



THE DECK LOG

USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

MARCH 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



The Loss of USS F-4 (SS-23)

<https://ussnautilus.org/the-loss-of-uss-f-4-ss-23/>

Lost on March 25, 1915 with the loss of 21 men.

It is the first commissioned submarine loss for the U.S. Navy. She foundered 1.5 miles off of Honolulu when acid corrosion of the lead lining of the battery tank let seawater into the battery compartment, causing loss of control. She was raised in August 1915.

Specifications:

Class: **SS F**

Commissioned: **5/3/1913**

Launched: **1/6/1912**

Builder: **Seattle Construction & Drydock Co**

Length: **143**, Beam: **15**

#Officers: **1**, #Enlisted: **21**

Fate: **The remains of F-4 were buried as fill in a trench off the Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, HI.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

=====

USSVI Creed	1
Table of Contents	2
Points of Contact	2
Publication, Web Site, Base Mtg	2
Links	3
Silent Running - October	4
USSVI Central Texas Base News	5
Base Commander's Report	5
Base Meeting Minutes	6
2024 Lonestar Subvet Round-up	7
Shipmates in Action	8
Base Treasurer's Report	11
Birthdays/Membership	11
Storekeeper Corner	11
Binnacle List	11
Chaplain's Corner	12
Calendar of Events	13
Kap(SS)4Kid(SS)	13
USSVI Official Business	14
Submarine News	16
History	24
Thoughts	28
More Shipmates in Action	32

USSVI NATIONAL COMMANDER

William Andrea 561-790-1287 wcandrea@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 Carl Repp	512-619-9366	carl_repp@gmail.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.

USSVI National Office:

USSVI National Office
PO Box 1063
Groton CT 06340-1063
360-337-2978



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>



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



<https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/>



<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 *MARCH LOST BOATS*

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



USS Perch (SS-176)

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



USS Kete (SS-369)

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



USS Grampus (SS-207)

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



USS F-4 (SS-23)

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



USS H-1 (SS-28)

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



USS Tullibee (SS-284)

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



USS Triton (SS-201)

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



USS Trigger (SS-237)

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





USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE NEWS

BASE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Hello Shipmates,

I hope that this issue of the newsletter finds you well. Here we are already at the end of February with Summer staring down on us. Hopefully it will hold off and give us a few days of Spring first but as I tell people, after being submerged for over 10 ½ years of my life I think all weather is nice, of course barring deadly storms, etc. It's generally just your perspective that frames how you see things whether it's the weather, your job, or organizations you are part of including our base. I truly do enjoy being a member of USSVI and serving as your Base Commander and District Commander but sometimes it gets hard to stay motivated about the organization and find the time to do what I said I would as I'm sure many of you feel the same about your obligations. This last month was another one of those times as I had to deal with some personal issues making finding time difficult for many things. BUT!.....

While I was in Tennessee with my dad and sister earlier this month after the passing of my mother, I noticed there was a Subvet meeting for the Smoky Mountain Base right down the road from where we were on a Thursday night. I asked my dad and sister if they wanted to get out and go check out the meeting and they agreed to attend with me as it may be a good and needed distraction. Well, we rolled up to the restaurant they met at and went in for dinner and we were greeted by a bunch of very welcoming shipmates and their guests. The stories went on and on and my dad and sister loved it. It not only got our minds off what we were dealing with, but they found it entertaining and encouraging both after hearing the Tolling and other aspects of the meeting. My dad met a Subvet there who not only lives in the same town but has the same name as my dad, Dick Mitchell and a son named Rick. My dad shared with him about a veteran's breakfast that his church hosts once a month which was coming up that Saturday. We ended up attending that breakfast and though mostly Army folks there, we met 3 Submarine Veterans there we had a good conversation and made new friends. I just wanted to share this and hope that you too realize what a special thing it is to be part of the Submarine Veteran community. Whenever the chips are down, I find folks, time and time again, ready, and willing to lift me up. I only hope I have been and can be the one to lift others up also when needed.

Another example is in the few days before our meeting this month during the week I received numerous "I can't be at the meeting because...." (and I understand we all can't make meetings all the time and its fine) but there was just a big barrage of them all at once following a stressful time. This, along with the resignation of one of our officer's kind of got me down too but once I walked into the VFW and started seeing and talking with those that came (and we really had a good turnout anyway) and even had 3 new members show up excited to be part of a group of submariners. OK, so I'm probably babbling by now, but I just hope these small examples express to you:

1. How proud I am to be part of our base and organization.
2. How much it means to me to have a group of people around that can lift you up when needed.
3. How much it means to be able to depend on folks like you all.
4. How important it is to involve our families with what we do.

Remember our national office is now located in Groton but the email and phone numbers remain the same. Mailing address is different. Also remember about our upcoming social, March 16th at Dale's in Walburg. Check our web page or our FB Page for more details. Hope to see many of you there!

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



A thought - Veterans

And the truth is that all veterans pay with their lives. Some pay all at once, while others pay over a lifetime.

JmStorm



Date: 2/21/24

Location: VFW Post 8587

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

E-Board was present with following exceptions:

Treasurer – Bryan Eaton (resigned)

Vice Commander – Carl Repp (preaching, Lent)

Meeting Minutes: January Meeting minutes as published in deck log approved unanimously.

Sailing List: 20 Members, 3 potential members (guests), 1 Speaker Fleet Reserve As.

Binnacle List: Chuck Trahan, John Roberts, Harry and Mrs. Boyer

Prayer: Bob Steinmann led the base in our opening Prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance: Rick Mitchell

Tolling of the Boats – Rick Mitchell Reading, Dale Messing

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: Virgil Claycamp (acting)

Current Total Funds as of 1 Feb 2024

1 Jan 2024 Balance \$32,550.01

1 Feb 2024 Balance \$34,556.34

General: \$30,426.65

Memorial: \$4,164.69

-\$15 cash, \$50 uncleared check

Memorial (Rick): Work is progressing and the stand for the MK14 is in place. Torpedo is mounted. Current expected park completion is May 2024.

Kaps 4 Kids (Shawn O'Shea): The last event was at Dell Children's Medical Center in Austin. The next event will be at McClanes Childrens Medical Center in Temple on March 7th. We also have a visit set for Dell Children's in Austin at Mueller on 14 May 2024 at 11:00.

Parade (Rick): Next event will be the Red Poppy Festival in Georgetown, 27 Apr 2024. Then 4th of July in Round Rock, Veteran's Day to be in Killeen.

Membership (Chuck Malone): 87 Current Members. Numbers do not yet reflect the 3 members we have that are going to drop off our rolls in 2024. 3 Potential new members visiting tonight.

Birthdays 2024: 3/1 Don Adkins, 3/9 Calvin Story, 3/11 Chris Munn, 3/16 Bob Steinman, 3/22 Ray Wilgeroth, 3/23 Kim Newman, 3/24 Bob Wakefield, 3/31 Chuck Malone and Jack Pitts

Guest Speaker: CTCS Jim Hudson USN (Ret.) Made an informative and well received presentation on the Fleet Reserve Association.

Unfinished, Ongoing and Old Business

March Social Will be held March 16th @1300. Locations will be Dale's Essenhaus in Walburg

Baseball Game: We will be attending a Round Rock Express game again this year and have paid for the Budweiser Party Porch. Our cost is \$60 head (40 min) and the base will comp \$15 each making cost \$45 each for member and their 1 guest. Additional guests and nonmembers will be charged \$60. This includes

parking, free food, drink, and beer.

Lonestar Subvet Round Up: Will be held 16-19 May in Fredericksburg. Info and hotel and registration info can be found on the web at www.lsr.org.

NEW Business:

Rick Mitchell unfortunately due to recently increased work load, our newly elected treasurer Bryan Eaton has resigned as he does not feel he can take care of the responsibilities he needed to for the base as needed. Virgil Claycamp has volunteered to step back into that role and will be our acting treasurer for the remainder of 2024.

