



May 2021  
Published Monthly

**STEEL VALLEY DOLPHINS**  
**USSVI REQUIN BASE NEWSLETTER**



## The USSVI Requin Base supports the National Creed

“To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.”

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### Meeting Information

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month, normally at the Baden PA American Legion. Quarterly meetings are held around our membership area.

#### **Our next meeting will be**

June 12, 2021 @ 1230 hours  
At Columbiana American Legion  
44403 OH-14, Columbiana, OH 44408

### Base Location



American Legion Post 641  
271 State St  
Baden PA 15005

### From the Editor

Please send ideas for articles or copies of articles, with full credit information to me for consideration of submission in the SVD.

We are a SUBMARINE group. As such, the articles should be of SUBMARINE or NAVY related.

Lou Hamill - [itgeek8088@gmail.com](mailto:itgeek8088@gmail.com)

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE, ATTEND A MEETING!

### Our Website

For additional information about what is happening at **YOUR** base, go to

<https://www.requinbase.org/>



## USSVI National Officers

Office	Officer	Phone	eMail
National Commander	Wayne Standerfer	972-298-8139	<a href="mailto:lwaynes@charter.net">lwaynes@charter.net</a>
Senior Vice Commander	Jon Jaques	615-893-7800	<a href="mailto:jjaques@bellsouth.net">jjaques@bellsouth.net</a>
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Secretary	Raymond Wewers	479-967-5541	<a href="mailto:raywewers@gmail.com">raywewers@gmail.com</a>
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District Commander EN3	Hubert Dietrich	412-486-2635	<a href="mailto:hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com">hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com</a>



## USS Requin Base Officers

Office	Officer	Phone	eMail
Base Commander	Hubert C. Dietrich	412-486-2635	<a href="mailto:hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com">hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com</a>
1st Vice Commander	Carl Stigers	412-995-8028	<a href="mailto:carstenstigers@verizon.net">carstenstigers@verizon.net</a>
2nd Vice Commander	Rick Elster	412-751-7967	<a href="mailto:relster565@comcast.net">relster565@comcast.net</a>
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Asst. Holland Club	Dick Geyer	724-637-2995	<a href="mailto:dqdiving@gmail.com">dqdiving@gmail.com</a>
Technology Chair	Lou Hamill	412-445-3998	<a href="mailto:itgeek8088@gmail.com">itgeek8088@gmail.com</a>
Eagle Scout Chair	Vince Metz	412-613-5554	<a href="mailto:vincemetz007@hotmail.com">vincemetz007@hotmail.com</a>
Awards Chair	Dick Geyer	724-637-2995	<a href="mailto:dqdiving@gmail.com">dqdiving@gmail.com</a>
Master at Arms	Bat Masterson	724-869-1938	<a href="mailto:mastersoncf@aol.com">mastersoncf@aol.com</a>
Public Affairs Chair	Ed Derr	724-854-0781	<a href="mailto:redde@gmail.com">redde@gmail.com</a>



## Binnacle List

James Kontir  
Edie Dietrich

## Eternal Patrol



All hands present and accounted for.

## Boats Lost



### Tolling of the Boats for May

#### **USS Lagarto (SS-371)**

Lost on May 3, 1945 with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of Siam. On her 2nd war patrol, she is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. This minelayer was sunk by the USS Hawkbill (SS-366) 2 weeks later.

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

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

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

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

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

Lost on May 28, 1958 when it sank off Hawaii while under tow after collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). The entire crew was taken off prior to sinking.

## Birthdays

## Anniversaries

### Member

### Spouse

Frank Nicotra	06/01/47	Evelyn Hollingsworth	1-Jun	Nancy & Clair Bouts	1-Jun
William Rodgers	06/11/39	Robert Carman	2-Jun	Vivian & John Mack	1-Jun
James Messer	06/14/52	Christina Wyckoff	2-Jun	Patricia & Ronnie Horton	2-Jun
Jim Wiehagen	06/14/68	Sheila Burdin	4-Jun	Kelly & Stephen McKinney	7-Jun
Kenneth Crosby	06/15/51	Mary Beth Flaugh	6-Jun	Adele & Herbert Wise	10-Jun
Herbert Hollingsworth	06/15/24	Danielle Greenwald	7-Jun	Holly & John Sipes Jr.	12-Jun
Sandra Ellis	06/17/40	Carol Benson	7-Jun	Patricia & Ronald Goron	14-Jun
John Sutherin, Jr	06/17/66	Sandy Hamill	8-Jun	Kathy & Robert Schmidt	14-Jun
Carl Benson	06/18/44	Adriana Hoag	13-Jun	Vicky & Aubrey Allen Smith	15-Jun
Kevin Corcoran	06/18/83	Mary Jane Derr	16-Jun	Donna & William Greenlee	16-Jun
John Lukasik	06/18/46	Karen Keys	18-Jun	Stephanie & Peter Foster	17-Jun
Robert Lindsey	06/21/44	Patricia Horton	29-Jun	Carmella & Michael Markel	21-Jun
John Sipes Jr.	06/23/59			Helga & Larry Iden	30-Jun
David Cochenour II	06/25/75				
Joseph Campisi	06/29/49				
Richard McCullough	06/29/44				





