

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, March 11, 2017

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1104 on March 11, 2017 at American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Bishop, **Debbie Bishop**, **Art Bivens**, Richard Cappel, **Jeremy Cappel**, **Cathy Chatham**, Howard Chatham, Bill Clement, **Tom Denton**, **Charlton Doss**, **Cyndi Ellis**, **Mike Ellis**, **Delbert Ennis**, **Linda Ennis**, **Ed Ettner**, **Mary Ettner**, **Frank Fitch**, **Tommy Gardner**, **Bob Glover**, **Denise Harrover**, **Ginger Haskell**, **James Huck**, **Bill Iber**, Steve Jaeger, **John Lehman (WW II on USS Barb)**, **Chuck Martin**, **Vago Muradian (press)**, **Mike Naughton**, **Mary Lou Naughton**, **Paul Nelson**, **Terry Nelson**, Michael Niblack, **Mike Nichols**, **Tim Oliver**, **Willie Petruy**, **Joe Phoenix**, **Marie Phoenix**, **Chris Pietras**, **John Price (WW II on O-6)**, **Russ Preble**, **Tim Richard (GUEST SPEAKER)**, **Mark Riethmeier**, **Ann Smith**, **Mike Varone**, **George Wallace**, **Penny Wallace**, and **Woody Woodworth**. (47 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.

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, read the list of boats lost in the month of March. These were:

USS Perch (SS-176)	March 3, 1942
USS Grampus (SS-207)	March 5, 1943
USS H-1 (SS-28)	March 12, 1920
USS Triton (SS-201)	March 15, 1943
USS Kete (SS-369)	March 20, 1945
USS F-4 (SS-23)	March 25, 1915
USS Tullibee (SS-284)	March 26, 1944
USS Trigger (SS-237)	March 26, 1945

The COB then tolled the ship's bell twice in remembrance of the 21 USSVI NOVA base members on Eternal Patrol.

In light of our special presentation on the USS Barb (SS-220), the CDR announced that we would forego the normal submarine history portion of the meeting. Instead, the base officers and then all guests were asked to introduce themselves.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the February meeting were distributed by e-mail. There was no discussion or any comments. The minutes were accepted as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, provided the monthly report for March, 2017:

Starting balance: \$ 6,688.66

Ending balance: \$ 6,726.83 minus the remaining Walmart Community Fund grant restricted use funds for Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) of \$1,254.21 This leaves a total discretionary balance of: \$5,472.62.

The Treasury Report accepted as read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Board: The Base Commander presented a summary of the Executive Board Meeting held on 1 March. Discussions included: potential new recruits; plans for this year's Holland Club initiation and other upcoming events; Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) program status; website updates; and the Eagle Scout recognition program.

VCDR: Nothing to report

Chief of the Boat: Mike Varone reported that he and the Base CDR honored two Eagle Scouts on 4 March. We present a patch, a certificate, and a submarine picture (USS Virginia or a boat lost on the same calendar day as the Court of Honor.)

Membership Report: Steve Jaeger reported: 81 total members

37 Holland Club members

2 World War II members

34 Regular members, after two members were dropped for non-payment of 2017

National and Base dues

10 Associate members

Veterans Affairs: Bill Clement reported that: 1. The implementation of the AAFES online shopping benefit for all honorably discharged veterans has been delayed, and 2. The new Virginia Dept. of Veterans Services POC is John Henry and their office has moved to 9990 Fairfax BLVD, Suite 120, Fairfax, VA.

Public Relations: Nothing to report

Storekeeper: Howard Chatham reported that there are still more Base Challenge coins and twentieth Anniversary shot glasses available for sale. The 2017 USSVI calendars are now reduced to \$8.00 each.

Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS):

1. Steve Bishop reported that the team visited Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD in February. We visited children, siblings, and family members bedside. We have now visited 317 children in medical distress bedside in our first seven years.
2. The date for our next visit to INOVA Fairfax Hospital's pediatric oncology ward in Falls Church, VA is Thursday, March 23, 2017. Plan to meet at the Green Women and Children wing visitors' lounge on the ground level, across from the Green parking lot at 2:15 PM. Wear your USSVI sub vest and cap, and bring your parking lot ticket, as the nurses will validate your parking.
3. Steve also noted that Ross Sargent is working with the UVA Medical Center staff in

- Charlottesville, VA to set up a similar visit to their pediatric oncology ward in April.
4. We are working on developing a Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) coloring book for all USSVI bases to use going forward. This book will be based upon Tom Denton's line art depicting submarines. Tom is the official artist for USSVI and the National Commander, John Markiewicz is firmly in favor of this collaborative effort. We anticipate having Tom Denton and the K4K National Chairman John Riley on hand to distribute the coloring books when we visit Walter Reed in November, during the week of Veterans Day.
 5. Fund Raising: Last year we raised over \$2800.00 from two corporate sponsors for K4K. This year we have focused solely on Walmart, our largest benefactor last year. Our grant applications were submitted in February to nine Walmart stores, and today Steve presented the Base Treasurer with the first check (hopefully of several) for \$250.00 from Walmart.

Scouting Coordinator: The Base CDR reported that we participated in a Court of Honor for Eagle Scouts Alex Broussard and Matthew Waskiewicz on 4 March at Camp Thunderbird, south of Richmond, VA. We will be honoring Eagle Scout Blake Hall on Saturday, 1 April at 4 PM at Richmond's First Baptist Church at 2709 Monument Ave in Richmond, VA. All Base members are invited to attend these Eagle Scout Courts of Honor. Please contact Chuck Martin for further details.

Youth Outreach Programs (NJROTC/Sea Cadets/School Program) Coordinator:

Mark Riethmeier reported that he has reached out to the only Navy Junior ROTC units in this area: Osborne Park by e-mail, and Potomac High School by phone, in an attempt to open a dialog with their leaders about possible collaboration going forward.

