

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2018**

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1100 on September 8, 2018 at the American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA, and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Debbie Bishop, Steve Bishop, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Mickey Garverick, Bob Glover, Brian Haller, Steve Jaeger, Darlene Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Terry Nelson, Paul Nelson, Michael Niblack, Mike Varone, Anita Varone, and Woody Woodworth. (16 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The COB, Mike Varone, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

After a moment of silence, the Chaplain read the list of boats lost in the month of September. These were:

USS S-5 (SS-110)	Sep 01, 1920
USS Grayling (SS-209)	Sep 09, 1943
USS Pompano (SS-181)	Sep 25, 1943
USS S-51 (SS-162)	Sep 25, 1925
USS Cisco (SS-290)	Sep 28, 1943

The COB rang the ship's bell twice in Remembrance of the 24 NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIUM:

RDML Thomas J. Porter, USN, Ret. - August 25, 2018
CAPT Bill Weisensee, USN, Ret. – Ret. - August 11, 2018
CAPT David L. Self, USN, Ret.- January 5, 2018
CDR Lee Bert Findly, USN, Ret. – November 28, 2016

HISTORICAL MOMENT

Our Base Historian, Woody Woodworth, presented a short synopsis of the USS Grayling (SS-209).

Following war's end, the Japanese submitted the following reports which bear on Grayling: 1. On 27 August 1943 a torpedo attack was seen by the enemy at 12 degrees- 36 minutes N, 121 degrees -33 minutes E. 2. The next day a surfaced submarine was seen at 12 degrees – 50 minutes N, 121 degrees – 42 minutes E, Both of these positions are in the Tablas Strait area. On 9 September a surfaced US submarine was seen inside Lingayen Gulf . This ties with Grayling's orders to patrol the approaches to Manila. It is said that the freighter – transport HOKUAN MARU was engaged in a submarine action on the 9th in the Philippine area, but no additional data is available, and no known enemy attacks could have sunk Grayling. Her loss may have been perational or by an unrecorded enemy attack. At any rate, it is certain that Grayling was lost between 9 and 12 September, 1943. COMTASKFOR 71 requested a transmission from

Grayling on 12 September, but did not receive a reply. USS Grayling was never heard from, and was declared “presumed lost” on 30 September 1943.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the August meeting were distributed by e-mail. The minutes were accepted as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, presented the following:

Starting balance:	\$ 8,088.50
Receipts:	\$ 92.34
Expenditures:	\$ 0.00
Ending balance:	\$ 8,180.84
Minus remaining Walmart 2016/2017 Grant Restricted use K4K funds	\$ 1,269.40
Grand total (discretionary)	\$ 6,911.44

2018 NOVA USSVI Charitable Foundation K4K funds
Total: \$ 922.44

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Steve Jaeger: 81 members comprised of:

- 41 Holland Club members,
 - 4 WW II Members
- 30 Regular members, and
- 10 Associate members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

CDR: No Executive Committee Board of Directors meeting was held this month.

VCDR: Nothing to report (NTR)

CHIEF OF THE BOAT: NTR

PAO:

- Delegate Timothy Hugo and former Delegate Rich Anderson are in discussions to propose a bill in the 2019 VA General Assembly to name a road or bridge honoring U.S. Submarine Veterans.
- CNO Adm. John Richardson has named Fleet Master Chief Russell Smith as the Navy's 15th MCPON. For further details visit <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2018/08/29/navy-names-fleet-master-chief-russell-smith-new-top-enlisted-leader.html>
- The Woodbridge ELKS Lodge PAO has contacted us and invited our members to join their November 17th bus trip to Dover Downs Casino. Contact Mike Varone if you are interested. Post Meeting Note: Dover Downs Casino Bus Trip is CANCELLED.

VETERANS AFFAIRS:

- TRICARE Health Benefits and Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) open season for enrolling is from Nov 12 through Dec 10.

STOREKEEPER: Howard Chatham reported that :

- The national SK is taking orders for 2019 USSVI Calendars. Deliveries will begin several weeks after our base orders are submitted. You may order your calendars through the Base for \$10 each calendar. USSVI still doesn't have the theme, but it's probably "Submarines of the Atlantic". Post Meeting Note: the theme has been confirmed as "Submarine Squadrons of the Atlantic Fleet".
- 2018 USSVI Calendars are available at a discounted price.
- He also has several submarine stickers and multiple USSVI NOVA Base patches

K4K: Steve Bishop reported that during our August 22nd visit to Walter Reed we visited our 500th patient bedside since July 2010.

We will visit UVA Medical Center in Charlottesville, VA on Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 1:00 PM.

We will then visit Fairfax INOVA on October 10th at 2:30 PM.

We have contracted to have printed 250 of our crayon-oriented coloring books for the younger patients.

CHAPLAIN: Darlene Jaeger's mother's inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24th at 1245. Attendees are requested to arrive at the Old Post Chapel on Ft. Myer prior to 1200.

SCOUTING COORDINATOR: Chuck Martin reported:

- Recent Eagle Scout Court of Honors: None
- Upcoming Eagle Scout Court of Honors: None

NJROTC / SCHOOL PROGRAM COORDINATOR: NTR**SUBLEAGUE :** Chuck Martin reported that:

- Upcoming NSL Events
 - 2018 Annual Symposium will be held 7-8 November at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, VA. Plan now to attend. Registration will open on the NSL website in September, but discounted rates are available now for booking rooms at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City. To make a reservation, use this link: <https://book.passkey.com/go/NSL36thAnnualSymposium>
 - 2019 Submarine Technology Symposium will be held May 14-16, 2019.
 - Capitol Chapter luncheon is Thursday, 11 October 2018 at the ANCC, 1130-1330.
 - DC Area Submarine Community Fall Social will be held Friday November 16, 2018 at the Ft. Myer Officers Club.
- NSL Library - We have increased our library space and would be grateful if all NSL members who have written books, especially if they involve submarines, would send a complimentary copy to the office for the library. Autographed copies would be even

more exciting! Our mailing address is 1737 King St., Suite 600, Alexandria, VA 22314.

2018 USSVI National Election – [CDR] –

- Voting for the 2018 USSVI National Elections is now open. Each member has the option of voting electronically or by paper. Ballots must be received by the Election Master by 2359 on October 10, 2018. For members for which NOVA Base is your primary base, the following positions and proposals are on the ballot:
 - National Commander
 - National Senior Vice Commander
 - National Junior Vice Commander
 - National Secretary
 - National Treasurer
 - Northeast Region Director
 - Proposed Revised Constitution and Bylaws

OLD BUSINESS

- USS Ling (SS-297), a World War II-era submarine owned by the Submarine Memorial Association which runs the New Jersey Naval Museum in Hackensack, New Jersey has closed its doors.
- ARIZONA SILENT SERVICE MEMORIAL PROJECT – Potential support includes: purchase of pavers (4X8 - \$100, 3 lines; 8X8 - \$200, 6 lines) or sponsor a Lost Boat for \$500. To learn more about this project, please visit their website at www.arizonasilentservicememorial.org
- USSVI Scholarship Fundraiser – Frank Hood, Vice CDR of USSVI Marblehead Base has published a book titled "Poopie Suits and Cowboy Boots" that is about the day-to-day life aboard a US Navy submarine. All proceeds go to the USSVI Scholarship Fund.
- The 2018 USSVI National Convention Caribbean Cruise Registration is still open! You may register and obtain more information by going to <http://www.ussviconvention.org/2018/>
 - Convention/Caribbean Cruise is scheduled for October 21, 2018 through October 28, 2018.
 - The cruise will be departing from the Port of Ft. Lauderdale and making port calls to Half Moon Cay, Bahamas; Ocho Rios, Jamaica; Georgetown, Grand Cayman; and Cozumel, Mexico then returning to Ft. Lauderdale.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2019 USSVI NOVA Base Officers Election
 - 2019 Base Officer positions are Base Commander, Vice Commander, Treasurer, and Secretary.
 - If you are able and desire to volunteer to become a leader in our Base, see any of the current Base Officers. Our Base can only continue to be successful if we have Base Members who are willing to step up to volunteer and support the Base.
 - The election committee of Brian Haller, Woody Woodworth, and Mike Niblack will be contacting the base members living locally to solicit candidates for each of the four elected offices.
 - The Base officer election will be conducted at the December meeting.

- The premier of the movie ‘Hunter Killer’ is Friday October 26, 2018. You can watch the movie trailer at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnP_z3qXDCQ. The movie is based on the book “Firing Point” by George Wallace and Don Keith.
- Mickey Garverick attended a recent meeting at Arlington National Cemetery regarding the creation of a USS Thresher Memorial. \$58,000 has been raised to cover future maintenance of such a memorial. The formal date for a decision is November 8, 2018.

BINNACLE LIST

“PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS.”

Barbara Harmody, Tony Poblete, Ray Stone, Tom Perrault, Susan Frick and Lorraine Sargent.

The Base would like to initiate a **Wellness Check committee / phone call methodology**. This committee would call those NOVA Base members who are 80 years old and older living on the local area who have not attended recent meetings to ensure they are well and to see if there is anything we as a Base can do for them. Mickey Garverick spoke up and volunteered to lead this Wellness Check committee. Membership Chair / Base Chaplain Steve Jaeger will provide Mickey with the roster of the 10-12 Base members over 80 years old.

“FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER.”

The 50/50 raffle drawing was won by Chuck Martin and he donated his winnings back to the base. THANK YOU, CHUCK!

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER ARE: Howard Chatham, Woody Woodworth, Chuck Martin, Dave Oliver, and the words that became the National Anthem written in 1814.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The CDR adjourned the meeting at 11:46 AM.

