



# THE DECK LOG

## USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE

### MAY 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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**EDITOR'S OFFICE**

The Deck Log is a monthly publication of the Central Texas Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. It is delivered via email in Microsoft Publisher PDF format to the Base Membership. A printed copy is mailed via USPS to those shipmates requesting a mailed copy.

Deck Log Editor

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**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/>  
<https://ussubvets.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 \(americommerce.com\)](http://www.americommerce.com)



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

The Newsletter  
for Navy  
Retirees



<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* *MAY 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 Logarto (SS-371)**

Lost on May 3, 1945 with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of Siam. On her 2nd war patrol, she is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. This minelayer was sunk by the USS Hawkbill 2 weeks later.



### **USS Scorpion (SSN-589)**

USS Scorpion (SSN-589) was returning to Norfolk, VA, from a Mediterranean deployment. On May 22, 1968 she reported her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. Scorpion was never heard from again. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined. 99 officers and men were lost.



### **USS Squalus (SS-192)**

On May 23, 1939 USS Squalus suffered a catastrophic valve failure during a test dive off the Isle of Shoals. Partially flooded, the submarine sank to the bottom and came to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers on the USS Falcon (ASR-2) rescued 33 survivors using the diving bell he invented. 26 men drowned in the after compartments. Later Squalus was raised and recommissioned as the USS Sailfish. In an ironic turn of fate, Sailfish sank the Japanese aircraft carrier carrying surviving crew members from Sculpin, which had located Squalus in 1939. Only one survived after spending the rest of the war as slave laborers in Japan.



### **USS Stickleback (SS-415)**

Lost on May 30, 1958 when it sank off Hawaii while under tow after collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). The entire crew was taken off prior to sinking. All crew were removed and efforts were made to save the submarine. Compartments flooded, but even with lines tied around her, she sank in 1800 fathoms of water.





# USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE NEWS

## BASE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Welcome to May Shipmates!

We have entered what is typically the busiest time of the year for our base, basically from the Red Poppy Festival in Georgetown in April through the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in Round Rock with many events in between including the Memorial Day Tolling we do. I want to thank everyone who supports these efforts. I also wanted to remind our members that we do these things because it is something we decided to do as a base in support of our organizations purpose which is:

*The purpose/creed of USSVI is 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. (Think our memorial, parades and our Tolling ceremonies)*

*In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, USSVI shall provide a way for all submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. The USSVI supports a strong U.S. Submarine Force.*

(Think our socials, group events like baseball games, etc.)

*The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today." (Think event info booths, school presentations, K4K, Scouting Recognition, etc.)*

Thanks again to everyone for your support in these efforts no matter how big or small. Your membership, which I truly appreciate, is a great starting point in supporting these efforts. If have participated in any of these events in the past, you probably know that in almost all cases we generally walk away feeling like it was a worthwhile effort and I would say about 75% of our base has done so and we have an average of about 30% participation across the board which is pretty good but we cab get better so my request to all of you this month is please consider coming out an supporting your base in some of these things. You won't know if you will like it really until you try it. We have some things we have coming up I encourage everyone to participate in if possible.

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** Our base meeting at the Georgetown VFW starts at 1900, social hour 1800.

**May 16-19 Lonestar Subvet Round Up** – at this time most have registered who will be attending for the weekend but on Saturday we will be conducting a Tolling Ceremony at the Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, 1000 AM. Come out and attend and have a fun day in Fredericksburg.

**May 27<sup>th</sup> Tolling Ceremony** - Being held in Taylor again along with the American Legion. I f you attend one ceremony a year this is the one. It is local and a string showing of support by our members goes a long way in the message we give to our community.

**June 15<sup>th</sup>** We will be holding our social somewhere. Likely a cookout at a local park.

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade** which will be in Round Rock. Come out and participate in a great parade in what we consider our hometown parade.

Hope to see you all there, both the old faces we have all grown to love and appreciate and hopefully some new ones.  
**Thanks for everything you all do!**

Rick Mitchell

Call, Text, Email anytime!

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



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





**Location:** VFW Post 8587 and Zoom

**Meeting opened** 4/17/2024, at 19:02 by Rick Mitchell, Base Commander.

**E-Board was present** with the exception of the Treasurer, Virgil Claycamp

**Meeting Minutes:** No Minutes from Mar 2024, Base Social

**Sailing List: 20 VFW, 4 ZOOM (24 Total)**

**Binnacle List:** Chuck Trahan, Don Atkins, John Roberts and Bill Scott.

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Rick Mitchell

**Tolling of the Boats –** Frank Abernathy Reading, Carl Repp Tolling

### **Officer and Committee Reports**

**Treasurer's Report:** Virgil Claycamp (absent), The updated report will be provided at the next meeting, Holland Club and Charitable Foundation Donations not yet made. Virgil Claycamp is on travel and will update Rick Mitchell on his return.

**Storekeeper –** Virgil Claycamp (absent)

**Rick Mitchell** reported that the **USSVI Diamond Anniversary Patch and Challenge Coin** are available. The Patch is \$15 and the Coin is \$10. See Virgil when he is back about getting the ones you previously ordered, there may be a few extras.

**Memorial (Gene Hall):** Work is progressing and the stand and the MK14 are in place. Roy Silva also mentioned that the folks with Round Rock are expecting more activity in the park once the trail all the way to Hutto is completed in the coming years.

**Kaps 4 Kids (Shawn O'Shea):** Shawn was absent. The last event was at McLane Children's in Temple. Rick indicated that Shawn would like to find a replacement for his primary duties with Kaps 4 Kids. If you are interested let Rick know. Bob Steinmann mentioned that a longtime friend of his attended a recent K4K event and was impressed with what we do and donated \$200 for the Kaps 4 Kids expenditures.

**Parade (Tom Sprague):** Next event will be the Red Poppy Festival in Georgetown, 27 Apr 2024. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July location to be determined and then Veteran's Day. Rick sent out a meeting update email with the map and information for the Red Poppy Festival. Please wear a Red Shirt with your SubVests and Ball Caps for the parade. Need to be there no later than 09:00 if you'll be marching or riding, starts at 09:45. The **Brazo Valley Base Torpedo Float** will be on loan.

**Membership (Chuck Malone):** Absent on travel. 88 Current Members.

**Birthdays 2024:** 4/28 Gordon McMaude, 4/29 Hugh Brown, 5/1 Dale Messing, 5/13 Michael Goulding and 5/17 Frank Abernathy.

### **Unfinished, Ongoing and Old Business**

#### **2024 Base Officers**

Base Commander – Rick Mitchell

Vice Commander- Carl Repp

Treasurer- Virgil Claycamp (Bryan Eaton withdrew from the position)

Secretary/Yeoman- Frank Abernathy

**Baseball Game** 12 Apr 2024 at Dell Diamond was another good event for us. The final score was RR Express 1 and OK City Ball Club 7.

**NEW Business:**

**Holland Club Inductees** to take place at the Tolling Ceremony in Fredericksburg, TX on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2024; **Jerry (JD) King** and **Frank Abernathy**.

**May Tolling of Boats**, will be in Taylor, TX again. 1600 Veterans Drive, the Murphy Pavilion on 27 May 2024 at 10:00, **Harry Ullman** will be singing the National Anthem.

**Loan Star Round Up** in Fredericksburg from 16-19 May 2024. Our Guest Speaker will be **Capt. Stephen G. Bowman** who was the first astronaut to have also been a US Navy Submariner having served on the USS Parche SSN 683, USS pogy SSN 647 and the USS Augusta SSN 710.

**Chip Pomeroy** has again graciously donated a 36” medal art piece with the outline of the United States and using a US Flag color layout, Dolphins and the State of Texas highlighted; as a door prize.

**Rick** put forth the idea of a donation to the Lonestar Subvet Roundup. After some discussion a \$500 motion was put forth by **Carl Repp**, seconded by **Hubert Jackson** and approved by all.

**Tom Williams** spoke about the upcoming National elections, he will be on the ballot for the Junior Vice Commander. Elections are June thru July 2024. See the American Submariner magazine for more information. He also asked that we talk about what we need to do to make the USSVI better and things our Base is doing that others might want to implement.

**USSVI National Convention** will be in Cleveland, 19-24 August 2024. We discussed placing a full page add in the Convention Program to promote the USSVI and Central Texas Base. After discussion a motion was placed by Chuck Trahan to purchase the \$350 AD, it was seconded by Carl Rep and approved by all present.

**Frank Espinosa** updated us on the \$500 donation we made to **Caring Place**. The \$500 donation was doubled during the 6-7 Mar 2024 Amplify Austin program to yield a \$1000 net donation.

**Frank Espinosa** said they'll have another Saturday **Blood Drive at the VFW 8587 Post** on 12 Oct 2024 from 12:00 to 16:00.

**Jerry King** donated Teak Deck pieces from the USS Cavalla SS-244 to the Base. Rick has suggested repurposing the wood to make Shadow Boxes for our Fallen and those on Eternal Patrol to present their Family Members.

**Good of the Order**

**50/50 Raffle** – \$38 of \$76 was won by Hubert Jackson.

**Next Events – Red Poppy Parade** in Georgetown on 27 April. **Tolling Ceremony** 27 May in Taylor, Texas.

**Next Meeting** – 15 May 2024 at the VFW Post. No Zoom

**Sailing List**

**Total Base Members and Visitors (24):**

**Local at the VFW Post 8587 (20):** Frank Abernathy, Harry Boyer, David Clark, Ken Dallman, Frank Espinosa, Mike Gauthier, Charles Goertz, Hubert Jackson, Colin King, Jerry King, Dale Messing, Rick Mitchell, Carl Repp, Bill Scott, Roy Silva, Tom Sprague, Bob Steinmann, Chuck Trahan, Harry Ullman and Curt Webber.

**ZOOM Participants (4):** Gene Hall, Christopher Pomeroy, Gene Whitenack and Tom Williams.

Meeting Adjourned by Rick Mitchell, 2003 hours

Minutes submitted by Frank Abernathy, Yeoman, 20 Apr 2024



**Editor's Office**



Lots goin' on around our base. Plenty to read and peruse here too. Me? I'm still keepin' busy juggling "The Deck Log" - what else is new? Make yourself useful and send me a Sea Story or two, huh? Stop by my email ([hscottss242@gmail.com](mailto:hscottss242@gmail.com)) and say hello sometime.

=====  
**4th Annual Lonestar Subvet Round Up**  
=====



4/5/2024 - Come join us in Fredericksburg this May! If not for the entire weekend, consider joining us on Saturday for the Tolling ceremony at the National Museum of the Pacific War. [www.lsr.org](http://www.lsr.org)

Looking forward to a repeat visit this year from our own "Elvis" . Mr. Harvey McFadden and his wonderful wife Sharon will be joining us this year and providing some great entertainment on Saturday at our banquet. You don't want to miss this. You can see more about Elvis here: <http://elvisintexas.com/index.html> Make sure to get your registrations in now. For more info on the Round Up: [www.lsr.org](http://www.lsr.org)

=====  
**Fw: Lonestar Subvet Round-Up Update 4/6**

Hello Shipmates,

Just a reminder and few updates about the upcoming [Lonestar Subvet Round-Up](#) this year in Fredericksburg, May 16-19.

We have just received confirmation our guest speaker for the Tolling Ceremony and Banquet will be Astronaut Stephen Bowen CAPT(SS) USN (Ret.) (More info to follow)

[Meet Steve Bowen, Crew-6 Commander](#)

We have entertainment scheduled for both the Welcome Aboard Dinner and Banquet from a couple of talented shipmates: Randy Mattsen performs Friday evening :

[Submarine Song" - Randy Mattsen - Country / Folk music video](#)

And our own "ELVIS" aka Harvey McFadden STSCS(SS) will entertain us Saturday.

**The room blocks closes soon on April 16th so get your reservations made before rooms sell out.**

**Also make sure to get your registrations in so we can plan appropriately.**

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

Thank You!

**Rick Mitchell**

USSVI CD4 (Texas) District Cdr.

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](#)

=====  
**[USSVI Central Texas Base - Members Group](#) - 4/19/2024**



Join your shipmates who have already signed up to attend! Not too late to sign up! Let's make this the best one yet. If you can't make the weekend, please consider coming down Saturday for the Tolling Ceremony at the Museum of the Pacific War and our banquet that evening.

