

Steel Valley Dolphins

Monthly Newsletter



USS Louisiana SSBN-743



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.”

Table of Contents

<u>Meeting Information</u>	2
<u>Officers (National & Local)</u>	3
<u>Boats Lost</u>	4
<u>Submarines Commissioned this Month</u>	5
<u>Binnacle List, Eternal Patrol</u>	7
<u>Birthdays, Anniversaries</u>	7
<u>Commander’s Corner</u>	8
<u>Meeting Minutes</u>	9
<u>Month in Review</u>	11
<u>PCU Idaho SSN-799, Shipwright Shop</u>	14
<u>Chaplain, Store Keeper, Eagle Scouts Report</u>	15
<u>Say What???, Upcoming Events, Membership</u>	16
<u>Featured Boat</u>	17
<u>Puzzled</u>	18
<u>This month in US submarine history</u>	20
Articles of Interest	
<u>HII: Suspect Welds / Contract Delays</u>	23
<u>Shipbuilding Plans</u>	26
<u>ComSubPac Australia Conference</u>	28
<u>Sponsors</u>	30

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

December 14, 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	Jon Jaques	615-893-7800	jjaques@bellsouth.net
Senior Vice Commander	Timothy Carlisle	925-812-4239	timothywcarlisle@gmail.com
Junior Vice Commander	Thomas Williams	512-632-9439	texsubvet@yahoo.com
Secretary	David Farrugia	813-951-1898	DFarrugia@tampabay.rr.com
Treasurer	John Sidlovsky	757-328-9796	treasurer.ussvi.hrb@gmail.com
Past Commander	William Andrea	561-790-1287	wcandrea@bellsouth.net
Chaplain	James Sandman	615-975-4792	Jsandman85@gmail.com
Region Director Northeast	Jeffrey Walsh	860-449-2103	Neregiondir@yahoo.com
District Commander EN3	Thomas Denton	301-845-0049	gcmfish@verizon.net
National Office	Sharon Walsh	360-337-2978	ussvi@telebyte.net



USS Requin Base Officers

Office	Officer	Phone	eMail
Base Commander	Hubert C. Dietrich	412-486-2635	hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com
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
Treasurer	Lee M. Bookwalter	412-795-8337	booky143@verizon.net
Storekeeper	Frank Nicotra	412-835-6540	nicotrafrank@gmail.com
Chaplain	Eric Bookmiller	724-485-2341	ebookmiller@comcast.net
Past Base Commander	Joe Campisi	412-322-3201	jcampisi654@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor	Lou Hamill	412-445-3998	itgeek8088@gmail.com
Webmaster	Lee M. Bookwalter	412-795-8337	booky143@verizon.net
COB/Historian	Chad Underkoffler	724-809-6830	candj981@verizon.net
Photographer	Rick Flaugh	412-779-0497	flaughre@comcast.net
Holland Club Chairman	Joe Campisi	412-322-3201	jcampisi654@comcast.net
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 November

USS Albacore (SS-218)

Lost on Nov 7, 1944 with the loss of 85 men when she was sunk off northern Hokkaido. Winner of two Presidential Unit Citations, Albacore was on her eleventh war patrol and struck a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that had detected her.

USS Growler (SS-215)

Lost on Nov 8, 1944 with the loss of 86 men when she was sunk in the South China Sea. Winner of two Navy Unit Commendations, Growler was on her 12th war patrol, and was lost while attacking a convoy, probably as a result of a depth charge attack or victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes.

USS Scamp (SS-277)

Probably sunk on November 16, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Tokyo Bay. On her 8th war patrol, she may have been damaged by a mine and was trailing oil, which helped Japanese coast defense vessels locate and destroy her with depth charges.

USS Corvina (SS-226)

Lost on Nov 16, 1943 with the loss of 82 men when she was sunk just south of Truk. Corvina was on her 1st war patrol and appears she was lost to the torpedoes of a Japanese submarine.

USS Sculpin (SS-191)

Lost on Nov 19, 1943 with the loss of 43 men near Truk. Severely damaged by depth charges after attacking an enemy convoy, Sculpin continued to fight on the surface. When the captain was killed, the crew abandoned ship and scuttled Sculpin. 41 men were taken prisoner but only 21 survived the war. Among those not abandoning ship was CAPT Cromwell, aboard as a potential wolfpack commander, he rode the Sculpin down, fearing that vital information in his possession might be compromised under torture. For this, CAPT Cromwell was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.