Navy Submarine League(NSL) : Tim Oliver announced that:

1. The Navy Submarine League is offering free membership to all WW II submarine veterans.
2. The Sea-Air-Space symposium is 3-5 April at the Gaylord National Convention Center, National Harbor (<http://www.seaairspace.org>). The NSL will have a booth at the Sea-Air-Space symposium and is in need of members to assist with manning it. This is a great opportunity to be part of an impactful event which draws a very large and engaged audience. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Tim Oliver, timoliver@navalsubleague.org.
3. The Base CDR added : NSL Upcoming Events : D.C. Area Submarine Birthday Ball 1 April at the Gateway Marriott in Crystal City; Submarine Technology Symposium 9-11 May , History Seminar 31 October and the 35th Annual Symposium 1-2 November
4. Next NSL Capitol Chapter luncheon is Friday, 28 April at the ANCC, 1130-1330. Guest Speakers are:
 - a. CAPT John Newton, Program Manager Special Operation Forces Mobility (PMS 399) and,
 - b. CAPT Chad Muse, Program Manager for Naval Special Warfare (PMS 340)
 - c. The presentation will address programs and capability development in the Navy's portfolio for the future of submarine support to SOF
 - d. Request early RSVP be sent to bradkratovil@cox.net by Friday 3/17 if you expect to attend.

American Legion Post 162: The General Membership Meeting will be held on March 15 at

7:15 PM.

OLD BUSINESS

Thank you to Terry and Paul Nelson for organizing the Sweethearts Luncheon last month.

2017-2018 USSVI Scholarship information/application are now posted on the USSVI website
2017 USSVI Convention – RVers need to register with a campsite ASAP. Recommended campsites are:

- Tropical Palms Resort and RV Park, 2650 Holiday Trail Kissimmee, FL 34746, (407) 396-4595
- Orlando/Kissimmee KOA, 2644 Happy Camper Place Kissimmee, FL 34746, (407) 396-2400

Requests for invitations to the WASHINGTON commissioning are still being accepted at <http://www.usswashingtoncommissioning.org>

USS Dallas is scheduled for Decommissioning in Galveston TX on 9 April

The USSVI National Awards Manual is posted on the National web site under the Awards tab. All Members are encouraged to review the Manual and submit their nominations to the National Awards Committee Chairman. Remember that the nomination period begins on 1 February 2017, and ends on 30 April, 2017. The only exception is for the Newsletter Awards, which ends on 15 May, 2017

NEW BUSINESS

- Bill Andrea, NJVC, has resumed his duties and responsibilities
- 3rd Annual SUBFEST will be held on July 7-9, 2017 at Manitowoc, WI. Thursday night is SUB VET night. USS Cobia and the museum's Sub Pub will be open for Sub Vets only.
- Richard Lowry, USSVI NOVA member, first novel, Code Name: Scarlet, is available exclusively on Amazon.com. for Kindle readers (for about \$5.00)
- CDR Rick Campbell USN (ret.) newest book, Blackmail, is scheduled for release in June 2017 with several book signing events planned. George Wallace and Rick will have a joint book signing event for the benefit of the Navy & Marine Corps Society on July 20, 2017 at the Washington Navy Yard.
- Anyone wanting to make a donation for Don Meadows see the Treasurer. Don is a member of USSVI Charleston Base and his son is going through a kidney transplant with the donor being his brother, who is in the Navy.
- News from the Fleet and previous information emailed this month will be attached to the minutes

The Binnacle List currently includes: Richard Lowry, Steve and Darlene Jaeger (Darlene's mom), Tony Poblete, Mike Naughton, and David Cooper.

Howard Chatham reported that Richard Lowry is now in Reston Hospital Center Progressive Care Unit, room 207. He has been in Rehab three times and back to the hospital for pneumonia and a-fib (Atrial fibrillation and irregularly heart rhythm).

For the Good of the Order, the CDR read the list of birthdays for March: Art Dunn, Ruth Garverick, Dave Gault, Earl Griggs, Steve Jaeger, John Lindstedt, Terry Nelson, Tom Perrault, Marie Phoenix, and Bill Truslow.

The 50/50 raffle was won by guest Tom Denton.

The gold collection can in front of the treasurer is available for anyone wishing to donate to the USSVI scholarship program. The treasurer spoke to say that if you want a legal deduction for your taxes, you should make your checks for the scholarship program, the brotherhood program, Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) , or any other charity within USSVI and **make your check out to the “USSVI Charitable Foundation”** with a note on the bottom left line saying how you want the money used. You must do that because USSVI is not a 501(c)19 War Veteran organization for 2017. The USSVI Charitable Foundation remains as a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

The CDR then presented a citation from the USSVI National Holland Club to the VCDR (our Holland Club Chairman) thanking the NOVA Base for the monetary donation we made to the Holland Club last month.

The Benediction was delivered by Base Chaplain Steve Jaeger.

After a short break, the Base CDR introduced our guest speaker: Mr. Tim Richard

Tim Richard served 10 years active duty. His duties included serving as a Nav-ET on USS Lapon (SSN-661) from Nov1986 - Jan1991, an instructor at SUBTRAFAC Norfolk, and served 14-months on the Emory S. Land in the Repair Department. Tim worked for several defense contractors and commercial satellite operators from 1995-2006 before starting Fermion Government Services, LLC (FGS) in June, 2006 which specializes in customized Satellite Communications (SATCOM) solutions for government & defense customers. He a member of the USSVI, VFW, Navy Submarine League, US Naval Institute, Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association (AFCEA), US Navy League, the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS), and the National Classification Management Society (NCMS). Besides being President and owner of Fermion Government Services, Tim is also President of the USS Lapon Association. He is a 1978 graduate of Kempsville High School in Virginia Beach. Tim has been married to Susan Richard for 31 years and has two grown children, David and Darley. He currently resides in his hometown of Virginia Beach, VA. Tim is shown in front of the Barb's brow banner below.