Someone is going to take home a really nice piece of custom art! Thank You Chip for your work and donation. You do exceptional work. If anyone wants to check out his other work you can see it here: <https://mytestdepthcustoms.bigcartel.com/>





**Tom Williams**

4/1/2024

Just in time for the 2026 USSVI National Convention. BZ to the USSVI Sea Turtle Base and all involved.



**USS City Of Corpus Christi SSN 705 Memorial Park**

4/1/2024

We'll be updating as we get more details.

**USSVI CENTRAL TEXAS BASE**

**Impact of our Donation to The Caring Place**



USSVI-CTB donated \$500 to The Caring Place of Georgetown during their participation in Amplify Austin's fundraising event from 6-7 March 2024.

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 had 11 dedicated sponsors who pledged to match a total of \$65,650 during this event.

The Base's \$500 donation was matched by the sponsors making the overall value of the donation total \$1,000.

Within Williamson County, The Caring Place ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> among 72 other non-profit organizations competing for money. Among 700 non-profit organizations competing in central Texas, The Caring Place ranked 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Caring Place's goal was to raise \$130,000 during the event. At the end of the event, they raised \$152,078!

According to one of our Base's life members, Frank Espinosa, he stated based on his personal observations working as a volunteer at The Caring Place – the money is already being put to good use for our neighbors in need of assistance.

The Caring Place served 9,744 neighbors with basic needs in 2023. Most importantly to USSVI-CTB, four

percent of those 9,744 neighbors were active duty members, Veterans, or spouses of Veterans. In total, The Caring Place provided over \$4.08 million in financial and non-financial support and resources to neighbors in our community!

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**USSVI Central Texas Base Blood Drive**

The Base prepares to take the lead role at the next blood drive.



Planning is underway for the next Blood Drive to be held on Saturday, October 12, 2024 from noon to 4 p.m. It will be held in the large Hall of VFW Post 8587 at 1000 N. College Street, Georgetown, Tx.

The Base will be assisted by American Legion Post 174 and VFW Post 8587. The overall Blood Drive Coordinator is Frank Espinosa, one of our Base life members.

The collection agency will once again be We Are Blood. We Are Blood, <https://weareblood.org/>, has been drawing Central Texans together since 1951 when they were founded by the Travis County Medical Society. Their very first name was the "Travis County Medical Society Blood Bank" and their very first home was at 1705 1/2 North Congress. The year they opened their doors they served four Austin hospitals (Brackenridge, Seton, Holy Cross, and St. David's) and a few surrounding rural hospitals.

We Are Blood distributes donations to over 41 medical centers and hospital located in central Texas in the surrounding nine counties around Williamson County, including Williamson County.

Your assistance is needed in getting this information out to your families, friends, and neighbors to help us maximize our collection efforts.

We anticipate We Are Blood to have the dedicated web site for our Blood Drive up and running in mid to late August 2024. The web address will be distributed to everyone in our Base when it is activated.

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**Breakfast at El Corral Lozano, Taylor Tx**

Facebook post 4/26/2024

[USSVI Central Texas Base](#)



Always good to enjoy breakfast with some fellow Shipmates. clockwise, Bill Scott, Jack Collins, Rick Mitchell, Gene White-nack, Virgil Claycamp, Gene Hall & Dale Messing.

Picking up the Brazos Valley Base float for the Red Poppy Festival parade on 4/27/2024.

=====

*MAY 2024*



- Dale Messing - 1<sup>st</sup>
- Michael Goulding - 13<sup>th</sup>
- Frank Abernathy - 17<sup>th</sup>
- Frank Espinosa - 18<sup>th</sup>
- Mike Gauthier - 28<sup>th</sup>
- Harry Ullmann, Jr - 30<sup>th</sup>

*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	75
Members pending:	0
Submitted: Chuck Malone, Membership	

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*BASE TREASURER'S REPORT*

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**15 April 2024**  
**Financial Report for Period Ending 3/30/2024**

<b>Beginning Balance - 3/1/2024</b>	<b>\$36,723.45</b>
RBFCU Checking (General Fund)	\$37,281.80
RBFCU Savings (Memorial Fund)	\$4,167.74
Cash to be deposited	\$170.00
Uncleared Checks	-\$408.30
<b>Ending Balance - 03/31/2024</b>	<b>\$41,211.24</b>

Submitted: Virgil Claycamp, Treasurer

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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](mailto:vclaycamp@yahoo.com). CTB can often get items at a lower than normal price, so you save money. The SK can search the net to find out-of-the-ordinary items, for all branches of the service. When requesting a ship's patch, tell the SK which coast you served on board, as the patches are often different for each coast. The Base E-board is working on a way to inform you of the SK items in stock and prices and a way for to you purchase them either at the in-person meetings, or via an online email system to the SK for in-stock items.

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*BINNACLE LIST*

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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.

Shipmates notes at the April Base Meeting: Chuck Trahan, Don Atkins, John Roberts and Bill Scott.

Please keep us informed of any person who should be listed. These are the people that we know about, so please e-mail any E-Board member if you know of any member or his family that might be in crisis. Also please keep the Base Chaplain, Shipmate Bob Steinmann informed as well.

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*CHAPLAIN'S CORNER*

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**My Mom and Dad**

My mom and dad were apparently mean to me when I was a kid. They made me do chores, go to church,

and go to school. They gave me a curfew and spanked my butt when I did wrong. They put food on the table and we were expected to eat it- They put clothes on our backs and we were expected to wear them. They suggested I get a job and work for the things that I wanted. They insisted that I do my best at school, at my job, and to take pride in my work. I grew up with morals, a good work ethic, and respect for the law & my elders. I thank God every day for my Mom and Dad!



**These Balloons are Like Happiness**

A wise teacher once brought balloons to school, told her pupils to blow them up and write their name on one. After the children tossed their balloons into the hall, the teacher moved through the hall mixing them all up.

The kids were given five minutes to find the balloon with their name on it, but though they searched frantically, no one found their own balloon.

Then the teacher told them to take the balloon closest to them and give it to the person whose name was on it. In less than two minutes, everyone was holding their own balloon.

The teacher said to the children, "These balloons are like happiness. We won't find it when we're only searching for our own. But if we care about someone else's happiness...it will ultimately help us find our own."



**BRING THEM TO CHURCH**

Saturate their lives with the Word of God. Even if they lay on the floor. Even if they need 437 goldfish and a sucker to be quiet. Even if you stand in the back swaying back and forth holding them. Even when it's hard. Even when your row looks like a small hurricane just came through. Bring them to church. Let them see you worship. Let them see you pray. Let them see you running toward the Savior ... because if they don't see and learn these things from you, who are they going to learn them from?

The world will teach them it's not a priority. The world will teach them it's okay to lay out, not to pick up their Bibles. The world will direct them so far off course, confuse them, and misinform them that just being "good" is enough. The world won't teach them about Jesus. That's our job.

Bring them to church.



*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.**

First Monday, every Month, 0800 hours, Texas Veterans breakfast, Texas Grill, 101 State Hwy 71, Bastrop, TX 78602

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

16-19 May 2024, 4th Annual Lonestar Subvet Roundup, Fredericksburg, Texas, See the "Shipmates in Action" on page 6 above for more information.

27 May 2024, Memorial Day Tolling of the Boats Ceremony, to be held in Taylor, Texas, with the City of Taylor's support at the Memorial Park (large covered area in the event of rain), 1000 Hours supporting the American Legion. Need readers.

15 June 2024, Quarterly Social, TBD

4 July 2024, Annual 4th of July Parade, Round Rock, TX. Float on site at the staging area at 0700. Catch the shuttle at the Methodist church (see map at the back of the N/L) earlier than the last shuttle at 0800.

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



**USSVI Central Texas Base K4K May 14, 2024 visit**

Shawn O'Shea reports that the next visit has been approved for Dell Children's Hospital on May 14th at 1100 hours, here in Austin, confirmed by confirmed by Sam Amato a couple of months ago. Sam will be leading the team and he needs some volunteers to go with him. (samamatotx@gmail.com)

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

Sincerely, Shawn O'Shea

Chairman K4K CTB



**USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

**NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN**

**American Submariner Magazine on line**

National Commander <info@ussvi.org>

**4/5/2024**

Shipmates,

The American Submariner Magazine, 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr. is now online on both websites, for those that opted for the online edition. Those members that normally get the printed hard copy of the magazine will still get their magazines in the mail.

Bill Andrea, NC

**NATIONAL ALL-HANDS BULLETIN**

**USSVI 2024 National Convention**

4/11/24

On this 124th anniversary of the submarine force, we celebrate the steadfast dedication and exceptional bravery of those who currently navigate beneath the ocean's depths and those that have served. From its modest origins to becoming an essential bastion of naval power, the submarine force exemplifies innovation, fortitude, and an unwavering pursuit of excellence. Across numerous missions and challenges, submariners have showcased unparalleled expertise and resolve, safeguarding the safety and sovereignty of nations worldwide. As we think about their extraordinary journey, let us pay tribute to the enduring legacy and pledge our steadfast support for these courageous defenders of our seas. Happy 124th Birthday to the submarine force and to all my Brothers and Sisters who have and still serve today. You are a testament to human ingenuity and the spirit of adventure! HOOYAH, Warriors! Any Mission, Any Time, Anywhere!

Hope to see you in Cleveland for the Convention in August!

<https://subvetconvention.org>



## Coming Soon – USSVI National Elections

From the USSVI Magazine “The American Submariner” Second Quarter edition. You must be logged in to view it.

<https://ussubvets.org/issues/2024Q2V1.pdf>

National and Regional Candidates Statements are in the magazine on pages 18 -20. The ballot shown below, and on page 23, will be posted online and via email to all members closer to the June 19<sup>th</sup> date as well as a printable ballot.

★ ★ ★ ★

# VOTE

**2024  
NATIONAL ELECTION**

**VOTING INFORMATION**

Voting online on the USSVI website [ussubvets.org](https://ussubvets.org) is preferred.

Online voting will begin at 0001 on June 19, 2024 and end at 2359 on August 27, 2024.

Whether voting online or by paper ballot, each member must complete their own ballot.

Proxy voting (members casting ballots for other members) is not allowed. While members may assist other members in preparing their ballots, the member must complete their paper ballot in their own hand. Proxy ballots will be rejected.

**Mail completed ballots to:**  
Tom Conlon, PNC  
USSVI Election Master  
8 Davis Avenue  
Harrison, NJ 07029

Paper ballots must be received by the Election Master no later than August 27, 2024 to be counted. Ballots received after this date will not be counted.

The duties of the various officers are outlined in the USSVI bylaws and can be found on the USSVI website.

As specified in the USSVI Constitution:

- The term of office for all National officers will be two years or until a successor is elected.
- No individual shall serve more than two consecutive terms as National Commander.
- The term of office for a National elected officer will begin immediately after the annual business meeting.

2024 ★ USSVI OFFICIAL BALLOT ★ 2024

VOTE FOR ONLY ONE CANDIDATE FOR EACH OFFICE

<p><b>National Officer Candidates</b></p> <p><b>National Commander</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jon Jaques, Volunteer Base</p> <p>Write-in _____</p> <p><b>National Senior Vice Commander</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tim Carlisle, Mare Island Base</p> <p>Write-in _____</p> <p><b>National Junior Vice Commander</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tom Williams, Cowtown Base</p> <p>Write-in _____</p> <p><b>National Secretary</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> David Farrugia, Tang Base</p> <p>Write-in _____</p> <p><b>National Treasurer</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> John Sidlovsky, Hampton Roads Base</p> <p>Write-in _____</p>	<p><b>Regional Director Candidates</b></p> <p style="font-size: 10px; color: red;">Vote for a Director in your region only. Any other vote will be rejected.</p> <p><b>Northeast Region Director</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Charles Martin, Northern Virginia Base</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Walsh, Groton Base</p> <p>Write-in _____</p> <p><b>Southeast Region Director</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ken Nichols, Nautilus Base</p> <p>Write-in _____</p> <p><b>Central Region Director</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fred Kinzel, Wolverine Base</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rick Mitchell, Central Texas Base</p> <p>Write-in _____</p> <p><b>Western Region Director</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pete Juhos, Gold Country Base</p> <p>Write-in _____</p>
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**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE USSVI CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**  
Vote either "for" or "against" the proposed change

PA 2024-1

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XIII — BIENNIAL ELECTIONS**  
Green = proposed wording • Red = current wording

Section 3. NATIONAL BALLOT

A. The National Commander shall appoint an Election Master to count and tabulate the results of the National Election Ballots.

