

Steel Valley Dolphins

Monthly Newsletter



Stonewall Jackson SSBN-634



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 08 2024 @ 1230 hours

At American Legion Post 290 Columbiana, OH

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
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Senior Vice Commander	Jon Jaques	615-893-7800	jjaques@bellsouth.net
Junior Vice Commander	Steven Bell	704-824-3510	usnret82@carolina.rr.com
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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	Dennis Nardone	360-337-2978	ussvi@telebyte.net



USS Requin Base Officers

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1st Vice Commander	Joe Campisi	412-322-3201	jcampisi654@comcast.net
2nd Vice Commander	Chuck "Bat" Masterson	724-869-1938	mastersoncf@aol.com
Secretary	Jeff Simon	920-217-8633	jeffsimon@zoominternet.net
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Storekeeper	Frank Nicotra	412-835-6540	nicotrafrank@gmail.com
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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	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 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 recommissioned 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.



Submarines commissioned during the month of May

Grampus SS-4	5/28/1903	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Pike SS-6	5/28/1903	Wikipedia	NavSource	
F-4 SS-23	5/3/1913	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
L-4 SS-43	5/4/1916	Wikipedia	NavSource	
O-4 SS-65	5/29/1918	Wikipedia	NavSource	
R-6 SS-83	5/1/1919	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-2 SS-106	5/25/1920	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-6 SS-111	5/17/1920	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-29 SS-134	5/22/1924	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-31 SS-136	5/11/1922	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-38 SS-143	5/11/1923	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-50 SS-161	5/20/1922	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Bonita SS-165	5/22/1926	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Narwhal SS-167	5/15/1930	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Grampus SS-207	5/23/1941	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Grenadier SS-210	5/1/1941	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Guardfish SS-217	5/8/1942	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Bluefish SS-222	5/24/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Bonefish SS-223	5/31/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Herring SS-233	5/4/1942	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Kingfish SS-234	5/20/1942	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Wahoo SS-238	5/15/1942	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Bowfin SS-287	5/1/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Cabrilla SS-288	5/24/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Cisco SS-290	5/10/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Baya SS-318	5/20/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Becuna SS-319	5/27/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Chopper SS-342	5/25/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Hawkbill SS-366	5/17/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Segundo SS-398	5/9/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Sea Cat SS-399	5/16/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Sea Devil SS-400	5/24/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Trepang SS-412	5/22/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Irex SS-482	5/14/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Wahoo SS-565	5/30/1952	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Permit SSN-594	5/29/1962	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Pollack SSN-603	5/26/1964	Wikipedia	NavSource	
John Marshall SSBN-611	5/21/1962	Wikipedia	NavSource	
John Adams SSBN-620	5/12/1964	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Tecumseh SSBN-628	5/29/1964	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Pogy SSN-647	5/15/1971	Wikipedia	NavSource	

Silversides SSN-679
William H. Bates SSN-680
Jacksonville SSN-699
Albuquerque SSN-706
Norfolk SSN-714
Salt Lake City SSN-716
Alabama SSBN-731
Hawaii SSN-776
North Carolina SSN-777
Oregon SSN-793

5/5/1972
5/5/1973
5/16/1981
5/21/1983
5/21/1983
5/12/1984
5/25/1985
5/5/2007
5/3/2008
5/28/2022

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SUBMARINERS



made with mematic

**WAY MORE FUN THAN
NORMAL PEOPLE**



Binnacle List

Eternal Patrol

In Remembrance

Huey Dietrich
Rick Elster
Nancy Bouts
Maghan Clark

All Hands Present
And
Accounted For

Edmund John Figas	MOMM3(SS)	5/2/2012
Donald A. Tamburello	TM1(SS)	5/5/1999
George Stass	ETC (SS)	5/13/2023
Richard R. Tate	MM2(SS)	5/15/2015
James A. Varney	E5	5/15/2014
John W. Yaksich	RD3(SS)	5/19/2017
Robert W. Lindsay	MMCM(SS)	5/31/2017

Birthdays

Member

Spouse

Anniversaries

Frank Nicotra	6/1	Robert Carman	6/2	Nancy & Clair Bouts	6/1
Joseph Monteleone	6/6	Christina (Tina) Wyckoff	6/2	Vivian & John Mack	6/1
William Rodgers	6/11	Sheila Burdin	6/4	Deborah & Steven Kerch	6/3
Alexander Hamill	6/12	Mary Beth Flaugh	6/6	Nancy & Charles Loskoch	6/6
James Messer	6/14	Kathy Wood	6/6	Kelly & Stephen McKinney	6/7
Jim Wiehagen	6/14	Danielle Greenwald	6/7	Kimberly & John Swords	6/7
Kenneth Crosby	6/15	Sandy Hamill	6/8	Adele & Herbert Wise	6/10
Sandra Ellis	6/17	Adriana Hoag	6/13	Holly & John Sipes Jr.	6/12
John Sutherin, Jr	6/17	Mary Jane Derr	6/16	Patricia & Ronald Goron	6/14
John Lukasik	6/18	Karen Keys	6/18	Kathy & Robert J. Schmidt	6/14
Robert Lindsey	6/21	Elizabeth Bistolas	6/29	Vicky & Aubrey Smith	6/15
John Sipes Jr.	6/23			Donna & C. William Greenlee	6/16
M. David Cochenour II	6/25			Stephanie & Peter Foster	6/17
Joseph Campisi	6/29			Elaine & Daniel Plunkett	6/18
Richard McCullough	6/29			Carmella & Michael Markel	6/21
				Helga & Larry Iden	6/30





Shipmates - Our May meeting was once again a happy event to spend some quality time with the Requin shipmates. I want to thank so many shipmates that reached out to me to inquire on how I am coming along with my illness.