Memorial Day Tolling Ceremony will be in Taylor again this year and held in along with the American Legion and City of Taylor.

Entertainment options coming up were made known to the base including the US Navy Band performance in Bastrop and San Marcus along with another performance of Patriotic music in Sun City.

USSVI National Convention will be in Cleveland, OH near the end of August.

Good of the Order

50/50 Raffle – \$50 of \$100 was won by Tony Ellis of which \$30 came back to the base.

Next Events – Base Social on 16 March at “Dale’s” in Walburg, TX.

Sailing List

Total Base Members and Visitors (32):

Guest Speaker: Jim Hudson, Fleet Reserve Association

Visitors(3): Tony Ellis, Gary Morrison, Dave Clark

Local at the VFW Post 8587 (20): Frank Abernathy, Jim Andrea, Bill Brinkman, Ed Carr, Virgil Claycamp, Jack Collins, Ken Dallman, Frank Espinosa, Mike Gauthier, Hubert Jackson, Colin King, Chuck Malone, Dale Messing, Rick Mitchell, Jack Odom, Shawn O’Shea, Bill Scott, Bob Steinmann, Harry Ullman, Walt Whittingslow.

Meeting Adjourned by Rick Mitchell, 2012 hours

Minutes submitted by Frank Abernathy, Yeoman, 28 Feb 2024



USSVI Central Texas Base - Members Group

Rick Mitchell, 1/27/24

Come on shipmates and join us this year in Fredericksburg. Open to all submariners! We all know what happens when a bunch of Subvets get together and its usually pretty fun and entertaining! We need your registrations in sooner than later as it helps us greatly in planning.

Lonestar Subvet Round Up

Rick Mitchell, 1/27/24

Did you know that all paid registrants by March 1 will be entered in a drawing for (2) free entries to either the Welcome Aboard Dinner or the Banquet (your choice). Get your registrations in now and make your reservations at the hotel or campground of your choice. Check out the webpage <http://www.lsr.org> for frequent updates.

United States Submarine Veterans

2/8/2024

Another great event is the [Lonestar Subvet Round Up](#) now in it's 4th year. All the Texas area bases such as the [Cowtown BASE](#), [USSVI](#), [USSVI Central Texas Base](#) and others work together to bring Subvets together in various locations accross the state. This years event will be held May 16-19th in Fredericksburg TX. For more info: www.lsr.org



Heroes Below

From Shipmate Shawn O'Shea, (ed. Missed getting this in last Month's edition, Oops.)

1/8/24

Mr. Rick,

We have completed providing USSVI CTB donation to founder of Heroes Below Paul McLaughlin. He is very grateful to all of our base members for this donation that will directly help veterans and first responders with PTSD.

Paul was at our January base meeting and provided our members with a 15 minute presentation.



l/r, Paul McLaughlin, Shawn O'Shea, Harry Ullmann

Best regards,
Shawn O'Shea



San Marcos River Cleanup

Email Inbox

From: Rick Mitchell

Sun, Feb 11, 4:32 PM (19 hours ago)

Shipmates,

Please accept my apologies for not getting this out sooner as I have been going back and forth to TN for unexpected family emergencies and missed a few things. I know we have some kayakers here in the base. Please see the message below forwarded by Tom Williams about a good opportunity to help do some good and have fun at the same time.

Thanks,

Rick Mitchell
512-639-0035

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Tom Williams <texsubvet@yahoo.com>

To: Rick Mitchell <rmitch2@yahoo.com>; Harry Ullmann <hullmann@swbell.net>

Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 at 08:52:48 PM CST

Subject: Fw: Fwd: San Marcos River Cleanup

Hi guys,

I am forwarding this event to you for possible Membership wide dissemination. Linda's camping group...TOWN (Texas Outdoor Women's Network) has done this event before and found it very worthwhile. We pick up thrash as we float down the San Marcos. Bags are provided. The organizers ask TOWN if they could bring more participants because it looks like more trash than expected. I was approached because TOWN knows of USSVI community service. Also, several attended the Tolling of Boats at the Austin Convention. We will be working alongside the TOWN group for this section of the river. I will be camping at the listed campsite and any CTB Members are welcome to join in. I know it is short notice but they need a head for food and t-shirts soon.

Any questions, please contact me,

Tom Williams, USSVI CRD

Subject: Fwd: San Marcos River Cleanup

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

Subject: San Marcos River Cleanup

Dawn, we did not formally list this as a TOWN event last year but would like to do so this year, thanks!

Date: 3/2/24, Time 9:30 AM

Where: meet at San Marcos River Scout Camp 444 River Park Dr/San Marcos, Tx 78666

What: River Cleanup led by our experienced guide Josh S

Who: TOWN members and guests

You must bring your own kayak. Tom Goynes has reserved for us a couple of camping sites free of charge for Friday and Saturday night on his property. You can boondock camp/tent or just come for the day.

After a day of cleanup a free buffet dinner is provided and possibly t-shirts.

This is part of the annual statewide Great Texas River Cleanup and a great opportunity to give back to our beautiful state waterways.

I MUST HAVE AN ACCURATE HEAD COUNT BEFORE ARRIVAL

Linda B, 512-415-4568

=====

**MONETARY DONATION
USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE
THE CARING PLACE
FEBRUARY 9, 2024**

USSVI CTB assisted The Caring Place of Georgetown during their participation in Amplify Austin's fundraising event from February 7th through March 7th, 2024 with a donation of \$500.

The Amplify Austin fundraising event is held each year to assist over 700 non-profit organizations across a 7-county region with their fundraising efforts. Any funds donated to a non-profit organization through the Amplify Austin event are usually matched dollar-for-dollar by dedicated sponsors. The Caring Place has 11 dedicated sponsors who have pledged to match a total of \$65,650 during this event.

The donation made by USSVI-CTB will be used by The Caring Place to assist their clients living within the boundaries of northern Williamson County with:

- Pantry food
- Rent & mortgages
- Utility assistance
- Fuel Vouchers for cars for job interviews or doctor appointments
- Emergency temporary shelter when needed
- Seeking external resources for neighbors with special needs
- Clothing and other necessities

In summary, The Caring Place served 6,490 neighbors with basic needs in 2022. Most importantly to USSVI-CTB, four percent of those 6,490 neighbors were active duty members, Veterans, or spouses of Veterans. In total, The Caring Place provided over \$3.2 million in financial and non-financial support and resources to neighbors in our community! Although the final numbers for 2023 are not yet available, in July 2023 the preliminary trends reports were forecasting the final numbers would probably double those of 2022.



(L-R) Director, Community Engagements (The Caring Place) Rita Turner; Director, Food Programs & Facilities (The Caring Place) David Earl; Life Member (USSVI-CTB) Frank Espinosa, Jr.; Executive Director (The Caring Place) Ginna O'Connor; and, Base Commander (USSVI-CTB) Rick Mitchell stand outside of The Caring Place as Frank Espinosa delivers the Base's donation to The Caring Place's Executive Director, Ginna O'Connor.

=====

United States Navy Band

NATIONAL TOUR ALERT

2/13/24, Posted to the Base membership by the BC as well, as some of the local shows were already sold-out.

The United States Navy Band Sea Chanters are heading out on a national tour starting March 6th. Don't miss the opportunity to hear this premier chorus live! Tickets are [#FREE](#), visit the link below for more information.

[#nationaltour](#) [#seachanters](#) [#navyband](#) [#Virginia](#) [#Tennessee](#) [#Arkansas](#) [#Oklahoma](#) [#Texas](#)

Reserve your tickets here: <https://www.navyband.navy.mil/events/tour/sea-chanters-2024>

BASE TREASURER'S REPORT



21 February 2024

Financial Report for Period Ending 1/31/2024

Beginning Balance - 2/1/2024	\$32,550.01
RBCU Checking (General Fund)	\$30,426.65
RBCU Savings (Memorial Fund)	\$4,164.69
Cash to be deposited	\$15.00
Uncleared Checks	-\$50.00
Ending Balance - 1/31/2024	\$34,556.34

Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer

MARCH 2024



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

CENTRAL TEXAS BASE MEMBERSHIP

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

Members listed in Central Texas Database	88
Regular Annual Members	26
National Life Members	52
Base Life Members	61
Holland Club Members	45
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 to you purchase them either at the in-person meetings, or via an online email system to the SK for in-stock items.