Submarines commissioned during the month of

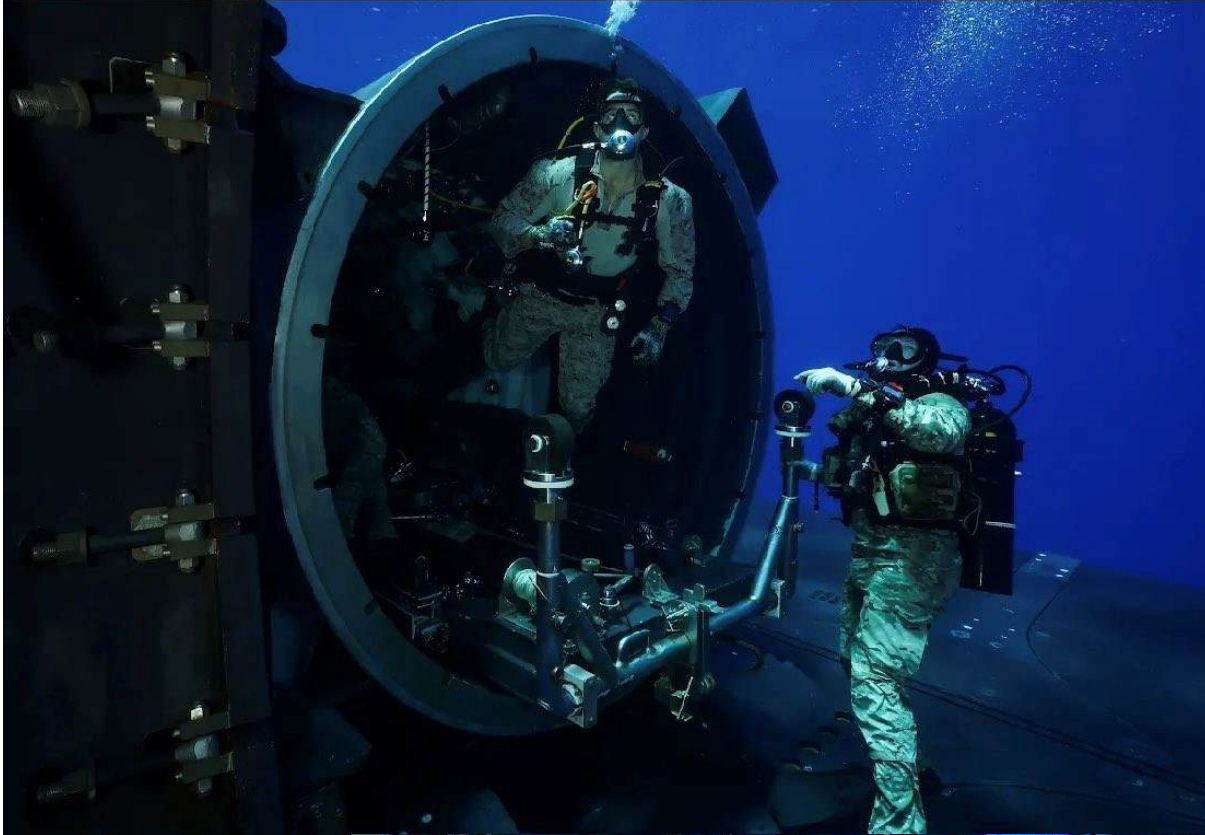
Barracuda SSK-1	11/10/1951	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Bass SSK-2	11/16/1951	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Marlin SST-2	11/20/1953	Wikipedia	NavSource	
C-2 SS-13	11/23/1909	Wikipedia	NavSource	
C-3 SS-14	11/23/1909	Wikipedia	NavSource	
C-4 SS-15	11/23/1909	Wikipedia	NavSource	
D-1 SS-17	11/23/1909	Wikipedia	NavSource	
D-2 SS-18	11/23/1909	Wikipedia	NavSource	
O-1 SS-62	11/5/1918	Wikipedia	NavSource	
O-13 SS-74	11/27/1918	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-4 SS-109	11/19/1919	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
S-20 SS-125	11/22/1922	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-40 SS-145	11/20/1923	Wikipedia	NavSource	
H-8 SS-151	11/18/1918	Wikipedia	NavSource	
H-9 SS-152	11/25/1918	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-42 SS-153	11/20/1924	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Perch SS-176	11/19/1936	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Plunger SS-179	11/19/1936	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Sealion SS-195	11/27/1939	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Trout SS-202	11/15/1940	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Drum SS-228	11/1/1941	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Bluegill SS-242	11/11/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Flounder SS-251	11/29/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Peto SS-265	11/21/1942	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Hackleback SS-295	11/7/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Lionfish SS-298	11/1/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Bugara SS-331	11/15/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Corporal SS-346	11/9/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Golet SS-361	11/30/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Lamprey SS-372	11/17/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Pampanito SS-383	11/6/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Parche SS-384	11/20/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Tirante SS-420	11/6/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Trutta SS-421	11/14/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Corsair SS-435	11/8/1946	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Gudgeon SS-567	11/21/1952	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Triton SSRN-586	11/10/1959	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Plunger SSN-595	11/21/1962	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Tullibee SSN-597	11/9/1960	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Greenling SSN-614	11/3/1967	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Nathan Hale SSBN-623	11/23/1963	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Los Angeles SSN-688	11/13/1976	Wikipedia	NavSource	

Buffalo SSN-715
Olympia SSN-717
Pittsburgh SSN-720
Louisville SSN-724
Ohio SSGN-726
Boise SSN-764
Hampton SSN-767

11/5/1983
11/17/1984
11/23/1985
11/8/1986
11/11/1981
11/7/1992
11/6/1993

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Binnacle List

Eternal Patrol

In Remembrance

Mike Pellegrino
 Beverly Geyer
 Mary Jane Derr

All Hands Present
 And
 Accounted For

Arlow L. Julian, Jr.	YN1(SS)	11/3/2009
Gary Gresh	EN2 (SS)	11/11/2019
Robert L. Garlock		11/11/2019
George Stefaniak	EM3(SS)	11/11/2014
Paul J. Hoffman	SM2(SS)	11/11/1988
James W. Wilkes	CWO2	11/12/2013
James Kontir	CT2	11/15/2023
Larry K. Wizeman	ET2(SS)	11/19/2010
Donald E. Roach	SN(SS)	11/28/2010

