



December 2022

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

Jan 14, 2023@ 1230 hours

At Baden American Legion

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 SUBMARINE or NAVY related.

Lou Hamill - 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/>



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Secretary	Raymond Wewers	479-967-5541	raywewers@gmail.com
Treasurer	Paul Hiser	910-691-5650	paulhiser664@gmail.com
Past Commander	Wayne Standerfer	972-298-8139	lwaynes@charter.net
Chaplain	James Sandman	615-975-4792	Jsandman85@gmail.com
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District Commander EN3	Thomas Denton	301-845-0049	gcmfish@verizon.net
National Office		360-337-2978	office@ussvi.org



USS Requin Base Officers

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Technology Chair	Lou Hamill	412-445-3998	itgeek8088@gmail.com
Eagle Scout Chair	John Held	724-331-2479	petecompost@aol.com
Awards Chair	Dick Geyer	724-822-0401	dgdiving@gmail.com
Master at Arms			
Public Affairs Chair	Ed Derr	724-854-0781	rredde@gmail.com



Tolling of the Boats for December

USS Capelin (SS-289)

Lost on Dec 2, 1943 with the loss of 76 men. She was on her 1st war patrol, but her exact location, date and cause of loss remain a mystery. She may have been lost to mines or an operational casualty.

USS Sealion (SS-195)

Lost on Dec 10, 1941 with the loss of 4 men. To prevent her from falling into enemy hands, she was scuttled in Manila Bay after incurring severe bomb damage during the initial Japanese attack. One other Sealion man was later captured and died in POW camp.

USS F-1 / Carp (SS-20)

Lost on December 17, 1917 with the loss of 19 officers and men when it was sunk after collision with the USS F-3 (Pickrel(SS-22)) off San Clemente, CA.

USS S-4 (SS-109)

Lost on December 17, 1927 with the loss of 40 officers and men when it was sunk after being rammed by USCG Paulding. Salvaged in 1928 and recommissioned.



Submarines commissioned during the month of December

B-3 SS-12	12/3/1907	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Connecticut SSN-22	12/11/1998	Wikipedia	NavSource	
H-1 SS-28	12/1/1913	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
H-2 SS-29	12/1/1913	Wikipedia	NavSource	
K-7 SS-38	12/1/1914	Wikipedia	NavSource	
K-8 SS-39	12/1/1914	Wikipedia	NavSource	
L-6 SS-45	12/7/1917	Wikipedia	NavSource	
L-7 SS-46	12/7/1917	Wikipedia	NavSource	
T-3 SS-61	12/7/1920	Wikipedia	NavSource	
R-1 SS-78	12/16/1918	Wikipedia	NavSource	
R-14 SS-91	12/24/1919	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-16 SS-121	12/17/1920	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-28 SS-133	12/13/1923	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
S-43 SS-154	12/31/1924	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Cachalot SS-170	12/1/1933	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Pike SS-173	12/2/1935	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Snapper SS-185	12/15/1937	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Seawolf SS-197	12/1/1939	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Gato SS-212	12/31/1941	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Flying Fish SS-229	12/10/1941	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Silversides SS-236	12/15/1941	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Gabilan SS-252	12/28/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Harder SS-257	12/2/1942	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Hoe SS-258	12/16/1942	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Steelhead SS-280	12/7/1942	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Manta SS-299	12/18/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Sablefish SS-303	12/18/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Tilefish SS-307	12/15/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Bullhead SS-332	12/4/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Bumper SS-333	12/9/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Cabezon SS-334	12/30/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Dentuda SS-335	12/30/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Cubera SS-347	12/19/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Guavina SS-362	12/23/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Lizardfish SS-373	12/30/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Bang SS-385	12/4/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Pilotfish SS-386	12/16/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Toro SS-422	12/8/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Torsk SS-423	12/16/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Quillback SS-424	12/29/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Albacore AGSS-569	12/6/1953	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Skate SSN-578	12/23/1957	Wikipedia	NavSource	

