Steel Valley Dolphins

Monthly Newsletter







USS Iowa SSN-797







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

May 10, 2025 @ 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.

Frank T. Vereb - <u>fvereb2@gmail.com</u>

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 National Commander Senior Vice Commander	Officer Jon Jaques Timothy Carlisle	Phone 615-893-7800 925-812-4239	eMail jjaques@bellsouth.net timothywcarlisle@gmail.com
Junior Vice Commander	Thomas Williams	512-632-9439	texsubvet@yahoo.com
Secretary Treasurer	David Farrugia John Sidlovsky	813-951-1898 757-328-9796	DFarrugia@tampabay.rr.com 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 District Commander EN3	•	860-449-2103 301-845-0049	Neregiondir@yahoo.com gcmfish@verizon.net
National Office	Sharon Walsh	360-337-2978	ussvi@telebyte.net



USS Requin Base Officers

Office	Officer	Phone	eMail
Base Commander	Lou Hamill	412-445-3998	itgeek8088@gmail.com
1st Vice Commander	Vince Metz	412-613-5554	vincemetz007@hotmail.com
2nd Vice Commander	George Brown	724-622-5800	gandcbrown@gmail.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	Hubert C. Dietrich	412-486-2635	hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com
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COB/Historian	Bob Meyers	724-282-1524	imeyers01@zoominternet.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
Public Affairs Chair	Ed Derr	724-854-0781	rredde@gmail.com
Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) Chair			







Tolling of the Boats for April

USS Pickerel (SS-177)

Lost on April 3,1943 with the loss of 74 officers and men, while on her7th war patrol. She was lost off Honshu. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area contained numerous minefields.

USS Snook (SS-279)

Lost on April 8,1945 with the loss of 84 officers and men. Snook ranks10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk and is tied for 9th in the number of ships sunk. She was lost near Hainan Island, possibly sunk by a Japanese submarine.

USS Thresher (SSN-593)

Lost on April 10, 1963 with the loss of 112 crew members and 17 civilian technicians during deep-diving exercises. 15 minutes after reaching test depth, she communicated with USS Skylark that she was having problems. Skylark heard noises "like air rushing into an air tank" - then, silence. Rescue ship Recovery (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by Trieste proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board to their deaths in 1,400 fathoms of water, some 220 miles east of Boston.

USS Gudgeon (SS-211)

USS Gudgeon (SS-211) was probably lost on April 18, 1944 with the loss of 79 men SE of Iwo Jima, but may have been sunk on May 12, 1944 in another attack on an unidentified submarine and heard by several other submarines in the area. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol and most likely due to a combined air and surface antisubmarine attack. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to goon patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. On her first patrol, she became the first US submarine to sink an enemy warship, picking off the submarine I-173.

USS Grenadier (SS-210)

Lost on April 22,1943 near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet, Grenadier was bombed, causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane. While she shot down the plane. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 76 crew members taken prisoner, 72 survived the war.





Submarines commissioned during the month of April

L-1 SS-40	4/11/1916	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	
L-3 SS-42	4/22/1916	Wikipedia	NavSource NavSource	
R-3 SS-80	4/17/1919	Wikipedia	NavSource NavSource	
R-5 SS-82	4/15/1919	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-12 SS-117	4/30/1923	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-18 SS-123	4/3/1924	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-33 SS-138	4/18/1922	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	
S-36 SS-141	4/4/1923	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Argonaut SS-166	4/2/1928	Wikipedia	NavSource NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Seal SS-183	4/30/1938	Wikipedia	NavSource	<u>Ltcmair atroi</u>
Saury SS-189	4/3/1939	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Gar SS-206	4/14/1941	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Gudgeon SS-211	4/21/1941	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Grunion SS-216	4/11/1942	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Halibut SS-232	4/10/1942	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	<u>Ltornair atroi</u>
Croaker SS-246	4/21/1944	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	
Pargo SS-264	4/26/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Puffer SS-268	4/27/1943	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	
Billfish SS-286	4/20/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource Nav	
Skate SS-305	4/15/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource Nav	
Barbel SS-316	4/3/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Barbero SS-317	4/29/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	2101110111 01101
Entemedor SS-340	4/6/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Chivo SS-341	4/28/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Dogfish SS-350	4/29/1946	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Hardhead SS-365	4/18/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Mapiro SS-376	4/30/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Razorback SS-394	4/3/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Redfish SS-395	4/12/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Ronquil SS-396	4/22/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Scabbardfish SS-397	4/29/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Tusk SS-426	4/11/1946	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Medregal SS-480	4/14/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Requin SS-481	4/28/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Sarda SS-488	4/19/1946	Wikipedia	<u>NavSource</u>	
Pickerel SS-524	4/4/1949	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	
Sailfish SSR-572	4/14/1956	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	
Skipjack SSN-585	4/15/1959	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource	
Patrick Henry SSBN-599	4/11/1960	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	
Dace SSN-607	4/4/1964	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	
Lafayette SSBN-616	4/23/1963	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>	



Daniel Webster SSBN-626	4/9/1964	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource
Daniel Boone SSBN-629	4/23/1964	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource
James K. Polk SSBN-645	4/16/1966	<u>Wikipedia</u>	NavSource
Ray SSN-653	4/12/1967	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>
George C. Marshall SSBN-654	4/29/1966	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>
Will Rogers SSBN-659	4/1/1967	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>
Flying Fish SSN-673	4/29/1970	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>
Drum SSN-677	4/15/1972	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>
San Francisco SSN-711	4/24/1981	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>
Albany SSN-753	4/7/1990	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>
Annapolis SSN-760	4/11/1992	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>
Delaware SSN-791	4/4/2020	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>
Vermont SSN-792	4/18/2020	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>
Iowa SSN-797	4/5/2025	<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>NavSource</u>