(photo by Mark Riethmeier)

Tim's father, James E. Richard, joined the Navy in 1942 after graduating from Taft Union High School in Taft, CA. He volunteered for the Submarine Force and after basic training and several specialized schools, was assigned orders to the USS Trout (SS-202) upon graduation from Motor Machinist school on the campus of the University of Missouri. A fellow classmate at Missouri who had served onboard USS Trout previously and was assigned orders to USS Barb (SS-220) wanted to return to the Trout and asked if James would swap orders with him, so he swapped orders and reported to the USS Barb (SS-220) instead. **James arrived on Barb about the same time as CDR Eugene Fluckey and the two served together through war patrols seven to the final twelfth.** As a member of Barb, James was a Petty Officer Second Class Motor Machinist Mate. **He was selected by CDR Fluckey as one of the eight crew members to be part of a saboteur party that went ashore in mainland Japan in July 1945 to blow up a train, in that case the Karafuto Express. For that action he was awarded the Silver Star.** After the war he went into the reserves and worked for Standard Oil in his hometown of Taft, CA. While home in Taft, he married Helen L. Richard in May of 1946 and in 1947 & 1949, they had their first two children, Yvette and Bernadette. He was recalled during the Korean War and thus rejoined his old Barb COB, "Swish" Saunders, another member of the Karafuto Express saboteur party, on the USS Cusk (SSG-348). He served on Cusk 1950-1951, during the time when Cusk was making headlines for successfully refining their guided missile launch capability. Between 1951 and 1960, James served in a variety of roles on ship/shore. In the mid-to-late 1950's, he was selected to attend the newly established Navy Nuclear Power School in Idaho Falls, ID. He graduated #1 (in the 3rd overall class formed) but because he was a Machinist Mate, the school re-weighted the graduation criteria and he officially graduated 3rd in his class behind two electricians. While in Great Lakes, IL the Richard's had their third child and first son, James E. Richard, Jr. Dad worked his way up the ranks to Chief (at a time when Senior Chiefs and Master Chiefs didn't exist), and was later selected for the Warrant Officer Program. Around 1959, he was selected to the Limited Duty Officer (LDO) program and quickly became a Lieutenant in 1960, skipping over Lieutenant, Junior Grade (LTJG). While he was stationed in Groton, CT on board USS Fulton, Tim was born in 1960. James was transferred to Charleston, SC and the USS Proteus (AS-19) and served on board the Proteus during its re-commissioning in 1960 and while Proteus was in Holy Loch, Scotland. After returning stateside, he served in the repair department on USS Nereus (AS-17) in San Diego, CA. While in San Diego, my parents had their fifth and final child, Suzette. After Nereus, he was transferred in the summer of 1965 to the staff at SUBPAC in Pearl Harbor, where he was **reunited with Barb shipmates RADM Eugene Fluckey (Commander, Submarine Force, Pacific) and CAPT Max Duncan (Chief-of-Staff).**

After his two-year tour in Hawaii, he was transferred to the tender, USS Orion (AS-18) in Norfolk, VA as Repair Officer. He later served as head of the Navy's Safety Center at Little Creek in Virginia Beach and retired in 1974 with the rank of Commander.

His awards include: Submarine Warfare Insignia (Silver), **The Silver Star**, Navy Commendation Medal with "V" device, Presidential Unit Citation with bronze star, Navy Unit Commendation, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation, Submarine Combat Patrol Insignia with 5 stars.

After the Navy, he worked for roughly 25 years as a defense contractor with Q.E.D. Systems in Virginia Beach. From 1968 through 1995 he was an active volunteer with the Virginia Beach Rescue Squad and Fire Department and was certified as one of the first Cardiac Technicians (CT) in the city of Virginia Beach.

James went on eternal patrol on September 10, 2005 after complications from emphysema and subsequent heart failure. He was one month shy of turning 82. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. His wife of 59 years passed away on August 20, 2013 and was buried with him at Arlington.

Tim provided us with a thrilling hour-long PowerPoint presentation with pictures of actual USS Barb (SS-220) artifacts and photos. **His focus was on the saboteur raid of the Japanese train and other acts of havoc against the enemy.** Tim's presentation was even more poignant as there were two World War II submarine sailors from Tri-State base in attendance. John Price qualified on the O-6 (a World War I boat) and John Lehman was aboard the USS Barb when Tim's father and Eugene Fluckey reported aboard, and he stayed aboard after they transferred off the Barb. John Lehman was the senior electronics technician (radar) operator who manned the radar as Barb sped out of the Japanese uncharted harbor and river which was cluttered with large rocks and other navigation hazards, after blowing up 8 ships at anchor. (The Medal of Honor war patrol.)

Tim spoke of 1. the crew's preparations for the saboteur attack on the train, 2. the actual conduct of the operation (what went right and what didn't) and 3. the escape after the attack. Fifty seven years after the raid on the Japanese train, Tim's father told him he could remember every single second of what happened that day; but he couldn't remember what he had for breakfast yesterday.

1. As for the raid preparation, the CO had spent many hours in Pearl Harbor working with Navy intelligence staff to determine which Japanese train tracks to hit. He found that three tracks came out of the hills to merge into one line running north-south near the coast of Karafuto. That would be the spot. Then, when on scene and just off the Karafuto coast, the Barb conducted reconnaissance for several nights to determine the trains' schedules and to wait for the best cloudy weather overhead.

Selection of the crew members to conduct the raid was a long process. Every crewmember wanted to go. The CO wanted to lead the landing/ raiding party, but he was voted down for the safety of the submarine. LT Walker led the party as he was the largest officer. One man,

electrician Hatfield, (yes, from the **Hatfield** / McCoy clan fame in KY) was knowledgeable of trains as he had worked on trains in West Virginia and had cracked walnut shells as a boy in KY by using the track's vertical depression whenever a train passed by. All members were single, most were Boy Scouts / Eagle Scouts as this was seen as a survival mission in a strange land if detected during the mission. As the crew trained in the two rubber rafts and rehearsed on the sub, other crew members offered as much as six-months pay to take the place of any of the saboteurs. Each of the eight-man crew had a specific job, but they were cross-trained on others' jobs too.