Seadragon SSN-584	12/5/1959	Wikipedia	NavSource
George Washington SSBN-598	12/30/1959	Wikipedia	NavSource
Haddo SSN-604	12/16/1964	Wikipedia	NavSource
Guardfish SSN-612	12/20/1966	Wikipedia	NavSource
Haddock SSN-621	12/22/1967	Wikipedia	NavSource
ames Monroe SSBN-622	12/7/1963	Wikipedia	NavSource
Woodrow Wilson SSBN-624	12/27/1963	Wikipedia	NavSource
Sam Rayburn SSBN-635	12/2/1964	Wikipedia	NavSource
Nathanael Greene SSBN-636	12/19/1964	Wikipedia	NavSource
Kamehameha SSBN-642	12/10/1965	Wikipedia	NavSource
Lewis and Clark SSBN-644	12/22/1965	Wikipedia	NavSource
Queenfish SSN-651	12/6/1966	Wikipedia	NavSource
Francis Scott Key SSBN-657	12/3/1966	Wikipedia	NavSource
Mariano G. Vallejo SSBN-658	12/16/1966	Wikipedia	NavSource
Lapon SSN-661	12/14/1967	Wikipedia	NavSource
Gurnard SSN-662	12/6/1968	Wikipedia	NavSource
Archerfish SSN-678	12/17/1971	Wikipedia	NavSource
Glenard P. Lipscomb SSN-685	12/21/1974	Wikipedia	NavSource
Memphis SSN-691	12/17/1977	Wikipedia	NavSource
Birmingham SSN-695	12/16/1978	Wikipedia	NavSource
Phoenix SSN-702	12/19/1981	Wikipedia	NavSource
Tennessee SSBN-734	12/17/1988	Wikipedia	NavSource
Hartford SSN-768	12/10/1994	Wikipedia	NavSource





Binnacle List

Eternal Patrol

In Remembrance

Huey Dietrich
 Chad Underkoffler
 Gerry Gaylor

All Hands Present
 And
 Accounted For

David J. Chatlos	LT	12/17/2017
George W. Denny	CS2(SS)	12/19/2015
Robert J. LaLonde	LT	12/19/2014
Clyde "Chip" Porter	MM2 (SS)	12/22/2020
Calvin G. Boring	ENC(SS)	12/23/2009
Henry W Colling	EN3(SS)	12/24/2012
Donald E. Robbins	MMCM(SS)	12/24/2005
Jack E. Schneider	ETCS(SS)	12/28/2011
Wilfred C. Carlton	RMC(SS)	12/29/2016

Birthdays

Member

Spouse

Anniversaries

Arthur Kalimon	1/1	Kelly McKinney	1/5	Kim & Robert Bittner	1/6
John Held	1/3	Nicole Cowher	1/6	Lynn & Robert Gourley	1/8
Larry Iden	1/5	Cynthia Weaver	1/7	Susan & John Sutherin	1/8
Daniel Phelps	1/6	Joan Hughes	1/8	Margaret & Willard Ashmore	1/16
Andrew McGovern	1/7	Barbara Farina	1/9	Gosia & Carl Humes	1/18
Robert Moore	1/8	Sandra Morgan	1/10	Margie & Eric Bookmiller	1/19
Jeffrey Iliff	1/9	Michelle Deichler	1/14	Carol & Carl Benson	1/20
Jess Coker	1/13	Tina Siege	1/15	Rita Ann & Arthur Kalimon	1/20
Robert Clark	1/14	Sheila McCullough	1/19	Patricia & Frederick Nelson	1/26
Herbert Wise	1/14	Julie May	1/31	Diana & David Howton	1/27
Michael Markel	1/15			Helen & Richard Biemer	1/28
Robert Schmidt	1/15			Karen & Richard Keys	1/29
James Phelan	1/20				
Aubrey Smith	1/20				
Robert Meyers	1/21				
Thomas Strang	1/21				
Richard Biemer	1/22				
Brian Siege	1/23				
Emmett Lowry	1/24				
Angelo Naso	1/27				
Paul Wassenberg	1/27				
Frederick Nelson III	1/29				
John Algee	1/31				





SHIPMATES

Please join me by saying BRAVO ZULU to Captain Tom and his lovely first mate Deneen. They opened their home to nearly 40 shipmates and first mates from the base to celebrate the Christmas holiday. From the very beginning, the appetizers and bake goods were outstanding, only to be out done by the most outstanding, wonderful dinner. Everyone had a GREAT time participating in the men's and women's grab bags. We were extremely fortunate to have a quilt of valor donated to us, which was won by one of our shipmates.