BINNACLE LIST

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

New policy from the Base Commander. I personally think it is good to share with others the battles we are facing and things we need. I see no shame or anything wrong at all with this however, some of you wish to keep that to yourselves, and I respect those wishes too. Just to make sure I am not sharing anything you don't desire unless I hear specifically from you that you want to be listed then I will not. I hope though you all

feel comfortable enough with your shipmates to share with us so we can offer support however best we can. I will put out a request to all via email a week or so before each meeting and you can reach me as always phone, text, email, in person. I enjoy talking with all of you.

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

=====

Shopping for Dorm Stuff

Very touching story.

I was thrift shopping for dorm stuff. The cashier appeared to be one of the most unhappy, maddest people ever. I was six people deep in the line and it seemed like she got more and more exasperated with each passing customer.

She was especially incensed when one of my unmarked items needed a price check. It sent this poor woman toppling right over the edge and I bore the brunt of her fall.

But as she rang up my items, I felt a little tingle in my spirit. A soul nudge.

I tried to bargain with Jesus and told him that the extra little bit of cash in the back side of my wallet was not meant for her. It surely should go to someone sweeter and kinder, more deserving, or at least appreciative maybe. Not someone downright mean and angry.

But God did not budge. Nor did the tingle.

The human heart is our very best compass. It rarely leads us astray.

So I paid my bill and reluctantly found the backside of my wallet. I slipped her some cash as she handed me my receipt.

She was caught off-guard by the gesture.

She gripped the folded bill with one hand and paused. Then slid her mask down with the other hand. Her loud, stern voice got quiet when she whispered a single word: "Why?" To which I answered two words back: "Soul nudge."

There was another pause. A brief reckoning of sorts. When she grabbed my hand and held on, I was the one caught off-guard. "Today's my 75th birthday and ain't nobody called me. Not my sister. Not none of my kids. None these people here. Nobody. Nothing. I don't think I can remember ever being so sad. Ain't nobody even remember it's my birthday."

I felt the tingle again. And looked up into the buzzing, broken ballast of the light fixture above us in this old warehouse. Like Jesus is some pie-in-the-sky that we might see if we look hard enough. The light flickered. "Somebody remembered," I said. While I did not see Jesus, that small soul nudge told me that He saw her.

She bit her bottom lip when her eyes threatened to leak. And I noticed a deep hurt and sweet humility under the figurative and physical mask she wore underneath her chin.

We all have our masks, don't we?

The birthday news had made its way beside me and two more customers connected. Talk is cheap and words seem too few—until they aren't. There was a small chorus of chirping happy birthdays. She just stood there, patting her heart and taking it all in. The words penetrated. Anger dissipated. Hope manifested. The tingle became tangible.

We just never know what someone else may be navigating or battling. Things are not always as they seem.

We are living in an upside down world right now. We may be tempted to return hatefulness with hate. To retaliate. To alienate. To trade out judgment for Grace. But there's a better way.

I thought I needed dorm stuff today. Turns out I needed reminding -- maybe you do too?

Let's be slow to judge. And quick to obey. Trust the Holy Spirit to lead the way.

The human heart, guided by Love, will not lead you astray.

Credit- Unknown

=====

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

=====

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

16 March 2024, Quarterly Social, Dale's Essenhaus, 3900 FM972, Georgetown, TX 78626 Time TBD

12 April 2024, Round Rock Express Baseball Game, Dell Diamond, 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd, Round Rock, TX 78665, 1800. Budweiser Party Porch, Free Parking, Food, Drinks, Intel Club, 40 minimum, \$45/head (member +1, additional \$60).

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

27 April 2024, Red Poppy Festival Parade, Georgetown, TX, details to be provided

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



A special thanks to BC Rick Mitchell, Sam Amato, Harry Ullmann, Harry Boyer, and Frank Abernathy for volunteering to make six sick children smile on January 30th 2024. This was the CTB K4K program's first visit of the year to Dell Children's Medical Center. Our next event is planned for Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's on March 7th at 10:30 am. Any questions do not hesitate to contact me.

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

Sincerely, Shawn O'Shea

Chairman K4K CTB



US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation



2/12/24

The USS Chicago Base of USSVI has partnered with the US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation to raise funds for their Manitowoc Submarines Memorial that will be placed in Ottawa, IL.

Following the path on the Illinois River, which WWII boats made from Manitowoc, Wisconsin after construction, the boats traveled downriver to New Orleans, the USS Chicago Base has placed Memorials in Joliet and Morris Illinois. The city of Ottawa, the next major downriver town, has been selected as the next location and overlooks the path the boats took during their transit down the Illinois in preparation to join the war in the Pacific.

Please consider donating to the USS Chicago Base – Manitowoc Submarines Memorial Campaign. Donations to this fund are managed by the USSVCF Memorials Fund. You can donate online by clicking the image below or clicking the link https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MjAzNzc1

If you choose to mail a donation, you can do so by mailing a check made payable to “USSVCF” with “USS Chicago Base Submarine Memorial” in the memo line to the following address:

United States Submarine Veterans Memorial Foundation
ATTN: Memorials Fund
PO Box 1063
Groton CT 06340-1063

V/R
Bill Andrea
National Commander

NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN

National Office Address Change

United States National Commander [via blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com](mailto:blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com)

2/15/2024

Shipmates,

IMPORTANT!

We will be making the transition of the National Office from Seattle to Groton March 4th. Any mail to the National Office sent after Feb 20th should be sent to the new office in Groton, not Seattle.

The new address to send mail is:

USSVI National Office
PO Box 1063
Groton CT 06340-1063

For packages (Fedex-UPS-DHK-etc.)

USSVI National Office
100 Plaza Ct
Unit 1063
Groton CT 06340-8339

Do not send any USSVI mail or packages to the Groton Base Clubhouse.

Telephone numbers will remain the same.

Bill Andrea

NC



NATIONAL ALL-HANDS CONVENTION UPDATE

Shipmates,

USSVI 2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boat Reunion Information during Convention

SPECIAL HOTEL DISCOUNT ENDS FEBURARY 29, 2024

Availability: Saturday, August 17, 2024 - Tuesday, August 20, 2024*

Sunday, August 25, 2024 - Tuesday, August 27, 2024*

*Based on final USSVI Agenda and hotel availability

Book Now till FEB 29th 2024 GET FREE EVENT ROOM RENTAL

*All Contracted Concessions Plus

Waived room rental (Salon - \$1500 per day holds 100 people,

Conference room \$750 ++ per day hold 40 people,

Boardrooms - \$250 ++ per day holds 15 people

Book March 2024 to August 2024

Receive *All Contracted Concessions ONLY

Room Rental will be in addition.

Contact Megan Finch at the Hotel to reserve space - 216-617-2122

Contact Joe Marinelli for additional help organizing your reunion - 216-401-5464

Go to the web site for further information.

Looking forward to you coming to Cleveland CODBASE.

2024 USSVI. Reunion Committee

Bill Synk

2024 National Convention Chair



NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN

Scam Emails

United States National Commander via blackbaudemail.netcommunity1.com

2/19/2024

Shipmates,

Several scam emails have been circulating pretending to be coming from me. If you look at the email address after my name, it is definitely not my email address. This has happened several times in the past, not only apparently coming from me, but from other USSVI members and Officers. These scams are a direct result of people sending emails to a group of recipients and using "To" instead of "Bcc". When sending messages to a

group of people, always make it a point to use "Bcc". This prevents the bad guys from getting a list of names and email addresses that they can send scam messages to. If an email message appears to be coming from someone you know, and looks suspicious to you, you can always check it out by contacting that person directly, either by phone or email from your address book, and NOT responding to that particular original message. The world is full of people (bad guys) always trying to scam someone out of money, one way or another. Unfortunately, this will never stop, so be careful, cautious, AND use "Bcc" when sending your emails.

