a higher share of its economy on the military since the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Weapons, ammunition, and fuel for the war are costly, but Russia's most expensive weapons are the advanced nuclear submarines built at the Sevmash shipyard in the northern town of Severodvinsk.

The Barents Observer has previously reported that construction at Sevmash has reached a post-Soviet peak. In 2019, it was decided to build nine Yasen-class submarines, up two from the original plan of seven.

Now, another three will be added to the program, according to TASS.

With 12 Yasen submarines, the plan is to deploy six with the 10th Submarine Division of the Pacific Fleet in Vilyuchinsk and six with the 11th Submarine Division of the Northern Fleet in Zapadnaya Litsa.

Today, the Northern Fleet has two submarines of the class, the "Severodvinsk" and the "Kazan", while a third, the "Novosibirsk" sails for the Pacific Fleet.

Next in line for the Pacific Fleet is the K-571 "Krasnoyarsk", believed to be commissioned in December 2023.

Five more Yasen submarines are at various stages of construction at Sevmash and are expected to be commissioned from 2024 to 2028. They are the "Arkhangelsk", "Perm", "Ulyanovsk", "Voronezh" and "Vladivostok".

The Yasen and Yasen-M class are 4th generation submarines carrying Kalibr and Oniks cruise missiles. Later, the class is expected to be armed with the Zircon missile, one of which was test-launched from the "Severodvinsk" in October 2021.

Zapadnaya Litsa submarine base is the westernmost on the Kola Peninsula, a short 50 kilometers from Russia's border with NATO country Norway.

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Russian nuclear submarine test launches Bulava intercontinental missile

By Guy Faulconbridge

November 5, 2023 10:04 AM CST

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russias-new-nuclear-submarine-test-launches-bulava-missile-white-sea-2023-11-05/>

MOSCOW, Nov 5 (Reuters) - Russia's new strategic nuclear submarine, the Emperor Alexander III, has successfully tested a Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile, the Russian defence ministry said on Sunday.

The missile, which [the Federation of American Scientists](#) says is designed to carry up to six nuclear warheads, was launched from an underwater position in the White Sea off Russia's northern coast and hit a target thousands of kilometres away on the Kamchatka peninsula in the Russian Far East, the defence ministry said.

"Firing a ballistic missile is the final element of state tests, after which a decision will be made to accept the cruiser into the Navy," a ministry statement said.

The Emperor Alexander III is the seventh of the Russian Project 955 Borei (Arctic Wind) class nuclear submarines and the fourth of the modernised Borei-A variant, according to Russian sources.

They are known in NATO as the Dolgoruky class of submarines, after the first boat - the Yuri Dolgoruky - became the first new generation of nuclear submarine launched by Russia since the Cold War.

The Borei class submarine is armed with 16 Bulava missiles. The 12-metre (40-foot) missile has a range of about 8,000 km (5,000 miles).



Russia's new nuclear-powered submarine Imperator Alexander III test launches the Bulava ballistic missile, designed to carry nuclear warheads, from the White Sea, in this screengrab taken from a video released on November 5, 2023. Russian Defence Ministry/Handout via REUTERS [Acquire Licensing Rights](#)

Since rising to power in 1999, President Vladimir Putin has increased military spending and sought to rebuild Russia's nuclear and conventional forces after the chaos that accompanied the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union.

The Ukraine war has triggered the worst crisis in Moscow's relations with the West since the depths the Cold War and Putin last month said he was not ready to say whether or not Russia should resume nuclear testing.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in an interview aired on Sunday that relations with the United States were below zero.

"Relations are at zero - or I would say below zero," Peskov said, though he added that at some point the leaders of Russia and the United States would have to resume contact.

"Putin has repeatedly stated that he is ready for any contacts," Peskov said.

Russia aims to build a total of 10 to 12 Borei-class submarines to be divided between the Northern and Pacific fleets, according to the current plans disclosed by Russian media.

Three more Borei-class submarines are being built: the Knyaz Pozharsky, the Dmitry Donskoy and the Knyaz Potemkin. Two additional boats are also planned, according to Russian media.

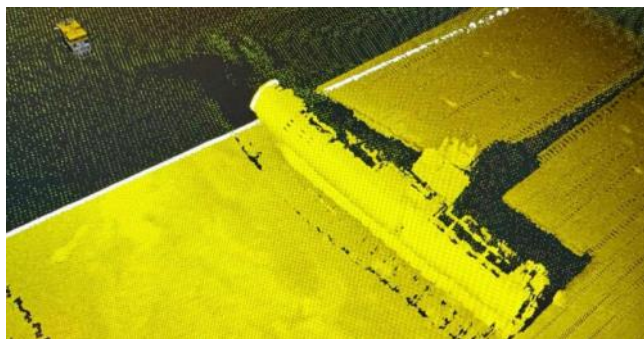
Reporting by Lidia Kelly in Melbourne and Guy Faulconbridge in Moscow Editing by William Mallard and David Goodman

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New Imaging Tech Captures Japanese Submarine That Was Deliberately Sunk

Matt Growcoot, Nov 15, 2023

<https://petapixel.com/2023/11/15/new-imaging-tech-captures-japanese-submarine-that-was-deliberately-sunk/>



A 3D image of the I-201 which rests roughly 2,742 feet south of Oahu, Hawaii. | Ocean Exploration Trust

The K2 High-Resolution Mapping System along with the Norbit multibeam echosounder was deployed to capture a clear image of the I-201 sub that "intentionally scuttled" on May 23, 1946.

The Ocean Exploration Trust visited the wreck site south of Oahu on November 3 with the person who developed the high-resolution acoustic mapping system telling the *Miami Herald* that the I-201 was broken into two pieces.

"I think the sonar maps and imagery we collected largely confirm the historical story," says Kristopher Krasosky.

"However, it should add unprecedented detail to the dive site. Additionally, it can serve as a reference for future work as historians monitor the decay of the wreck."

The submarine was built for Japan's Imperial Navy; completed in 1945, the I-201 never saw any action because the war had ended.