I am coming along slowly but surely! Thank to everyone for their kind words. In addition, "THANK YOU" for all the get-well cards that were sent, along with all the telephone calls! I even got a long-distance call from J.B. in Florida!

It's been over two months and I am making progress – (I think?) I have seen my family doctor twice and my lung doctor. They both gave me a positive report and said all my tests were all O.K. Thanks again shipmates for caring! It makes recovery easier.

Memorial-day week-end is our most busy week-end. Our schedule starts on Sunday, May 26 with our Memorial service on board the REQUIN and the Carnegie Parade. On Memorial Day, we have three parades – Lawrenceville, Sewickley and Coraopolis.

PLEASE READ THE BELOW PROGRAM AND E-MAIL OR CALL ME, TO LET ME KNOW IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING, especially the service on REQUIN.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEK-END PROGRAM

Our Requin Memorial Service, will be held on board the USS REQUIN, on Sunday, May 26th at 10:00 hours. The crew and guests will arrive between 09:15 and 09:40. We will muster at 09:45 on board REQUIN.

We will have the VFW 9199 honor guard, the Marine Corp League as our color guard and Alyssa as our singer.

PLEASE E-MAIL ME AND LET ME KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE BY READING OUR LOST BOATS- hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com

After our ceremony we will travel to Carnegie, Pa for their Memorial Day Parade.

May 26 –Carnegie Parade – (14:00) hours

Muster at 13:00 at the Carnegie Borough Building Parking Lot – VFW 331

May 27 – Lawrenceville Parade (10:00) hours

Muster at 09:00 at Dough Boy between 34th & 36th (Butler/Penn)

May 27 – Sewickley Parade – (10:00)

Muster AT (09:30) at flag pole – Frederick & Broad Streets

May 27 - Coraopolis Parade – (13:00) hours

Arrive on Main Street or VFW Post 402 at (12:30)





Meeting Minutes

These are the minutes as recorded at the base meeting and are not edited or moderated by the newsletter editor. You can address any issues or concerns in the minutes with the base secretary.

May 11, 2024
American Legion Post 641 Baden PA

Base Commander Huey Dietrich called the meeting to order.

Attendees: Willard Ashmore, Eric Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, Clair Bouts, Don Bright, George Brown, Joe Campisi, Carl Capito, Ken Crosby, Huey & Edie Dietrich, Dick & Beverly Geyer, Bob & Lynn Gourley, David Halliday, Lou Hamill, George & Barbara Harrah, John Held, Mark Hoag, Jim & Charlene List, Jean Lemieux, Pete & Nancy Loskosh, Bat Masterson, Vince Metz, Bob & Jude Myers, Chuck Shrump, Harry Sills, Jack Sutherin, Chad Underkoffler, Ron & 1st Mate Weaver.

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 submariner."

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 5th 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

Chaplain Eric Bookmiller gave the Invocation.

COB Chad Underkoffler lead the base in the Pledge Of Allegiance
Members introduced themselves and the boats they qualified on.

Treasurer Lee Bookwalter reported that Minutes of the previous base meeting were published in the SVD.

Treasurer Lee Bookwalter gave an accounting of base assets, expenditures, and deposits. With no objections, the report was approved.

Other Reports:

Binnacle List: Maghan Clark, Nancy Bouts, Rick Elster, Huey Dietrich.
Eternal Patrol: None

Base membership stands at 201.

Vice Commander Joe Campisi reported on PA license plate program.

Shipmate John Held reported on Eagle Scouts presentations.

Old Business:

Admiral Sief met with members at the German Club.

Members will attend Captain Deichler change of command on July 12 in Connecticut.

Members attended the Fish Rodeo last week.

New Business:

The Base will attend the Columbus Day parade on October 12.

Armed Forces Day Observance at Keystone Base is cancelled.

Shipmate Andrew Wolbrueck has been assigned to the USS Eisenhower.

Good of The Order:

Upcoming activities:

May 26 - Memorial Service USS Requin, muster 0915, starts 1000.

May 26 - Carnegie Parade, muster 1300, starts 1400.

May 27 - Sewickley Parade, muster 0930, start 1000.

May 27 - Lawrenceville Parade, muster 0900, start 1000.

May 27 - Coraopolis Parade, muster 1230, start 1300.

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: American Legion Post 290 in Columbiana OH at 1230 hours on June 8, 2024





RADM Seif Presentation



Fish Rodeo



SSN 799 USS IDAHO COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE

<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/>

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>

Congratulations to:
William Albert Nebiolo T138





Say What???

12 mile limit – referring to the international 12 mile boundary, but sailors use it to mark the time when “anything goes” when outside the 12 mile limit.

Boy butter – Slang term for silicone grease.

Bug Juice - Kool-Aid-like beverage in dispensers on the messdecks. Before the turn of the century bug juice was also used as a replacement for cleaning agents to clean decks with. Still used for removing corrosion from brass fittings.



