

# STEEL VALLEY DOLPHINS



Introducing  
**WAR  
PATROL!**

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## USS Sunfish SSN-649



## 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**

July 19, 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 - [fvereb2@gmail.com](mailto:fvereb2@gmail.com)

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE, ATTEND A MEETING!

### OUR WEBSITE

For additional information about events and fundraisers at YOUR Base, please visit

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



## USSVI NATIONAL OFFICERS

Office	Officer	Phone	eMail
National Commander	Jon Jaques	615-893-7800	<a href="mailto:jjagues@bellsouth.net">jjagues@bellsouth.net</a>
Senior Vice Commander	Timothy Carlisle	925-812-4239	<a href="mailto:timothywcarlisle@gmail.com">timothywcarlisle@gmail.com</a>
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Treasurer	John Sidlovsky	757-328-9796	<a href="mailto:treasurer.ussvi.hrb@gmail.com">treasurer.ussvi.hrb@gmail.com</a>
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## USS REQUIN BASE OFFICERS

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Technology Chair	Lou Hamill	412-445-3998	<a href="mailto:itgeek8088@gmail.com">itgeek8088@gmail.com</a>
Eagle Scout Chair	John Held	724-331-2479	<a href="mailto:petecompost@aol.com">petecompost@aol.com</a>
Awards Chair	Dick Geyer	724-822-0401	<a href="mailto:dgdiving@gmail.com">dgdiving@gmail.com</a>
Public Affairs Chair	Ed Derr	724-854-0781	<a href="mailto:rredde@gmail.com">rredde@gmail.com</a>
Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) Chair	Bob Meyers	724-282-1524	<a href="mailto:jmeyers01@zoominternet.net">jmeyers01@zoominternet.net</a>



## **Tolling of the Boats for June**

### **USS Herring (SS-233)**

Lost on June 1, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Matsuwa Island. Herring was on her 8th war patrol and was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and made 2 direct hits on her conning tower and causing her loss. Before being sunk, she had sank a freighter and a passenger-cargoman. Herring was the only US submarine sunk by a land battery.

### **USS R-12 (SS-89)**

Lost on June 12, 1943 with the loss of 42 men near Key West, FL during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and 2 other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident.

### **USS Golet (SS-361)**

Lost on June 14, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. On her 2nd war patrol, Golet was apparently lost in battle with antisubmarine forces north of Honshu.

### **USS Bonefish (SS-223)**

Lost on June 18, 1945 with the loss of 85 men when sunk near Suzu Misaki. Winner of 3 Navy Unit Citations, Bonefish was on her 8th war patrol. After sinking a passenger-cargoman, Bonefish was subjected to a savage depth charge attack.

### **USS S-27 (SS-132)**

Lost on June 19, 1942 when it grounded off Amchitka Island. She was on the surface in poor visibility, charging batteries and drifted into the shoals. When she could not be freed and started listing, the captain got the entire crew to shore (400 yards away) in relays using a 3-man rubber raft. The entire crew was subsequently rescued.

### **USS O-9 (SS-70)**

Lost on Jun 20, 1941 with the loss of 33 men when it foundered off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth, NH.

### **USS Runner (SS-275)**

Lost between June 26 & July 4th 1943 with the loss of 78 men. Runner was on her 3rd war patrol probably due to a mine. Prior to her loss, she reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargoman off the Kuriles. This boat's last known ship sunk happened on June 26th, so she probably hit that mine on or after that date but before July 4th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.





“Man our ship and bring her to life!”



### Submarines Commissioned During the Month of June

Boat	Commissioned	Wikipedia	Navsource	Eternal Patrol
C-1 SS-9	6/30/1908	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
F-1 SS-20	6/19/1912	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	<a href="#">Eternal Patrol</a>
F-2 SS-21	6/25/1912	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
N-4 SS-56	6/15/1918	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
N-5 SS-57	6/13/1918	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
N-7 SS-59	6/15/1918	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
O-3 SS-64	6/13/1918	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
O-5 SS-66	6/8/1918	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	<a href="#">Eternal Patrol</a>
O-6 SS-67	6/12/1918	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
R-7 SS-84	6/12/1919	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
R-21 SS-98	17-Jun-19	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
R-24 SS-101	6/27/1919	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
S-1 SS-105	6/5/1920	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
S-22 SS-127	6/23/1924	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
S-32 SS-137	6/15/1922	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
S-46 SS-157	6/5/1925	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
S-49 SS-160	6/6/1922	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
S-51 SS-162	6/24/1922	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	<a href="#">Eternal Patrol</a>
Dolphin SS-169	6/1/1932	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Cuttlefish SS-171	6/8/1934	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Pompano SS-181	6/12/1937	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	<a href="#">Eternal Patrol</a>
Skipjack SS-184	6/30/1938	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Sturgeon SS-187	6/25/1938	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Tambor SS-198	6/3/1940	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Grayback SS-208	6/30/1941	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	<a href="#">Eternal Patrol</a>
Albacore SS-218	6/1/1942	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	<a href="#">Eternal Patrol</a>
Amberjack SS-219	6/19/1942	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	<a href="#">Eternal Patrol</a>
Cod SS-224	6/21/1943	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Shad SS-235	6/12/1942	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Whale SS-239	6/1/1942	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Rasher SS-269	6/8/1943	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Capelin SS-289	6/4/1943	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	<a href="#">Eternal Patrol</a>
Crevalle SS-291	6/24/1943	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Escolar SS-294	6/2/1944	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	<a href="#">Eternal Patrol</a>
Ling SS-297	6/8/1945	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Sabalo SS-302	6/19/1945	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Bergall SS-320	6/12/1944	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Besugo SS-321	6/19/1944	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Blenny SS-324	6/27/1944	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Clamagore SS-343	6/28/1945	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Greenfish SS-351	6/7/1946	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Icefish SS-367	6/10/1944	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Menhaden SS-377	6/22/1945	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Sea Dog SS-401	6/3/1944	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Sea Fox SS-402	6/13/1944	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Atule SS-403	6/21/1944	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Spikefish SS-404	6/30/1944	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Sea Leopard SS-483	6/11/1945	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	

Boat	Commissioned	Wikipedia	Navsource	Eternal Patrol
Trout SS-566	6/27/1952	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Scamp SSN-588	6/5/1961	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Sculpin SSN-590	6/1/1961	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Alexander Hamilton SSBN-617	6/27/1963	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
George Washington Carver SSBN-656	6/15/1966	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Hammerhead SSN-663	6/28/1968	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Bergall SSN-667	6/13/1969	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Baton Rouge SSN-689	6/25/1977	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Philadelphia SSN-690	6/25/1977	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Florida SSGN-728	6/18/1983	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Maryland SSBN-738	6/13/1992	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Newport News SSN-750	6/3/1989	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Miami SSN-755	6/30/1990	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Alexandria SSN-757	6/29/1991	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Mississippi SSN-782	6/2/2012	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	
Montana SSN-794	6/24/2022	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	<a href="#">NavSource</a>	



[CAKE HONORING 27 YEARS OF SERVICE FOR SUNFISH](#)



BINNACLE LIST	ETERNAL PATROL	IN REMEMBRANCE		
NONE	NONE	William E. Britt	FTCS (SS)	6/2/2012
		George R. Heron	EM2 (SS)	6/2/2015
		Aaron Ellis Jr.	MMCM (SS)	6/21/2019
		Robert Keller	MMC (SS)	6/7/2021
		Henry Franz	RM3 (SS)	6/5/2022
		Carl Benson	TMM3 (SS)	6/19/2023