It was brought to Pearl Harbor where, rather strangely, it was torpedoed after the U.S. military issued orders to sink all captured Japanese submarines because the Soviet Union had demanded access to the seized vessels.

The Ocean Exploration Trust hopes that the new imaging technology will shed light on wrecks that little is known about.

"This provides a greater context not only of their general build but also allows researchers to better determine the methods in which they sank and how these structures are now forming ecosystems of their own," Madison Dapceвич, a communication lead, and science reporter, tells *The Herald*.

"Together, these new technologies immerse audiences ... in an entirely new and collaborative way, diving deep and exploring the ocean in real-time with greater clarity and understanding of these deep ocean ecosystems."

The Ocean Exploration Trust also sent an unmanned sub down to the Japanese sub I-401 on November 3 and 4. The I-201 sits near its fellow Imperial Japanese Navy submarine — the I-401; both are at a depth of about 2,742 feet.

The two subs were discovered by the Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory in the early 2000s and the team returned to examine changes in these sites with new technology since their last survey over a decade before.

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US Navy Has A Maintenance Problem

Story by Ellie Cook, 11/24/23

[US Navy Has A Maintenance Problem \(msn.com\)](#)



Sailors assigned to the Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Albuquerque SSN 706 stand watch as the boat departs Diego Garcia. While the US Navy may still dominate the world's seas, it is coming under increasing pressure to keep its underwater, surface and naval aviation fleets ship-shape in the face of China's' growing ocean prowess.© Smith Collection/Gado/Getty Images

While the U.S. Navy may still dominate the world's seas, it is coming under increasing pressure to keep its assets ship-shape in the face of China's' growing ocean prowess.

Long-standing maintenance issues must be addressed if Washington wants to keep up its stretched naval power and stack up against China's burgeoning fleets, experts have told *Newsweek*.

Delays in completing maintenance on U.S. Navy surface vessels, historical cuts to the personnel staffing downsized shipyards and extended periods of deployment all impact just how ready the U.S. Navy can be for challenges on the horizon, despite recent efforts to close these gaps, analysts say.

"The Navy has always had maintenance challenges," said retired Vice Admiral Robert Murrett, professor of practice of public administration and international affairs at Syracuse University.

"Maintenance isn't sexy and easily overlooked, but the hallmark of a good navy – of any armed force, really – and vital to maintain operational readiness," said Frederik Mertens, a strategic analyst with the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies. "Maintenance is crucial," he told *Newsweek*.

The problems aren't uniform. Naval aviation and jets, along [with the all-important ballistic missile submarines](#), are largely exempt, but the same cannot be said for some of the Navy's surface combatants.

Keeping the ballistic missile submarines, aircraft carriers and attack submarines operational is a priority, with the surface fleet coming in behind, former U.S. Navy Surface Warfare Captain Bradley Martin, now a senior policy researcher at the RAND Corporation think tank, told *Newsweek*.

But as the military zeroes in on Beijing's only-increasing capabilities, the U.S. Navy cannot forget the very basics of how to look after its fleets. *Newsweek* has reached out to the U.S. Navy for comment via email.

U.S. Navy: 'Hideously overstretched'

The U.S. Navy "has too few ships to do everything it needs to do," Mertens said, adding: "If you look at deployment cycles, it is hideously overstretched."

"There are two carrier task forces in and around the Middle East trying to keep a lid on any further escalation," he said, "but at the same time the USN is exercising with two other carrier task forces and local allies around the South China Sea."

After Hamas's shock October 7 attacks on Israel, the U.S. relocated its *USS Gerald R. Ford* carrier strike group to the eastern Mediterranean. The nuclear-powered *USS Gerald R. Ford*, with its eight squadrons of attack and support aircraft, was accompanied by a guided-missile cruiser and several guided-missile destroyers.

The U.S. military also moved a number of fighter jets into the region, including F-16s. The *Ford* was joined shortly after by a second U.S. carrier strike group, led by the *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower*. The *USS Carl Vinson* and *USS Ronald Reagan* carrier strike groups recently completed joint drills in the Philippine Sea, military officials said.

Even with a number of other carriers making up the U.S.'s 11 carrier strike groups, each "[needs] short and deep maintenance, rest and refit, training to be fully up to speed again and what more," Mertens said. "Having one in three immediately available is pushing it; one out of four is more realistic if you wish to keep everything running smoothly— so four out of eleven is really pushing it."

The U.S. Navy's 'unmatched power'

This is not to say the U.S. Navy has lost its formidable power. During the second half of the 20th century, no enemy navy could, nor has since, come close to what a US Navy carrier strike group can bring to bear, Mertens said.

Only London and Paris can compare, but they have "nothing like the quantity the USN enjoys," he said. Yet keeping this up "imposes an intense strain" on the world's most powerful navy, he added.

Delays, slashing down shipyard capacity and a falling number of specialized workers had cut away at how much maintenance could be done, Martin told *Newsweek*. "The Navy has been working to rectify this situation over time, but we are again facing a situation where the current force might not be ready for some very plausible near-term challenges," he previously told *Naval News*.

But opinions differ. The types of maintenance and readiness challenges the Navy contends with today "are probably no more challenging than they've been several times in the past couple of decades," Murrett said.

"The U.S. Navy is still in very good shape," he said, despite the ever-present challenges of sustaining a large naval force. "But those are not new issues," he commented, adding the naval forces "can handle multiple contingencies at the same time."

And China?

This is all framed by China's ambitions on the world's seas. China has tipped significant resources into developing its Navy, swelling its size in a few short years—and it shows few signs of slowing down.

The U.S. is acutely aware of China's status as "numerically the largest navy in the world" with 370 ships and submarines, as per the Pentagon's annual report on the Chinese military, released last month. According to the U.S. assessment, China has more than 140 major surface combatants in play and last year launched its third aircraft carrier.

An "ascendent" China has "eclipsed Russia substantially" in many of its naval capabilities, Murrett said. Beijing could "credibly challenge" the U.S. Navy in a way Russia is not able to now, Martin added.

