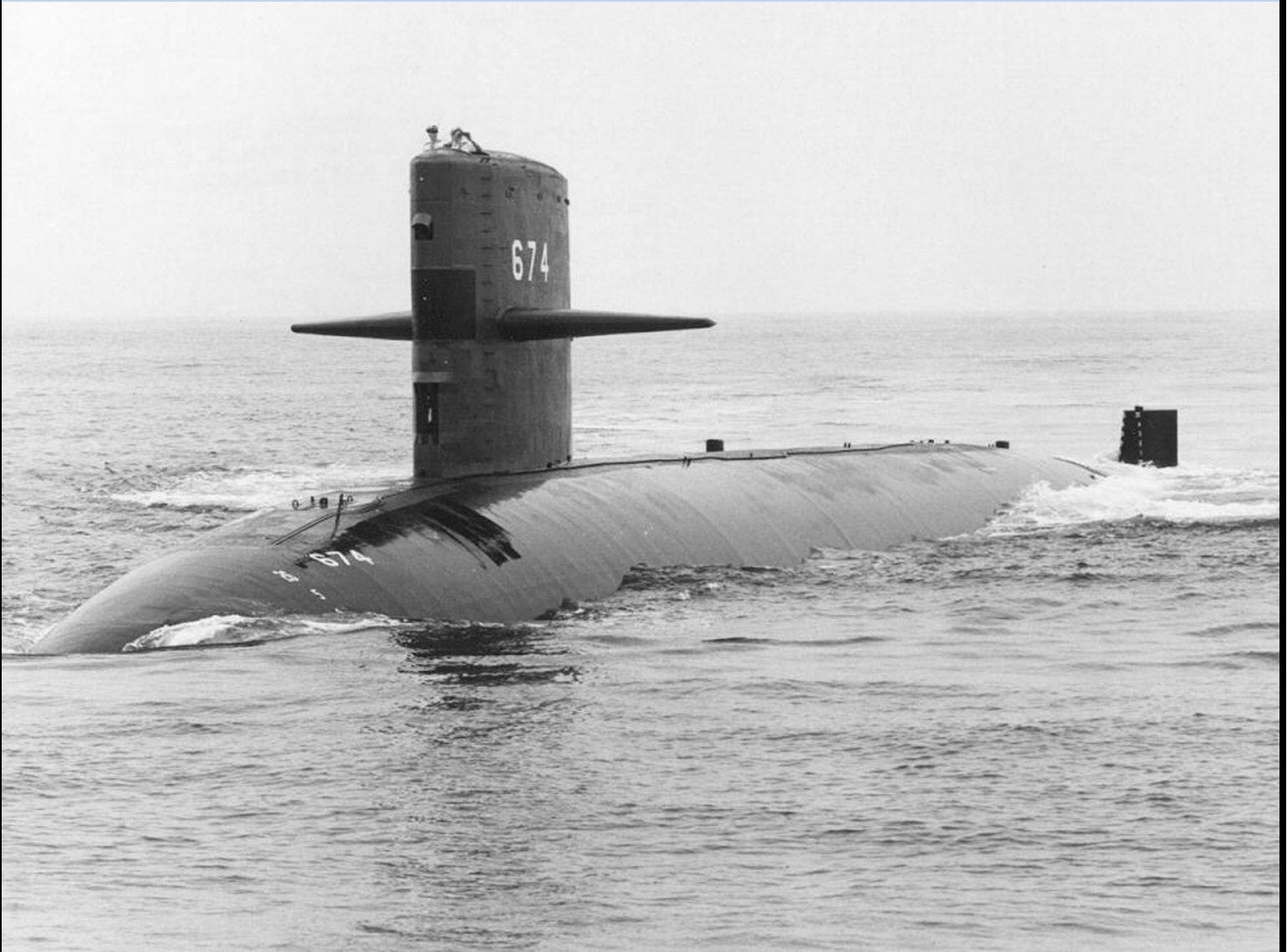


Steel Valley Dolphins

Monthly Newsletter



USS Trepang SSN-674



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

January 13, 2024 @ 1230 hours

At Baden American Legion Post 641

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/>



USSVI National Officers

Office	Officer	Phone	eMail
National Commander	William Andrea		wcandrea@bellsouth.net
Senior Vice Commander	Jon Jaques	615-893-7800	jjaques@bellsouth.net
Junior Vice Commander	Steven Bell	704-824-3510	usnret82@carolina.rr.com
Secretary	Raymond Wewers	479-967-5541	raywewers@gmail.com
Treasurer	Paul Hiser	910-691-5650	paulhiser664@gmail.com
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District Commander EN3	Thomas Denton	301-845-0049	gcmfish@verizon.net
National Office	Dennis Nardone	360-337-2978	ussvi@telebyte.net



USS Requin Base Officers

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Asst. Holland Club	Dick Geyer	724-822-0401	dgdiving@gmail.com
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	Chuck "Bat" Masterson	724-869-1938	mastersoncf@aol.com
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)

