



THE DECK LOG

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

JANUARY 2024



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 NATIONAL COMMANDER

William Andrea 561-790-1287 wandrea@bellsouth.net

USSVI NATIONAL SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Jon Jaques 615-893-7800 jjagues@bellsouth.net

USSVI CENTRAL REGION DIRECTOR

Tom Williams 512-632-9439 texsubvet@yahoo.com

USSVI CENTRAL DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER

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

CENTRAL TEXAS BASE OFFICERS

Base Commander Rick Mitchell	512-639-0035	rmitch2@yahoo.com
Vice-Commander Chuck Trahan	512-801-1133	ct668@yahoo.com
Yeoman Frank Abernathy	512-426-3427	f.abernathy@utexas.edu
Chief of the Boat Bill Scott	512-826-8876	hscottss242@gmail.com
Treasurer Virgil Claycamp	512-632-4852	vclaycamp@yahoo.com

BASE SUPPORT APPOINTMENTS

Chaplain - Bob Steinmann	512-255-5250	bobandgladys@austin.rr.com
Memorial - Gene Hall	512-864-2860	genehall3198@gmail.com
Storekeeper - Virgil Claycamp	512-632-4852	vclaycamp@yahoo.com
Membership - Chuck Malone	512-694-5294	cmalone10@austin.rr.com
Newsletter Editor - Bill Scott	512-826-8876	hscottss242@gmail.com
Webmaster - Rick Mitchell	512-639-0035	rmitch2@yahoo.com
Parades - Tom Sprague	858-755-6071	tmsprague48@gmail.com
Kaps4Kids - Shawn O'Shea	702-682-9170	Soshea77@outlook.com
Historian - Eric Heter	512-731-4139	erik.heter@gmail.com
Holland Club - Don Atkins	512-508-1997	oneoldcrow3134@gmail.com



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

Harold W (Bill) Scott II, STSCS (SS) USN Ret.
Holland Club, Life Member USSVI
SS-242, SSN-612, SSN-595, SSN-596
hscottss242@gmail.com

512-826-8876

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/>

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.



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://isusa.org/>



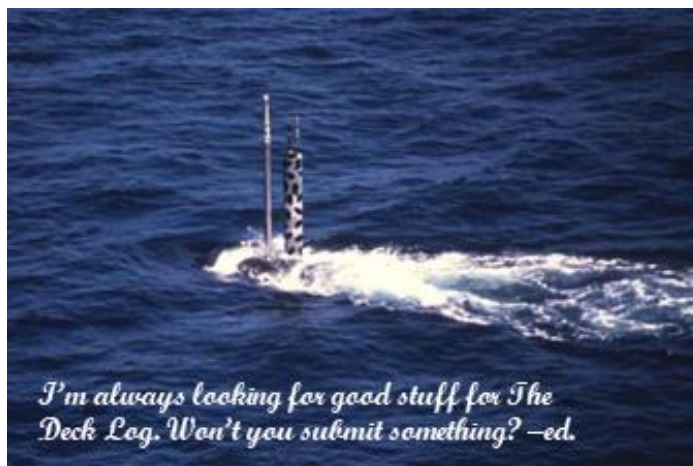
<http://www.dfas.mil/>



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



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



SILENT RUNNING - JANUARY

"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



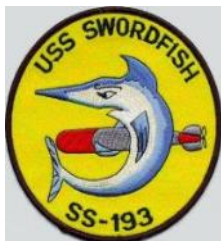
USS Scorpion (SS-278)

Lost on Jan 5, 1944 with the loss of 77 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.



USS Argonaut (SS-166)

Lost on Jan 10, 1943 with the loss of 102 officers and men off Rabaul, on her 3rd war patrol. While attacking a convoy, she torpedoed a Jap destroyer who along with 2 other destroyers depth charged her. As she tried to surface, the destroyers sunk her by gun fire.



USS Swordfish (SS-193)

Lost on Jan 12, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men somewhere near Okinawa, on her 13th war patrol. Probably was lost to a mine.



USS S-36 (SS-141)

Lost on Jan 20, 1942 with no loss of life, on her 2nd war patrol. She ran hard aground on a reef and radioed for help. The entire crew was rescued by a Dutch ship after they scuttled her.



USS S-26 (SS-131)

Lost on Jan 24, 1942 with the loss of 46 officers and men in the Gulf of Panama, on her 2nd war patrol. She was rammed by the USS PC-460 and sunk within seconds. The CO, XO and one lookout on the bridge, were the only survivors.

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 New Year Shipmates!

Hope each of you along with your family and friends had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Looking back on last year I think we had a great year as a base and I'm looking forward to what 2024 brings us also. I know many of us personally have faced some challenges and many are still facing them, and I also know many of you have had some great things going on. Having a great group like this to share our experiences with, when and as you choose, I think is one of the best parts about being part of this base. We all have our personal circles we run in but its good to know there are a ton of shipmates around to lend a hand, provide encouragement, or just hang out as desired. I'm copying with some minor edits my BC report from last year, it still applies.

The New Year generally gives us reason to pause and look back at the previous year and celebrate what we experienced or in some cases say goodbye to some experiences. It provides a book end if you will and an opportunity for fresh starts for many of us. There is a lot of discussion and talks about New Year's resolutions. Personally, I've never really been one for setting resolutions, but I do have goals and am constantly adjusting them and setting new ones. I do think it's great for people to do if that is what gets them thinking about what we can do better or improve on. So, for all of us who do set resolutions (or goals) here's a couple to consider maybe adding to your list.

1. I'm going to put all our base meetings on the calendar right now so I can plan to attend as many of them as possible as they are always the 3rd Wednesday of the month except for Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec where we have a social on 3rd Saturday. Why? Because by attending you get to hang out and meet some really cool and special people who you have some things in common with.
2. I'm going to play a more active role in my base. I will provide ideas, recommendations, and positive feedback as this is my base and I am responsible for my part. Why? Because its your base and you deserve a chance to have a say in what goes on and you may even say you have a responsibility to do so.
3. I'll participate in more parades, local ceremonies, and events. Why? Its fun and it is our #1 way of educating the public about our shipmate's deeds both past and present. We are fortunate to live in a very military friendly community and we are always well received. It's also a good way to find new members.
4. I'll proudly wear my submarine ball cap and various sub related shirts etc. sharing with others about my base and why I am glad to be part of it. Why? Same as #3 above.
5. I will RSVP when requested as this helps the event organizer know that you received the invite and the number to plan for. RSVP means let the organizer know (Yes or No) if you will attend. No response does not necessarily indicate a No, it just means we don't know if you received the invitation. Why? It's just a nice thing to do and it's easy. Communicate your intentions and make a commitment.
6. I will consider being more active on our bases and national social media pages and sharing this info more often. Currently we have a base FB Page, FB Group, Instagram page and web page. Why? It helps get the word out to the local community what we are about, our history, and helps bring in new members. Not to get on a bandwagon but I think the history is very important to share with the world these days.
7. I will strongly consider attending one of our regional or National events such as the Lonestar Subvet Round Up in Fredericksburg in May or the National Convention in Cleveland in August. Why? Generally, in nice places at reduced cost. Allows you to meet new shipmates of which if you are like me some will become lifelong friends.

I am wishing you all the best and look forward to my time spent with each one of you this year wherever that is. Hopefully you will consider adding 1 or more of these resolutions to you list. Hope to see you Wednesday,

January 17th at our 1st base meeting of the year! Remember too, always feel free to call, text, email me any-time. I'm always open for grabbing lunch, coffee, or a beer with a little notice pending my work schedule. Happy New Year Shipmates!