Birthdays

Member

Spouse

Anniversaries

Josh Wissinger	12/3
Robert Fleck	12/4
Robert Hall	12/5
Brian Peltier	12/7
George Brown	12/10
Richard Geyer	12/15
Kyle Lacey	12/16
James Hughes	12/17
Stephen Cuddy	12/18
Richard Bistyga	12/21
Richard Seif, Jr	12/23
Robert Bittner	12/24
Ronald Goron	12/24
Scot Thomas	12/24
Chad Underkoffler	12/24
Edward Zdarko	12/24
Michael Amenti	12/29
Fred Koppenhaver	12/29
Charles Masterson	12/30

Margie Bookmiller	12/4
Cindy Brown	12/7
Elisabeth Larsen	12/8
Roxane Crosby	12/13
Amy Goldman	12/13
Erin Houpt	12/14
Rita Ann Kalimon	12/14
Lisa McGinty	12/15
Brenda Winters	12/24

Roxane & Kenneth Crosby	12/1
Carol & Edward Lyons	12/10
Kelly & David Alters	12/16
Patricia & Dennis Cantwell	12/16
Ginny & John Lukasik	12/17
Krissy & Josh Wissinger	12/18
Michelle & Jason Deichler	12/19
Sandy & Louis Hamill	12/29
Ann & David Sawin	12/30
Claudia & Richard Bistyga	12/31





It was once again an outstanding meeting at our base home at Baden's American Legion. My first mate Edie was in attendance, in spite of all her physical ailments. She had little bags of candy and pastries – "GOODIE BAGS". Everyone enjoyed them very much!

Our membership has picked up 2 new members and we are in the process of collection dues for 2025! There are 44 members who have not submitted their dues. It is very important to submit your dues ASAP. The national dues is increasing by \$10.00 and your dues has to be paid before the end of the year! All dues submitted after December 31 will be increased by \$10.00. We are requesting that everyone pay their dues by December 1st – that way, we will have time to send all dues collected to the National!

I want to thank all the members who participated in the Duffy's Memorial Service, Columbus Day Parade and the Veteran's Day Parade. Again, thanks to all our members who make our base activities so successful!

I have appointed Dave Halliday, with the approval of the membership present, to be the base – Charitable Foundation Ambassador. He is in the process on filling out his Qual Card.

Our base election committee gave their report on the up-coming base officer's election. There are three officers that have decided not to run. Commander Dietrich, First Vice Joe Campisi and Second Vice Bat Masterson. The following members are nominated for the following positions:

Commander - Lou Hamill, 1st Vice - Vince Metz, 2nd Vice - George Brown

Existing Officers – Treasurer Lee Bookwalter, Secretary Jeff Simon.

The December meeting will include a holiday celebration. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange the suggested gift value is \$15.00

USSVI Requin Base has been invited to attend the change of command for the USS Texas SSN-775.

CDR Andrew McGovern will be taking command on January 10th at the Dealey Center in Groton.

CDR McGovern ran point at the Submarine Officers Advance Course for the creation of the Mush Morton Award and is also a member of our base.

If you are interested in attending please contact Lou Hamill at 412-445-3998 or itgeek8088@gmail.com by 11/29/2024.

Lou will be in contact with CDR McGovern to finalize what is required for attendance.



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.

Base Commander Huey Dietrich called the meeting to order.

Attendees: Willard Ashmore, Eric Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, George & Cindy Brown, Clair & Nancy Bouts, Don Bright, Joe Camp, Ron Campbell, Joe Campisi, Ken Crosby, Larry Day, Huey & Edie Dietrich, Dick Geyer, Bob & Lynn Gourley, David Halliday, Lou Hamill, Jean Lemieux, Bill & Sandy Lindsey, John Mack, John Mason, Vince Metz, Bob & Jude Meyers, Mike Pellegrino, Jim & Sandra Schwartz, Harry Sills, Jeff Simon, Dick Simpson, Chuck Shrum, Jack Sutherin, Scot Thomas, Chad Underkoffler, Charlie Warren, Andy & Emma Wolbrueck.

Secretary Jeff Simon lead the Pledge Of Allegiance.

Base Commander Huey Dietrich: Quotes of the day: “Be ever questioning. Ignorance is not bliss. It is oblivion. You don’t go to heaven if you die dumb. Become better informed. Learn from other’s mistakes. You could not live long enough to make them all yourself.”

Requin History: On November 13, 1945 Requin crossed the Arctic Circle.

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 ALBACORE (SS 218) November 7, 1944
- USS GROWLER (SS 215) November 8, 1944
- USS SCAMP (SS 277) November 9, 1944
- USS CORVINA (SS 226) November 16, 1943
- USS SCULPIN (SS 191) November 19, 1943
- USS CAPELIN (SS 289) November 23, 1943

We also wish to remember our shipmates of the Requin Base: Robert Garlock, Gary Gresh, Paul Hoffman, Arlow Julian Jr, Don Roach, George Stefaniak, James Wilkes and Larry Wizeman. 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.
Members introduced themselves and the boats they served on.

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

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

Other Reports:

Binnacle List: Bev Geyer, Mary Jane Derr, Mike Pellegrino

Eternal Patrol: None

Base membership stands at 202.

Shipmate Lou Hamill reported on Eagle Scouts presentations.

First Vice Commander Joe Campisi reported on PA License Plate program.

Old Business:

Dave Halliday is appointed Charitable Foundation Ambassador

As previously approved, the Base is donating \$2000 from candy sales to the USSVI Charitable Foundation.