Shipmates – it was an outstanding base meeting! We had thirty-nine (39) members and first mates participating. First Mate Edie welcomed all the ladies! It's been since March of 2020 that she has attended. She had a beautiful cake made for Mother's Day and also honored Dick & Beverly Geyer who were celebrating their anniversary. The ladies were also presented with a red corsage which were decorated with a red-white-blue ribbon to honor them for Mother's Day!



On a sad note, First mate Donna Greenlee had a terrible accident while she was leaving the meeting. She tripped over the curb in the parking lot. Her husband, Shipmate Bill drove her to the emergency room for treatment. She was black & blue with scrapes on her face! She is at home resting comfortably – Donna, GET WELL SOON!

Shipmate Bat Masterson requested wall space at the Legion, for our Eternal Patrol Plaque and they graciously agreed. We will be up-dating the plaque info since its almost 6 years since we moved into the Legion – KUDOS BAT!

Shipmate Eric Bookmiller volunteered to construct an addition to our existing plaque since there are 34 additions names to be added. Speaking of Eric. He surprised us all with a beautiful challenge coin display shelving. He suggested a sale price of \$50.00 with all the proceeds going to the Idaho Fund! Needless to say - Booky our Treasurer, beat everyone to the punch, by purchasing it. Shipmate Dick Geyer has ordered one for his nephew and others are being built for future orders.

Shipmate Lou Hamill is busy building submarine beer tap handles. We have sold six (6) and two more orders are being taken and processed. When you order, please request your boat number to be added.

We are processing a new member who showed up at the meeting to sail with the Requin Base. He is Charles Warren. He moved from Texas to Columbiana, Ohio. He makes 198 members in the Base!

After the meeting, while we were having some refreshments, shipmate George Brown offered to donate \$ 100.00 to the Idaho Fund, if another members would accept the challenge to match his offer. Low and behold, shipmate Chad Underkoffler accepted the challenge and deposited the \$100.00 right then and there – KUDOS – George & Chad!

Our Requin Memorial service, which will be held on board the USS REQUIN, on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 hours. The crew and guests will muster at 09:15 hours. We will have the VFW 9199 Riffle Squad, the Marine Corp League as our color guard and Alyssa as our singer and hopefully we will add a bag-piper!

Please e-mail me and let me know if you plan to attend and participate by reading our lost boats – [hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com](mailto:hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com)

Last but not Least – Our Baden American Legion is offering “MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY”, on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 16:00 to 19:00 hours. It is a celebration and recognition of all armed services – The event is an open event for all VETERANS!





A special shout out goes to Evelyn and Linda for the exceptional kindness they show to us unruly sailors during our rambunctious carrying on after each meeting.

Eddie, there is not enough of anything in the world to represent the thanks for all you do for the submarine veterans.



Bob Sotter from the Shaler School District

### USS Idaho Support Fundraiser

May 8, 2021

Thank You, to everyone who has helped us reach our goal so far.







*Please Join Us For*

# MILITARY

# APPRECIATION DAY



**UNITED STATES MILITARY**

# SUNDAY MAY 16, 2021

# 4 PM UNTIL 7 PM

*A Celebration and Recognition of All Armed Services*

**THIS IS AN OPEN EVENT  
FOR ALL VETERANS**





Congratulations to all the members inducted into the Holland Club in April.

Appearing above from left to right, Valentine (Tino) Bolcato, Keith Small, Joe Campisi (HC Chairman), Chad Underkoffler, Bill Greenlee, Chuck Schrupp



The Baden American held its Stand down on April 24, 2021.

Thank You to Huey Dietrich, Joe Campisi and Mike Allen for helping with their effort to support the veteran community.

A special shout out and Bravo Zulu goes to Bill Lindsey for representing the Requin Base at the Arizona Silent Service Memorial.



The *Arizona Silent Service Memorial (ASSM)* monument now stands at the Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza located in the "front yard" of the Arizona State Capitol Complex, 1700 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ.

The ASSM stands as the Plaza's only tribute to the United States Navy's "silent service" and all submarines and submarine veterans who have served, are serving, or will serve our nation. The ASSM memorial began as a concept and over a six-year period evolved to its completion through the hard work and dedication Phoenix, Arizona Perch Base Chapter of the United States Submarine Veterans (USSVI) members, their friends and families. These submarine veterans conceptually developed the monument, sought and achieved approval from the Arizona State Legislature, raised the necessary funds to construct the monument's features and achieve its presence as the only and one-of-a-kind monument dedicated to submarine veterans.