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE ON OCTOBER 13TH AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 162. OUR GUEST SPEAKER AT THE OCTOBER MEETING WILL BE SGT MAJOR JAMES KUIKEN, USMC, RET. HE IS A DYNAMIC SPEAKER, YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS HEARING HIM.

Sixteen base members met at about 12:15 at Dixie Bones Restaurant in Woodbridge for a luncheon hosted and paid for by the Base.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by
Stephen C Bishop
Secretary, USSVI Northern Virginia Base

Calendar of Events

October

10 October – USSVI Northern Virginia Base Kap(SS) For Kid(SS) Visit

USSVI Northern Virginia Base Kap(SS) For Kid(SS) Team will be visiting INOVA Children Hospital in Falls Church, VA on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 2:30 PM.. Contact Steve Bishop at 703-895-8137 if you would like to join them.

10 October – USSVI National Election Voting Ends

At 2359 October 10, 2018 the voting polls shuts for USSVI National Election.

11 October – NSL Capitol Chapter Luncheon

The NSL Capitol Chapter is hosting a luncheon on Thursday October 11, 2018 at the Army Navy Country Club. The event is from 1130-1330. Our featured speaker is RDML Michael Holland, director, Programming Division, N80, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. See information sheet for additional information.

13 October – USSVI Northern Virginia Base Meeting with guest speaker Sgt Major James Kuiken USMC, Ret.

USSVI Northern Virginia Base meeting will be held at American Legion Post #162 with Sgt Major James Kuiken USMC, Ret. as our guest speaker. The meeting begins at 1100. See information sheet for additional information.

19 October – Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Eagle Scout Connor Given

USSVI Northern Virginia Base will be honoring Eagle Scout Connor Given. His Eagle Scout Court of Honor is Friday October 19 at 1900 in Gainesville, VA. Contact the Base Commander for additional information.

20 October – Potomac NJROTC Annual Drill Meet

Potomac Senior High School is hosting their annual drill meet on 20 Oct 2018 and looking for volunteers. See information sheet for additional information.

21-28 October – 2018 USSVI National Convention Caribbean Cruise

The USSVI Convention/Caribbean Cruise is scheduled for October 21, 2018 through October 28, 2018. The cruise will be departing from the Port of Ft. Lauderdale and making port calls to Half Moon Cay, Bahamas; Ocho Rios, Jamaica; Georgetown, Grand Cayman; and Cozumel, Mexico then returning to Ft. Lauderdale.

24 October – Darlene Jaeger's Mother's inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery

Darlene Jaeger's mother's inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24th at 1245. Attendees are requested to arrive at the Old Post Chapel on Ft. Myer prior to 1200.

26 October – 'Hunter Killer' movie premiers

The premier of 'Hunter Killer' is Friday October 26, 2018. You can watch the movie trailer at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnP_z3qXDCQ. The movie is based on the book, Firing Point, by George Wallace and Don Keith.

November

7-8 November – 2018 Annual Symposium

2018 Annual Symposium will be hosted by Naval Submarine League on 7-8 November at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, VA. Plan now to attend. Registration will open on the NSL website in September.

10 November – USSVI Northern Virginia Base Meeting with Captain Keith Baravik as the guest speaker

USSVI Northern Virginia Base meeting will be held at American Legion Post #162 with Captain Keith Baravik as our guest speaker. The meeting begins at 1100.

12 November – 2018 TRICARE Health and Dental Benefits Open Season

The TRICARE Health Benefits and Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) open season is from November 12 through December 10. During this period TRICARE Prime and Select members can change their health benefits and members of the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) [formerly TRICARE Retiree Dental Program] members can make changes to their dental provider. Visit Tricare.benefeds.com to learn more about FEDVIP open season and to sign up for email alerts. Learn more about the TRICARE Health Benefits open season by visiting Tricare.mil/openseason.

16 November – DC Area Submarine Community Fall Social

The DC Area Submarine Community Fall Social is being held Friday November 16, 2018 at the Ft Myer Officer Club.

NSL Capitol Chapter Fall Meeting on October 12th

The NSL Capitol Chapter Fall Meeting at the Army Navy Country Club on Friday, 12 October. The luncheon will start promptly at 1200. I suggest you plan to arrive early to get a good seat. Doors open at 1130.

Because of increased costs for the luncheon, we are forced to raise our rates. The new rates are:

- Junior Officers - \$30
- Advanced Reservations - \$35
- At-the-Door - \$40
- Midshipmen as always are free

Our featured speaker is **RDML Michael Holland, Director, Programming Division, N80, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations,**

Rear Adm. Michael Holland graduated from Montana State University in 1987 and was commissioned at Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island.

His sea tours include division officer assignments aboard USS Pintado (SSN 672), weapons officer on USS Henry M. Jackson (SSBN 730)(Gold), executive officer on USS Dallas (SSN 700) and commander of USS Providence (SSN 719). While on Providence, the ship completed two deployments to the Western Pacific including a trip around the world as well as a visit to the North Pole.

His shore tours include time in current operations at U.S. Strategic Command as well as being the submarine department head detailee. He was also the Congressional liaison for Submarine Matters in the Navy's budget office and served as the post command deputy at Submarine Development Squadron 12. He was the Atlantic Submarine Force prospective commanding officer instructor as well as commodore of Submarine Squadrons 2 and 4 in Groton, Connecticut. Additionally, he served as the director for operations in the Navy's Budget Office. His most recent assignment was director, Maritime Headquarters, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal and Joint Commendation Medal. He is most proud of his various unit awards, including the Arleigh Burke Trophy that reflect credit on the successful teams with whom he has served.

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Step 1 -- **Make your reservation** - send your reservation request by email to Chapter Secretary, Dixon Hicks, CapitolNSL1@outlook.com, no later than 1600, 5 October.

- Include name(s) as you would like to see it on the preprinted nametag.
- Guests and spouses are welcome (same rate as members). **The NSL is the professional organization for submariners and submarine advocates and I strongly encourage non-members to join** (go to <https://www.navalsubleague.org>). The cost is as low as \$10/year.
- Cancellations are required by 1600, 5 October so that we can set the number of chairs. No refunds will be processed after this date. Of note, \$40.00 will be collected from individuals with reservations who intended to pay at the door and then become "no-show".
- Reservation requests received after the due date are at risk of not being accommodated if seating capacity has been reached.

Step 2 -- **Select a payment option** - payments do not need to be made at the time of reservation.

- Payments can be made by check or credit card (via PayPal) and must be no later than 1600, 5 October to receive the advance rate. Payments are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door per person for the luncheon. JO's/Enlisted personnel pay \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. Midshipmen may attend at no cost.

- To pay by credit/debit card or online bank, go to link: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=FFGZWGHQK3YNU and select how many reservations you desire (may have to paste the link depending upon your firewall). This will log into your PayPal account which you can use to pay. If you don't have **an** account, click the link on the bottom of the PayPal screen "Pay with Debit or Credit Card" and process your payment.

For JO's/Enlisted personnel, email Dixon and he will send you a link for the lower rate.

- To pay by check, make payable to the "Naval Submarine League" and send to Dixon Hicks, 403 W 2ND ST, Frederick, MD 21701-5066. Provide the following information with your check: Names of attendees, email, phone number.

I look forward to seeing you at the lunch.

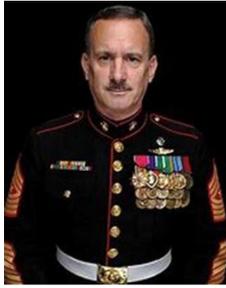
V/R

George

George Wallace, CDR USN (Ret)
President Capitol Chapter
Naval Submarine League
415-672-0517

georgew@rmi.net





Sgt Major James Kuiken USMC, Ret

Guest Speaker at United States
Submarine Veterans meeting
Saturday, October 13 at noon

American Legion Post 162, Lorton VA



- Combat Veteran in seven wars / police actions
- Force Recon “tip of the spear” sniper and intelligence national asset
- Senior enlisted for MEF 1 and MEF 3 in Pacific
- SES in ICE / DHS for IRAQ and other locations
- Purple Heart, Legion of Merit, TBI....
- Advocate for injured returning service women and men so they get the right help when and where needed

A true American Hero - come hear his story and see how he is helping others. Oct 13, 2018 at noon

Potomac Senior High School NJROTC Drill Meet

Potomac is hosting our annual drill meet on 20 Oct 2018, we are looking for volunteers to assist again this year. Your help was great appreciated last year. It is the same format as last year. Judges brief will commence at 0730.

For more information or to volunteer contact either

Chuck Martin
USSVI NOVA Base Commander
cdr@ussvinova.org
240-876-2641 (mobile)

or

MAC Robert A. George Jr. (RET)
Naval Science Instructor (NSI)
NJROTC Potomac High School
3401 Panther Pride Dr.
Dumfries, VA 22026
703-441-4314
georgera@pwcs.edu
george.rob.nsi@navyjrotc.us

USSVI News
&
Other Submarine News Articles

USSVI News

USSVI BOAT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Shipmates,

You know the value you get from reading the American Submariner, and you also know that getting new members for USSVI is necessary for our organization to survive. What better way to reach current Sub sailors in the fleet, our hospitalized vets, our NROTC and JNROTC units, schools, and other potential new members, than through their reading of the latest issue of our great magazine. The Boat Sponsorship Program is designed to do just that.

The cost is only \$30 per year for a total of 12 magazines for the year (three each of the four annual volumes). The subscriptions may be in the name of a Base or an Individual.

Subscriptions activated between now and December 31st will cover all of 2019.

Make Check payable to "USSVI".

Write "Boat Sponsorship Program" on the memo line.

Use a separate sheet of paper to list the boat or facility you want the AS magazine to go to.

Mail check to:

USSVI National Office

PO Box 3870

Silverdale, WA 98383-3870.