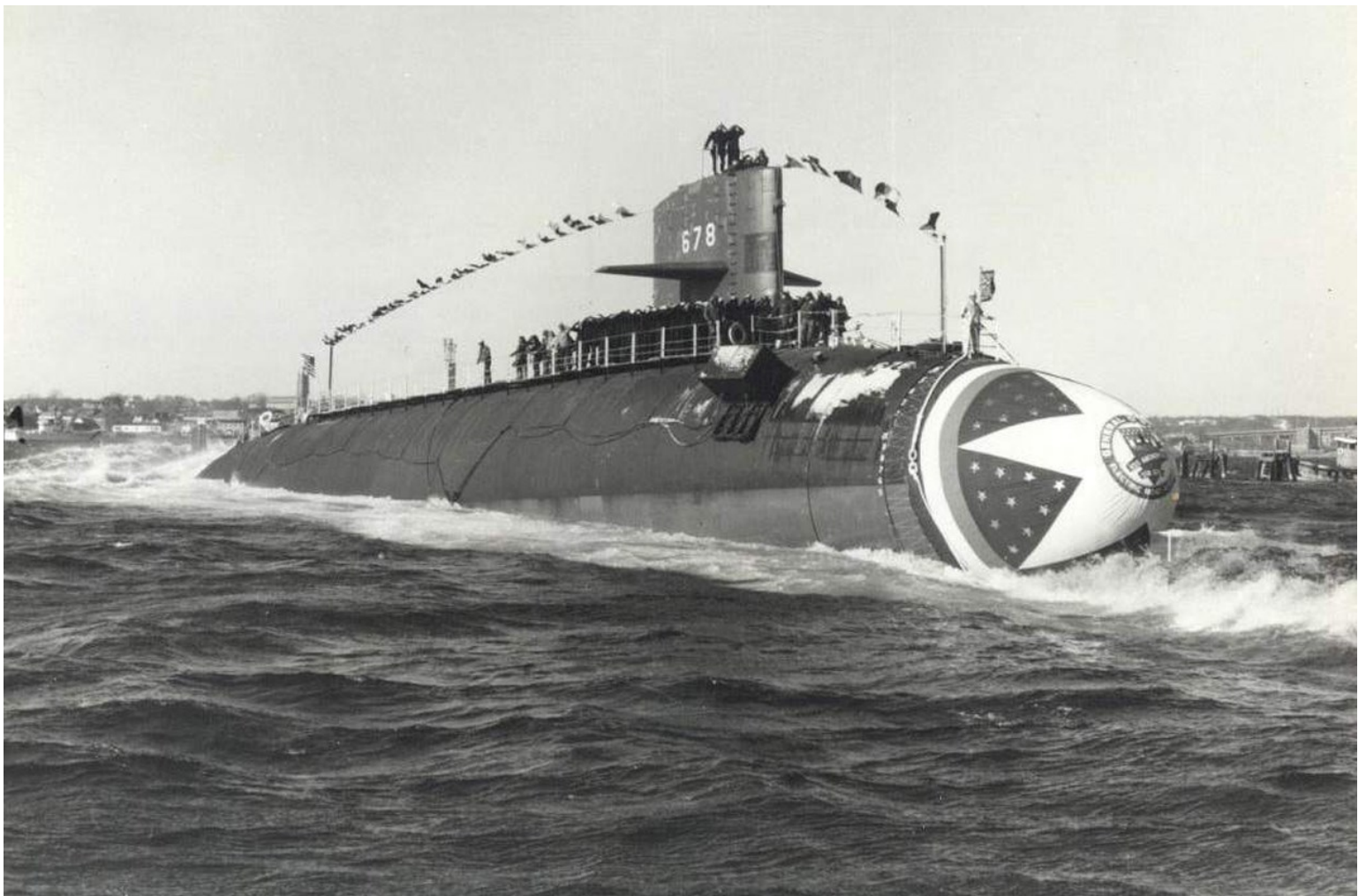
Lost on December 17, 1927 with the loss of 40 officers and men when it was sunk after being rammed by USCG Paulding. Salvaged in 1928 and recommissioned.



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
James 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

All Hands Present and accounted for

All Hands Present and accounted for

James St Clair	EN2 (SS)	12/12/2022
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 Jr.	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 LaPietra	1/6	Lynn & Robert Gourley	1/8
Larry Iden	1/5	Cowher		Susan & John Sutherin, Jr	1/8
Daniel Phelps	1/6	Cynthia Weaver	1/7	Margaret & Willard Ashmore	1/16
Andrew McGovern	1/7	Joan Hughes	1/8	Gosia & Carl Humes	1/18
Robert Moore	1/8	Barbara Farina	1/9	Margie & Eric Bookmiller	1/19
Jeffrey Iliff	1/9	Sandra Morgan	1/10	Rita Ann & Arthur Kalimon	1/20
Jess Coker	1/13	Michelle Deichler	1/14	Patricia & Frederick Nelson III	1/26
Robert Clark	1/14	Tina M. Siege	1/15	Diana & David Howton	1/27
Herbert Wise	1/14	Sheila McCullough	1/19	Karen & Richard Keys	1/29
Michael Markel	1/15	Julie May May	1/31		
Robert J. Schmidt	1/15				
James Phelan	1/20				
Aubrey Smith	1/20				
Robert Meyers	1/21				
Thomas Strang	1/21				
Brian Siege	1/23				
Emmett Lowry	1/24				
Angelo Naso	1/27				
Frederick Nelson III	1/29				
John Algee	1/31				





HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The base meetings keeps getting better and better. We had close to fifty members, first mates and guests. Everyone was in a very happy mood and really enjoyed themselves. The decorations of the hall, the food and dessert and we all had a very festive grab-bag exchange. In addition, we had a quilt of valor donated to the base and Mark Hoag was the lucky winner. Kudo's to all the members who set the meeting room up the night before, with all the pretty decorations and also to all the members who put everything back in order after the meeting.

Special thanks to all the first mates who supplied the wonderful dessert table! I was worried that we would run out of food, but we had more than enough to satisfy our appetites and sweet teeth!