Through the dedication, leadership and commitment of corporations, individuals, and businesses from across the country, the monument was dedicated in a special "Lei Cutting" Ceremony on 28 September 2020, the day it was officially opened to the public.

This unique monument includes many historic tributes and powerful symbolic features that honors our nation's mighty submarine force since it was established by the U.S. Navy on 11 April, 1900. The major feature of the monument is the center piece, created by a submariner. This piece, all mounted on a 32,000 pound trapezoid base, depicts a scaled replica of a U.S. Navy nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine surfacing in an emergency blow from the depths of the ocean and captures it as it bursts through the surface. Behind stands the Lost Boat Wall that honors the sixty-five U.S. Navy submarines that have been lost at-sea along engraved with the dates they were lost and the number of crew men that lost their lives.



Greetings to all my fellow Requin Base shipmates, spouses, and associate members,

Our meeting Saturday was incredible. The food was great, our time spent together was tremendous and a real blessing to be able to spend time with shipmates and their first mates. Man is a social creature, and we NEED to spend time with others to be able to function. I was once in a discussion with a few other pastors in a meeting and we were discussing the need to associate with others. We were discussing the social issues that arrive when people are placed by themselves or chose to isolate from society. The general response was that nothing particularly good resulted.

The ability to fellowship with others is built into our being by God. In fact, that is the reason that God created Man. For fellowship. When looking in Genesis prior to the fall, Adam did several things but they were all done while communicating back and forth with God. God gave man free will though and Man blew it. And the journey down the rabbit hole began so to speak. Over the years I have come to realize that my days and my productivity hinge on my fellowship with others. When I self-isolate I remove myself from the benefits of other people and even though I may blame it on "things" or "events" it is usually just my own behavior. Feeling in a funk? I challenge you to spend time with others even if you do not want to and watch as your attitude improves.

Armed services day is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and I want to take this opportunity to thank our active duty and reserve members of the armed forces for their service and also thank their families for the sacrifice they make on a daily basis. You all have that gratitude of this old Chief.

And finally, Paul writes in most of the New Testament books he wrote about being a servant to the Body. The Greek word means bond slave it is Doulos. In our fellowship with God and each other we must strive to become a Doulos to each other and so continue to serve. It is a great privilege for me to be able to serve the base and you my shipmates.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters deployed in harm's way and for those other service members deployed overseas in combat or support areas. Pray for our Country and leadership. Please know that I lift all of you up in prayer much every day.

In His Service,  
Carl Stigers  
National Chaplain/ Requin Chaplain



### Store Keepers Report

Please visit our online store at  
<https://requinbase.org/shop/>



You can have your items shipped to you at home via USPS [for a small fee], or pick them up at the next USSVI meeting.





## Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2021  
American Legion Houston, PA & Zoom

**Base Commander Huey Dietrich** called the meeting to order.

**Attendees:** Mike Allen, Carl & Carol Benson, John Bistolas, Eric Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, Clair Bouts, George Brown, Joe Campisi, Ed & Mary Jane Derr, Huey & Edie Dietrich, Dick & Beverly Geyer, Bill & Donna Greenlee, Lou Hamill, John Held, Bill Lindsey, Chuck Loskosh, Bat Masterson, Vince Metz, Bob & Jude Myers, Frank Nicotra, Chuck Shrum, Jeff & Eileen Simon, Keith & Connie Small, Carl Stigers, Jack Sutherin, Chad Underkoffler, Charles Warren, Mike Wyckoff

**Base Commander Huey Dietrich:** Quotes of the day: “Of all the branches of men in the forces there is none which shows more devotion and faces grimmer perils than the submariners.”

**History of the Requin:** May 1, 1949 Requin sailed east for her first deployment with the Sixth Fleet. May 14 1949 arriving at Gibraltar, Requin operated in the Mediterranean Sea. May 2 1955 Requin sailed for her 5<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean deployment. Detached at the end of July, she returned to Norfolk VA and remained on the east coast with cruises to the Caribbean until November 1957 when she resumed duty with the Sixth Fleet. May 28 1968 Requin departed Norfolk VA as part of search efforts for the missing nuclear attack submarine Scorpion SSN-589. May 24 1990 Requin was towed to Tampa Shipyard for dry docking and hull repairs in preparation for her move to Pittsburgh PA.

**Base Commander Huey Dietrich:** Let us at this time, with a moment of silent prayer, remember our Shipmates who made the supreme sacrifice that we may gather here in Peace. We dedicate this meeting to our Shipmates on Eternal Patrol, to perpetuate their memories in our lives and to honor our Shipmates on active duty in the service of the first line of defense of our Nation.