The members and first mates attending – Lou Hamill, Joe & Jill Campisi, Bob & Jude Meyers, Keith & Connie Small, Jim & Sondra Schwarz, John Held, Greg & Gwyn Bushko, Chad Underkoffler, Bob & Mary Ann Fleck, Willard & Margaret Ashmore, George & Cindy Brown, Huey & Edie Dietrich, James Kontier, Jeff & Eileen Simon, Don Bright, Vince Metz, Chuck & Debbie Shrump, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, and Harry & Carolyn Sills.

If you didn't get enough to drink or eat, surely you were not hungry or thirsty! THANKS AGAIN TO TOM AND DENEEN!

It's that time to send in your National & Base Dues! We have 195 members and 184 members have paid their 2023 dues. That leaves 10 members on the DINK List. Out of 11, 5 have indicated that their dues will be in the mail shortly, and that leaves 5 that have not responded. They either have bad telephone numbers or e-mails. If you have any information on the following members. please let me know- Ed May, Brad Davis, Greg Bayne, Herb Wise and James St Clair.

Shipmates Fordy & Beauregard have indicated that they will not renew their membership with the base – which we wish them smooth sailing and fair winds.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:

Our next board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Jan 7th at 1300, at the American Legion in Baden.

FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS WE WANT TO WISH EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Our next base meeting is scheduled at Baden's American Legion on Saturday, Jan 14, at 12:30

SEE YOU ALL THERE!



Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2022
Bridgeville PA

In lieu of a formal meeting for December, a Christmas party was held.

Bravo Zulu to Tom and Deneen Calabrese for hosting a fantastic gathering at their home. Food, deserts, and beverages were top notch and everyone in attendance had a great time. This was a wonderful way to close a challenging year and prepare for a better year to come.

Our next base meeting will be held at American Legion Post 641, Baden, PA at 1230 hours on January 14, 2023



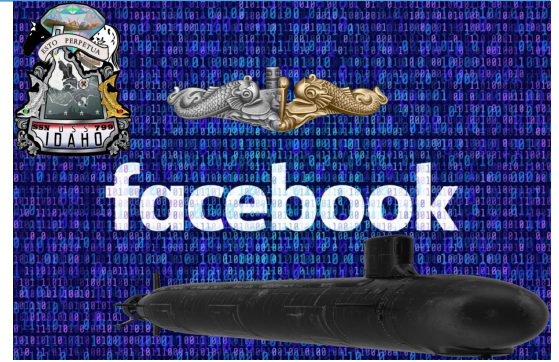
Month in Review



Thank you to Erin from Allegheny County Rifle Association. Erin bought one of our submarine beer tap handles. Erin used to work at the German Club and has always tolerated us with kindness.



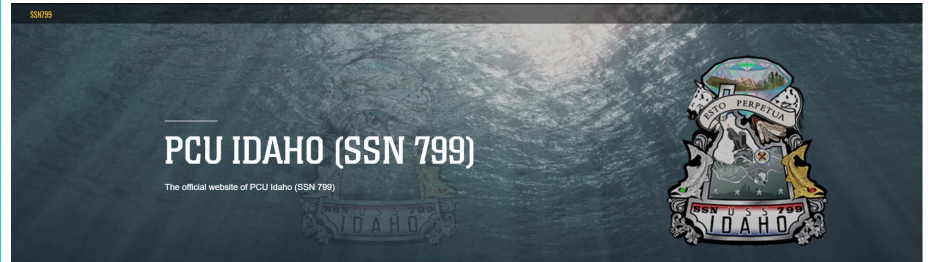
While attending the change of command for PCU Idaho, we got to meet the Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne who served two terms as Governor of Idaho and was also in Groton for the change of command.