Each sponsor will receive the special BSP patch the first time they sponsor. In addition, all sponsors will be entered in the quarterly USS VI boat bottle giveaway contest, a \$500 value (one entry per sponsorship.) I

Un-sponsored Boats as of September 15, 2018

USS COLUMBIA SSN-771

USS CONNECTICUT SSN-22

USS DELAWARE SSN-791

USS GREENEVILLE SSN-772

USS HELENA SSN-725

USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER SSN-795

USS INDIANA SSN-789

USS KENTUCKY BLUE SSBN-737

USS KENTUCKY GOLD SSBN-737

USS MAINE BLUE SSBN-741

USS MONTANA SSN-794

USS NORTH DAKOTA SSN-784

USS VIRGINIA SSN-774

Contact Jack Messersmith at 928-227-7753 or email at messerJ109@GMail.com

Regards,

Wayne Standerfer

NSVC

NEWS-01: USSVI 2019 Calendars

Submitted by: Barry Commons on 8/29/2018

Attention Bases and USSVI Members – The USSVI National Storekeeper is now taking orders for the 2019 calendars. Deliveries will begin mid-September. Order now and receive your calendars prior to the National Convention.

Contact USSVI Northern Virginia Storekeeper, Howard Chatham, to place an order at pastcdr@ussvinova.org.

Barry Commons
USSVI National Storekeeper
2063 Main St. PMB 293 • Oakley, CA 94561
Email: NSK.USSVI@yahoo.com
Tel: (925) 679-1744

NEWS-01: [Remembering Senator John McCain, Captain, US Navy (retired)]

Submitted by: William C. Andrea on 8/30/2018

We remember John McCain as a Naval Officer, a Vietnam Veteran and a POW, for those achievements alone he deserves our respect and the condolences of our membership. His Father and Grandfather were both highly regarded Submarine Admirals and out of respect for them I say Sailor rest your Oar on behalf of the USSVI membership.

John Markiewicz
National Commander

https://www.ussvi.org/Documents/Online_Minutes_John_McCain_Rembered.doc

NEWS-01: THRESHER MEMORIAL AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Submitted by: John E. Markiewicz on 9/7/2018

The required USS Thresher Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) Commemorative Monument proposal package has been reviewed for legislative compliance by the ANC Commemorative Monuments Working Group (CMWG).

The ANC CMWG members are currently in the process of evaluating the merits of our proposal. Major Shannon Way, ANC Strategic Planner, will present a slide on our proposal to the Remember and Explore Subcommittee on September 6th.

The full ANC Advisory Committee will meet this Friday, September 7th from 1030 to 1400. As part of that meeting the Remember and Explore Subcommittee will present the results of their

meeting to the full ANC Advisory Committee, including a slide on our memorial proposal. During the final 15 minutes of the meeting there will be an opportunity for us to make a succinct three minute presentation on the history of Thresher, the men lost, and the impact SUBSAFE has had on our Submarine Force.

We have been allotted 10 seats out the 20 available for the public at the ANC Advisory Committee meeting on September 7th.

Three USS Thresher ANC Memorial Foundation BOD's will be in attendance, RADM John Clarke Orzalli, Tom Wiley, brother of John Joseph Wiley, Lieutenant Junior Grade, USS Thresher and Kevin Galeaz. If you are available, please join with us to demonstrate your support in person. If you plan on attending, please let us know by emailing ThresherMemorial@gmail.com.

The meeting will be held in the ANC Visitors Center "Multi-purpose Conference Room"

Here is a link to the bios of the members of the ANC Advisory Committee who will deliberate and make a recommendation to the Secretary of the Army on our memorial proposal:
<https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/.../Advisory-Commit.../Member>

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NEWS-01: ROSH HASHANAH

Submitted by: John E. Markiewicz on 9/7/2018

The Jewish New Year, Rosh HaShanah, is on September 10th. Happy New Year to our Jewish members.

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NEWS-01: PATRIOT DAY FROM NC JOHN MARKIEWICZ

Submitted by: John E. Markiewicz on 9/11/2018

The following was received from one of our District Commanders, I could not have said it better so I will simply post his message:

17 years ago today I had been residing and working as a contractor to the Royal Saudi Naval Forces at the King Abdul Aziz Naval Base in Al-Jubail, KSA. Like me, each of us has an exact time/place memory which will forever be etched in our souls of the events that would unfold inside the next 24 hours.

On September 11, 2001 at 0846 (EST) was our current generation Pearl Harbor-equivalent. In that moment, life changed for everyone at home and abroad, ashore, at sea, and submerged wherever their duty calls. In my current industry, the USA PATRIOT Act was born of this event. And, life has changed in so many other ways. For those who did not return to their loved ones, make connecting flights, did not escape the hell of the World Trade Center, Pentagon, or an empty field in PA we owe a them a prayer and moment of silence.

To the men and women who would go into harm's way to thwart terrorism and an ideology that would prefer we are not amongst the living we owe them an equal prayer and debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice. Perhaps it's time to take pause from the political wrangling across our Nation and simply be grateful we're alive to experience it all - it's wonderful beauty, majesty, and appreciate the flag of our great nation flying free. God Bless America, and thank you, Shipmates and your families, for your continued commitment, service, and dedication to the United States Submarine Veterans, and the Base you call home.

Pride Runs Deep!

Peter T. Juhos
MMCS(SS/SS1), USN (Ret).
Commander, Western Region District 5
United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

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NEWS-01: YOM KIPPUR

Submitted by: John E. Markiewicz on 9/18/2018

Yom Kippur begins at sundown for our members observing the Day of Atonement, and we wish them a peaceful and easy fast. G'mar Chatimah Tovah.

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NEWS-01: 2018 3rd quarter issue of American Submariner Magazine

Submitted by: William C. Andrea on 9/19/2018

The 2018 3rd quarter issue of the American Submariner Magazine is now posted online. Go to ussvi.org and click on "Documents" and then on "Organization". It is the 3rd item down.

Other Submarine News

The Best American Submarine Documentary by David Hoffman

Submitted by Woody Woodworth

I made this one hour primetime television special in 1986. At the time, it was a big deal for the Navy to let me on one of their submarines. I love the experience and the submariners. This documentary won the blue ribbon at the American Film Festival. As I am an independent filmmaker, I make a portion of my living from selling copies of my films but I have decided, given the number of requests that I have had from ex-Navy men and women, to put the entire film up on YouTube. Please like this if you find watching it of value to you.

YouTube URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Qt7dyhB-jg>

Navy fires CO of submarine Bremerton

NavyTimes article by Geoff Ziezulewicz on August 30, 2018

URL: <https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2018/08/30/navy-fires-co-of-submarine-bremerton/>

Submitted by Ross Sargent

The commander of the submarine Bremerton was fired this week after his superiors lost confidence in his ability to lead his crew, Navy officials said.

Cmdr. Travis Zettel was relieved Monday and has been administratively reassigned to a staff job with Submarine Squadron 19 at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor.

The loss of confidence in Zettel stems from “questions of inappropriate personal conduct,” according to Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Amanda Gray, a spokeswoman with Submarine Group 9.

Gray declined to offer specifics and said that “the squadron investigation and appropriate disciplinary and administrations have not concluded.”

Gray also said the Naval Criminal Investigative Service conducted its own investigation into allegations against Zettel, and that that investigation has been completed.

NCIS officials were not able to immediately respond to questions about the incident by Navy Times.

The 37-year-old Bremerton was the Navy’s longest-serving active-duty submarine before it pulled into Puget Sound Naval Shipyard this spring to begin the decommissioning and deactivation process.

Sub Squadron 19’s deputy commander, Cmdr. David Kaiser, has been named the Bremerton’s interim CO.

Gray said Zettel declined to comment for this story.

He received his commission on Aug. 28, 1998, nearly 20 years to the day of his firing as Bremerton’s commander, according to Navy records.

He came aboard the Bremerton in 2016 and his career included stints with the submarines Pasadena, Nebraska, Louisiana and Salt Lake City.

Zettel’s awards and decorations include three meritorious service medals, a joint service commendation medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, according to Navy records.

Navy fires second sub commander in five days

NavyTimes article by Geoff Ziezulewicz on September 04, 2018

Submitted by Mike Varone

By the end of last week, the Navy had fired two submarine commanders.

The relief of Capt. Gregory R. Kercher, head of the submarine Florida's gold crew, arrived four days after the Navy fired the commanding officer of the [Bremerton](#), Cmdr. Travis Zettel, on Aug. 27.

Kercher's relief was due to a loss of confidence after superiors at U.S. Submarine Forces "became aware of a poor command climate," Cmdr. Sarah Self-Kyler, a SUBFOR spokeswoman, said Monday. Submarine Group 10 "immediately convened an investigation" into the climate, she said.

While that probe remains underway, "sufficient information" was uncovered to relieve Kercher, Self-Kyler said. "The loss of confidence was not due to personal misconduct and (Naval Criminal Investigative Service) is not involved," she said.

Kercher took command of the Florida just more than a year ago, in August 2017, according to personnel records. He could not be reached for comment and has been temporarily reassigned to Submarine Group 10.

Capt. Michael Badorf has assumed command of the Georgia-based boat's gold crew until a permanent replacement is identified.

Kercher's 25-year career included stints aboard the submarines City of Corpus Christi, Tennessee, Columbus, Oklahoma City and Maryland. His removal was first reported by [military.com](#).

[Zettel](#) was relieved as the head of the submarine Bremerton, which is at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Washington state awaiting decommissioning and deactivation. His removal stemmed from "questions of inappropriate personal conduct," Submarine Group 9 officials said last week.

Officials said that the investigation into Zettel remains unfinished and NCIS is conducting its own probe into the unspecified allegations against him.