Upcoming Events

Meeting

June 08, 2024
1230 hours
American Legion Post 290
44403 OH-14
Columbiana, OH 44408

Base activities

Date	Event	Muster	Time
May 26	Requin Memorial Service	09:15	10:00
May 26	Carnegie Parade	13:00	14:00
May 27	Lawrenceville Parade	09:00	10:00
May 27	Sewickley Parade	09:00	10:00
May 27	Coraopolis Parade	12:00	13:00



Membership

Primary Members	170	Holland Club	87	USSVI Life Members	83
Secondary Members	13	WWII	1	Base Life Members	66
Associate Members	18	Eternal Patrol	82	Joined Last Year	7
Total Members	201			Joined This Year	0

New Members





History	
Namesake	Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson
Ordered	21 July 1961
Builder	Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California
Laid down	4 July 1962
Launched	30 November 1963
Sponsored by	Miss Julia Christian McAfee
Commissioned	26 August 1964
Decommissioned	9 February 1995
Stricken	9 February 1995
Motto	<i>Strength - Mobility</i>
Nickname(s)	"Stoney J"
Fate	Scrapping via <u>Ship-Submarine Recycling Program</u> completed 13 October 1995

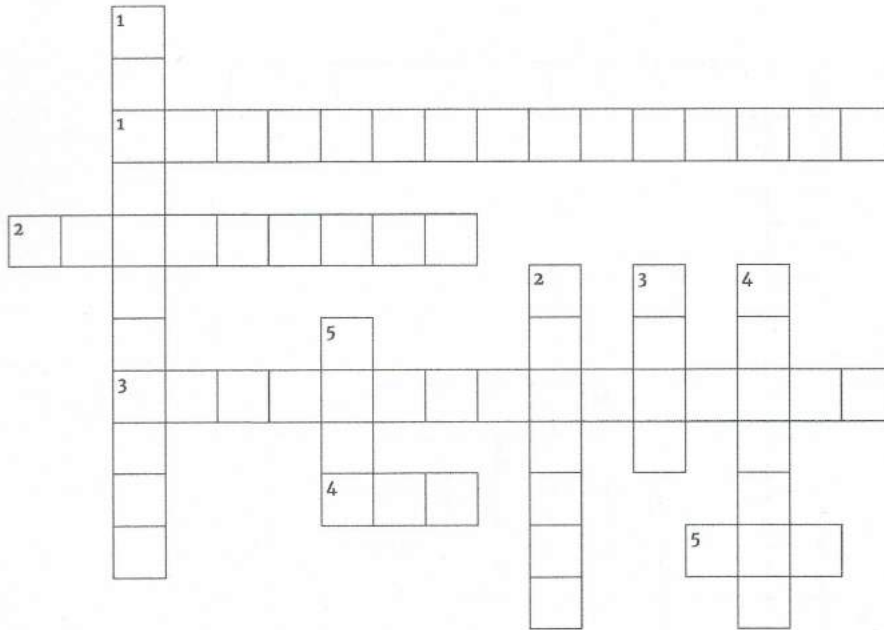


General characteristics	
Class and type	<u>James Madison-class submarine</u>
Displacement	7,300 long tons (7,417 t) surfaced 8,250 long tons (8,382 t) submerged
Length	425 ft (130 m)
Beam	33 ft (10 m)
Draft	32 ft (9.8 m)
Installed power	<u>S5W reactor</u>
Propulsion	2 × geared <u>steam turbines</u> , one shaft 15,000 shp (11,185 kW)
Speed	Over 20 <u>knots</u> (37 km/h; 23 mph)
Test depth	1,300 feet (400 m)
Complement	Two crews (Blue and Gold) of 13 officers and 130 enlisted men each
Armament	16 × <u>ballistic missile tubes</u> 4 × 21 in (533 mm) <u>torpedo tubes</u> forward





US Navy Crossword Puzzle 5



ACROSS

- 1. Oldest Navy Ships
- 2. What Is The Nickname Of The C-130 Cargo Plane For The Team?
- 3. Which Of The Following Ships Was Not Among The First Six Frigates Constructed For The U.S. Navy?
- 4. The Primary Warfare Device Worn By The Current Chief Of Naval Operations, Admiral Gilday, Represents What Officer Community (Abbreviation)
- 5. This Porky Animal Is Traditionally Tattooed On Sailors' Feet As A Symbol Of Survival At Sea, As This Animal Was Kept In Wooden Crates, Making Them Likely To Float To Shore In The Event Of A Shipwreck.

DOWN

- 1. Navy Term For Drinking Fountain, Can Also Mean Rumor Or Gossip
- 2. Three Black Balls Hung In A Vertical Line On A Ship's Mast Indicate What?
- 3. USS Ticonderoga (DDG/Cg-47), Nicknamed
- 4. C (Phonetic Alphabet)
- 5. This Animal Is The Mascot Of The United States Naval Academy

LIMITED WAR

I	D	S	T	L	P	R	A	W	F	O	T	R	A	O
R	J	G	Q	M	B	K	P	K	J	R	U	K	Y	R
U	N	I	T	E	D	S	T	A	T	E	S	M	R	X
D	F	F	M	E	Y	R	E	O	N	X	S	K	Y	R
G	I	M	I	L	I	T	A	R	Y	U	N	I	T	Z
N	P	J	Q	E	V	C	H	M	G	G	A	D	S	U
C	T	I	E	E	L	C	T	T	Y	D	V	S	J	M
I	R	Y	S	Y	K	D	H	P	V	L	Y	R	D	L
L	N	Z	W	P	A	N	M	J	X	H	S	F	L	I
P	O	S	T	C	A	P	T	A	I	N	E	E	D	F
A	O	Z	L	V	U	P	C	B	R	K	A	J	E	X
L	P	O	O	R	T	K	C	O	H	S	L	I	D	E
S	R	L	O	R	T	A	P	E	R	O	H	S	G	W
J	N	X	G	R	O	U	P	C	A	P	T	A	I	N
X	T	C	O	D	O	M	Z	Z	Y	W	T	O	L	F

ART OF WAR
 FIELD MARSHAL
 GROUP CAPTAIN
 MILITARY UNIT

NAVY SEAL
 POST CAPTAIN
 SHOCK TROOP
 SHORE PATROL

UNITED STATES

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 Bonefish (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.