<https://www.facebook.com/SSN799>

USS Idaho Support Fundraiser
 Jan 8, 2022

As I said, we are Submariners, and by nature, we are over achievers.
 Thank you to everyone that helped us reach our goal of \$15,000
 The crew and their families appreciate the support.



<https://www.sublant.usff.navy.mil/SSN799/>

Here is the link to the customer photos.
<https://requinbase.org/customer-photos/>



If you would like to order a submarine beer tap handle [with or without the stand], a challenge coin holder or a newly added cribbage board.

contact [Huey Dietrich](#) or

Place your order for these and other USS Idaho items at

<https://requinbase.org/product-category/uss-idaho/>



Wishing this Christmas brings you the Peace and Joy of Christ. Let this be a time to count our Blessings, a time of reflection and giving and being with family and friends.



We wish a Happy Hanukkah to all those of Jewish faith. Hanukkah is also known as the Festival of Lights, lasting eight days, with the lighting of candles on nine branches called a Menorah.

HAVE A PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.



Store Keepers Report

Please visit our online store at

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



2015 Convention



Challenge Coins



Hats



Non Specific



Patches



Pins



Requin Base



USS Idaho

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.





Upcoming Events

Meeting

Jan 14, 2023
1230 hours

Baden American Legion
271 State St
Baden PA 15005

Base activities

Board meeting
Baden American Legion

Date **Muster**
Jan 07 1300



Membership

Primary Members	166	Holland Club	90	USSVI Life Members	71
Secondary Members	13	WWII	2	Base Life Members	56
Associate Members	16	Eternal Patrol	73	Joined Last Year	7
Total Members	195			Joined This Year	13



It's that time to send in your National & Base Dues!

We have 195 members and 184 members have paid their 2023 dues.
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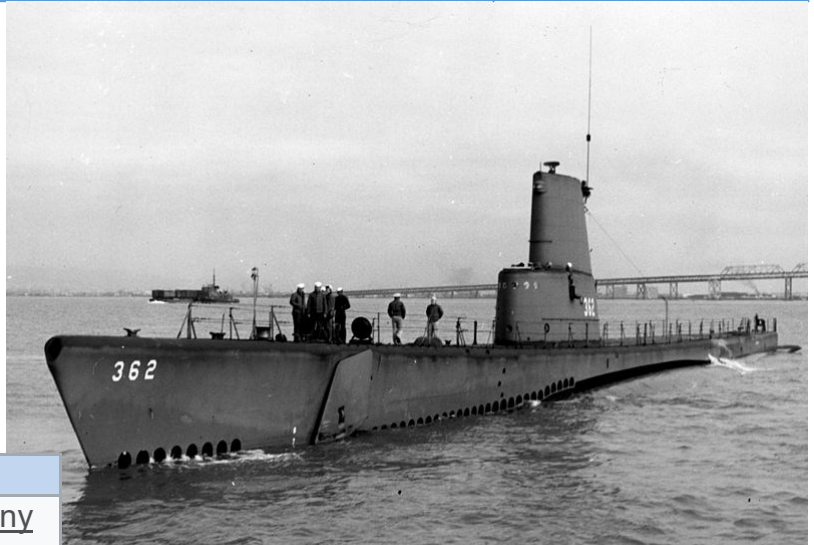
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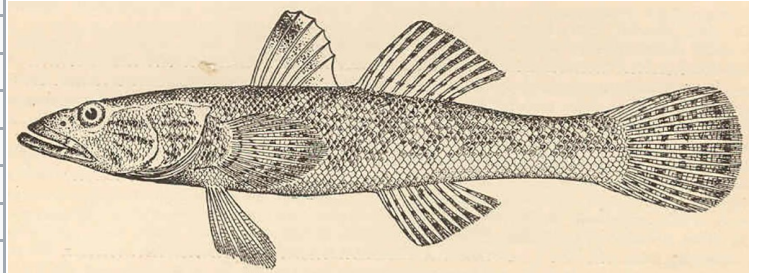
Eagle Scouts