How a 200-year-old engine is changing sub warfare

We are The Mighty article by Logan Nye on July 25, 2018

URL: <https://www.wearethemighty.com/stirling-engine-stealthy-swedish-submarines?rebellitem=5#rebellitem5>

Submitted by Ross Sargent

Swedish submarines have proven themselves in exercises against the U.S. One of their subs successfully lodged a kill against the USS *Ronald Reagan* as the carrier's protectors stood idly by, incapable of detecting the silent and stealthy Swedish boat. Oddly, the Swedish forces succeeded while using an engine based on a 200-year-old design.

First, a quick background on what engines were available to Sweden when it was looking to upgrade its submarine fleet in the 1980s. They weren't on great terms with the U.S. and they were on worse terms with the Soviets, so getting one of those sweet nuclear submarines that France and England had was unlikely.

Nor was it necessarily the right option for Sweden. Their submarines largely work to protect their home shores. Nuclear boats can operate for weeks or months underwater, but they're noisier than diesel subs running on battery power. Sweden needed to prioritize stealth over range.

But diesel subs, while they can run more quietly under the surface, have a *severe* range problem. Patrols entirely underwater are measured in days, and surfacing in the modern world was getting riskier by the day as satellites kept popping up in space, potentially allowing the U.S. and Soviet Union to spot diesel subs when they came up for air.

So, the Swedish government took a look at an engine originally patented in 1816 as the "Stirling Hot Air Engine." Stirling engines, as simply as we can put it, rely on the changes in pressure of a fluid as it is heated and cooled to drive engine movement.

That probably sounded like gobbledygook, but the important aspects of a Stirling engine for submarine development are simple enough.

- They can work with any fuel or heat source.
- They generate very little vibration or noise.
- They're very efficient, achieving efficiency rates as high as 50 percent while gas and diesel engines are typically 30-45 percent efficient.

Sweden tested a Stirling engine design in a French research vessel in the 1980s and, when it worked well, they modified an older submarine to work with the new engine design. Successes there led to the construction of three brand-new submarines, all with the Stirling engine.

And it's easy to see why the Swedes chose it once the technology was proven. Their Stirling engines are capable of air-independent propulsion, meaning the engines can run and charge the batteries while the sub is completely submerged. So, the boats have a underwater mission endurance measured in weeks instead of days.

But they're still stealthy, much more quiet than nuclear subs, which must constantly pump coolant over their reactors to prevent meltdowns.

So much more stealthy, in fact, that when a single Swedish Gotland-class submarine was tasked during war games to attack the USS Ronald Reagan, it was able to slip undetected past the passive sonars of the carriers, simulate firing its torpedoes, and then slip away.

The sub did so well that the U.S. leased it for a year so they could develop tactics and techniques to defeat it. After all, while Sweden may have the only subs with the Stirling engine, that won't last forever. And the thing that makes them so stealthy isn't restricted to the Stirling design; any air-independent propulsion system could get the same stealthy results.

Shortened to AIP, these are any power systems for a submarine that doesn't require outside oxygen while generating power, and navies are testing everything from diesel to fuel cells to make their own stealthy subs. China claims to have AIP subs in the water, and there is speculation that a future Russian upgrade to the Lada-class will introduce the technology (as of August 2017, the Lada-class did not feature AIP).

So, for the U.S., getting a chance to test their mettle against them could save lives in a future war. And, if it saves a carrier, that alone would save thousands of lives and preserve tons of firepower.

For its part, Sweden is ordering two new submarines in their Type A26 program that will also feature Stirling engines, hopefully providing the stealth necessary to catch Russian subs next time their waters are violated. Surprisingly, these advanced subs are also cheap. The bill to develop and build two A26s and provide the midlife upgrades for two Gotland-Class submarines is less than \$1 billion USD.

Compare that to America's Virginia-Class attack submarines, which cost \$2.7 billion each.

Selected Undersea Warfare News Articles

CNO: New 2nd Fleet Boundary Will Extend North to the Edge of Russian Waters
Sam LaGrone, U.S. Naval Institute News, August 24

ABOARD AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH –

The boundaries of the Navy’s reestablished U.S. 2nd Fleet extends well past the old submarine stomping grounds of the Cold War and into waters north of Scandinavia and the Arctic Circle, near the submarine headquarters of Russia’s Northern Fleet, Chief of Naval Operations John Richardson said on Friday.

“A new 2nd Fleet increases our strategic flexibility to respond — from the Eastern Seaboard to the Barents Sea,” Richardson said. “Second Fleet will approach the North Atlantic as one continuous operational space, and conduct expeditionary fleet operations where and when needed.”

Richardson and new 2nd Fleet commander Vice Adm. Andrew Lewis stressed the standup of the new command was a reflection of the National Defense Strategy from Secretary of Defense James Mattis that signaled a return to “great power competition” with nation-states, rather than the low-intensity ground wars the U.S. has waged since 2001.

“We will not simply pick up where we left off. We are going to aggressively and quickly rebuild this command into an operational warfighting organization,” Lewis said.

Former Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work told USNI News on Friday the extension of the boundary to Russia’s doorstep was in line with the new Mattis-led strategy.

“This truly is about great power competition and demonstrating it to the great powers that we can operate in waters nearby when and where we chose to do so. It’s signaling we’re here. We’re ready to go,” Work said.

“In China we have a rival that is really has a full-spectrum naval capability. The Russians truly are more of an undersea competitor. The best way to get there is to operate in those grounds close to them and not let them break out into the open ocean.”

Former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe retired Adm. James Stavridis told USNI News on Friday the extension of the border was a reflection of new realities in dealing with capabilities of the Russian Navy.

“The new battle space for 2nd Fleet reflects two critical elements: The first is Russia’s desire to extend the distance over which its fleet can roam,” Stavridis said.

“The second is new long-range attack technologies that allow Russia far greater maritime standoff distance.”

While on Bush, Richardson declined to talk to reporters about specific Russian capabilities he views as threats. However, it’s well known the Russian Navy has invested heavily in its attack submarine fleet and its new Kalibir land strike missile with about a 1,000-mile range.

Last year, Russian nuclear attack boat Severodvinsk launched a Kalibir almost 400 miles in a test of their capability to strike land targets from under the sea. The Russians have also demonstrated the missiles as part of Moscow’s military effort in Syria.

While new Russian surface ships field similar missiles, the construction of new ships has stalled due to loss of infrastructure after the Cold War and ongoing manufacturing delays. In contrast, the Russian Navy had always spent more time investing in its submarine force. Combined with the new missiles, Russian submarines can put mainland European cities at risk without leaving the North Atlantic.

The increased capability and standoff distance the Russians can employ drives an increased focus on the North Atlantic, Magnus Nordenman, deputy director of the Scowcroft Center for

Strategy and Security at the Atlantic Council and author of a forthcoming book on GIUK gap, told USNI News on Friday.

“Giving 2nd fleet responsibility up to the Barents recognizes one of the most important aspects of the emerging naval competition in the North Atlantic,” he said. “The action will be in the high north, not around or south of the GIUK gap, and it will not be about defending allied convoys coming across the Atlantic”

While the ceremonial standup of the new command was Aug. 24, the Navy has already moved to employ more ships into the North Atlantic.

As part of the recent Truman Strike Group deployment, a major contingent of U.S. destroyers operated off Norway and in the North Atlantic. Until this year, U.S. destroyers – equipped with a very capable anti-submarine war suite – largely did not exercise in the region.

“Our Atlantic coast guys need a chance to train against good submariners. ... Either they’re doing it with the French or the British for training or for hope of finding a Russian submarine,” Bryan Clark, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, told USNI News in June. “You have to make a special effort to put them there.”

While the reconstituted 2nd Fleet was announced in May, the notion of increasing focus on the North Atlantic has been simmering since the 2014 seizure of Crimea by Russian forces.

In 2016, now-commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe Adm. James Foggo wrote in U.S. Naval Institute’s Proceedings that the Russian sub threat has continued to grow creating a Fourth Battle of the Atlantic.

“Russian submarines are prowling the Atlantic, testing our defenses, confronting our command of the seas, and preparing the complex underwater battlespace to give them an edge in any future conflict,” he wrote. “Not only have Russia’s actions and capabilities increased in alarming and confrontational ways, its national-security policy is aimed at challenging the United States and its NATO allies and partners.”

[USS Alabama Awarded Omaha Trophy MCI Amanda Gray Submarine Group Nine, August 28](#)

BANGOR, WA – The blue and gold crews of USS Alabama (SSBN 731) were presented the Omaha Trophy during a ceremony at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, Wash., Aug. 28. The Omaha Trophy, sponsored by U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) and the USSTRATCOM Consultation Committee (SCC), is given annually to five outstanding units that represent USSTRATCOM’s mission areas, their role in global operations and USSTRATCOM’s continued emphasis on strategic deterrence.

SCC member, Mr. Steven Martin, presented the award on behalf of the committee and the citizens of Omaha, Nebraska.

"Each year at this time, the Strategic Command Consultation Committee looks forward to recognizing the excellence demonstrated by the command’s finest strategic units," said Martin. "On behalf of my 22 Strategic Command Consultation Committee colleagues, we are honored to join STRATCOM in saluting your outstanding achievements as the command’s best unit in the area of ballistic missile submarine operations."

In 2017, Alabama successfully completed three strategic deterrent patrols, totaling 238 days of at-sea operations, while achieving 100 percent strategic and navigation readiness in missions vital to national security. Alabama also received the 2017 Commander, Submarine Squadron 17 Battle Efficiency “E” Award.

“Alabama’s fighting spirit, their total dedication to teamwork and their excellent reputation

for working well together, has contributed significantly to our successes in the past and we will leverage them for our future,” said Cmdr. Jeffrey Yackerren, commanding officer of Alabama’s Blue Crew. “I am incredibly proud of your efforts on the deck plates every single day, at all levels of the chain of command and across all rates. Your desire to rise to the occasion and to knock down all challenges that come your way are motivational to me and I am very thankful to be part of the ship’s contribution.”