1. The Election Master shall be a Past National Commander or Past National Officer in good standing.

Section 3. NATIONAL BALLOT

A. The National Commander shall appoint an Election Master to count and tabulate the results of the Nation Election Ballots.

1. The Election Master shall be a member in good standing, selected by the National Commander and approved by the Voting Board of Directors.

**Submitted by:** William Andrea

**Intent of the Author:** The current requirements are too restrictive and limits the number of possible candidates for the position of Election Master.

**Cost to the Organization:** Negligible to none.

FOR                       AGAINST

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **BASE:** \_\_\_\_\_



## U.S. Navy Submarine Service - SSN's

4/1/24

Not much is ever written about the USS Parche SSN 683, but I learned a lot about it from this Ship's Crew video.

[USS Parche SSN-683 "The Crew" - YouTube](#)

## U.S. Navy Submarine First In World Fitted With Silent Caterpillar Drive

Submarines use stealth to dominate the seas, presenting an illusive yet deadly threat. Now U.S. Navy submarines will take stealth to a new level. American submarines will now be fitted with magnetohydrodynamic drive.

Naval News Staff 01 Apr 2024

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2024/04/u-s-navy-submarine-first-in-world-fitted-with-silent-caterpillar-drive/>



The U.S. Navy submarine USS Montana (SSN-794) will be the first fitted with the highly stealthy 'Caterpillar Drive'. U.S. Navy Photo.

American submarines will further extend their advantage in the undersea domain. In the first of a kind, the U.S. Navy has fitted a new form of propulsion, magnetohydrodynamic drive (MHD), to a Virginia class submarine. This promises to make the submarine virtually undetectable, the holy grail of naval warfare.

The Magnetohydrodynamic drive is being developed under the **PUMP program** by DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency), first reported in 2023. Water passing through

it is accelerated by means of a magnetic field using superconducting magnets. This is often likened to the way a caterpillar crawls leading to the colloquial term 'caterpillar drive'.

The first boat to be fitted with the new propulsion will be the USS Montana (SSN 794). This Virginia Class attack submarine was commissioned into the U.S. Navy in June 2022. Although still a new boat, she has been brought in to Groton, Connecticut, for the modifications.

### Quietest Submarine Propulsion Ever

It is likely to be particularly stealthy as there are no moving mechanical parts. This will make the submarine particularly difficult to detect using passive sonar which listens for noises emitted by the targeted submarine. Sonar operators searching for the USS Montana will likely hear noises which are indistinguishable from natural phenomenon, such as seismic activity.

Instead of a traditional propeller at the stern, the new propulsion will be entirely within the submarine's hull. According to British experts the only external clues are likely to be the water intake doors in the bow. These will resemble torpedo tube shutters but larger, approximately the diameter of a submarine launched ballistic missile. But mounted horizontally, which is unusual for those missiles.

### It Is Time

The new propulsion may be fitted to more submarines if the trials are successful. These are likely to include new-build Virginia class attack submarines and the future 'SSN-X' type. It is unlikely to be fitted to the Columbia Class ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) however as this would likely constitute a first strike capability. There is no reason to make a nuclear deterrent submarine so stealthy if it is only intended for retaliatory strikes.

USS Montana is expected to undergo sea trials on the Penobscot River in Maine. This will make it more difficult for the Russian Navy to observe the tests.

The caterpillar drive propulsions is still in its infancy. Whether the Penobscot River will be the end of the story, or the beginning of a new chapter, remains to be seen. Either way, Montana will remain unseen.

(Ed. See below article)

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## **MEDIA OUTLETS SUNK BY APRIL FOOL'S PRANK OF THE NAVY'S NEW "CATERPILLAR DRIVE" STEALTH SUBMARINE**

By Tim McMillan

4/4/2024

In a twist that would have made novelist Tom Clancy proud, several news outlets and social media users took a deep dive into fiction this April 1st, falling for an April Fool's prank that the U.S. Navy had discovered the "Holy Grail of naval warfare," and the development of cutting-edge stealth submarine technology.

[Naval News](#), a reputable source for maritime news, published a seemingly groundbreaking article claiming the U.S. Navy was outfitting its Virginia class submarines with a revolutionary magnetohydrodynamic drive, or "caterpillar drive," that "promises to make the submarine virtually undetectable."

"Submarines use stealth to dominate the seas, presenting an illusive yet deadly threat," the Naval News article reads. "Now U.S. Navy submarines will take stealth to a new level. American submarines will now be fitted with magnetohydrodynamic drive."

Unfortunately, several niche media sites that later circulated the story didn't realize they were sharing a concept straight from fiction. Specifically, Tom Clancy's Cold War thriller "[The Hunt for the Red October](#)," where a stealth submarine equipped with a magnetohydrodynamic drive is a crucial plot element.

The prank showcased the fine line between fact and fiction and served as a stark reminder of the importance of critical media consumption in the digital age.

In fairness, given the nature of today's technological progress, which frequently resembles science fiction, it's understandable why some could be misled by Naval News's seemingly credible announcement. Equally, the idea of magnetohydrodynamic drive is more than just the stuff of imagination.

A Magnetohydrodynamic drive (MHD) is a conceptual method of propulsion that uses only electric and magnetic fields to accelerate a liquid or gas propellant using the principles of magnetohydrodynamics.

In recent years, engineers have been exploring the potential of [plasma propulsion engines](#) using magnetohydrodynamics for space exploration. The goal is that a magnetohydrodynamic drive would offer a more continuous propulsion system than traditional chemical rockets.

Furthermore, [since the 1960s](#), scientists and military researchers have been studying the use of magnetohydrodynamic drives for submarine propulsion. This technology leverages the magnetic properties of water to move the submarine forward, thereby eliminating the need for moving parts, such as traditional propellers.

Another kernel of truth from the Naval News article is that the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is currently attempting to develop a workable magnetohydrodynamic drive under its "[Principles of Undersea Magnetohydrodynamic Pumps](#)" or "PUMP" program.

However, the concept remains largely theoretical, and the leap from experimentation to an operational caterpillar drive, especially in the context of creating a "stealth submarine," is a significant one.

The idea of a completely stealth submarine, undetectable by enemy forces, has been a coveted goal for global navies and could justifiably be considered the "Holy Grail of naval warfare."

The concept of a magnetohydrodynamic-drive stealth submarine was popularized in the 1990 film adaptation of Tom Clancey's literary spy thriller "[The Hunt for the Red October](#)." In the film, the Soviet Typhoon-class ballistic missile sub the "Red October" is outfitted with a "caterpillar drive," which renders it undetectable to passive sonar.

Due to its lack of moving parts, a magnetohydrodynamic-driven submarine would theoretically significantly reduce noise levels, a key advantage in underwater stealth. However, a magnetohydrodynamic drive wouldn't make the vessel completely silent, nor would it result in a fully stealth submarine.



The electric currents required to generate the magnetic fields for a magnetohydrodynamic-driven submarine would produce detectable gasses and noise. The magnetic fields produced by the MHD would likewise create a distinct magnetic signature that could be easily traced by modern anti-submarine warfare (ASW) technology.

Moreover, contemporary anti-submarine warfare has evolved to include a range of detection techniques beyond just listening for the sounds a submarine makes. Today, leading sub-detection methods include measuring temperature gradients in the water, variations in the Earth's magnetic field caused by a sub's large metal hull, thermal imaging, chemical sensors, and airborne LIDAR that can identify changes in water depth or disturbances.

As part of its initiative to field "[Non-Traditional Airborne Anti-Submarine Warfare](#)" technology, the U.S. Navy is [suspected](#) of possessing a highly classified system that uses synthetic aperture radar to identify the wake caused by a submarine passing through water that would otherwise be invisible to the human eye.

In short, a magnetohydrodynamic drive would not suddenly render a sub "stealth," as *The Hunt for the Red October* or Navel New's prank article implies.

Nevertheless, this didn't stop a handful of publications from spreading the fictitious word about the Navy's supposed leap in stealth submarine technology.

One of the outlets that aggregated the story was Marine Insight. "World's No. 1 complete maritime information website," the "[About](#)" page reads on Marine Insight's website. "Since 2010, Marine Insight has been informing and educating people around the world about the maritime industry."

Marine Insight has since removed the [article](#) about the fictitious magnetohydrodynamic drive. However, the headline "U.S. Navy Unveils World's First Submarine Equipped With Silent Caterpillar Drive" still populates under the site in Google News.

A YouTube channel called "[Military Defense News](#)" published a nearly three-minute video of a computer voice program reading the article, complete with still images of U.S. submarines and dramatic background music.

A Ukrainian news site, [GaGadget](#), even added details not contained in the original article. "The submarine's appearance and characteristics are currently being kept secret, but it is known that the propulsion system is located inside the hull, which means there is no traditional propeller," GaGadget's Mykhailo Stoliar wrote.

The fictitious article was mainly shared by social media-only "news" sites, with varying follower counts ranging from a few hundred to tens of thousands of followers.

Aside from the article's publication date, April 1st, some seemingly overlooked clues should have called to question claims of the U.S. Navy subs being outfitted with new stealth propulsion drives. Most prominently, editors posted, "***Important update on this article: April Fool's***" at the beginning of the article.

Less obvious, the article notes that the Virginia-class attack submarine, the USS Montana (SSN-794), was expected to conduct sea trials with the new caterpillar drive on the Penobscot River in Maine. In Clancey's fictional spy thriller, Soviet sub-captain Marko Ramius stealthily navigates the Red October to the Penobscot River to defect to the United States.

It's important to note that the fictitious story caught traction primarily among smaller, niche publications rather than mainstream media. The incident underscores the critical need for media consumers to question and verify the sources of their information, particularly in an era where fly-by-night "news" outlets can easily and rapidly spread sensational claims thanks to social media.

Ultimately, Naval News's April Fool's joke served as a humorous reminder of the enduring allure of stealth technology in naval warfare and the importance of skepticism and due diligence in news consumption.

***Tim McMillan is a retired law enforcement executive, investigative reporter and co-founder of The Debrief. His writing typically focuses on defense, national security, the Intelligence Community and topics related to psychology. You can follow Tim on Twitter: [@LtTimMcMillan](#). Tim can be reached by email: [tim@thedebrief.org](mailto:tim@thedebrief.org) or through encrypted email: [LtTimMcMillan@protonmail.com](mailto:LtTimMcMillan@protonmail.com)***

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## U.S. Navy Shipbuilding Running Behind Schedule

<https://gcaptain.com/u-s-navy-shipbuilding-running-behind-schedule/>



PASCAGOULA, Miss. (Jan 26, 2022) — Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro participates in a media interview during a shipyard tour at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Miss., Jan. 26, 2022. U.S. Navy Photo

April 2, 2024

By Mike Stone

WASHINGTON, April 2 (Reuters) – Virginia-class submarines, an aircraft carrier and frigates being built for the U.S. Navy are now years behind schedule because of skilled labor shortages, design issues, and supply chain challenges stemming from the pandemic, the Navy said on Tuesday.

U.S. Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro in January ordered a comprehensive review to examine national and local causes of the challenges to shipbuilding with Tuesday’s results showing that five classes of ships being built for the U.S. Navy were running years behind schedule.

Shipyard labor retention remains a stubborn problem long after the end of the pandemic which led to high retirement rates for older and more skilled workers, Vice Admiral James Downey told reporters at the Pentagon.

“We still have seen attrition continue in a negative direction in multiple regions, in some places its doubled from where it was at the beginning of the pandemic, in other cases it’s more,” Downey said.

The first ship in the new class of Frigate warships, being built at Fincantieri SpA’s Marinette Marine shipyard in Marinette, Wisconsin, was about three years behind, as was the Virginia Class block IV submarine being built by General Dynamics and Huntington Ingalls Industries.

The Virginia block V, a related but separate design with more missile launch tubes, was two years behind, the Navy’s assessment determined.

The Navy’s Columbia Class submarine, capable of launching nuclear missiles, is 12-16 months behind schedule “based on current performance” by the contractors General Dynamics and Huntington.

The year-plus delay beyond a current October 2027 goal is forcing the Navy to examine extending the life of the Ohio Class of nuclear capable submarines, Navy officials told reporters at the Pentagon.