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

Braden Lee McCormick T-173
Evan J. Kotchey T-173
Joseph Zgurzynski T-173



History	
Builder	Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company Manitowoc, Wisconsin
Laid down	3 March 1943
Launched	29 August 1943
Commissioned	23 December 1943
Decommissioned	8 June 1946
Recommissioned	1 February 1950
Decommissioned	27 March 1959
Stricken	30 June 1967
Fate	Sunk as a target off <u>Cape Henry</u> 14 November 1967



General characteristics	
Class and type	<u>Gato-class diesel-electric submarine</u>
Displacement	1,525 <u>long tons</u> (1,549 t) surfaced 2,424 long tons (2,463 t) submerged
Length	311 ft 9 in (95.02 m)
Beam	27 ft 3 in (8.31 m)
Draft	17 ft 0 in (5.18 m) maximum
Propulsion	4 × <u>General Motors Model 16-278A V16 diesel engines</u> driving <u>electrical generators</u> 2 × 126-cell <u>Sargo batteries</u> 4 × high-speed <u>General Electric electric motors</u> with <u>reduction gears</u> 2 × propellers 5,400 <u>shp</u> (4.0 <u>MW</u>) surfaced 2,740 shp (2.0 MW) submerged 2 × 126-cell <u>Gould batteries</u>
Speed	20.25 knots (23.30 mph; 37.50 km/h) surfaced 8.75 knots (10.07 mph; 16.21 km/h) submerged
Range	11,000 nautical miles (13,000 mi; 20,000 km) surfaced at 10 knots (12 mph; 19 km/h)
Endurance	48 hours at 2 knots (2.3 mph; 3.7 km/h) submerged 75 days on patrol
Test depth	300 ft (90 m)
Complement	6 officers, 54 enlisted (peace) 80-85 (war)
Armament	10 × <u>21 inch (533 mm) torpedo tubes</u> (six forward, four aft; 24 <u>torpedoes</u>) one <u>3 in (76 mm)/50 caliber deck gun</u> two <u>.30 cal (7.62 mm) machineguns</u>

12/01/1943

USS Bonfish (SS 223) sinks Japanese transport Nichiryō Maru in the Celebes Sea while USS Pargo (SS 264) sinks the Japanese transport Shoko Maru north of Ulithi. Also on this date, USS Peto (SS 265) sinks Japanese transport Tōnei Maru.

12/02/1944

USS Sea Devil (SS 400) attacks a Japanese convoy in the East China Sea and sinks merchant tanker Aki-gawa Maru and passenger-cargo ship Hawaii Maru, while USS Gunnel (SS 253) evacuates 11 rescued aviators from Palawan, Philippines and turns over all available stores to Filipino forces ashore.

12/03/1943

USS Tinosa (SS 283) sinks the Palau-bound Japanese fleet tanker Azuma Maru northwest of Sonsorol.

12/04/1944

USS Flasher (SS 249) sinks Japanese destroyer Kishinami and damages a merchant ship in the South China Sea. Flasher is the only U.S. submarine to sink more than 100,000 tons of enemy shipping in World War II.

12/05/1943

USS Narwhal (SS 167) embarks nine evacuees at Alubijid, Mascalcar Bay and then sinks Japanese cargo ship Himeno Maru off Camiguin Island.

12/05/1944

USS Hake (SS 256) evacuates downed aviators and turns over all supplies that can be spared to Filipino guerilla forces ashore at Libertad, Panay, Philippines.

12/08/1943

USS Sawfish (SS 276) sinks Japanese transport Sansei Maru southeast of Chi Chi Jima. Also on this date, TBFs sink Rabaul-bound fishing boats No. 3 Yusho Maru, No.7 Fukuri Maru, No.2 Takatori Maru, and No.1 Hoko Maru.

12/09/1941

USS Swordfish (SS 193) makes initial U.S. submarine attack on Japanese ship, torpedoing a ship 150 miles west of Manila. Her claim of sinking, though, is not confirmed in enemy records.

12/10/1982

The nuclear powered USS Ohio (SSBN 726), first Trident-Class submarine, returns from its first deterrent patrol.