The Omaha Trophy, dating back to the U.S. Air Force’s Strategic Air Command, was originally created in 1971 by the Strategic Command Consultation Committee, who were an advisory group comprised of business leaders in the Omaha, Nebraska area.

Gen. John E. Hyten, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, took the opportunity to recognize Alabama’s hard work by assisting with the presentation of the trophy.

“Being selected as the finest ballistic missile submarine in the fleet is an awesome accomplishment, roll tide,” said Hyten. “When you go to sea, you are the 6th most powerful nuclear power in the world. Every day you go out you defend our rights as a nation and as a people, and I love you for it.”

Alabama is one of eight Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines homeported at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, providing the most survivable leg of the nation's strategic deterrent forces.

[USS Chicago Changes Hands](#)

[MCI Daniel Hinton, DVIDS Hub, August 31](#)

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii - The Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Chicago (SSN 721) held a change of command ceremony at the historic USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park in Pearl Harbor, August 31.

Cmdr. Chance Litton relieved Cmdr. Brian E. Turney as the commanding officer of Chicago.

The ceremony's guest speaker, Capt. Dave Soldow, assistant deputy director for Regional Operations on the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington D.C., praised the crew and Turney for their drive and commitment.

"In Submarining nothing matters but the crew’s will to succeed ... Only the collective will to overcome obstacles, move forward and succeed is what matters," said Soldow. "That’s what Chicago has done here led by her skipper, Cmdr. Brian Turney."

Turney thanked his crew and credited them for the ship's success during his tenure.

"As great as this tour has been, I know that I have many people to thank for helping me along this path," said Turney. "I would not have made it here without your help."

Turney credited the boat’s chief’s mess with showing him what it meant to be a submariner and commended the crew for their innovation and determination through deployments and their time in the shipyard.

Turney ended his remarks by telling the crew that their memory will remain with him forever.

"I know that you will continue to get better every day and make yourselves ready and lethal," said Turney. "The adversary should take pause knowing that the warship Chicago is once again ready, and the fleet will soon be regaining one of its best."

During the ceremony, Capt. Paul Davis, commander of Submarine Squadron Seven, presented Turney with a Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding service as commanding officer of Chicago from April 2016 to August 2018.

Following his tour aboard Chicago, Turney will report to Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

As Litton assumed command of Chicago, he thanked Turney for turning over a great warship

and incredible crew.

"I want to thank the officers and crew of Chicago," said Litton. "You have worked so hard to get our ship back in the fight, and we are almost there. You have shown me your optimism for the future and your desire to achieve great things. My real honor and privilege is getting to be your shipmate while we get back to sea and defend our nation."

Chicago was commissioned September 27, 1986, and is the Navy's 34th Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine. Measuring 360 feet long and displacing more than 6,900 tons, Chicago has a crew of approximately 140 Sailors. Chicago is capable of supporting various missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike warfare, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance.

[Navy Analyzes Missile Tube Welding Fixes, Carves New Path for Columbia-Class Sub](#) [Kris Osborn, Defense Maven, September 4](#)

The US Navy is charting a new course for its emerging nuclear armed Columbia-Class ballistic missile submarines while it examines potential fixes to recently discovered welding problems with early construction of some of the boat's missile tubes.

The service is now conducting a range of engineering assessments and analyses to both determine the scope of the problem and explore potential remedies, officials said.

Of greatest significance, perhaps, is that Navy officials tell Warrior Maven they do not expect any delay or major problems with the long-term development of the new submarines.

Developers say the reason for this is simple - Navy planners built-in procedural time and flexibility to allow for adjustments and needed fixes as part of the process along the way.

"The Navy purposely planned for early construction of the Common Missile Compartment including missile tubes and first article quad pack, to mitigate risks such as these, and construction start for Columbia remains on schedule in 2021," William Couch, spokesman for Naval Sea Systems Command, told Warrior Maven.

Accordingly, formal production is still scheduled for 2021 as a key step toward fielding a new generation of nuclear-armed submarines to serve all the way into and beyond the 2080s.

The Columbia-Class, to be operational by the 2028, is a new generation of technically advanced submarines intended to quietly patrol the undersea realm around the world to ensure second-strike ability should the US be hit with a catastrophic nuclear attack.

While the Columbia-Class is intended to replace the existing fleet of Ohio-Class ballistic missile submarines, the new boats include a number of not-yet-seen technologies as well as different configurations when compared with the Ohio-Class. The Columbia-Class will have 16 launch tubes rather than the 24 tubes current on Ohio boats, yet the Columbias will also be about 2-tons larger, according to Navy information.

General Dynamics Electric Boat has begun acquiring long-lead items in anticipation of beginning construction; the process involves acquiring metals, electronics, sonar arrays and other key components necessary to build the submarines.

For many years now, early construction, prototyping and research and development work on the submarine's technologies have been underway - particularly with the missile tubes. Developers with submarine-maker General Dynamics Electric Boat have been working on "tube and hull forging," a process where missile tubes are welded into quadrants or "four packs" before being inserted into larger submarine modules being built for the boats.

The missile tube complication, which has been largely determined to involve only one of several subcontracting vendors building the tubes, is now being resolved. Some of the impacted tubes are now being evaluated.

The subcontractor involved, called BWXT, has already delivered some of the missile tubes to the builder's yard.

"All BWXT welding requiring volumetric inspection has been halted until the investigation is complete," Couch said.

The Navy has not formally accepted delivery of the missile tubes, as they will ultimately be accepted prior to shipment to the UK or at USS Columbia delivery, service officials said.

Navy is working with the UK on a common missile compartment to be used for both the new US Columbia Class and the UK's emerging Dreadnought ballistic missile submarines.

The Navy is working closely with the UK to evaluate impacts to Dreadnought, Couch added.

"Impacts to the delivery of missile tubes to the UK will be assessed upon completion of GDEB's (General Dynamics Electric Boat) efforts to define and scope next steps," Couch said in a statement.

Both the Pentagon and the Navy are approaching this program with a sense of urgency, given the escalation of the current global threat environment. Many senior DoD officials have called the Columbia-Class program as a number one priority across all the services.

"The Columbia-Class submarine program is leveraging enhanced acquisition authorities provided by Congress such as advanced procurement, advanced construction and multi-year continuous production of missile tubes," Couch added in a previous statement.

[Navy Prepares To Commission Future USS Indiana Submarine This Month](#) **[Todd Corillo, WTKR, September 3](#)**

The Navy is getting ready to commission the newest fast-attack submarine into the fleet later this month.

The future USS Indiana (SSN 789) will be commissioned at the Navy Port at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Port Canaveral, Florida on September 29.

The Indiana will be the 16th Virginia-class submarine to join the fleet.

Diane Donald, wife of retired Admiral Kirkland Donald, is sponsoring the submarine. It is the third Navy vessel bearing the Indiana name, but the first submarine to do so.

The Indiana was delivered to the Navy by Newport News Shipbuilding on June 25th. The submarine was built as part of a teaming agreement with General Dynamics Electric Boat.

Construction on the Indiana started back in September 2012.

The Indiana is expected to be stationed in Groton, Connecticut upon commissioning.

[CNO Richardson: Columbia SSBN Program on Track, Help on Margin Needed](#) **[Richard Burgess, Seapower Magazine, September 5](#)**

The Navy's top officer said the program schedule to build the Navy's next-generation ballistic-missile submarine (SSBN) is very tight and some more margin in the program would help.

"What I am pushing the team to do is stay on track," said Adm. John M. Richardson, chief of naval operations (CNO), answering a reporter's question while speaking Sept. 5 at the Defense News Conference. "But it is right on track. We need to find some margin in that program, largely in schedule, in particular."

The Columbia-class SSBN is being built to replace the Ohio-class SSBN as the platform for the Navy's contribution to the national nuclear deterrent, the Trident D5 ballistic missile. The Navy plans to build 12 boats to succeed the 14 Ohio SSBNs as they reach the end of their service lives. Critical is the need for the first Columbia to be ready to deploy for its first ballistic-missile

patrol in fiscal 2031.

“In a program of this complexity, it’s just a fact of life that there are going to be things that will surprise us going forward,” Richardson said. “So we need to build in enough margin to accommodate those surprises and also — very important — we make sure that the entire team — the industrial base, the Navy, everybody — understands that a program of this importance, with that little margin, perhaps requires increased oversight so that we’re not making mistakes and eating into a program that has very thin margins already.

The Columbia-class SSBN program is expected to cost \$128 billion for acquisition.

[Malloy: State will create microgrid at U.S. Naval Submarine Base Staff, *The Norwich Bulletin*, September 5](#)

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy announced Wednesday his administration has approved the release of a \$5 million state grant to establish a microgrid at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base in Groton, aiming to strengthen storm resiliency and provide energy security, according to a press release from Ct.gov.

According to the release, the microgrid was developed in coordination with the Connecticut Microgrid Program, which was created by Malloy and administered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

The microgrid will allow the base to seamlessly disconnect from the community utility grid during a power disruption and efficiently dispatch power through the on-base microgrid to mission critical loads, such as homeported submarines, the release said.

The release said the microgrid will transform its existing electrical system into one that is more intelligent, flexible and robust, and additionally allow automated data gathering and precise peak demand control.

“Make no mistake, climate change is having an impact on our communities, and we must take real steps now to strengthen our infrastructure, and plan for future storms and resulting power outages,” Malloy said in the release. “Our state agencies, industry leaders, and Navy officials demonstrated an unrelenting commitment to collaborating in this very complex project, producing another innovative partnership between the Navy, our state, and the communities that support the base. This effort once again highlights our resolve to preserve the SUBASE and our historic distinction as the Submarine Capital of the World.”