The Navy wants to maintain Columbia as a top priority because it is the launch platform for the sea-launched leg of the nuclear “triad” of nuclear-tipped weapons which also include ground-based inter-continental ballistic missiles and nuclear-capable bomber aircraft.

The Navy also said the Ford Class aircraft carrier, CVN 80, was running 18-26 months behind schedule, an estimate based on current performance. Previously it had been scheduled for delivery in 2028.

**Reuters**



**The Age of the Submarine: Over By 2050?**

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/age-submarine-over-2050-210392>

4/4/2024

For all the concerns from submarine advocates about the Navy not prioritizing this essential power projection platform enough, there is a chance that, like its aircraft carrier cousins, the submarine may become obsolete soon.

by Brandon J. Weichert

**Summary:** The US military's reliance on traditional warfare methods, like aircraft carriers, faces challenges in the modern era of anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) strategies, making them increasingly obsolete. The alternative, submarines, particularly the Virginia-class, are crucial yet insufficient due to budget and industrial limitations. Moreover, the emergence of unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs), coupled with artificial intelligence and advanced detection technologies, threatens to render submarines obsolete as well. Despite these advancements, submarines remain vital in current great power dynamics, especially against China, highlighting the need for continued adaptation in military strategies to maintain effectiveness in future conflicts.

**Submarines in the Age of Modern Warfare: Navigating New Threat**

## Boeing Orca AUV: A Silent Hunter for PLA Submarines

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0mO9BceGqE>

The face of warfare may be changing but its basic principles remain timeless. Yet, failure to adapt to the changing nature of conflict could lead to defeat. The United States military has become complacent since the end of the Cold War. It has clung onto the tactics and equipment of the previous era of warfare for too long. The aircraft carrier is quickly becoming an obsolete system in the age of anti-access/area denial (A2/AD). Until A2/AD can be overcome, the flat tops will be increasingly useless.

An alternative form of power projection is the submarine. The United States Navy lacks a sufficient number of submarines to sustain itself in a protracted conflict with a near-peer rival, such as China. Its defense industrial base, meanwhile, is sclerotic at best. Still, investments have been made to build new submarines. The *Virginia-class submarine* is one of the best, new classes of submarines in the US Navy fleet. Sadly, because of budgetary constraints and the limitations of America's weak defense industrial base, there are not enough *Virginia-class* submarines available for when a great power conflict erupts.

### A Possible End of the Submarine

For all the concerns from submarine advocates like me about the Navy not prioritizing this essential power projection platform enough, there is a chance that, like its aircraft carrier cousins, the submarine may become obsolete soon. That's because of the rise of unmanned underwater vehicles (UUV). While unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) get all the spotlight from the press, UUVs are increasingly prevalent in the maritime domain. What's more, they are an evolving threat against which there is little defense.

As time progresses, the major countries of the world will expand the capabilities of their respective UUV arsenals. UUVs are maneuverable, hard to track, and can be deployed in ways that make it nearly impossible for larger manned vessels to evade their destructive capabilities.

It gets scarier for submarines when that UUV threat is married to rising artificial intelligence capabilities as well as to a growing coterie of advanced detection satellites, such as China's Project Guanlan (which means "watching the big waves"), which uses sophisticated, multi-colored lasers to track the movement of submarines when they are underwater by monitoring movement of waves.

Many fear that the eerie green laser show over Hawaii that a Japanese research team recorded on January 28, 2023, was one of these laser submarine tracking satellites on display. As for artificial intelligence, a US, AI-driven satellite made history as it was able to identify and track hundreds of "dark vessels" just based on information that various satellites collected on the Earth's oceans. The same techniques can be applied by an advanced military, such as America's or China's, to hunt and kill US submarines.

One study found that the entire concept of manned submarines would be obsolete by 2050, given the technological advances mentioned above. Of course, one can never know what the future will hold.

### The Great Power Rivalry

What is certain is that, in the remainder of the 2020s, there is a great power war brewing. The United States is not in the most advantageous strategic position. Submarines today are highly important and may prove to be decisive in any great power conflict—especially with China over Taiwan.

### Submarines – Extreme Technology – Big Bigger Biggest

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Esapb0gT3w>

Still, submarine enthusiasts like me must be aware of the dangers of letting drone technology developments, or the enhancements of artificial intelligence and spy satellites dissuade US war planners away from using submarines as they should be used in combat. Whatever machine apocalypse may be on the horizon, it is not yet here. Until UUVs, AIs, and laser satellite tracking of subs is a reliable feature, American submariners should not expect to be kept out of fighting.

Until that day, however, US submarines should stay in the fight.

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## USNI News

### AUKUS Partners Working Through Reality of Submarine Pact, Officials Say

<https://news.usni.org/2024/04/09/aukus-partners-working-through-reality-of-submarine-pact-officials-say>

By John Grady

4/9/2024

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. – According to the commander of U.S. submarine forces, the Australian-United Kingdom-United States agreement means “more subs forward” to deter Chinese territorial ambitions in the Indo-Pacific.

Speaking Monday at the Navy League 2024 Sea-Air-Space exposition, Vice Adm. Robert Goucher didn't see the agreement leading to a drop in the availability of long-range, nuclear-powered submarines required in those waters when the allies' numbers are counted in addition to the United States.

This “great capacity ... is a game changer” when it comes to security in the Indo-Pacific, the U.K.'s Vice Adm. Martin Connell, Second Sea Lord, added.

The Navy has 49 nuclear-powered attack submarines in the fleet against a requirement of 66.

Under the AUKUS agreement, Australia would buy three Virginia-class submarines as a bridge until Canberra builds its own. General Dynamics Electric Boat and Huntington Ingalls Newport News Shipbuilding have yet to meet the Navy's delivery targets of two Virginia-class subs per year, raising questions on Capitol Hill about the agreement's effect on U.S. security.

The two shipyards are delivering 1.3 boats annually. The Navy's budget request for Fiscal Year 2025 only calls for one new Virginia hull.

Electric Boat and Newport News team to build both Virginia and Columbia class submarines.

Goucher cited other benefits of the AUKUS pact, including enhanced “surge capacity” if a crisis threatens to erupt into conflict, increased interoperability among the allies' submarine fleets and modernization and expansion of the domestic submarine industrial bases in all three nations.

Australia has six conventionally-powered submarines in service.

Connell saw in the agreement's Pillar 1, Australia eventually having its own nuclear-powered submarine fleet, the opportunity for greater information-sharing among the three. He also said learning from each other's shipyard practices could benefit the partners and how they apply to technology different tasks.

“It has been a challenge,” Pat Conroy, Australia's minister for defense industry, said, but there has been important movement since the agreement was announced in September 2021. He mentioned Australian naval officers in U.S. propulsion school and deploying on operations as important early steps.

During the session, the panelists cited major projects already under: the \$4.9 billion contract London awarded to BAE and Babcock to build the first “SSN AUKUS” submarines and Rolls Royce to build their reactors; and Canberra's commitment to spend \$4.6 billion to ready its uniformed and civilian workforces, build shipyard infrastructure in Adelaide and upgrade its submarine base at Stirling to homeport and maintain and repair U.S. and Australian Virginia-class subs.

Additional funds for submarine industrial base modernization top the Navy's list of unfunded requirements for the coming year.

Goucher and the others said the process leading to Canberra building its own nuclear-powered submarine is “conditioned based.” He compared it to steps to receive a driver's license, “starting with the learning permit”.

For starters on the civilian side, Conroy said Australia needs to be conducting nuclear submarine maintenance and has sent its shipyard workers to the United Kingdom and the United States to learn what has worked for them in 70 years of building and maintaining these submarines.

“It can be a great learning environment,” Connell added. “I think that's a significant opportunity.”

Goucher said the learning will follow the rigorous procedures established by Vice Adm. Hyman Rickover as the Navy entered the nuclear era.

Under current timelines, Australia would have a U.S. manufactured submarine they can operate in the early 2030s. Goucher added, “if there's a problem they can phone home.”

He and Connell said if there's a slip in some part of the program, there could be advances ahead of schedule to keep the program moving.

Connell said the design phase for the new submarine “is relatively mature,” but “it is really important [the Australians] get comfortable” with the final product.

The key to success in the industrial base, the panelists agreed, is recruiting, training and retaining a greatly expanded workforce. Connell said the United Kingdom's shipyard workforce of 11,000 was expected to add about 5,500 and Rolls Royce's 4,000 employees dedicated to its nuclear work will double.

The steps being taken now, such as the \$11.7 billion already earmarked for the submarine industrial base, the submarine shipyard is the improvement "is the best investment we make short and long term.

"There are things we have to do now to have submarines in the water by 2042," Conroy said.

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## The National Interest

### Submarines Could Be the Chinese Navy's Achilles Heel

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/submarines-could-be-chinese-navys-achilles-heel-210477>

4/9/2024

by [Harrison Kass](#)

China has failed to develop a submarine fleet capable of competing with the United States Navy. That could create huge problems in a future war, as many analysts think could happen if tensions keep rising. Last year, the U.S. Naval Institute published an essay by Mike Sweeney claiming that "[Submarines Will Reign in a War with China](#)." The essay, as you might expect, suggested that the submarine—rather than the aircraft carrier—will be the most important naval vessel of the future.

Were submarines to reign supreme in the future of naval warfare, the United States would benefit, as China has failed to develop a submarine fleet capable of competing with the Americans.

#### The era of the submarine?

Sweeney's essay echoed the sentiments of noted historian John Keegan, who argued in the 1980s that of the two most important naval platforms to emerge during World War II (the aircraft carrier and the submarine) it was the submarine that would prove more vital to future warfare.

"The aircraft carrier, whatever realistic scenario or action is drawn...will be exposed to a wider range of threats than the submarine must face," Keegan wrote. "In a shoreward context, it risks attack not only by carrier-borne but also by land-based aircraft, land-based missiles, and the submarine itself."

Keegan's insights drew heavily upon the only significant naval engagement fought since the conclusion of World War II, the Falkland Islands War. During the conflict, the British navy was confronted with a new threat (anti-ship cruise missiles, or ASCMs) and an old threat, the submarine. The Argentinians, defending the Falkland Islands, deployed the *San Luis* diesel-powered submarine. Despite being poorly maintained, despite being staffed with a poorly trained crew, the *San Luis* proved troublesome for the relatively advanced British navy. The British navy deployed a submarine, too, the nuclear-powered HMS *Conqueror*, which sank Argentina's *General Belgrano* cruiser, scaring the Argentine Navy to port for the rest of the conflict. Keegan believed that the threat submarines (and ASCMs) posed would prove insurmountable and un-survivable, causing the oceans to become "empty," with future combatants engaging only beneath the surface of the waves.

Now, Keegan's prediction hangs over the heads of U.S. war planners prepping for conflict with China.

"Increased threats to aircraft carriers and other surface combatants from "land-based aircraft, land-based missiles, and the submarine itself" is a fair description of the anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) capabilities China has developed," Sweeney wrote. "More broadly, the future of undersea warfare is likely to be a major determinant of the long-term military balance between China and the United States."

#### Preparing for China

China is currently amid one of world history's most ambitious shipbuilding sprees, a modernization "remarkable in its scope and success," according to Sweeney. Yet, despite the scope and success, China's navy has failed to produce high-quality nuclear submarines. Whereas the United States (and Soviets) were able to achieve sophisticated quieting technology decades ago, the Chinese SSN, the *Shang*-class, "is estimated to be on par with Soviet designs from the 1970s, before the quieting breakthroughs that produced the *Akula*." And "China's SSBNs, the *Jin*-class, have noise levels comparable to Soviet SSBNs that first put to sea more than four decades ago," Sweeney wrote.

Accordingly, without capable nuclear-powered submarines, Sweeney argues, the Chinese navy will

“remain a regional navy.” True, China has built the capabilities to challenge U.S. supremacy in the narrowly defined “western Pacific,” but that “does not equate to a global challenge to U.S. naval superiority.” In order to compete with the United States on a global level, “China would have to expand its expeditionary operations and a central part of that would need to be vastly improved undersea warfare capabilities.”