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

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



From: Rick Mitchell <rmitch2@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 11:06:27 AM CST

Subject: 2024 Lonestar Subvet Round-Up Announcement!

Shipmates,

Please see below concerning the 2024 Round-Up to be held this year in Fredericksburg. Please make your reservations and get your registrations in soon. Of special note, I know our base has a large amount of folks who like to RV. We have a Rally block at Fredericksburg RV Park of 10 sites together at a 20% off rate assuming we get 10 RVers otherwise it will be 10% off. I cannot promise there will be more sites if those fill so help us out and CALL them (cannot make reservations online for this) and reserve your spot today. All details on the web page.



Shipmates and Friends,

Please pass this on to your base members, chapter members and any Subvets you know. This event is for all Submariners! Let's get the word out!

The 2024 Lonestar Subvet Round-Up (LSRU) will be held next year in Fredericksburg, Tx from May 16-19. This is Armed Forces Day also. We moved the dates from April to May due to the majority of you wanted to go to Fredericksburg, but the Submarine Force Birthday in April conflicted with the Total Eclipse coming right over top of the area that week, so we opted to move the date to May.

Information for the event is now on the new webpage <http://www.lsr.org> and you can get your registrations sent in and reservations at the hotel or RV park as needed.

Note that the event is designed so that you can come for the entire time or just for a day. Hope to see you the whole weekend so we can fill the town with Subvets but more importantly we hope to just see you!

This is our 4th year now and we are looking forward to seeing you all in Fredericksburg.

Some of the highlights:

- We will be gathering informally in Luckenbach, Tx on Thursday evening, just show up and....
- Friday night dinner at Fredericksburg Brewing Company
- Tolling Ceremony at the Nimitz Museum
- Each paid reservation will have a free ticket to the National Museum of the Pacific War
- Wine Tours
- Saturday Evening Banquet

Check out the webpage <http://www.lsr.org> for frequent updates.

We will be launching a Facebook Page also very soon.

Thank You!

Rick Mitchell

512-639-0035

[Central Texas Base – Web Page](#)

[Central Texas Base - Facebook](#)

[Heart of Texas Base - Facebook](#)

[USSVI National - Facebook](#)

[USSVI Home Page -Web Page](#)

[USSVI 2024 National Convention - Facebook](#)

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BASE TREASURER'S REPORT

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30 December 2023

Financial Report for Period Ending 11/30/2023



Beginning Balance - 11/1/2023	\$34,405.01
RBFCU Checking (General Fund)	\$29,148.32
RBFCU Savings (Memorial Fund)	\$4,163.57
Cash to be deposited	\$45.00
Uncleared Checks	-\$55.00
Ending Balance - 11/30/2023	\$33,411.89

Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer

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JANUARY 2024



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

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

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STOREKEEPER CORNER

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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.

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BINNACLE LIST



Prayer for our brothers and friends in need.

Our Heavenly Father, we are so helpless. We care so much for our brothers and friends. They are special to all of us. It hurts us to see them suffering. And while we cannot be with them Lord, You be with them please and be with those who attend them. Comfort those who love them and need them, as well as those who must wait. Amen

John Roberts, Chuck Trahan, Don Atkins, Coy Smith, Immediate Past National Commander Wayne Standerfer, 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.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Be Still and Know That I Am God



His name is Bill. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans, and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college. He is brilliant, kind of esoteric and very, very bright.

He became a Christian while attending college.

Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, very conservative church. They want to develop a ministry to the students, but are not sure how to go about it.

One day Bill decides to go there. He walks in with no shoes, jeans, his T-shirt, and wild hair... The service has already started and so Bill starts down the aisle looking for a seat. The church is completely packed and he can't find a seat. By now, people are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything. Bill gets closer and closer and closer to the pulpit, and when he realizes

there are no seats, he just squats down right on the carpet. (Although perfectly acceptable behavior at a college fellowship, trust me, this had never happened in this church before!)

By now the people are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick. About this time, the minister realizes that from way at the back of the church, a deacon is slowly making his way toward Bill. Now, the deacon is in his eighties, and has silver-gray hair, and wears a three-piece suit. He is a godly man, very elegant, very dignified and very courtly.

He walks with a cane and, as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is thinking that you can't blame him for what he's going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid on the floor? It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy. The church is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on him. You can't even hear anyone breathing. The minister can't even preach the sermon until the deacon does what he has to do.

And now they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, he lowers himself and sits down next to Bill and worships with him so he won't be alone. Everyone chokes up with emotion. When the minister gains control, he says, "What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget."

Be careful how you live. You may be the only 'Bible' some people will ever read.

~Jude Seddon~



5 ants rented an apartment with another 5 ants.

Now they're tenants.

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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.

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 - #2023-016

NEWS-01: Scam alerts

Submitted by: William C. Andrea on 12/11/2023

Shipmates,

Several of our members have recently received SCAM emails allegedly from Paul Hiser, our Past National Secretary. If you receive any suspicious emails requesting money, sensitive information or help setting up money transfers from ANYONE, they are more than likely SCAMS. There is also one or more allegedly from the IRS. Definitely a scam. Always check with that person directly to ensure that the request is legitimate. The scammers will use fake names and email addresses to make the email look legitimate. These scams have been around our organization several times before, so beware.

Also, when sending emails always use the "BCC" instead of the "CC". This helps to prevents scammers from getting large email lists to send their scams to.

Have a safe Holiday Season.

Best,
Bill Andrea
NC



NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN

From the Desk of National Commander Bill Andrea

NC Bill Andrea [via blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com](mailto:blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com) , 12/21/23

Shipmates,

I regret to have to inform you that Immediate Past National Commander Wayne Standerfer has been diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer. Wayne is undergoing tests and will see the oncologist after the tests are completed. The prognosis of those test results will determine the possible treatment options and course of action.

Please do not call Wayne, as he and the family need this personal time. I will provide any updates as they become available to me. Also, please keep Wayne and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Respectfully,
Bill Andrea
National Commander

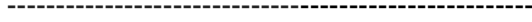


USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2023-018 & #2013-019

noreply@ussubvets.org, 11/27/23

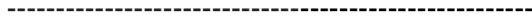
2013-018 NEWS-01: January 2024 VSO Bulletin

Submitted by: John Dudas on 12/27/2023



2013-019 NEWS-01: January 2024 VSO Bulletin ADDITIONAL

Submitted by: William C. Andrea on 12/27/2023



Additional not transmitted in initial bulletin

Editor: Due to the length and multiple links in these emails from the USSVI VSO, John Dudas, and the fact that these emails go to the organization as a whole, I'm not including the content as I have done in the past. Bill Scott



NATIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE

USSVI 2024 National Convention

United States Submarine Veterans Inc. <info@ussvi.org>

12/22/2023

Just in time for the Holidays and New Year! You may now go to the website to read about all the happenings, register for the convention and events and sign up for magazine ads and sponsorships. Both forms for snail mail and electronic sign up is available! Thank you to all that made this new and greatly improved site possible. Let's make this a great destination and convention! And go.....



NATIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE

United States Submarine Veterans Inc. <info@ussvi.org>

12/28/23

Shipmates,

The website for the 2024 Convention in Cleveland is up and running. For complete information on the Convention, Go to the website, www.ussvi.org , click on "Visitors", and then click on "2024 National Convention". OR, you may go directly by clicking on :<https://subvetconvention.org> .