Celebrating 124 Years of U.S. Navy Submarines: How SSP Supports the Warfighter, Maintains an Unmatched Strategic Deterrent

11 April 2024 Lt. Jennifer Bowman

<https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3738246/celebrating-124-years-of-us-navy-submarines-how-ssp-supports-the-warfighter-mai/>

After more than a century of service, the Navy submarine force—and, in particular, its nuclear deterrence warfighters—continues to be a cornerstone of our nation’s security and a kingpin for America’s Warfighting Navy.

April 11, 1900 marked the inaugural acquisition of the first modern submarine in the fleet’s history, USS Holland (SS 1). Traced as far back as the American Revolutionary War, submarines and submariners have held significant influence on how we fight wars from the sea. These vessels proved valuable in World War II as a significant denier of German U-Boats and gaining decisive wins over the Japanese in the Pacific. According to the [Naval History and Heritage Command](#), submarines were responsible for sinking more than 540,000 tons of Japanese Naval vessels, along with more than 4.7 million tons of merchant shipping.

The work of submariners is often dubbed the ‘[silent service](#)’, principally because the nature of submarine missions was—and is—not usually telegraphed or broadcasted publicly. The moniker rings particularly true for the Navy’s sea-based nuclear deterrence mission, which remains the most survivable of the three legs of our nation’s nuclear triad. As the submarine forces continued to develop after World War II, new technology and capabilities were advanced and the world’s first nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) was born.

The research, development, and provision of a combat capability for these vessels was tasked to a newly-established Special Projects Office (SPO) created in 1955 and led by Rear Adm. William ‘Red’ Raborn. Specifically, SPO would develop, design, and test the first-ever fleet ballistic missile. In 1959, the USS George Washington (SSBN 598) was commissioned and one year later, the vision would become a reality.

July 20, 1960, USS George Washington would execute the [first successful underwater launch](#) of a POLARIS A1 test vehicle from a submarine. POLARIS—named for the North Star—was a two-stage ballistic missile, powered by solid fuel rocket motors and guided by a self-contained inertial guidance system independent of external commands or control.

SPO—renamed [Strategic Systems Programs](#) (SSP) in 1987—still owns the cradle to grave responsibility for the submarine-launched ballistic missile system. SSP oversees all aspects of research, development, production, logistics, storage, repair, and operational support for the system.

Though SSP’s mission is program management focused, the command has a specific branch dedicated to forming connective tissue between the highly technical side of the command’s mission and the warfighter’s operational readiness needs at sea. The Operations, Evaluations, and Training Branch (SP205) specifically lends its support to the warfighter aboard the Ohio-class SSBN.

“Our branch does all of the execution of flight testing with the fleet... we are one of SSP’s major interfaces with the fleet,” explained the Branch Head Capt. Bill Dull.

He highlighted how the branch is specifically manned with more fleet personnel than it is Engineering Duty Officers. Integrating fleet personnel at SSP bakes in much-needed institutional knowledge about the day-to-day operational environment and makes translating between SSP and the fleet more seamless.

“When we respond to message traffic from the fleet, we are able to relate the terminology from a fleet perspective into a format familiar to SSP such that we know what the submarine is doing with the directions we’ve sent to the submarine.”

Building this connectivity is only a portion of the responsibilities for which Capt. Dull and his staff are accountable.

“We [the branch] are at the coolest end of what SSP does in flight testing,” he said.

“We execute Demonstration and Shakedown Operations (DASO) which certifies the viability of the ship, its crew, and its Trident II D5LE strategic weapons system, and it culminates in the launch of a test missile.”

This testing is a critical part of ensuring the SSBN’s readiness before operational deployment following the submarine’s midlife refueling overhaul or as part of new construction. SSBN’s account for 70% of the nation’s nuclear triad.

Capt. Dull recalled visiting Cape Canaveral and touring the launch complexes and bunkers constructed in the 1950’s that various organizations, including SSP [then-SPO] used to test early missiles [like Polaris] that would eventually be launched from the sea.

“Ten, nine, eight, seven,” Capt. Dull counted down out loud as he described audio narrative emanating from the carefully-catalogued exhibits and pondered what it must have been like to stand up the nuclear deterrence program nearly 70 years ago. His description alone was evidence that Capt. Dull is well-aware of his responsibility to connect today’s fleet to the rich history and culture of SSP—not just where the organization has been, but where it is going.

“It’s amazing we have this brilliant program—with talented people—that can launch a missile from a submarine **undersea** [to a target] halfway around the world.

The criticality of this work is what makes the strategic deterrence mission so paramount to our nation’s defense. The submariners of America’s warfighting Navy can be absolutely confident in the SWS system on their submarines—and assurance strengthened by the work Capt. Dull and his team execute daily to ensure the SSBN fleet is equipped, ready, and positioned to fight and win at sea.

“If we get to a point where the U.S. Navy can send only ten ships to sea, they will be SSBNs,” Capt. Dull confidently stated.

A former Commanding Officer of USS Alaska (SSBN-732), Capt. Dull says the most critical component to the viability of the strategic deterrence mission and the submarine fleet is its **people**.

“When I was in command, USS Alaska represented a fleet of sailors from roughly 37-39 different states in the Nation,” he said.

“We are a cross section of America that come together to form one team to execute the most important mission of the Department of Defense.”