12/11/1944

USS Gar (SS 206) lands 35 tons of supplies at Darigayos Inlet on the west coast of Luzon and picks up secret intelligence documents. Also on this date, USS Sea Owl (SS 405) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser Cha 76 in the East China Sea.

12/13/1943

USS Sailfish (SS 192) sinks Japanese cargo ship Totai Maru east of Tokara Strait while PBY aircraft sink Tokiwa Maru in the Bismarck Sea.

12/15/1944

USS Hawkbill (SS 366) sinks the Japanese destroyer Momo west of Luzon.

12/16/1944

USS Swordfish (SS 193) attacks a Japanese convoy south of Hainan Island and sinks Japanese army transport Atsutasan Maru.

12/17/1942

USS Grouper (SS 214) sinks the Japanese army passenger cargo ship Bandoeng Maru about 15 miles northwest of Cape Henpan, Buka Island, Solomons and survives the counterattack by submarine chaser Ch 29.

12/18/1943

USS Aspro (SS 309) attacks a Japanese convoy in Sakishima Gunto, damaging fleet tankers Sarawak Maru and Tenei Maru, and escapes counter attacks by destroyer Shoikaze. Meanwhile, USS Grayback (SS 208) sinks Japanese freighter Gyokurei Maru east-northeast of Naha, Okinawa and escapes counter attacks by destroyer Numakaze.

12/19/1943

USS Grayback (SS 208) sinks the Japanese destroyer Numakaze 50 miles east-northeast of Naha, Okinawa.

12/19/1944

USS Redfish (SS 395) sinks the Japanese carrier Unryu 200 nautical miles southeast of Shanghai, China. In the course of this engagement, Redfish is damaged and terminates her patrol early.

12/21/1942

USS Seadragon (SS 194) sinks Japanese submarine I-4 between New Britain and New Ireland while I-4 is engaged in a resupply mission to Guadalcanal.

12/22/1942

On board USS Silversides (SS 236), Pharmacists Mate 1st Class Thomas A. Moore performs an emergency appendectomy on Fireman 3rd Class George M. Platter while the submarine is submerged and on war patrol in the Solomon Islands. Platter returned to duty within a few days of the operation.

12/23/1944

USS Blenny (SS 324), despite an escort vessel close by, sinks the Japanese merchant tanker Kenzui Maru off San Fernando, Luzon, Philippines.

12/25/1944

USS Barbero (SS 317) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks transport Junpo Maru.

12/27/1943

USS Flying Fish (SS 229) sinks the Japanese fleet tanker Kyuei Maru in the South China Sea west of Luzon Strait. Also on this date, USS Ray (SS 271) sinks the Japanese fleet tanker Kyoko Maru (ex-Dutch Semiramis) west of the Celebes.

12/29/1943

USS Silversides (SS 236) sinks the Japanese transport Tenposan Maru, the army cargo ship Shichisei Maru, and the freighter Ryuto Maru while also damaging the army cargo ship Bichu Maru off Palau.

12/30/1942

USS Greenling (SS 213) attacks a Japanese convoy 180 miles northeast of Manus, Admiralty Islands and sinks Army cargo ship Hiteru Maru and damages cargo ship Ryufuku Maru while USS Thresher (SS 200) sinks the Japanese freighter Haichan Maru west of Mata Siri Island, off the southern tip of Borneo.

12/30/1943

USS Bluefish (SS 222) sinks Japanese oiler Ichiyu Maru in the Java Sea.

12/30/1944

USS Razorback (SS 394) attacks a Japanese convoy going from Manila to Takao, about 60 miles south-east of Formosa, and sinks the destroyer Kuretake in the Bashi Channel. The Japanese cargo ships Brazil Maru and Oi Maru are also damaged during this attack.

12/30/1959

The first fleet ballistic missile submarine, USS George Washington (SSBN 598), is commissioned.





US Navy sends a message to adversaries with a rare submarine port visit in Indian Ocean

CNN — Barbara Starr December 2, 2022



Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarine USS West Virginia (SSBN-736) conducts a port visit at U.S. Navy Support Facility (NSF) Diego Garcia during a scheduled patrol.