Below, please read the welcome invitation letter from Cod Base Convention Chairman, Bill Synk.

Greetings:

I would like to extend a warm invitation to all USSVI SubVets, Associates, Speakers, and Vendors wishing to attend the National USSVI Convention in Cleveland, Ohio hosted by USSVI CODBASE.

The Convention will be taking place on August 19th to the 24th 2024 at The Rockside Embassy Suites located at 5800 Rockside Woods Blvd N, Independence, Ohio 44131.

This Convention will have all the usual meetings and hospitality you are accustomed to, but we have also put together some great events to make your stay an even more memorial experience. We will provide numerous events and day trips for all to enjoy.

Cleveland and the surrounding Lake Front area have a multitude of interesting attractions to experience. The greater Cleveland area is one of the best Convention locations in the nation. Museums, historic sites, casinos, Science Centers ,The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and The USS COD are all here for you to explore and enjoy.

All the CODBASE members are looking forward to celebrating this special occasion with you and while you are making unforgettable memories together.

We hope that you will be able to attend this event because we are sure it will be a memorable one.

Thank you for considering our invitation, and we look forward to seeing you in Cleveland in 2024.

Sincerely,

Bill Synk
USSVI 2024 National Convention Chairman
USSVI CODBASE Cleveland, Ohio



Report: Russian Sub Probes Ireland's Defenses, Loiters Off Cork Harbor



File image courtesy Russian Navy

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/report-russian-sub-probes-ireland-s-defenses-loiters-off-cork-harbor>

The Russian Navy has discovered an apparent weak spot in the UK's maritime defenses - Ireland, whose under-resourced navy guards the UK's western flank. According to the Irish Examiner, the Irish Navy's two operational patrol vessels lack submarine-detecting capability, leaving the nation dependent on the UK Royal Navy for sub-hunting duties.

A newly-disclosed incident just off Cork appears to illustrate the challenge for Ireland's stretched naval forces. According to the Irish Examiner, a Russian submarine loitered outside of the 12-nautical mile line off the coast of Cork, accompanied by a nominally civilian Russian surface vessel. The sub stayed there until a Royal Navy frigate and antisubmarine warfare helicopter arrived on scene.

The Irish Navy has not had a vessel with operational sonar since the 1990s, according to the outlet, and only has two operational patrol vessels left. It is critically shorthanded, to the point that it has hired a [third-party recruiter](#) to try to fill specialty billets with foreign nationals.

Russian naval activity has been on the rise off the British Isles for several years, and close-in patrols like the one at Cork have happened several times, according to the report.

In April, the Russian pipelay barge *Fortuna* - famous for its role in completing the Nord Stream 2 pipeline - circled off Ireland's west and southwest coast, under tow by the Russian anchor handler *Umka* and escorted by the salvage tug *Bakhtemir*. The area hosts more than a dozen subsea cables connecting the British Isles with the rest of the world, including one cable that was recently installed. This Russian patrol raised concern in Irish defense circles, and the Irish Air Corps was dispatched to photograph the Russian convoy.

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Submarine Transport on the Streets: Moving U-Boat U17 to exhibition (Video)

[Hulk](#), October 16, 2023

In an impressive feat of engineering and logistics, a U-Boat U17, a historical relic from the depths of the past, recently undertook an extraordinary journey through urban streets. This unconventional event highlighted the intricate process of moving a submarine to an exhibition, capturing the imagination of spectators with its boldness.

[Submarine Transport on the Streets: Moving U-Boat U17 to exhibition \(Video\) \(batmalitemedia.com\)](#)

The U-Boat U17, a significant artifact from a bygone era, embarked on a journey like no other. The event was meticulously planned and executed, exemplifying the prowess of modern heavy haulage technology. This spectacle not only paid homage to naval history but also demonstrated the capabilities of contemporary transportation methods.



The journey began with meticulous planning and coordination. Transporting a submarine of this magnitude through urban streets required a strategic approach. Engineers and logistics experts collaborated closely to ensure the safe passage of the U-Boat U17. The route was carefully chosen, taking into consideration factors such as road width, clearance, and potential obstacles.



To make this feat possible, the U-Boat U17 underwent a series of ingenious adaptations. Its dimensions were meticulously assessed, and specialized equipment was employed to facilitate its journey. The submarine was delicately positioned on a custom-built transport rig, designed to evenly distribute the weight and ensure stability throughout the transit.



As the U-Boat U17 made its way through the city streets, it garnered the attention of bystanders, historians, and enthusiasts alike. The precision with which the operation was carried out was a testament to the expertise of the team behind this endeavor. Every turn, every obstacle was met with calculated finesse, underscoring the meticulous planning that went into this spectacle.



The U-Boat U17's journey was more than just a logistical marvel; it was a tribute to naval history. This submarine, with its storied past, served as a tangible link to a pivotal period in maritime warfare. Its presence on the city streets was a poignant reminder of the sacrifices and innovations that shaped naval strategy during that time.

In conclusion, the transportation of the U-Boat U17 through city streets stands as a testament to both modern engineering capabilities and a reverence for naval history. This extraordinary event showcased the seamless synergy between cutting-edge technology and the preservation of historical artifacts. The U-Boat U17's journey serves as an inspiration for future endeavors in heavy haulage and a reminder of the invaluable lessons embedded in our maritime past.

Video Catches Rare Glimpse of China's Silent Killer Submarine

Story by Aadil Brar, 12/21/23

[Video Catches Rare Glimpse of China's Silent Killer Submarine \(msn.com\)](#)

Fishermen in eastern China were offered a rare glimpse of one of the country's newly upgraded submarines, which was captured on camera on Wednesday while heading out to sea for a suspected training exercise.

The Type 039C, the latest redesign of what the Pentagon calls the Yuan class of Chinese navy boats, was seen steaming ahead on the surface of the water in a video shared to the Chinese social media website Weibo by a user based in China's coastal province of Zhejiang.

Beijing now has the world's largest navy in terms of hull count, and China continues to launch more naval and commercial ships than does any other country in the world. Its growing surface and submarine fleet is part of Chinese President [Xi Jinping](#)'s desire to create a modern fighting force that can dominate the country's immediate region by the end of the decade.

The [People's Liberation Army](#) Navy has 17 Yuan-class submarines in active service in its various fleets. The diesel-electric boats are thought to be one of the quietest classes of silent killers.

The Type 039C, a variant upgraded with a stealth sail to reduce detectability, was first spotted by satellite imagery analysts in May 2021. It was not until July the following year that the Chinese navy officially acknowledged the new boat in an unveiling ceremony covered by state media.

While the overall design of the Type 039C is not new, the new detail on its sail has already generated tremendous interest among military experts.

[Open-source intelligence](#) analyst H.I. Sutton, writing for Naval News last month, concluded that the attack submarine was engineered to be more survivable against active sonar. Its new stealth sail, angled in shape, could counter medium-frequency sonar by complicating enemy classification and delaying response times.

"It is now almost certain that the distinctive shape of the sail on the latest Type-039C Yuan class submarines is to [increase survivability](#)," Sutton said of the boat that promises to be even harder to track and find.

Sweden has also developed a submarine with an angle sail, but China's Type 039C is currently the only design of its kind operational in the water, Sutton noted.

Defense commentators on Weibo said the Type 039C was likely to carry torpedoes and the YJ-18 supersonic anti-ship cruise missiles, which has an operational range of up to 340 miles.