MEMBER BIRTHDAY		SPOUSE BIRTHDAY		WEDDING ANNIVERSARY	
Jeffrey Simon	7/1	Joan Guntang	7/1	Eileen & Daniel Klemz	7/3
Christopher Shal	7/2	Patricia Nelson III	7/1	Annette Romain & Eric Sipos	7/5
Aaron Houpt	7/3	Trude Hayes	7/2	Christina (Tina) & Michael Wyckoff	7/9
Pete Poninsky	7/3	Beth Klebache Lacey	7/2	Christine & Lawton Gaines	7/10
Charles Shrump	7/5	Ruth Ann Shal	7/2	Nita & Ronald Campbell	7/12
John Mason	7/9	Jennifer Cuddy	7/5	Gwen & Gregory Bushko	7/14
Edward Morgan	7/9	Peggy Gibson	7/5	Barbara & Reno Farina	7/15
Ronald Lucas	7/10	Vivian Mack	7/7	Chloe & Sean Williams	7/16
Maria Renzelli	7/12	Gail Nicoletti Swinney	7/8	Sandra & Robert Lindsey	7/20
Michael Cherock	7/13	Kyle Abel	7/10	Gail Nicoletti & Terry Swinney	7/28
Gregory Bayne	7/14	Christine Certich	7/13	Dorothy & Donald Bright	7/29
Peter Foster	7/17	Eva Mathews Holzwarth	7/13	Rosemary & Richard McCarthy	7/30
Cody Johnston	7/18	Sondra Schwarz	7/15		
C. William Greenlee	7/22	Rose Nicotra	7/16		
David Halliday	7/24	Eileen S. Simon	7/22		
Eric Sipos	7/25	Holly Sipes Jr.	7/23		
Robert Gourley	7/26	Elizabeth Davis	7/26		
Gerald States	7/27				
Louis Hamill	7/28				
Lawrence Day	7/30				







Thank you to all the shipmates and first mates that came out to the June meeting. I especially want to thank the members of the Cod base that met with us at this meeting. It is always good to get together with our fellow shipmates from other bases.

Thank you to Chuck Warren (and any others that helped) for setting everything up for the meeting.

We are still in need of a Chaplain. Eric Bookmiller is continuing his responsibilities at the meetings until a replacement is appointed. The Chaplain position requires the individual to oversee the spiritual needs of the base at meetings, memorials, funerals and other times of need.

I sent out an email regarding interest for a summer get together at PNSY from July 10<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> with Jason Deichler. If you are interested, please let me know by 6/22/2025.

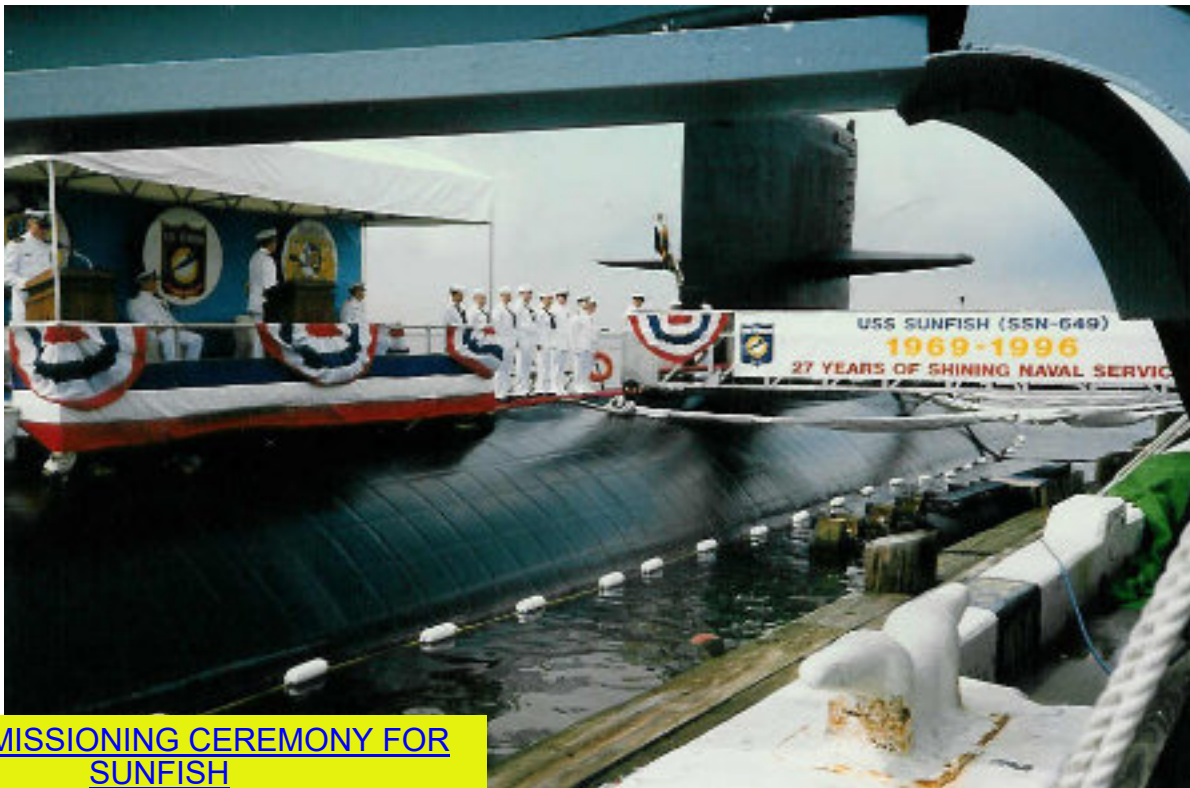
Currently we are looking at having our next base meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup> since the PNSY get together is planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of July. More information will be forthcoming.

Our next parade will be on 7/4/2025 in Canonsburg. Please be at the VFW post 191 NLT 0800 on 7/4/2025. The address is 539 W Pike St, Canonsburg, PA 15317

Bob Meyers was successful in making contact with Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh to give us the opportunity to begin a relaunch of the Requin Base Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) program.

Vince Metz is looking for shipmates to help plan an annual social picnic. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Vince.

Finally, I want to give a huge shout out to Huey & Edie. Huey has used his candy money to purchase everyone in the base a year's subscription to the Bob Logue Undercover Club Newsletter. Bob Logue has extended the subscription to 18 months. After the initial subscription period you may continue the subscription if you enjoy the newsletter. Your first edition should arrive in your mailbox in July.



DECOMMISSIONING CEREMONY FOR  
SUNFISH





# 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

June 14, 2025

American Legion Post 290 Columbiana, OH

**Base Commander Lou Hamill** called the meeting to order.

**Attendees:** Willard Ashmore, Eric Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, Clair & Nancy Bouts, Tom Calabrese, Joe Campisi, Joe Capito, Ken Crosby, Huey Dietrich, Dick Geyer, Bob & Lynn Gourley, David Halliday, Lou Hamill, Jim & Charlene List, Vince Metz, Mike Mihallsin, Angelo Naso, Frank Nicotra, Jeff & Eileen Simon, Brian & Nancy Tomasoh, Larry & Mary Ann Vanderhorst, Charlie Warren, Ron Zahner.

**Base Commander Lou Hamill** 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 HERRING (SS 233)      June 1, 1944
- USS R 12 (SS 89)      June 12, 1943
- USS GOLET (SS 361)      June 14, 1944
- USS BONEFISH (SS 223)      June 18, 1945
- USS S 27 (SS 132)      June 19, 1942
- USS O-9 (SS 70)      June 20, 1941
- USS RUNNER (SS 275)      June 26, 1943

We also remember our departed shipmates of the Requin Base Carl Benson, Henry Franz, Robert Keller, Aaron Ellis, George Heron, and William Britt. 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:** "It is my sincere belief that the best possible way to run a naval nuclear reactor is to train bright, young, and capable sailors to operate with the highest standards of safety and technical rigor ... and then to put those very same sailors in an oily bilge at least once a week to keep them humble." – ADM Hyman G. Rickover

**History of the Requin:** June 3, 1945 following shakedown off the New England coast, USS Requin departed Portsmouth New Hampshire in route to Hawaii. June 30, 1949 soon after her return to New London CT, Requin was transferred to Norfolk VA for duty with Subron 6. Into the spring of 1950 she operated in the western Atlantic ranging from Nova Scotia to the West Indies. From June to August 1959, the Charleston Shipyard in South Carolina removed all Requin's radar equipment making her more streamline. June 29, 1968 Requin was reclassified as AGS-481. June 30, 1971 Requin was reclassified as IXSS-481. June 17, 1972 Requin was transferred to Tampa Florida as a tourist attraction. She remained in the role until 1986 when she was closed down due to a lack of funding and support. For four years she remained abandoned at the pier.