About the Author: Harrison Kass

*Harrison Kass is a defense and national security writer with over 1,000 total pieces on issues involving global affairs. An attorney, pilot, guitarist, and minor pro hockey player, Harrison joined the US Air Force as a Pilot Trainee but was medically discharged. Harrison holds a BA from Lake Forest College, a JD from the University of Oregon, and an MA from New York University. Harrison listens to Dokken.*



## The National Interest

### The U.S. Navy's Great Ohio-Class Submarine Mistake

4/19/2024

by Maya Carlin

The U.S. Navy plans to retire the first two Ohio-Class SSGNs in 2026, and the last two in 2028. While new Block V Virginia-class fast attack subs can be equipped with four vertical launch tubes capable of holding 28 TLAMs, the Navy needs many of these submarines to make up for the lost firepower of the retiring SSGNs.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/us-navys-great-ohio-class-submarine-mistake-210653>

Summary: The Ohio-class submarines, initially built during the Cold War, played a critical role in America's nuclear deterrence strategy as part of the nuclear triad.

- Post-Cold War adjustments led to the conversion of four of these submarines into guided missile submarines (SSGNs), enhancing their tactical versatility. These SSGNs can carry 154 Tomahawk missiles and support special operations forces, functioning as underwater joint command centers with advanced communication systems.
- However, with the planned retirement of these SSGNs by 2028 and the slow production rates of the newer Virginia-class Block V submarines, the U.S. Navy faces a gap in capabilities.

#### U.S. Navy Faces Strategic Gap with Planned Retirement of Ohio-Class SSGNs

The U.S. military hammered out its strategic nuclear deterrence doctrine by the 1970s. Deterrence would be accomplished by the nuclear triad, which would meld the forces of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles with the U.S. Air Force's strategic bombers and the Navy's ballistic missile submarines. While the Navy was already fielding submarine-launched ballistic missiles aboard its Lafayette-class boats, the survivability of this leg of the triad was given great weight, so a new submarine was developed: the Ohio class.

The first Ohio's were built starting in the early 1980s. They were conceived around the idea of extended patrols – the subs would loiter in undisclosed locations, prepared to launch a retaliatory nuclear strike. These large, quiet submarines were virtually undetectable.

#### An Overview of the SSGN Designation for the Ohio-Class Submarines

The fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War prompted the U.S. government to undertake a Nuclear Posture Review in 1994. One of its major determinations was that only 14 ballistic missile submarines, or SSBNs, were needed. The Navy already had 18 SSBNs in operation or under construction, so the four oldest boats were converted into guided missile boats.

In this configuration, the subs, known as SSGNs, can carry 154 Tomahawk land attack missiles (TLAMs) as well as torpedo-launched Harpoon anti-ship missiles – as many as an entire surface battle group. The SSGNs also have much greater flexibility than their ballistic-missile brethren. The vertical launch system (VLS) tubes for the TLAMs can carry supplies, extending the on-station time of the sub as well as providing support for up to 66 members of special forces teams.

These teams can also make use of the two VLS tubes that have been converted into swimmer lockout trunks. For even greater flexibility, the SSGNs can mount the Dry Combat Submersible, a mini-sub used

by special forces for ingress and egress. In order to coordinate the actions of these special forces, the SSGNs house improved communications equipment, which allows them to function as Small Combatant Joint Command Centers.

### Retiring These SSGNs With No Replacement?

The Navy plans to retire the first two SSGNs in 2026, and the last two in 2028. While new Block V Virginia-class fast attack subs can be equipped with four vertical launch tubes capable of holding 28 TLAMs, the Navy needs many of these submarines to make up for the lost firepower of the retiring SSGNs.

Further complicating the picture is the prioritization of Columbia-class SSBNs, which are of the highest strategic importance. Current production timelines mean the Navy would not have the necessary numbers of Virginia-class Block V boats until the 2040s.

While the Block V Virginia ships would make up for lost firepower, they cannot replicate the flexibility of the SSGNs. For this reason, and given how long it will take to replace them, the Navy should maintain some, if not all, of its current fleet of SSGNs.

As the world grows more dangerous and tensions rise, the multi-mission set of these Ohio-class boats, their ability to launch a large ground attack – as they did against targets in Libya in 2011 – and their support of surface vessels makes them an invaluable asset that the Navy should be loath to dismantle.

About the Author: Maya Carlin

*Maya Carlin, National Security Writer with The National Interest, is an analyst with the Center for Security Policy and a former Anna Sobol Levy Fellow at IDC Herzliya in Israel. She has by-lines in many publications, including The National Interest, Jerusalem Post, and Times of Israel. You can follow her on Twitter: @MayaCarlin.*



## The US Navy Ships and Submarines Being Decommissioned This Year

<https://247wallst.com/special-report/2024/04/12/the-us-navy-ships-and-submarines-being-decommissioned-this-year/>

Chris Lange

Published: April 12, 2024 12:30 pm

As 2024 is currently underway, the United States Navy is once again pressed with the question of reevaluating its fleet. Each year the U.S. Navy introduces and decommissions ships within its fleet in an attempt to maintain an effective fighting force. Typically, the ships selected for decommissioning are approaching the end of their service life. (This is [the newest ship in the U.S. Navy.](#))

In fiscal 2025, the Navy plans to decommission 19 ships in an effort to maintain operational efficiency of the fleet. This process marks an important milestone in the life of a naval vessel and the transition to a new role outside of active service, whether it be for scrap, preservation or even repurposing.

Here 24/7 Wall St. is taking a closer look at the ships planned for decommissioning in the coming year. To determine the ships the U.S. Navy plans to decommission in fiscal 2025, 24/7 Wall St. reviewed reports from the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. We ordered these ships and submarines alphabetically. We also included supplemental information regarding the hull number, class, type and commissioning date of each vessel.

Out of all the ships on the chopping block for the coming year, there are a few main classes that are seeing notable reductions in their numbers. The Avenger-class, Spearhead-class, and Ticonderoga-class each have four ships that are being decommissioned. There are also three Los Angeles-class attack submarines that are being taken out of the service as well.

One interesting thing to note is that a couple of Independence-class littoral combat ships are being removed from active service despite having been commissioned less than a decade ago. However, the reduction of littoral combat ships within the U.S. Navy is more of a budgetary issue than these ships actually aging out. (These are [the future ships and submarines of the U.S. Navy.](#))



**USS Helena SSN-725**

Source: usnavy / Flickr  
**Class:** Los Angeles-class  
**Type:** Attack submarine  
**Commission date:** July 11, 1987



**USS Pasadena SSN-752**

Source: usnavy / Flickr  
**Class:** Los Angeles-class  
**Type:** Attack submarine  
**Commission date:** February 11, 1989



**USS Topeka SSN-754**

Source: usnavy / Flickr  
**Class:** Los Angeles-class  
**Type:** Attack submarine  
**Commission date:** October 21, 1989

(These are the future ships and current submarines of the U.S. Navy.)



**USS Delaware SSN-791**

Source: usnavy / Flickr  
**Commission date:** 4/4/2020  
**Unit type:** Attack submarine  
**Class:** Virginia-class



**USS Vermont SSN-792**

Source: usnavy / Flickr  
**Commission date:** 4/18/2020  
**Unit type:** Attack submarine  
**Class:** Virginia-class



**USS Oregon SSN-793**

Source: usnavy / Flickr  
**Commission date:** 5/28/2022  
**Unit type:** Attack submarine  
**Class:** Virginia-class





### USS Montana SSN-794

Source: Public Domain / Wikimedia Commons

**Commission date:** 6/25/2022

**Unit type:** Attack submarine

**Class:** Virginia-class



## Business Insider

### See the 10 types of new US Navy warships plagued by shipbuilding delays

[See the 10 types of new US Navy warships plagued by shipbuilding delays \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/defense/see-the-10-types-of-new-us-navy-warships-plagued-by-shipbuilding-delays)

by [insider@insider.com](mailto:insider@insider.com) (Lauren Frias)

4/17/24

- The US Navy's highly-anticipated shipbuilding projects are years behind schedule, a review found.
- The Navy attributed the delays to pandemic-related supply chain issues.
- The delayed warships include submarines, guided missile destroyers, and a new aircraft carrier.

All of the US Navy's highly anticipated shipbuilding projects face yearslong delays, the service said earlier this month.

The delayed ships include a new fleet of Virginia-class attack submarines, guided-missile destroyers, and a new Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carrier.

The announcement came after a 45-day review ordered by Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro in January. The review identified the "shortfalls" that caused the delays, including labor shortages and supply chain issues.

Speaking at the Navy League's Sea Air Space conference on April 9, Del Toro said the review found that "too many of our industry partners are behind schedule and over budget on our highest priority programs."

Del Toro also said the Navy's Office of Strategic Assessment will perform a "deep dive" to find solutions to address the delays, including advanced material procurement and multi-ship buys.

"I think there's a lot of promise about being able to reduce those timelines into the future," he said.

The major delays come amid concerns that China is outpacing American shipbuilding and increasing its naval capabilities. The US Department of Defense said China now has "the largest navy in the world with a battle force of over 370 platforms," and it is only expected to grow — with up to 435 ships by the end of the decade.

But China isn't the only shipbuilding superpower in the Indo-Pacific. The Navy secretary said he and his team were "floored" by US ally South Korea's shipbuilding capabilities.

In a February statement, the Navy recognized Korean and Japanese shipbuilding as an asset to the US as "China continues to aggressively pursue worldwide shipbuilding dominance."

### Ballistic missile submarines

With the US Navy's submarine fleet carrying about 70% of the deployed US nuclear arsenal, the service's highest priority shipbuilding program is a new fleet of "boomers" to carry them.

In June 2022, the Navy laid the keel for the future District of Columbia, the lead ship of the upcoming class of nuclear-powered ballistic missile subs that will replace the 14 existing Ohio-class submarines.

The Columbia-class submarines will be the largest submarines ever built by the US, measuring 560 feet long and 43 feet wide. The Columbia is designed to carry Mk 48 Advanced Capability torpedoes and 16 Trident II D5 nuclear ballistic missiles. It will also feature "superior acoustic performance and state-of-the-art sensors to make it the most capable and quiet submarine ever built," according to the Navy.

Construction on the first-in-class submarine began in 2021, designed in collaboration between General Dy-

namics' Electric Boat and Hill's Newport News. The stern of the boat was delivered to a facility in Rhode Island in January 2024.

The Navy plans to build 12 Columbia-class boats in a \$136 billion contract, with the District of Columbia and future Wisconsin being the only two ordered so far.

However, the Navy's review found that the lead ship's delivery could be pushed back at least 12 to 16 months. The District of Columbia was scheduled to deliver in October 2027, the same year the first Ohio-class submarine, USS Henry M. Jackson, is set to decommission. The delays, brought on by ballooning costs, workforce shortages, and late supply deliveries, could prompt the Navy to keep its aging Ohio-class submarines a while longer.

"A delay of that length would make it more likely for the Navy to implement its backup plan to extend the service lives of up to five Ohio-class by a little bit," Ronald O'Rourke, a naval analyst for the Congressional Research Service, told Bloomberg. "There would be some cost for doing those service life extensions."

**Virginia Block IV submarines**

Pandemic-related supply chain issues and workforce shortages also impacted the upcoming Block IV Virginia-class fast-attack submarines, putting the program three years behind schedule.

These attack submarines are contracted to Electric Boat and Newport News, the same shipbuilders and suppliers as the higher-priority Columbia-class boats.

Virginia Block IV submarines differ from Block III in that the design is focused on reducing procurement costs and maintenance periods through smaller-scale design changes. Block IV boats will still have the same armament as Block III, carrying Mk 48 torpedos and Tomahawk cruise missiles.

Four of the 10 submarines in Block IV are in service: USS Vermont, Oregon, Montana, and Hyman G. Rickover. Three Block IV vessels have yet to be commissioned — PCUs New Jersey, Iowa, and Massachusetts — and three are still under construction — PCUs Idaho, Arkansas, and Utah.

**Virginia Block V submarines**

Ten Virginia-class Block V attack submarines are also under construction in a \$24.1 billion contract awarded to Electric Boat and Newport News in December 2019, the Navy's largest-ever shipbuilding contract.

According to a report from the Congressional Research Service, the design of Block V boats differs from that of Block IV boats by about 20%, including acoustic superiority, additional payload tubes, and a high-resolution photonic mast.



The Block V submarine is designed to be 461 feet and displace 10,200 tons, making it the second-largest US submarine behind the Ohio class.