Officials said in the release that they anticipate construction on the project will begin in 2019.

“This proposal promises to enhance the resilience of important national security infrastructure in preparation for climate change, sea level rise, and severe weather events,” DEEP Commissioner Rob Klee said in the release. “Our staff will work closely with stakeholders to ensure that the Navy’s energy and resilience objectives are met through the development of a well-planned microgrid project.”

“A microgrid on the base will enhance our power diversification, our physical and energy security, and most certainly our community collaboration,” Captain Paul Whitescarver, Commanding Officer of SUBASE, said in the release.

According to the release, establishing a microgrid at the base will correct a major concern that was identified during the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process in 2005. Connecticut’s Office of Military Affairs (OMA) first proposed a SUBASE microgrid in 2010, but the technical complexity of the project and the need for senior Navy endorsement slowed the idea’s momentum.

In 2012, Malloy met with then-Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus at the Pentagon, enlisting his support, staff expertise and legal authority to advance the project. Mabus sent staff

delegations to Connecticut to collaborate with project stakeholders, the release said.

Connecticut's Microgrid Program was developed in 2012 in response to the recommendation of Malloy's Two Storm Panel following multiple storms, which resulted in widespread outages of long duration. DEEP conducted competitive solicitations in 2013 and 2014 and received applications on a rolling basis from 2015 to 2017, according to the release. To date, the agency has issued \$18.4 million in grants for ten projects throughout Connecticut, nine of which are operational while one is under construction, officials said.

A list of proposals and projects funded can be found on the Connecticut Microgrid Program website.

First Woman Takes Rein of Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory Staff, Navy Medical Research Center Public Affairs, September 5

Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory (NSMRL) held a change of command ceremony topside of the world's first nuclear submarine USS Nautilus (SSN-571) at the Submarine Force Library and Museum, Naval Submarine Base New London, Aug. 6.

During the ceremony, presided over by Rear Adm. Paul D. Pearigen, commander of Navy Medicine West, Capt. Kim Lefebvre, the first woman to take the reins of NSMRL, assumed command from Capt. Fred Yeo. During her speech to more than 80 staff, family, friends and guests she recognized the high standards set by Yeo, who will become officer in charge of Naval Undersea Medical Institute, aboard Naval Submarine Base New London.

"I'm honored to take command of Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory and look forward to maintaining the momentum created by Captain Yeo and continuing to move us forward," said Lefebvre. "I look forward to leading the team of outstanding researchers here at NSMRL and continuing to make a difference in the health and safety of the individuals that serve in the submarine forces."

Before coming to NSMRL, Lefebvre commanded Naval Hospital Sigonella, Italy from August 2016 to July 2018 and was executive officer at Naval Health Research Center in San Diego from May 2014 to June 2016.

By coming to Groton, Lefebvre's returns to her original New England roots. She was commissioned in the Navy Medical Service Corps in Newport, Rhode Island, in the summer of 1991 after graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy from the University of Rhode Island in 1986. She subsequently earned a Doctor of Pharmacy in 1999, and completed her American Society of Hospital Pharmacy accredited residency at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego in 1999. In 2000, she reported to Naval Hospital Roosevelt Roads as pharmacy department head and soon after became assistant director of clinical support services.

In 2003 she transferred to the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California to pursue a Master of Science degree in Operations Research concurrently with a Naval War College Command and Staff diploma, earned with distinction. She then transferred to the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia in 2005 as Chief, Depot/Direct Vendor Delivery Pharmaceuticals Branch in the directorate of medical materiel, and was hand selected to serve as the chief of staff for the command of more than 2,400 personnel.

In 2011 she took charge of the Navy's third busiest pharmacy in Naval Hospital Jacksonville, and served as the regional Lean Six Sigma Program Director and regional pharmacy consultant at Navy Medicine West.

NSMRL has a proud history, starting in 1942 as a two-man Medical Research Section of the base dispensary at U.S. Submarine Base, New London, with the mission of providing "answers to problems in communications, vision, personnel selection, and environmental medicine which

resulted from wartime demands on the submarine force.” Over NSMRL’s 76-year history its mission has evolved in support of the undersea warfighter.

**New Navy Force Structure Assessment, 2018 Elections
Could Change the Path to 355-Ship Fleet**
Ben Werner, John Grady, USNI News, September 6

A new look at the Navy’s force structure and the upcoming November congressional elections will play key roles in determining whether Navy will reach its current goal of a 355-ship fleet.

The planned 2019 force structure assessment (FSA) will evaluate the size and types of ships the Navy will plan for in the future, Vice Adm. William Merz, the deputy chief of naval operations for warfare systems (OPNAV N9), said on Wednesday.

The new FSA will seek to answer such questions as to whether the Navy has enough fast-attack submarines planned, enough guided-missile destroyers and what is the role of the planned next-generation frigate (FFG(X)), he said during a panel discussion at the Defense News conference.

“A lot of [the mix of ships] will depend on the next frigate,” Merz said. “The reality is we need all of those things.”

Navy’s 355 Ship Fleet

When the Navy last updated its FSA, in December 2016, it arrived amidst a resurgent Russia and a reconsideration of how many ships the Navy needed — a great power competition pivot-point.

The new report will come as the Navy prepares for a more challenging budgetary environment and a potential change in power in the House following the November mid-term elections.

Also on Wednesday, senior members of the House Armed Services Committee told Navy and defense industry officials at the conference that creating a 355-ship fleet is anything but certain.

Rep. Rob Wittman (R-Va.), who was part of the same panel as Merz, was adamant about the need to increase the fleet size and suggested speeding up the timeline for construction.

Instead of taking until 2050 to have a 355-ship navy, Wittman said he wants to see this fleet size in a little more than a decade. He suggested the Navy should be authorized to buy two aircraft carriers at a time and modernize existing ships now to speed up the process field 355 ships.

“Congress was very specific. We’re going to have a 355-ship navy,” said Wittman, the chair of the House Armed Services seapower and projection forces subcommittee. Wittman’s Tidewater, Virginia district neighbors the shipbuilding-heavy Norfolk, Newport News and Portsmouth.

The need for more ships, Wittman said, is the growing threat posed by China and Russia, who are working to increase their fleet sizes. China has a 68-vessel attack submarine force, Wittman said, compared to the 45 attack submarines in the U.S. Navy.

“[That] ought to sober everyone up,” he said.

However, anticipated budget restraints make Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.), the HASC’s ranking member, skeptical the 355-ship fleet would ever become, he said during a keynote address shortly before Wittman and Merz’s appearance at the conference. If the upcoming November elections swing control of the House to the Democrats, Smith is in line to take over chairman’s gavel and will have a lot of influence over how future Department of Defense

spending plans are created.

“This obsession with how many ships we have is horribly misplaced,” Smith said.

Instead, Smith said Congress and the Navy should be evaluating the current capabilities of the fleet, what capabilities new ships should add and what missions these ships will accomplish. The updated FSA is expected to accomplish this evaluation.

“I heard a member on the floor talking about how it’s just shocking how we have fewer ships now than we did at the start of World War I,” Smith said. “But yeah, you take that WWI Navy and put it up against the Navy we have right now, I would take the Navy we have right now and give them points. I think we’re going to be ok. Capability matters.”

[The Attack of the Turtle, America’s First-And Most Unusual-Submarine](#) [Lee Ferran, Real Clear Life, September 7](#)

Just a few weeks after the new United States of America declared its independence in 1776, a thunderous explosion shattered the peaceful dawn morning just outside New York’s harbor and sent a geyser of water into the sky, seemingly out of nowhere.

As British troops scurried about trying to figure out what the hell was going on, some Americans who had been secretly watching and waiting tried to contain tight smiles. The insane plan had worked.

Kind of.

The explosion was the result of the first submarine attack in American history, one undertaken by a particularly unlucky colonial sergeant at the helm of what was lovingly called the Turtle – a one man, man-powered submarine shaped like an egg.

The Turtle was, according to the U.S. Navy’s history, the invention of Yale undergraduate student David Bushnell and combined several submersible firsts – namely the use of water for ballast, screw propellers, a breathing device and, most importantly for its attack missions, a gunpowder-filled time bomb.

“The skilful [sic] operator can swim so low on the surface of the water, as to approach very near a ship in the night, without fear of being discovered; and may, if he choose, approach the stern or stem, above water, with very little danger. He can sink very quickly, keep at any necessary depth, and row a great distance in any direction he desires without coming to the surface,” a 1778 military journal notes of the Turtle.

The idea — a novel one at the time — was to sneak underwater to the hull of a ship, bore into it a bit with a screw, place the time-bomb and then slip off again into the depths before anyone was the wiser.

Despite its novelty, another military journal report says that the machine was “so ingeniously constructed, that, on examination, [Continental Army] Major-General Putnam was decidedly of opinion that its operations might be attended with the desired success; accordingly he encouraged the inventor, and resolved to be himself a spectator of the experiment on the British shipping in New York harbor.”

So, on Sept. 7, 1776 — 242 years ago today — the Turtle went on its first attack mission.

One problem arose before the submarine took to the water. The man who had been trained in using it, described in contemporary military journals as Bushnell’s brother and an “ingenious” operator, fell sick and had to be replaced. The new man, a sergeant from a Connecticut regiment, was trained as quickly as possible in the complex operation of the machine, but he wasn’t able to master the odd contraption as well.

Still, before dawn he descended into the Turtle and slipped with the contraption underwater. An October 1776 entry in the military journal of James Thatcher, tells what happened next:

“He... succeeded so far as to arrive in safety with his apparatus under the bottom of the ship, when the screw, designed to perforate the copper sheathing, unfortunately struck against an iron plate, near the rudder, which, with the strong current and want of skill in the operator, frustrated the enterprise; and, as day-light had begun to appear, the sergeant abandoned his magazine, and returned in the Torpedo [another name for the Turtle] to the shore,” it says.