## **Members' Introduction**

**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** did not report on base assets, expenditures, and deposits as we are away from home port.

### **Other Reports:**

- Binnacle List: None
- Eternal Patrol: None
- Base membership stands at 206
- Storekeeper
- Eagle Scouts presentations
- PA license plates
- Floats: Minor damage to the Nautilus float due to faulty hitch. Repairs have been made to the float and a new hitch will be installed.
- Kap(SS)4Kid(SS)
- Mush Morton Award

### **Past Events:**

Four parades and a memorial ceremony were attended over the Memorial Day weekend. Over 2000 Requin Base stickers were handed out.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- July 4 – Canonsburg Parade. Muster at 0800 hours at VFW Post 191
- July 10 to 13 – Get together at PNSY with Jason Deichler. July base meeting will be moved to July 19, location to be determined.
- Possible Base meetings to be held at Carnegie Science Center next year

### **Old Business:**

- A volunteer is needed to replace Eric Bookmiller as Base Chaplain.
- Vince Metz is arranging a picnic for Base members and their families.
- USS Requin Base Scholarship program information is on the base website. Two applications have been received. The submission of applications closes on June 15.

### **New Business:**

- Thank You letter received from VFW Post 3945 for our donation to the Fish Rodeo.
- 2025 Booster donations have been received from VFW Post 1437 and American Legion Post 464.
- Quarterly advertisements will appear in the Veteran's Breakfast Club magazine.
- Huey Dietrich has purchased an 18-month subscription to the Bob Logue Undercover Newsletter for each Base member.

### **Good of The Order:**

Tom Calabrese is moving to Richmond VA.

**Chaplain Eric Bookmiller** gave Benediction.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

**Next meeting:** Location to be determined on July 19, 2025

## MONTH IN REVIEW



EAGLE COURT OF HONOR







CORAOPOLIS MEMORIAL DAY  
PARADE 26 MAY 2025



CARNEGIE MEMORIAL DAY  
PARADE 25 MAY 2025



# USS Requin Base

## US Submarine Veterans



On behalf of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc., USS Requin Base, we wish to thank all veterans for their service and to perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country aboard submarines. May their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments.

**Learn more at [RequinBase.org](http://RequinBase.org)**



**TOLLING OF THE BOATS ONBOARD USS REQUIN  
25 MAY 2025**

## 44th VVI Annual/Reunion Picnic

The picnic will be held *Saturday, June 28, 2025*

Holy Trinity Serbian Picnic Grounds

1420 Hamilton Road, Pittsburgh 15234

1:00 p.m. with opening ceremony 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20/person - \$5 for 8-17 yrs. old - under 8-free

Volunteers are needed to help with the picnic.

Donation of sweets is greatly appreciated.

Music from the era will be provided by our great DJ.

Billy Joel's  
song,  
"Goodnight  
Saigon"

"and we would  
all go down  
together"

"yes, we would  
all go down  
together"

Clem and Pat Blazewick, Ed Carlisle and Mary Ann Kappler are working on raffle and door prizes. If you are donating a door prize/basket, Clem needs it no later than the second week of June. Thank you in advance and thanks to those who donated in the past.

Renew acquaintances, make some new friends, enjoy the day. It won't be a picnic without you! See you there.

Also, it's a good day to renew your membership and be in good standing with VVI.



Thanks to those who have made donations toward this year's picnic.

May 7, 2025? If you answered at the 16th Annual Fish Rodeo sponsored by Vietnam Veterans Inc. and the Morningside VFW Post 3945, you would have had a great time. John is a member and that was evidenced by all in attendance. Putting together this event takes a least a year of planning and more.

held at the O'Hara Community Park in Fox Chapel. How lucky were we that the weather was perfect for all the rain and storms we've experienced. Slightly cool for the day. How blessed were we, and how warm to see all the veterans and their families. It was a great day and some of the best we've had in a long time.

Vietnam Veterans Inc Annual Picnic





***Thank you for your  
generous donation to help  
hospitalized Vets have  
a better day***

*Jon Santowall*

Morningside VFW  
Post 3945  
1820 Morningside Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

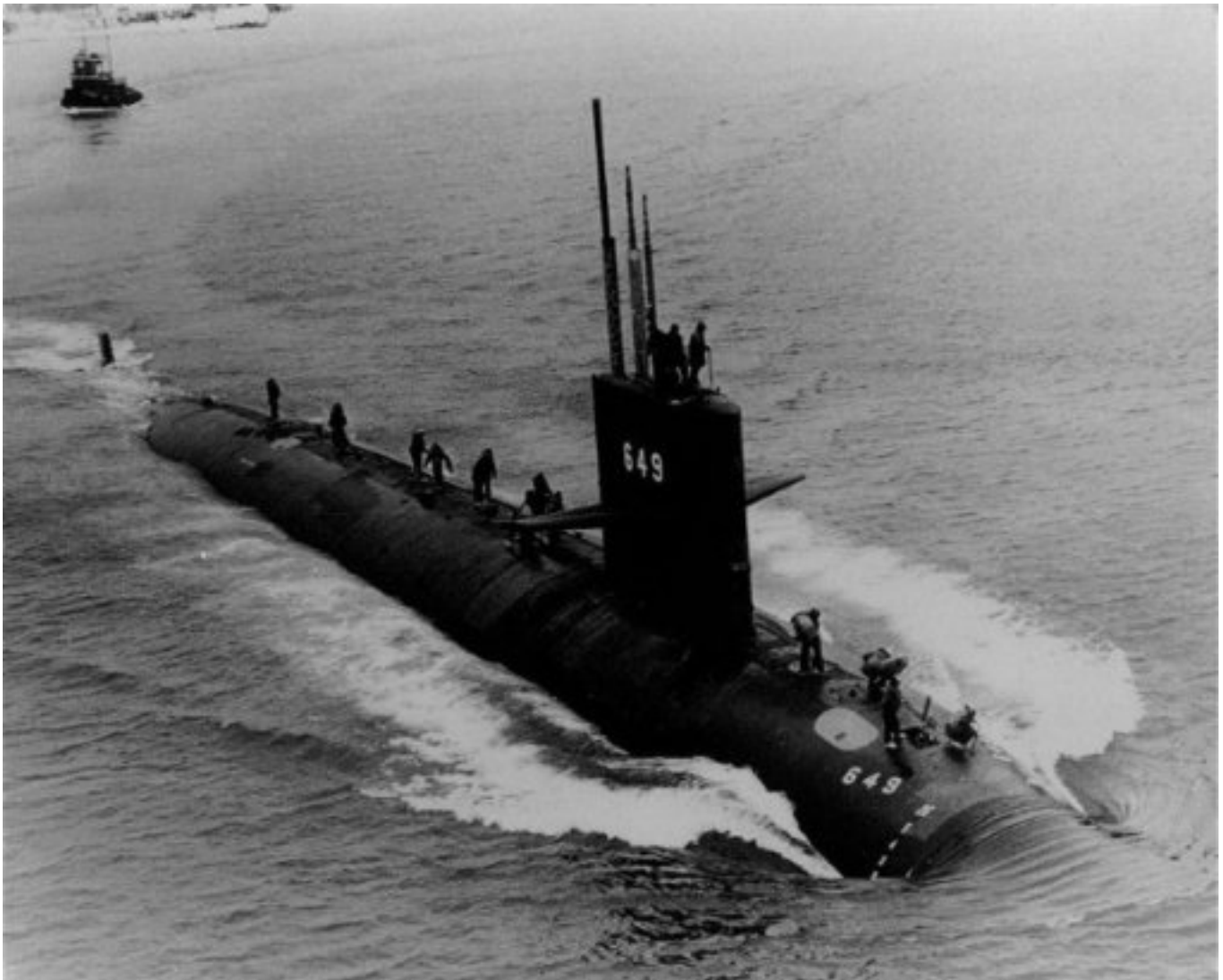
FISH RODEO THANK YOU NOTE



## MUSH MORTON AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS to LT Benjamin Lucente for receiving the June 2025 MUSH MORTON COMBAT AWARD

SOAC 25020



SUNFISH MAKING TURNS FOR OPEN WATER



## 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](mailto: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



## STOREKEEPER'S 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>

### TROOP 1042

Christian List  
Alex List

### TROOP 335

Richard Harless  
Dan Hilbert  
Glenn Weser



### TROOP 215

Zachary C. Kucharik  
Alexander J. Donihi  
Frederick Toshihiko Mach  
Jack William Harrie  
George J. Danchik





## SAY AGAIN?

**Bilge Diving:** The act of sliding or climbing down into the retched recesses beneath the deck-plates for the purpose of cleaning up ship, otherwise known as “Field Day.”