2. Some problems happened during the actual raid. Once ashore, they found themselves 600 yards from the site where they should have landed their rafts. Then they had to cross through the back yard of a house to get to the road. When crossing the road (which paralleled the tracks between the tracks and the coast) to get to the railroad tracks, Lt Walker led the way. However in the dark there were bull rushes along the road that made considerable noise when passing thru them and then they all fell into a four foot deep ditch on both sides of the road. Finally they got to the tracks and started to dig to place the 55 pound charge, batteries in a # 10 tin can, and detonator under the tracks. Tim's father was a lookout 50 yards down the track in one direction and another man went 50 yards the other direction. They were to use bird calls (Bobwhite and Whippoorwill) for warnings. The second guard found a sentry's guard shack 40 yards up the tracks with the guard asleep inside. He returned to the diggers and told them to stop using the shovel and pick they had brought (made from deck plates). So the saboteurs actually dug the holes and planted the explosive charge with their bare hands as quietly as they could. As they were still setting up, a train came by. The saboteurs all dove for cover, and they thought they might have been seen by the train crew. However, the train kept on going and did not stop. They wanted to ensure the charge would blow when the next train passed, so the deflection detonator was set at 1/8 of an inch (not 1/2 of an inch as calculated by the CO).

3. When the charge was properly rigged, the men slipped quickly back to the two rubber rafts and paddled quickly to rendezvous with the Barb, located some hundreds of yards off shore. When they were ~1/2 way back to the Barb, they heard a train coming. They looked back to see the entire sky lit up and parts of the train thrown at least 200 feet in the air. Then they heard the noise!! By this time the CO on the bridge is screaming for them to paddle faster to reach the Barb, as the Barb was on the surface maneuvering to head out to sea. The eight saboteurs then threw overboard everything they weren't using for propulsion to lighten the raft's load – boy did they paddle. When all eight men and the rafts were aboard, the Barb was quickly out of there. As they departed the area, the Japanese air search lights panned the skies looking for the aircraft that caused this damage at 2 AM. The Japanese never suspected that a submarine had been there.

Until Eugene Fluckey published his book "Thunder Below," Tim's father never talked about what he did aboard the Barb for all those years. While their parents were at bowling night, Tim and his brother found his father's unauthorized personal log of all at-sea events aboard the Barb. His father feared he could go to jail if these logs were made public. Tim's dad wore a beard and a blue sapphire ring in his left ear while serving on Barb. The CO called Jim Richard a "great machinist and a true Pirate." In fact, Tim told us that the Richard family is indeed descended directly from the Cajun pirate Jean Lafitte.

Some of the wonderful PowerPoint pictures and artifacts displayed by Tim were:

- Train at night going up the coast with smoke streaming aft during a shore reconnaissance
- Four large crew members in a small four-man raft practicing their maneuvers
- “Booty” topside gleaned from a Japanese vessel before scuttling it (charts and wooden items came off first to avoid any flotsam being seen later.)
- Live fire from Barb’s surface guns taking down a Japanese surface ship
- Periscope photography showing targets of interest
- Pictures of the crew and the Barb’s growing battle flag after each patrol
- Picture of the CO cutting the cake in control after a successful kill (four cases of beer from the officer’s shower always came with each celebration cake)
- POW’s being taken care of humanely aboard the Barb
- Pictures of Barb shipmates, Tim’s father, and RADM Eugene Fluckey as COMSUBPAC and during award ceremonies

RADM Fluckey used the proceeds from his book “Thunder Below” to finance both Mississippi River and Alaskan cruise trips during the annual USS Barb reunions. He paid cruise expenses for all surviving crewmembers and their spouses. This crew was always tight.



After Tim answered several questions, the Base CDR, Chuck Martin thanked Tim and presented him with the USSVI NOVA Base Challenge coin.



Then, USSVI’s National Artist Tom Denton (center) and USS Barb (SS-220) crewmember John Lehman (left) (both of whom are members of the USSVI Tri-State Base) came forward and presented Tim Richard with a framed and signed original drawing of the USS Barb (SS-220) and its detailed battle flag. (photo by Mark Riethmeier)

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON APRIL 8TH FOR THE ANNUAL TOLLING OF THE BOATS CEREMONY. THE RECOMMENDED “UNIFORM” IS SUIT OR VEST AND TIE; NO T-SHIRTS AND JEANS PLEASE.

The CDR requested a motion to adjourn. It was so moved and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1303.

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

WW II ON THE HOMEFRONT



Discounted Museum
Admission just for
Submarine Veterans!
Only \$5!

Live music * Food Vendors * Boat pond with R/C submarine models *
Educational Programs * Fireworks * Venetian Boat Parade * Sidewalk
Sales * Water Ski Show * Sub Eating Contest * Guest Speaker Sam Mihara *
Boat & Bus Tours * Much More!



Special Perks for Sub Vets too!



Thursday night is Sub Vet night! USS *Cobia* and the museum's Sub Pub will be open for our exclusive Sub Vet only open house! Explore the sub on your own without the public present and then relax on the roof deck with a cold drink and a gorgeous view of Manitowoc and Lake Michigan.

For those who want to really relive the old days, you can spend the night aboard the boat! Sub Vets and a guest can spend the night aboard USS *Cobia*, Thursday, July 6th. The cost is just \$25 per person and all proceeds benefit the *Cobia* Dry Dock Fund.