Sailors salute as "Taps" is played during a wreath-laying ceremony at the USS Thresher commemorative monument in Arlington National Cemetery, 26 September 2019. Naval History and Heritage Command. Credit: https://www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history-magazine/2023/april/what-killed-thresher







Huey & Edie Dietrich Chuck Warren

None

 David K. Helmold TM2(SS)
 4/23/2008

 Jack M. Kordes ETN3(SS)
 4/2/2012

 Lawrence H. Simon SN(SS)
 4/3/2015

Bi	irthdays	
Member	Spouse	Anniversaries
Bruce Ladrie 5/4 John Santoriello 5/5 Daniel Plunkett 5/8 Randall Leslie 5/9 Vincent Metz 5/9 Frank Certich 5/10 Charles Warren 5/20 Edward Lyons 5/23 John Stewart 5/23 George Pilley 5/25 Matthew Hupp 5/26 Larry Boutelle 5/27 Sean Williams 5/31	Gosia Humes 5/13 Stephanie Foster 5/17 Carrie Spencer 5/17 Alexandra Good Linville 5/18 Donna Greenlee 5/19 Sandra Lindsey 5/20 Cathleen Naso 5/20 Gail Warren 5/20 Judith Underkoffler 5/22 Robin McGovern 5/23 Kimberly Masterson 5/25 Connie Bruce 5/30 Nita Campbell 5/31	Beverly & Richard Geyer 5/8 Lisa & Shawn McGinty 5/8 Renee Stuebgen & Jess Coker 5/11 Mary Ann & Robert Fleck 5/12 Carolyn & Harry Sills 5/16 Jill & Joseph Campisi 5/18 Kimberly & Charles Masterson 5/18 Frances & Russ Osborne 5/21 Barbara & Edward Zdarko 5/27 Beverly & James Bence 5/28 Jude & Robert Meyers 5/29 Tina M. & Brian Siege 5/29

Commander's Corner

Shipmates,

I would like to start of by thanking Eric Bookmiller, Chad Underkoffler, Clair Bouts and Brian Siege for coordinating and managing the setup for our Canonsburg meeting.

Congratulations to Willard Ashmore, Greg Bushko, Bob Fleck, Chris Gibson, Ed Mason, and Jim Schwarz for their 50 years qualified in submarines. These fine sailors were inducted into the Holland Club during this month's meeting.

What a turnout we had. Thank you to all the shipmates and their families that attended.

Thank you to Frank Vereb who has stepped up to assume the role of Newsletter Editor.

Thank you to Clair Bouts who has stepped up to be a backup driver for the float/people mover.

The St. Patrick's Day parade was a lot of fun as usual. The weather was pleasant, and the turnout was large and enthusiastic as it always is. Requin Base received the "Best Non-Commercial Float" award.

May 7th is the 16th Annual Fish Rodeo for Hospitalized Veterans and Veterans in Nursing Homes at the O'Hara Community Park in Aspinwall. Please consider coming down at 8:00 to spend time with these veterans and assist where needed. I promise you it is time well spent.

We still need a committee chairman for the Kap(SS)4Kids(SS) program. Currently we have me and one other individual that are interested in being on the committee. Please consider stepping up to help with this program.

Please review the below article Reviving the USSVI Kap(SS)4Kids(SS) Program: A Call to Action.

Here is the link for the National Program www.ussvcf.org/kapss-4-kidss-fund.html





Lou Hamill

USS Requin Base Commander

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https://requinbase.org



Reviving the USSVI Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) Program: A Call to Action

Making a Difference Beyond Hospital Walls

The USSVI Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) program has long been a beacon of hope and joy for many children facing challenging circumstances. As we look to revitalize this noble initiative, we must remember that while hospital environments have posed challenges, they are not the sole avenues through which we can make a meaningful impact. This document outlines the importance of the program and calls for dedicated individuals to step forward as chairpersons or members to bring this initiative back to life.

The Importance of the Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) Program

The Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) program, established by the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI), is designed to bring joy, comfort, and inspiration to children battling illnesses and facing hardships. By connecting these children with submarine veterans, the program aims to provide them with memorable experiences, foster resilience, and offer a sense of camaraderie.

Historical Impact

Over the years, the Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) program has touched the lives of countless children and their families. Submarine veterans have brought smiles to pediatric wards, shared stories of bravery and adventure, and created lasting memories for children in need of encouragement. The program has been a testament to the power of human connection and the difference a caring community can make.

Challenges and Opportunities

While recent times have brought about challenges, particularly with access to hospital environments, it is crucial to recognize the myriad of other opportunities available to continue this mission. Schools, community centers, and virtual platforms present new avenues to reach and support children. The essence of the program lies in the willingness to adapt and find innovative ways to connect with and uplift young spirits.

New Avenues for Impact

As we seek to reinvigorate the Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) program, it is essential to explore and embrace alternative methods to reach children. Here are several avenues through which we can continue to make a meaningful difference:

Schools and Educational Institutions

Collaborating with local schools and educational institutions can provide a platform to reach children in a safe and structured environment. Submarine veterans can visit classrooms, participate in storytelling sessions, and engage in interactive activities that educate and inspire students. These visits can foster a sense of curiosity and resilience among children, while also highlighting the values of courage, teamwork, and perseverance.