The Election Committee is Campisi, Bookwalter, Simon. Nominations for next year are:

Commander – Lou Hamill

1st Vice Commander – Vince Metz

2nd Vice Commander - George Brown

Secretary – Jeff Simon

Treasurer – Lee Bookwalter

New Business:

Two Beer Tap handles are on order for North Side Elks and member Bellivance.

Red Shirts, 1 sold

Motion to form a committee to establish a Requin Base Scholarship Fund was discussed and approved by the members present. Eric Bookmiller will head this committee.

Good of The Order:

Report given on Duffy's memorial service on the Requin.

Requin Base has been invited to the change of command ceremony for USS Texas SSN-775. CDR Andrew McGovern will be taking command on January 10, 2025, at Dealey Center in Groton CT. Contact Lou Hamill by 11/29/24 if you are interested in attending.

Report on Navy Ball was given.

Report on Columbus Day parade was given.

Dues collected - 140, owed - 50, owed for calendars - 50, new members - 5

Upcoming activities:

November 11 – Veterans Day Parade. Muster at 0930, between 14th and 18th streets Pittsburgh PA

December 14 – Base meeting at American Legion Post 641 Baden PA

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: American Legion Post 641 Baden PA at 1230 hours on December 14, 2024



GM3 (SS)
Peter
Joseph
Duffy

1925 - 2016

USS Requin SS-481 Plank Owner
1944 - 1946

USSVI Requin Base had the honor to create a memorial and help fulfill a family request to place a keepsake memorial on board USS Requin SS-481 for GM3 (SS) Peter Duffy. Peter was a plank owner on USS Requin SS-481 and served on her from 1944-1946. Mark Duffy and his wife Tammy Duffy came to USS Requin SS-481 to place the memorial and keepsake on board. Currently Peter is currently hot bunking with Tinker in the aft compartment. During the upcoming regular maintenance period Peter will get his own bunk in aft compartment.

Maria and her staff did an awesome job to make this happen. Thank You Maria and Carnegie Science Center.





Congratulations to Elizabeth Siembida of Columbiana Ohio. Elizabeth is the first Girl Scout to earn her Gold Award in Columbiana in the last 20 years. Elizabeth USSVI Requin Base wishes you fair winds and following seas.



Thank you to all that came out and participated in the Veterans Day parade in downtown Pittsburgh.



<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.



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>





Say What???

P.F.M. - Pure F---ing Magic. Normally used when something seemed to “fix itself” or an answer came about without the use of logic.

Puka - Sailors speak used to indicate a small storage location or hole.

Rain locker – A shower stall.



Upcoming Events

Meeting

December 14, 2024
1230 hours

American Legion Post 641
271 State St
Baden PA 15005

Base activities

The December meeting will include a holiday celebration. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange the suggested gift value is \$15.00

USSVI Requin Base has been invited to attend the change of command for the USS Texas SSN-775 on January 10th in Groton.

If you are interested in attending please contact Lou Hamill at 412-445-3998 or itgeek8088@gmail.com by 11/29/2024.



Membership

Primary Members	171	Holland Club	86	USSVI Life Members	83
Secondary Members	13	WWII	1	Base Life Members	68
Associate Members	19	Eternal Patrol	83	Joined Last Year	7
Total Members	203			Joined This Year	4



New Members

Larry Day qualified on the USS John C. Calhoun SSBN 630 as an EM2(SS) and also served on the USS Bremerton SSN 698. He left the navy as a LCDR. Larry lives in Washington, PA with his first mate Patty. Please e-mail Larry and welcome him aboard - endgraineddays@gmail.com

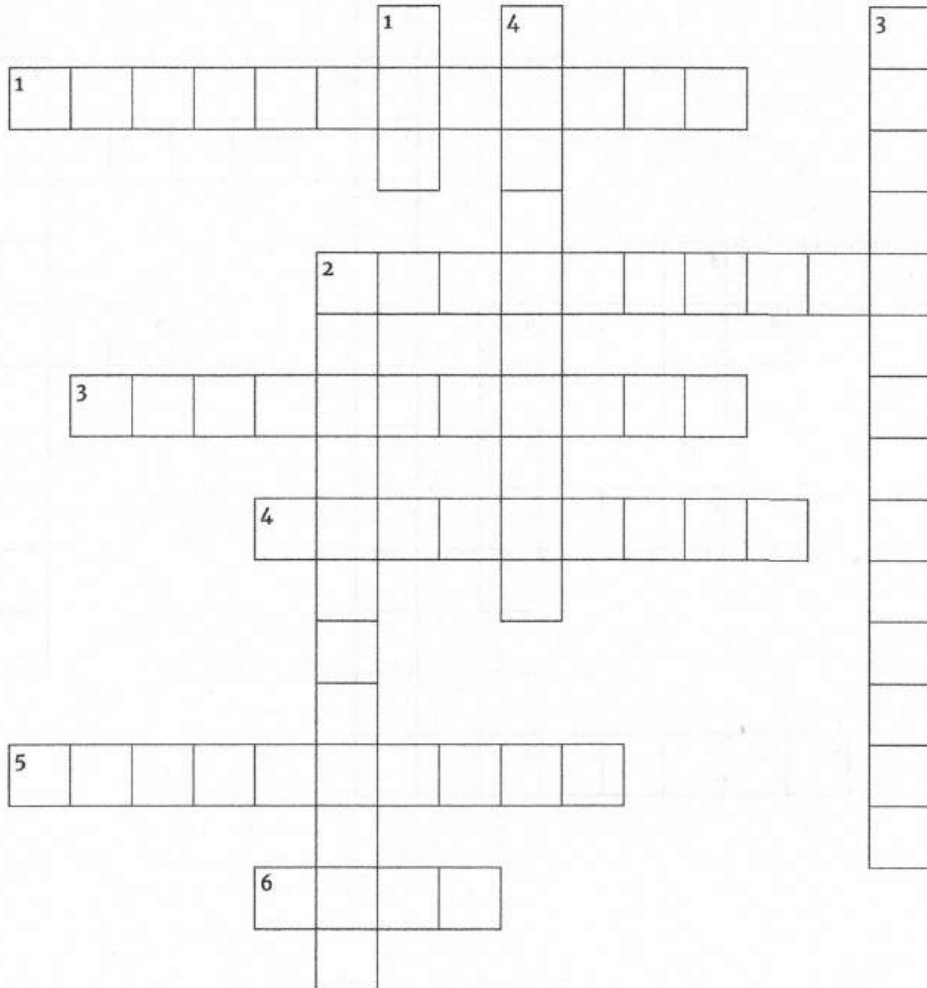
Frank Vereb qualified on the Minneapolis St Paul SSN 708 as an EM2(SS). Frank lives in Coraopolis, PA with his first mate Jolina. Please e-mail Frank and welcome him aboard - fvereb2@gmail.com