Just like the diversity of his submarine crew, SSP’s workforce of Navy civilians and service members come from all walks of life to form the team developing the sea based strategic deterrence capability. In the future, Capt. Dull says SSP’s team must stay one step ahead of near-peer competitors and adversaries in support of the mission.

“It’s not just developing future weapons systems and capabilities, but maximizing the use of what we have currently,” Capt. Dull said, quantifying this point as a hallmark of SSP’s success.

He underscored that the exchange of ideas from the fleet to SSP and vice versa remains essential to innovation and problem solving.

“We need to continue to work within SSP to deliver both Columbia-class and Trident II D5LE2 weapons system training and operational documentation—on time—so that the future warfighter is ready for the

challenges we are going to see in the 2030s.”

A lesser-known part of SSP’s mission is the organization’s support to the fleet of OHIO-Class Guided Missile Nuclear Submarines (SSGN). In 1994, the Nuclear Posture Review determined that the United States needed only 14 of its 18 SSBNs to meet the nation’s strategic force needs. The four “excess” Ohio-Class boats were converted to SSGNs within five years and are a vital element of today’s Warfighting Navy. Combined, the four SSGNs represent more than half of the Submarine Force’s conventional vertical launch payload capacity. They have unprecedented strike and special operations force projection capabilities from a stealth, clandestine platform—which lends extreme flexibility to the mission.

SSGNs sit at the pinnacle of naval integrated and all-domain warfare. The ships, capable of carrying up to 154 Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles, have unique-to-SSGN capabilities to help ensure regional maritime security and stability around the world.

Managing SSP’s critical support to these assets is Martina Sibley, head of the SSGN Strike Program Office. She and the SSGN team support the ship’s missile compartment, equipment maintenance, and any upgrades needed to accomplish the mission.

“To some degree, we are like the Maytag Man,” Sibley said.

She explained that aging infrastructure on the SSGNs can present complex challenges that require advanced problem-solving mindsets. The most important thing to her is providing the best possible service to the submariners.

“SSGN sailors are immensely dedicated to the mission and because of the crucial mission they serve, I want to help them navigate challenges in the best way that I can,” Sibley said.

A vital part of her mission is ensuring she can communicate quickly and properly with the ship’s crew—especially if there is any problem that needs to be fixed. That’s where integration with Capt. Dull’s branch is necessary as the conduit to the fleet.

“The fleet liaison officer I have in the Operations, Testing, and Evaluation Branch is my first line of defense,” explained Sibley.

“If I need to send a message to the SSGN’s crew or coordinate with the (or the sub group commanders) the liaison ensures the naval message is properly formatted, communicated, and understood between SSP and the submarine.”

In Martina’s eyes, supporting sailors aboard these SSGNs is paramount.

“What is so significant about these submarines is that they are deployed at that critical point where you need a show of force.”

In the future—just as the Ohio-class SSBNs are nearing end of life—so too are the Ohio-class SSGNs. And Sibley said outside-the-box thinking on how to transition SSGN capabilities to the new Virginia-class submarines will be crucial in maintaining warfighting advantage.

“To me, it’s a win-win that our small team effectively provides this vital capability to the command while overseeing reclamation of low-use, high-dollar components from these submarines,” she said.

Every day, SSP’s dedicated staff like Sibley and Capt. Dull remain committed to the mission and to ensuring submarine platforms are ready with the right capabilities, weapons, and sustainment. They take the approach with their eye squarely fixed on the safety and support of the sailors who operate these systems—and the communities these sailors selflessly protect and defend.

“How I feel every day when I leave work is that I am defending the United States,” said Sibley.

“I want to make sure our children and our children’s children are free, and that we have a sovereign nation for years to come.”

SSP wishes a Happy 124th Birthday to the fleet of submariners and their support staff—thank you for your dedication to the mission and for faithfully standing the watch!



Royal Australian Navy Sailors graduate Submarine Officer Basic Course: next step, assignment to U.S. nuclear-powered attack submarines

23 April 2024

<https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3752498/royal-australian-navy-sailors-graduate-submarine-officer-basic-course-next-step/>

GROTON, Conn. - In a first for the U.S. Navy and Royal Australian Navy (RAN), three RAN officers graduated from the U.S. Navy's Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) on Apr. 18, 2024, at the Naval Submarine School in Groton, Connecticut.

The RAN officers' graduation represents a significant step toward realizing Pillar 1 of the trilateral AUKUS partnership, a strategic endeavor aimed at strengthening the security and defense capabilities of Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Pillar 1 aims to create a sovereign conventionally armed, nuclear-powered attack submarine fleet for the Royal Australian Navy.

"Collectively, we would like to thank our instructors here in Groton and also in Goose Creek, South Carolina, for getting us to this point," said Lt. William Hall. Hall, Lt. Cmdr. James Heydon and Lt. Cmdr. Adam Klyne are the first RAN officers to complete Naval Nuclear Power School and Nuclear Power Training Unit, located in South Carolina, and now SOBC. "Now, we're looking to join our boats and continuing our careers as part of Australia's conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine force."

The Submarine Officer Basic Course is the last step in the U.S. Navy's 15-month nuclear submarine training pipeline before assignment to the fleet. The three RAN officer graduates will be assigned to Virginia-class attack submarines based out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Upon assignment, the graduates serve as division officers, leading a team of highly trained enlisted submariners. In this capacity, they will be tested and qualified on the ship's systems and in various warfighting and leadership roles.

"Over the last two months, these three officers have trained alongside our Sailors, learning the fundamentals of operating and tactically employing SSNs," said Naval Submarine School Commanding Officer Capt. Matthew Fanning. "At SOBC, they applied both their previous experience and the new skills they developed through our nuclear training schools, to learn how we operate the ocean's apex predator, the nuclear-powered attack submarine."