Community Centers and Events

Community centers and local events offer another excellent opportunity to connect with children and their families. Organizing special events, such as meet-and-greet sessions, workshops, and recreational activities, can create a positive and engaging atmosphere. These interactions not only bring joy to the children but also strengthen the bonds within the community.

Virtual Platforms

In today's digital age, virtual platforms provide a powerful tool to reach children regardless of geographical limitations. Virtual meetings, storytelling sessions, and interactive online activities can be organized to share experiences and offer support. This approach ensures that the program remains accessible and continues to make a difference, even in times of physical distancing.

A Call to Action

Revitalizing the Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) program requires the dedication and commitment of passionate individuals who believe in its mission. We urge members of the USS Requin Base and the broader community to consider stepping forward as chairpersons or members to lead this initiative. Your involvement can bring hope and joy to children who need it the most.

Roles and Responsibilities

As a chairperson or member of the Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) program, you will play a vital role in coordinating activities, reaching out to potential partners, and organizing events. Your responsibilities will include:

- Collaborating with schools, community centers, and hospitals to arrange visits and events.
- Developing and implementing creative ideas to engage and inspire children.
- Recruiting and training volunteers to participate in the program.
- Ensuring adherence to safety guidelines and protocols during all interactions.
- Monitoring and evaluating the impact of the program to continually improve its effectiveness.

Qualities and Skills

To succeed in this role, you should possess the following qualities and skills:

- A genuine passion for making a difference in the lives of children.
- Strong organizational and leadership abilities.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Creativity and flexibility in adapting to new challenges and opportunities.
- A collaborative mindset and the ability to work effectively with diverse groups.

Conclusion

The USSVI Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) program has the potential to transform lives and create lasting memories for children facing difficult circumstances. By stepping forward as chairperson or member, you can play a pivotal role in reviving this program and extending its reach beyond hospital walls. Together, we can continue to bring joy, hope, and inspiration to the young hearts that need it most. Join me in this noble mission and make a difference in a child's life today.

Lou Hammil Commander, USS Requin Base 412-445-3998 itgeek8088@gmail.com



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.

Requin Base Meeting Minutes April 12, 2025 VFW Post 191 Canonsburg PA

Base Commander Lou Hamill called the meeting to order.

Attendees: Mike Allen, Eric & Margie Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, Clair & Nancy Bouts, George Brown, Greg Bushko & Guests, Tom & Deneen Calabrese, Joe Campisi, Lyle Farmer, Dick Geyer, Chris & Peggy Gibson & Guests, Bob & Lynn Gourley, David Halliday, Lou Hamill, John Held, Bill & Sandy Lindsey, Bat Masterson, Vince Metz, Bob & Jude Meyers, Mike Pellegrino, Jim & Sondra Schwarz, Chuck Shrump, Jeff & Eileen Simon, Jack Sutherin, Scot Thomas, Chad Underkoffler, Frank Vereb.

COB Bob Meyers led the Pledge Of Allegiance.

Base Commander Lou Hamill: 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. 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.

Boats Lost:

USS PICKEREL (SS 177)	April 3, 1943
USS SNOOK (SS 279)	April 8, 1945
USS THRESHER (SSN 593)	April 10, 1963
USS GUDGEON (SS 211)	April 18, 1944
USS GRENADIER (SS 210)	April 22, 1943

We also remember our departed members of the Requin Base David Helmold, Jack Kordes, and Larry Simon. Let us also remember the brave submariners who died performing their duties aboard submarines, some individually and some in groups, but where the submarine itself was not lost.

Chaplain Eric Bookmiller gave the Invocation.

Quote Of The Day: "Submariners are a bunch of intelligent misfits that somehow seem to get along, understand each other and work well together."

Requin History: April 28, 1945 commissioned with Commander Slay D. Cutter in command. April 4, 1967, Requin departed for 6th Fleet deployment.

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 No report given for meetings away from home base.



Other Reports:

Binnacle List: Huey & Edie Dietrich, Chuck Warren

Eternal Patrol: None

Base membership stands at 203. Storekeeper: on shore leave Eagle Scouts presentations.

Floats: both are ready for upcoming events

Mush Morton Award

Past Events:

USS Idaho change of command. CDR Chad J, Guillerault relieved CDR Randall J. Leslie.

USS Texas, LTJG Cosby dolphin pinning.

The Base won an award during the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Shipmate Gerry Gaylor's 95th birthday. The Base received \$550 donation from 8 families attending this event.

Upcoming Events:

April 14 - Award presentation for St. Patrick's Day parade.

April 26 - Standdown at Baden American Legion Post 641.

May 23 & 24 - Vietnam Wall, Shaler Anderson Field. Nautilus float will be on display

May 25 - 1000 hours, Tolling of the boats onboard USS Requin SS-481

May 25 - 1400 hours, Carnegie parade

May 26 - 1000 hours, Sewickley parade with Nautilus float

May 26 - 1000 hours, Lawrenceville parade with People Mover float

May 26 - 1330 hours, Coraopolis parade with both floats

Old Business:

USS Requin Base Scholarship program information is now on the base website. Huey Deitrich has donated \$1000 and George Brown has donated \$500 to this program.

A volunteer is needed to replace Eric Bookmiller as Base Chaplain.

A coordinator is needed for Kaps(SS)4Kid(SS) program.

Backup float drivers are needed for upcoming parades. A truck with electronic trailer brake capability is needed for the People Mover.

Frank Vereb is the new Newsletter Editor

New Business:

Chocolate Easter bunnies were donated to the USS Idaho.

720 foil wrapped chocolate Easter eggs were donated to the Portsmouth Easter Egg Hunt for submarine & military families.