V/R
Bill Andrea
NC



NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN

USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2024-008

NEWS-01: CF February Newsletter

Submitted by: Ken Earls on 2/21/2024

Shipmates,

In 2000, the United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation (USSVCF) - a standalone, fully certified 501(c) 3 charitable foundation and the altruistic arm of the USSVI was to support our Veterans and their legacy that much further. The Charitable Foundation purposefully concentrates its efforts and charitable funding on natural disaster relief, memorials, visits to children's hospitals, and especially to a wide-ranging scholarship program for USSVI members and their offspring and grandchildren seeking to participate in higher education, vocational training, or apprenticeship programs.

Click this link <https://shorturl.at/abdnQ> to see the February 2024 Shipmates Caring About Shipmates Monthly Newsletter.

Ken Earls
President
USSV Charitable Foundation
928-308-4488



SUBMARINE NEWS



US Ally Seeks Submarine Boost To Stand Up to Chinese Navy

2/2/24, Story by Aadil Brar

[US Ally Seeks Submarine Boost To Stand Up to Chinese Navy \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com)



Japanese submarine Oyashio, escorted by one of the destroyers JS Ariake (R), arrived, at the former US naval base in Philippines' Subic Bay, on April 3, 2016. Two Japanese destroyers and a submarine docked at a Philippine port on April 3 near disputed South China Sea waters, where Assertive behavior has increasingly sparked global concern. Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr has approved the purchase of the country's first submarine as the tensions in South China Sea remain at the highest level. © TED ALJIBE/AFP via Getty

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of the [Philippines](#) has approved the third phase of a military modernization program, which notably includes the procurement of the country's first submarines.

The decision to approve the submarine purchase is part of a broader strategy to bolster maritime sovereignty in the highly contested the South China Sea.

Navy spokesperson for the West Philippine Sea, Roy Trinidad, announced on Thursday that this latest phase marks a strategic pivot from internal to external defense capabilities. The third phase of the [modernization plan](#) carries an estimated cost of 2 trillion pesos (approximately \$35.62 billion). It is expected to be rolled out over several years.

Amid rising tensions and frequent stand-offs in the South China Sea, where the Philippines and China have [overlapping sovereignty claims](#), the move is seen as a critical step in strengthening the country's defense posture.

The urgency of the upgrade was underscored by an incident in December when a Chinese vessel reportedly rammed a ship carrying Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Gen. Romeo Branwer Jr.

The Navy's wish-list for equipment is extensive, according to Trinidad. While the exact number of submarines intended for acquisition remains unspecified, Trinidad affirmed that the Philippines aims to acquire "definitely more than one."

The procurement of at least two submarines is part of the new Horizon 3 phase of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' modernization program, as stated by Branwer in a media interview, Philippine News Agency reported in October 2023.

Several international players have expressed interest in supplying the Philippines with these strategic assets. Among them are France, Spain, South Korea and Italy.

France, in particular, has reiterated its commitment to supporting the Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Program (AFPMP), including the development of a submarine force, the Philippine News Agency reported in September 2023.

The Department of National Defense (DND) of the Philippines reported that France has offered assistance in this endeavor.

"Emphasizing France's role as a partner in the Indo-Pacific region, Ambassador-designate Fontanel reiterated France's offer to support the AFPMP, including (French defense manufacturer) Naval Group's readiness to assist in building a Philippine submarine force," DND spokesperson Arsenio Andolong said.

The French defense manufacturer Naval Group, known for its Scorpene diesel-electric submarines, is one of the preferred suppliers for this project. Philippine naval and defense officials had previously evaluated the Scorpene model in 2019.

Neighboring Southeast Asian countries like Indonesia and Vietnam have already established their own submarine programs.



How Submarine-Launched Systems Can Overwhelm Chinese Warships In The Taiwan Strait

Jan 30, 2024,

Loren Thompson, Senior Contributor, *I write about national security, especially its business dimensions.*

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/lorenthompson/2024/01/30/how-submarine-launched-systems-can-overwhelm-chinese-warships-in-the-taiwan-strait/>



USS Virginia, lead ship in the current class of fast attack submarines. WIKIPEDIA

The threat of a Chinese amphibious assault against Taiwan is the central driver of U.S. defense strategy. If such an assault were to be successful, it would confirm China's status as the dominant military power in the Western Pacific.

Washington faces severe challenges in deterring and/or defeating the threat to Taiwan because China will enjoy a growing military advantage in the region thanks to its vast industrial strength, ongoing military buildup and geographical proximity to the island nation.

At its narrowest point between Taiwan and China's Fujian Province, the strait is barely 80 miles wide. Even for a country such as China with scant experience in amphibious operations, this is not a great distance to traverse in a surprise attack.

To make matters worse, maritime and airborne traffic in the area is continuously surveilled by Chinese sensor networks. U.S. surface warships and tactical aircraft operating anywhere near Taiwan would be subject to withering fire in a conflict, and probably unable to sustain combat operations for long.

Many military experts who have analyzed the situation point to U.S. submarines as a key player in any campaign to defend Taiwan. Despite Beijing's efforts to seed the seabed with antisubmarine sensors, Virginia-class submarines are equipped with active and passive capabilities to foil Chinese efforts at detection and tracking.

However, even if the survivability of U.S. subs is taken as a given, the relatively small number that would be available on short notice is dwarfed by the size of local Chinese maritime forces.

The latest, Block V variant of Virginia can carry a maximum of 65 torpedo-size weapons—torpedoes or cruise missiles. That means a dozen Virginia-class boats, even if all of the latest variant, would only be able to hit about 800 aimpoints.

Major military campaigns often require servicing that number of targets *every day*. This has several implications, not the least of which is that submarine-launched weapons, by themselves, are unlikely to be decisive in any cross-strait conflict.

There is a potential solution to this challenge, though, in which submarines play a rather different role than currently planned. What if U.S. submarines could launch canisters equipped with low-cost, unmanned drones that, once airborne, could form an integrated mesh network for finding, fixing, tracking and targeting key Chinese assets such as warships?

If half of the launch tubes on each Virginia-class sub were capable of deploying, say, half a dozen such drones with reasonable airborne endurance, then a force of 12 subs could sustain continuous surveillance of the Taiwan Strait for the entire duration of any amphibious assault.

The manned submarine force might be supplemented with unmanned submersibles possessing similar launch capabilities.

Design concepts for such "attritable" (expendable) systems already exist, complete with high-frequency communication links that could defeat Chinese efforts at electronic jamming. Because the systems are expendable, they need not incorporate design features to maximize survivability. They would cost much less than any Chinese means for destroying them, thus providing an attractive cost-exchange ratio.

Deployed in large numbers, these affordable systems would enable any mesh network to be self-healing as systems are intercepted, so that the overall integrity of the network is not impaired. And at least some of the

drones would be able to transmit the precise location and nature of high-priority targets to a variety of potential users.

Among the companies working on relevant technology is Sparton Corporation, a subsidiary of Elbit America. Elbit is a consulting client. Other companies undoubtedly have technologies applicable to the warfighting construct, although Sparton has more experience than most in launching attritable payloads from undersea locations—either subs or fixed seabed launchers.

In 2020, the RAND Corporation released a **report** entitled “Operating Low-Cost, Reusable Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Contested Environments” that discussed a similar operating concept as part of its Project Air Force. It did not address how submarines might contribute to a durable mesh network, but subs are actually the ideal platform from which to operate anywhere near the Taiwan Strait in wartime.

Like all the other military preparations America’s military has made to defend Taiwan from an amphibious assault, the use of attritable payloads launched from attack subs is intended to deter conflict rather than cause it. But if war were to occur, this is one concept for which Chinese forces would have few counters.