Another, more detailed account said that as the sergeant made his escape, he thought he had been spotted by British soldiers as he passed by Governors Island, a tiny spit of land just south of Manhattan. In order to pick up some speed, the man released the still-armed time bomb, which presumably sank to the bottom.

A few minutes later, boom.

“In less than half an hour a terrible explosion from the magazine took place, and threw into the air a prodigious column of water, resembling a great water-spout, attended with a report like thunder,” the 1776 journal says. “General Putnam and others, who waited with great anxiety for the result, were exceedingly amused with the astonishment and alarm which this secret explosion occasioned on board of the ship.”

The attack was a failure, but the men involved quickly determined that it was not the fault of the “wonderful machine.”

The military journals go on to say the Bushnell made further attempts at submarine combat, with varying results. But the contraption he had built was described as — appropriately for the time — revolutionary.

The Navy says that when looking back on the war, George Washington wrote to Thomas Jefferson in 1785 that he thought that the Turtle was too complicated and dangerous to be a practical weapon of war.

However, he said, “I then thought, and still think, that it was an effort of genius.”

[Navy pursues new stealthy heavyweight attack torpedo](#)

[Kris Osborn, Fox News, September 10](#)

Navy weapons developers are seeking a high-tech, longer range and more lethal submarine-launched heavyweight Mk 48 that can better destroy enemy ships, submarines and small boats, service officials said.

The service has issued a solicitation to industry, asking for proposals and information related to pursuing new and upgraded Mk 48 torpedo control systems, guidance, sonar and navigational technology.

“The Mk 48 ADCAP (advanced capability) torpedo is a heavyweight acoustic-homing torpedo with sophisticated sonar, all-digital guidance and control systems, digital fusing systems and propulsion improvements,” William Couch, Naval Sea Systems Command spokesman, told Warrior Maven earlier this year.

Naturally, having a functional and more high-tech lethal torpedo affords the Navy an opportunity to hit enemies more effectively and at further standoff ranges and therefore better compete with more fully emerging undersea rivals such as Russia and China.

The Mk 48 heavyweight torpedo is used by all classes of U.S. Navy submarines as their anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface warfare weapon, including the Virginia class and the future Columbia class, Couch added.

A Mk 48 torpedo is 21 inches in diameter and weighs 3,520 pounds; it can destroy targets at ranges out to five miles and travels at speeds greater than 28 knots. The weapon can operate at depths greater than 1,200 feet and fires a 650-pound high-explosive warhead, available Navy and Lockheed data states.

Navy efforts to pursue new torpedo technologies are happening alongside a concurrent effort to upgrade the existing arsenal.

For several years now, the Navy has been strengthening its developmental emphasis upon the Mk 48 as a way to address its aging arsenal. The service restarted production of the Mk 48 torpedo mod 7 in 2016.

An earlier version, the Mk 48 Mod 6, has been operational since 1997 – and the more recent Mod 7 has been in service since 2006.

Lockheed Martin has been working on upgrades to the Mk 48 torpedo Mod 6 and Mod 7 – which consist of adjustments to the guidance control box, broadband sonar acoustic receiver and amplifier components.

“The latest version of the Mk 48 ADCAP (advanced capability) is the mod 7 Common Broadband Advanced Sonar System. The Mk 48 ADCAP mod 7 CBASS torpedo is the result of a Joint Development Program with the Royal Australian Navy and achieved initial operational capability in 2006,” Couch said.

With Common Broadband Advanced Sonar System, or CBASS – electronics to go into the nose of the weapon as part of the guidance section, Lockheed and Navy developers explained.

CBASS technology provides streamlined targeting, quieter propulsion technologies and an ability to operate with improved effectiveness in both shallow and deep water. Also, the Mod 7 decreases vulnerability to enemy countermeasures and allows the torpedo to transmit and receive over a wider frequency band, Lockheed and Navy developers say.

The new technology also involves adjustments to the electronic circuitry to allow the torpedo to better operate in its undersea environment.

Modifications to the weapon have improved the acoustic receiver, replaced the guidance-and-control hardware with updated technology, increased memory, and improved processor throughput to handle the expanded software demands required to improve torpedo performance against evolving threats, according to Navy data on the weapon.

Improved propulsion, quieting technology, targeting systems and range enhancements naturally bring a substantial tactical advantage to Navy undersea combat operations. Attack submarines are often able to operate closer to enemy targets and coastline undetected, reaching areas typically inaccessible to deeper draft surface ships. Such an improvement would also, quite possibly, enable attack submarines to better support littoral surface platforms such as the flat-bottomed Littoral Combat Ships. Working in tandem with LCS anti-submarine and surface

warfare systems, attack submarines with a more capable torpedo could better identify and attack enemy targets near coastal areas and shallow water enemy locations.

A Military Analysis Network report from the Federation of American Scientists further specifies that the torpedo uses a conventional, high-explosive warhead.

“The MK 48 is propelled by a piston engine with twin, contra-rotating propellers in a pump jet or shrouded configuration. The engine uses a liquid monopropellant fuel,” the FAS analysis states.

Submarine operators are able to initially guide the torpedo toward its target as it leaves the launch tube, using a thin wire designed to establish an electronic link between the submarine and torpedo, the information says.

“This helps the torpedo avoid decoys and jamming devices that might be deployed by the target. The wire is severed and the torpedo's high-powered active/passive sonar guides the torpedo during the final attack,” FAS writes.

Earlier this year, Lockheed Martin Sippican was awarded a new deal to work on guidance and control technology on front end of the torpedo, and SAIC was awarded the contract for the afterbody and propulsion section, Couch explained.

The Mk 48, which is a heavy weapon launched under the surface, is quite different than surface launched, lightweight Mk 54 torpedoes fired from helicopters, aircraft and surface ships.

The Navy's Mk 48 torpedo is also in service with Australia, Canada, Brazil and The Netherlands.

[Navy searches for enabling technologies for new-generation sonobuoy to detect quiet enemy submarines](#)

[John Keller, Military and Aerospace, September 11](#)

ARLINGTON, Va. – U.S. Navy researchers are asking industry for enabling technologies for a new advanced air-deployed passive sonobuoy able to detect, identify, and track new generations of extremely quiet enemy submarines

Officials of the Office of Naval Research in Arlington, Va., issued a solicitation Friday (N00014-18-R-S008) for additional sonobuoy research as part of the organization's Long Range Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for Navy and Marine Corps Science and Technology.

Officials of the ONR Naval Research Ocean Battlespace Sensing Department are seeking new technologies to develop an advanced passive sonobuoy called the Extended Range Directional Frequency Analysis and Recording (ER-DIFAR) to address new quiet threat submarine targets.

They are looking for a replacement A-size sonobuoy that measures 36 inches long, 5.25 inches in diameter, and weighs 39 pounds. This new sonobuoy should offer passive detection at tactically significant ranges against extremely quiet targets.

A government conceptual hydrophone array design will serve as the basis for maturing the sonobuoy design, as well as for developing and demonstrating a prototype.

Goals are to deploy the prototype from an A-size package; automatic precise localization of hydrophone elements on the hydrophone array; and in-buoy signal processing for beam-forming and communicating data to a receiving system.

Included will be upper float, communications and GPS receiver, and surface suspension for motion isolation of the upper assembly from the array. A lower electronics section will have power for the sonar hydrophone array, telemetry, beamforming, and signal processing hardware with sufficient processing power to run software developed and provided by the Navy.

The winning contractor will integrate components into an A-size sonobuoy and demonstrate the ability to achieve air launch certification, water entry, and array deployment in an at-sea demonstration.

The cost of manufacturing the sonobuoy in small numbers is a key objective. A-size sonobuoy packaging imposes severe restrictions on the size of hydrophone, which must be non-developmental. Navy researchers expect to award one three-year contract worth between \$22 million and \$25 million sometime in September 2019.

[Navy Seeks To Retain Senior Submarine Officers with New Bonus Program](#)
[Ben Werner, USNI News, September 11](#)

The Navy will begin offering large bonuses to senior captains in the submarine community – worth up to \$180,000 in some cases – in Fiscal Year 2019 to boost retention.

Starting Oct. 1, the Navy will offer bonuses of \$45,000 per year for senior submarine officers who sign two to four-year contracts. Signing a single-year contract will qualify for a bonus of \$35,000, according to a policy released by Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Robert Burke.

The bonuses are being offered to current and former major command captains who have been commissioned officers for at least 26 years, Lt. Rick Moore, a spokesman for the Chief of Naval Personnel, told USNI News. A major command could include leading a squadron, task force or Naval Submarine School.

These bonuses are the latest tweak in what has become a steady stream of changes to the Navy's personnel policies and regulations, all done with the intent of retaining both officers and enlisted sailors with highly sought-after skills.

For example, the recently approved FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act gives the Navy the ability to retain junior officers with valuable skills but who did not screen for promotion. Previously, junior officers who did not promote were forced to leave the service. This policy change was one of several changes to the Defense Officer Personnel Management Act (DOPMA) the Navy had wanted for years.

In June, the Navy brought back the rank of warrant officer-1 (W-1), which was discontinued by the Navy in 1975, as a way of enticing enlisted sailors with computer skills to remain in the Navy. Sailors with cyber skills have been especially hard to keep in the service, Burke told USNI News in a June interview.

Reestablishing the W-1 rank is seen as a way to retain enlisted sailors with cyber skills by offering them a quicker path to leadership roles. Only a small number of sailors will qualify for the W-1 program, but the goal is for those who do qualify to pass on their cyber institutional knowledge to enlisted personnel in the Navy's cyber community.