Elks Lodge 339 bought a beer tap handle.

Two ad pages have been placed in the Lawrenceville Parade book.

Numerous booster donations have been received.

Good of The Order:

USS Iowa SSN-787 was commissioned on April 5 in Groton CT.

Vince Metz is heading a picnic committee. See him with any ideas for future base social events.

SubmarineShop.com is being retired.

Holland Club Induction was held.

Chaplain Eric Bookmiller gave the Benediction.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: American Legion Post 641 Baden PA at 1230 hours on May 10, 2025





Month in Review



This year our Base won the "Best Non-Commercial Float" award for the 2025 St. Patrick's Day Parade in

Pittsburgh.





Elks Lodge 339 bought a beer tap handle (right)



Gerry Gaylor's 95th Birthday! her and being part of the Region She Base Herry Yaylor ins 04/2025 15



LT Alexander Severson, United States Navy

LT Alexander Severson is from Mason, Ohio. He graduated from The Ohio State University in 2017 with a BS in Materials Science and Engineering. LT Severson entered the Navy via Officer Candidate School, commissioning in December 2017. Upon completion of the training pipeline, LT Severson reported to USS Florida (Blue) as a division officer. On the USS Florida he would have multiple positions including Main Propulsion Assistant, Damage Control Assistant and Information Warfare Officer. After the Florida, LT Severson reported to NAVSUBSCHOL where he served as an instructor. LT Severson has orders to become the Navigator onboard the USS Wyoming (Gold). LT Severson is married to Danielle Lippi of Loveland, Ohio.



The Ohio-class guided-missile submarine USS Florida (SSGN 728) returns to its homeport, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia, May 9. The ship was forward deployed for over 800 days, providing the U.S. Navy with one of the most versatile and clandestine platforms in the fleet. Guided-missile submarines are capable of carrying up to 154 Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles and host up to 66 Special Operation Forces. Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay is homeport to all East Coast Ohio-class submarines. Credit: https://www.dvidshub.net/video/752333/uss-florida-ssgn-728-returns-kings-bay-after-2-1-2-years-forward-deployed

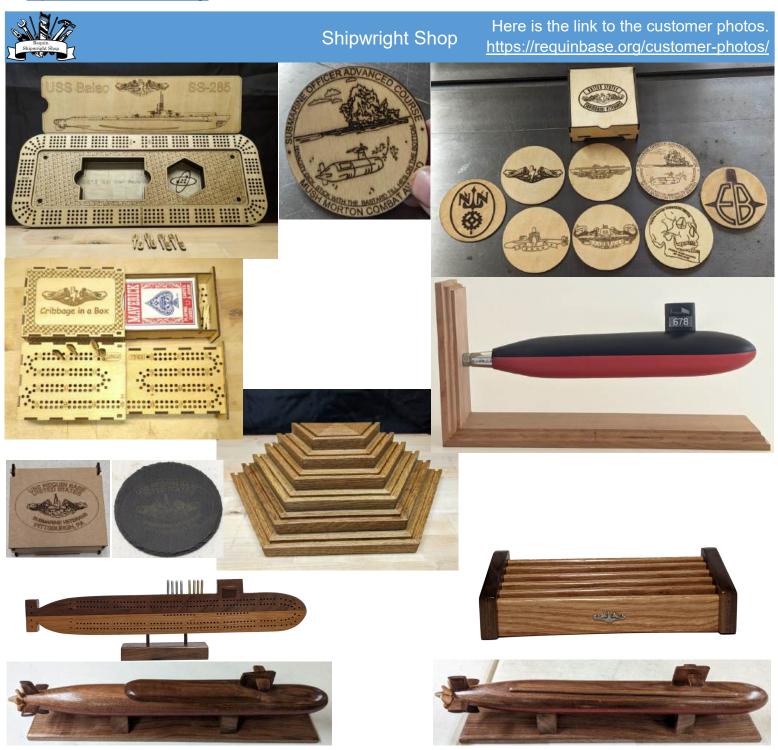




https://ussidahocommittee.org/



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



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/

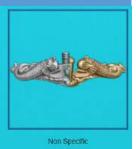
You can have your items shipped to you at home via USPS [for a small fee], or pick them up at the next USSVI meeting.



2015 Convention

Challenge Coins















Eagle Scouts

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







Say What???

Coner - A usually derogatory term for a submarine crewman who is not part of the engineering department, especially Torpedomen, because they are stationed in the forward portion of the sub.

The Cow - A refrigerated fixture in the crew's mess that dispenses something like milk, not to be confused with...

C.O.W - Chief of the Watch. In charge of the air, water, and ballast systems while underway



Upcoming Events

Meeting	Base activities
May 10, 2025 1230 hours	May 23 & 24 - Vietnam Wall, Shaler Anderson Field. Nautilus float will be on display
American Legion Post 641	May 25 - 1000 hours, Tolling of the boats onboard USS Requin SS-481 May 25 - 1400 hours, Carnegie parade
271 State St Baden PA 15005	May 26 - 1000 hours, Sewickley parade with Nautilus float May 26 - 1000 hours, Lawrenceville parade with People Mover float May 26 - 1330 hours, Coraopolis parade with both floats

MEMBER WEMBER		Membership)		
Primary Members	170	Holland Club	104	USSVI Life Members	84
Secondary Members	13	WWII	1	Base Life Members	71
Associate Members	20	Eternal Patrol	84	Joined Last Year	5
Total Members	203			Joined This Year	1



New Members









https://www.navaltoday.com/2025/04/07/us-navy-commissions-24th-virginia-class-submarine-uss-iowa/