### **Boats Lost:**

USS LAGARTO (SS 371) May 3, 1945

USS SCORPION (SSN589) May 22, 1968

USS SQUALUS (SS 192) May 23, 1939 (Re-commissioned as USS SAILFISH (SS 192) 1940)

USS STICKELBACK (SS 415) May 30, 1958

We also remember our departed shipmates of the Requin Base Donald Trombolo, Ed Figas, Richard Tat, John Yaksich, and Robert Lindsay. Let us also remember the brave submariners who died performing their duties aboard submarines, some individually and some in groups, but where the submarine itself was not lost.

**Chaplain Carl Stigers** gave the Invocation.

Members introduced themselves and the boats they qualified on.

**Base Secretary Jeff Simon** reported that Minutes of the previous base meeting were published in the SVD. With no objections, the minutes were approved as published.

**Treasurer Lee Bookwalter** gave an accounting of base assets, expenditures, and deposits which are available upon request. With no objections, the report was approved.

### **Other Reports:**

Binnacle List: James Kontir, Edie Dietrich

Eternal Patrol: Sally Smith's sister

Membership stands at 198. A summary of changes to membership was given.

**Storekeeper Frank Nicotra** reported on small stores, USS Idaho items and ordering items online.



**Shipmate Vince Metz** reported on Eagle Scout court of honor presentations.

### **Memorial And Ceremonies**

Memorial Service will be held onboard the USS Requin on Sunday May 30. Muster at 0915 hours.

Carnegie Parade on May 30 cancelled

Canonsburg Parade will be held on Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1000 hours.

### **Old Business:**

Fund raising for USS Idaho support activities stands at \$7,596.79 towards our goal of \$10,000.

A report on American Legion Stand Down was given.

### **New Business:**

USSVI license plate costs will be going up a few dollars in the coming months

Shipmate Eric Bookmiller submitted and discussed an article that was published in the American Submariner.

Shipmate Chad Underkoffler accepted the challenge put forth by Shipmate George Brown and donated \$250.00 to the Idaho Fund.

### **Good Of The Order:**

Easter chocolate bunnies were delivered from Requin Base to the USS Idaho on time for their children for Easter.

Armed Forces Appreciation Day is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Various organizations are holding activities during the week.

Shipmate Bill Lindsay reported on his attendance at the Arizona dedication ceremony.

The base will participate in a joint webcast with the Navy League. Date and time to be determined.

**Chaplain Carl Stigers** gave the Benediction and blessing of today's meal.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

**Next meeting:** 1230 hours on June 12, 2021 (Location to be determined)





## Upcoming Events

Memorial Day Service onboard the USS Requin. Muster time is 0915 hours on Sunday May 30th.

Canonsburg Parade will be held on Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am.

Titusville Parade 8/15/2021 details to follow.



## Membership

Regular Members	181	Holland Club	89	USSVI Life Members	75
Associate Members	13	WWII	5	Base Life Members	50
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>198</b>				



## New Members

Charles Warren qualified on the USS Guardfish (SSN-612) in 1973 as an ET. He left the Navy in 1975 as an ETR2 (SS). Charles lives in Columbi- ana, Oh., with his first mate Gail. Please email Charles and welcome him aboard - [gmagpa65@yahoo.com](mailto:gmagpa65@yahoo.com)



## Eagle Scouts

Please direct all Eagle Court of Honor requests to <https://requinbase.org/eagle-coh>