Here is the break down on our due's dinks for 2024!

Aux Members 2 Pa Members 8 Out of Pa Members 8 Dec Members 2 Calendars 4

Of these 20 members, 10 have notified me that the check is in the mail. As of December 31 – they officially become DINK'S! We have received dues from 183 members. Thanks to every member we are still the fifth largest USSVI base!

Shipmates – If you are having financial issues, please reach out to me! We have members who have offered to help any member who needs any assistance!

Captain Deichler will have a change of command from Squadron 12 to Squadron 2 in July 2024. Congratulations on your new duty station.

Our Board of Directors for 2024 is as follows: Commander: Huey Dietrich, First Vice: Joe Campisi, Second Vice: Bat Masterson, Secretary: Jeff Simon and Treasurer: Lee Bookwalter.

We wish to thank everyone for their very kind words of appreciation they bestowed upon us and hopefully good things and events are upcoming in 2024!

JANUARY 6TH – Executive Board Meeting – Baden's American Legion – 12:30

JANUARY 13TH – Regular Base Meeting – Baden's American Legion – 12:30





Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2023
American Legion Post 641, Baden, PA

Commander Huey Dietrich called the meeting to order.

Attendees: Willard Ashmore, Eric Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, Clair & Nancy Bouts, George & Cindy Brown, Joe Campisi, Joe Capito, Frank Certich, Paul Coyle, Ed & Mary Jane & Karie Derr, Huey & Edie Dietrich, Rick Flaugh, Dick & Beverly Geyer, Bob & Lynn Gourley, David Halliday, John Held, Mark Hoag, Jean Lemieux, Bill & Sandy Lindsey, John Mack, Bat Masterson, Vince Metz, Bob & Jude Meyers, Jim & Sondra Schwarz, Harry Sills, Jeff & Eileen Simon, Keith & Connie Small, Jack & Karen Sutherin, Chad & Judith Underkoffler, Ron Wood.

Base Commander Huey Dietrich: Quotes of the day: "A ship is always referred to as 'SHE' because it cost so much to keep one in paint and powder."

Requin History On December 1, 1948, the USS Requin left shipyard with new radar equipment and reported to New London CT for duty in Submarine Squadron 8. On December 3, 1968, USS Requin was decommissioned and on December 20, 1971, USS Requin was struck from the Navy Register.

Boats Lost:

USS CAPELIN (SS 289) December 2, 1943
USS SEALION (SS 195) December 10, 1941
USS F-1 (SS 20) December 17, 1917
USS S-4 (SS 109) December 17, 1927

Let us also remember our fellow shipmates of the Requin Base, Calvin Boring, Wilfred Carlton, David Chatlos, Henry Collings, George Denny, Robert LaDone and Dan Robbins, who were lost in December. Finally let us remember all 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 Eric Bookmiller gave the Invocation.

COB Chad Underkoffler lead the Pledge Of Allegiance

Members introduced themselves and the boats they served on.

Motion to suspend normal business of the Base was approved by the members present.

Good Of The Order

Note from Captain Deichler was read

There are 25 members who have not paid their 2024 dues.

There are 7 members who have not paid for the 2024 calendars.

Drawing was held for Veterans Quilt

Grab bag for Christmas gifts was held.

Christmas 40-40-20 raffle was held for December and for the year.

Chaplain Eric Bookmille gave the Benediction and blessing of today's meal.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: American Legion Post 641, Baden, PA, January 13, 2024, at 1230 hours.



Los Angeles Flight II (VLS)-class USS Pittsburgh (SSN-720) transits the Arabian Sea on April 22, 2012. Photo by Tim D. Godbee.



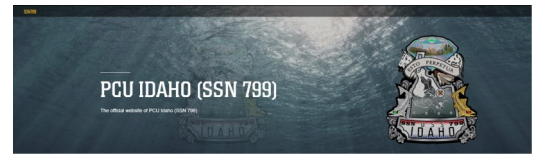
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Qt7dyhB-jg>



Congregations Liam Hitchens T173



<https://ussidahocommittee.org/>



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

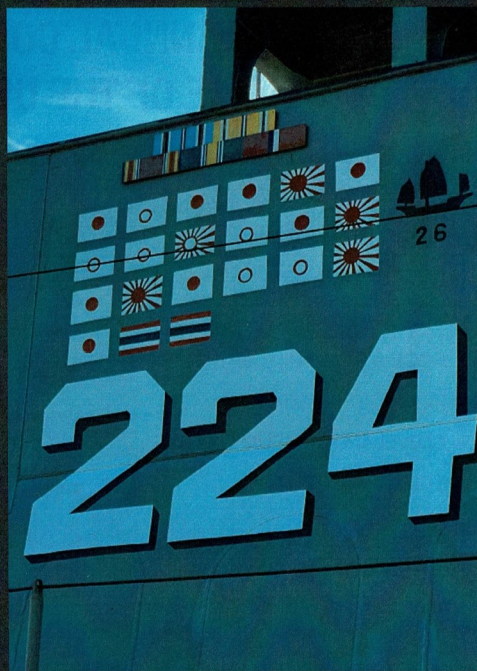
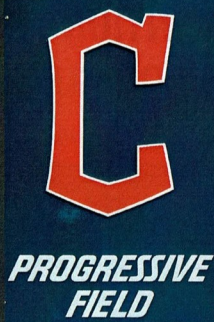


Shipwright Shop

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



If you would like any of these items, contact Huey Dietrich or Frank Nicotra.
You may also place your order for these and other items at a base meeting.