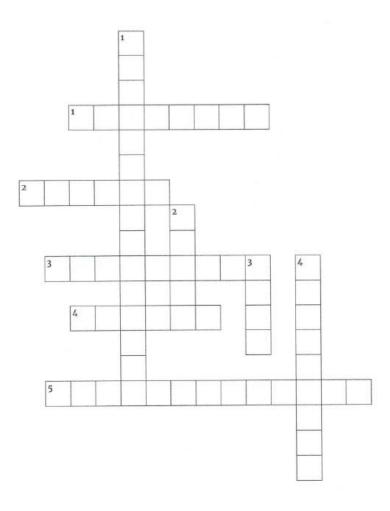
	History	
Name	USS lowa	
Namesake	State of lowa	
Ordered	28 April 2014	
Builder	General Dynamics Electric Boat, Groton, Connecticut	
Laid down	20 August 2019	
Sponsored by	Christie Vilsack	
Christened	17 June 2023	
Acquired	21 December 2024	
Commissioned	5 April 2025	
Identification	Hull number: SSN-797	
Motto	"Our Liberties We Prize, Our Rights We Will Maintain" and "Fight Iowa, Fear the Gray Ghost"	
Status	In active service	

	General characteristics	
Class and type	Virginia-class submarine	
Displacement	7,800 <u>tons</u>	
Length	377 ft (115 m)	
Beam	34 ft (10.4 m)	
Draft	32 ft (9.8 m)	
Propulsion	S9G reactor auxiliary diesel engine	
Speed	25 knots (46 km/h; 29 mph)	
Endurance	can remain submerged for up to 3 months	
Test depth	greater than 800 ft (244 m)	
Complement	15 officers	
	120 enlisted men	
Armament	 12 x VLS tubes, 4 x 21-inch (530 mm) torpedo tubes for Mk-48 torpedoes BGM-109 Tomahawk 	





US Navy Crossword Puzzle 16



ACROSS

- 1. Appropriates Funds For Army And Navy
- 2. Near Or Toward The Stern Of The Vessel
- 3. The First Submarine To Completely Circumnavigate The Earth Submerged
- 4. Loose From Moorings And Out Of Control
- 5. I Have Not Yet Begun To Fight." Commanded Bonhomme Richard And Defeated Serapis In The Battle Of Flam borough Head

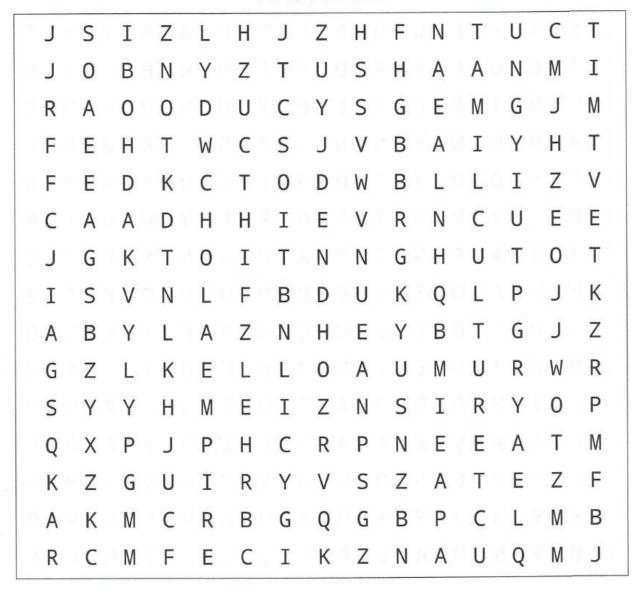
DOWN

- 1. Who Was The First African American CPO?
- 2. Of Naval Operations Is In Highest Ranking Person In The Navy
- 3. Branch That Keeps The Sea Lanes Open
- 4. The First Vessel Of The Note In The U.S. Navy



Puzzle #16

FIRST MATE



ARMY UNIT

CANNON FODDER SRI LANKA CHOLA EMPIRE
TAMIL CULTURE





This month in US submarine history

04/01/1943

USS Shad (SS 235) torpedoes and damages the Italian blockade runner Pietro Orseolo, shortly after the Italian ship reaches the Bay of Biscay and her escort of four German destroyers.

04/02/1943

USS Tunny (SS 282) sinks the Japanese transport No.2 Toyo Maru west of Truk.

04/02/1991

USS Chicago (SSN 721) arrives at San Diego, Calif., homeport following Operation Desert Storm. During the six-month deployment, the attack submarine works with US and coalition forces deployed to the Southwest Asia area of operations, conducting surveillance and reconnaissance operations.

04/03/1943

USS Haddock (SS 231) sinks Japanese fleet tanker Arima Maru north of Palau, and USS Pickerel (SS 177) sinks Japanese submarine chaser Ch 1.

04/04/1943

USS Porpoise (SS 172) sinks the Japanese whaling ship Koa Maru near Eniwetok.

04/06/1945

USS Besugo (SS 321) and USS Hardhead (SS 365) sink ships in Japanese convoy HOMO-03.

04/07/1990

The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Albany (SSN 573) is commissioned at Naval Station Norfolk.

04/07/1979

USS Ohio (SSBN 726), the first Trident submarine, launches at Groton, Conn. She is commissioned into the Navy in November that same year. Following a conversion to a guided-missile submarine in 2006, she is now SSGN-726.

04/08/1944

USS Seahorse (SS 304) and USS Trigger (SS 237) successfully attack a Japanese convoy off Guam, damaging a Japanese destroyer and a tanker.