History	
Name	<i>Louisiana</i>
Namesake	<u>Louisiana</u>
Ordered	19 December 1990
Builder	<u>General Dynamics Electric Boat</u>
Laid down	23 October 1992
Launched	27 July 1996
Sponsored by	Patricia O'Keefe
Commissioned	6 September 1997
Homeport	<u>Bremerton, Washington</u>
Motto	<i>Union, Justice, and Confidence</i>
Honors and awards	<u>Omaha Trophy</u> 2006 <u>Meritorious Unit Commendation</u> (Blue Crew) 2009 <u>Meritorious Unit Commendation</u> (Gold Crew) 2009
Status	in active service
General characteristics	
Class and type	<i>Ohio class</i> <u>ballistic missile submarine</u>
Displacement	16,764 long tons (17,033 t) surfaced 18,750 long tons (19,050 t) submerged
Length	560 ft (170 m)
Beam	42 ft (13 m)
Draft	38 ft (12 m)
Propulsion	1 × <u>S8G PWR</u> nuclear reactor (<u>HEU</u> 93.5%) 2 × geared <u>turbines</u> 1 × 325 hp (242 kW) auxiliary motor 1 × shaft @ 60,000 <u>shp</u> (45,000 kW)
Speed	Greater than 25 knots (46 km/h; 29 mph)
Test depth	Greater than 800 feet (240 m)
Complement	15 officers 140 enlisted
Armament	<u>MK-48</u> torpedoes 20 × <u>Trident II D-5</u> ballistic missiles



US Navy Crossword Puzzle 11



ACROSS

- 1. The First U.S. Submarine
- 2. The First U.S. Ironclad
- 3. Secretary Of Defense
- 4. Code For Well Done
- 5. USS Hannah. Hannah Was Commissioned And Launched On September 5, 1775.
- 6. The Nautical Term For Left

DOWN

- 1. Number Of Us Presidents That Served The Us Navy
- 2. The First Screw Steam Warship In USN
- 3. Commander In Chief Of The Us Navy
- 4. Non-Sibi Sed Patriae, Not For Self But Country Semper Fortis, Always Courageous

GUNPOWDER

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

ABOARD
GUARD
STATIONED

DECK
OUTPOST
TAXIARCH

FORCE
PLATOON

11/01/1944

USS Blackfin (SS 322) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks auxiliary vessel Caroline Maru and transport No.12 Unkai Maru in Mindoro Strait. Meanwhile, USS Ray (SS 271) sinks the Japanese merchant tanker No.7 Horai Maru and lands a party of three men, together with two tons of supplies, at Mamburao on the west coast of Mindoro.

11/02/1943

USS Halibut (SS 232), USS Seahorse (SS 304), and USS Trigger (SS 237), all operating independently of each other, attack a Japanese convoy south of Honshu and sink five enemy vessels.

11/03/1944

USS Gurnard (SS 254) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks the Japanese freighter Taimei Maru west of the Labuan, Borneo while USS Pintado (SS 387) attacks a small detachment of Japanese warships and sinks the destroyer Akikaze west of the Lingayen Gulf.

11/04/1971

USS Nathanael Greene (SSBN 636) launches a Poseidon C-3 Missile in the first surface launch of the weapon.

11/07/1944

USS Albacore (SS 218) is sunk by a mine off the northern tip of Honshu. All hands are lost.

11/08/1943

USS Bluefish (SS 222) sinks the Japanese army tanker Kyokeui Maru in the South China Sea off the northwest coast of Luzon while USS Rasher (SS 269) sinks the Japanese merchant tanker Tango Maru in Makassar Strait and survives counterattacks by auxiliary submarine chaser Cha 41.

11/09/1944

USS Barbero (SS 317) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks the merchant ship Shimotsu Maru about 250 miles west of Manila while USS Queenfish (SS 393) also attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks the gun-boat Chojusan Maru about 50 miles west of Kyushu. Additionally on this date, USS Haddo (SS 255) sinks the Japanese tanker No.2 Hishu Maru in Mindoro Strait.

11/09/1956

Secretary of the Navy Charles S. Thomas proposes the Polaris missile program to Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson.

11/10/1959

USS Triton (SSRN 586) is commissioned as a nuclear-powered radar picket submarine.

11/11/1981

USS Ohio (SSBN 726) is commissioned.