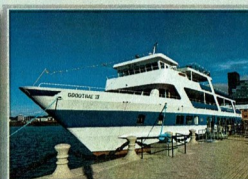
SAVE THE DATE USSVI 2024 CONVENTION CLEVELAND, OHIO USSVI COD BASE SPONSOR

DATE AUGUST 20-24 / 2024

EMBASSY SUITES ROCKSIDE

USSVI ANNUAL CONVENTION 2024 CLEVELAND, OHIO HOME OF THE USS COD SUBMARINE MEMORIAL

- SHUTTLE SERVICE TO EVENTS
- LAKE & RIVER CRUISES
- HELICOPTER TOURS
- JACK CASINO
- CLEVELAND FLATS
- ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME
- PLAYHOUSE SQUARE
- CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
- SCIENCE CENTER
- CLEVELAND ZOO
- CLEVELAND AQUARIUM
- WOMENS AIR & SPACE MUSEUM
- CLEVELAND GUARDIANS
- FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME
- BREWERY TOURS
- INDOOR & OUTDOOR GOLF



REUNION DATES

8/17-8/19 & 8/25-8/27

CONTACT JOE MARANELLI 440-205-6089 M-F

The perfect place for a convention

Central location easy access drive or fly / Embassy Suites Rockside host hotel

Come meet fellow submariners SAVE THE DATE AUGUST 20-24 2024 WWW.THISISCLEVELAND.COM



Chaplain's Column

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

As always, I would like to ask everyone to keep those on the binnacle list in our thoughts and prayers this month.

Remember we are only as good as the information we get. If we don't know of a member passing, we cannot provide the appropriate honors for a fallen shipmate. If you know anyone who is sick or goes on eternal patrol, please give me a call at 724-485-2341 or email at ebookmiller@comcast.net. If you call and I don't answer, please leave a message. This is a land line phone so do not text this number.

If you wish to be placed on the binnacle list but do not want to disclose the specifics, I will maintain your confidentiality.

Eric Bookmiller



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.



Eagle Scouts

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

Congregations:

Liam Hitchens T173



Say What???

Bagged – as in “I got bagged” by the off going watch. Meaning you got left with something that someone else was suppose to do.

Boy butter – Slang term for silicone grease.



Upcoming Events

Meeting

January 13, 2024
1230 hours

American Legion Post 641
271 State St
Baden PA 15005

Base activities

JANUARY 6TH – Executive Board Meeting
Baden American Legion – 12:30



Membership

Primary Members	171	Holland Club	88	USSVI Life Members	75
Secondary Members	13	WWII	1	Base Life Members	61
Associate Members	19	Eternal Patrol	81	Joined Last Year	7
Total Members	203			Joined This Year	15

New Members



..... / / /



History

Name	USS <i>Trepang</i> (SSN-674)
Namesake	The trepang, <i>Holothuroidea</i> , a marine animal also called a "sea slug" or "sea cucumber"
Ordered	15 July 1966
Builder	<u>General Dynamics Electric</u>
Laid down	28 October 1967
Launched	27 September 1969
Sponsored by	<u>Melvin R. Laird</u>
Commissioned	14 August 1970
Decommissioned	1 June 1999
Stricken	1 June 1999
Fate	Scrapping via <u>Ship and Submarine Recycling Pro-</u>



General characteristics

Class and type	<u>Sturgeon-class attack submarine</u>
Displacement	3,978 long tons (4,042 t) light 4,270 long tons (4,339 t) full 292 long tons (297 t) dead
Length	292 ft 3 in (89.08 m)
Beam	31 ft 8 in (9.65 m)
Draft	28 ft 8 in (8.74 m)
Installed power	15,000 <u>shaft horsepower</u> (11.2 <u>megawatts</u>)
Propulsion	One <u>S5W nuclear reactor</u> , two <u>steam tur-</u>
Speed	15 <u>knots</u> (28 km/h; 17 mph) surfaced
Test depth	1,300 feet (400 meters)
Complement	109 (14 <u>officers</u> , 95 <u>enlisted men</u>)
Armament	4 × 21-inch (533 mm) <u>torpedo tubes</u>

12/01/1943

USS Bonefish (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 Tonei 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.