Photographs released by the People's Liberation Army on December 21, 2023, shows China's Type-039C submarine sailing toward an undisclosed exercise area. The boat was seen sailing on the surface of the water in a video shared to Chinese social media on December 20. PLA© PLA

Newsweek couldn't independently verify the exact location of this week's footage.

But on Thursday, a day after the video circulated on Weibo, the PLA published images of a Type 039C undergoing training at sea. The Chinese military did not disclose the boat's location.

Orca Drone Submarine Delivered To Navy

Story by Oliver Parken, 12/20/23

[Orca Drone Submarine Delivered To Navy \(msn.com\)](#)



All the following pictures are the Orca Drone Submarine Delivered To Navy© Boeing

Boeing has now delivered the first of its Orca extra-large unmanned undersea vehicles, or XLUUVs, to the U.S. Navy. Delivery submarine drone has been delayed by several years, in part due to differences between Orca and its prototype as well as the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The delivery was [announced earlier today](#) by Boeing, following the completion of acceptance testing earlier in December. In partnership with the Navy, it has previously undergone several phases of at-sea testing, including maneuvering above and below the surface which we saw glimpses of [back in the summer](#). In all, Boeing is set to deliver a further four Orcas to the Navy, with the final example slated to be handed over in June of 2024.



As Boeing states, the delivery of Orca — a fully autonomous uncrewed underwater vehicle (UUV) with a large payload capacity — represents the "culmination of more than a decade of pioneering work." The vehicle is derived from an earlier private venture known as [Echo Voyager](#) — itself an evolution of previous UUV concepts [Echo Seeker](#) and [Echo Ranger](#) — which the company began designing and developing in 2012. In 2017, the Navy awarded development contracts for XLUUVs to Boeing as well as Lockheed Martin, prior to awarding Boeing and shipbuilding partner Huntington Ingalls Industries a \$43 million for four Orcas [in February 2019](#). A fifth Orca was subsequently ordered in March of that year.

Since then, however, delays and cost growth have ailed the program. At one stage, it was planned that the first Orca would be delivered to the Navy by December 2020, with all five vehicles being received by the service at the end of 2022, at the latest. A [report](#) by the Government Accountability Office (GOA) from September 2022 [found that](#) key differences between Echo Voyager and Orca were not addressed by Boeing prior to fabrication, requiring the re-design of key components and leading to delays. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was also identified as a contributing factor to delays. The GOA report also concluded that the overall program was at least \$242 million, 64 percent higher than its original cost estimate.



Orca Drone Submarine Delivered To Navy© Provided by The Drive

The 80-ton, 85-foot-long Orca is designed to be highly modular in order to suit different mission requirements. Its core vehicle provides "guidance and control, navigation, autonomy, situational awareness, core communications, power distribution, propulsion and maneuvering, and mission sensors." A distinctive part of its design is the extendable mast which, as [we've previously seen](#) during at-sea testing, can be raised when close to the surface, and provides a number of functions including satellite connectivity.



Boeing

Within the XLUUV's aft section lies space for modular payloads. The 34-foot-long payload section is capable of supporting an eight-ton payload capacity, and can be reconfigured for a range of mission sets. The Navy primarily plans to utilize this space first to [dispense mines](#).

The service also wants Orca's modular payload section to accommodate other payloads to undertake different missions, too, in order to conduct minesweeping missions, electronic warfare, and undersea surveillance. Future payloads are expected to include synthetic aperture sonar will be a feature, allowing Orca to map the ocean floor.

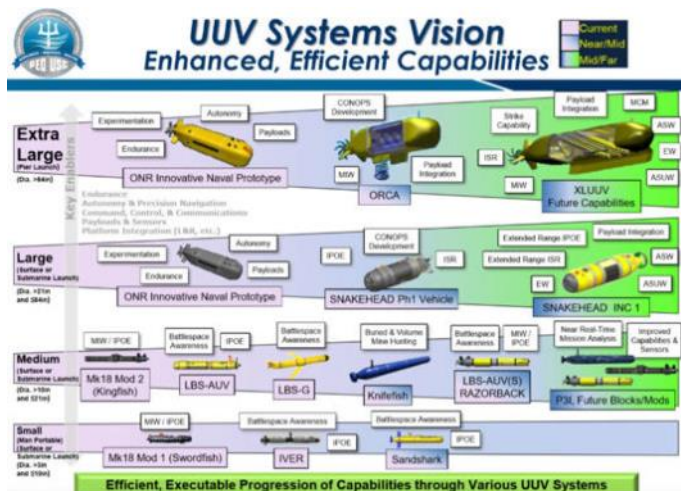
Orca XLUUV. GAO

As well as this, the Navy is also interested in adding additional weapons systems to arm its XLUUVs, including torpedoes, cruise missiles, and even [aerial drones](#).

Another key feature of Orca, which will only enhance its utility for the Navy, includes its hybrid diesel-electric propulsion system; allowing it to stay submerged for long periods of time and move underwater silently. Its diesel-electric engine, [combined with lithium-ion batteries](#), should allow Orca to remain at sea for months at a time, all while cruising at speeds of around three knots, as [we've highlighted before](#). Its use of a [shrouded propulsor](#), rather than a conventional propeller, also adds to its ability to move silently and efficiently.



How exactly Orca will be launched at sea by the Navy remains less clear, as it's too large for submarines to carry or launch. As such, it will require being launched from either a large surface ship or via a pier. As Naval News [originally reported](#), the [Navy's Expeditionary Sea Bases](#) (ESB), which already support numerous smaller uncrewed underwater vehicles (UUVs) and uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs), [could be modified](#) for launching and recovering larger platforms such as Orca.



Orca rendering. Boeing

However, once deployed, Orca's ability to operate across large areas over lengthy time periods quietly will make them useful assets in a variety of contexts for the Navy. It could be used to target enemy shipyards and ports. These very high-risk operations could eventually including laying mines in narrower stretches of water, like rivers.

You can read more about the various other ways Orcas might be used by the Navy [here](#).

It should be noted that the Navy is looking to field a wide range of UUVs of various tiers, Orca being among the largest in size. That the first of the Navy's XLUUVs has been received is significant, given the service's decision to cancel [Snakehead](#), a large UUV that ended up being unsuitable for deployment from the dry dock shelters (DDS) of nuclear submarines as intended. This has left a large gap between the Navy's medium and extra-large UUVs.

Regardless, Orca being delivered and hopefully heading towards operational status is a huge deal. The future maritime fight will increasingly feature uncrewed platforms, and under the waves is arguably where these new technologies could make the most impact. And that works both ways, with adversaries, especially China, [has invested heavily](#) in [uncrewed underwater vehicles](#).

We will keep our eyes peeled for what comes next for the Navy and its Orca XLUUVs.

Contact the author: oliver@thewarzone.com



Opinion: The Navy needs a 'Yorktown Plan' for submarines to defeat China

Opinion by William Toti, opinion contributor, 12/21/23

[Opinion: The Navy needs a 'Yorktown Plan' for submarines to defeat China \(msn.com\)](#)



Opinion: The Navy needs a 'Yorktown Plan' for submarines to defeat China© Provided by The Hill

There is an old saying in war that amateurs talk about strategy while professionals talk about logistics. If I were to craft an equivalent truism about submarines relative to a potential war with China, it would be that amateurs talk about submarine technology while professionals talk about submarine numbers.