Some analysts are less worried than others. "The network of bases and partnerships the U.S. has around the

world, and its familiarity with operating globally, is still leagues ahead of what China can do," according to Bryden Spurling, senior research leader for defense and security, at the European branch of the RAND think tank. "And it's arguable whether China will be able to match it in the future, even if they would like to do so," he told *Newsweek* in late October.

And the US Navy isn't the only one with maintenance to worry about. "This will really start hurting the Russians in the Black Sea," Mertens predicted. Exhausted and depleted from the 21-month-old grueling war in Ukraine, its surface fleet is in poor shape - although its submarines remain formidable, as does Moscow's nuclear arsenal.

"The use of Sevastopol for maintenance has become far too dangerous and the Russian other ports aren't equipped as this great naval base," he said. Sevastopol, on the west side of southern Crimea, has become a frequent target of Ukraine's navy, imperiling Russian assets close to mainland Ukraine's littoral waters.

"If Turkey keeps the straits closed, the Russian Black Sea Fleet will find itself in a real pickle when the lack of maintenance will come to bite," he said.



U.S. Naval Institute

11/20/23

Navy Athletics has unveiled its sub-themed "Silent Service" football uniform for the Army-Navy Game being played on Dec. 9. The uniform's color is Eclipse Navy, and the helmet features an image of a Virginia-class submarine. A jersey patch will honor USS Massachusetts (SSN 798).



Six of the World's Largest Submarines Unveiled After a Possible 25-Year Absence (Video)

[thorr](#) Thorr · November 20, 2023

[Six of the World's Largest Submarines Unveiled After a Possible 25-Year Absence \(Video\) \(bantin1s.online\)](#)
(Check the link for more pictures, your Editor.)



The ocean remains a mysterious and largely unexplored frontier, with many secrets hidden beneath its depths. For decades, scientists and explorers have been fascinated by the idea of exploring the deepest parts

of the ocean, but doing so is a dangerous and difficult task. Recently, a new mystery has emerged from the ocean depths: the disappearance of a legendary diving vessel.

The One diving Maybe, a state-of-the-art diving vessel, was last seen over 25 years ago. Despite extensive search efforts, no trace of the vessel has ever been found. Many theories have been put forward to explain the vessel's disappearance, but none have been confirmed.

These massive vessels are a testament to the power and technological capabilities of their respective navies. While their primary purpose is military, they also serve as a symbol of national pride and prestige.

As the search for the One diving Maybe continues, it serves as a reminder of the risks and rewards of exploring the ocean depths. Whether for scientific or military purposes, the ocean remains a challenging and unpredictable environment, full of secrets waiting to be discovered.



Chinese Submarine Is First To Exploit New Stealth Technology

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2023/11/chinese-submarine-is-first-to-exploit-new-stealth-technology/>

H I Sutton, 24 Nov 2023



The latest variant of China's Type-039 Yuan Class submarine features a distinctive angled sail. This is intended to reduce the boat's signature when targeted with active sonar.

China's latest non-nuclear submarine, the Type-039C Yuan Class, features a distinctive angled sail. We can now be confident that this is part of a sonar stealth technology. Other countries are also pursuing this general technique, but China is the first to field it.

China is building submarines at an impressive rate and has the capacity to build them at levels unrivalled by any other country. The Yuan-class, their latest non-nuclear powered attack type, is the most numerous class of AIP (air-independent power) submarine in the world. And now these have been seen with new and unusually shaped sails, hinting at the implementation of advanced technologies.

It is now almost certain that the distinctive shape of the sail on the **latest Type-039C Yuan class** submarines is to increase survivability. The angled sides are a stealth defense; reducing the 'signal strength' of the submarine from the enemy's active sonar.

This was already the leading explanation, but evidence has come to light to reinforce this assessment. Chinese academics published an analysis in the Polish based Archives of Acoustics journal. They measured the impact of the designs on sonar stealth. Their study used strikingly similar sail designs.

The Stealth Trend

Angled stealth shaping is an emerging trend in submarine design. Similar principles will be found on Sweden's A-26 class the next German submarine, the **Type-212CD class**. The A-26's approach focuses on the sail in the same way as the Chinese sub. The 212CD takes it further but encasing the entire submarine in an angled outer hull. The additional outer hull will increase drag so it is clearly a trade-off the Germans feel comfortable making. Other submarines are expected to have similar thinking, but currently the Chinese boat is the only type in the water.

The trend reflects the growing importance of active sonar in undersea warfare. It is much more desirable to

detect an enemy passively, by just listening, than at emit a sonar signal. Active sonar does this, bouncing sound off the target and measuring the rebounds. This means that the target can hear you long before you detect them, typically twice the distance.

During the Cold War, which is the era where most popular knowledge on submarines is rooted, passive sonar was king. However passive detection relies on the enemy submarine being noisy. As submarines have become ever quieter, passive detection has become less useful.

So active sonar is expected to play an increasing part in underwater warfare, even among submarines. At the same time, advances in uncrewed underwater vehicles (UUVs) offer navies a way to move the active sonar emitters away from the main submarine and onto an expendable drone. The tactics and technologies are still coming together, but the direction is clear. So it is not surprising that submarine designers are willing to sacrifice hydrodynamics to incorporate these new sail shapes.

Not An Invisibility Cloak

The size of the stealth features on the Chinese submarine suggest that it is intended to work against medium frequency sonars. It will be less effective against lower frequency sonars which have long wavelengths. But those only tell the enemy that something is there, not what it is. They will also be less effective against short wavelength sonars such as those on a torpedo. But that is also where the submarine's other stealth feature, a rubberized anechoic coating, plays a part.

So we can deduce that the new stealth shaping is mainly aimed at complicating classification. Medium frequency active sonar can be used to classify or identify the target. With the new shaping the enemy will have difficulty determining the true nature of the submarine. This may cause delays or miscalculations which the submarine can use to its advantage.

The new shaping will only reduce the signal strength by a few decibels. Even so, combined with the sound absorbing rubber coating covering the floor side of the boat, it may be enough to save the submarine.