**After Watch Cleanup:** See Field Day, limited to ½ hour.

**Field Day:** After Watch Cleanup on steroids. Typically 3+ hours. “Reveille, reveille, up all bunks! All hands turn to, and clean up ship!”

**Foxtail:** A handheld brush used to sweep floors. This means you are on your hands and knees sweeping floors. The classic broom has yet to see the icy depths.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Base Meeting

American Legion Post 641  
271 State St.  
Baden, PA 15005

### Base Activities

July 4 – Canonsburg Parade. Muster at 0800 hours at VFW Post 191  
July 10 to 13 – Get together at PNSY with Jason Deichler.



## MEMBERSHIP

Primary Members	173	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	206			Joined This Year	4



### NEW MEMBERS:

**Ron Zahner** qualified on the Benjamin Franklin SSBN-640 as an MM2. Ron lives in Springdale, PA. Please e-mail Ron and welcome him aboard [raz\\_15144@yahoo.com](mailto:raz_15144@yahoo.com).

**Gerry Ondo** qualified on the Augusta SSN-710 as an ET3. Gerry lives in Pittsburgh. Please email Gerry and welcome him aboard [ondo631@gmail.com](mailto:ondo631@gmail.com).

# FEATURED BOAT: USS Sunfish (SSN-649)



## History

<b>Name</b>	USS <i>Sunfish</i> (SSN-649)
<b>Namesake</b>	The <u>ocean sunfish</u> ( <i>Mola mola</i> )
<b>Ordered</b>	26 March 1963
<b>Builder</b>	<u>General Dynamics Quincy Shipbuilding Division, Quincy, Massachusetts</u>
<b>Laid down</b>	15 January 1965
<b>Launched</b>	14 October 1966
<b>Sponsored by</b>	Mrs. <u>Robert C. Byrd</u>
<b>Commissioned</b>	15 March 1969
<b>Decommissioned</b>	31 March 1997
<b>Stricken</b>	31 March 1997
<b>Fate</b>	Scrapping via <u>Ship and Submarine Recycling Program</u> completed 31 October 1997

## General Characteristics

<b>Class &amp; type</b>	<u>Sturgeon-class attack submarine</u>
<b>Displacement</b>	4,035 long tons (4,100 t) light 4,326 long tons (4,395 t) full 291 long tons (296 t) dead
<b>Length</b>	289 ft (88 m)
<b>Beam</b>	32 ft (9.8 m)
<b>Draft</b>	29 ft (8.8 m)
<b>Installed power</b>	15,000 <u>shaft horsepower</u> (11.2 <u>megawatts</u> )
<b>Propulsion</b>	One <u>S5W nuclear reactor</u> , two <u>steam turbines</u> , one <u>screw</u>
<b>Speed</b>	Over 20 <u>knots</u> (37 km/h; 23 mph) submerged
<b>Test depth</b>	1,300 feet (400 meters)
<b>Complement</b>	109 (14 <u>officers</u> , 95 <u>enlisted men</u> )
<b>Armament</b>	4 × 21-inch (533 mm) <u>torpedo tubes</u> <u>UUM-44A SUBROC missiles</u> <u>UGM-84A/C Harpoon missiles</u>

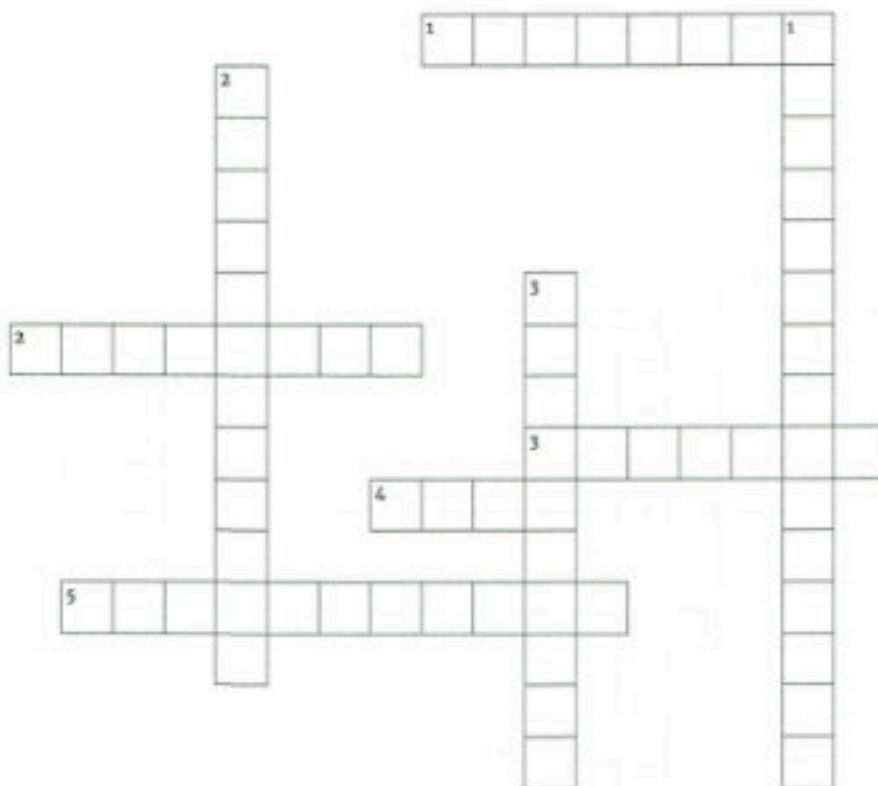
On 4 March 1996, the U.S. Navy's Chief of Naval Information released this story:

USS Sunfish (SSN-649) recently reached a milestone few other submarines can claim. It made its 1,000th dive. "Many subs don't make it this far and are decommissioned before their 1,000th dive," said Commanding Officer CDR [Commander] E. Jackson Roeske. "This dive is not only a unique event, it also demonstrates the tremendous longevity and outstanding engineering capabilities of our submarine force."



# PUZZLED?

## US Navy Crossword Puzzle 17



### ACROSS

1. Lines Erected Around The Weather decks Of A Ship To Prevent Personnel From Falling Or Being Washed Over The Side
2. Candy, Gum, Or Cafeteria
3. Hospital Or Medical Clinic
4. L (Phonetic Alphabet)
5. Compartment In Which Anchor Chain Is Stowed

### DOWN

1. Who Was The Youngest CPO Ever (Honorary)?
2. Birthplace Of The Navy
3. Hallway



Puzzle #17

## FLATTOPS

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

EPAULET  
HOMEPORTING  
MILIARY  
MINISUB

MULTIROLE  
RADM  
SCORPENE  
SEAPOWVER

SUBMARINER



## THIS MONTH IN US SUBMARINE HISTORY

06/01/1939

Capt. Hollis M. Cooley, director of the Naval Research Laboratory, proposes research in atomic energy for future use in nuclear powered submarine.

06/01/1943

USS Trigger (SS 237) sinks Japanese merchant collier Noborikawa Maru off Kominato, southern Honshu.

06/02/1943

USS Tambor (SS 198) sinks Japanese transport Eika Maru in the Tonkin Gulf off French Indochina.

06/02/2012

USS Mississippi (SSN 782) is commissioned in Pascagoula, Miss. The Virginia-class nuclear-powered fast attack submarine.

06/04/1944

USS Flier (SS 250) sinks Japanese troopship Hakusan Maru about 375 miles southwest of Chichi Jima, Bonin Islands. Also on this date USS Golet (SS 361) sinks Japanese guardboat No.10 Shinko Maru east of Japan.