The additional length comes from the Virginia Payload Module, an 84-foot-long extension that expands the sub's missile capacity. With the VPM, Block V boats increase the number of Tomahawk missiles they can carry from 12 to 40. The VPM can also be used to store and deploy additional payloads, such as missiles, seabed sensors, or sea drones.

While the Virginia-class boats are not as well-armed as the Seawolf-class fast-attack submarines, the Block V boats will be equipped with a larger launcher that can deploy advanced hypersonic missile technology as it becomes available, including a new version of the anti-ship Maritime Strike Tomahawk.

Three boats have been laid down so far, PCUs Oklahoma, Arizona, and Tang, with another seven ordered that have yet to begin construction.

However, the Block V submarines have faced problems since they were ordered in 2019, with insufficient staffing and workforce efficiency potentially pushing back their projected delivery by an average of two years.



**Ghost Shark: The huge stealth advantage of autonomous submarines**

<https://newatlas.com/military/ghost-shark-autonomous-fleet-submarine/>

Australia's robotic submarine program is a year ahead of schedule as the government takes delivery of the first Ghost Shark Extra-Large Autonomous Undersea Vehicle (XL-AUV) prototype, with three more to follow next year.

The Australian defense sector has had a reputation for being something of a backwater, but the increasing importance of the Indo-Pacific region, saber rattling by China, and North Korea taking missile pot shots over Japan has changed that. Today, the Australian defense budget is undergoing a massive increase, there's a greater emphasis on domestic defense production, and the Royal Australian Navy is working with the US, Britain, and (perhaps) Japan to acquire long-range nuclear attack submarines capable of operating north of the continent.



Part of this new strategy involves developing autonomous platforms that can act as force multipliers. Instead of just sending out submarine patrols, Canberra wants to include autonomous drones that can operate for long durations without a crew to increase the capabilities of the patrols.

Developed by the Defence Department and Anduril Australia along with industry partners, Ghost Shark is described as "Mission Zero" for the government's Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator (ASCA). The craft is part of the government's project to build or acquire subsea warfare capabilities and new autonomous and uncrewed underwater vehicles, which was supposed to take three years to create the first prototype but is ahead of schedule.

Though not many details have been given about the specifications of the craft, it's smaller than a conventional submarine because it doesn't require the pressure-proof hull for a crew or the complex sound-deadening equipment needed to muffle the noise of the submariners' moving about and their life support equipment. Instead, the machinery and electronics are set in watertight modules.

When deployed, Ghost Shark will allow the Royal Australian Navy to carry out stealthy, long-range autonomous undersea warfare with persistent intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and strike capabilities. The craft will be able to work with Navy and allied vessels as part of the AUKUS treaty.

"This collaboration combines Navy's expertise, ASCA's speed to delivery, Defence's scientific smarts and Anduril Australia's experience in agile innovation," said Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond. "We are a nation girt by sea, and the Ghost Shark is one of the tools we are developing for the Navy to patrol and protect our oceans and our connection to the world."

Source: [Australian Government](#)



**Night Guardian is in Los Angeles, CA.**

**April 15 at 10:02 PM** · From a shipmate's FB post.

**How Do people survive U.S Submarine?**

Surviving on a U.S. submarine involves various factors, including specialized training, reliable equipment, effective procedures, and teamwork among the crew. Here's how people survive on a U.S. submarine:

**Training:** Crew members undergo extensive training before serving on a submarine. This includes submarine operations, emergency procedures, firefighting, damage control, and survival techniques specific to the underwater environment. Training ensures that crew members are prepared to handle the challenges of submarine life and respond effectively to emergencies.

**Life Support Systems:** Submarines are equipped with advanced life support systems that provide breathable air, potable water, and temperature control for the crew. These systems are crucial for sustaining life during long deployments underwater. Crew members rely on these systems to maintain their health and well-being.

**Food and Supplies:** Submarines carry a supply of food, water, and other essential supplies to sustain the crew for extended periods while submerged. These supplies are carefully managed to ensure that the crew has enough to last throughout the deployment. Crew members depend on these provisions for nourishment and hydration.

**Emergency Procedures:** Submarines have detailed emergency procedures in place to address various scenarios, including fire, flooding, and equipment failures. Crew members are trained to respond quickly and effectively.

fectively to emergencies to ensure the safety of the submarine and its crew. Regular drills and exercises help prepare crew members for emergency situations.

Escape Systems: While submarines are designed to withstand the pressures of the deep ocean, they also have escape systems in place in case of emergencies. These systems may include escape trunks, rescue chambers, and specialized equipment to facilitate evacuation from a disabled submarine. Crew members rely on these systems as a last resort for survival.

Communication: Submarines maintain communication with other naval assets and command centers using secure communication systems. Crew members have access to communication channels for receiving orders, relaying status reports, and requesting assistance if needed. Communication is essential for coordinating operations and ensuring the safety of the crew.

Crew Morale: Maintaining crew morale is important for ensuring the well-being of the crew during long deployments. Submarines often have recreational facilities and programs to help keep crew members occupied and maintain their mental health. Positive morale contributes to a cohesive team and enhances the overall effectiveness of the crew.

Overall, surviving on a U.S. submarine requires a combination of training, resources, and teamwork. Crew members must be prepared to overcome challenges and work together to ensure the success of the mission and the safety of everyone onboard.



### Military Zone

4/21/2024

### **USS Jimmy Carter: The Navy Has a Spy Submarine That Can't Be Matched**

Read more: <https://amznewspaper.com/uss-jimmy-carter-the-navy-has-a.../>

Over the past two decades, the United States Navy has operated a very special submarine that has gotten little attention in the media – likely because its missions have been classified. In fact, we likely won't ever know some of the places this boat has sailed or what those missions may have been.

**It is the U.S. Jimmy Carter (SSN-23), a nuclear-powered attack submarine that was commissioned in February 2005.**



It is just one of three Seawolf-class subs in service, but also the only one modified for Seabed Warfare – those unreported missions deep below the waters that can target critical infrastructure such as power cables, telecom cables, and even natural resource extraction systems.

Only a handful of nations have the capabilities required to conduct such operations, and it requires a submarine-like SSN-23 to accomplish the missions.

The U.S. Navy's Block VI Virginia-class submarines are expected to employ seabed warfare equipment, while the Russian

Navy's submarine Losharik is believed capable of such operations.

### **The Seawolf-Class**

Designed to address the threat of Soviet ballistic missile submarines, and to replace the aging Los Angeles-class of attack submarines, the Seawolf-class of nuclear-powered fast attack submarines (SSN) has been described as the best of the best.

A total of 29 boats were to be constructed over a 10-year period – a number that was then reduced to 12 – but only three were launched. By the time USS Seawolf (SSN-21) and USS (SSN-22) hit the water, however, the Soviet Union had collapsed.

Cost was an issue. At approximately \$3 – \$3.5 billion per vessel, the boats were simply too expensive, especially in the wake of changing global geopolitics. Instead, the United States Navy opted for the smaller and more cost-effective Virginia-class submarine program.

The fast attack subs were equipped with an advanced suite of electronics, including a 24-foot diameter spherical sonar array mounted in the bow, a wide-aperture flank array sonar mounted on the sides, and the recent-

ly added ability to carry a towed-array sonar. Each of the three SSNs of the Seawolf-class further features a modular design that has allowed for later upgrades including weapons development and better sonar systems, and even today, these remain somewhat “future proof.”

The boats lack external weapons, but each was designed with eight torpedo tubes – twice as many as the Los Angeles-class, along with a double-deck torpedo room to allow for simultaneous engagement of multiple threats. It also had a 30 percent increase in weapons magazine providing storage for a combination of up to 50 Mark 47 heavyweight torpedoes, Sub-Harpoon anti-ship missiles, and Tomahawk missiles.

The Seawolf class is equipped with a strengthened sail that permits operations under the polar ice cap and has the highest speed of any U.S. submarine. As importantly, the design efforts focused on noise reduction – it was up to 70 times quieter than the initial generation of Los Angeles-class boats and 10 times quieter than the Improved Los Angeles submarines.

**USS Jimmy Carter – A Spy Boat?**

Larger and more advanced than the other two Seawolf boats that were developed in the 1980s, USS Jimmy Carter has likely been tasked with some of the US Navy’s most secretive missions. Due to extensive modifications from the original design, it is even described as a subclass.

The boat is the only submarine to be named for a living former president – due to the fact that former President Carter became a submariner after he received his B.S. degree from the United States Naval Academy in 1946. During his naval career, he rose to the rank of lieutenant and served in both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets.

Laid down in 1998, launched in 2004, and commissioned in 2005, the USS Jimmy Carter is one of the most sophisticated attack submarines ever built. Power is supplied from a single S6W series reactor, which provides an unlimited ocean-going range, while she has an underwater speed in excess of 25 knots.

It isn’t the speed that makes the boat notable, however.

The larger size of the attack submarine is due to a modification that included adding special thrusters fore and aft that allows the sub to remain stationary underwater, as well as a 100-foot hull extension known as the Multi-Mission Platform (MMP), essentially an underwater hanger,. It allows SSN-23 to carry remotely operated vehicles, cable spools, special-operations craft, and other advanced technologies needed to carry out classified operations and “enhanced warfighting capabilities.” The MMP, essentially an underwater hanger, can be used to deploy Navy SEALs or other special operations forces.

**The exact types of missions USS Jimmy Carter has conducted in the past 18 years remain classified.**

Yet, the submarine has been seen returning to port flying the “skull and crossbones,” a tradition among submarine crews that its mission was conducted successfully. The boat has Battle Efficiency awards and a Presidential Unit Citation, suggesting it has conducted some important – and likely even dangerous – missions. This may have included tapping undersea fiber-optic communications and conducting intelligence-gathering missions.

We may not know what missions the boat was involved in, but it should be noted that the motto of the USS Jimmy Carter is “Semper Optima” (“Always the Best”) – and it certainly does seem to be very good at what it does.



**USNI News**

**HII Delivers Attack Boat New Jersey to Navy**

By Sam Lagrone

APRIL 25, 2024 11:00 AM

<https://news.usni.org/2024/04/25/hii-delivers-attack-boat-new-jersey-to-navy>

New Jersey (SSN-796) during sea trials in 2024. HII Photo

HII Newport News Shipbuilding has delivered the 23rd Virginia-class nuclear attack submarine to the U.S. Navy, the company announced in a Thursday statement.

*New Jersey* (SSN-796) is the fifth Block IV Virginia attack boat and the first designed from the keel up to accommodate mixed gender crews. The boat completed sea trials earlier this year off the coast of Virginia.

“It is a proud day for our entire team when we deliver a high-quality submarine like *New Jersey* to the fleet,” Jason Ward, HII’s vice president of *Virginia*-class submarine construction, said in a statement. “We applaud our shipbuilders for delivering this critical capability to the fleet, while maintaining our highest standards of safety and quality.”

*New Jersey* plans to commission in September in New Jersey, according to the commissioning committee. Delivery of *New Jersey* comes as builders HII Newport News Shipbuilding and General Dynamics Electric Boat wrestle with a backlog of submarine construction.

Both yards have faced delays in delivering Virginia attack boats due to both workforce shortages and supply chain issues that were complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to meet the demands of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. obligation to the AUKUS agreement with Australia and the U.K., the yards need to deliver at the pace of 2.33 boats a year. At the moment the delivery rate is about 1.3.

Originally laid down in 2019, *New Jersey*’s construction took about five years – two years longer than the first Block IV boat.



### Seawolf Class SSN

Facebook post, 4/25/2024



The Seawolf-class submarine was designed and built by the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut, United States. The lead ship of the class, USS Seawolf (SSN-21), was laid down in 1989 and commissioned in 1997. The construction of the Seawolf-class submarines represented a significant advancement in submarine technology and capability for the United States Navy.



Here are some key points about the construction of the Seawolf-class submarines:

**Design Process:** The design of the Seawolf-class submarines began in the 1980s as a successor to the Los Angeles-class submarines. The design focused on stealth, speed, endurance, and multi-mission capability to meet evolving threats and operational requirements.



**Construction Techniques:** The Seawolf-class submarines were constructed using advanced techniques and materials to achieve stealth and reduce acoustic signature. These included specialized hull shaping, anechoic coatings, and sound-isolation mounts to minimize noise emissions and enhance survivability.