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/december-1.html>

12/01/1943 - USS Bonefish (SS 223) sinks Japanese transport Nichiryo Maru in the Celebes Sea while USS Pargo (SS 264) sinks the Japanese transport Shoko Maru north of Ulithi. Also on this date, USS Peto (SS 265) sinks Japanese transport Tonei Maru.

12/02/1944 - USS Sea Devil (SS 400) attacks a Japanese convoy in the East China Sea and sinks merchant tanker Akigawa Maru and passenger-cargo ship Hawaii Maru, while USS Gunnel (SS 253) evacuates 11 rescued aviators from Palawan, Philippines and turns over all available stores to Filipino forces ashore.

12/03/1943 - USS Tinosa (SS 283) sinks the Palau-bound Japanese fleet tanker Azuma Maru northwest of Sonsorol.

12/04/1944 - USS Flasher (SS 249) sinks Japanese destroyer Kishinami and damages a merchant ship in the South China Sea. Flasher is the only U.S. submarine to sink more than 100,000 tons of enemy shipping in World War II.

12/05/1943 - USS Narwhal (SS 167) embarks nine evacuees at Alubijid, Mascalcar Bay and then sinks Japanese cargo ship Himeno Maru off Camiguin Island.

12/05/1944 - USS Hake (SS 256) evacuates downed aviators and turns over all supplies that can be spared to Filipino guerilla forces ashore at Libertad, Panay, Philippines.

12/07/1941 - In one of the defining moments in U.S. history, the Japanese attack the U.S. Pacific Fleet and

nearby military airfields and installations at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and remove the U.S. Navy's battleship force as a possible threat to the Japanese Empire's southward expansion. The U.S. is brought into the World War II as a full combatant.

12/08/1941 - After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States declares war on Japan.

12/08/1943 - USS Sawfish (SS 276) sinks Japanese transport Sansei Maru southeast of Chi Chi Jima. Also on this date, TBFs sink Rabaul-bound fishing boats No. 3 Yusho Maru, No.7 Fukuri Maru, No.2 Takatori Maru, and No.1 Hoko Maru.

12/09/1941 - USS Swordfish (SS 193) makes initial U.S. submarine attack on Japanese ship, torpedoing a ship 150 miles west of Manila. Her claim of sinking, though, is not confirmed in enemy records.

12/10/1982 - The nuclear powered USS Ohio (SSBN 726), first Trident-Class submarine, returns from its first deterrent patrol.

12/11/1944 - USS Gar (SS 206) lands 35 tons of supplies at Darigayos Inlet on the west coast of Luzon and picks up secret intelligence documents. Also on this date, USS Sea Owl (SS 405) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser Cha 76 in the East China Sea.

12/13/1943 - USS Sailfish (SS 192) sinks Japanese cargo ship Totai Maru east of Tokara Strait while PB4Y aircraft sink Tokiwa Maru in the Bismarck Sea.

12/15/1944 - USS Hawkbill (SS 366) sinks the Japanese destroyer Momo west of Luzon.

12/16/1944 - USS Swordfish (SS 193) attacks a Japanese convoy south of Hainan Island and sinks Japanese army transport Atsutasan Maru.

12/17/1942 - USS Grouper (SS 214) sinks the Japanese army passenger cargo ship Bandoeng Maru about 15 miles northwest of Cape Henpan, Buka Island, Solomons and survives the counterattack by submarine chaser Ch 29.

12/18/1927 - Chief Gunners Mate Thomas Eadie dives under adverse conditions to help Chief Torpedoman Fred Michels, who had problems connecting an air line to USS S 4 as she is sinking. After two hours of extremely dangerous work, Eadie succeeds in his mission and brings Michels safely to the surface. For his extraordinary heroism Eadie is awarded the Medal of Honor. Michels receives his second Navy Cross for his rescue efforts on USS S 4.

12/18/1943 - USS Aspro (SS 309) attacks a Japanese convoy in Sakishima Gunto, damaging fleet tankers Sarawak Maru and Tenei Maru, and escapes counter attacks by destroyer Shoikaze. Meanwhile, USS Grayback (SS 208) sinks Japanese freighter Gyokurei Maru east-northeast of Naha, Okinawa and escapes counter attacks by destroyer Numakaze.

12/19/1943 - USS Grayback (SS 208) sinks the Japanese destroyer Numakaze 50 miles east-northeast of Naha, Okinawa.

12/19/1944 - USS Redfish (SS 395) sinks the Japanese carrier Unryu 200 nautical miles southeast of Shanghai, China. In the course of this engagement, Redfish is damaged and terminates her patrol early.

12/21/1942 - USS Seadragon (SS 194) sinks Japanese submarine I-4 between New Britain and New Ireland while I-4 is engaged in a resupply mission to Guadalcanal.

12/22/1942 - On board USS Silversides (SS 236), Pharmacist Mate 1st Class Thomas A. Moore performs an emergency appendectomy on Fireman 3rd Class George M. Platter while the submarine is submerged and on war patrol in the Solomon Islands. Platter returned to duty within a few days of the operation.

12/23/1944 - USS Blenny (SS 324), despite an escort vessel close by, sinks the Japanese merchant tanker Kenzui Maru off San Fernando, Luzon, Philippines.

12/25/1944 - USS Barbero (SS 317) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks transport Junpo Maru.

12/27/1943 - USS Flying Fish (SS 229) sinks the Japanese fleet tanker Kyuei Maru in the South China Sea west of Luzon Strait. Also on this date, USS Ray (SS 271) sinks the Japanese fleet tanker Kyoko Maru (ex-Dutch Semiramis) west of the Celebes.

12/29/1943 - USS Silversides (SS 236) sinks the Japanese transport Tenposan Maru, the army cargo ship Shichisei Maru, and the freighter Ryuto Maru while also damaging the army cargo ship Bichu Maru off Palau.

12/30/1942 - USS Greenling (SS 213) attacks a Japanese convoy 180 miles northeast of Manus, Admiralty

Islands and sinks Army cargo ship Hiteru Maru and damages cargo ship Ryufuku Maru while USS Thresher (SS 200) sinks the Japanese freighter Haichan Maru west of Mata Siri Island, off the southern tip of Borneo.