Disclosure: This commentary is based in part on conversations with a consulting client, Elbit America.



Japan's 'Big Whale' submarines add another weapon to bottle up China's navy

Story by insider@insider.com (Ben Brimelow)

[Japan's 'Big Whale' submarines add another weapon to bottle up China's navy \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com)



Japan has built one Taigei-class attack submarine every year since 2020. The lead ship seen here was commissioned in 2022. Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force © Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force

- Japan has launched a new Taigei-class sub every year since 2020.
- These "Big Whale" subs are expected to hunt Chinese warships should a war break out.
- Their advanced capabilities and stealth make them prime candidates for ambushes on Chinese warships.

In October, Kawasaki Heavy Industries launched Japan’s newest submarine in a ceremony at its shipyard in Kobe, Japan. Named, JS Raigei (“Thunder Whale” in Japanese), the diesel-electric attack sub is the fourth boat of the [Taigei-class](#), which translates to “big whale.”

Its launch comes almost exactly one year after the launch of the third Taigei-class sub, JS Jingei (or “Swift Whale”). With a building time of about two years each, Japan has launched a new Taigei-class sub every year since 2020.

The quick timetable demonstrates more than the excellent turnaround time of Japan's major shipbuilders; it also demonstrates Japan's resolve to modernize its submarine fleet with a new class of diesel-electric submarine regarded as one of the best anywhere in the world.

Featuring a host of new technologies and innovations, Taigei-class subs were designed in large part to defend from the very real and growing [threat posed by China's navy](#), and are expected to play an essential role in hunting Chinese warships should a war break out.

New threats, advanced subs

Japan's submarine prowess is the result of a large industrial base and a wealth of experience building and operating submarines for over a century.

Japan's [Sōryū-class](#), pronounced "soar-yuu," has been especially lauded for its effectiveness and advanced capabilities, including being one of the first frontline submarine classes to be equipped with air-independent propulsion (AIP) technology, which allows diesel-electric boats to operate underwater for longer periods.

The technological sophistication of their submarines, combined with the might of allied US Navy nuclear-powered attack subs, enabled Japan's navy, known officially as the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), to field a small sub fleet compared to its neighbors.

Even in the years immediately after the Cold War, with the threat from the Soviet Union virtually vanishing overnight and the one from Russia appearing significantly degraded compared to its forebear, China's submarine fleet, though large, was still mostly regarded as generations behind in terms of capability, resulting in a technological gap.

In recent years, however, that gap has closed dramatically.

China's current sub fleet, numbering some 59 boats, includes approximately 10 [improved Kilo-class](#), 12 [Type 039-class](#), and 21 [Type 039A-class](#) diesel-electric attack subs. The force also includes six [Type 093/093A](#) nuclear-propelled attack submarines and six [Type-094](#) nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines.

Those models are equipped with modern systems and weaponry, and have modern capabilities. The Yuan-class boats, for instance, are outfitted with AIP technology, and [appear to be getting upgrades to make them stealthier](#).

What's more, China has become increasingly assertive with its naval forces, including [around the Senkaku Islands](#), which Beijing claims but Japan maintains sovereignty over.

Consequently, Japan needs to both increase the size of its submarine fleet, and equip each sub with advanced technologies to achieve a qualitative advantage.



Japan is building a larger submarine fleet but it is still only about a third the size of China's. This image shows the Sōryū-class submarine Kokuryū. Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force© Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force

The Big Whale

In 2010, a year after the commissioning of the first Sōryū-class sub, Japan unveiled plans to increase its submarine fleet from 16 to 22 boats. It also continued to pursue new technologies it had started researching in the first decade of the 2000s.

One of those technologies was lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries. Much more efficient than standard lead-acid batteries, Li-ion batteries maintain a larger voltage potential as they discharge energy. They are also generally more energy dense and can be capable of storing twice as much energy as lead-acid batteries.

For submarines, this means faster accelerations and top speeds, more time underwater, less maintenance, faster recharge times, lower noise levels, and better overall performance. Li-ion batteries also negate the need for AIP, since they are more efficient and already store so much energy. Submarines need burst speeds to evade depth charges and homing torpedoes.

While other navies have been reluctant to adopt Li-ion batteries for submarines because of the risks of them malfunctioning and starting fires, Japan became the first (and so far only) country to integrate the technology into submarines with the [commissioning of the final two Sōryū-class subs](#), JS Ōryū, and JS Tōryū.

In 2020, Japan launched JS Taigei, the lead boat of its class and the first submarine designed from the outset to carry Li-ion batteries. Commissioned in 2022, it is similar in appearance to the Sōryū-class, but is slightly larger, measuring 275 ft long and 30 ft wide, with a surface displacement of approximately 3,000 tons. A US Navy Los Angeles class attack sub, by comparison, is about 90 feet longer.

Like the Sōryū-class, it is built with an X-shaped rudder for enhanced propulsion performance and operates the same countermeasure system. It is also equipped with the same ZPS-6F surface/low-level air search radar, carries the same towed array sonar, and has an optronic mast.

But the Taigei-class also has new systems in addition to the Li-ion batteries, including a new snorkel system, a new sonar system based on fiber-optic array technology, a new combat management system that gathers data from all sensors, and a [pump-jet propulsor](#).

With a crew of 70, the Taigei-class is also built with a female-only section in the crew compartment for six female submariners- the first such accommodation in a Japanese submarine.

The subs have six torpedo tubes for [Type 89](#) and Type 18 torpedoes, and are capable of launching [UGM-84 Harpoon](#) anti-ship missiles.

A central role

Submarines have long been [expected to play a dominant role](#) in a potential future conflict with China, and Japanese subs are viewed as especially important. Wargames simulating a Chinese invasion of Taiwan conducted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies last year even [described](#) Japanese submarines as “most valuable.”

Because of their advanced capabilities and stealthy attributes, they would be prime candidates for ambushes on Chinese warships in [strategic naval choke points](#) in the East and South China seas, as well as in the Sea of Japan.

Of particular importance are the Miyako Strait and Bashi Channel; the bodies of water between Japan and Taiwan, and Taiwan and the Philippines, respectively.

Japanese subs, as well as submarines from allied and partner nations like the US, UK, and Australia could turn those bodies of water into kill zones, restricting the Chinese navy’s freedom to maneuver and its ability to send ships and submarines to the Second Island Chain and beyond.

The JMSDF conducted anti-submarine warfare drills with one of its submarines in the South China Sea in September and conducted its first joint ASW exercise with the US Navy in the area in 2021.

Being the most modern submarine in its fleet, the Taigei-class would play a central role in these efforts.

Japan has so far launched four Taigei-class submarines since 2018; JS Taigei, JS Hakugei, JS Jingei, and JS Raigei. Only the first two have been commissioned into service, though JS Jingei is expected to be commissioned in March. JS Raigei is planned to be commissioned in 2025.

Japan plans to acquire at least seven Taigei boats. They will replace the JMSDF’s [Oyashio-class](#) subs, the first of which was decommissioned last year.

Russia Rolled Out The Fifth Borei-A Class SSBN

On 3 February, the christening and roll-out ceremony of the *Knyaz' Pozharskiy* strategic ballistic missile submarine from the assembly hall took place at the Sevmash shipyard in Severodvinsk in Northern Russia.

Tomasz Grotnik 09 Feb 2024



Roll-out of *Knyaz' Pozharskiy* at Sevmash shipyard. Note the covered pump-jet propulsor. Russian Ministry of Defence picture.

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2024/02/russia-rolled-out-the-new-ssbn-borei-a-class/>

Knyaz' Pozharskiy is the fifth SSBN of the Project 955A Borei-A built at the Sevmash shipyard for the Russian Navy (Voyenno-morskoy flot, VMF). After leaving the hall, the vessel will be rolled onto the *Sukhona* floating dock, designed for the launching of nuclear submarines at this shipyard. It was previously planned that the roll-out would take place on 31 January, but the deadline was not met. The launching operation will take place in the coming days. After that, the submarine will be towed to the outfitting quay and factory trials and preparations for state sea trials will take place there. During them, *Knyaz' Pozharskiy* will test its armament, including the main one: 3M30 ballistic missiles of the Bulava system.