To that end, reporters exploring the impact of submarines in a potential war often talk to the wrong “experts.” The Wall Street Journal recently published an article that made this mistake, with naval experts and submarine veterans suggesting that a war over Taiwan would be some sort of “Hunt for Red October,” mano-a-mano fight with American submarines pitted against a Chinese Communist version of the “Russkies” of old, with evolving Chinese technology offsetting American submarine advantage.

That is not how the war would play out. If it happens, this would be a war about numbers.

While it may be true that our technical advantage is fading, that is not the most worrisome matter. Rather, the problem is that the American [submarine numbers shortfall is so acute](#) that if China invades Taiwan, our submarines won't have the luxury of chasing Chinese submarines around the ocean — we simply won't have enough submarines to pursue that mission.

As the sole American asset that has any chance of stopping the cross-strait invasion of Taiwan in what we call a “denied environment,” America's limited number of submarines will be completely consumed with sinking invading Chinese surface ships. Other American naval assets will simply have to figure out how to defend themselves against the Chinese submarine threat.

China benefited from the 9/11 attacks against the U.S. in several ways, including a decades-long diversion of American resources away from capabilities with the potential to threaten that nation. But the decline of our submarine force began well prior to 2001, when President Bill Clinton decided to cash in on the so-called “peace dividend” by decommissioning submarines like [the one I commanded](#) halfway through their useful lives. His crystal ball said that with the Cold War over, we would never again need submarines. It's incredible how myopic our crystal balls tend to be.

If this poor premonition wasn't enough, over the next 20 years malfeasance in Congress and the Department of Defense caused such damage to the submarine shipbuilding program that the Chinese themselves couldn't have choreographed it better. Unsteady funding, poorly defined requirements, failure to stabilize a highly skilled workforce and policies that resulted in an active reduction in the number and quality of second- and third-tier suppliers all contributed to the inability of building yards to keep pace with submarine construction demand.

During the Reagan administration, the same two building yards that are in existence today were able to pump out four to six submarines per year; today, they can't even produce two per year. The difference between then and now is having a president who cared, a Congress that provided consistent funding, and a Defense Department and Navy staff that knew what they were doing. Budget efficiency is important, up until the point where weapon systems are delivered too late to do any good. Our government must come to the realization that in today's strategic environment, the most important factor is delivery schedule.

To add insult to injury, as new construction programs failed to achieve their targets, the number of operational submarines fell even further due to the improper management of submarine maintenance, to the extent that we currently have one submarine, the USS Boise, that has been [out of action since 2017 awaiting repair](#). In all, 37 percent of our submarine force is now out of commission awaiting maintenance.

If this doesn't paint a sufficiently dire picture, Congress and the Navy have so underfunded submarine weapons that it's possible that we could run out of torpedoes before any war over Taiwan could be won.

It is these factors and not, as the much of the media asserts, China's “[underwater great wall](#),” that is the major threat to our freedom of action in a future war. As the great philosopher Pogo once put it, “We have met the enemy, and he is us.”

During World War II, the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown was put out of action during the Battle of the Coral Sea. Returning for quick repairs to Pearl Harbor, Admiral Chester Nimitz ordered that the shipyard had to complete repairs to the Yorktown in a mere 72 hours in order to get the ship ready for the coming Battle of Midway.

We won that battle, but it remains to be seen how we would do in a war over Taiwan. But one thing is clear: The Navy today needs to develop a “Yorktown Plan,” using waivers and temporary measures to get our submarines out of maintenance if necessary for a potential future war.

In short, we need to focus less on the enemy, and focus more on restoring strategic priorities and governmental competence. From all appearances, we have an incredibly long way to go.

William Toti is a retired submarine captain and commodore who operated in the Pacific his entire Navy career. He is former defense industry CEO, and now serves as a consultant and co-host of the "Unauthorized History of the Pacific War" podcast.



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/january-1.html>

1/01/1943 – USS Nautilus (SS 168) evacuated 29 civilians from Teop Island, Solomons. Also on this date, USS Porpoise (SS 172) attacked a Japanese convoy and sank the freighter Renzan Maru off northeastern coast of Honshu, Japan.

1/01/1944 – USS Ray (SS 271) sinks a Japanese gunboat at the mouth of Ambon Bay, while USS Puffer (SS 268) attacks a Japanese convoy at the western entrance of the Mindanao Sea, sinking an army cargo ship. On the same day USS Herring (SS 233) attacks a Japanese convoy, sinking an aircraft transport ship 220 miles off Tokyo Bay.

1/02/1944 – USS Finback (SS 230) sinks a Japanese merchant tanker in the East China Sea.

1/03/1945 – USS Kingfish (SS 234) attacks a Japanese convoy in the Bonin Islands sinking a Japanese army cargo ship and two freighters 200 miles north of Chichi Jima.

1/04/1943 – USS Shad (SS 235) sinks German minesweeper M 4242 (ex-French trawler Odet II) in the Bay of Biscay.

1/04/1944 – USS Bluefish (SS 222) and USS Rasher (SS 269) attack a Japanese convoy off French Indochina; Bluefish sinks a merchant tanker while Rasher damages another tanker. Also on this date USS Cabrilla (SS 288) sinks a Japanese freighter off Cape Padran, French Indochina while USS Tautog (SS 109) sinks a Japanese freighter off southern Honshu.

1/07/1945 - USS Spot (SS 413) sinks the Japanese gunboat No.2 Nichiei Maru in the Inland Sea.

1/08/1983 – Fast Attack Submarine USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) is commissioned.

1/08/1994 - Fast Attack Submarine USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) is commissioned.

1/09/1942 –USS Pollack (SS 180) sinks the Japanese freighter Teian Maru (ex-Yugoslav Tomislav) 40 miles south-southwest of Inubo Saki, Japan.

1/09/1959 - Non-strategic submarine Halibut (SSGN 587), launches. Redesignated an attack submarine in 1965, she serves until decommissioned in 1986.

1/09/1993 – Fast Attack Submarine USS Springfield (SSN 761) is commissioned

1/10/1943 - USS Trigger (SS 237) sinks the Japanese destroyer Okikaze off Yokosuka, Japan.

1/10/1943 – USS Seawolf (SS 197) and USS Steelhead (SS 280) attack a Japanese convoy about 70 miles north of Naha, Okinawa, sinking three ships, including one while in the middle of a typhoon.

1/12/1943 - USS Guardfish (SS 217) sinks Japanese Patrol Boat No.1 about 10 miles southwest of the Tingwon Islands, located just southwest of the northern tip of New Hanover, Bismarck Archipelago.

1/14/1943 – USS Gudgeon (SS 211) lands six men, 2,000 pounds of equipment and supplies on Negros Island for first resupply mission for a submarine.

1/14/1944 - Five U.S. Navy submarines sink five different Japanese vessels in and around the Pacific Ocean. USS Albacore (SS 218) sinks Japanese destroyer Sazanami 300 miles off Yap; USS Scamp (SS 277) sinks the tanker Nippon Maru off Sorol Island; USS Guardfish (SS 217) sinks tanker Kenyo Maru southeast of Pa-

lau; USS Seawolf (SS 197) sinks tanker Yamazuru Maru off Okinawa, and USS Swordfish (SS 193) sinks transport Yamakuni Maru off Hachijo Jima.

1/14/1945 – USS Cobia (SS 245) sinks the Japanese minelayer Yurijima off the east coast of Malaya.

1/15/1916 - The submarine E-2 explodes at the New York Navy Yard because of escaping gases during an overhaul. The interior ship is severely damaged and four men are killed.