12/30/1943 - USS Bluefish (SS 222) sinks Japanese oiler Ichiyu Maru in the Java Sea.

12/30/1944 - USS Razorback (SS 394) attacks a Japanese convoy going from Manila to Takao, about 60 miles southeast of Formosa, and sinks the destroyer Kuretake in the Bashi Channel. The Japanese cargo ships Brazil Maru and Oi Maru are also damaged during this attack.

12/30/1959 - The first fleet ballistic missile submarine, USS George Washington (SSBN 598), is commissioned.

12/31/1943 - USS Greenling (SS 213) sinks Japanese transport Shoho Maru southeast of Ponape and evades counterattacks by submarine chaser Ch 30.



[U.S. Naval Institute](#)

11/1/23

It's National Authors Day! Aspiring authors should remember that Tom Clancy was an unknown insurance agent who had only published two short pieces in PROCEEDINGS magazine before the Naval Institute Press took a chance on THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER. He went on to sell over 100 million books. [#NationalAuthorsDay](#)



Tom Clancy



The Best Navy Films to Ever Grace the Big Screen

Story by Elisabeth Edwards, 11-3-23

[The Best Navy Films to Ever Grace the Big Screen \(msn.com\)](#)



Hollywood adaptations of military life can often fall short when it comes to their accuracy. From over-exaggerated facts, over-the-top explosions and overlooked details, many war films rarely leave audiences speechless. The US Army and Marine Corps tend to get all the Hollywood buzz, meaning it's rare that the world's navies get to shine on the big screen. The following films are some of the best Navy-related features to ever grace the big screen.

The Hunt for Red October (1990)



©Photo Credit: KallieP / MovieStillsDB

Based on the novel by Tom Clancy, *The Hunt for Red October* (1990) takes place in 1984, at the height of the Cold War. The film follows Soviet Capt. Marko Ramius, portrayed by [Sean Connery](#), who disobeys orders and forces his high-tech submarine *Red October* to head to the east coast of the United States.

Afraid this rogue vessel might be planning an attack, CIA agent Jack Ryan, played by [Alec Baldwin](#), must decipher Ramius' motives. While he concludes the Soviet captain intends to defect to the US, the Russians send a second submarine to stop the rogue *Red October*.

The stunning cinematography and intense plot make *The Hunt for Red October* one of the most renowned war movies of all time.

Das Boot (1981)



©Photo Credit: CaptainOT / Columbia Pictures / MovieStillsDB

One of the best Navy films ever released was based on the real-life World War II experiences of Lothar-Günther Buchheim. Starting out life as a written account of Buchheim's service aboard the *Kriegsmarine* U-boat *U-96* during the Battle of the Atlantic, it was transformed into a cinematic masterpiece by director Wolfgang Petersen.

To ensure *Das Boot* (1981) was as authentic as possible, Petersen recruited some of the U-boat's former crew members as consultants. He also used photos from Buchheim to ensure his replica of *U-96* was as authentic-looking as possible. All this, paired with how the film depicts life aboard a submarine, make the movie an instant classic.

Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World (2003)



©Photo Credit: SpinnersLibrarian / 20th Century Fox / Samuel Goldwyn Films / MovieStillsDB

Another epic film based on a novel, *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World* (2003) tackles the [Napoleonic Wars](#). Set in 1805, it features British naval Cmdr. Jack Aubrey, played by [Russell Crowe](#), as captain of the HMS *Surprise* (1796). The frigate is charged with tracking down the *Acheron*, a French privateer ship sailing to South America, in order to claim the continent for [Napoleon](#).

The movie follows the struggles of Aubrey and his crew as they battle a seemingly endless barrage of attacks from the *Acheron*. *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World* was nominated for a whopping 10 Oscars at the Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director. It ultimately lost to *Lord of the Rings: Return of the King* (2003).

Crimson Tide (1995)



©Photo Credit: MovieStillsDB

In *Crimson Tide* (1995), a tense series of events unfolds aboard the US nuclear missile submarine USS *Alabama* as an up-and-coming first officer, [Denzel Washington](#)'s Hunter, stages a mutiny to stop [Gene Hackman](#)'s trigger-happy captain from launching missiles without orders.

What follows is a back-and-forth conflict that explores the fragile social order of submarine crewmen. When Hunter takes control of *Alabama*, some of the crew doubt his skills and begin plotting to regain control - but Hunter always thinks two steps ahead.

Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970)



©Photo Credit: DrnHarr / MovieStillsDB

The 1970 film *Tora! Tora! Tora!* follows both the American and Japanese points of view of the [attack on Pearl Harbor](#). As tensions rise between the US and Japan following a trade embargo, American intelligence struggles to come to terms with the very real possibility of a Japanese attack.

Tora! Tora! Tora! - named for the codeword used by Japanese Cmdr. Mitsuo Fuchida to launch the infamous attack - was a flop at most American box offices, but became a huge hit in Japan.

K-19: The Widowmaker (2002)



©Photo Credit: anyjayjay / MovieStillsDB

Cold War drama *K-19: The Widowmaker* (2002) tells the true story of Russia's [first nuclear submarine](#) as she malfunctions and quickly descends into nuclear meltdown during her maiden voyage. Starring [Harrison Ford](#) and [Liam Neeson](#), the film provides a glimpse at the near-nuclear disaster that almost became reality in 1961 - think [Chernobyl](#), but inside a submarine.

K-19: The Widowmaker received great reviews from American audiences, but the surviving crew members from the real accident wrote several letters to Ford and the film's director, complaining that many of the details depicted were false.

The Caine Mutiny (1954)



©Photo Credit: MoviePics1001 / Columbia Pictures / MovieStillsDB

Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by the same name, *The Caine Mutiny* (1954) follows a mutiny and subsequent trial aboard a fictional US Navy destroyer-minesweeper. The story examines the ethical dilemma of rank and doing what is right.