04/10/1942

USS Thresher (SS 200) torpedoes and sinks Japanese merchant cargo ship Maru six miles north of Oshima, near the entrance to Tokyo Bay, Honshu, Japan.

04/10/1963

During diving tests, USS Thresher (SSN 593) is lost with all hands east of Cape Cod, Mass., including commanding officer and 17 civilian technicians.

04/11/1900

United States Navy Acquires USS Holland (SS-1)

04/11/1944

USS Redfin (SS 272) sinks the Japanese destroyer Akigumo in the eastern entrance to Basilan Strait.

04/11/1992

USS Annapolis (SSN 760) is commissioned at the Electric Boat Division at Groton, Conn. The 10th of her Los Angeles "Improved" class of attack submarines.



04/12/1944

USS Halibut (SS 232) sinks Japanese army passenger/cargo ship Taichu Maru despite the presence of at least three escort vessels.

04/13/1942

USS Grayling (SS 209) sinks the Japanese freighter Ryujin Maru off southest tip of Shikoku, Japan.

04/13/1944

USS Harder (SS 257) sinks the Japanese destroyer Ikazuchi, 180 miles SSW of Guam.

04/14/1945

USS Tirante (SS 420), commanded by Lt. Cmdr. George L. Street III, attacks a Japanese convoy in the approaches to the Yellow Sea and sinks a transport ship and two vessels. Street earns Medal of Honor for his actions.

04/16/1942

USS Tambor (SS 198) sinks the Japanese stores ship Kitami Maru 50 miles southeast of Kavieng, New Ireland.

04/17/1942

USS Searaven (SS 196) begins rescue of stranded Australian sailors, airmen, and soldiers from Japanese-occupied Timor, N.E.I.

04/20/1944

USS Seahorse (SS 304) torpedoes and sinks Japanese submarine RO 45 off the Mariana Islands.

04/20/1964

USS Henry Clay (SSBN 625) launches a Polaris A-2 missile in the first demonstration to show that Polaris submarines could launch missiles from the surface as well as from beneath the ocean.

04/22/1945

USS Hardhead (SS 365) sinks Japanese cargo vessel Mankei Maru off Chimpson and USS Cero (SS 225) sinks the Japanese guardboat Aji Maru west of Tori Jima and damaged the guardboat No.9 Takamiya Maru.

04/24/1943

USS Seawolf (SS-197) sinks Japanese Patrol Boat #39 off east central coast of Formosa, while the enemy warship is screening the towing of the wrecked Nisshin Maru.

04/23/1945

USS Besugo (SS 321) sinks the German submarine U 183 in the Java Sea.

04/24/1981

USS San Francisco (SSN 711) is commissioned at Norfolk Naval Station, Va.

04/25/1944

USS Crevalle (SS 291) sinks Japanese army cargo ship Kashiwa Maru, north of Borneo and USS Guvania (SS 362) sinks Japanese army cargo ship Tetsuyo Maru, northwest of Chichi Jima.

04/26/1960

USS George Washington (SSN 598) conducts a Polaris missile test firing in Long Island Sound in the Atlantic Ocean.

04/27/1944

USS Bluegill (SS 242) torpedoes the Japanese light cruiser Yubari west of Sonsorol Island, while USS Hali-



but (SS 232) sinks Japanese minelayer off Okinawa.

04/27/1963

USS Daniel Webster (SSBN 626) is launched at Groton, Conn. Commissioned a year later, she serves until decommissioned in August 1990.

04/28/1945

USS Sennet (SS 408) sinks the Japanese cable layer Hatsushima off Kii Strait, south southeast of Miki Saki; USS Springer (SS 414) sinks the Japanese submarine chaser CH 17 west of Kyushu as she is escorting landing ship T.146, and USS Trepang (SS 412) sinks T.146 off Ose Saki, Japan.

04/29/1944

USS Pogy (SS 266) sinks the Japanese submarine I 183, 30 miles south of Ashizuri Saki, Japan.

04/30/1944

USS Bang (SS 385) attacks a convoy engaged the previous night and sinks the Japanese merchant tanker Nittatsu Maru off the northwest of Luzon. Also on this date, USS Flasher (SS 249) sinks the Vichy French gunboat Tahure in the South China Sea off Cape Varella, French Indochina.



Credit: https://www.navaltoday.com/2024/10/24/us-navy-names-newest-virginia-class-nuclear-powered-submarine/



Articles of Interest

62nd Thresher Memorial Service Held in Kittery, Maine

https://www.dvidshub.net/news/495192/62nd-thresher-memorial-service-held-kittery-maine

Story by <u>Hanna Lanoie</u> Published 4/12/2025

Thresher Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc (USSVI), in partnership with Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, hosted the 62nd Thresher Memorial Service at Robert W. Traip Academy, Kittery, Maine, April 12.

Shipyard Commander Capt. Michael Oberdorf provided introductory remarks. "It's the third year that I've had the honor of providing remarks as the 87th Shipyard Commander of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and I am humbled by your outpouring support towards one another and the fond remembrance of your loved ones for more than six decades. It's truly amazing and heartwarming to see," said Oberdorf. "It's been my privilege as Shipyard Commander to work alongside the finest Sailors, engineers, and skilled craftspeople in this nation. I can assure you that by their hard work and dedication, your loved ones did not die in vain."





The aftermath of the Thresher loss led the Navy to implement extensive changes in design, procedure, operations, and processes. The Thresher would become synonymous with a new approach to submarine safety through the creation of the Submarine Safety Program, known as SUBSAFE.

Capt. Joe Meier, the Commanding Officer of the Submarine Maintenance Engineering, Planning and Procurement program (SUBMEPP), served as the keynote speaker.