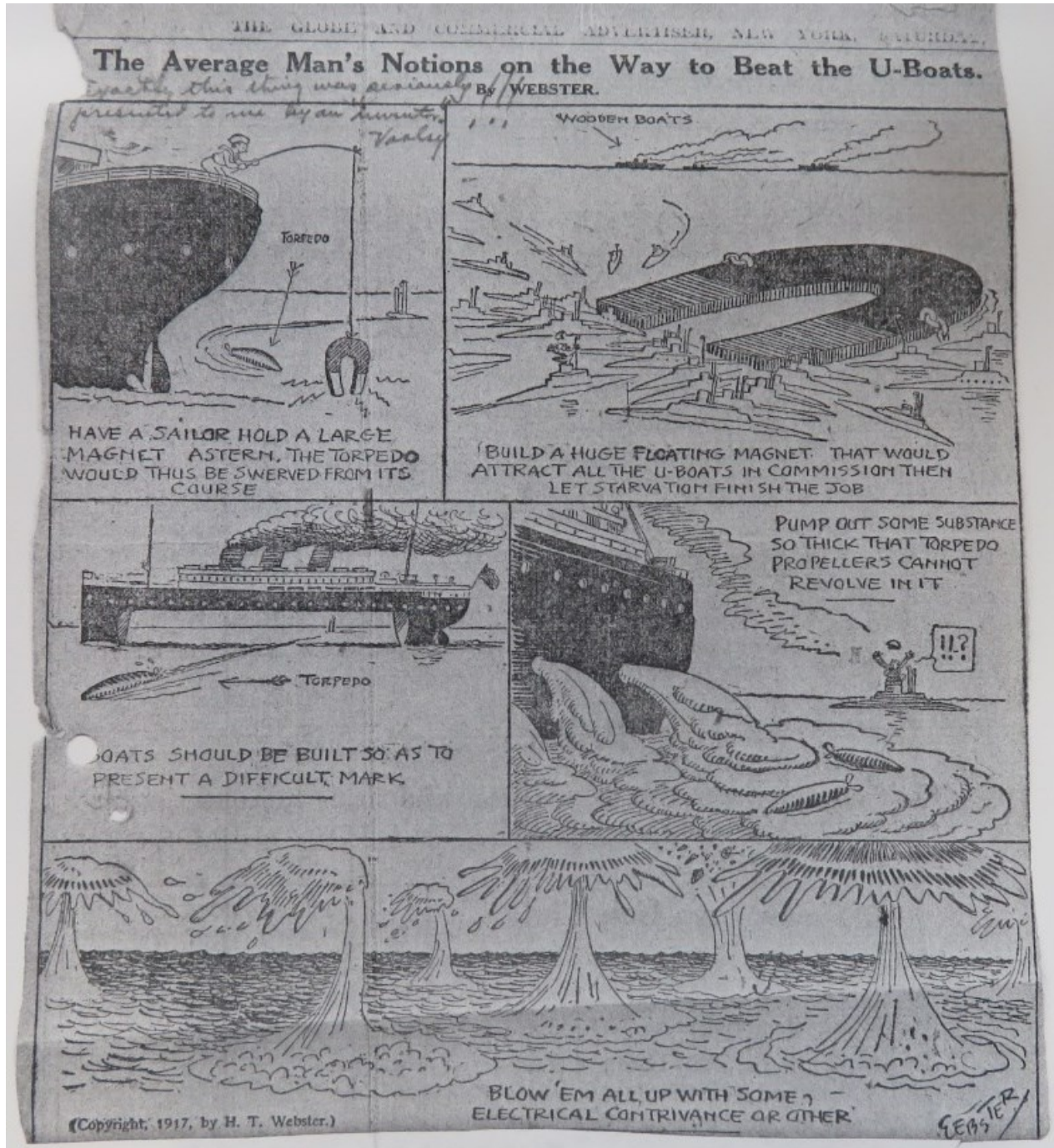
12/30/1944

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.

Circa: 1917



The U-boat launched an entirely new form of naval warfare, and the Allies spent most of the war looking for ways to counter the threat. Some of the suggestions proved more effective than others. Here, a cartoonist pokes fun at some of civilians' more simplistic ideas for defeating the submarine menace. Vice Admiral William Sims, Commander of U.S. Naval Forces in European Waters, clipped this cartoon out and sent it to his friend, Captain William V. Pratt, of the Chief of Naval Operations staff. In pencil, he jotted the words "Exactly this thing was seriously presented to me by an "inventor"!!!!"



US to Deploy Anti-Ship Missiles on Subs in 2024 to Counter China

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/05/us-deploy-anti-ship-missiles-subs-2024-counter-china.html?ESRC=navy_231205.nl



The guided missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) launches a Tomahawk cruise missile, as seen from the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), in the Persian Gulf Sept. 23, 2014. (Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Eric Garst/U.S. Navy/TNS)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy plans to begin arming submarines next year with ship-targeting versions of the widely used Tomahawk missile, part of Washington’s push to ramp up military capabilities to challenge Chinese maritime forces, particularly around Taiwan.

The “Maritime Strike” version of the Tomahawk, the RTX Corporation missile traditionally used as a ground-attack weapon, will be fielded after Oct. 1, 2024, program manager Captain Jon Hersey said in a statement. The latest models will be modified with a new guidance system enabling them to “to engage a mobile target at sea,” he said, adding the Navy took delivery of the initial version last year for tests before declaring it combat ready.

Fielding the new version of the Tomahawk — which made its battlefield debut in the early hours of the 1991 Persian Gulf War in Iraq — would add to a growing U.S. arsenal of ship-attack missiles to complement submarine-launched torpedoes intended to counter China’s numerically superior fleet. While the Navy also plans to start fielding the weapons on surface vessels, those are more vulnerable to China’s land- and sea-based anti-ship arsenal.

Taiwan, which China claims as its sovereign territory, is of particular interest for Washington, which sees defending the island — and its crucial semiconductor industry — as a strategic, economic and political priority.

The schedule for the new maritime strike missile fits roughly within the Pentagon’s plans to field thousands of drones in the Indo-Pacific region to counter China, known as the Replicator program, which the Penta-

gon aims to deploy on a large scale between February and August 2025.

The development also comes alongside Washington's burgeoning security alliance with the U.K. and Australia, known as Aukus. The trio on Friday announced a raft of plans, including the use of artificial intelligence aboard aircraft patrolling the Pacific to help track Chinese submarines.

The three powers said they would deploy advanced artificial intelligence algorithms on multiple systems, including the P-8A Poseidon aircraft to process data from each nation's sonobuoys, underwater detection devices.

The missiles will be deployed on Los Angeles and Virginia-class submarines, which can carry as many as 12 land-attack Tomahawks, although some modified versions of the Virginia-class will be able to carry as many as 40.