"These officers are the future leaders of Australia's sovereign conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarine fleet," said the U.S. Navy's AUKUS Integration and Acquisition Program Manager Rear Adm. Lincoln Reifsteck. "Their time in Groton bridged the operational gap between the Collins-class SSKs and the Virginia-class SSN. These tours on U.S. Virginia-class submarines are the key professional development step toward earning the privilege to become submarine executive officers and the first commanding officers of Australian SSNs."

Nearly 100 RAN officers and enlisted personnel will enter the submarine and Naval Nuclear Propulsion training pipelines in 2024.

"These three officers are trailblazers for the Royal Australian Navy," said Rear Admiral Matt Buckley, Head of Nuclear Submarine Capability within the Australia Submarine Agency. They are not only the first Australians to be fully trained within the U.S. system but will also gain real-world experience aboard Virginia-class SSNs, which will be foundational to Australia's ability to sovereignly operate, maintain, and steward these world-class platforms."

AUKUS is a strategic partnership that will promote a safe, free, and open Indo-Pacific, enhance national security, and uplift the three industrial bases. AUKUS Pillar 1 is delivering a conventionally armed SSN capability to the Royal Australian Navy by the early 2030s. The AUKUS I&A Program Office is responsible for executing the trilateral partnership to deliver conventionally armed, nuclear-powered attack submarines to the RAN at the earliest possible date while setting the highest nuclear stewardship standards and continuing to maintain the highest nonproliferation standard.

US Navy's submarine fleet is too small. Here's how selling some may help.

Thursday, May 9, 2024 Megan Eckstein

<https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2024/05/09/us-navys-submarine-fleet-is-too-small-heres-how-selling-some-may-help/>

This is the first story of a two-part series on how the U.S. submarine force is participating in the trilateral AUKUS alliance.

ABOARD THE SUBMARINE DELAWARE OFF FLORIDA'S COAST — The attack submarine Delaware silently pulled away from the pier at Port Everglades, past the pleasure craft and the cargo ships, and then sank beneath the waves.

The U.S. Navy's Virginia-class submarine was showing off for VIPs on board, performing "angles and dangles" — diving sharply and listening for anything not safely stowed to go tumbling — piping simulated targets into its combat system, and taking simulated torpedo shots at the imaginary surface ships.

Though the April 4 demonstration is a far cry from the complex training Delaware's crew will conduct later this year ahead of the boat's deployment to U.S. European Command's theater, leaders said any at-sea opportunity benefits the crew.

But the need for at-sea time butts up against a problematic reality for the Navy: It has 49 attack submarines, despite a formal requirement for 66.

The fleet size has remained stagnant for at least a decade, even as demand for these stealthy forces increased. Attack submarines would be pivotal in a conflict against China. They're also in high demand within the European theater in order to counter Russia's sophisticated submarine fleet. And they've even made history in the Middle East, with the Virginia-class sub John Warner becoming the first in its class to fire Tomahawk missiles in combat during a 2018 strike on Syrian chemical weapons facilities.

The situation will worsen before it improves, according to the Navy's long-range shipbuilding and fleet inventory plan, which shows the force dipping to 47 later this decade before hovering in the mid-50s for many years. The fleet isn't projected to hit 66 until 2054, well beyond the "decade of concern" — when military officials say the threat of conflict with China will peak.

Furthermore, the U.S. Navy intends to sell at least three, and as many as five, of these attack submarines to Australia as part of the trilateral AUKUS pact that also involves the U.K.

Still, Vice Adm. Rob Gaucher said that, perhaps counterintuitively, selling the submarines to Australia will help the strapped undersea fleet.

By delivering the boats to an ally who will operate them in coordination with American boats, "we get more submarines far forward. We get a port that gives us access" to the Indo-Pacific region, the commander of naval submarine forces said during a panel at the Sea-Air-Space conference in April.

"We get the opportunity to leverage an ally who can help us with manning and operating. We get surge capacity because now I have another area [where] I can do maintenance."

Crewing and maintenance woes

Gaucher told Defense News the submarine fleet faces two vexing problems today and into the coming years: crewing and maintenance. But bringing Australia into the fold could help with both.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the submarine force stepped back from recruiting. More broadly, as the Navy's overall crewing levels have been tight, the force opted to focus on operations at sea rather than recruiting ashore.

"We've put a focus back on that," Gaucher said, though he declined to discuss the size of the submarine force and to quantify its shortfall. But already "we feel the impact of that recruiting shortfall."

Offsetting that will be Australia's growing nuclear-trained submarine force, as the nation builds a cadre of sailors and officers who will crew its Virginia-class submarines in the 2030s and its SSN-AUKUS boats in the 2040s.

The U.S. has already graduated the first Australian naval officers from nuclear power school. Gaucher said during the panel discussion that, by the end of this year, the Navy would graduate about 50 nuclear-trained operators and another 50 submarine combat operators. Those numbers are expected to grow in the coming years.

Gaucher told Defense News these sailors will train on American submarines for the rest of this decade, increasing the number of individuals qualified to stand watch on American boats, which in turn produces some flexibility in crewing.

Similarly, the submarine force is strapped for maintenance capacity. Getting boats out of maintenance on time is Gaucher's top focus, but it's an issue across the Navy and won't be fully achieved until perhaps 2027 or 2028, service officials have said.

However, around 2027 the Navy will begin operating as many as four Virginia-class subs out of the HMAS Stirling submarine base in Western Australia, with local personnel conducting routine maintenance on the boats as they grow their repair capacity. That will reduce pressure on the maintenance system back at home, Gaucher said.