06/05/1944

USS Puffer (SS 268) attacks a Japanese convoy in the Sulu Sea and sinks underway replenishment vessel Ashizuri and oiler Takasaki while also damaging tanker No.2 Hishi Maru, north-east of Borneo. Also on this date, USS Shark (SS 314) sinks Japanese transport Tamahime Maru and army transport Takaoka Maru west of the Mariana Islands.

06/07/1944

USS Mingo (SS 261) torpedoes and sinks Japanese destroyer Tamanami, 150 miles west-southwest of Manila while USS Skate (SS 305) attacks a Japanese convoy in the southern Sea of Okhotsk and sinks destroyer Usugumo, 160 miles north of Etorofu, Kuril Islands. Additionally, USS Sunfish (SS 281) attacks Japanese fishing boats en route from Matsuwa to Uruppu, Kuril Islands, shelling and sinking No.105 Hokuyo Maru, No.5 Kannon Maru, Ebisu Maru, and Kinei Maru while USS Flasher (SS 249) sinks Japanese transport No.2 Koto Maru off Cape Varella, French Indochina. Lastly, USS Bonefish (SS 223) shells and sinks Japanese guardboat Ryuei Maru at the mouth of Tarakan Harbor, Borneo.

06/08/1943

USS Finback (SS 230) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks auxiliary minelayer Kahoku Maru about 100 miles north of Palau.

06/08/1959

The Navy and the Post Office deliver the first official missile mail when USS Barbero (SS-317) fires a Regulus I missile with 3,000 letters 100 miles east of Jacksonville, Fla., to Mayport, Fla.

06/09/1944

During her Fifth War Patrol, USS Harder (SS 257) sinks Japanese destroyer Tanikaze in the Sibitu Passage, about 90 miles southwest of Basilan Island. On June 6, she sinks the Japanese destroyer Minazuki 120 miles east-northeast of Tarakan, Borneo. On June 7, Harder sinks the Japanese destroyer Hayanami south of the Japanese fleet anchorage at Tawi Tawi, southeast of the Sibitu Passage, Borneo. On the morning of Aug. 24, Harder is sunk in Dasol Bay, Philippines, by enemy depth charges on its Sixth War Patrol. There are no survivors and the crew is never recovered. For his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity " in sinking the Japanese destroyers during the Fifth War Patrol, Cmdr. Samuel D. Dealey, Harders CO, is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

06/09/1959

USS George Washington (SSBN 598), the first U.S. Navy nuclear-powered fleet ballistic missile submarine, is christened and launched at Groton, Conn. Her nuclear capability is removed in 1983, and she is classified as SSN 598 serving until 1985. USS George Washington is later processed in the nuclear recycling program at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in 1998.

06/10/1945

USS Skate (SS 305) sinks Japanese submarine (I 122) in the Sea of Japan.

06/12/1942

USS Swordfish (SS 193) sinks Japanese freighter Burma Maru northwest of Pulo Wai in the Gulf of Siam.

06/13/1992

USS Maryland (SSBN 738) is commissioned at New London, Conn. Two days later, the 13th out of 18 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines sails with her Gold Crew to her homeport at Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay, Ga.

06/18/1983

USS Florida (SSGN 728) is commissioned at Electric Boat Division, Groton, Conn. The Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine, is the first submarine to be named after the 27th state, but the sixth vessel in the Navy.

06/19/1943

USS Gunnel (SS 253) damages Japanese gunboat Hong Kong Maru (ex-Philippine Argus) and sinks freighter Tokiwa Maru off Shirase, Japan, and costal minesweeper Tsubame. Also on this date, USS Sculpin (SS 191) sinks Japanese guardboat No.1 Miyasho Maru and army cargo ship Sagami Maru off Inubo Saki, Japan.

06/20/1941

USS O-9 (SS 70) sinks off Portsmouth, N.H., during a test dive. Salvage ships located her in more than 400 feet of water, but she had suffered crushing damage from the water pressure at that depth and all 33 men on board had been killed.

06/20/1945

The coordinated submarine attack group, commanded by Cmdr. Earl T. Hydeman, continues operations against Japanese shipping in the Sea of Japan. USS Tinosa (SS 283) sinks army cargo ship Taito Maru and freighter Kaisei Maru. Also on this date, USS Kraken (SS 370) sinks Japanese auxiliary sailing vessel No.58 Tachibana Maru in Sunda Strait, off Merak.

06/21/1944

USS Bluefish (SS 222) sinks Japanese army cargo ship Kanan Maru off southern approaches to Makassar Strait while USS Narwhal (SS 167) sinks Japanese powered sailboat No.2 Shinshu Maru, 12 miles southwest of Culasi.

06/22/1963

The nuclear-powered submarines USS Tecumseh (SSBN 628), USS Daniel Boone (SSBN 629), USS Flasher (SSN 613), and USS John Calhoun (SSBN 630) are all launched in one day, emphasizing the Navys accelerated nuclear-submarine construction program.

06/24/1944

Navy submarines USS Grouper (SS 214), USS Redfin (SS 272) and USS Tang (SS 306) attack Japanese convoys off the coast of Japan, sinking seven enemy vessels.

06/25/1942

USS Nautilus (SS 168) sinks the Japanese destroyer, Yamakaze, southeast of Yokosuka, Japan.

06/26/1945

USS Parche (SS 384) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks gunboat Kamitsu Maru and freighter Eikan Maru seven miles of Todo Saki, southern Honshu.

06/27/1945

USS Blueback (SS 326) sinks Imperial Japanese Navy submarine chaser, (CH 2), north of Lombok, Java Sea.



06/28/1943

USS Peto (SS 265) and USS Tunny (SS 282) sink Japanese hydrographic-meteorological research ship Tenkai No.2 northeast of Mussau Island and a gunboat Shotoku Maru off the west coast of Rota, Mariana Islands.

06/30/1942

USS Plunger (SS 179) sinks Japanese freighter No.5 Unkai Maru off the China coast near Shanghai.

06/30/1945

USS Baya (SS 318) and USS Capitaine (SS 336) attack the Japanese Makassar to Surabaya convoy MASU 705 and engage escorting submarine (Ch 5) and later sink cargo vessel Bandai Maru.



[SUNFISH ON SINKE](#)





## ARTICLES OF INTEREST

### Pentagon to review US role in AUKUS submarine pact

The three-nation partnership aims to protect against China in the Pacific.

By Jack Detsch and Paul McLeary

Published 06/11/2025



The Navy's USS Minnesota, a Virginia-class fast-attack submarine, sails off the coast of Western Australia on March 16. | Colin Murty/AFP via Getty Images

The Pentagon is reviewing America's role in a historic, multibillion-dollar pact among Washington, the United Kingdom and Australia to ward off China's growing influence.

The widely supported deal calls on the three countries to jointly develop hypersonic weapons and nuclear-powered submarines, a unique security partnership that could strengthen seapower gaps in the Pacific and produce transformative new weapons.

Pentagon policy chief Elbridge Colby — who has expressed skepticism about the program's worth — is running the review, according to two defense officials, granted anonymity to discuss internal policy talks.

"This is an opportunity for the [Defense Department] to ensure the effort is in alignment with the Trump administration's priorities," one of the officials said.

The Biden administration inked the deal, known as AUKUS, four years ago. The people did not say how the Trump administration could tweak the massive package of cooperative efforts or when officials would make a decision. But the agreement appears to have the backing of numerous lawmakers and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who expressed support for it during his confirmation hearing.

The Defense Department did not respond to a request for comment. The Financial Times first reported the review.

Such assessments aren't entirely unusual. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer initiated a review of AUKUS after his election last year.

A U.K. government spokesperson, granted anonymity to discuss the situation, said the review was "understandable" and that London would continue to work closely with the U.S. and Australia on the deal.

But the development was met with frustration from congressional Democrats, especially on the Eastern Seaboard, which houses some of America's largest shipyards. Australia has committed to investing \$3 billion in modernizing U.S. shipyards that produce nuclear-powered submarines, a massive influx in cash that would benefit American industry and bulk up its ability to produce submarines.