Addressing the crowd of Thresher families, friends, and ceremony guests, Meier shared how the memories of those they've lost have fueled the current and future success of submarine safety. "We can not forget what happened," said Meier. "As the Commanding Officer of SUBMEPP, my job is to ensure the Navy's submarines remain safe and reliable via a cost-effective lifecycle maintenance plan - the right maintenance at the right time. One of the keys to success in that endeavor is having a strong SUBSAFE culture."

The SUBSAFE program and the era of safety that followed its development, is the legacy of those lost on Thresher. It is due to the dedication and expertise of those involved that the program has successfully kept the Nation's submarine force safe from a similar event for more than 60 years. And though the first-hand accounts of the Thresher loss are dwindling after six decades, it is today's submarine community and the descendants of those lost that are keeping their memory alive.

Representing the Thresher families in offering remarks was Michael Bracey, son of Steward 3rd Class George Bracey who was among the 96 enlisted Sailors to perish on Thresher.

Bracey, who was merely four years old at the time of the tragedy, shared photos from his father's life, offering ceremony guests a look into a life cut short by the unthinkable. Despite being so young when his father passed, Bracey became emotional as he spoke of moments he was most affected by his death. "I never got to know him," said Bracey.

The service was concluded with the family of lost Quartermaster 1st Class Julius Francis Marullo Jr., casting a wreath along the water's edge.

The SUBSAFE Program will continue to be an integral part of the submarine community to guard against complacency and rigidly uphold the highest standards of design, operation, and training lest we be reminded by the power of the sea and the loss of irreplaceable loved ones.

USS Thresher (SSN 593) - We will never forget.



Credit: Photo by Wesley Hilario on Unsplash



Navy Pushing Innovation to Build the Next Generation of Submarines, Says Admiral

https://news.usni.org/2025/03/31/navy-pushing-innovation-to-build-the-next-generation-of-submarines-says-admiral

By John Grady

Published March 31, 2025

The Navy is counting on innovations to help it build and staff submarines and ships more efficiently as demand for the capability grows, the head of the service's nuclear propulsion program said Monday.

"We're getting better at the same time as the demand is increasing," Adm. William Houston said. In terms of new submarine construction, he added. "We're building more subs in tonnage than we were in the Cold War."

After the fall of the Soviet Union, submarine construction dropped as demand waned. "It's a national endeavor," not confined to General Dynamics Electric Boat's facilities in New England or Huntington Ingalls Industries' in Newport News, Virginia and also now in South Carolina. Houston mentioned shipbuilding related activities now happening in Indiana, Utah and the Pacific Coast, showing the geographical spread.

"We have to have that industrial base," for both Navy ships and commercial vessels, Houston said. The lesson learned is, "Keep building submarines; we need them," he added.

Houston said the newly created Office of Shipbuilding in the White House will help make the process more efficient.



Attack boat Idaho launched from General Dynamics Electric Boat's shipyard into the Thames River, Aug. 6, 2024. US

Navy Photo

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Steel Valley Dolphins 04/2025

"We're reducing our steps to build ships" without sacrificing quality in delivering them into the fleet more quickly, he said.

That will help the U.S. keep its promises to its partners. The United States entered an agreement in 2021 with Australia and the United Kingdom [AUKUS] to cooperatively field and build a conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine force for Canberra. The United States will sell three Virginia-class submarines to Australia between 2032 and 2042, though Congress is concerned about that timeline, as USNI News has reported. Meanwhile, Australia and the United Kingdom will design a submarine "with a lot of U.S. technology" for Canberra's use.

The three nations agreed to share an unprecedented amount of information about high technology research, development and fielding.

Right now, America's two submarine building yards are delivering 1.3 submarines per year. To meet the AUKUS commitment, they would need to be delivering 2.33 boats per year, USNI News has reported. Australian naval officers are already in American Navy schools and will serve aboard U.S. Virginia-class boats until Canberra receives the American boats. Houston said the Australian officers are doing very well in the American schools, in part because the navies use many of the same systems.

Houston also noted that USS *Hawaii* (SSN-716) was piloted by an Australian officer as it came to HMAS Stirling last year for the first-ever overhaul of a U.S. nuclear-powered submarine in a foreign port. As USNI News reported from *Hawaii* at the time, the visit allowed the American and Australian navies to conduct a Virginia-class maintenance period together.

Attracting and retaining civilians to work in the nation's shipyards and in the shipbuilding industrial base has been a challenge. Low pay is the number one problem for retaining newly trained electricians and even naval architects in shipyards.



Adm. William Houston



For those in the trades – welders, electricians, pipefitters and shipfitters – the working conditions can be "hot, cold and dirty" with wages only a couple dollars more than fast food workers, the Congressional Budget Office's Eric Labs told the House Armed Services Committee at a recent hearing.

Houston said at the Navy Memorial event that skills like welding are changing as yards modernize building and repair practices. With autonomous welding, he said, "there's still a human in the loop," but the time to finish the work drops from days to hours. "The quality is there," he added.

Those kinds of developments could make shipbuilding careers into tech jobs instead of "blue-collar" work. Looking at the impact of additive manufacturing on the supply chain, Houston said, "there still be business for them," but "we need to bring along with us." He noted some of those businesses "have been with us since 1948" when the Navy's nuclear program began. Like the shipyards, "we're in a battle for talent" to crew the Navy, he said.

"Our biggest challenge is in retaining submarine officers," Houston said. To keep those officers, "we've revamped the entire career path," including he enlisted career paths.