Visit our website for more information www.wisconsinmaritime.org

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NEWS-01: 2017 USSVI CONVENTION INFORMATION Submitted by: Ray Wewers on 3/15/2017

Below is information for registering at Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel and for the 2017 Convention

2017 NATIONAL CONVENION INFORMATION

1. 2017 USSVI National Convention in Orlando, FL

Rosen Shingle Creek is a 4-star hotel with tons of amenities, including:

- Rooms for \$105.00 per night
- Free parking for hotel guests
- Free valet parking for handicapped guests with handicap license/sticker
- \$2.00 beer and reduce price mixed drinks in the hospitality room
- 25% discount at various hotel restaurants for guests

Note: Hotel and Convention Registration can be done on line

- Enter "<http://www.ussviconvention.org/2017/>"
- Click on the "Hotel Registration" or "Convention Registration"

2. Buying an ad in the convention magazine is a great way to promote their base and to support the convention

- Enter "<http://www.ussviconvention.org/2017/>"
- Click on "Vendor Information" and "Magazine Ad Order Form"

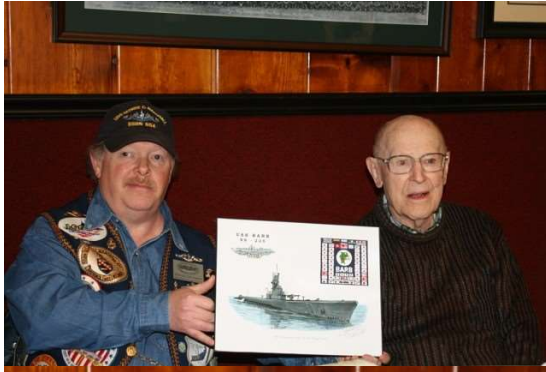
3. Convention sponsorship is another way to support the convention

- Enter "<http://www.ussviconvention.org/2017/>"
- Click on "Vendor Information" and "Sponsor Cover Letter" or "Sponsor Contribution Form"

Respectfully,

Russ Kraeger
2017 Convention Treasurer
(803) 439-3064

This is an official email communication from the United States Submarine Veterans. Contact the sender if you do not want to receive these messages.







<http://www.subforce.navy.mil/>



Today In Undersea Warfare History:

1918 | USS M-1 (SS 47) was commissioned with LCDR M. R. Pierce in command. Following commissioning, M-1 was assigned to Submarine Division 2, and was home ported at Newport, RI. for the next three years where she operated off the East Coast.

1945 | USS Barbel (SS 316) was officially reported lost. Barbel received three battle stars for her World War II service.

U.S. Undersea Warfare News

SUBLANT Sailors of the Year Selected For 2016

Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic Public Affairs, Navy.mil, February 16

FCET Success: SSBN Launches Fleet Ballistic Missiles

John M. Daniels, Strategic Systems Programs Public Affairs, Navy.mil, February 16

SSP's Benedict: Time to Start Thinking About the Next SLBM

RICHARD R. BURGESS, Sea Power Magazine, February 16

Navy Subs Still Show Issue With Stealth Coating

William Cole, Honolulu Advertiser, March 5

U.S. Navy Buys New Submarine Sonar Systems

Staff, UPI, March 6

Navy Officers Get Higher Nuclear Bonus

Staff, Military.com, March 7

International Undersea Warfare News

Norway and Germany Start Cooperation On Submarine And Missile Deliveries

Staff, Naval Technology, February 16

Timeline For Induction of Scorpene Submarine Drawn Up

Staff, Bangalore Mirror, March 5

30 Years Old Sub With 64 Nuclear Warheads Ready For Re-Launch

Thomas Nilsen, The Independent Barents Observer, March 7

Russia To Arm Antey Nuclear Subs With Kalibr Missiles

Ryan Maass, UPI, March 7

U.S. Undersea Warfare News

SUBLANT Sailors of the Year Selected For 2016

Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic Public Affairs, Navy.mil, February 16

NORFOLK, Virginia – The 2016 Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic (SUBLANT) Senior and Junior Sailors of the Year (SOY) for sea and shore were announced February 15.

The winners were recognized by Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic, Force Master Chief John Perryman during a luncheon held at the Pennsylvania House, Naval Station Norfolk.

"I had the esteemed pleasure to recognize these fine petty officers who embody the fighting spirit of the Navy," said Perryman. "Their professionalism and dedication is equally obvious in the performance of their duties and their commitment to their community. It is Sailors like these who lead the way among their peers and contribute greatly to the Navy's continued success. Bravo Zulu Shipmates on a job well done!"

"It is an incredible honor to know that the Navy recognized my hard work and dedication and considers me, and all of the other candidates, as examples of what Sailors should be," said Electronics Technician, Submarines Communication 1st Class Justin Willoughby, SUBLANT's Sea Junior Sailor of the Year. "I continuously strive to be the best I can be, and to set a positive example for the junior Sailors and receiving the nomination confirms that I am doing the right thing."

In the week prior to the ceremony, the Sailors went through PT sessions and a heritage tour of Naval Station Norfolk where the nominees visited the USS Cole memorial, Iowa Point and the USS Scorpion Memorial, building comradery and shedding light on those who have gone before them and made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom and democracy.

"It means a great deal to me to be a part of something bigger than myself," said Willoughby, who serves with the USS Tennessee (SSBN 734) Blue crew. "Nowhere else is there a job more important and where so many people count on you doing your job to the best of your ability. My shipmates count on me, my supervisors count on me and, most importantly, the American people count on me."

Representing a generation of submarine warfighters whose work ethic and demonstrated skill make up the

backbone of America's nuclear deterrent strategy, many candidates know they didn't reach this achievement alone.

"It is a testament to my previous and current Senior Enlisted Advisers and their guidance and mentorship," said SUBLANT Sea Senior Sailor of the year is Sonar Technician, Submarines 1st Class Thomas Hudgins. A native of Glen Rose Texas, Hudgins has served in the Navy for 10 years and is currently assigned to the USS Florida (SSGN 728) Blue crew. "It is truly an honor and I am proud to carry out their legacy. I love what I do and this country. I am blessed to be recognized for something I enjoy doing and being able to do it with amazing men and women."

"Receiving this honor means that I can do anything I set my mind to and that possibilities are endless," said Information Technician 2nd Class Bethany Polee, the winner of the Shore Junior Sailor of the Year. "Serving in the Navy has helped me develop character, mature and assisted me in broadening my horizons whereas I have had the pleasure of serving with a diverse group of Sailors."

As a Roanoke, Va. native, Polee serves as part of COMSUBLANT's Broadcast Control Authority watch standers which maintains and sustains communications with Atlantic based submarines.

"It is my highest achievement as a Sailor," said Yeoman 1st Class Fausto Viera, Submarine Squadron 16's nominee and winner of Shore Senior Sailor of the Year. "It motivates me to continue working to make my team better and continue to contribute to strengthen the Navy and the Submarine Force."