New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said news of the review "will be met with cheers in Beijing."

She added that scrapping the partnership would "further tarnish America's reputation and raise more questions among our closest defense partners about our reliability."

Colby has challenged major parts of the AUKUS deal, including a plan for the U.S. to sell three Virginia-class submarines to Australia, citing the need for the U.S. to maintain a robust undersea presence in the Pacific. The Virginia sales would come in three-year intervals starting in 2032 and would replace the retiring Collins-class submarines in the Australian arsenal.

But Colby appeared more open to the project during his Senate confirmation hearing in March. "It should be the policy of the United States government to do everything we can to make this work," he said.

Colby did note he was concerned that selling submarines to Australia, or using U.S. shipyards to help build them, could put the U.S. Navy in "a weaker position" since they weren't going to American submarine development.

The agreement would also mean closer cooperation among the three nations in building quantum computers and hypersonic weapons. And it has largely moved forward without controversy. Australian Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles met with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth at the Pentagon in February and pledged the first \$500 million of a \$3 billion investment.

President Donald Trump "is very aware, supportive of AUKUS, recognizes the importance of the defense industrial base," Hegseth said at the meeting.

The three nations already have poured millions into training to operate nuclear-powered vessels. Australia has funneled even more into expanding its base in Perth on the country's western edge.

Connecticut Rep. Joe Courtney, the top Democrat on the House Armed Services seapower subcommittee, questioned why the administration would launch the review when so much is underway.

"To walk away from all the sunk costs invested by our two closest allies, Australia and the United Kingdom, will have far-reaching ramifications on our trustworthiness on the global stage," he said. "It is a direct contradiction to the administration's 'America first, but not alone' goal of countering aggression from China, Russia and other adversaries."

Joe Gould and Esther Webber contributed to this report.



## USS Iowa hosts traditional change of command ceremony at Groton naval base

USS Iowa hosts change of command ceremony at Naval Submarine Base

by Iowa's News Now Staff

Mon, June 9th 2025 at 10:51 PM

Updated Tue, June 10th 2025 at 8:22 AM



Capt. Jason Grizzle is presented with the Legion of Merit by Vice Adm. Robert Gaucher, commander of Naval Submarine Forces, during the Submarine Squadron (SUBRON) 4 change of command ceremony held Friday, June 6, on board the fast-attack submarine USS Iowa (SSN 797) pier side at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut. SUBRON 4's mission is to provide attack submarines that are ready, prepared, and committed to meet the unique challenges of undersea combat and deployed operations in unforgiving environments across the globe. (U.S. Navy Photo by John Narewski)

GROTON, Conn. — The USS Iowa (SSN 797), a fast-attack submarine, hosted a change of command ceremony on Friday, June 6, at the Naval Submarine Base New London.

Capt. Jason Grizzle, who took command in April 2023, handed over leadership of Submarine Squadron (SUBRON) 4 to Capt. Thomas Flaherty.

Capt. Flaherty, from Grand Island, New York and a 2000 graduate of the Naval Academy, takes over after serving as Division Chief, Deputy Director for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Operations, Joint Staff Directorate for Operations (J-3). His previous submarine tours include USS Louisiana, USS Boise, USS Olympia, and USS Minnesota.

Grizzle is a native of Chickasha, Oklahoma and a 1999 Auburn University graduate. During his command, he led 14 submarine captains and over 2,000 personnel through five deployments, 15 maintenance periods, and the delivery and commissioning of two warships from post-shakedown availabilities. He reflected on his tenure, saying it was "the most demanding yet rewarding experience of my career."

Fast-attack submarines like the USS Iowa are multi-mission platforms that support most of the Navy's maritime strategy core capabilities, including sea control, power projection, forward presence, maritime security, and deterrence. They are equipped for anti-submarine warfare, anti-ship warfare, strike warfare, special operations, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, irregular warfare, and mine warfare.

USS Iowa (SSN 797) is the first fast-attack submarine and third naval vessel named for the Hawkeye State. The most recent USS Iowa, the highly decorated WWII-era battleship BB 61 (1943-1990), saw action in World War II, the Korean War, and Gulf War. The first BB4 Iowa (1897-1919) saw action in the Spanish-American War and World War I.



## Deep sea expedition reveals detailed images of lost WWI-era submarine

By Mark “Crowley” Russell

Published 04 JUN 2025



Photogrammetric reconstruction of the submarine USS F-1 (Image: Zoe Daheron/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution)

A deep-sea training and engineering dive by a multi-disciplinary team of researchers has revealed the first pictures of the World War One-era US Navy submarine, the USS F-1, 108 years after she sank.

Built in 1911 and originally named Carp, F-1 was an F-class submarine commissioned by the US Navy in 1912. She was assigned to the First Submarine Group, Pacific Torpedo Flotilla and briefly held the world's deep-diving record at 86m (283ft).

On 17 December 1917, F-1 was participating in training exercises when she collided with her sister ship, the USS F-3. Her hull was torn open, and she took just 10 seconds to sink, with the loss of 19 lives.

Between 24 February and 4 March 2025, scientists from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution used the human-occupied deep-sea vehicle HOV Alvin, and autonomous underwater vehicle AUV Sentry, of the National Deep Submergence Facility (NDSF), to capture up-close images of the lost submarine.

Hole in the hull of USS F-1 caused by a collision with sister ship, USS F-3 (Image: Bruce Strickrott/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution)

The survey of F-1 was part of a testing expedition for Alvin and Sentry, conducted from the research vessel Atlantis and supported by the US National Science Foundation. Other partners supporting the expedition included the Office of Naval Research (ONR), the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS), and the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC).

The two submersibles undertook surveys using sonar systems on board Sentry and Atlantis and used Alvin's imaging technology to capture the pictures.





The detailed photogrammetric reconstruction of the USS F-1 showing the conning tower and collision damage that caused the sub to sink (Image: Zoe Daheron/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution)

‘Advanced ocean technology and simple teamwork played a big part in delivering these new images,’ said WHOI’s Bruce Strickrott, expedition co-leader and Alvin’s senior pilot.

‘Once we identified the wreck and determined it was safe to dive, we were able to capture never-before-seen perspectives of the sub.

As a US Navy veteran, it was a profound honour to visit the wreck of the F-1 with our ONR and NHHC colleagues aboard Alvin.’

The expedition was part of a planned training and engineering mission conducted by the Alvin Team to give pilots-in-training time to hone their skills, and to assist with the development of new deep-sea research technologies.

The team made seven dives in total, surveying both F-1 and a US Navy torpedo bomber training aircraft that crashed near the same location in 1950.

‘It was an incredibly exciting and humbling experience to visit these historically significant wrecks and to honour the sacrifice of these brave American Sailors,’ said NHHC Underwater Archaeologist Brad Krueger.

‘All of us at the NHHC are grateful for this collaboration, which also enabled us to document and assess the condition of the crafts.’

‘As a Navy veteran, making this dive – together with another Navy veteran and a Navy historian – was a solemn privilege, said ONR Program Officer Rob Sparrock, who was in the DSV Alvin as it surveyed and analysed the sub.



The wreckage of an Avenger torpedo bomber that crashed in 1950 was also explored (Photo: Anna Michel/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution)



Close-up of the USS F-1's propeller (Photo: Bruce Strickrott/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution)

Lasting nearly eight hours, there was time to contemplate the risks that all mariners, past and present, face.

‘It also reminded me of the importance of these training dives, which leverage the knowledge from past dives, lessons learned and sound engineering.’

A remembrance ceremony took place on board Atlantis above the location of the wreck after the dives. A bell rang out 19 times, one for each service member lost at sea.

‘History and archaeology are all about people and we felt it was important to read their names aloud,’ said Krueger. ‘The Navy has a solemn responsibility to ensure the legacies of its lost Sailors are remembered.’

The final images are comprised of data from multi-beam sonar systems and high-resolution imaging systems stitched together by WHOI imaging specialists to create precise and detailed 3D photogrammetric models of both the submarine and the marine life that has colonised her hull over the last century.