11/13/1976

The lead ship of the newly created Los Angeles-class submarine, USS Los Angeles (SSN 688), is commissioned.

11/14/1943

USS Narwhal (SS 167) delivers 46 tons of ammunition and stores, disembarks a Navy officer at Nasipit, Mindanao and embarks 32 evacuees, which include eight women, two children, and a baby, who are transported to Darwin, Australia.

11/14/1944

USS Jack (SS 259) attacks a Japanese convoy off Cape Padaran, French Indochina and sinks the freighter Hinaga Maru, while USS Raton (SS 270) attacks a Japanese convoy off the northwest coast of Luzon and sinks the merchant tanker No.5 Unkai Maru. Lastly, USS Ray (SS 271) sinks Japanese Coast Defense Vessel No.7 65 miles northwest of Cape Bolinao.

11/15/1943

USS Crevalle (SS 291) sinks Japanese army cargo ship Kyokko Maru off San Antonio, Zambales province, Philippines.

11/15/1944

USS Barbel (SS 316) attacks a Japanese convoy about 250 miles east of Tourane, French Indochina, sinks transports Misaki Maru and Sugiyama Maru, then escapes searches by minesweepers W.18 and W.20. USS Batfish (SS 310) sinks Japanese supply ship Kurasaki north-northwest of Cape Bolinao while USS Jack (SS 259) sinks transports Nichiel Maru and No.2 Yuzan Maru.

11/15/1960

The Polaris fleet ballistic missile weapon system becomes operational when USS George Washington (SSBN 598) gets underway with her principal armament of 16 Polaris A-1 missiles from NWS Charleston, SC.

11/18/1943

USS Bluefish (SS 222) sinks the Japanese destroyer Sanae and damages the oiler Ondo 90 miles south of Basilan Island.

11/18/1944

USS Blackfin (SS 322) diverts from her war patrol and picks up captured Japanese cryptographic and technical equipment, along with other secret documents, west of Camurong River on the north coast of Mindoro, Philippines.

11/18/1944

USS Peto (SS 265), USS Spadefish (SS 411), and USS Sunfish (SS 281) attack the same Japanese convoy in the East China. Peto sinks army cargo ships Aisakasan Maru and Chinkai Maru. Spadefish sinks auxiliary submarine chaser Cha 156 and Sunfish sinks army transport Seisho Maru.

11/19/1943

USS Nautilus (SS 168) enters Tarawa lagoon for the first submarine photograph reconnaissance mission. It is later damaged by friendly fire from USS Santa Fe (CL 60) and USS Ringgold (DD 500) off Tarawa because due to the mission, Nautilus presence was unknown to the vessels.

11/19/1943

USS Sculpin (SS 191) is damaged by the Japanese and abandoned by her crew. Forty-one Sailors are taken as POWs, 21 of whom are taken on Japanese carrier Chuyo that is later sunk by USS Sailfish (SS 192).

11/21/1943

USS Nautilus (SS 168) lands U.S. Marine Corps Reconnaissance Company on Abemama, Gilberts while USS Trigger (SS 237) sinks Japanese freighter Eizan Maru in the Yellow Sea.

11/21/1944

USS Sealion (SS 315) sinks the Japanese battleship Kongo and destroyer Urakaze north-northwest of Formosa.

11/22/1944

USS Besugo (SS 321) sinks the Japanese landing ship T-151 off the northern tip of Palawan while USS Guavina (SS 362) sinks the Japanese army cargo ship Dowa Maru northwest of Borneo.

11/23/1944

USS Bang (SS 385) sinks Japanese freighter Sakae Maru and transport Amakusa Maru, USS Redfish (SS 395) sinks freighter Hozan Maru, and USS Picuda (SS 382) sinks freighters Fukuju Maru and Shuyo Maru.

11/24/1943

USS Nautilus (SS 168) and USS Gansevoort (DD 608) shell Japanese positions on Abemama Atoll, Gilbert Islands.

11/25/1944

USS Hardhead (SS 365) attacks a Japanese convoy 60 miles west of Manila and sinks Coast Defense Vessel No.38 off Bataan Peninsula while USS Atule (SS 403) sinks Japanese freighter Santos Maru off Sabtang Island, Luzon. Also, USS Mingo (SS 261) sinks Japanese army transport Manila Maru.

11/27/1943

USS Bowfin (SS 287) sinks the Vichy French cargo ship Van Vollenhoven off the coast of French Indochina while USS Seahorse (SS 304) sinks the Japanese fleet tanker San Ramon Maru in the East China Sea.

11/29/1944

USS Archerfish (SS 311) sinks Japanese carrier Shinano on her maiden voyage 160 nautical miles southwest of Tokyo Bay. Shinano is the largest warship sunk by any combatant submarines during World War II. Also on this date, USS Scabbardfish (SS 397) sinks Japanese submarine I-365 east of Honshu.





HII: Fewer than 2 Dozen Shipyard Workers Involved in Suspect Welds, Delay in 17-Sub Contract Creates ‘Unpredictability’

October 31, 2024 Sam LaGrone

<https://news.usni.org/2024/10/31/hii-fewer-than-2-dozen-shipyard-workers-involved-in-suspect-welds-delay-in-17-sub-contract-creates-unpredictability>



USS New Jersey (SSN-796) during sea trials in 2024. HII Photo

Fewer than two dozen shipyard workers are responsible for suspicious welds that were discovered on aircraft carriers and submarines built at HII’s Newport News Shipbuilding, company officials said during an earnings call for the shipbuilder on Thursday.