When a ship's captain is removed from command by his executive officer following a mutiny, a trial unfolds to convict the mutineers and decipher their motivations, at which time it's revealed the captain was mentally unstable. Was the mutiny a criminal act or were the mutineers the heroic saviors that foresaw a potentially dangerous situation?

Top Gun (1986)



©Provided by War History Online

The classic action flick *Top Gun* (1986) has soared in popularity since the release of its 2022 sequel, *Top Gun: Maverick*. The original film provides a fascinating look into naval aviators and the prestigious [TOPGUN School](#).

Not only are the dog fights incredible to watch, but the film also gives audiences a behind-the-scenes look at essential aspects of naval life on and off the aircraft carrier landing strip. If you ever make it to the real-life TOPGUN School, you better avoid quoting the film or you'll receive a \$5.00 fine!

Run Silent, Run Deep (1958)



©Photo Credit: United Artists / Getty Images

Two of the biggest actors of their day, [Clark Gable](#) and Burt Lancaster star in the epic 1958 film, *Run Silent, Run Deep*. When the captain of a submarine sunk by the Japanese is given a second chance as a skipper on another, he sets his sights on destroying the vessel responsible for the initial sinking. This winds up putting his crew members in danger.

The film features incredible visuals and epic explosions, making it an instant classic for war movie buffs new and old.

In Harm's Way (1965)



©Photo Credit: APacino / MovieStillsDB

In Harm's Way (1965) attempts to show audiences a realistic view of the US Navy, beginning on the night before the attack on Pearl Harbor and continuing through the first year of America's involvement in World War II.

Starring [John Wayne](#) and [Kirk Douglas](#), *In Harm's Way* follows several naval officers and their families who are based in Hawaii. When the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, Wayne's Capt. Rock Torrey is charged with tracking down the force responsible and attacking it. The 1965 film was one of the last war epics to be shot in black and white.

Midway (1976)



©Photo Credit: grzegorz77 / MovieStillsDB

The [Battle of Midway](#), one of the greatest battles of the Second World War, comes to life on screen in 1976's *Midway*. Considered the turning point of the War in the Pacific, *Midway* combines naval intelligence with incredible action that come alive on-screen. This is due to its soundtrack, which mimics the physical sensations of engine noise, explosions, crashes and gunfire.

Some of the scenes featured in *Midway* were actually borrowed from the less popular *Tora! Tora! Tora!*. The movie was brought to life once more in a 2019 remake by Hollywood's "Master of Disaster," Roland Emmerich, who's also directed the action-packed films *Independence Day* (1996), *Godzilla* (1998) and *The Day After Tomorrow* (2004).



In the Beginning...

In the Beginning, God Created Submariners, Submariners Created Submarines And Submariners Created the Brotherhood

Sailors, Rest your Oars. Lord, these departed shipmates with Dolphins on their chests are part of an outfit known as the best. Make them welcome and take them by the hand, you'll find without a doubt they were the best in all the land. So, Heavenly Father add these names to the roll of our departed shipmates on patrol. Let them know that we who survive will always keep their memory alive; and also, for all our shipmates currently serving and those of us still here and for all our futures.





T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS AT 400'

By Sean Keck

<https://laststandonzombieisland.com/2018/12/24/twas-the-night-before-christmas-at-400-feet>

Copied from another Site – Your Editor

Merry Christmas, especially to all who are deployed and away from family.

And, now, as homage to my brave Brothers and Sisters of the “Phin,” I offer this Christmas message and wish the best of other holidays to those celebrating their Joy of the current season. These are the ones who can't send or receive emails, or text messages, or share social media, or make calls with families and loved ones or friends, because of their depths and/or proximity. This is for the many times I have spent a holiday, or a death/funeral, or a major family event, or mine/somebody's birthday, etc., underwater, somewhere. You can believe that I wish I was sitting by your sides, my Brothers and Sisters.

Remember, at any given time *at least* 15 Navy SSNs, SSBNs, and SSGNs are underway on patrol somewhere around the world in addition to those heroes [On Eternal Patrol](#). So be sure to hold up your eggnog and toast for the iron men in the steel boats tonight!



Holiday lights are displayed aboard the fast attack submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Dec. 22, 2012. Photo 121222-N-DB801-014 by MC2 Steven Khor

T'was The Night Before Christmas at 400 Feet

T'was the night before Christmas, and what no-one could see,
The men with the dolphins were under the sea.
Most of the crew was flat on their backs,
Snoring and dreaming all snug in their racks.

Those men on watch were making their rounds,
 Some manning the planes or listening for sounds.
 Back in maneuvering or down in the room,
 They all hoped the oncoming watch would come soon.

I'd finished some PM's whose time was now due,
 And hoped for some sleep, even an hour or two.
 Against better judgment, I took a short stroll,
 And found myself wandering into control.

The Nav had the Conn, the COW was in place,
 The COB had the Dive and a scowl on his face.
 The helm and the planes were relaxed but aware,
 The QM and ET were discussing a dare.

To comply with the orders the Nav told the Dive,
 To bring the boat up with minimum rise.
 The orders were given and soon they were there,
 At periscope depth with a scope in the air.

The QM confirmed our position with care,
 The broadcast was copied, we brought in some air.
 The Nav on the scope let out a small cry,
 He shook his head twice and rubbed at his eyes.

He looked once again to find what it was,
 That interrupted his sweep and caused him to pause.
 Try as he might there was nothing to see,
 So down went the scope and us to the deep.

I asked what it was that caused his dismay,
 He sheepishly said, "I'm embarrassed to say."
 It could have been Northern Lights or a cloud,
 Or a meteorite he wondered aloud.

But to tell you the truth I guess I must say,
 Whatever it was it looked like a sleigh.
 And though it passed quickly and never was clear,
 I almost believe it was pulled by reindeer.

We laughed and teased him and I got up to go,
 When our moment was broken by "Conn, Radio."
 They told us a message was just coming in,
 We looked at the depth gauge and started to grin.

"Radio, Conn, I feel safe to say,
 Your attempt at a joke is too long delayed.
 If it had been sooner it might have been neat,
 But I doubt we're receiving at four-hundred feet."