**Nuclear Propulsion:** Each Seawolf-class submarine is powered by a nuclear reactor, providing virtually unlimited endurance and high speed for long-duration submerged operations. The nuclear propulsion system allows the submarines to operate independently of external support for extended periods.

**Advanced Systems:** The Seawolf-class submarines are equipped with advanced sensor and weapon systems, including sonar arrays, torpedo tubes, vertical launch systems (VLS), and a wide range of torpedoes, missiles, and mines. These systems enable the submarines to perform a variety of missions effectively.

**Commissioning:** A total of three Seawolf-class submarines were planned, but only three were ultimately built due to cost considerations. In addition to USS Seawolf (SSN-21), the other two submarines in the class are USS Connecticut (SSN-22) and USS Jimmy Carter (SSN-23). Each submarine underwent extensive sea trials and testing before being commissioned into the U.S. Navy.

Overall, the construction of the Seawolf-class submarines represented a significant investment in advanced submarine technology and capability, providing the U.S. Navy with a highly capable and versatile platform for various missions in support of national security objectives.



### USS Kentucky Greets Kentucky Derby

<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/921056/uss-kentucky-greets-kentucky-derby>

UNITED STATES

04.26.2024

Courtesy Video

[Commander, Submarine Group Nine](#)

240426-N-N0869-1001 BANGOR, Wash. (Apr. 26, 2024) The blue and gold crews of the Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine USS Kentucky (SSBN 737) send a greeting to the participants of the annual Kentucky Derby from Bangor, Washington, April 26, 2024. Kentucky is one of eight Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines homeported at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. (U.S. Navy video by Submarine Group 9 Public Affairs)

**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/may-1.html>

5/01/1943 – USS Pogy (SS 266), in attack on a Japanese convoy, torpedoes and sinks the Japanese gunboat Keishin Maru off Iwaki, Japan.

5/02/1942 – USS Drum (SS 228) sinks Japanese seaplane carrier, and USS Trout (SS 202) sinks a Japanese freighter off the southeast coast of Honshu.

5/02/1945 – USS Springer (SS 414) torpedoes and sinks the Japanese frigate in the Yellow Sea and then sinks a Japanese coastal defense ship the next day.

5/03/1942 – USS Spearfish (SS 190) evacuates naval and military officers, including nurses, from Corregidor before surrendering island to Japan.

5/03/2008 – USS North Carolina (SSN 777) is commissioned at Port of Wilmington, N.C., before sailing for its homeport of Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Conn.

5/05/2007 – USS Hawaii (SSN 776) is commissioned at Groton, Conn. The Virginia-class submarine, the first to be named after the Aloha State, arrives at its homeport of Pearl Harbor July 23, 2009 following her maiden underway period.

5/10/1944 – USS Cod (SS 224) attacks a large Japanese convoy and destroyer off the west coast of Luzon. USS Silversides (SS 236) attacks a Japanese convoy about 120 miles south-southwest of Guam.

5/10/1960 – USS Triton (SSRN 586), commanded by Capt. Edward L. Beach, completes a submerged circumnavigation of the world in 84 days following many of the routes taken by Magellan.

5/14/1944 – USS Bonefish (SS 223) attacks a Japanese convoy bound for Sibitu Passage, Borneo, and sinks Japanese destroyer Inazuma near TawiTawi, east of Borneo and survives counter-attacks by Japanese destroyer Hibiki.

5/14/1944 – USS Aspro (SS 309) and USS Bowfin (SS 287) attack a Japanese convoy and sinks cargo ship BisanMaru.

5/15/1930 – The streamlined submarine (V 5) is commissioned, then named Narwhal in Feb. 1931, and receives the hull number (SS 167) that July. During World War II, Narwhal participates in 15 war patrols, serving in the Pacific Theatre, earning 15 battle stars.

5/15/1969 – The pre-commissioned submarine Guitarro (SSN 665) accidentally sinks while moored at U.S. Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Calif. Due to the damage, her commissioning date is rescheduled to Sept. 1972.

5/17/1942 – USS *Tautog* (SS-199) sinks Japanese submarine *I-28*; USS *Triton* (SS-201) sinks the Japanese submarine *I-64*, and USS *Skipjack* (SS-184) sinks a Japanese army transport ship.

5/20/1944 – USS Angler (SS 240) sinks Japanese transport Otori Maru and survives depth charging by its escort, while both USS Silversides (SS 236) and USS Bluegill (SS 242) sink enemy vessels.

5/21/1983 – USS Albuquerque (SSN 706) is commissioned at Submarine Base New London, Groton, Conn.

5/22/1968 – USS Scorpion (SSN 589) is lost with her crew south-west of the Azores. In late Oct. 1968, her remains are found on the sea floor more than 10,000 feet below the surface by a deep-submergence vehicle towed from USNS Mizar (T-AGOR-11).

5/23/1939 – USS Squalus (SS 192) suffers a catastrophic main induction valve failure during a test dive off the New Hampshire coast and is partially flooded, killing 26 crew members.

5/24/1939 – Vice Adm. Allan McCann's Rescue Chamber is first used to rescue 33 men from the sunken USS Squalus (SS 192). Four Navy divers receive the Medal of Honor for their heroic actions on May 24-25 to rescue the trapped men.

5/25/1944 – USS Flying Fish (SS 229) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks guardboat Daito Maru and freighter Osaka Maru north of Palau.

5/25/1985 – USS Alabama (SN 731) is commissioned at Naval Submarine Base New London, Conn.

5/26/1943 – USS Saury (SS 189) attacks a Japanese convoy south of Kyushu and sinks transport Kagi Maru, about 10 miles north of the Nansei Shoto. Also on this date, USS Whale (SS 239) sinks Japanese gunboat Shoei Maru (which is transporting men of the Guam Base Detachment) about 17 miles north-northwest of Rota, Mariana Islands.

5/27/1943 – USS Runner (SS 275) departs Midway for her third war patrol but is never heard from again. Overdue and presumed lost in July 1943, she is struck from the Navy list that October.

5/28/1943 – USS Peto (SS 265) sinks Japanese hydrographic-meteorological research ship Tenkai No.2 northeast of Mussau Island.

5/28/1943 – USS Tunny (SS 282) sinks Japanese gunboat Shotoku Maru off the west coast of Rota, Mariana Islands.

5/28/1945 – USS Ray (SS 271) sinks Japanese freighter Biko Maru northwest of Changshan.

5/28/1945 – USS Blueback (SS 326) and USS Lamprey (SS 372) damage Japanese submarine chaser Ch1 in a surface gunnery action off Japara, N.E.I.

5/29/1945 – USS Sterlet (SS 392) sinks Japanese army cargo ships Kuretake Maru and Tenyro Maru despite the close proximity of the escort Coast Defense Ship No. 65.

5/30/1944 – USS Guitarro (SS 363) sinks Japanese freighter Shisen Maru, 60 miles south-east of Keelung, Formosa.

5/30/1944 – USS Pompon (SS 267) sinks Japanese freighter Shiga Maru off Muroto Saki, Japan while USS Rasher (SS 269) sinks the gunboat Anshu Maru about 110 miles north-northeast of Halmahera.

5/30/1945 – USS Blenny (SS 324) sinks Japanese cargo ship Hokoku Maru 40 miles southwest of Banjarmasin, Borneo while USS Croaker (SS 246) sinks Shuttle Boat (No.154) and Shuttle Boat (No. 146).

5/31/1944 – USS Barb (SS 220) and USS Herring (SS 233) attack Japanese shipping in the Sea of Okhotsk about 150 miles west of Matsuwa Island, Kuril Islands, sinking several ships.

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Facebook posts:

### **United States Submarine Veterans**

4/22/2024

USS GRENADIER (SS-210)



Lost on April 22, 1943 near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet, Grenadier was bombed, causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane. While she shot down the plane. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 76 crew members taken prisoner, 72 survived the war. Grenadier was 1 of 2 boats assigned to the state of



New York by the US Submarine Veterans of WWII. Her memorial is located in the [Official Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park](#) in Buffalo NY which is also home of the USS Croaker (SS-246) and the USS Boston (SSN-703) sail.

<https://youtu.be/YulktUDb3ro>

<https://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-grenadier-210-loss.html>

Also see: [USSVI Central Texas Base](#)

4/22/2024

This boat always brings back some memories for a few here in the Central Texas Base. We recognize and remember the entire boat and crew but many of us had the good fortune of meeting and knowing at least one member of the crew that survived the sinking and 2 years as a POW. His name was Tim McCoy. Introduced to Tim through another good shipmate and friend, Phil Jaskoviak, who has also now departed from us, the author of this post was fortunate enough to become friends with and visit with Tim every few weeks for the last few years before he departed. He was a special man as we are sure all of the crew of the Grenadier was. Here's a little about Tim. <https://www.legacy.com/.../name/charles-mccoy-obituary...>

Sailors - Rest Your Oars



### U.S. Naval Undersea Museum

March 30 at 12:00 PM ·

The history-making submarine USS Seawolf (SSN 575) was commissioned [#OnThisDay](#) in 1957!

Seawolf was the:

- Only U.S. Navy submarine with a sodium-cooled nuclear reactor
- World's first ship powered by a sodium reactor
- World's second nuclear-powered submarine

Seawolf's sodium S2G reactor — developed concurrently with the water-cooled reactor placed in USS Nautilus (SSN 571) — was ultimately rejected due to performance problems, higher cost, and safety concerns over sodium's high chemical reactivity. In 1959, the Navy replaced Seawolf's sodium S2G reactor with a spare water-cooled S2Wa reactor from the Nautilus test program.

Seawolf was primarily an experimental submarine, used as a one-off test platform for the sodium reactor. She was decommissioned on March 30, 1987, with exactly 30 years of service.



USS Seawolf during fitting-out process after launching. Fitting-out of a nuclear submarine includes installation of the reactor and eventual dockside testing of the power plant ahead of sea trials.



USS Seawolf during sea trials.



Lt. Charles Orem, gunnery officer, peers through the periscope in Seawolf's conning tower, April 1957.



### **PAUL HARVEY'S LETTER TO HIS GRANDCHILDREN**

We tried so hard to make things better for our kids that we made them worse. For my grandchildren, I'd like better.

I'd really like for them to know about hand me down clothes and homemade ice cream and leftover meat loaf sandwiches. I really would.

I hope you learn humility by being humiliated, and that you learn honesty by being cheated.

I hope you learn to make your own bed and mow the lawn and wash the car.

And I really hope nobody gives you a brand-new car when you are sixteen.

It will be good if at least one time you can see puppies born and your old dog put to sleep.

I hope you get a black eye fighting for something you believe in.

I hope you have to share a bedroom with your younger brother/sister. And it's all right if you have to draw a line down the middle of the room, but when he wants to crawl under the covers with you because he's scared, I hope you let him.

When you want to see a movie and your little brother/sister wants to tag along, I hope you'll let him/her.

I hope you have to walk uphill to school with your friends and that you live in a town where you can do it safely.

On rainy days when you have to catch a ride, I hope you don't ask your driver to drop you two blocks away so you won't be seen riding with someone as uncool as your Mom.

If you want a slingshot, I hope your dad teaches you how to make one instead of buying one.

I hope you learn to dig in the dirt and read books.

When you learn to use computers, I hope you also learn to add and subtract in your head.

I hope you get teased by your friends when you have your first crush on a boy / girl, and when you talk back to your mother that you learn what ivory soap tastes like.

May you skin your knee climbing a mountain, burn your hand on a stove and stick your tongue on a frozen flagpole.

I don't care if you try a beer once, but I hope you don't like it... And if a friend offers you dope or a joint, I hope

you realize he/she is not your friend.

I sure hope you make time to sit on a porch with your Grandma/Grandpa and go fishing with your Uncle.

May you feel sorrow at a funeral and joy during the holidays.

I hope your mother punishes you when you throw a baseball through your neighbor's window and that she hugs you and kisses you at Christmas time when you give her a plaster mold of your hand.

These things I wish for you - tough times and disappointment, hard work and happiness. To me, it's the only way to appreciate life.



### **How did we live in the past?**

A young man asked his grandfather,

"Grandpa, how did you live in the past without technology . . .without computers, without drones, without bitcoins, without Internet connection, without TVs, without air conditioners, without cars, without mobile phones?"