1/17/1943 – Submarine USS Whale (SS 239) sinks the Japanese transport Heiyo Maru.

1/18/1942 - Submarine USS Plunger (SS 179) sinks the Japanese freighter Eizan Maru (ex-Panamanian Aurora) off the mouth of Kii Strait, Honshu.

1/19/1943 – USS Swordfish (SS 193) sinks army cargo ship Myoho Maru, which was part of the Japanese Solomons reinforcement convoy, while USS Greenling (SS 213) damages Japanese cargo ship north of Rabaul.

1/20/1944 - USS Batfish (SS 310) and USS Gar (SS 206) attack Japanese convoys and sink transport Hidaka Maru south of Shiono Misaki and army cargo ship Koyo Maru about 50 miles south-southwest of Palau.

1/21/1943 - USS Pollack (SS 180) and USS Gato (SS 212) attack and cause the sinking of two Japanese ships.

1/21/1954 – The world's first nuclear submarine, USS Nautilus (SSN-571), is christened and launched at Groton, Conn.

1/21/1961 - USS George Washington (SSBN 598) completes the first operational voyage as a fleet ballistic missile submarine, staying submerged 66 days.

1/22/1943 –USS Guardfish (SS 217) sinks the Japanese destroyer Hakaze off New Ireland.

1/23/1960 – The Bathyscaphe Trieste descends on a nine-hour journey seven miles to the deepest part of the World's oceans, Challenger Deep, located at the southern end of the Mariana Trench.

1/24/1945 - USS Blackfin (SS 322) sinks the Japanese destroyer Shigure in the Gulf of Siam.

1/24/1956 - USS Jallao (SS 368) becomes the first U.S. Navy submarine to transit the Suez Canal traveling from the Mediterranean to Massawa, Eritrea, Ethiopia.

1/25/1943 – USS Shad (SS-235) encounters German blockade runners transporting ore in the Bay of Biscay. Shad fires on Nordfels, but the torpedo fails to explode, and Nordfels returns to Bilbao, Spain.

1/25/1945 - USS Silversides (SS-236), despite the presence of auxiliary submarine chasers, sinks the Japanese army cargo ship Malay Maru off Kuro Jima.

1/26/1943 – USS Wahoo (SS-238) sinks entire convoy of four Japanese supply ships north of New Guinea.

1/26/1944 – USS Skipjack (SS-184) sinks the Japanese destroyer Suzukaze and the aircraft ferry Okitsu Maru in the Caroline Islands area. Also on this date, USS Hake (SS-256) sinks the Japanese auxiliary net-layer Shuko Maru off Ambon and USS Crevalle (SS-291) sinks the Japanese gunboat Busho Maru 175 miles southeast of Cape St. Jacques, French Indochina.

1/27/1942 - USS Gudgeon (SS-211) becomes the first US Navy submarine to sink an enemy Japanese submarine in action during World War II.

1/28/1945 - USS Spadefish (SS-411) attacks Japanese convoy west of Chuja Kundo, Korea, and sinks escort vessel Kume and transport Sanuki Maru.

1/31/1944 –USS Trigger (SS-237) sinks the Japanese minelayer Nasami and damages a destroyer in the Central Pacific area, while USS Tullibee (SS-284) sinks the Japanese auxiliary net-layer Miro Maru north-northwest of Saipan.

1/31/1945 - USS Boarfish (SS-327) attacks Japanese HI 88 convoy and sinks freighter Enki Maru 50 miles southeast of Tourance, French Indochina. She also damages a cargo ship that runs aground and 14th Air Force aircraft destroys it the next day.

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From Central Texas Base Shipmate Joseph Shirley Keller

Facebook Post - 12/9/23

While on board the T-Cup (83-88) I really never understood or knew anything about Chief Tecumseh. After researching, I am very proud to have served on her in the namesake of a true Leader & Warrior. Here is the Tecumseh Poem that I have used as my motivation:

The Tecumseh Poem

“So live your life that the fear of death can never enter your heart.
Trouble no one about their religion; respect others in their view, and demand that they respect yours.

Love your life, perfect your life, beautify all things in your life.
Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people.
Prepare a noble death song for the day when you go over the great divide.

Always give a word or a sign of salute when meeting or passing a friend, even a stranger, when in a lonely place.

Show respect to all people and bow to none.

When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the food and for the joy of living.
If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies only in yourself.
Abuse no one and nothing, for abuse turns the wise ones to fools and robs the spirit of its vision.

When it comes your time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with fear of death, so that when their time comes they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way.

Sing your death song and die like a hero going home.”

Chief Tecumseh, 1768 – 1813



SS American Memorial Park located at the Lazy U Ranch Seguin TX

Facebook post, 12/19/23

On 18 December 1927, during the diving operations in connection with the sinking of the U.S.S. S-4 with all on board, as a result of a collision off Provincetown, Mass. On this occasion when Michels, chief torpedoman, U.S. Navy, while attempting to connect an air line to the submarine at a depth of 102 feet became seriously fouled, Eadie, under the most adverse diving conditions, deliberately, knowingly, and willingly took his own life in his hands by promptly descending to the rescue in response to the desperate need of his companion diver. After two hours of extremely dangerous and heartbreaking work, by his cool, calculating, and skillful labors, he succeeded in his mission and brought Michels safely to the surface.

www.history.navy.mil/today-in-history/december-18.html

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.



20 facts you might not know about 'The Hunt for Red October'

Story by Chris Morgan, 12/21/23

[20 facts you might not know about 'The Hunt for Red October' \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/entertainment/movies/20-facts-you-might-not-know-about-the-hunt-for-red-october)



(Editor: Additional pictures for each paragraph below can be found at the website link above.)

Sebastian said everything was better under the sea. That doesn't seem to be the case in the thriller *The Hunt for Red October*. The first adaptation of an established book character, the film used a submarine setting to ratchet up the intensity. Audiences responded in kind. Plus, *The Hunt for Red October* is just a great name for a movie. Let's dive deep into some trivia about the spy movie.

The story is a debut in more ways than one©Paramount

The Hunt for Red October is an adaptation of a Tom Clancy novel by the same name. It is the first of many entertainment entities focused on the character of Jack Ryan. However, the CIA analyst character was actually making his debut in the 1984 novel as well, as that was the first published novel for Clancy, who went on to have quite a prolific career.

It took a while for a studio to get interested©Paramount

Producer Marc Neufield got the movie rights to Clancy's novel and began to pitch it around Hollywood. However, although the book had proved successful, he had trouble gaining traction. In short, studios were finding the story too complicated. It took a year and a half until an executive at Paramount read the novel and thus understood the film.

They got the Navy involved©Paramount

After selling the script to Paramount, Neufield then began working on the Navy. He hoped to get them on board with the film. A few folks in the Navy were intrigued, thinking the movie could do for submarines what *Top Gun* did for fighter jets. After suggesting a few changes to put the U.S. Navy in a more positive light, the production got access to a few real naval submarines to use for set and prop design. Some cast members got to go on a real submarine as well.

The first choice for Jack Ryan turned them down©Paramount

Initially, the producers wanted Kevin Costner to play Ryan. Costner had other plans. He turned them down to make *Dances with Wolves*, which would win Best Picture and make an indelible mark for Costner in his career. That decision worked out for him.

Another choice for the role would take it on eventually©Paramount

Alec Baldwin would play Ryan, but he was not next in line after Costner. Instead, they went to Harrison Ford. Ford turned them down, but he would eventually have a change of heart. The actor took over as Ryan for future films starring the character.