Bryan Clark, director of the Hudson Institute think tank's Center for Defense Concepts and Technology, told Defense News that offloading four subs' worth of routine maintenance to HMAS Stirling will ease the pressure on the Navy's Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Washington state, allowing the workforce there to more quickly get other subs through refits and overhauls.

While there are typically concerns about sending surface ship repair work overseas, Clark said the Navy and its industry partners, General Dynamics' Electric Boat and Hill's Newport News Shipbuilding, simply do not have enough capacity for all the needed submarine repairs.

A 50-sub force in a 66-sub world

A 2016 Navy force structure assessment called for 66 attack submarines. That requirement has remained steady since — and the fleet size has also remained steady around 50, despite a number of efforts meant to help grow it, including extending the lives of older Los Angeles-class attack subs and pouring billions of dollars into the submarine-building industry to increase output.

With 50 boats, "we're able to realistically meet what we've traditionally met in our global force management," Gaucher said. But "if you ask me if I want more submarines, of course. And there's never going to be enough."

Today, it takes everything going right — a submarine coming out of maintenance on time and not unexpectedly having to surge forward for an overseas mission — for a submarine crew to get the desired number of training days.

But, Gaucher said, "if you throw a perturbation into that ... that's where you have to make those trades."

Currently, some submarines are on routine deployments for which they fully planned, trained and certified.

Other boats are considered "combat surge ready" and are eligible to scramble into theater if needed. These boats are trained and certified to a smaller number of core missions, but may not qualify for the full range of tasks a routine deployment could require.

A larger fleet would mean more boats on routine deployments and fewer scrambling to surge. It would mean satisfying more requests by combatant commanders and having more boats already forward in thea-

ter — rather than the surge boats at home taking perhaps a week to prepare for deployment before traveling.

It would also allow the boats at home to further develop tactics as well as train alongside surface, aviation and special operations forces, rather than potentially surging forward for an overseas mission.

“There’s just really countless things you can do if you have more,” Gaucher said. “But we can still get the core things done. ... So we pick the best things for those submarines to do that best satisfy what the combatant commanders need us to do.”

Clark, however, said his team at Hudson is wrapping up a 2045 fleet design study for the Navy that will call for 54 attack submarines. The study will contend the service needs a larger fleet of attack submarines to address the most vexing operational problem: a potential Chinese invasion of Taiwan.

But increased development of unmanned systems, including the Replicator initiative at the Pentagon and the Hellscape effort through U.S. Pacific Fleet, could help deter or stop an attack, as well as reduce the need for crewed attack submarines.

“If you’re aiming for [54] submarines in 2045, then you can get away with selling three to Australia, and the net benefit is positive because you’re bolstering the alliance,” Clark said. “Three submarines, now somebody else is paying for the maintenance, manning them, sustaining them, and the U.S. benefits from them being out there as part of the alliance force.”

‘Continuously ready’

The top officer on the attack sub Delaware, Cmdr. Rob Low, said having an in-demand asset as part of an insufficiently sized fleet weighs on him.

Speaking to Defense News during the April embark, Low said the deployment rotation is the same today as it was when he was a junior officer, but that submarines are more often called to surge. As a result, there’s now a greater need to be “a lot more focused on making sure we’re continuously ready.”

“We all know that there’s not a lot of backup if we have a problem. So we really pride ourselves on making sure we’re material-ready to be in mission at any moment,” he said. “And the second we have something that’s minor break on board, we immediately go into repair mode to make sure that the second we pull [into port in Groton, Connecticut], it’s not going to impact us in our ability to get deployed if we needed to at any moment.”

This hyperfocus on readiness extends to the crew. Low said crew members have been receptive to cross-training, even teaching the nuclear-trained operators to stand watch at the sonar or fire control console in the control room “so that if I end up having a shortage in one rate, I can move people around and continue to operate without any problems.”

Low said he has trained his junior sailors to the maximum qualification point allowed, with junior sailors sometimes standing watches that are normally reserved for chief petty officers. This allows the chiefs to focus on mentoring and developing junior sailors, even as the watch bills are still filled with fully qualified personnel.

Low also noted he empowered his senior enlisted sailors to have “ownership of material” and run the sub’s machinery with little oversight from officers. This frees up his officers to focus on tactics, which Low said is vital given the strategic competition the U.S. Navy is in with Russia and China.

In the immediate term, Low is focused on getting his boat ready for deployment: He and the crew will continue training at sea, come in for two remaining maintenance periods, go through full training and qualifications, and then head to European waters later this year.

But the operating environment and the risk of a surge deployment remain on his mind.

“We have to be ready,” he said. “Three weeks from now, we can be sent to someplace, and we have to be completely ready.”

What has the AUKUS alliance accomplished in the last year?

Thursday, May 9, 2024 Megan Eckstein

<https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2024/05/09/what-has-the-aukus-alliance-accomplished-in-the-last-year/>

This is the second story of a two-part series on how the U.S. submarine force is participating in the trilateral AUKUS alliance. Click here to read the first story.

Australia won't take possession of its first nuclear-powered submarine until 2032, but Australia and the United States are already training the officers and sailors who will operate that Virginia-class attack boat and the civilians who will maintain it.

“We have eight and a half years to create an Australian [commanding officer] that normally takes 16” years, said Dan Packer, the director of naval submarine forces for AUKUS.

Given the stakes — the U.S. selling a nuclear-powered boat to another country for the first time, and Australia making its first foray into using nuclear power — Packer said it's important not to rush the officers' training and development. It must move forward deliberately, with little down time between at-sea assignments, he noted.