In a similar vein, the number of eligible senior submarine officers eligible for the bonuses is relatively small – about 50 each year – but the purpose of the bonuses, Moore said, is to keep their expertise in the submarine community to train the next generation of leaders.

[USS Indiana: A Hoosier sub built by Hoosier hands](#)
[Dawn Mitchell, Indianapolis Star, September 14](#)

When the USS Indiana is commissioned on Sept. 29, it will become the third commissioned U.S. Navy vessel to bear the Indiana name.

But it's more than this submarine's name that makes it Hoosier: More than 100 Indiana companies of all sizes helped supply the parts to make it happen.

The Indiana (SSN 789) is the 16th of a series of Virginia-class, fast-attack submarines. It has already taken part in sea trials while using the name PCU Indiana, for pre-commissioning unit. The designation "USS," for United States Ship, will be applied during the commissioning ceremony.

Vice President and former Indiana governor Mike Pence spoke during the April 2017 christening ceremony in Newport News, Virginia. Construction on the submarine began in 2012. When it's ready for active duty service, it will be the first submarine to be commissioned at the Navy port at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

The ship's sponsor is Diane Donald, the wife of retired Navy Admiral Kirkland Donald. Traditionally, a ship's sponsor advocates for the continued service and well-being of the ship, of which they are considered a permanent crew member.

According to a Navy press release, the USS Indiana submarine is designed to carry out anti-submarine warfare, deliver special operations forces, take part in strike and mine warfare, and assist with intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. To assist with strike warfare, each of the Indiana's two large-diameter Virginia Payload Tubes are capable of launching six Tomahawk cruise missiles.

The 7,800-ton, 377-foot long ship can cruise at 25 knots — about 28 mph — while submerged. And the nuclear-powered sub is designed with a reactor plant that will not need to be refueled throughout the submarine's life.

Ray Shearer is chairman of the sub's commissioning committee. He said they're tasked with supporting the sub and its sailors even after it's launched. The committee also funds events surrounding the commissioning ceremony and events that bring together crew members of the Indiana with Hoosiers.

And Hoosiers had a definite hand in building the vessel. While it was built at Huntington Ingalls Industries-Newport News Shipbuilding in Newport News, Virginia, more than 100 companies in Indiana — from small operations to international conglomerates — supplied components for the ship.

“By design, the Navy looks to the Midwest because of the manufacturing base,” Shearer said. Raytheon and Rolls Royce in Indianapolis, steel mills in Burns Harbor and Caterpillar in Lafayette — where the nuclear boat’s backup diesel engines were made — provided necessary components. The furniture came from southern Indiana, and I-N Tek in New Carlisle supplied the welding wire. Crane Naval Depot provided research and development and will provide continued support for the submarine.

“If the Navy would let us, we’d stamp ‘Made in Indiana’ all over the sub,” Shearer joked.

“Hoosier hands built a Hoosier boat.”

Navy ships named after Indiana

The first USS Indiana (BB 1) served from 1895-1903 as part of the naval blockade of Santiago Harbor in the Spanish-American War. The battleship was overhauled, remodeled and recommissioned from 1906-1914 and again from 1917-1919 for training purposes.

The USS Indiana (BB 58), known as the “Mighty I,” was launched on Nov. 20, 1941, and commissioned on April 30, 1942. The battleship was deployed to the Pacific less than a year after it was launched.

The ship participated in some of the Pacific theater’s heaviest engagements, including Guadalcanal, Marcus Island, Truk, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. It fired into the home defenses of Japan. Eight crew members died aboard the USS Indiana during WWII.

“Mighty I” had logged the equivalent of 14 trips around the world when decommissioned in 1947.

The keel for the USS Indiana (BB 50), a South Dakota class battleship, was laid at the Brooklyn Navy yard in 1920, but construction was canceled and eventually scrapped.

Twelve veterans from the USS Indiana (BB 58) plan to be at the commissioning ceremony. Shearer said the only living Hoosier veteran, Stan Ashley of Muncie, hopes to be in attendance. Gov. Eric Holcomb and other Indiana dignitaries are also expected to attend the ceremony. Shearer hopes former Sen. Richard Lugar attends the ceremony; he attended the USS Indiana (BB 58) commissioning as a small boy in 1942. Lugar’s letter to the commission recalls the impact the ceremony had on his life, which included service in the Navy.

Tickets or invitations for the ceremony were limited to 2,000 and were claimed almost immediately, “mostly by people in Florida,” laments Shearer. The Navy has made available 2,000 more tickets, which Shearer hopes will be purchased by Hoosiers. Invitations can be claimed through Sunday.

Aboard the USS Indiana

The ship’s galley is called the “Brickyard Bistro,” a nod to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

The mess will have a basketball theme that features both Indiana and Purdue.

The wardroom for commissioned naval officers will feature a table in the shape of Indiana with each county in various Indiana hardwoods.

The official motto is “Silent Victors,” a tribute that is also inscribed on tablets of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. It reads, “To Indiana’s Silent Victors” and is a salute to the accomplishments of the USS Indiana during WWII.

All sailors onboard the ship are referred to as “Hoosiers.”

The official ship chant is “Indiana Strong! Hoosier Proud! Hooyah Hoosiers.”

Fast-attack submarine to be commissioned as 3rd USS Indiana
Staff, The Indy Channel, September 20

INDIANAPOLIS -- The third U.S. Navy ship to bear the USS Indiana name will be commissioned next week in Port Canaveral, Florida.

The USS Indiana (SSN-789) will come online as the Navy's newest fast-attack submarine, and the 16th Virginia-class submarine in the fleet.

"Designed to operate in both coastal and deep-ocean environments, Indiana will present leadership with a broad and unique range of capabilities, including anti-submarine warfare; anti-surface ship warfare; strike warfare; special operation forces (SOF) support; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; irregular warfare; and mine warfare missions," the Navy said in a release Thursday.

The first USS Indiana (BB-1) was a battleship commissioned during the Spanish-American War in 1898. The ship saw service off and on through World War I, until finally be decommissioned for the final time in 1919.

A South Dakota-class battleship (BB-58) launched in November 1941 then became the second ship to bear the USS Indiana name. That ship served throughout the remainder of WWII in the Pacific Theater, including during the invasion of Okinawa. The ship was decommissioned in 1947. Pieces of the dismantled ship remain on display in Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Bloomington and elsewhere around the state.

The latest USS Indiana will be commissioned on Sept. 29 as the first submarine to bear the Indiana name. It will be stationed with the Naval Ordnance Test Unit at the Navy Port at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and tasked with assisting in the testing and evaluation of Trident II D5 submarine-launched ballistic missile systems.

Girls in STEM | Women serving on submarines in the United States Navy
Betsy Kling, WKYC3 (Cleveland, OH NBC affiliate), September 18

The U.S.S. Ohio is the largest sub in the Navy's fleet at almost 2 football fields long.

At one time, it carried nuclear ballistic missiles. Now it's a guided missile sub.

19-year-old Seaman Madison Glass is one of about 20 women on board out of a crew of 160. No one is assigned to serve on a submarine in the U.S. Navy. You volunteer and are accepted if you meet physical and mental requirements.

Enlisted women have only been allowed to serve on Navy subs since 2016 and Seaman Glass is making the most of her opportunity.

"I just think it's super cool," she says with a smile. "I know that sounds nerdy. It's just the science behind how we operate and do what we do is interesting to me."

Seaman Glass is a sonar technician, listening to the sounds of the ocean.

"I can tell from our surroundings how close and how far contacts are, from targets and other boats and the landscape under the water, to mountain ranges and crevices. It sounds like white noise until you hear a contact. like a merchant, a big freighter, you can hear how loud it is, how big it is," Seaman Glass explains. "You can hear animals. A shrimp sounds like little snapping, whales they sound like whales what you'd expect whales to sound, and some fish sound like they're screaming."

The sub can stay underwater for months. They make their own power, their own air, their own water. The only thing they occasionally stop for is food.

The thing that has surprised me was I thought the inside of the submarine was going to be like super cramped," says Seaman Glass. "I thought I wasn't going to be able to move and have my own space, but actually it's pretty roomy."

Seaman Glass says even though women are way outnumbered on the sub, she gets nothing but respect from the men she works alongside.

"If you can do your job, it doesn't matter if I'm a girl or not," Seaman Glass explains. "I love my crew, I love my boat, and I love my job."

As far as advice to pass along to young girls who want to follow in her footsteps, Seaman Glass says she "would tell a young girl you know you're just as capable, you're very smart. I can say that I've done a lot already and i can't wait to experience the rest."

[Swimming crooks stole from NJ submarine that someone sank, cops say Adam Hochron, 92.7 wobm \(Ocean County, NJ\), September 20](#)

Two people from Connecticut have been charged with swimming through the Hackensack River before burglarizing a historic submarine that someone else had previously sunk this year.

Jon P. Stevens, of West Haven, Connecticut, and Laura Palmese, of Colchester, Connecticut, have been charged with stealing a lantern and a Medical Corps Lieutenant Shoulder lapel from the USS Ling on August 11.

Police released pictures of the two inside the flooded submarine with lights attached to their heads. The pair are believed to have parked at a nearby diner and swam to the submarine before taking the items, police said.

Last month, police announced that a caretaker of the USS Ling/Naval Museum reported four bronze plaques were stolen from the property, and that in another incident an unknown person had entered the submarine and opened "numerous hatches" inside, causing the submarine to take on water.

The charges announced on Thursday are not connected to the flooding and damage to the submarine. The pair are expected to appear in court for the first time on October 1.

The Ling served during World War II and has been in Hackensack since the 1970's, according to a GoFundMe has been established to help pay for repairs to the submarine. It was closed for repairs after Super Storm Sandy, and has been closed to the public since 2015 because of damage to the pier. The fundraising effort started 15 months ago and has raised more than \$24,000 out of a goal of \$100,000.