The first actor cast as Ramius dropped out©Paramount

At first, the Soviet sub commander Marko Ramius was played by Austrian actor Klaus Maria Brandauer. However, a couple of weeks into production, another commitment came up, and Brandauer dropped out of the

movie. Suddenly, a new actor was needed for one of the film's starring roles.

A faxing error almost kept Sean Connery out of the film©Paramount

Connery would end up stepping into the role of Ramius, but a miscommunication initially stood in the way. The actor turned the movie down because he didn't understand why the Soviet Union was being treated like an emerging naval power in the movie. It turned out he was missing the script's first page, which set the story in 1984.

A notable screenwriter worked on the movie©Paramount

The Hunt for Red October is credited to Larry Ferguson and Donald E. Stewart. They weren't the only writers on the film, though. John Milius, who had worked on war films like *Apocalypse Now* and *Red Dawn*, was brought in to write some speeches for Connery and some scenes for the Russian characters.

It was directed by an action-movie staple©Paramount

John McTiernan was on quite the run in the late '80s and the 1990s. He had broken through with *Predator* in 1987, then in 1988, he directed perhaps the seminal action film of the '80s in *Die Hard*.

They made an interesting linguistic choice©Paramount

Russian characters play a key role in *The Hunt for Red October*, a Cold War story of the U.S. and Soviet Union. So would the Russian characters speak in Russian? Would they speak in English with Russian accents? They decided to go with an unusual middle ground. At first, the Russian characters speak Russian with English subtitles. Then, Peter Firth's character says the word "Armageddon," which is the same in both languages. At that point, he switches to speaking English, and the Russian characters, by and large, speak English from there on out.

There was some real military experience on set©Paramount

A few actors in this military thriller could have turned to their personal pasts for the film. Connery had been in the Royal Navy, Scott Glenn was in the Marine Corps, and James Earl Jones served in the U.S. Army. Baldwin hadn't served in the military, but he was trained on how to drive a submarine for the film.

A real submarine was used for the film©Paramount

The movie was mostly shot on sound stages on the Paramount lot since you can't shoot a real movie on a submarine. That doesn't mean actual subs weren't involved. The USS Houston and its crew spent a month working on the film. They surfaced more than 40 times during shooting, either in rehearsals or for the camera.

They built moving sets for the movie©Paramount

What do you do when you can't shoot on a submarine? They built moving sets roughly 45 feet above the floor on hydraulic gimbals that could be used to replicate the movements of a sub. These sets could tilt up to 45 degrees.

Connery brought a hairstyle choice to the film©Paramount

When Connery showed up to shoot, he was wearing a hairpiece that had a ponytail element. Connery was a fan and wanted to wear it for the movie, but he was pretty much the only one. McTiernan hated it, and Connery started to get mocked on set. He agreed to nix the ponytail and go with the hairpiece you see in the movie. McTiernan jokingly called it a "\$20,000 hairpiece," not because of the actual cost of the piece but because the change led to reshoots.

The subs were color coordinated©Paramount

How do you keep track of the action when the bulk of a movie is set on not one but three submarines? They decided to go a classic route: color coding. The Red October is naturally tinted red. The V.K. Konovalov gets green highlights, while the USS Dallas is blue.

Real-life events impacted the film©Paramount

The Hunt for Red October is a Cold War film — one of the first films released after the end of the Cold War. Just before the movie hit theaters, the Communist Party was ousted from Soviet Parliament, one of the last events of the Cold War. This led to a crawl being added to the beginning of the film that explained the action was set in 1984, making this one of the first throwback Cold War movies.

The movie struck a chord at the box office©Paramount

Apparently, people weren't against the idea of a Cold War movie when *The Hunt for Red October* was released. It topped the domestic box office for three weeks upon its release. Off of a budget of \$30 million, it made \$122 million domestically and \$200.5 million worldwide.

It won an Oscar©Paramount

The technical aspects of the movie were well appreciated by folks, including the Academy. *The Hunt for Red October* was nominated for Best Film Editing, Best Sound, and Best Sound Effects Editing. It won for the latter.

The film started a loosely-connected film series©Paramount

There have been five movies centered on Clancy's Jack Ryan character. *The Hunt for Red October* is the only one that starred Baldwin. Ford took over for *Patriot Games* and *Clear and Present Danger*. Ben Affleck would star in *The Sum of All Fears*. Later, Chris Pine would get a shot in *Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit*. Funnily enough, Costner pops up in that movie.

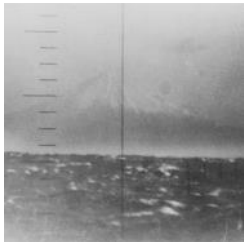
Only one actor stayed in the series©Paramount

The Hunt for Red October is, by and large, a standalone movie, though it ties into the Jack Ryan Universe. Jones's character of Vice Admiral James Greer appears in both of the Ford films, and the actor also reprises the role. He is the only actor from this film to appear in any other Ryan movie.



U.S. Naval Institute

12/26/23



[#OTD](#) in 1943, USS Gurnard (SS-254) took a photo of Mount Fuji through the periscope before sneaking into Tokyo Bay. The crew then had Christmas dinner as the Imperial Japanese Navy patrolled above them. Submariners are a different breed.



Good Thinking

Facebook posting, 11/29/23

Iulian Iulian, June 2, 2022



The last paper towel on the roll. The one nobody wants. Some say it serves no purpose with all that glue on it. It was the foundation for all the other paper towels on that roll and now it has no purpose. Now think of a family member. A grandparent perhaps. For some they're like the last paper towel on the roll. We think they have no purpose yet they have been the glue that's held the family together for many years. They were the foundation for who we are. Hold on to those grandparents and make sure they know their importance. Without the last paper towel of glue..... we'd all be napkins



Submariners are a rare Breed

Submariners are a rare breed; it is an assignment requiring a special set of skills and a special kind of both physical and mental toughness. Please read the following description written by Military Officer Russell Canty:

"You take a little steel tube, pack a nuclear reactor and high-power steam propulsion plant with high pressure and temperature steam. You also use the steam power plant to produce high voltage un-grounded electricity which you route throughout the boat in exposed cable bundles. You pack in 24 intercontinental ballistic missiles and the rockets that propel them out of the submarine (just 1 stage of 1 of these rockets is enough to liquify the submarine internals) that can each potentially be armed with up to 8 ballistic nuclear re-entry bodies that each by themselves can potentially be 20 times as powerful as those dropped on Japan in WW2. You route high pressure air and hydraulics throughout this tube to operate all this large machinery required to move the tube around. You pack in up to 40 ADCAP Mk 48 torpedoes who have an auto-catalytic fuel that could utterly destroy your tube (see Russian submarine Kursk) and pack it full of high explosives. You pack all of these extremely dangerous things into that small metal tube, climb inside it with 120 people you love to hate (the feeling is mutual too), seal it up, drive it out thousands of miles into the middle of the ocean, and sink it.

If a fire burns for longer than 15 seconds without an extinguisher on it, it begins to grow rapidly and in as little as 2 minutes can render the entire space untenable. The loss of any 1 space on a submarine is likely a loss of the ship. There are a lot of things on a submarine that want to burn or start a fire. And a lot of things on a submarine like to explode when exposed to high heat. As such, every single person on a submarine has to know how to combat a fire by himself and call for assistance. On no other platform in the military is the success and survival of the whole ship dependent on the individual performance of each sailor as it is on a submarine.