Company leaders in the earnings call framed the suspicious welds, made on Ford and Nimitz-class aircraft carriers and Columbia and Virginia-class submarines, as the a result of a small subset of workers in the yard.

“This is a process issue. This is a small fraction of some welders in the yard and a small fraction of welds that were impacted,” HII CEO Christopher Kastner said on the earnings call.

“We’re working very closely with the customer to bound the issue and come through the issue, and we think we’ll march through that very smartly.”

The suspicious welds have been found aboard Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS *George Washington* (CVN-73), the Virginia-class attack submarines USS *Hyman G. Rickover* (SSN-795) and USS *New Jersey* (SSN-796) and up to 23 other ships built at the Virginia shipyard.

“An initial assessment at Newport News Shipbuilding determined that fewer than two dozen welders did not consistently follow procedures in their weld process,” said HII’s chief financial officer Thomas Stiehle.

“We continue to work alongside with the Navy through a comprehensive investigation and analysis to determine the extent of any financial impact.”

The Navy and the shipyard are continuing to assess the extent of the weld problems. A Navy official told USNI News that tens of thousands of welds needed to be inspected but did not say how many need to be repaired or reworked.

Naval Sea Systems Command officials have been on Capitol Hill this week briefing legislators on the extent of the issue, two defense officials confirmed to USNI News. Members of Congress have asked the Navy for updates on the severity of the issue, when the service became aware of the problem and the scope of an ongoing Department of Justice investigation into the work.

In a Thursday statement, a service spokesperson told USNI News, “the Navy is continuing to oversee and independently validate HII-NNS’s initial weld assessments, which are approximately 90 percent complete. To date, five ships have been cleared safe for full operation.

Later in the call, company officials lowered earnings projections for the year due to the delay in the Navy awarding contracts for 17 submarines that were supposed to be issued earlier this year.

Newport News Shipbuilding builds the bows and sterns of both the Virginia and Columbia-class submarines in a teaming arrangement with prime contractor General Dynamics Electric Boat.



Newport News Shipbuilding on Feb. 19, 2024. HII Photo

The 17-boat contract includes multi-year deals for 10 Block VI Virginia-class attack submarines and five Build II Columbia-class boomers, in addition to two Block V boats that Congress appropriated \$9.34 billion for as part of the Fiscal Year 2024 defense spending bill. However, during the negotiations for the Block V boats – the future *Baltimore* (SSN-812) and *Atlanta* (SSN-813) – the Navy realized the price tag would in-

crease by 20 percent mostly due to increased workforce costs.

To make up for the cost difference the Navy developed a payment scheme called the Shipbuilder Accountability and Workforce Support plan, also known as SAWS, that would move workforce money from existing submarine contracts that have been awarded, but have not started construction to create a pool of money to pay for labor cost increases and infrastructure improvements.

“[SAWS] was a Navy initiative that we supported. I still believe it’s the smartest, best way to get at this issue because it unlocks such investment in the workforce, the infrastructure and technology,” Kastner said. “It was a very good idea that we think is still under review and potentially could be put under contract, although we don’t forecast that happening over the balance of this year.”

Kastner said during the call that balancing the submarine workload was key to the ongoing contract negotiations.

“When you think about the 17 submarines, it’s really a reset of the portfolio. In Newport News, this is not business as usual. You can’t simply just put that much work into a facility and expect it to be executed – especially in this environment that we’re operating in – relative to labor and the supply chain and the capacity in the industrial base,” he said during the call.

“It does none of us any good to agree to cost or schedules on these submarines that are so urgently needed that we can’t achieve.”

Earlier this week, a bipartisan group in the Senate wrote to Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro asking for the status of the SAWS plan.

“The Navy’s hesitance to both notify Congress earlier and take a definitive stance is concerning ... We, therefore, urge more consistent communication with Congress and with [White House Office of Management and Budget] so that all parties clearly understand the Navy’s position on SAWS and overall plans to get our nation’s submarine production on track,” reads the letter to Del Toro.

“It is critical that our submarine programs be on schedule and on budget. The news that the Navy is projected to be an astonishing \$17 billion short in the Virginia-class program alone in the next six years is especially distressing.”

In addition to the contract funding, Kastner also said HII is struggling with a green labor force and is shifting to hire more experienced labor to prevent the shipbuilder from having to redo work done by less experienced employees.

“We’re going to focus on more experienced labor, because we’re just out of alignment, or out of balance from an experience level right now, which leads to rework, which leads to inefficiency, and it’s not good for anyone,” he said.

“We just encountered rework on systems that we didn’t expect and that impacts schedule.”

Report to Congress on Navy Force Structure, Shipbuilding Plans

<https://news.usni.org/2024/11/01/report-to-congress-on-navy-force-structure-shipbuilding-plans>

The following is the Oct. 30, 2024, Congressional Research Service report, Navy Force Structure and Shipbuilding Plans: Background and Issues for Congress.

From the report

The current and future size and composition of the Navy, the annual rate of Navy ship procurement, the prospective affordability of the Navy's shipbuilding plans, the capacity of the U.S. shipbuilding industry to execute the Navy's shipbuilding plans, and Navy proposals for retiring existing ships have been oversight matters for the congressional defense committees for many years. Congressional focus on these matters has been heightened over the past decade by the increasing size and capabilities of China's navy, and by the capacity of China's shipbuilding industry compared with the capacity of the U.S. shipbuilding industry.

