



PRIDE RUNS DEEP



"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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Editor's Corner

Hope you're enjoying your new slimmer *Periscope*. Also hope you'll join us for our next meeting at Glory Days Grill in Seal Beach; this will apparently be our new HQ until you're told otherwise by this publication or by Dave in an email.

Coming in Nov.: an exciting new Veterans' Day event to attend, put on by the Lion's Club. Teaser on page 13; more info. in our October issue.

As usual, I'll be in the Yeoman's Shack if anyone needs me. —Jeff

Columbia Class: Meet the Navy's Largest Submarine Ever (Loaded with Missiles)

(Reproduced from the 1945 website - published June 28, 2022.)

by Brent M. Eastwood



Ohio-class SSBN submarine—to be replaced by the incoming Columbia class. (Image Credit: Creative Commons—for illustrative purposes only.)

The USS *District of Columbia* (SSBN-826), the first of the *Columbia*-class ballistic missile submarines, reached an important milestone this month. The sub emerged from a keel-laying ceremony at Quonset Point, Rhode Island, earlier in June. (Keel-laying is a significant step for vessels in which the initials of the boat's sponsor are “welded onto a plate attached to the boat,” according to Navy public affairs.) Ballistic missile subs, or “boomers,” are the most survivable leg of the nuclear triad, and they command up to 70% of the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

A Top Naval Priority

The *District of Columbia* (previously known as the *Columbia*) is part of a twelve-vessel class that will eventually replace the fourteen *Ohio*-class boomers set to retire in 2027. Adm. Daryl Caudle, commander of the U.S. Fleet Forces Command, pointed to all the personnel involved in the manufacturing of the *District of Columbia* in a speech at the ceremony.

“Laying the keel of the future USS *District of Columbia* truly is a historic occasion—not only for the countless designers, welders, metal workers, electricians, and master craftsmen whose unmatched expertise, ingenuity, hard work, and dedication will bring this modern marvel to

(concluded on page 7)

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From the Wardroom...



Dave Vanderveen,
Base Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

I hope you are enjoying the “warmth” of summer. Holy Smokes, there’s a LOT of it and it won’t get cooler for a while, even though

Labor Day is upon us and is traditionally the last gasp of summer.

We held our monthly meeting for August at Glory Days Beachside Diner in Seal Beach, and it worked well. There was plenty of convenient parking, the restrooms were easy to get to, and the room was private, so we didn’t disturb other patrons. We have decided to hold our September AND October meetings there.

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, the slate of candidates for election to the base’s E-Board was announced as specified in our by-laws, and the ballots will be sent out soon after Labor Day. Each office only has one candidate declared, and you may “write in” another choice. Whomever you choose, please do vote. It provides good reinforcement for the shipmates who are offering their time in service to our Base. The installation of newly elected officers will occur at the October meeting, again at Glory Days Beachside Diner.

Each year at the September meeting, our Treasurer provides information about the base treasury and his financial work to the E-Board. That group is charged with review of our finances, which meets a requirement of National and Base By-Laws for an audit or formal oversight. Many years ago, L.A.-Pasadena encountered some money-related gremlins, and more recently a large base on the east coast had similar difficulty. The requirements in by-laws, and specific oversight of our finances prevent such difficulties occurring again. Although the review is conducted by the E-Board, the Treasurer’s monthly and annual reports are always available for review by our general membership as well.

Captain O’Hara, the new CO of NWSSB, has not yet set a date for me to meet to discuss our base’s continued relationship with the Weapons Station. During that conversation, we will learn about our short-term and our long-term arrangements for access to the Station and use of meeting facilities. What we learn will enable us to decide what to do with material we have in commercial storage, and how long that will continue. I have also included the topic of our several dozen “memorial bricks” in that conversation so we can obtain clearance to place the bricks already produced at the WWII Submarine Memorial – West.

As always, please continue to protect your health. COVID remains among us, and the news media is bleating about awful new diseases (there is an election coming!) springing up. It is worth remembering that we are an “at risk” demographic and should take appropriate health precautions.

Enjoy the last of summer!

Dave

Dave Vanderveen, Commander
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



Minutes of August 20, 2022 General Meeting

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at the Glory Days Restaurant in Seal Beach, CA at 1154 hours. Dave then led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a request for a moment of silence for our departed shipmates.

Treasurer's Report:

Mike Swanson presented the status of the chapter treasury as of August 19, 2022. Its specific breakdown appears in the E-Board Meeting Minutes as usual.

Memorial Report:

Dennis reported his attempt to grow grass in the area left from the removal of the Aleppo Pine was unsuccessful. Many suggestions were provided, so he'll try again. Also, the border hedge between the parking lot and the Memorial is turning brown. This is perhaps due to faulty watering or salt water incursion. Lastly, he mentioned damage to the trellis behind the yoke of the Memorial. A homeless person is likely responsible.