Houston noted that on the uniform side the Navy successfully met its recruiting goal of 40,000 enlistees last year.

USNI News reported the sea service has recruited 14,000 enlistees through the first four months of this fiscal year and was on track to meet its 40,000 recruits this fiscal year. Houston said the newest recruits "are incredibly smart" and "they ask why for everything."



USS Drum (SSN-677) emergency blow drill; https://www.ussdrum.org/1980-1.html



RUSSIA'S KILO-CLASS SUBMARINE NIGHTMARE SUMMED UP IN 2 WORDS

https://www.19fortyfive.com/2025/04/russias-kilo-class-submarine-nightmare-summed-up-in-2-words/

By Caleb Larson

Published 04/15/2025

Summary and Key Points: Russia's Kilo-class submarines, nicknamed "Black Hole" for their stealth, remain a significant naval asset decades after their Cold War introduction.

- -Designed originally to operate in shallow coastal waters, the Kilo-class subs offer improved sonar, stealth capabilities, and maneuverability compared to their predecessors.
- -Variants like Project 636.3 feature modern enhancements, including Kalibr cruise missiles capable of striking land targets.
- -Despite attempts to replace them with the advanced Lada-class, development problems and reliability issues have extended the Kilo's service life.
- -Continued production highlights their enduring value, ensuring these silent diesel-electric submarines remain operationally relevant for Russia and several global navies for years ahead.

The Kilo-Class Explained

Russia's Kilo-class submarines are among the more widely operated and exported diesel-electric submarines of the post-Cold War era. Originally developed for the Soviet Navy in the late 1970s, the Kilos were introduced to replace the earlier Tango-class submarines, which were also diesel-electric.

<u>The Kilo-class</u> first entered service in the early 1980s. The submarine's design placed an emphasis on antishipping operations and coastal defense, with the intention of operating in the shallower waters of the Baltic and Black Seas or the littoral waters nearer to the coasts.



Artist's depiction of Kilo class submarine



2 Words for Kilo-Class Nightmare: Black Hole

In addition to its intended role as an antiship and antisubmarine platform, the Kilo-class also performs some intelligence gathering. It can do this thanks to its relatively low acoustic signature, which long ago led to its moniker, Black Hole.

"During the Cold War the then-new submarine gained a reputation for stealth, sometimes with the nick-name 'black hole'. The term is still used and much is made of its stealth even today," H.I. Sutton, a naval expert, explains.

"But that was relative. Older Russian submarines, still widespread when the KILO was introduced, were incredibly noisy. Although exact details are naturally not available, there os no reason to suppose that the KILO family is any quieter than the latest western non-nuclear submarines.

In fact, the lack of AIP (air independent power) will limit overall stealth. That's not to say it's noisy, Russia is experienced at noise reduction and has excellent anechoic tiles. But the 'black hole' label has become a bit of a myth."

Improvements and Variations

Compared to the preceding Tango-class, the Kilo-class offered significant improvements in sonar performance, stealth capabilities, and crew habitability.

Although the Tango was a relatively large submarine, designed with increased battery capacity to allow for extended underwater endurance, it lacked the stealth improvements incorporated into the Kilo-class.

Thanks in part to the Kilo-class' relatively streamlined hull and sonar-absorbant anechoic tiling, the newer class of submarine is much harder to detect. Thanks as well to the submarine's smaller size, they are more maneuverable in the shallow littoral waters in which both the Tango-class and Kilo-class were made to patrol.

There have been <u>several tranches or variants</u> of the Kilo-class since it was first introduced. Under Soviet nomenclature, it <u>was originally called the Kilos Project 877</u> and was primarily built for the Soviet Navy.

Later, however, a Kilo-variant intended for export, known as Project 636, was developed, and this submarine incorporated some updates. A third more updated variant, called Project 636.3, builds upon the preceding variants and includes modernizations such as digital fire-control systems and the ability to launch Kalibr cruise missiles. This means the submarine has the ability to attack land-based targets, and this variant also has an expanded power-projection capability.

Pump-jet

A single, experimental Kilo-class <u>submarine</u>, the B-871 Alrosa, was outfitted with a pumpjet propulsor. "This is unusual for a non-nuclear submarine since pump jets are generally optimal for higher underwater speeds," H.I. Sutton writes. "Possibly it was for testing since similar pumpjets are fitted to some Russian ballistic missile submarines. Although its use aboard Alrosa is questionable, it remains fitted after the submarine's recent (and protracted) refit. It remains the only diesel-electric submarine with a pump jet."

Although the Kilo-class is still in service with the Russian Navy—as well as the navies of several other countries—it may gradually be supplanted in Russian service by the newer Lada-class submarine.



This updated sub design was intended as a next-generation non-nuclear submarine with improved <u>stealth</u>, greater automation, and the incorporation of air-independent propulsion (AIP) technology, which allows for extended underwater endurance without surfacing. In theory, the <u>Lada-class</u> would offer similar performance to some of the more advanced Western AIP and diesel-electric designs.

However, the <u>Lada-class has run into difficulties</u>. The lead submarine of the class, the Sankt Peterburg, was launched in 1997 but didn't enter service with the Russian Navy until more than 10 years later.

Reliability issues, poor acoustic performance, and high operating costs lead to delays and dissatisfaction.

What's Next for the Kilo-Class?

While development of the <u>Lada-class nominally continues</u>, the Russian Navy has also decided to continue investing in the newest 636.3 Kilo-class boats, underscoring the difficulties with the Ladas and the advantages of working with a mature Kilo-class design.



Kilo-Class Diesel Electric Submarines





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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