‘While these depths were well within the dive capability for Alvin and Sentry, they were technical dives requiring specialized expertise and equipment,’ said Anna Michel, NDSF chief scientist and co-lead of the expedition.

‘We were careful and methodical in surveying these historical sites so that we could share these stunning images, while also maintaining the reverence these sites deserve.’



Port Everglades May 23, 1994



# WAR PATROL!

**Editor's Note:** Introducing **War Patrol!** A new section to our Base monthly newsletter that should add some spice and perspective about what the fighting men of WW2 went through serving on board diesel submarines in war time. These choice excerpts are being pulled from actual scanned war reports submitted by the skipper of each submarine following each patrol. The entire library is available for free online at <https://maritime.org/doc/subreports.php>. Some boats have very limited data available while others have hundreds of pages detailing shootouts with Japanese vessels, casualties, sickness, broken machinery, etc. This first episode takes us out with the S-11 (SS-116) as she gets into a friendly fire incident while working near some US Navy patrol boats

I hope you enjoy **War Patrol!** and look forward to hearing feedback, both positive and critical. [fverebe2@gmail.com](mailto:fverebe2@gmail.com) or 412-328-3390. - FTV



History	
	United States
Name	USS S-11
Builder	Portsmouth Navy Yard
Laid down	2 December 1919
Launched	7 February 1921
Commissioned	11 January 1923
Decommissioned	30 September 1936
Recommissioned	6 September 1940
Decommissioned	2 May 1945
Fate	Sold for scrap 28 October 1945
General characteristics	
Class & type	S-class submarine
Displacement	876 long tons (890 t) surfaced 1,092 long tons (1,110 t) submerged
Length	231 ft (70 m)
Beam	21 ft 10 in (6.65 m)
Draft	13 ft 1 in (3.99 m)
Speed	15 knots (17 mph; 28 km/h) surfaced 11 knots (13 mph; 20 km/h) submerged
Complement	42 officers and men
Armament	1 × 4 in (100 mm)/50 deck gun 5 × 21 inch (533 mm) torpedo tubes

S-11	
(SS-116: dp. 876 (surf.), 1,092 (subm.); l. 231'; b. 21'10"; dr. 13'1"; s. 15 k. (surf.), 11 k. (subm.); cpl. 42; a. 5 21" tt., 1 4"; cl. S-3)	
S-11 (SS-116) was laid down on 2 December 1919 by the Portsmouth (N.H.) Navy Yard; launched on 7 February 1921; sponsored by Miss Anna Eleanor Roosevelt; and commissioned on 11 January 1923, LT. Wilder D. Baker in command.	
Supplementing duties along the northeast coast, S-11 visited Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 1923, and St. Thomas, Trinidad, and Coco Solo in 1924. Sailing from New London, Conn., on 29 September, via the Panama Canal and California, she visited Hawaii from 27 April to 25 May 1925, before returning to New London on 12 July. S-11 operated in the Panama Canal area from January through April 1926, visited Kingston, Jamaica, from 20 to 28 March 1927, and served again in the Panama Canal area from February into April 1928. From 1929 into 1936, S-11 operated almost exclusively in the Panama Canal area, but visited Washington, D.C., from 15 May to 5 June 1933. Departing Coco Solo on 13 June 1936, S-11 arrived at Philadelphia on the 22nd, and was decommissioned there on 30 September.	
S-11 was recommissioned on 6 September 1940 at Philadelphia. After voyages from New London to Philadelphia, Bermuda, and St. Thomas in 1941, S-11 arrived at the submarine base, Coco Solo, Panama Canal Zone, on 5 October that year. S-11 served in the Panama Canal area from then into June 1943, and next at Trinidad into February 1944. Following overhaul in the Panama Canal area, S-11 sailed in July via Aruba to Trinidad, where she operated into October. Arriving at Guantanamo Bay on the 26th of that month, she served there into January 1945. After a voyage to the Panama Canal area, she sailed from there on 8 February, arrived at New London on the 24th, and at Philadelphia on 28 March. S-11 was decommissioned, on 2 May of that year, at Philadelphia and was struck from the Navy list. She was sold on 28 October 1945 to Rosoff Bros., New York City. Resold to Northern Metals Co., Philadelphia, Pa., on an unspecified date, she was scrapped.	

SS116/A16

Serial (C-8)

U.S.S. S-11.

c/o Postmaster,  
New York City, N.Y.,  
August 27, 1942.

DECLASSIFIED

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L.

From: The Commanding Officer, U.S.S. S-11.  
To : The Commander Submarine Squadron THREE.  
Via : (1) The Commander Submarine Division THIRTY-TWO.

SUBJECT: Depth Charging of USS S-11 by United States  
Patrol Vessels.

Enclosure: ✓ (A) Sequence of Events Surrounding Subject  
Depth Charging.

1. Enclosure (A) is submitted herewith.

2. After consideration of the events set forth in  
Enclosure (A), the Commanding Officer desires to point out that the  
following casualties to materiel or personnel might easily have re-  
sulted:

(a) Torpedo attack by S-11 may have been completed  
against YP boat at 0515 on August 16.

(b) Properly placed depth charge by any of YP  
boats may have resulted in serious damage to or loss of S-11.

3. It is recommended for similar operations in the  
future that following necessary precaution be taken.

(a) Own submarines and surface patrol vessels  
not be employed in the same area, day or night.

W. B. PERKINS.

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.S. S-11.

Sequence of Events During Morning of August 16, 1942 Resulting in  
Depth Charging of U.S.S. S-11 by U.S. YP Boats.

1. During afternoon of August 15 the USS S-11 received following dispatch from ComSubRon. 3: "ENEMY SUBMARINE SUSPECTED OPERATING DURING DAYLIGHT VICINITY POINT TEN MILES ONE ZERO NINE TRUE FROM CAPE MALA X CONDUCT SEARCH COMMENCING SIXTEEN AUGUST SUBMERGE DURING DAY- LIGHT X ONE HOUR AFTER DAYLIGHT SEVENTEEN AUGUST PROCEED COCO SOLO X BOMBING RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED AREA THIRTY MILES RADIUS FROM MALA" At this time the USS S-11 was about 85 miles southwest of above point. Course and speed were adjusted to arrive in above position at 0130, August 16, passing southern limit of bombing restriction area at 2230 on August 16.
2. At 2130, August 15, received following message from ComSub- Ron. 3: "YORK PREP THREE ZERO SIX REPORTS AIR BUBBLES RISING FROM POSITION MY FIFTEEN TWENTY ZERO FIVE X THAT VESSEL AND YORK PREP TWO EIGHT THREE AND PREP CAST FOUR FIVE FOUR WILL PATROL AREA TONIGHT CLEAR- ING BY FOUR HOURS ROGER SIXTEENTH." The USS S-11 immediately reversed course and stood out of the area, subsequently changing course to arrive at the reported point at 0600, August 16. During same trans- mission received radio procedure signal from ComSubRon. 3. directing attention to Commander Pacific Sea Frontier message 160057 as follows: "AT ONCE PROCEED BEST SPEED TO TEN MILES BEARING ONE ZERO NINE FROM CAPE MALA X PRESENCE OF ENEMY SUBMARINE THERE INDICATED BY RELIABLY CONSIDERED REPORT XX THIS PARAPHRASE MY FIFTEEN TWENTYTHREE THIRTYFIVE ACTION ARLIS INFO YORK PREP TWO EIGHT THREE ALL YORK PREPS MALA CAST ITEM SAIL PREP PAC XX AT DAYLIGHT TOMORROW SAIL ELEVEN ARRIVES THAT AREA FOR SUBMERGED SEARCH X DESTROY ENEMY X YORK PREPS TWENTYEIGHT THREE AND THREE ZERO SIX NOW PATROLLING THERE."
3. At 0518, August 16, when about 5 miles bearing 200°(T) from designated point, sighted YP vessel on starboard bow, distant about 900 yards. The officer of the Deck of the S-11 had orders to attack with torpedoes any small ship sighted, and he was swinging to the firing course when the mast of the YP was made out. The Commanding Officer believed this to be a patrol boat standing out of the area, as his course indicat- ed. The USS S-11 was ready to dive when this ship was sighted but re- mained on surface until it was no longer visible. Recognition signals were exchanged. Had this YP been sighted on the port bow, where visi- bility was less, the S-11 would have completed her attack. The appear- ance of a YP boat at night, especially when sharp on the bow, resembles closely that of a submarine.
4. The S-11 dived at 0521. At 0540 propeller noises of three vessels were heard. The S-11 continued to run at 90 feet until 0618 (after sunrise). At this time, the S-11 was brought to periscop. depth to observe the source of propeller noises. Three patrol vessels were seen distant about 2,000 yards. While periscope observation was being made, the S-11 was noticed to be losing depth. The Commanding Officer suspected that he had been sighted. Periscope was housed, hard dive on planes and full speed on motors was ordered.