Congratulations to:  
Michael J. Spinelli Troop 403

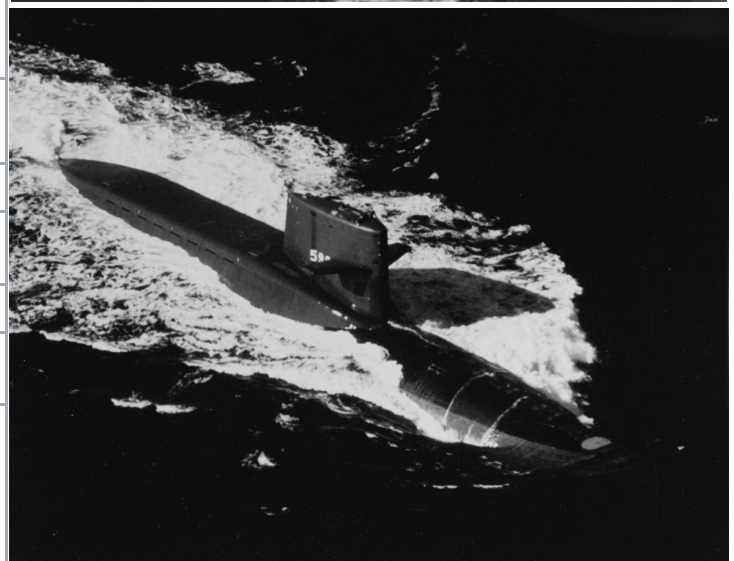


Name:	USS George Washington
Namesake:	President <u>George Washington</u> (1732–1799)
Ordered:	31 December 1957
Builder:	<u>General Dynamics Electric Boat</u>
Laid down:	1 November 1958
Launched:	9 June 1959
Sponsored by:	Mrs. Robert B. Anderson
Commissioned:	30 December 1959
Decommissioned:	24 January 1985
Stricken:	30 April 1986
Homeport:	<u>Pearl Harbor, Hawaii</u>
Nickname(s):	"The Georgefish"
Fate:	Recycling via the <u>Ship-Submarine Recycling Program</u> completed 30 September 1998



### General characteristics

Class and type:	<u>George Washington-class submarine</u>
Type:	<u>SSBN</u> (hull design SCB-180A)
Displacement:	5400 tons light 5959–6019 tons surfaced 6709–6888 Approx. tons submerged
Length:	381 ft 7.2 in (116.312 m)
Beam:	33 ft (10 m)
Draft:	29 ft (8.8 m)
Propulsion:	1 × <u>S5W PWR</u> 2 × geared <u>turbines</u> rated at 15,000 <u>shp</u> (11,000 <u>kW</u> ) 1 × 7-bladed screw
Speed:	20 <u>kn</u> (37 <u>km/h</u> ) surfaced +25 <u>kn</u> (46 <u>km/h</u> ) submerged
Range:	unlimited except by food supplies
Test depth:	700 ft (210 m) (maximum over 900 ft (270 m))
Capacity:	120
Complement:	Two crews (Blue/Gold) each consisting of 12 officers and 100 men.
Armament:	16 <u>Polaris A1/A3 missiles</u> 6 × 21 in (530 mm) <u>torpedo tubes</u> ( <u>Mark 16</u> , <u>Mark 37</u> , or <u>Mark 48 torpedoes</u> )





**05/01/1943**

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

**05/02/1942**

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

**05/02/1945**

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

**05/03/1942**

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

**05/03/2008**

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

**05/05/2007**

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

**05/10/1944**

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

**05/10/1960**

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

**05/14/1944**

USS Bonfish (SS 223) attacks a Japanese convoy bound for Sibitu Passage, Borneo, and sinks Japanese destroyer Inazuma near TawiTawi, east of Borneo and survives counter-attacks by Japanese destroyer Hibiki. Also on this date, USS Aspro (SS 309) and USS Bowfin (SS 287) attack a Japanese convoy and sinks cargo ship BisanMaru.

**05/15/1969**

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

**05/17/1942**

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

**05/20/1944**

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

**05/21/1983**

USS Albuquerque (SSN 706) is commissioned at Submarine Base New London, Groton, Conn.

**05/22/1968**

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

**05/23/1939**

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

**05/24/1939**

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

**05/25/1944**

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

**05/25/1985**

USS Alabama (SSN 731) is commissioned at Naval Submarine Base New London, Conn.

**05/26/1943**

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

**05/27/1943**

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

**05/28/1943**

USS Peto (SS 265) sinks Japanese hydrographic-meteorological research ship Tenkai No.2 northeast of Mussau Island. Also on this date, USS Tunny (SS 282) sinks Japanese gunboat Shotoku Maru off the west coast of Rota, Mariana Islands.

**05/28/1945**

USS Ray (SS 271) sinks Japanese freighter Biko Maru northwest of Changshan. Also on this date, USS Blueback (SS 326) and USS Lamprey (SS 372) damage Japanese submarine chaser Ch1 in a surface gunnery action off Japara, N.E.I.

**05/29/1945**

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

**05/30/1944**

USS Guitarro (SS 363) sinks Japanese freighter Shisen Maru, 60 miles south-east of Keelung, Formosa. Also on this date, USS Pompon (SS 267) sinks Japanese freighter Shiga Maru off Muroto Saki, Japan while USS Rasher (SS 269) sinks the gunboat Anshu Maru about 110 miles north-northeast of Halmahera.

**05/31/1944**

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



## Navy Announces New Flag Assignments; Including New Undersea Warfare Director

By: Mallory Shelbourne

From: USNI News April 30, 2021

<https://news.usni.org/2021/04/30/navy-announces-new-flag-assignments-including-new-undersea-warfare-director>



BANGOR, Wash. (Jan. 25, 2019) Rear Adm. Douglas Perry, from Biloxi, Mississippi, receives honors from the sideboys as the official party arrives during a change of command ceremony for Submarine Group 9. US Navy Photo

The Navy on Friday unveiled a series of promotions and new assignments for flag officers, including a new undersea warfare requirements officer.