Viera, a San Juan, Porto Rican native who has served in the Navy for five years and seven months, knows it takes more than the individual but a group effort to achieve success.

"Serving in the Navy has taught me how to be a team player, a developing leader and to recognize that there are always areas to improve. I have learned to value other peoples values and diversity, be respectful and to be responsible in everything I do."

As the Senior Sea and Shore Sailors of the Year for SUBLANT, the next round of competition will see Willoughby and Viera competing in the Atlantic Fleet Sailor

of the Year competition hosted by Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command. The winner of the Atlantic Fleet Sea Sailor of the Year will be meritoriously advanced to chief petty officer.

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FCET Success: SSBN Launches Fleet Ballistic Missiles

John M. Daniels, Strategic Systems Programs Public Affairs, Navy.mil, February 16

WASHINGTON – An Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine assigned to Submarine Group 9 completed a Follow-on Commander's Evaluation Test (FCET) Feb. 16, resulting in four successful test flights of Trident II D5 missiles. Designated FCET-53, the operation spanned a three-day period.

The primary objective of an FCET is to obtain, under operationally representative conditions, valid reliability, accuracy, and performance of the missile system for use by Commander, Strategic Command and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Safety of the public was paramount throughout the mission. The missiles were unarmed and all launches were conducted from the sea, flew over the sea, and landed in the sea. At no time did the missiles fly over land.

A credible, effective nuclear deterrent is essential to national security and the security of U.S. allies and friends. The Trident II D5 missile is a submarine-launched ballistic missile which is one part of the nation's strategic deterrent triad. As the most survivable leg of the triad, it provides the national command authority with assured second-strike capability. Since its introduction to the fleet in 1989, the Trident II D5 missile has completed 165 successful test flights.

For more information, please contact Strategic Systems Program public affairs officer at John.daniels@ssp.navy.mil

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SSP's Benedict: Time to Start Thinking About the Next SLBM

RICHARD R. BURGESS, Sea Power Magazine, February 16

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Navy admiral responsible for developing and sustaining the Navy's submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) said the service is beginning to envision the next generation of SLBMs.

"Now is the time to start thinking about the next missile," Vice Adm. Terry Benedict, director, Strategic Systems Programs (SSP), told an audience at the American Society of Naval Engineers meeting Feb. 15. "What's it going to be? We are moving now with the military concepts and capabilities."

The UGM-133 Trident II D5 is the current SLBM in the Ohio-class nuclear-powered ballistic-missile submarine (SSBN) fleet and has been in service for 27 years. Lockheed Martin built a total of 533 D5 missiles. The D5 is being modernized with new components under a life-extension program (D5LE), a program expected to be complete by 2023.

The D5LE also will be the missile carried for the first deployments of the new Columbia-class SSBN, scheduled to make its first patrol in 2031. The Columbia class is scheduled to serve until 2082, and therefore will need a new missile — Benedict used the term E6 for it — at some point in its service life.

Benedict said the reliability of the Trident D5 missile is 114 percent of the program's goal and meets its accuracy goal by 240 percent.

The admiral listed his top concern and priority is the SSP's future workforce, preserving the culture of professionalism, security, safety and exacting performance

that has been the hallmark of the force since its inception 61 years ago.

He also expressed concern over the readiness of the SSBN fleet, noting that "we're seeing aging characteristics and phenomenology that in some cases is new."

Benedict voiced frustration about obtaining knowledge of the potential cyber threat the Navy's strategic weapons systems.

"No one will actually talk to you about the threat unless you can find that magical person and you have the magical clearance where they'll talk to you in detail," he said. "That could be the requirement for us as developers and acquisitions [officials] on what we're supposed to put in the architecture to address cyber. ... What is the requirement that I am supposed to put in the Trident II strategic weapon system — which represents 70 percent of this nation's strategic nuclear deterrent? What is the requirement that I have to address cyber proactively, rather than listening to all the stories that we have about cyber about how somebody invaded us, about how we found them and how we cleaned the system up?"

"We need to thinking from an engineering sense about how architect systems to prevent cyber attacks," he said. "In my opinion, we're way behind the power curve on how to do that."

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Navy Subs Still Show Issue With Stealth Coating

William Cole, Honolulu Advertiser, March 5

In 2010, when rubberlike quieting material started to peel off the hulls of newer Virginia-class submarines, the Navy said it was fine-tuning a fix for a problem occurring on the first few ships made.

Seven years later, the Navy still appears to be seeking a cure.

When the \$2 billion USS Mississippi recently returned to Pearl Harbor, its "Mold-In-Place/Special Hull Treatment" looked ragged and was missing chunks on at least one side of the hull. The sub was commissioned in 2012.

The loss of stealth comes at a time when China and Russia are making worrisome advances in submarine technology.

A photo that appeared on Facebook prompted the comment that the Mississippi looked "pretty banged up." No collision, no accident, and no hull damage, reported the Pacific Fleet Submarine Force at Pearl Harbor.

The Naval Sea Systems Command in Washington skirted questions about what happened to the Mississippi and how much of a problem the debonding remains for Virginia-class attack boats.

Asked what caused the damage, the command in an email cited the "wear and tear from the harsh environment in which the submarine operates," but would not say when or why it occurred.

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser also asked how much of a problem debonding remains across the Virginia-class fleet, given past problems with the hull treatment that is applied in sections.

"Navy and industry continue to find efficiencies and improvements in the construction and maintenance of Virginia-class submarines," the command said in the emailed response. "An integrated process team was assembled to address conditions such as those reflected in the (USS Mississippi) photograph, and improvements to materials, processes and testing were subsequently identified, evaluated and implemented. The Navy is continually assessing and developing more effective solutions."

Bryan Clark, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments and a former Navy submariner, said the amount of acoustic coating missing on the Mississippi "could create enough flow noise to be a sound problem at even relatively slow speeds. Also, there is enough tile missing that it could reduce the coating's ability to absorb sonar energy and make the submarine easier to find with active sonar."