This is all backdrop to some of the nation's most vital clandestine operations (just 1 of the large number of missions a submarine can perform) which you never read about due to the nature of the missions. The stakes are high, and there is no room for error. It is a lot of stress. It is also a lot of pride.

Other than Seals, no other community asks more of its men and women than the submarine service. And as such, being a submariner is a certain badge of honor that is respected by the other communities and services. It is an arduous, thankless, and dangerous job.

So, what would attract one to this assignment? It is far and away the people. The shared responsibility for each other and the shared experience forges an extremely tight bond between the crew of a submarine, one that can only be rivaled by marine/army combat units, and even then, it is still a different type of bond as each man is just as important as the one next to him. It is less steeped in the rigid structure of the rest of the military, and lines of rank are blurred more in submarines than anywhere else. This appeals to certain types of people and not to others.

So, when you ask a submariner what it is he misses about submarining once he's gone, he will always respond "I miss the people."

Copied from a fellow submariner And yes, I miss the people!



Getting older! Now that's an interesting subject!

I remember in years past I would see my grandparents getting older. I would see them in their 70s, 80s, 90 and so on and I would think "wow they are getting old".

Well guess what the 80s sure came around pretty fast to me. From brain fog to why I went into a certain room for something.

Then come the part where you have to start giving up things you can no longer do, like driving.

It was a necessity, a privilege and a sense of freedom. When I could no longer drive I felt it was a big set back. However, it wasn't going to defeat me. I found a solution, Senior Transportation. So now I go where I need to go and for pleasure as well.

Then came not being able to sit on the floor to play with my great-grandchildren. If I tried they would probably have to call EMS to come pick me up from the floor! Solution: play on a kitchen table.

What do I say to the 80s, "welcome and what a blessing it is". Thank you precious Lord!



*******WE DIDN'T*******

Submarine Story – Explanation of Secret Missions by a Sub Vet

On my submarine, we did some of the stuff we did. We didn't do the other stuff we did because if we did do it, it was a secret. So, we didn't do it. Even though we did, but not really.

The medals my shipmates and I didn't earn for doing what we didn't do, we did receive, except we didn't, because we never went where we were and weren't there when we were, but we did the stuff we didn't do while we weren't there not doing it.

As far as what boat I was on, we didn't go where we went and didn't do what we did while not doing it, so, the bottom line, we weren't on a boat that I won't mention, not doing what we did, where we weren't. I hope that clarifies things.



Dad Humor/Riddles

What has a head, a tail but no legs?

Answer: A coin

What has one eye, but cannot see?

Answer: A needle.

Q. A cowboy rode into town on Friday. He stayed for three days and rode out on Friday. How is this possible?

A. Friday was his horse's name.

Q. How is dew formed

A. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.



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 sub-

stance 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

=====

Religious Humor

Ask a Favor

A beautiful young woman, on an international flight, asked the priest beside her, "Father, may I ask a favor?"

"Of course you may. What can I do for you?"

"Well, I bought this expensive electronic hair dryer that is well over the Customs limits and I'm afraid that they'll confiscate it from me. Is there anyway that you could carry it through Customs for me? Under your robes perhaps?"

"I would love to help you, dear, but I must warn you: I will not lie."

"With your honest face, Father, no one will question you."

When they got to Customs, the young lady let the priest go ahead of her. The Customs Officer asked, "Father, do you have anything to declare?"

"From the top of my head down to my waist, I have nothing to declare."

The Officer thought this answer strange, so he asked, "And what do you have to declare from your waist to

the floor?"

"I have a marvelous little instrument designed to be used on a woman, but which is, to date, unused."

Roaring with laughter, the Officer said, "God bless you, Father, go ahead."



Chuckle . . . "Balance"

God was missing for six days. Eventually, Michael, the archangel, found him, resting on the seventh.

He inquired, --- "Where have you been?"

God smiled deeply and proudly pointed downwards through the clouds,---- "Look, Michael. Look what I've made."

Archangel Michael looked puzzled, and said, ---- "What is it?"

"It's a planet," --- replied God, --- and I've put life on it. I'm going to call it Earth and it's going to be a place to test "Balance."

"Balance?" --- inquired Michael, ---- "I'm still confused."

God explained, pointing to different parts of Earth...

"For example, northern Europe will be a place of great opportunity and wealth, while southern Europe is going to be poor... Over here I've placed a continent of white people, and over there is a continent of black people. Balance in all things..."

God continued pointing to different countries... "This one will be extremely hot, while this one will be very cold and covered in ice."

The Archangel, impressed by God's work, then pointed to a land area and said, "What's that one?"

"That's Texas, the most glorious place on earth. There are beautiful trees, fields, hills and gardens, it's days are filled with sunshine. The people from Texas are going to be handsome, intelligent, and humorous, and they are going to travel the world.

They will be extremely sociable, hardworking, high achieving, carriers of peace, and producers of good things."

Michael gasped in wonder and admiration, but then asked, "But what about balance, God? You said there would be "balance."

God smiled an all-knowing smile... "I will create California ... Wait till you see the idiots I'll put there.



SHIPMATES IN ACTION



United States Submarine Veterans

Facebook posting, 12/8/23

Yesterday at the [National Museum of the Pacific War](#) WWII Submarine Veteran Bill Dillon participated in the Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony recounting some of his stories from when he served on the USS Sailfish (SS-192), formerly the USS Squalus. Bill was the radar operator on the Sailfish when she attacked and sunk the Japanese carrier Chūyō which ironically was carrying 21 USS Sculpin (SS-191) POWs as the Sculpin is the submarine that helped find the sunken Squalus that was raised and renamed the Sailfish.

Rick posted: Had the great privilege along with [Don Hirschenhofer](#) to meet Bill Dillon yesterday at the [National Museum of the Pacific War](#). Bill is a WWII Subvet who served on the USS Sailfish (SS-192) during the war. Loved when during his presentation he was asked what he would tell his 17 year old self if he could go back and his response was "Do It Again"



WWII Subvet Bill Dillon prior to the ceremony with Rick Mitchell. and Don Hirschenhofer from the [USSVI Central Texas Base](#) and [Cowtown Base, USSVI](#).

USSVI Central Texas Base Christmas Party

[USSVI Central Texas Base](#) and more Facebook posts

12/9/23

Held our base Christmas Party today. I think all agree that [Stiles Switch BBQ & Brew](#) did a great job hosting the party. Plenty of great BBQ and great service by (Dwayne and Aubry, hope we got this right). Announced our Sailor of the Year winner for 2023, Congrats [Frank Espinosa Jr](#) ! Exchanged a lot of interesting gifts and had a pretty good time catching up with each other and seeing a few strangers join us this year! Merry Christmas Everyone!

[Dwayne Ariola](#) is with [Marie Ariola](#) at [Stiles Switch BBQ & Brew](#).

Private Christmas Party with Submarine Vets! [USSVI Central Texas Base](#)

The sea stories are flying! No WWII Veterans here but lots of History. Most of these guys are awesome but some at STs Submarine humor.

[W Jack Collins](#) is at [Stiles Switch BBQ & Brew](#).

At the [USSVI Central Texas Base](#) Christmas party today. I don't have any pictures from the [Elgin VFW post 6115](#) Christmas party that we attended last night. Both times we had excellent BBQ... I think we are BBQed out till next year.





Wreaths For Vets

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

11/25/23, Killeen, TX

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](#).