The US military wants its adversaries, as well as allies, to know that, for the first time, a US Navy nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine docked at the remote island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean as part of an extended months-long deployment.

This week, the Navy revealed the docking of the USS West Virginia and its port visit that actually took place from October 25 to 31. The specific movements of Navy submarines are highly classified while they are sea, so the delayed announcement would have given the submarine the time to transit to other locations in the Indian Ocean.

The significance of publicizing the port call of the USS West Virginia is to send a message to potential adversaries as well as allies, according to a military official familiar with the unusual port stop.

“They should take from this that a ballistic missile submarine which is undetectable can operate in any ocean for an extended period,” the official said.

Diego Garcia is a highly militarized island south of the equator that is used by both US and British forces. The remote location gave the nuclear-missile-equipped submarine the ability to switch out the 150-person crew unobserved by outsiders, therefore preserving the secrecy of the submarine’s operations and allowing the sub to remain in the region for a longer period of time.

Although the official declined to specify as to whether the message was aimed at China, Russia or North Korea, the underwater stealth of US submarines is critical to gathering highly classified signals intelligence about adversaries as well as providing the sea-based leg of the nuclear deterrent by carrying nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missiles.

“Every operational plan rests on the assumption that nuclear deterrence is holding, and (ballistic missile submarines) like West Virginia are vital to a credible nuclear deterrence for the United States and our allies,” Adm. Charles Richard, commander of US Strategic Command, said in a statement.

A typical submarine patrol lasted 10 to 12 weeks, according to the official, and by switching out crew, a patrol can be extended by several weeks. The USS West Virginia is one of 14 Ohio-class submarines that carry a maximum of 20 ICBMs. They are specifically designed for extended patrolling, according to the Navy, with three large-diameter hatches that allow for rapid transfer of supplies and equipment.

Prior to the Diego Garcia port call, the West Virginia surfaced in the Arabian Sea so that Gen. Michael Kurilla, the commander of US Central Command, could come aboard and participate in a communications exercise “to validate emerging and innovative tactics in the Indian Ocean,” according to the Navy.

USS Seawolf Returns from Deployment to a New Home at NBK Bangor

16 December 2022

From Lt. Cmdr Josh Martin, Commander, Submarine Development Squadron 5

SILVERDALE, Wash. - The Seawolf-class fast-attack submarine USS Seawolf (SSN 21) arrived at its new homeport of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor Wednesday, December 14, 2022, after more than seven months deployed. This marks the first time any ship has moored at the newly constructed Olympic Pier, which was officially opened in October.



“I could not be more proud of this amazing crew. They faced every challenge of this deployment with energy and enthusiasm and absolutely crushed it,” said Cmdr. Jeff Fassbender, Seawolf’s commanding officer.

“To our families – we missed you and cannot thank you enough – we could not have achieved our successes without their unwavering support, patience, and sacrifices. Returning home to our families in time for the holidays is a perfect ending to this seven month deployment. Beware the Wolf!”

The ceremonial first kiss upon return to homeport was awarded to Sonar Technician (Submarines) 2nd Class Noah Nelson and his girlfriend. The ceremonial first hug was awarded to Chief Culinary Specialist (Submarines) William Harris and his wife. Chief Information Systems Technician (Submarines) Petty Officer Mario Canas was greeted on the pier by his girlfriend and their child, who was born while Canas was on deployment.

Seawolf departed its old homeport at Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton May 12, 2022 for a regularly scheduled deployment, during which the submarine and its crew performed a full spectrum of complex operations to include anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare. Steaming more than 55,000 nautical miles, Seawolf was deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations and made port calls to Apra Harbor, Guam and Yokosuka, Japan. While in Yokosuka, Seawolf hosted senior submarine officers from the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force.