The weapons have a range up to 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers), according to Brent Sadler, a senior research fellow in naval warfare and advanced technology at the Heritage Foundation, as well as a former submariner and head of the Navy's Asia-Pacific Advisory Group.

"The long range provides greater stand-off from Chinese anti-access and area-denial missile forces, and this would complicate Chinese planning for a blockade/invasion of Taiwan," Sadler said in an email. "More work is needed to develop how these missile will be employed to overwhelm" China's forces and take out enough ships to be "war-winning," he said.

Japan may someday also deploy the new anti-ship version of the missile. The State Department notified Congress this month that Tokyo has been cleared to receive its first ground-attack Tomahawks in a sale valued at as much as \$2.35 billion for up to 200 missiles.

"Should Japan also get this weapon, it adds another level of complexity the Chinese will have to contend with," Sadler said.

China has 370 ships and submarines in its naval force, including more than 140 major surface combatants, the Pentagon said in its latest assessment of Chinese military power. The U.S. Navy has 291 deployable vessels.

China's navy is largely composed of modern multimission ships and submarines, and it launched its third aircraft carrier last year, the CV-18 Fujian.

Vice Admiral William Houston, the Navy's Submarine Forces Commander, said in a statement to Bloomberg News that he's committed to fielding the Maritime Strike Tomahawk as quickly as possible but pointed out that "procurement, modernization and fielding schedules are dynamic and impacted by a variety of factors including industrial base and shipyard capacity."

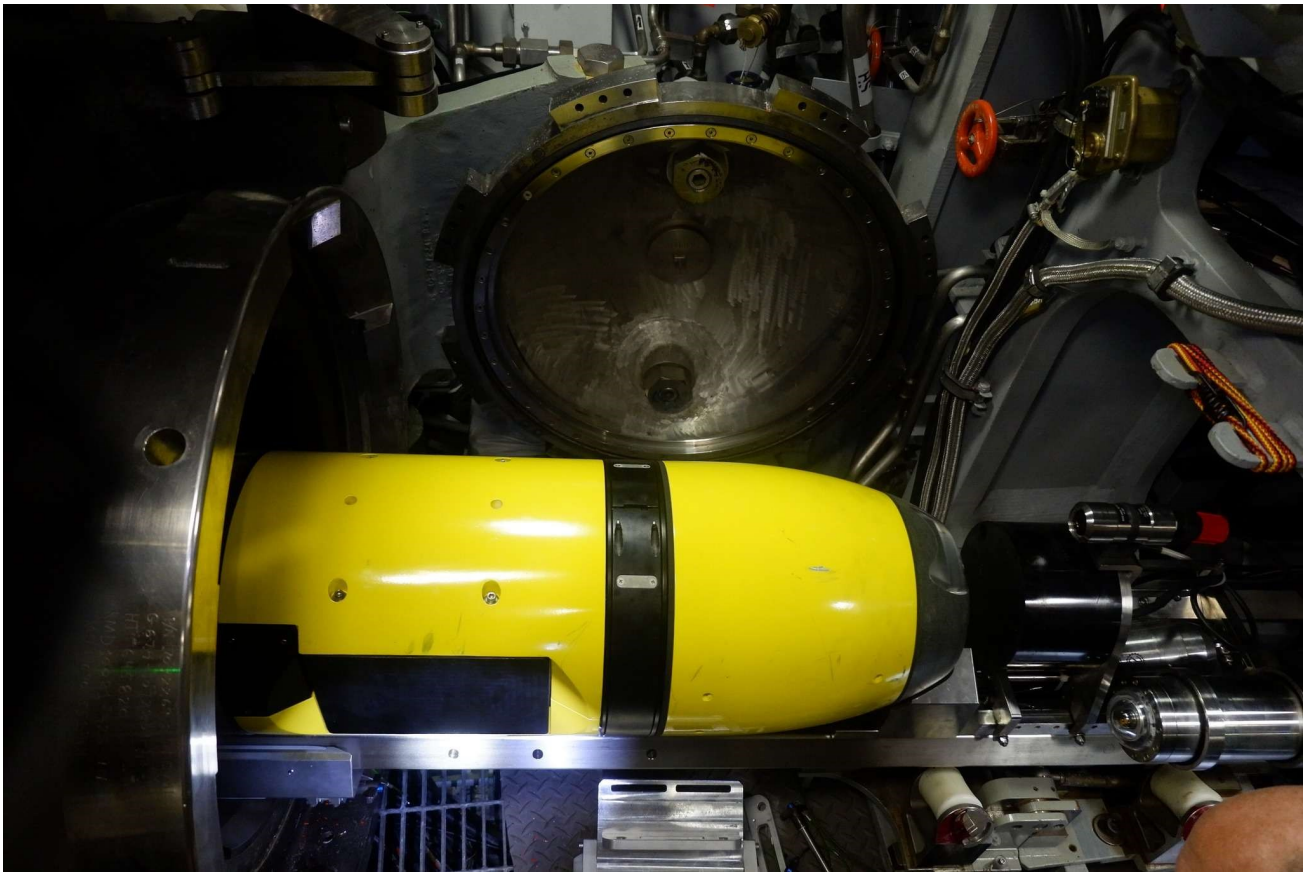
The U.S. anti-ship arsenal now includes the ship-launched RTX SM-6 air defense missile adapted by the Pentagon's Strategic Capabilities Office and Lockheed Martin's Long Range Anti-Ship Missile. It can be launched from the Air Force B-1-B bomber and the Navy's top aircraft carrier fighter, the F/A-18 E/F.