The keel of the SSBN *Knyaz' Pozharskiy* was laid on 23 December 2016. It is the eighth submarine of the Project 955 Borei overall, and the fifth of the Borei-A version. The project was developed at the Central Design Bureau of Maritime Technology "Rubin" in St. Petersburg.

The Borei-A-class SSBNs are 170m long, have a submerged displacement of approximately 24,000 tonnes, while their primary armament is 16 3M30 intercontinental submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) of the Bulava system. In addition to these, the Borei-class SSBNs are armed with six 533mm launchers for torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets and bottom mines. A nuclear propulsion with a 170MW OK-650W reactor powers steam turbines that drives a pump-jet thruster, used for the first time on Russian nuclear-powered submarines. It provides acoustic discretion, a key issue for vessels with this purpose. Another novelty is the MGK-600B Irtysch-Amfora-Borei sonar system, which uses – again premiered in Russia – a spherical antenna installed on the bow of the submarine. The crew consists of 107 men.

Two more Borei-As are under construction (*Dmitry Donskoy* and *Kniaz' Potiemkin*; both keels were laid on 23rd August 2021) and a further two have been contracted. This will be the main type of Russian SSBN to replace the five Project 667BDRM Delfin (NATO: Delta IV) submarines.

The new Russian SSBN *Knyaz' Pozharskiy* is expected to enter service by the end of 2024, and will join the Northern Fleet, as the second unit of its class (project 955A). **In early January**, the VMF commissioning a submarine of the same class – *Imperator Aleksandr III*.



COMSUBPAC

Facebook posting, 2/14/24

Wallpaper Wednesdays: USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) joins Royal Australian Navy Collins Class Submarines HMAS Collins, HMAS Farncomb, HMAS Dechaineux and HMAS Sheean in formation in the West Australian Exercise Area in 2019.



Courtesy LSIS Richard Cordell

[#WallpaperWednesdays](#) [#PacificSubs](#) [#Submarines](#) [#USSSantaFe](#)



Naval Submarine School

2/2/24



As the submarine surfaces on Feb. 2nd, U.S. Navy Submarine Captain Punxsutawney is frightened by his shadow caused by the sunlight so the crew will now have six more weeks underway.

Happy Groundhog's Day!

[#groundhogsdays](#) [#USNavy](#) [#submarines](#)
Commander, Submarine Forces
Naval Education and Training Command
Naval Submarine Base New London



HISTORY

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/march-1.html>

3/02/1945 – USS Bowfin (SS 287) sinks Japanese transport Chokai Maru, and patrol bombers PB4Y-2 (VPB 119) sink transport Nichirin Maru in East China Sea.

3/03/1942 – USS Perch (SS 176), after being depth-charged and irreparably damaged by Japanese destroyers Ushio and Sazanami, is scuttled by her crew in the Java Sea. All hands survive but are taken prisoner.

3/04/1945 – USS Baya (SS 318) sinks merchant tanker Palembang Maru off Cape Varella, French Indochina, and USS Tilefish (SS 307) and sinks Japanese fishing vessel ShikoMaru.

3/05/1945 – USS Sea Robin (SS 407) sinks three Japanese gunboats and USS Bashaw (SS 241) sinks two Japanese tankers.

3/06/1944 – USS Nautilus (SS 168) attacks a Japanese convoy approximately 240 miles north-north west of Saipan and sinks transport (ex-hospital ship) America Maru.

3/07/1942 – USS Grenadier (SS 210) torpedoes Japanese Asahisan Maru south of Shioya Saki, causing damage to the transport ship.

USS Grayback (SSG 574) is commissioned. She is the first submarine built from the keel up with guided missile capability to fire the Regulus II missile.

3/08/1961 – USS Patrick Henry (SSBN 599) returns from patrol to become the first ballistic missile submarine to use Holy Loch, Scotland, as a refit and upkeep anchorage.

3/09/1944 – USS Lapon (SS 260), while pursuing a Japanese convoy in the South China Sea, sank two freighters and survived a counterattack by Japanese gunboat.

3/10/1945 – USS *Kete* (SS-369) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks one cargo and two transport ships while dodging counterattacks.

3/13/1993 – USS Montpelier (SSN 765) is commissioned at Naval Station Norfolk. The boat is the 15th in the Los Angeles-Improved class of attack submarines.

3/14/1945 – USS Bream (SS 243) sinks the Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser Kihin Maru in the Java Sea, south of Borneo. Also on this date, USS Trepang (SS 412) sinks the Japanese guardboat Kaiko Maru off Inubo Saki, Japan.

3/17/1945 – USS Sealion (SS 315) sinks Bangkok-bound Thai oiler Samui off Trengganu coast, while USS Spot (SS 413) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks army cargo vessel Nanking Maru off Yushiyama Island and damages cargo Ikomasan Maru, beached off Matsu Island.

3/17/1959 – USS Skate (SSN-578) becomes the first submarine to surface at the North Pole, traveling 3,000 miles in and under Arctic ice for more than a month.

3/19/1945 – Submarine USS Balao (SS 285) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks one troopship and three fishing vessels and damages another off the Yangtze estuary about 90 miles north-northwest of Shanghai.

3/20/1944 – USS *Angler* (SS-240) completes the evacuation of 58 U.S. citizens, including women and children, from the west coast of Panay, Philippine Islands. The sub had been told there were only 20 people, straining the boats supplies until it arrived at Fremantle April 9.

3/20/1945 – USS *Blenny* (SS-324) attacks a Japanese convoy off the coast of French Indochina and sinks the merchant tankers No. 21 Nanshin Maru and Hosten Maru, along with fishing boat Yamakuni Maru about 40 miles south of Cam Ranh Bay.

3/20/1943 – USS Herring (SS 233) sinks the German submarine U 163 off the Bay of Biscay. The sub was

responsible for sinking USS Erie (PG 50) on Nov. 14, 1942.

3/20/1945 – USS Baya (SS 318) sinks the auxiliary netlayer Kainan Maru off Cam Ranh Bay.

3/22/1943 – USS Gudgeon (SS 211) attacks a Japanese convoy 30 miles north Surabaya, Java, sinking an army cargo ship while surviving the depth charge attack by her escort vessels. Also on this date, USS Tambor (SS 198) damages a Japanese transport in the Sulu Sea, off Negros, Philippines.

3/23/1943 – USS Tunny (SS 282) sinks the Japanese submarine I 42 off the Palau Islands.

3/23/1945 – USS Spadefish (SS 411) attacks Japanese Sasebo-to-Ishigaki convoy SAI-05 in the East China Sea about 120 miles north-northwest of Amami O Shima and sinks transport Doryu Maru.

3/24/1944 – USS Bowfin (SS 287) attacks a Japanese convoy, sinking both a transport and army cargo ship. 3/01/1902 –

3/25/1915 – The submarine, F-4 (SS 23) sinks off Honolulu, Hawaii, with the loss of 21 lives. It is the first commissioned submarine loss for the U.S. Navy.

3/26/1945 – USS Balao (SS-285) sinks Japanese army stores ship No.1 Shinto Maru.

3/27/1944 – USS Hake (SS 256) torpedoes and sinks Japanese merchant tanker Yamamizu Maru about 75 miles south of Borneo. Also on this date, USS Rasher (SS 269) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks army cargo ship Nichinan Maru about 50 miles north of Bali.

3/28/1944 – Submarines USS Barb (SS 220) and USS Silversides (SS 236) sink Japanese cargo freighter Fukusei Maru off Rasa Island and Japanese cargo ship Kairyu Maru off Manokwari, New Guinea, respectively.