“When a submarine Sailor returns from a 217-day extended deployment, the feeling cannot be understood by someone who has not experienced it. It is a satisfying sense of pride and accomplishment in each Seawolf Sailor’s chilly PACNORWEST breath today. The effort, energy, and sacrifices are never shown and their achievements are unspoken,” said Master Chief Sonar Technician (Submarines) Christopher Purdum, Seawolf’s Chief of the Boat. “They are an amazing crew who earned each others’ respect and they are more than ready to enjoy a return home to their families. The only thing that compares to these sacrifices are the family sacrifices. These Sailors and their families have earned this reunion along with my deepest respect, gratitude, and appreciation.”

“I am extremely proud of Seawolf’s performance while on deployment. Their ability to remain in theater for seven plus months represents the asymmetric advantage that is our Submarine Force. The Seawolf is the premier apex predator that has prowled the Pacific since May,” said Capt. Gary Montalvo, commander, Submarine Development Squadron (DEVRON) 5. “I want to specifically point out the incredible toughness and resiliency of the Seawolf spouses. These are amazing people who rallied together. At one point, when a spouse was struggling, their teamwork, connectivity, and dedication to what their Sailors do resulted in them finding support for each other at the most trying times. These spouses are truly the unsung heroes of our national defense. Whereas we honor the Sailors returning home today, I am as humbled to be standing with these incredible people on the pier welcoming Seawolf home.”

Seawolf, whose motto is “Beware the Wolf,” commissioned July 19, 1997 and is the fourth U.S. Navy submarine named after the solitary fish and is the lead ship of her class. SSN 21, which operates under DEVRON 5 in Silverdale, Washington, is more than 350 feet long and has eight torpedo tubes. The Seawolf-class submarine dives deeper, goes faster, and carries more torpedoes than any submarine in the fleet.

The newly-completed Olympic Pier includes state-of-the-art technologies for security and pier services for moored submarines and incorporates the latest technology to provide multiple fully redundant power sources, ensuring continuous safe in-port operations and minimizing the affects due to normal wear and tear or natural disasters. The pier will also serve as the new home for USS Connecticut (SSN 22), currently undergoing repairs at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington. Adm. Stuart Munsch, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, served as the keynote speaker for the ribbon cutting ceremony held Oct. 19, 2022.

Fast-attack submarines are multi-mission platforms enabling five of the six Navy maritime strategy core capabilities – sea control, power projection, forward presence, maritime security and deterrence. They are designed to excel in anti-submarine warfare, anti-ship warfare, strike warfare, special operations, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, irregular warfare and mine warfare. Fast-attack submarines project power ashore with special operations forces and Tomahawk cruise missiles in the prevention or preparation of regional crises.



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The task of perpetuating the memory of our lost shipmates is forever and cannot be done alone. This task takes time, money, dedication and patriotism from all walks of life, both veteran and civilian. USS Requin Base would like to recognize all those that help us fulfill the task of remembering and honoring those we have lost to secure the freedoms we enjoy today.



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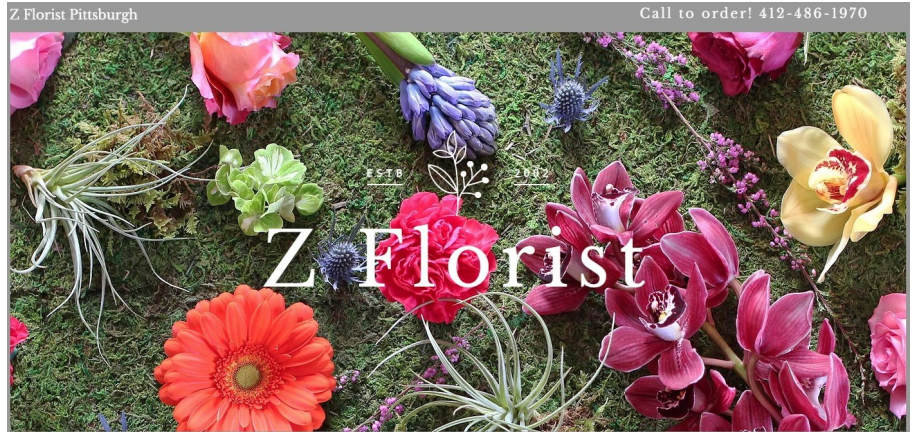
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