"Conn, Radio, you can come down and see,
 We're not playing games to any degree."
 I headed aft with nothing better to do,
 Surprised by the fact it was still coming through.

It stopped and was sent to control to be read,
 The Nav read it slowly and scratched at his head.
 Then again he began but this time aloud,
 To those that now waited, a curious crowd.

"To you Denizens of the Deep and men of the sea,
 Who risk your life daily so others stay free.
 I rarely have seen you on this, my big night,
 For far too often you are hidden from sight.

But purely by luck, I saw you tonight,
As your scope coaxed the plankton to glow in the night.
And lucky for me I've finally won,
The chance to say thanks for all you have done.

I know that you miss your families at home,
And sometimes you feel as if you're alone.
But trust what I say and I'll do what's right,
I'll take something special to your families tonight.

Along with the gifts I'll take to your kin,
I'll visit their dreams and leave word within.
They'll hear of your love, and how you miss them,
I'll tell them that soon you'll be home again.

It might not be much I know that is true,
To thank you for all the things that you do.
But I'll do what I can, while you do what's right,
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

By Sean Keck



I had a thought, but unfortunately, I had a second thought. They ricocheted off each other & I can't find either one!



*"Of all branches of men in the forces
there is none which shows more
devotion and faces grimmer perils
than the submariners."*

~ Winston Churchill ~

*"Submariners are a bunch of
intelligent misfits that somehow seem
to get along, understanding each other
and work well together."*

~ Red Hanley ~

*"Submariners are a special
brotherhood, either all come to the
surface or no one does. On a
submarine, the phrase all for one and
one for all is not just a slogan, but
reality."*

**~ V Adm Rudolf Gosolov of the
Russian Navy ~**



No More Shopping at Costco

I cannot shop at Costco anymore :-)

Yesterday I was at Costco buying a large bag of Purina dog chow for my loyal pet, Necco, the Wonder Dog,

which weighs 191 lbs. I was in the check-out line when a woman behind me asked if I had a dog. What,, did she think I had an elephant? So because I'm retired and have little to do,

On impulse I told her that no, I didn't have a dog, I was starting the Purina Diet again. I added that I probably shouldn't, because I ended up in the hospital last time, but that I'd lost 50 pounds before I awakened in an intensive care ward with tubes coming out of most of my orifices and IVs in both arms.

I told her that it was essentially a Perfect Diet and that the way that it works is, to load your jacket pockets with Purina Nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete so it works well and I was going to try it again. (I have to mention here that practically everyone in line was now enthralled with my story.)

Horrified, she asked if I ended up in intensive care, because the dog food poisoned me. I told her no, I stopped to Pee on a Fire Hydrant and a car hit me.

I thought the guy behind her was going to have a heart attack he was laughing so hard.

Costco won't let me shop there anymore. Better watch what you ask retired people. They have all the time in the World to think of crazy things to say. Forward this (especially) to all your retired friends...it will be their laugh for the day!



Only a Southerner

Only a Southerner

Only a Southerner knows the difference between a hissie fit and a conniption fit, and that you don't "HAVE" them, you "PITCH" them.

Only a Southerner knows how many fish, collard greens, turnip greens, peas, beans, etc., make up "a mess."

Only a Southerner can show or point out to you the general direction of "yonder."

Only a Southerner knows exactly how long "directly" is -- as in: "Going to town, be back directly."

Even Southern babies know that "Gimme some sugar" is not a request for the white, granular sweet substance that sits in a pretty little bowl in the middle of the table.

All Southerners know exactly when "by and by" is. They might not use the term, but they know the concept well.

Only a Southerner knows instinctively that the best gesture of solace for a neighbor who's got trouble is a plate of hot fried chicken and a big bowl of cold potato salad. If the neighbor's trouble is a real crisis, they also know to add a large banana puddin!

Only Southerners grow up knowing the difference between "right near" and "a right far piece." They also know that "just down the road" can be 1 mile or 20.

Only a Southerner, both knows and understands, the difference between a redneck, a good ol' boy, and po' white trash.

No true Southerner would ever assume that the car with the flashing turn signal is actually going to make a turn.

A Southerner knows that "fixin" can be used as a noun, a verb, or an adverb.

Only Southerners make friends while standing in lines. We don't do "queues," we do "lines"; and when we're "in line," we talk to everybody!

Put 100 Southerners in a room and half of them will discover they're related, even if only by marriage.

Southerners never refer to one person as "ya'll."

Southerners know grits come from corn and how to eat them.

Every Southerner knows tomatoes with eggs, bacon, grits, and coffee are perfectly wonderful; that red eye gravy is also a breakfast food; and that fried green tomatoes are not a breakfast food.

When you hear someone say, "Well, I caught myself lookin'," you know you are in the presence of a genuine Southerner!

Only true Southerners say "sweet tea" and "sweet milk." Sweet tea indicates the need for sugar and lots of it - -- we do not like our tea unsweetened. "Sweet milk" means you don't want buttermilk.

And a true Southerner knows you don't scream obscenities at little old ladies who drive 30 MPH on the freeway. You just say, "Bless her heart" and go your own way. to those of you who are still having a hard time understanding all this Southern stuff, bless your hearts, I hear

they are fixin' to have classes on Southernness as a second language!

And for those that are not from the South but have lived here for a long time, ya'll need a sign to hang on ya'lls front porch that reads "I aint from the South but I got here as fast as I could."

Copied from another Southerner



It's Dues time

Another Reminder - Dues are up for your action by the end of the year. Do it now so that you don't hear us nagging you.

Annual Base dues are \$15. National Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Dues: 5 Yr term: \$ 140.00; 3 Yr term: \$ 85.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$ 30.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$ 35.00 Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$120.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$240; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$ 360.00; 46 thru 55 = \$500.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 600.00. National dues for Active Duty personnel are complimentary for the first year.

Joseph Shirley Keller

11/11/23

A bunch of bubbleheads (submarine veterans) that attended Mason's Veteran's Day ceremony in [Mason](#).