Australia has eight officers in the inaugural training cohort that began in 2023. Three of those eight will be moved into an accelerated training pipeline, and one will eventually be the first Australian Virginia-class commanding officer — though the navies don't yet want to decide who that will be, Packer said during an April 4 embark aboard the Virginia-class sub Delaware.

“They're going to finish the pipeline this year. And then they're going to go to their first boat for a two-year tour,” he said. Next, “we're going to take them back to Groton, [Connecticut], to go back to department head school, and then they're going to go right back to another boat. Normally, people do a sea/shore rotation,” but shore tours have been largely eliminated from the accelerated training pipeline.

These three officers will then do a two-year tour in Australia, attend the Australian and American command courses — and then, in 2032, one will be the commanding officer of the submarine that will sail from the U.S. to Australia, lower its American flag, raise an Australian flag and become the lead ship in a sovereign Australian nuclear-powered fleet.

“Right now, the Australian submarine force is about 800 people. We're going to build it to 3,000,” Packer said. “We understand exactly how many people we need to ingest [into the American training pipeline]. This year, we're going to ingest 17 officers, 37 nuclear enlisted and 50 non-nuclear enlisted. And we're going to up that number every year.”

Packer said the impressive part of this training plan isn't its quantity. It's the fact that these sailors and officers will be fully integrated into American attack submarine crews until such time that Australia can stand up its own training pipeline at home.

At some point, he said, the U.S. Navy will have 440 Australians on 25 attack submarines, with each crew including two or three Australian officers, seven nuclear enlisted and nine non-nuclear enlisted sailors.

“This is something that has never happened before,” he said. “We are completely, 100% integrating them into our crew, from a complete and utter perspective. They will do everything that we do” while operating aboard the subs.

Short-term wins in a long-term effort

Training the uniformed personnel is just one piece of a flurry of industrial, legislative and acquisition activity that's taken place since the AUKUS three-phase plan was laid out in March 2023.

Leaders cautioned patience during a recent panel discussion, saying that three countries with separate legislative and budgetary processes were all trying to work in parallel to lay the foundation for a successful tri-lateral submarine alliance.

“It’s very easy to get dragged down to the short term. But these are long-term goals,” U.K. Royal Navy Second Sea Lord Vice Adm. Martin Connell said.

He added that the upcoming AUKUS milestones can’t wait until all the money and authorities are in place; “we’ve got to move sensibly” and accomplish anything that can be done now, while the rest moves through legislative bodies and budgetary processes.

For example, in industry, “you can see components that are going to go into SSN-AUKUS” in the late 2030s, he said, referring to the attack submarine design both the U.K. and Australia will build.

Australian Defence Industry Minister Pat Conroy added during the panel that his country already committed to spend AU\$4.7 billion (U.S. \$3.1 billion) to reduce the backlog at Rolls-Royce’s factory, which builds nuclear power plants.

“When people get frustrated, I say there are already parts being produced now for a submarine that won’t be in the water [until] 2042. And I think the budget and the wills of the governments are there; we’ve just got to, in a steady and methodical way, deliver on them,” he said.

There are several more items that were accomplished in the past year:

- In December, the U.S. and Australia finalized a Foreign Military Sales case to procure submarine training devices, including simulators, to support the 2027 establishment of Submarine Rotational Force-West in Australia’s HMAS Stirling base. According to an April joint statement, the first trainers were put on contract in April. The systems will support American sailors assigned to the rotational force and Australian sailors learning to operate the Virginia-class boats ahead of the 2032 sale.
- The U.S. Congress passed several vital measures in the fiscal 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, including the AUKUS Submarine Transfer Authorization Act allowing the sale of boats to Australia. Australia, too, took some important legislative steps: The Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Bill 2023 and Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety (Transitional Provisions) Bill 2023 were introduced to the Australian Parliament in November but have not yet been passed.
- In March, the first group of 20 Australian industry personnel completed a three-month training placement at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Hawaii.
- In January, 37 Australian sailors reported to American submarine tender Emory S. Land in Guam to prepare for the ship’s deployment to HMAS Stirling — where this summer it will conduct a first maintenance availability on an American sub with a combined American and Australian maintenance team.
- Even though U.S. President Joe Biden gave the order to sell nuclear-powered submarines to Australia, there’s still been some heartburn about second-order effects, Packer said, including the need to give Australia the accompanying “cryptographic equipment or electronic warfare libraries or targeting data or even bathymetry.” Packer and his team have been working with other government agencies to pave the way to share these sensitive items and information with Australia, such that they can fully use the submarines they’ll buy and receive next decade.



Requin Base Supporters

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. <https://requinbase.org/customer-photos/>



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543 Lincoln Ave
Bellevue, PA 15202

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804 Mt Royal Blvd
Pittsburgh, PA 15223

Cavaliere Brothers

1412 Mt Royal Blvd # 1
Glenshaw, PA 15116

Stinky's Bar & Grill

4901 Hatfield St
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Allegheny Country Rifle Club

99 Schuetzen Park Rd
Pittsburgh, PA 15209

Verdetto's Bar & Restaurant

814 Madison Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Teutonia Männerchor

857 Phineas Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

The Bulldog Pub

1818 Morningside Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

The Blue Goose Saloon

605 Mt Royal Blvd
Pittsburgh, PA 15223

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645 Butler St
Pittsburgh, PA 15223

Main Street Bar and Billiards

604 Main Street
Sharpsburg, PA 15215

Danny's Bar & Grill

1511 Center Ave
West View Pa., 15229

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Mike/Erin
1728 Crosby Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15216

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2198 Babcock Blvd.
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