3/29/1944 – USS Haddo (SS 255) torpedoes and sinks Japanese army cargo ship Nichian Maru in South China Sea. Also on this date, USS Tunny (SS 282) torpedoes the Japanese battleship Musashi off Palau, necessitating for her to be repaired in Japan.

3/30/1944 – USS Darter (SS 227) sinks a Japanese army cargo ship near New Guinea, despite the presence of an escort vessel. Also on this date, USS Picuda (SS 382) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks a transport ship near Guam while USS Stingray (SS 186) sinks a transport ship near Saipan.



[Got Dolphins?](#)

USS Boston (SSN-703)

Original post on January 30 2024 ·



A bow view of the nuclear-powered attack submarine Boston (SSN-703) moored at a pier at NAS Mayport Florida on 1 August 1998..

Commissioned: 30 January 1982 - USS Boston (SSN-703), a Los Angeles-class submarine, was the seventh ship of the United States Navy to be named for Boston, Massachusetts.

The contract to build Boston was awarded to the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut on 10 December 1973 and her keel was laid down on 11 August 1978. She was launched on 19 April 1980 sponsored by Mrs. Karen Dane Hidalgo (née Jernstedt), wife of the Secretary of the Navy Edward Hidalgo, and commissioned on 30 January 1982, with Captain Jon M. Barr in command.

During her career, BOSTON completed nine deployments to all corners of the globe. Her first deployment, in fact, was a seven-month-long voyage around the world. Fittingly, her last deployment was in support of UNITAS and took the submarine around the point of South America.

The exploits, dedication and hard work of the ship BOSTON and her crew have been recognized and fittingly rewarded. She has earned a Joint meritorious unit commendation, four meritorious unit commendations, three battle efficiency "E" awards, three golden anchor awards, three silver anchor awards and the Arleigh Burke Trophy.

After being a mainstay on the New London water front, BOSTON will slip her moors 5 February 1999 and head west to Pearl Harbor for decommissioning.

Decommissioned, 19 November 1999 and simultaneously Struck from the Naval Register; Final Disposition, disposed of through NPSSRP (Nuclear Powered Ship and Submarine Recycling Program) at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, WA., 1 January 2002.

Her sail and upper rudder preserved for display in Buffalo, New York.

See: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Boston_\(SSN-703\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Boston_(SSN-703))

Photos: <http://www.navsource.org/archives/08/08703.htm>

Sail Display: https://en.wikipedia.org/.../Buffalo_and_Erie_County...

Press release: <https://man.fas.org/dod-101/sys/ship/docs/990115-boston.htm>



U.S. Naval Undersea Museum

<https://www.navalunderseamuseum/>

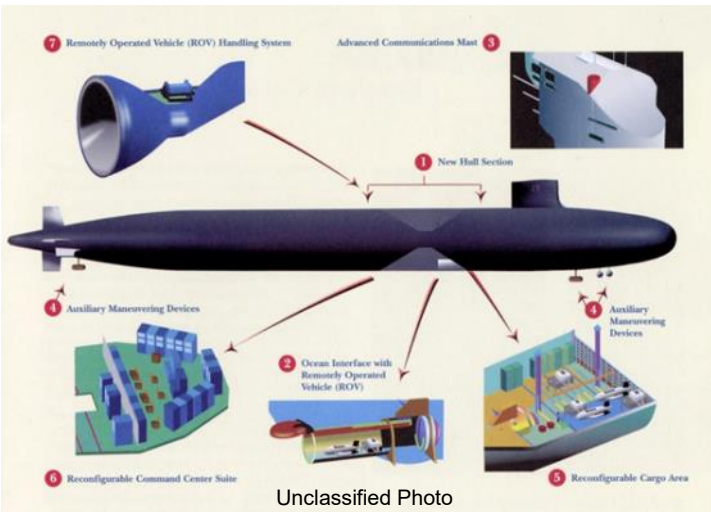
2/19/24



USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23), commissioned [#OnThisDay](#) in 2005, celebrates 19 years of service today!

Her namesake, former President Jimmy Carter, is the only U.S. president to qualify in submarines.

USS Jimmy Carter is the last and most advanced submarine in the Seawolf class. Her midsection is equipped with a 100-foot hull extension that tests new generations of weapons, launches ROVs and UUVs, and supports Navy SEAL operations. Known as the Multi-Mission Platform, this one-of-a-kind hull section is used to carry out classified research and development and for enhanced warfighting capabilities.





U.S. Naval Institute

2/11/24

In 1961, USS Spinax (SSR-489) became the first submarine to fly a kite while submerged. The 5'x7' kite was fashioned from bamboo sticks, a garment bag, cellophane tape and 1500 feet of nylon line. It served no purpose other than to entertain the crew who watched it through the periscope during a Pacific crossing.

[#SubSunday](#)



Theleansubmariner

2/17/24



100 Years. The submarine device that is such a proud symbol of the American Submarine force is 100 years old this year.

Check out this link for more details.

<https://theleansubmariner.com/.../the-origin-of.../>



USSVI - United States Submarine Veterans Incorporated

2/25/24

[Got Dolphins?](#)

Launched: 25 February 1966 - USS Queenfish (SSN-651)



Launch photo: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Queenfish_%28SSN-651%29

USS Queenfish (SSN-651), a Sturgeon-class attack submarine, was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named for the queenfish, a small food fish found off the Pacific coast of North America.

The contract to build Queenfish was awarded to Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Newport News, Virginia, on 26 March 1963 and her keel was laid down there on 11 May 1964. She was launched on 25 February 1966, sponsored by the Honorable Julia Butler Hansen (1907–1988), U.S. Representative from Washington 's 3rd Congressional District (1960–1974).

Queenfish spent the early months of 1967 practicing under-ice operations in the Davis Strait. She was assigned Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, as her home port and arrived there in late spring 1967 via Guantanamo Bay, the Panama Canal, and the Pacific Northwest.

In 1968, escorted by the Australian minehunter HMAS Curlew, USS Queenfish was the first nuclear-powered warship to visit Australia. Queenfish berthed at Station Pier, Melbourne, on 5 March 1968. The visit was a success, despite anti-nuclear protests.

Queenfish was deactivated on 21 September 1990, decommissioned on 8 November 1991 and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 14 April 1992. Her scrapping via the Nuclear-Powered Ship and Submarine Recycling Program at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard at Bremerton, Washington, began on 1 May 1992 and was completed on 7 April 1993.

The escape trunk was removed and is currently utilized at the US Army Special Forces Underwater Operations School, Key West, Florida in their Submarine Escape and Buoyant Ascent Tower.

Photos: <http://www.navsource.org/archives/08/08651.htm>



Cookie Shares

When my mom was cleaning out her house over 23 years ago to sell it, I wasn't very sympathetic over her attachments to things. I would go over on weekends to help her and we would go through things, things for a yard sale, things to donate, things to throw away. I would usually get upset over how long it was taking her to decide. For instance, we were going through kitchen cabinets and she spent 20 minutes looking at an iron kettle with a lid. Finally, I said, "Mom, at this rate it is going to take us another 2 years."

She told me that her mother used to make meals in that kettle and leave them at doorsteps of neighbors during the depression, mom would deliver them, and then they would reappear back to her with an apron, or a wood carving, something in return for the meal. I realized that everything that my mom was going through was really a reliving of her life.

If you are reading this and are under the age of 60, you won't get it. You haven't lived long enough. Most of you have not had to move your parents into a nursing home, or emptied their home. You haven't lived long enough to realize that the hours you spend picking out the right cabinets, or the perfect tile will not be what matters in the later years. It will be the handmade toothbrush holder, or a picture that you got on vacation.

So, if your parents are downsizing, and moving to smaller places, or selling a home, give your mom and even your dad a break. Those things that you don't understand why they can't just pitch, and why you think you know what needs to be tossed or saved, give them a little time to make their decisions. They are saying goodbye to their past, and realizing that they are getting ready for their end of life, while you are beginning your life.