Clark said it isn't clear from the photo if the tiles came off due to debonding, meaning a loss of adhesion, "or if they got stripped off from something rubbing against the submarine. Nets and cables adrift at sea can do this."

Cmdr. Corey Barker, a spokesman for the Pacific Fleet Submarine Force, said that in terms of possible abrasion, he was "not aware of anything of that nature" happening.

The 377-foot attack submarine returned to Pearl Harbor on Feb. 13 after being in and out of port for routine

training, Barker said. On Sept. 1, the Mississippi came home after a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific.

A Navy photo taken June 13 during a port stop in Busan, South Korea, shows the same side of the sub missing a few coating pieces, but not anywhere close to the degree of loss exhibited last month.

Asked if the debonding occurred during the deployment, the Naval Sea Systems Command said, "As a matter of (Defense Department) policy, we do not discuss the specifics of submarine operations."

Anechoic, or echo-reducing, tiles were used by Nazi Germany in World War II. The application helps break up incoming sound waves and reduces the sound that travels back from sonar. The Soviets adopted the use of the coating, and the U.S. Navy followed in 1988.

The USS Hawaii, Texas and North Carolina, all now based at Pearl Harbor and among the first Virginia subs to be built, were part of a group of about six of the vessels identified in 2010 as having a problem with the mold-in-place urethane coating.

"We've been made aware of the issues, we're making improvements in the process, and we're seeing results already," the Associated Press quoted Alan Baribeau, a Naval Sea Systems Command spokesman, saying at the time.

The website Next Navy posted photos from 2013, however, showing the submarines Minnesota and Missouri with some coating coming off. The Navy has been replacing older Los Angeles-class subs at Pearl Harbor with the more capable Virginia-class. Four Virginia subs are based in Hawaii now. The USS Illinois is expected to be relocated to Oahu.

Naval analyst and author Norman Polmar, who served as a consultant to three secretaries of the Navy, said it's a glue issue with the acoustic material.

"Remember, (the coating sheets) are external to a submarine, which is going from surface pressure down to, let's say, 1,000 feet occasionally," Polmar said. "In addition, the temperature changes radically."

The glue has to "take the constant changes in pressure, constant changes in temperature, and it ain't an easy thing to do," he said. Additionally, submarines periodically brush against floating debris, against a pier, or "rarely, but sometimes, against another submarine."

The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard said in 2015 that it was working on special hull treatment restoration on the USS Hawaii. Naval Sea Systems Command did not disclose when the Mississippi will receive repairs or the estimated cost.

Clark, with the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, said the Navy always has had difficulty keeping anechoic coatings on submarine hulls. Since the sound energy from sonar hits the whole submarine, a few missing tiles will not significantly affect the return, he said.

But he said the Navy will have to continue to improve the acoustic coating's resilience with other countries starting to use more active variable-depth sonars on ships and

helicopters that can be positioned to more effectively look for submarines.

The Russians have made significant strides in acoustic technology on the Severodvinsk-class submarines, and the U.S. Navy's Acoustic Superiority Program is an attempt to stay ahead of the pack. The sub USS South Dakota, expected to be christened this summer, is being used as a test for an improved acoustic coating and noise-reducing machinery.

General Dynamics Electric Boat in 2012 said it was delivering the Mississippi to the Navy a year ahead of contract schedule and more than \$60 million below target cost. The USS Mississippi Commissioning Committee reported the sub's cost at \$2 billion.

A 2016 Congressional Research Service report said the procurement cost of two Virginia-class subs in fiscal 2017 was \$2.7 billion each.

U.S. Navy Buys New Submarine Sonar Systems **Staff, UPI, March 6**

Lockheed Martin received a \$100.4 million contract modification to deliver Technical Insertion-16 Acoustic Rapid Commercial Off The Shelf Insertion systems.

The contract supports vessels operated by the U.S. Navy. The Acoustic Rapid Commercial Off The Shelf Insertion system, or A-RCI, is designed to improve acoustic improvements for a ship as well as improve sensor processing. The Navy will also receive spares and pre-cable kits.

A-RCI was developed by Lockheed Martin as a commercial computer platform in the 1990s. In addition to boosting sonar capabilities, the system allowed for frequent hardware and software upgrades and enhanced acoustic quieting measures.

Navy Officers Get Higher Nuclear Bonus **Staff, Military.com, March 7**

The Navy is increasing the annual Nuclear Officer Incentive Continuation Pay for some of its nuclear-qualified officers from \$30,000 to \$35,000.

Nuclear Officer Incentive Continuation Pay (COPAY) is a sum of money paid in annual installments to nuclear-qualified officers who agree to remain on active duty an additional set period beyond their existing service obligation. Normally, nuclear officers must agree to serve an additional 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 years to qualify for this continuation pay.

COPAY is paid each year for the length of a contract. Eligible officers serving on an existing COPAY agreement may re-negotiate a 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 year contract with a period that extends to, or beyond, an existing agreement to receive this new amount.

That same year, Rear Adm. Charles Richard, director of undersea warfare, and Rear Adm. Michael Jabaley, program executive officer for submarines, told members of Congress that the need for submarines is only growing.

"As the threat from adversary advances in sensors and weapons such as cruise missiles, anti-ship ballistic missiles and integrated air defense systems grows," the pair said in written testimony, "undersea forces will be increasingly asked to accomplish missions once conducted by forces that are now held at increased and potentially unacceptable risk by the improved range, precision, and lethality of advanced systems."

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Lockheed Martin says the Navy's entire submarine fleet has been equipped with the system.

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, work on the contract will be performed in Manassas, Va. and Clearwater, Fla., and is expected to be complete by December 2022.

Lockheed Martin received all funding at the time of the contract award. The Naval Sea Systems Command is the contracting activity.

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Previously only 1110 or 1120 officers serving in designated submarine nuclear propulsion billets could receive the \$35,000 bonus. The new, higher bonus is available for all unrestricted line submarine officers O-6 or below with less than 24 years of service. The change is effective immediately.