-1- ENCLOSURE "A".



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U.S.S. S-11

At 0624 the S-11 then having reached 80 feet, the shock of four depth charges were felt in fairly rapid succession. The S-11 then went to 135 feet and commenced firing red smokes from the signal gun. Five smokes were fired in a period of ten minutes. At 0627 and 0632 the shock of single depth charges were felt. The S-11 surfaced at 0641 (as soon as wide enough bearing could be found in which there was no surface ship) The submarine sustained no major damage from the depth charges. The locking device of the conning tower hatch was found to be fractured upon surfacing. Had the locking arm been broken at some other point, the hatch would have lifted and more serious damage may have resulted. This locking device and its attendant linkages are made of brass. A replacement steel device with added strength is in process of manufacture. There was also a slight leak around the gasket of the battery room hatch which did not become apparent until the submarine was almost on the surface. This leak was stopped by tightening the screw type securing device. No material derangement to this hatch can be found. Inspection upon return disclosed a slight rupture in a seam of one of the ship's fresh water tanks. This leak has been repaired by welding.

5. There were six or seven YP vessels in the immediate area upon surfacing. As well as could be seen their numbers were 291, 293, 296, 308, 313, 314. By Hail, no information could be obtained as to which was senior ship. The YP 293 reported that only one of the five smoke signals fired by S-11 functioned. At 0710, the S-11 sent following visual message to YP 308: "BT ARE YOUR PATROL BOATS GOING TO PATROL THIS AREA ALL DAY." The reply was: "BT OUR ORDERS ARE FOR PATROL SHIPS ONLY." The S-11 then stood clear of area, and reported existing conditions to ComSubRon. 3, information to Commander Pacific Sea Frontier. At 1130 orders were received to return to patrol area and standby to resume patrol when directed. At 1300 orders were received to proceed to Balboa, C.Z.

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## SUBMARINE DIVISION THIRTY-TWO

U. S. S. S-11, Flagship  
c/o Postmaster, New York, New York  
29 August 1942.

A16-3 (066)

1st Endorsement to  
S-11 ltr. A16 (C-8)  
of 8/27/42.

From: Commander Submarine Division Thirty-Two.  
To: Commander Submarine Squadron Three.

SUBJECT: Depth Charging of USS S-11 by U.S. Patrol Ships.

1. Forwarded.
2. The Division Commander concurs in the remarks contained in paragraph 2 of basic letter.
3. It is desired to point out that when using our own submarines against enemy submarines it would be to our own submarine's advantage to know that only enemy ships are present in the specified combat area, thus it will not be necessary to exchange recognition signals, thereby disclosing its own presence to the hitherto unsuspecting enemy. It is further desired to state that as soon as the S-11 was forced to the surface she was placed at a disadvantage with respect to the possible submerged enemy submarine.
4. The discrepancy as to time of clearing the area specified in the orders given to the surface craft and to order given to the submarine should be noted.
5. The change of material of the locking device of the conning tower hatch from brass to steel in order to increase strength as a temporary expedient is approved, but it is recommended that item B-4 of Submarines, Atlantic, Alteration and Improvement Program, dated 15 April 1942, which provides for the installation of a multiple dog hatch, be effected at the earliest possible moment.
6. In view of the leak around the battery room hatch as reported, it is believed that there is good likelihood that the gaskets of the battery room and engine room hatches may be forced out of their seats during a depth charge attack. If this should happen, the submarine would probably be lost. It is recommended that as a temporary expedient, two circular rings be welded around the gasket seat to keep the gasket in place and that four tie rods be added to the hatch with bars across the under side of the hatch skirt to assist in holding the hatch closed during depth charge attacks. Authority is requested to

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A16-3 (066)

SUBMARINE DIVISION THIRTY-TWO

U. S. S. S-11 Flagship  
c/o Postmaster, New York, New York  
29 August 1942.

SUBJECT: Depth Charging of USS S-11 by U.S. Patrol Ships.  
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make this temporary repair on all submarines of Division Thirty-Two. Information has been received from the Australian Area that one of the forty-type submarines experienced gasket trouble as described above and that also one of the large Japanese submarines that had been sunk out there had flooded the engine room because the hatch gasket had been blown loose. An alteration request is being submitted to install multiple dog hatches in place of all the present old type hatches on submarines of this division.

7. By copy of this endorsement the Commanding Officer, U.S.S. S-11, is directed to make a full report of the failure of the smoke bombs to the Bureau of Ordnance.

S. G. BARCHET.

Copy to:

S-11.



HEADQUARTERS  
COMMANDER PANAMA SEA FRONTIER  
BALBOA, CANAL ZONE

or

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September 10, 1942.

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to Comsubron 3 Conf. Ltr. Serial 0224 of 9/5/42.

From: Commander Panama Sea Frontier.  
To: Commander in Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet.  
Subject: Depth Charging of U.S.S. S-11 by U.S. Patrol Ships.

1. Forwarded.

2. At the time the Commander Panama Sea Frontier received the initial report from YP-306 indicating the possible presence of an enemy submarine off Cape Mala, S-11 was returning from a routine patrol in the Pacific. The YP's constituting the so-called Mala Line are not fitted with any type of sonic equipment, and there was no other vessel, except S-11, available for making an effective search for the possible enemy.

3. S-11 was directed to arrive at the scene of contact at 0600 the following morning and all YP's were directed to get clear of the entire area by 0400 and to acknowledge receipt of the order. The Mala Line is an element of the Interceptor Command (Army), which handles all communications with the vessels on the line. Every effort has been made, and is being made, to improve the unsatisfactory radio equipment and personnel of these vessels: communication failures still occur. The message referred to above did not reach the vessels concerned, and when S-11 arrived in the area at the time ordered, it was attacked by the YP's present. Of five smoke bombs fired by S-11, only one functioned. Damage sustained by S-11 was negligible.

  
C. E. VAN HOOK.



203  
16 AUG 42  
Original 8404-1-1  
REGISTER  
File No.

FF4-3/A16  
Serial 0224

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET  
SUBMARINES  
SUBMARINE SQUADRON THREE  
U. S. S. S-13 (Flagship)

% Postmaster, New York, N.Y.,  
September 5, 1942.

From: Commander Submarine Squadron Three.  
To : Commander Panama Sea Frontier.

SUBJECT: Depth Charging of U.S.S. S-11 by U.S. Patrol Ships.

Enclosure: (A) Copy of C.O. U.S.S. S-11 report of subject  
attack with endorsement by Commander Submarine  
Division Thirty-Two.

1. A copy of the Commanding Officer, U.S.S. S-11  
report of being depth charged by U.S. Patrol Ships on August  
16, 1942 is enclosed.

2. Except when a decoy is used, a submarine can not  
be employed on anti-submarine patrol in conjunction with other  
type craft without jeopardizing the chances of successful attack.  
At night there is the danger of friendly vessels firing upon  
each other or the possibility of fatal delay in attacking  
owing to the necessity of challenging. As an enemy submarine will  
not come to the surface during daylight when a surface patrol is  
present, our submarine will be deprived of the ideal situation,  
i.e. finding the enemy on the surface.

3. Recommendations made in the enclosure regarding  
material features of the submarine will be referred to Commander  
Submarines, Atlantic Fleet.

*T.J. Doyle*  
T.J. DOYLE

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



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