As I have been going through things, it's amazing just how hard it is to get rid of objects. But life goes on, and you realize they are just things, but sometimes things comfort us. So, give your parents or grandparents a break. Listen to their stories, because in 40 years, when you are going through those boxes and the memories come back, it will be hard to get rid of those plastic champagne flutes that you and your late husband used at a New Years party 40 years ago. You will think nothing of the tile or the light fixtures that were so important then.

As happy as they are for you, and as much as they love you, you just don't have a clue until it happens to you

and then you will remember how you rushed them, and it will make you sad, especially if they are already gone and you can't say I'm sorry, I didn't get it.

~ Original Post Melissa Vaughan



The Baton

2/16/24 from a Facebook posting.



UK Royal Navy Submarine

Thought provoking and posted by a good friend and former Submariner...

Only those who have served will understand.

When the hatch shuts over your head, the OOW says last man down and the Ship Controller says green board, you understand the meaning of adventure.

When the only thing between you and millions of gallons of seawater is a steel hull and some closed valves, you understand the meaning of courage.

When sonar calls out to the conn "high speed screws in the water" in hostile waters, you understand the meaning of fear.

When the messenger passes out the only family grams the satellite could catch and yours isn't one, you learn the meaning of loneliness.

When hissing water in the overhead turns from a slight annoyance to a terrifying rushing cascade bouncing off the hull and equipment, you understand the meaning of survival.

When you hear the quick sound that a curtain makes on your rack that indicates your watch is about to begin, you understand the meaning of irritation.

When you see a brother stand to attention while the Captain passes him his Tot with the Dolphins he worked so hard to earn, you understand the meaning of pride.

When you retire and they pipe you over the side for the very last time, you learn the meaning of great sadness.

When your eyes grow dim and your strength ebbs with age, you understand the meaning of envy every time you see a submarine getting underway.

When a shipmate from a time so long ago passes on and people say so many things they wish they had said before they departed, you understand regret.

Once a Submariner, always a Submariner. 🏴‍☠️ ⚓

Royal Navy [#SubmarineService](#) [#SilentService](#)

A little perspective as to the size of a modern submarine.



Cows Don't Give Milk

A father used to say to his children when they were young: —When you all reach the age of 12 I will tell you the secret of life. One day when the oldest turned 12, he anxiously asked his father what was the secret of life. The father replied that he was going to tell him, but that he should not reveal it to his brothers.

"The secret of life is this: The cow does not give milk."

"What are you saying?" Asked the boy incredulously.

"As you hear it, son: The cow does not give milk, you have to milk it. You have to get up at 4 in the morning, go to the field, walk through the corral full of manure, tie the tail, hobble the legs of the cow, sit on the stool, place the bucket and do the work yourself.

That is the secret of life, the cow does not give milk. You milk her or you don't get milk. There is this generation that thinks that cows GIVE milk. That things are automatic and free: their mentality is that if "I wish, I ask, I obtain."

"They have been accustomed to get whatever they want the easy way. But no, life is not a matter of wishing, asking and obtaining. The things that one receives are the effort of what one does. Happiness is the result of effort. Lack of effort creates frustration."

"So, share with your children from a young age the secret of life, so they don't grow up with the mentality that the government, their parents, or their cute little faces is going to give them everything they need in life."

Remember

"Cows don't give milk; you have to work for it."

~Author Unknown

"You brought pavement"

There once was a rich man who was near death. He was very grieved because he had worked so hard for his money and he wanted to be able to take it with him to heaven. So he began to pray that he might be able to take some of his wealth with him.

An angel hears his plea and appears to him, "Sorry, but you can't take your wealth with you."

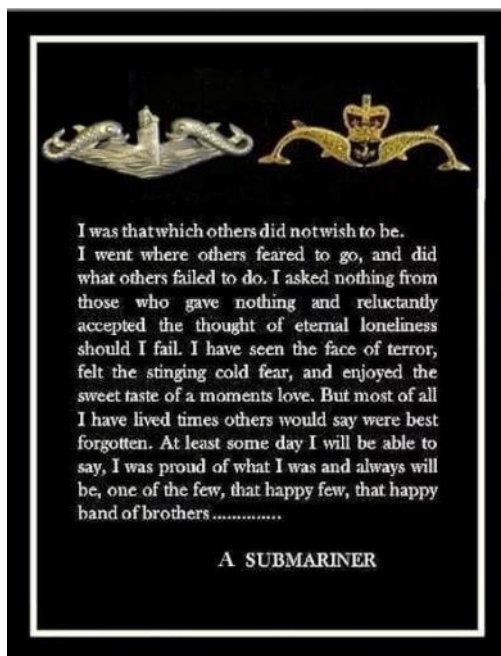
The man implores the angel to speak to God to see if He might bend the rules.

The man continues to pray that his wealth could follow him. The angel reappears and informs the man that God has decided to allow him to take one suitcase with him. Overjoyed, the man gathers his largest suitcase and fills it with pure gold bars and places it beside his bed.

Soon afterward the man dies and shows up at the Gates of Heaven to greet St. Peter. Seeing the suitcase Peter says, "Hold on, you can't bring that in here!"

But the man explains to him that he has permission and asks him to verify his story with the Lord. Sure enough,. Peter checks and comes back saying, "You're right. You are allowed one carry-on bag, but I'm supposed to check its contents before letting it through."

Peter opens the suitcase to inspect the worldly items that the man found too precious to leave behind and exclaims, "You brought pavement?!?!"



Forrest Gump Quiz

When Forest Gump died, he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter said, "Welcome, Forest. We've heard a lot about you." He continued, "Unfortunately, it's getting pretty crowded up here and we find that we now have to give people an entrance examination before we let them in."

"Okay," said Forest. "I hope it's not too hard. I've already been through a test. My momma used to say, 'Life is like a final exam. It's hard.'"

"Yes, Forest, I know. But this test is only three questions. Here they are."

- 1) Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'?"
- 2) How many seconds are in a year?
- 3) What is God's first name?

"Well, sir," said Forest, "The first one is easy. Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'? Today and Tomorrow."

St. Peter looked surprised and said, "Well, that wasn't the answer I was looking for, but you have a point. I give you credit for that answer."

"The next question," said Forest, "How many seconds are in a year? Twelve."

"Twelve?" said St. Peter, surprised and confused.

"Yes, sir. January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd ..."

St. Peter interrupted him. "I see what you mean. I'll have to give you credit for that one, too."

"And the last question," said Forest, "What is God's first name? It's Andy."

"Andy?" said St. Peter, in shock. "How did you come up with 'Andy'?"

"I learned it in church. We used to sing about it." Forest broke into song, "Andy walks with me, Andy talks with

me, Andy tells me I am His own."

St. Peter opened the gate to heaven and said, "Run, Forest, Run!"

Pass it on!! Give someone else a reason to smile.



Tonight we are having Himalayan rabbit stew for dinner. We found himalayan in the road.



MORE SHIPMATES IN ACTION



Tom Williams, USSVI Central Region Director

Facebook post 2/2/24

USN Submarine aviator at the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida. Great place to visit and see how the other guys live.



And a picture of the Memorial soon to be finished, 2/21/24.





February Meeting Pics and Text from FB post

USSVI Central Texas Base is with [Rick Mitchell](#) and [Georgetown VFW Post 8587 M/SGT Ben D. Snowden](#).
2/22/24

Another good meeting last night. Had a very informative presentation about the [Fleet Reserve Association National Headquarters](#) by Jim Hudson CTCS USN (Ret.) of the Capitol Area Chapter FRA. Met 3 new ship-mates who will be joining the base. Welcome Aboard Gary, Tony and Dave! We even had a Tin Can Sailer (Master Chief) who was brave enough to join us for our meeting last night. Took him a while to be brave enough to not just stand in the back of the room and sit down though. Missed those who couldn't be there, hope to see you at our March social on the 16th [Dale's Essenhaus](#) !