Rear Adm. Doug Perry, who has led Submarine Group Nine since January 2019, will head to the Pentagon as the new director of undersea warfare on the chief of naval operations' staff (OPNAV N97). Perry was previously at U.S. Fleet Forces Command, where he was the joint and fleet operations director, according to his service bio.

The Pentagon last week disclosed that Rear Adm. William Houston, the current N97, is up for a promotion to vice admiral and to lead Naval Submarine Forces.

The service this week also tapped a new head of the Office of Naval Intelligence. Rear Adm. Ronald Copley, who has been the National Security Agency's deputy director of operations, will serve as ONI's new commander. He'll also serve as the National Maritime Intelligence Integration Officer's director.

Rear Adm. Doug Verissimo, who has been the commander of Carrier Strike Group 9 since June 2020, will head to the Pentagon to lead the assessment division of the chief of naval operations' staff (OPNAV N81).

Rear Adm. William Byrne Jr., who has been the vice director on the Pentagon's Joint Staff, will head over to the chief of naval operations' staff to serve as its warfare development director (N72). According to his service bio, Byrne has previously led Carrier Strike Group 15 and U.S. Naval Forces Korea.

*Below is the Navy's full flag officer announcement from April 30:*

Rear Adm. William D. Byrne Jr. will be assigned as director, warfare development, N72, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C. Byrne is currently serving as vice director, Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.

Rear Adm. Ronald C. Copley will be assigned as director, National Maritime Intelligence Integration Office; and commander, Office of Naval Intelligence, Washington, D.C. Copley is currently serving as deputy director of operations, National Security Agency, Fort Meade, Maryland.

**Rear Adm. Douglas G. Perry will be assigned as director, Undersea Warfare Division, N97, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C. Perry is currently serving as commander, Submarine Group Nine, Silverdale, Washington.**

***[Editorial Note: Congratulations Admiral Perry. It was a pleasure meeting you and spending time with you during the USS Pittsburgh SSN-720 inactivation]***

Rear Adm. (lower half) Christopher C. French, selected for promotion to rear admiral, will be assigned as deputy judge advocate general of the Navy, Washington, D.C. French is currently serving as legal counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D.C.

Rear Adm. (lower half) George M. Wikoff, selected for promotion to rear admiral, will be assigned as vice director, Joint Staff, Washington, D.C. Wikoff is currently serving as special assistant to the deputy chief of naval operations for operations, plans and strategy, N3/N5, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

Rear Adm. (lower half) Craig C. Clapperton will be assigned as commander, Combined Joint Task Force, Cyber, U.S. Tenth Fleet, Fort Meade, Maryland. Clapperton is currently serving as commander, Carrier Strike Group Twelve, Norfolk, Virginia.

Rear Adm. (lower half) Douglas C. Verissimo will be assigned as director, Assessment Division, N81, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C. Verissimo is currently serving as commander, Carrier Strike Group Nine, San Diego, California.

Capt. Maria L. Aguayo, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Atlantic, with additional duties as fleet civil engineer (N01CE), U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, Virginia. Aguayo is currently serving as chief of staff, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Washington, D.C.

Capt. Erik J. Eslich, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as deputy commander, Seventh Fleet, Yokosuka, Japan. Eslich is currently serving as executive assistant, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, Virginia.

Capt. Joseph B. Hornbuckle, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as commander, Fleet Readiness Centers, Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, Maryland. Hornbuckle is currently serving as chief of staff, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, Patuxent River, Maryland.

Capt. Christopher A. Kijek, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as director, operations and plans, N3, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C. Kijek is currently serving as executive assistant, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Camp H. M. Smith, Hawaii.

Capt. Stuart C. Satterwhite, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as director, My Navy Career Center, Millington, Tennessee. Satterwhite is currently serving as deputy director, enterprise support, Office of the Chief of Naval Personnel, Arlington, Virginia.

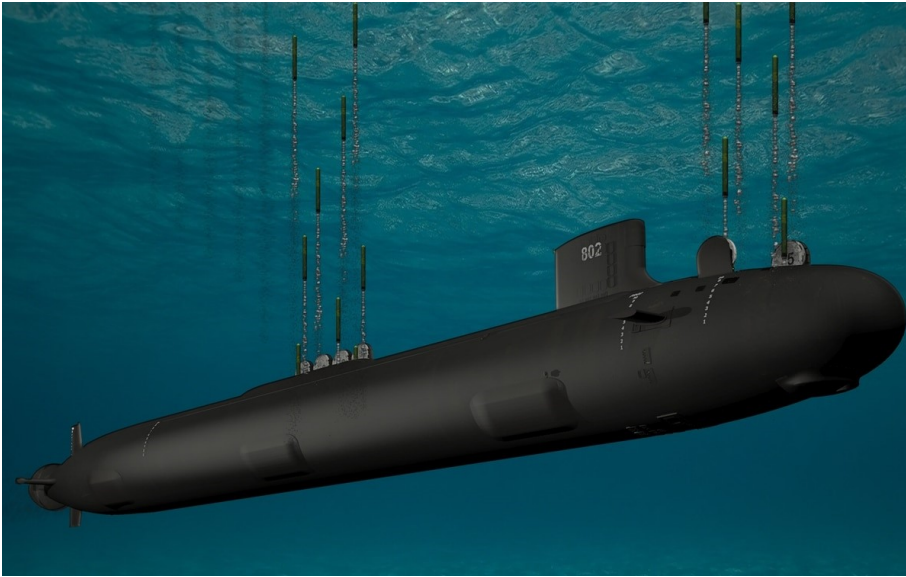
Capt. Ralph R. Smith III, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as vice director for intelligence, J-2, Joint Staff, Washington, D.C. Smith is currently serving as director, Maritime Operations Center, U.S. Tenth Fleet/U.S. Fleet Cyber Command, Fort Meade, Maryland.