Grandpa answered:

"Just as your generation lives today . . .no prayers, no compassion, no respect, no GMRC, no real education, poor personality, there is no human kindness, there is no shame, there is no modesty, there is no honesty.

We, the people born between the years 1930-1980, were the blessed ones. Our lives are a living proof."

- While playing and riding a bike, we have never worn a helmet.
- After school we did our homework ourselves and we always played in meadows until sunset
- We played with real friends, not virtual friends.
- If we were thirsty, we would drink from the fountain, from the waterfalls, faucet water, not mineral water.
- We never worried and get sick even as we shared the same cup or plate with our friends.
- We never gained weight by eating bread and pasta every day.
- Nothing happened to our feet despite walking barefoot.
- We never used food supplements to stay healthy.
- We used to make our own toys and play with them.

Our parents were not rich. They gave us love, not material gifts.

- We never had a cell phone, DVD, PSP, game console, Xbox, video games, PC, laptop, internet chat, but we had true friends.
- We visited our friends without being invited and shared and enjoyed the food with their family.
- Parents lived nearby to take advantage of family time.
- We may have had black and white photos, but you can find colorful memories in these photos.
- We are a unique and the most understanding generation, because we are the last generation that listened to their parents.
- And we are also the first ones who were forced to listen to their children.~

We are limited edition. Take advantage of us. Learn from us. We are a treasure destined to disappear soon.



### **"Why did God create evil?"**

This is probably the best answer I've ever heard to the question, "Why did God create evil?"

READ THIS...

Why did God create evil? The answer struck me to the core of my soul!

A professor at the university asked his students the following question:

"Everything that exists was created by God?"

One student bravely answered:

"Yes, created by God."

"Did God create everything?" - The professor asked.

"Yes, sir," replied the student.

The professor asked :

"If God created everything, then God created evil, since it exists. And according to the principle that our deeds define ourselves, then God is evil."

The student became silent after hearing such an answer. The professor was very pleased with himself. He boasted to students for proving once again that faith in God is a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said:

"Can I ask you a question, professor?"

"Of course," replied the professor.

The student got up and asked:

"Professor, is cold a thing?"

"What kind of question? Of course it exists. Have you ever been cold?"

Students laughed at the young man's question. The young man answered:

"Actually, sir, cold doesn't exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is actually the absence of heat. A person or object can be studied on whether it has or transmits energy.

Absolute zero (-460 degrees Fahrenheit) is a complete absence of heat. All matter becomes inert and unable to react at this temperature. Cold does not exist. We created this word to describe what we feel in the absence of heat."

The student continued:

"Professor, does darkness exist?"

"Of course it exists."

"You're wrong again, sir. Darkness also does not exist. Darkness is actually the absence of light. We can study the light but not the darkness. We can use Newton's prism to spread white light across multiple colors and explore the different wavelengths of each color. You can't measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into the world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you tell how dark a certain space is? You measure how much light is presented. Isn't it so? Darkness is a term man uses to describe what happens in the absence of light."

In the end, the young man asked the professor:

"Sir, does evil exist?"

"This time it was uncertain," the professor answered:

"Of course, as I said before. We see him every day. Cruelty, numerous crimes and violence throughout the world. These examples are nothing but a manifestation of evil."

To this, the student answered:

"Evil does not exist, sir, or at least it does not exist for itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is like darkness and cold - a man-made word to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is not faith or love, which exist as light and warmth. Evil is the result of the absence of Divine love in the human heart. It's the kind of cold that comes when there is no heat, or the kind of darkness that comes when there's no light."

The student's name was Albert Einstein.



ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure?

WITNESS: No. ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing?

WITNESS: No. ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

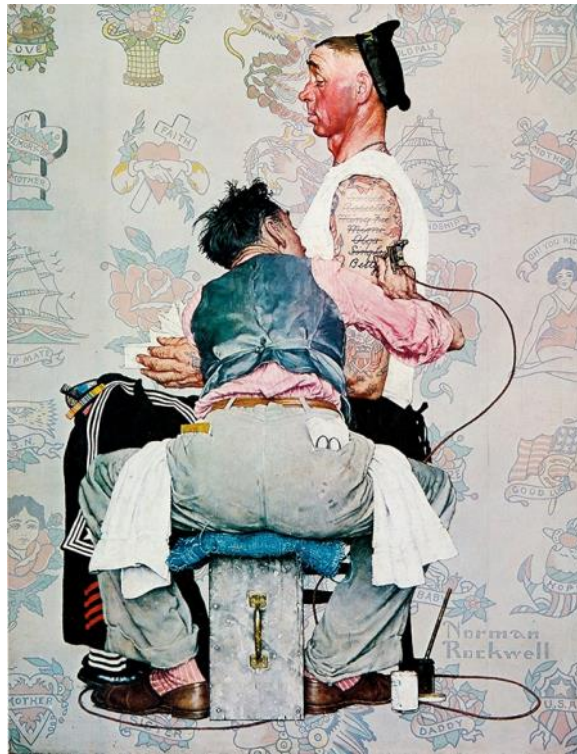
ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.

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**Today I learned that if  
you flip a canoe over, you  
can wear it as a hat....  
Because it's cap-sized.**



Holland Club



Current USSVI Central Texas Base Holland Club Members

Member's Name	Joined USSVI CTB	Joined USSVI	Qual Yr	Boat	Rate
Atkins, Clifford E.	4/20/05	5/29/00	1952	SS-404	TM1(SS)
Pitts, Jack T	2/5/08	28/28/08	1953	SS-323	RM3(SS)
Witte, Richard E.	5/13/05	4/6/06	1959	SS-336	STCM(SS)
McMaude, Gordon	8/15/19	9/19/19	1959	SS-398	IC3(SS)
Gee, James T	11/21/07	10/1/99	1960	SS-565	LCDR
Brinkman, William G.	3/31/04	1/20/03	1960	SS-405	EM2(SS)
Jackson Sr, Harold B.	4/1/09	10/1/99	1960	SSN-579	EN2(SS)
Whittingslow, Walter	9/5/04	9/5/04	1960	SSR-572	QM2(SS)
Patterson, Jr, Ralph A	6/20/09	6/25/09	1960	SS-243	CAPT
Scott II, Harold W	5/18/11	6/2/11	1961	SS-242	STSCS(SS)
Odom, John E	10/1/18	10/11/18	1961	SS-242	EN3(SS)
Roberts, John J	6/26/18	2/28/13	1962	SS-522	ET1(SS)
Wakefield, Robert G	12/6/08	4/25/91	1963	SS-396	TM1(SS)
Wilgeroth, Sr, Raymond G	3/31/04	7/13/93	1963	SS-385	RMC(SS)
Steinmann, Bob	5/15/04	5/26/04	1963	SSN-584	YNC(SS)
McCoy, William	5/19/07	5/24/07	1963	SS-339	CWO4
Koenig, John Weldon	7/20/11	8/4/11	1963	SSN-579	RDML
Onderdonk III, Garret D	6/18/11	6/30/11	1963	SS-269	TM2(SS)
Whitenack, Gene	2/18/15	3/12/15	1963	SS-421	TM3(SS)
Andree, James	9/16/23	10/26/23	1963	SS-385	ETR3(SS)
Holloway, Dentous	8/15/12	9/13/12	1964	SS-525	YNC(SS)
Beason, Richard E.	4/12/21	4/15/21	1964	SSBN-608	LCDR
Craven, DDS, Paul	3/31/04	2/5/04	1965	SSBN-630	ETN2(SS)
Bellinghausen, Jr., William A.	9/21/08	10/2/08	1965	SSN-586	ICC(SS)
Amato, Sam	12/7/18	12/27/08	1967	SS-323	QM3(SS)DV
Thormahlen, Jack L	6/8/13	6/27/13	1968	SS-489	EM3(SS)
Jackson, William	1/1/05	11/23/05	1968	SS-406	EM2(SS)
Bellinoff, Jack	10/21/09	10/22/09	1968	SS-403	ETR2(SS)
Zieser, John J.	1/19/18	4/22/10	1968	SSBN-656	FTCM(SS/SW)
Dallman, Kenneth Lesley	10/18/23	9/29/16	1968	SSBN-635	MM2(SS)
Carr, III, Edward	12/6/21	1/6/22	1969	SS-339	STS1(SS)
Story Jr, Calvin S.	11/20/19	11/28/19	1969	SSR-573	RM2(SS)
Lewis, David	7/19/23	7/6/23	1969	SS-407	SN(SS)
Kruppa, Joseph D.	11/15/05	11/23/05	1970	SSBN-642	MM1(SS)
Messing, Dale	6/16/21	7/15/21	1970	SSBN-645	LT
Claycamp, Virgil	7/10/19	9/19/19	1970	SSBN-608	MT1(SS)
Sprague, Thomas	11/20/13	11/28/13	1971	SSBN-635	ET3SS
Gauthier, Michael L.	6/28/19	7/11/19	1971	SSBN-608	RMCM(SS)
McGriff, Donald K.	4/16/15	5/14/15	1972	SSBN-616	FTBC(SS)
Hall, Eugene	3/21/06	3/10/98	1972	SSN-662	CMDCM(SS)
Boyer, Harry J	10/21/09	10/22/09	1972	SSBN-620	ETC(SS)
Miller, David A.	4/23/15	4/23/15	1972	SSN-653	YN2(SS)
Goertz, Charles David	5/29/23	6/8/2023	1973	SSBN-642	ETN2(SS)
King, Jerry D	12/22/09	1/7/10	1974	SSBN-635	STS2(SS)
Abernathy, Franklin	8/25/15	10/1/15	1974	SSBN-599	ET1(SS)



*MORE SHIPMATES IN ACTION*

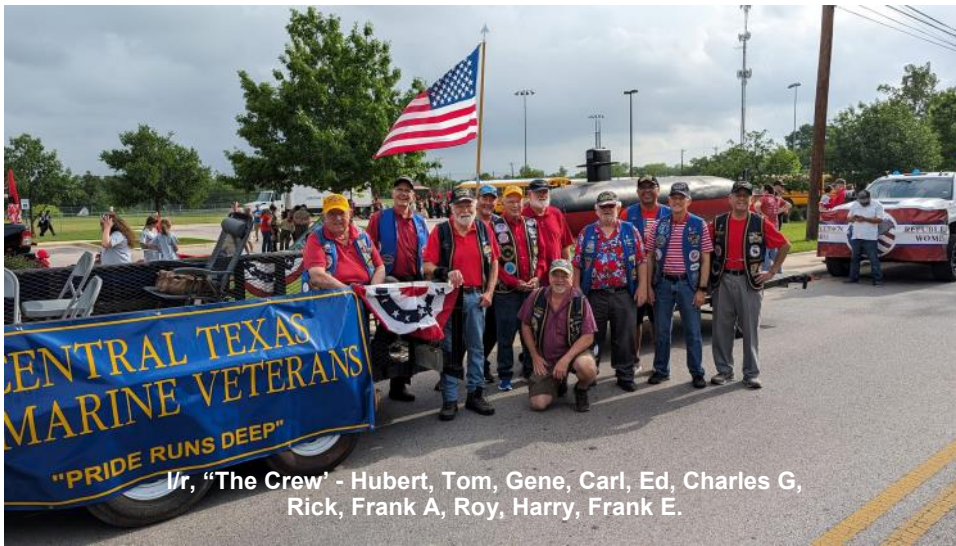
**Red Poppy Festival - Facebook Post**

**[USSVI Central Texas Base – Members Group](#)**

4/27/2024

Here's today's parade crew getting ready for the Red Poppy Festival parade. Technical difficulties prevented any in parade pics but that gave us more time to hand out candy. Great crowds and reception, Georgetown, we always feel welcome and privileged to be here.

Hopefully you all have seen the parade pics on our [USSVI Central Texas Base](#) page already but if not here's one for you and you can go to the page for the rest. Thanks a bunch to the [USSVI Brazos Valley SubVets](#) for the loaner and also thanks to [Gene Hall](#) and Gene Whitenack for all there help moving the floats and trailers yesterday and today!



l/r, "The Crew" - Hubert, Tom, Gene, Carl, Ed, Charles G, Rick, Frank A, Roy, Harry, Frank E.



c/w, Hubert, Tom, Gene, Harry



l/r, Harry, Hubert, Carl, Roy



l/r, Tom & Hubert



c/w, Hubert, Ed, Charles G, Carl, Gene, Tom, & Frank A?