Separately, the Navy also fields Boeing's sea-skimming Harpoon anti-ship missiles, and Taiwan is buying at least 400 ground-launched versions for coastal defense. Those type of missiles figured prominently in a series of tabletop war games of a potential invasion of Taiwan by China conducted last year by the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

US NAVY CONDUCTS 2ND UUV LAUNCH AND RECOVERY TEST FROM SUBMARINE

Zach Abdi 13 Dec 2023

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2023/12/us-navy-conducts-2nd-uuv-launch-and-recovery-test-from-submarine/>



Last week, crews from USS *Delaware* (SSN-791), a Virginia-class attack submarine, conducted a launch and recovery of a REMUS medium Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV).

According to a [press release](#), during the operation dubbed “Yellow Moray”, HHI’s [REMUS](#) UUV was launched from the *Delaware*’s torpedo tube and was recovered the same way.

“The Yellow Moray system will provide the U.S. submarine force with additional mission capability, enhancing what the U.S. Navy’s submarines can provide our nation’s unified combatant commands around the globe,” stated the release.

The recent test marks the second such test involving submarines launching and recovering UUVs in such fashion. A similar test was conducted by Submarine Force Pacific last week. That test involved a L3Harris-produced UUV.

The two successful tests are paving the way for the U.S. Navy’s effort to deploy a torpedo tube-launched and recovered medium UUV by next year.

One such system currently in development is the US Navy’s Razorback. The initial version of the UUV was based around the REMUS 600 and could only be launched from dry deck shelters, needing divers to be launched and recovered. The Navy is currently undertaking an effort which has an industry team composed of Leidos and L3Harris Technologies seeking to address the challenges with the prior Razorback. The companies are working together to bring a new version of the Razorback that will be easier to recover and launch by using the torpedo tubes.

Megan Eckstein of *Defense News*, recently [reported](#) that the new Razorback variant is on schedule to clear critical design review (CDR) this year as planned.

Alongside the development of the new Razorback variant, HII is working on a new capsule for the UUV called the Shock and Fire Enclosure Capsule (SAFECAP). A new capsule that, besides aiding in the launch and recovery of the UUVs, will bring a new layer of safety for the submarine crews.

Due to the dangers of working with lithium-ion batteries, which the UUVs will be utilizing, there's always the possibility of a high-energy casualty event. Therefore, SAFECAP is there to monitor the health of the batteries on the UUV using a Battery Casualty Detection System and in case of an event, contain and stop the high-energy event.

Naval News understands that, to date, the Royal Swedish Navy's submarine flotilla is the only service in the world to field an operational system able to retrieve torpedo-shaped UUVs (and bring them back inside the submarine via the torpedo tube). The Swedes are using, since 2019, a system designed by Saab known as SubROV.

A REMUS UUV capsule inside USS Delaware (US Navy photo)



Sailors load a REMUS UUV capsule onto USS Delaware (US Navy photo)



US Navy tests sub-launched drones while industry continues designing

By Megan Eckstein

<https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2023/11/08/us-navy-tests-sub-launched-drones-while-industry-continues-designing/>



The Office of Naval Research launches a REMUS 600 autonomous underwater vehicle for mine search and identification operations off the coast of Bornholm Island during BALTOPS 2018. (MCC America Henry/U.S. Navy)

ARLINGTON, Va. — The U.S. Navy is experimenting with launching and recovering medium unmanned underwater vehicles from submarines, even as a formal acquisition effort is ongoing.

The Program Executive Office Unmanned and Small Combatants is pursuing the project, which is meant to create a common drone that can conduct expeditionary mine countermeasures or operate from submarines.

Capt. Kevin Smith, who leads the office, said this week at the Naval Submarine League's annual symposium that the program is moving through the critical design review process and that industry partners Leidos and L3Harris Technologies had built a demonstration vehicle with their own research and development dollars to help accelerate the platform's development.

The medium UUV is set to field within the next several years, but the Navy is already practicing with similar systems available from industry to learn how to use them.

The Navy's initial Razorback effort, the version of the medium UUV that operates from submarines, resulted in a system that had to be launched and recovered from a special operations dry deck shelter, meaning its operations were labor intensive and only a limited number of submarines in the fleet could support them.

The current medium UUV program adds a torpedo tube launch and recovery capability, allowing any submarine in the fleet to become a drone mothership.

“I think we are very close to deploying a torpedo tube-launched and -recovered UUV here within the next year. So that’s going to be a big deal for us because success in that space is going to allow us to start operating at scale and putting these capabilities on every submarine,” Rear Adm. Rob Gaucher, who serves as a special assistant to U.S. Fleet Forces Command and is the nominee for Naval Submarine Forces commander, said at the conference.

He told Defense News that Submarine Force Atlantic conducted an effort called Yellow Moray, where it tested a Remus UUV from the defense contractor HII. Submarine Force Pacific conducted a similar Rat Trap exercise, where it successfully launched and recovered an L3Harris-made UUV from a submarine torpedo tube.

“There is a plan in place to deploy that in 2024. Now, will we get there? We still have some testing to do, but that’s our plan and that’s what we’re shooting for,” Gaucher said.

He noted this effort to field an initial capability next year is happening in parallel to the formal medium UUV development and acquisition effort. He also said among the success in these early efforts are lingering challenges, but he is optimistic the fleet can adopt an unmanned capability soon.

“We want to get out there and get in the water — that’s the biggest thing,” Gaucher said.