## US Navy inks deal for a tenth Virginia-class submarine

By: David B. Larter

From Defense News March 19 2021

<https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2021/03/19/the-us-navy-inks-a-deal-for-a-tenth-block-v-virginia-class-submarine/>



WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy on Friday sealed the deal on a 10th ship in its latest iteration of the Virginia-class attack submarine, issuing a \$2.4 billion adjustment on a contract initially awarded in December 2019.

The original contract was for nine boats with an option for a 10th, which brings the total cost of the contract with prime contractor General Dynamics Electric Boat to \$24.1 billion. The net increase for the contract is \$1.89 billion, according to a General Dynamics release. Huntington Ingalls Industries' Newport News shipyard is the partner yard in the program.

The president of General Dynamics Electric Boat, Kevin Graney, said in a

statement that the shipyard is pleased to have the work and that his team is ready to take on the challenge of simultaneously building the Virginia class and the new — and much larger — Columbia-class next-generation ballistic missile submarine.

“The 17,000 shipbuilders of Electric Boat are pleased to receive the award for the tenth Block V ship and are ready to meet the generational challenge of building the Virginia and Columbia classes concurrently,” Graney said in a release. “We are grateful for the continued support of our federal delegation, who strongly advocated for this important funding.

“Today’s announcement maintains the two-ship per year production cadence, provides continuity and development to our skilled workforce and promotes stability in our national supply base.”

The 10th Block V Virginia-class submarine will include the Virginia Payload Module, an 84-foot section of the boat that will serve as an undersea vertical launcher for missiles.

The modern Virginia-class subs coming off the lines can hold 12 Tomahawk missiles in a launcher on the bow. With the payload module section added amidships, each of the Virginia Payload Modules on the Block Vs will have the capacity for 40 cruise missiles. In total, eight of the 10 boats in Block V will have the module.

With advancements in hypersonic missile technology, Virginia’s larger launcher will be well suited to host them once they are deployable. The Virginia subs will also host the new version of the anti-ship Maritime Strike Tomahawk, part of the Block V upgrade that will begin being delivered to the service next week.

# Russia Just Accepted Its New Super-Quiet, Cruise Missile-Packed Submarine Into Service

By: Thomas Newdick - Photos by the Russian Ministry of Defense

From: The Drive May 7, 2021

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/40503/russia-just-accepted-its-new-super-quiet-cruise-missile-packed-submarine-into-service>



More than seven years after its last nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine, or SSGN, entered service, the Russian Navy has commissioned its next such vessel, the *Kazan*, the lead ship of a new subclass. The event marks an important advance in the overhaul of Russia's mainly Cold War-era nuclear submarine fleet, which had previously introduced only one SSGN of all-new design, the *Severodvinsk*, since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The new type is based on the design of the *Severodvinsk*, the sole Project 885 *Yasen* vessel.

The *Kazan*, first of the Project 885M *Yasen-M* subclass, was officially commissioned into service today at the Sevmaash shipyard in Severodvinsk, on the White Sea in northwest Russia. Construction work on the submarine had started back in 2009 and, after much delay, it had finally been launched in March 2017.



Quoting a statement from the United Shipbuilding Corporation, the Sevmaash shipyard's parent organization, Russia's *Interfax* news agency previously reported that the *Kazan* completed its state trials last December 28, clearing the way for it to enter service. "Sevmaash has now completed all work to address the criticisms and prepare the submarine for handover to the navy," the statement added.

The *Kazan* during its state evaluation program, completed at the end of December

As part of those pre-commissioning trials, last November, the *Kazan* carried out a test launch of one of its Oniks supersonic cruise missiles, according to *Interfax*. Before that, the submarine also launched an example of the Kalibr subsonic cruise missile, the same report said. Those missile types are available in different anti-ship, land attack, and anti-submarine versions, with optional nuclear warheads, and are delivered from vertical launch system (VLS) tubes. In the future, the *Yasen-M* boats are also likely to deploy the shadowy hypersonic 3M22 Zircon missile, too.