Nuclear officers are also eligible for an accession bonus when first accepted into nuclear training, a career bonus upon successful completion of training. They may also receive an Annual Incentive Bonus after completing a minimum service qualification and while not receiving certain other special pays.

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International Undersea Warfare News

Norway and Germany Start Cooperation On Submarine And Missile Deliveries

Staff, Naval Technology, February 16

Authorities from the Norwegian and German governments have initiated a comprehensive industrial cooperation on submarine and missile deliveries, thereby securing job opportunities in Norway.

The strategic partnership between the two European countries for the purchase of submarines now includes the Naval Strike Missile (NSM), developed by Norway-based manufacturer Kongsberg.

Norway Prime Minister Erna Solberg said: "The government is working to achieve industrial agreements with the ambition that they will secure work for Norwegian defence industry to a value corresponding to the acquisition of new submarines.

"The Norwegian defence industry has solid products of relevance for new submarines, and we are working hard to secure access to international markets for these and other Norwegian defence products."

The missile cooperation between the nations boosts further development of the missile, as the German Navy plans to procure several NSMs for its vessels. It will also support

joint maintenance and logistics between the navies of Germany and Norway.

Kongsberg will have the large and major deliveries to the new submarines along with a network of about 100 small and large suppliers across the country, while the combat management system for the submarines will be supplied by the Norwegian industry.

Norway Defence Minister Ine Eriksen Søreide said: "Germany is planning to acquire a significant number of missiles for its navy; this provides great opportunities for Norwegian industry, both for Kongsberg and Norwegian subcontractors.

"It is important to ensure technological advancement of Norwegian missile technology, and in the years ahead we will, along with Germany, further develop the Norwegian NSM against future threats."

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Timeline For Induction of Scorpene Submarine Drawn Up

Staff, Bangalore Mirror, March 5

Leaving behind the data leak episode, the Indian Navy has finally drawn up a timeline for induction of the six French-designed Scorpene submarines and the first two vessels are expected to be commissioned by end of the year.

Top Navy sources said the Kalvari, the first of the highly-advanced submarines, is set for induction by middle of this year as the complex process of integrating it with missiles and weapons system was nearing completion.

The submarines are being built at the Mazagon Dock Ltd in Mumbai with technology from French defence major DCNS under a project called P-75 at a cost of around USD 3.5 billion.

As per the plan, the second submarine Khanderi will be inducted into the Navy fleet by end of 2017 and thereafter each vessel will be commissioned at an interval of nine months.

The submarines are expected to significantly boost India's naval prowess when China was fast expanding its maritime presence in the Indian Ocean.

In August, over 22,000 pages of top secret data on the capabilities of the submarines were leaked with an Australian newspaper putting the details on its website,

triggering apprehensions that the leak may compromise the stealth capabilities of the vessels.

Navy sources, then, had said the document was dated and the Indian submarine had undergone "many changes" from the initial design, the details of which have been leaked.

The Project 75 has been hit by delays as the multi-billion dollar project was signed by the defence ministry with French firm DCNS in October 2005.

The first four submarines will be conventional while the last two are to be equipped with the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system, which will enable the vessel to stay underwater for longer duration.

All the six diesel-electric attack submarines will be equipped with the anti-ship missile, which has a proven record in combat, besides other weapon systems.

The navy on Thursday had successfully test-fired an anti-ship missile from the Kalvari.

Construction of the first submarine had started on May 23, 2009 and the project is running four years behind schedule.

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30 Years Old Sub With 64 Nuclear Warheads Ready For Re-Launch

Thomas Nilsen, The Independent Barents Observer, March 7

«Tula» is a Delta-IV class submarine carrying 16 ballistic missiles, each armed with four nuclear warheads. In total, the sub has a lethal load of 64 nuclear warheads.

First launched in 1987, the 30 years old submarine has been in for modernization at the Zvezdochka shipyard in Severodvinsk since December 2014.

Before the end of this year, «Tula» will again be ready to sail for the Northern fleet for many years to come. The Russian navy has six Delta-IV nuclear powered submarines, all based in Gadzhievo northwest of Murmansk on the Kola Peninsula.

Russia's ballistic missile submarines normally patrol the northeastern part of the Barents Sea and represents an important leg in Russia's nuclear deterrence.

Next Delta-IV submarine in line for upgrades after «Tula» now is taken out of the ship hall is «Bryansk», the shipyard's portal reports.

This is likely the last round of overhaul of the Delta-IV fleet. The class will be replaced with the newer 4th generation Borei-class submarines, of which the three first are

already in operation, two with the Pacific fleet and one with the Northern fleet.

With eight Borei submarines, the number of strategic warheads will be a maximum of 888; three with 16 missiles and five with 20 missiles. In practice, not all Borei's will be deployed at the same time due to maintenance and repair work. Also, some of the missiles are likely to carry dummy warheads for test-launchings.

In the period when both the current fleet of Delta-IV subs and the upcoming Borei-class subs will sail together, the numbers of nuclear warheads in the Barents Sea will be substantially higher than today, as reported by the Barents Observer last week.

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Russia To Arm Antey Nuclear Subs With Kalibr Missiles

Ryan Maass, UPI, March 7

Russian Project 949A Antey submarines will be armed with Kalibr missile systems following an upgrade project, according to state media reports.

The vessels, also known by their NATO reporting names Oscar I and Oscar II, are currently armed with P-700 Granit cruise missiles in addition to various anti-ship and anti-submarine weapons. The Kremlin's plans to improve the Soviet-era ships were announced by Russian Deputy Defense Minister Yuri Borisov.

"The Zvezda shipyard is carrying out profound modernization of Project 949A nuclear submarines, including the replacement of armament with the Kalibr missile complex

and also the replacement of navigation, life support and other systems," the minister told the TASS news agency.

Moscow has so far constructed 11 Project 949A Antey submarines, 8 of which have remained operational with the country's navy. Each vessel displaces 24,000 tons at sea.

Russia's Rubin Central Design Bureau for Marine Engineering CEO Igor Vilnit adds all Project 949A Antey submarines will receive the upgrade.

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