The Navy fell below 300 battle force ships (the types of ships that count toward the quoted size of the Navy) in August 2003 and has generally remained between 270 and 300 battle force ships since then. As of September 30, 2024, the Navy included 296 battle force ships.

In December 2016, the Navy released a force-structure goal that called for achieving and maintaining a fleet of 355 ships of certain types and numbers. The 355-ship goal was made U.S. policy by Section 1025 of the FY2018 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 2810/P.L. 115-91 of December 12, 2017). The 355-ship goal predated the Trump and Biden Administrations' national defense strategies and did not reflect the new, more distributed fleet architecture (i.e., new mix of ships) that the Navy wants to shift toward in coming years.

In June 2023, the Navy sent its preferred new force-level goal to the congressional defense committees. In March 2024, as part of its FY2025 30-year (FY2025-FY2054) shipbuilding plan, the Navy released the details of this new goal, which calls for achieving and maintaining a fleet of 381 manned ships of certain types and numbers, plus 134 large unmanned surface and underwater vehicles. The Biden Administration to date has not explicitly endorsed, as an Administration objective and funding priority, either the 381-ship goal, the earlier 355-ship goal, or any other force-structure goal for the Navy.

The Navy's proposed FY2025 budget requests \$32.4 billion in shipbuilding funding for, among other things, the procurement of six new ships—a figure that is one less than the seven ships that the Navy's FY2024 budget submission had projected for FY2025, and less than the long-term average of 10 or 11 new manned ships per year that would be needed to be achieved over a period of about 35 years to achieve and maintain a fleet of about 355 or 381 manned ships.

The Navy projects that 10 new ships will be delivered to the fleet in FY2025. The Navy's FY2025 budget proposes retiring 19 existing ships in FY2025, including 10 ships that would be retired before reaching the ends of their expected service lives. As a result, the Navy projects that, under the Navy's proposed FY2025 budget, the total number of ships in the Navy would decline by a net 9 ships during FY2025, from 296 ships at the start of FY2025 to 287 ships at the end of FY2025. The Navy's budget submission projects that during the period FY2025-FY2029 (i.e., the years of the FY2025 Future Years Defense Plan [FYDP]), the Navy would include 287, 283, 280, 286, and 291 ships, respectively. Under the Navy's FY2025 30-year (FY2025-FY2054) shipbuilding plan, the fleet would grow to more than 300 ships in FY2032 and reach a total of more than 381 ships in FY2042.

Oversight issues for Congress for FY2025 include whether to amend U.S. law to make the Navy's preferred new 381-ship goal U.S. policy; the Biden Administration's position on a force-level goal for the Navy; signifi-

cant projected delays in deliveries of several types of Navy ships; industrial base capacity constraints for building Navy ships; inflation in Navy shipbuilding costs; the Navy’s request to procure one Virginia-class submarine rather than two in FY2025; the Navy’s proposal for retiring 19 ships in FY2025; and the estimated procurement costs of certain ships included in the Navy’s FY2025 five-year (FY2025-FY2029) shipbuilding plan.

Download the Full Report [here](#).



Pacific Fleet Submarine Force Commander Joins Submarine Institute of Australia Conference Panel

08 November 2024 From Lt.Cmdr. Rick Moore

<https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3960584/pacific-fleet-submarine-force-commander-joins-submarine-institute-of-australia/>

CANBERRA, Australia - Rear Adm. Rick Seif, commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, spoke as part of a trilateral submarine officer panel during the 12th Submarine Institute of Australia (SIA) Biennial Conference 2024, in Canberra, Australia, Nov. 6. Following his remarks about the capabilities of nuclear powered fast-attack submarines, Seif joined Royal Navy Rear Adm. Andrew Perks, Director Submarines, and Commodore Tom Phillips, commander of the Royal Australian Navy's Submarine Force, in a discussion highlighting how operating SSNs can deter aggression.



Rear Adm. Rick Seif, commander of Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, speaks during a panel discussion at the 12th Submarine Institute of Australia Biennial Conference. (Lt. Cmdr. Rick Moore)

“Conventionally armed SSNs provide a strong and credible deterrent by creating doubt and uncertainty for any potential adversary,” said Seif. “Our speed means that we can cover tremendous distances quickly. Our stealth and endurance mean that we can operate undetected for months at a time, ceding no water space, and we are always ready to appear at a time of our choosing.”

The conference’s theme was “Australian Submarines - Cornerstone of Deterrence” with speakers addressing the Royal Australian Navy’s current fleet of Collins-class diesel-electric submarines, as the nation prepares to transition to nuclear powered submarines as part of the AUKUS agreement.

Seif commented on the strong partnership and history of collaboration between the submarine forces of Australia, U.K., and the U.S., stating, “In this maritime century, the critical role of the undersea will continue to grow in importance. As we add AUKUS Pillar II capabilities now, and then sovereign Australian conventionally armed SSNs under Pillar I, Australia will be better postured to ensure its national defense and deter

aggression throughout the Indo-Pacific.”

Notable distinguished speakers throughout the two-day conference included Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense Richard Marles, U.S. Ambassador to Australia Caroline Kennedy, High Commissioner of the U.K. to Australia Victoria Treadell, and Royal Australian Navy Vice Adm. Mark Hammond, chief of navy. Conference topics ranged from development of a nuclear workforce in Australia, to artificial intelligence, to supply chain and infrastructure, and more.

The U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Force provides strategic deterrence, anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, precision land strike, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, early warning, and special warfare capabilities around the globe.

For more information about Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, visit <https://www.csp.navy.mil/>.





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