Until now, the Russian Navy had taken delivery of only a single example of the previous Project 885 *Yasen* class, from which the *Yasen-M* is derived. Entering service with the Northern Fleet in December 2013, the *Severodvinsk* is characterized by its significant cruise missile carriage — up to 40 Kalibr missiles, plus other weapons — as well as having an especially low acoustic signature.

Compared to its predecessor, the *Severodvinsk*, the *Yasen-M* is smaller, with its overall length reduced by up to around 40 feet, resulting in the previous large flank-mounted sonar array being deleted from the forward end. Like the *Severodvinsk*, the new design also utilizes a single-hull construction, akin to Western designs, and a break from the Soviet/Russian tradition of double-hull construction.

According to H. I. Sutton, an author and an expert on submarine warfare, the smaller size of the *Yasen-M* is intended to reduce construction costs. “Because of general improvements in technology the newer boats are unlikely to be any less capable than the original design, except perhaps in terms of passive sonar due to the reduced flank arrays.”

The *Yasen-M* reportedly also includes a new reactor that features an updated cooling system that is said to further reduce the noise the submarine generates.

With that in mind, despite the decrease in size, the *Yasen-M* is likely to be a significant development for the Russian Navy, providing a means to potentially build more submarines, more cheaply, even if they have slightly reduced capabilities in other regards.

In the past, *The War Zone* has explained how a combination of *Yasen* or *Yasen-M* class and the 1,500-mile range Kalibr cruise missiles could present a particular threat to a wide range of potential targets across Scandinavia and northern Europe, as well as Iceland, deploying at short notice from Northern Fleet bases. Operating in the North Atlantic, these SSGNs could also hold targets to risk on the U.S. East Coast, as well as within an area that was previously considered a “safe haven” for U.S. Navy ships and submarines.

The way these submarines launch their missiles is also different from their predecessors, which had angled launch silos. The *Yasen* classes are based around modular-type launch VLS cylinders that can accommodate different missile types as required. This also opens up the possibility of launching missiles without even leaving port, something that the *Severodvinsk* has done on at least one occasion.



The *Yasen* class nuclear-powered attack submarine *Severodvinsk*

And, of course, these vessels are hard to find. A *War Zone* source disclosed that, back in 2019, a large number of U.S. Navy submarines, warships, and maritime patrol aircraft spent weeks in an unsuccessful effort to locate the *Severodvinsk* in the North Atlantic.

“The *Yasen* may represent the pinnacle of Russian SSN design, benefiting not only from all the information from the Walker Spy Ring but the considerable technological advances that have occurred since the end of the Cold

War,” explained Peter Hennessy and James Jinks in their book *The Silent Deep*.



Crew on the hull of Kazan while in harbor. Note the hatches for torpedo loading (on the left of the picture) and torpedo launch (on the right)

Among others, the fact the *Yasen* design is so quiet and difficult to detect and track has spurred the U.S. Navy to begin looking at developing a new *Seawolf*-like advanced attack submarine.

The *Severodvinsk* joined the fleet after President Vladimir Putin had announced in 2011 plans to overhaul all branches of the military by adding around \$360 billion to the defense budget. That project began to be derailed amid a serious economic crisis in Russia, including the collapse in the value of the rouble in 2015. At that point, the average age of the submarines within the Northern Fleet was 22 years.

Since then, for the Russian Navy, in particular, large-scale programs have been scaled back or even axed entirely.

Faced with this new economic reality, the scope of the SSGN renewal plan has been revised accordingly. As of 2015, four *Yasen* boats were reportedly under construction with Sevmash, with plans for another three to join them by 2023.

Now it seems unlikely there will be any more *Yasens* and instead, the focus is on the *Yasen-M*, at least eight of which are planned. A second *Yasen-M*, *Novosibirsk*, was reportedly engaged in sea trials in June 2020. While they may have been conceived as successors to the *Oscar* class SSGNs, the *Yasens* are far more versatile than simple cruise missile slingers, able to operate as general-purpose attack boats as well as intelligence gatherers and potentially as a special missions platform.

Of course, the new SSGN type is just one part of the wider modernization of the Russian Navy nuclear-powered submarine force, a process that has been moving at a glacial pace so far. However, by the end of the year, the service is expected to take into service the first revised *Borei-A* class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, the *Knyaz Oleg*, originally due to enter service back in 2017, plus the second *Yasen-M* class boat, the *Novosibirsk*.

It has been a long time coming, but the much-needed overhaul of the Russian Navy’s mainly Cold War-era nuclear-powered submarine fleet is finally starting to show progress on all fronts.



The Kazan underway on the surface