Even as the medium UUV acquisition and experimentation efforts continue, Gaucher said in a speech at the event that other unmanned underwater vessels had already contributed to real-world operations and global exercises. The admiral said American UUVs had participated in 11 exercise alongside 17 countries in the European theater, with a focus on mine countermeasures operations. The U.S. Navy had also sent UUVs to help survey the Nord Stream natural gas pipeline in the Baltic Sea following a September 2022 explosion.

In the Middle East, the admiral said, UUVs have conducted seabed surveys, harbor surveys and harbor defense missions.

And in the Pacific, they participated in 10 exercises with four allies and partners to conduct mine countermeasures and mining operations, plus an Integrated Battle Problem exercise focused on subsea and seabed warfare to inform future collaboration between the U.S., Australia and the United Kingdom.

US Navy upgrading torpedoes, leveraging cloud computing for submarines

By Megan Eckstein

<https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2023/11/16/us-navy-upgrading-torpedoes-leveraging-cloud-computing-for-submarines/>

The Virginia-class fast-attack submarine Mississippi departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on March 20, 2023. (MC1 Scott Barnes/U.S. Navy)



ARLINGTON, Va. — The U.S. Navy is pushing new technology to its undersea fleet to make it safer, smarter and deadlier, while also nearing a major step in developing its next-generation attack submarine.

Among the changes that will have the most impact is moving the Submarine Warfare Federated Tactical System to a cloud-based common computing environment. SWFTS comprises a sub's sonar, imaging, electronic warfare and combat systems, and also ties into ship control, navigation and more.

Capt. Todd Weeks, the program executive officer for undersea warfare systems, said at the Naval Submarine League's annual symposium that this move forces the decoupling of hardware and software, which makes it quicker and easier to upgrade each.

The common computing system also comes with boosted cybersecurity and creates the bandwidth to install artificial intelligence tools for submariners.

Weeks said submariners are inundated with more sonar and electronic warfare data than they can manually analyze. An AI tool could rapidly toss out meaningless data, allowing sailors to look through a narrower set of potentially interesting information.

As the Navy begins to test these AI tools onboard submarines, it built a so-called sandbox for these applications so users can access the data generated by SWFTS without posing a risk or otherwise affecting existing systems. The Navy can experiment with apps in this sandbox before committing to their installation with SWFTS.

Weeks said the current SWFTS build has a small sandbox, which will increase in size in the coming years so multiple apps can simultaneously undergo testing.

Next-gen attack sub

The Navy intends to begin buying its SSN(X) attack submarine about a decade from now, following what would be a 35-year run building the Virginia-class boats.

Rear Adm. Jon Rucker, the program executive officer for attack submarines, said his team is conducting technology development and early design work. They'll incorporate the best of the Virginia, Seawolf and Columbia submarine designs and focus on four attributes: speed, payload capacity, stealth and operational availability — minimizing time needed for major depot work and maximizing the time it can be out on patrol.

Rucker said Nov. 7 at the same conference that Navy leadership signed the SSN(X) initial capabilities document, which is now with the Joint Staff for final signatures and approvals.

The Navy will then begin an analysis of alternatives in 2024, he said, noting this process will help decide how to proceed — a clean-sheet design, modifying the existing Virginia-class design, or something in between.

An MK 54 Mod 0 Torpedo used for training launches from the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer Roosevelt in April 2014. (MC2 Justin Wolpert/U.S. Navy)

Torpedoes and countermeasures

For the ships and aircraft that hunt enemy submarines, Weeks' office is offering greater capability by developing an advanced sonar array for existing Mk 54 lightweight torpedoes. His team is also creating an advanced lightweight torpedo to leverage new sonar technology and add "significant improvement in lethality and speed and depth so that there's no submarine in the world that is safe from our [anti-submarine warfare] forces."

To supplement the torpedo inventory, Weeks said in his Nov. 8 speech, his office is also "in the process of developing" the Compact Rapid Attack Weapon, or CRAW, a spinoff of the anti-torpedo torpedo defensive

system the Navy uses on aircraft carriers.

Weeks told reporters the Penn State University's Applied Research Laboratory developed CRAW, which features a new warhead and fresh operational software compared to the old system. The Navy is working with several industry partners, who he declined to name, to put the system into production. He expects to sign off on its Milestone B achievement in the coming weeks, he added.

CRAW will first deploy for an offensive anti-submarine mission, and then receive a defensive anti-torpedo torpedo capability via a software update.

Weeks said CRAW will arm Virginia submarines "soon" and that the aviation and surface communities are interested in the system, which is smaller than the lightweight torpedo but has less range.

Chief Damage Controlman Peter Martinez, left, instructs sailors assigned to the in-port emergency team aboard the aircraft carrier George Washington. (MCSN Cory Daut/U.S. Navy)

Safety gear

Vice Adm. William Houston, the commander of Naval Submarine Forces, said Nov. 7 he's made rapid safety improvements on the Ohio-class ballistic missile and guided-missile submarines, including improved firefighting gear.

Previously, sailors would rely on hand-held thermal imagers to find their way around dark, smoky areas of the sub during an emergency. But the Ohio boats would typically only have two of these onboard, leaving many first responders unable to see how close they were to a fire.

In a few months, the Navy developed and purchased a new self-contained breathing apparatus that has a thermal imaging heads-up display built into the face mask. Now, every first responder could have thermal imaging without having to find or hold a device.

The entire Ohio class has this new apparatus, and the Virginia attack subs will get it soon, Houston said.





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