Rick's missionary trip to India

Rick's Picture from India 11-5-23



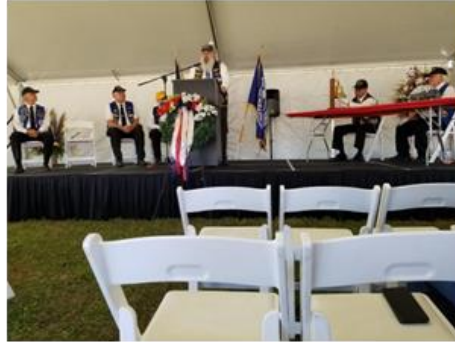
2023 Field of Honor® Events, Exhibits, and Activities

<https://georgetowntxfieldofhonor.org/field-of-honor-events/>

November 4 – 12 - With Gratitude to the Georgetown ISD, the 2023 Field of Honor® was held on the field behind the Hammerlun Center for Leadership and Learning, 507 E. University Ave., Georgetown TX



Parade of Flags, USSVI Central Texas Base



USSVI Central Texas Base Tolling of the Boats
Georgetown, Texas Field Of Honor
November 4, 2023





**Wreaths for Vets, Texas Veteran's Cemetery, Killeen, TX, USSVI Central Texas Base
November 25, 2023**

USSVI Central Texas Base is at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery.

11/25/23 · Killeen ·

Great morning to be out with so many others with Wreaths for Vets honoring our veterans and family members. Every marker received a wreath this morning, 15,000 this year. A truly impressive effort. W Jack Collins, Linda Collins, and Rick Mitchell representing Central Texas and USSVI Heart of Texas Base .

FRAUD ALERT



US DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Public Disability Benefits Questionnaire (DBQ) Fraud Schemes

The VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) seeks your help in preventing DBQ fraud schemes targeting veterans.

Public DBQs are medical forms that veterans submit to their healthcare provider (within VA or in the community). The information from the healthcare provider helps VA evaluate disability benefit claims from veterans. DBQ fraud schemes include attempts to obtain payment from veterans for assistance with getting DBQs completed by physicians and filing the related claim, even though free services are offered through VA and its accredited individuals.

All veterans should be aware that no-cost assistance is available for filing an *initial* application for benefits. (Note, however, that fees may properly be charged for *appeals* of VA initial decisions.) It is not appropriate for any unaccredited "claims consultants" or representatives to charge veterans a percentage of future payments or fees to assist with filing initial benefit claims. Veterans should decline assistance from anyone proposing such an arrangement. These unaccredited individuals may improperly promise to send veterans to private healthcare providers that will increase the chance for successful decisions or higher benefits, or inappropriately advise veterans to avoid exams from a VA provider. Veterans should never agree to have their VA benefit payments directly deposited into the bank account of a claims consultant.



- Individuals or businesses charge veterans a fee or a percentage of monthly benefits for assistance in getting public DBQs completed by healthcare providers or for submitting the resulting claim for VA benefits.
- Unaccredited individuals guarantee a large increase in the veteran's military service-connected disability rating that would lead to larger monthly monetary benefits. Only VA can determine disability ratings.
- Healthcare providers charge a fee with promises they can find a diagnosis or exaggerate an existing medical condition to secure a successful claims decision or a higher rating than the evidence warrants.

Take Action:

- Search VA's [database](#) to ensure you are using an accredited representative.
- Work with the identified accredited representative when submitting public DBQs to physicians or claims to VA.
- Verify with accredited representatives in advance any potential charges (such as those related to filing an *appeal*). Accredited representative fees that seem excessive may be challenged by filing a motion to review with VA ([Accreditation, Discipline, & Fees Program - Office of General Counsel \(va.gov\)](#)).
- Ensure only accurate information regarding your disability claim is provided to VA. Knowingly providing, or having false information provided to VA on your behalf, may be a violation of federal law.



- ✓ [VA OIG fraud toolkit](#)
- ✓ [Accredited Representatives Information](#) (for information on their role in claims process)

VA OIG

Online: va.gov/oig/hotline

Phone: (800) 488-8244 | Fax: (202) 495-5861

Mail: VA Inspector General Hotline (53H)

810 Vermont Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20420

**BE A
VOICE FOR
VETERANS**
REPORT WRONGDOING

September 2023



DON'T FEED THE SHARKS



DontFeedTheSharks.org

What is a "Claim Shark"?

- A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to "assist" or "consult" veterans with filing their VA benefit claims – this practice is illegal!
- Claim Sharks are not VA accredited, meaning they aren't required to adhere to the well-established professional and ethical standards of VA accreditation, so their advice can often be misleading or even fraudulent.
- Like a "Loan Shark," once you're in, you can't get out, and may be subject to new and hidden fees whenever you get a new rating, no matter who does the work.

Some of their predatory practices are:

- Promising or guaranteeing an increased disability rating or percentage increase.
- Advertising expedited VA claims decisions.
- Requesting login credentials to access a veteran's personal information through secure VA websites like eBenefits or VA.gov.
- Using confusing tactics or ambiguous language to mislead claimants or coerce them into signing a contract.
- Telling veterans to forego VA exams and offering health consultations within their own network of doctors.

Who are the Claim Sharks?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Trajector Medical ➤ Vet Benefits Guide ➤ Veterans Guardian ➤ VA Claims Insider ➤ Telemedica | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Patriot Angels ➤ Veteran Care Services ➤ VetComm ➤ VA Claims Academy ➤ Vet Assist |
|---|---|

Veterans can protect themselves by:

- Always working with VA accredited representatives.
- Attending all exams ordered by VA.
- Not signing contracts.
- Not agreeing to fees or payments from future benefits.
- Not agreeing to pay for medical consultations or opinions.
- Not providing access to Protected Health Information or Personal Identifiable Information.

Who is NOT a Claim Shark?

- VA accredited veterans service organization representatives, like the VFW
- VA accredited claims agents
- VA accredited attorneys
- Attorneys assisting with Camp Lejeune lawsuits who do not charge excessive fees