Dave indicated that the Seal Beach Lion's Club interest in the Memorial has raised some concern. He made it clear to them that the monies collected for restoration is merely for that and the memorial's continued upkeep. L.A.-Pasadena remains the custodian of the site.

Darin mentioned that he hopes to publish a feature story on the work done in the Lions' international magazine. He also mentioned having heard that a cell tower is to be constructed adjacent to the Memorial site.

Election Committee Report:

Joe Koch has completed the slate of officers for upcoming election. The only change taking place with our E-Board is Ed Barwick stepping down as Vice Commander—but Darin Detwiler has agreed to fill that spot. Dave mentioned our recent change from six directors down to three, with overlapping years. Sam Higa is terming out, as is Ken Dorn, but Ken has agreed to run again.

NWSSB Update:

There has been continued difficulty in getting all our members vetted for base entry. Dave believes the problem lies with base security. Background checks are still pending for some members—as long as four weeks behind schedule.

Dave will continue to work with the Navy and Commander O'Brien to explain and emphasize our involvement with the Memorial. Dave will provide a review of

(concluded on next page)



Aug. General Meeting Sailing List

Ramon Aguilar
Herb "Bo" Bolton
Dennis Bott
Darin Detwiler
Ken Dorn and guest...
 Paula Hastings
Bill Moak
Chuck Senior
Marilyn Senior
Mike Swanson
Ray Teare
Dave Vanderveen
Ron Wagner





**Ad Still Here by
Popular Demand!**



Just the Place for Killer MidRats!

Hey, know anyone on boats out of New London? Or, planning a visit to Groton yourself? Drop anchor at this local dive: **Wings'n'Pies** at 924 Route 12, just down the road from the Base's Main Gate. Your editor enjoys firsthand knowledge that the pizzas here are some of the tastiest and sloppiest around. Forget those extra napkins—just wipe your greasy fingers on your shirt and they'll think you've been hanging out with the A-Gang!



PRIDE RUNS DEEP



General Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

our base's history with the Memorial (including the former WWII subvet group's original commitment), as well as express hope for continued cooperation and commitment from NWSSB in assuring our long-term mutually beneficial relationship with them and the Memorial. There has been some concern that if the Navy should take control of the Memorial, proper attention might not be continued in the tradition expected by our group and the general public. Dave's discussion with the NWSSB will also include the disposition of our Memorial Bricks still being stored in Building 6; we of course would like to finally install those bricks on the Memorial site just as other USSVI bases have been authorized to lay bricks on government property at other Navy bases.

Lions Club Invitation to Veteran's Day Commemoration::

Our base has been invited to participate in the Lion's Club commemoration of Veterans' Day at the Seal Beach pier. (*See page 13—ed.*) Just what our participation will involve is unclear at this time—perhaps just to be in attendance.

Eternal Patrol Orders for Jimmy Gray:

Dave reported that Jimmy Gray had received his Eternal Patrol Orders, with services to be conducted on 9/26/2022 as a private ceremony. Jimmy was a Member at Large, yet his widow still asked what could be done in terms of military recognition. Dave encouraged our members to attend in support of Jimmy's family.

For the Good of the Order:

Darin mentioned locating some submarine paintings from the 1980s by Edmond Figos during a trip to the East Coast, and that we currently have some of his paintings in storage (formerly displayed in Building 6).

Chuck was asked for an update on Phil Jascoviak's condition; he indicated there had been no new information from Phil's family.

Darin shared that he had attended the anniversary celebration for the TV show *Emergency*, and remarked a great time had been had by all.

Ray recently visited Hawaii, and was escorted aboard *Bowfin* by our newest L.A.-Pasadena base member, Charles Hinman.

There being no further suggestions for Good of the Order, Mike Swanson moved to adjourn, Dennis Bott seconded, and it was passed by all present, ending the meeting at 1232 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Moak

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

Sept. Meeting at Glory Days Restaurant

Sept. Meeting

Date: Sept. 17, 2022

Glory Days Grill was a hit last month, so we'll be meeting there again this time—and from here on in until you hear otherwise. Board Mtg. begins at 10:00 a.m. and the General Mtg. at 11:00 a.m.

Glory Days Beachside Grill
620 Pacific Coast Hwy.
Seal Beach, CA 90740
562-594-3800



Sept. Birthdays

We hereby extend the happiest of wishes to all our L.A.-Pasadena Base birthday celebrants.

Gary Wheaton 9/5
Bill "Skippy" Dillon 9/6
Jim Rogers 9/11
Ron Jones 9/14
Jim Burnett 9/18
Royal Harrison 9/21
Phil Jaskoviak 9/21
Ernie McNeece 9/21
Vanessa Butler 9/22
Ron Thompson 9/23
Valerie Walrath 9/24
Dennis Yure 9/27

Hey
Kids!

Are You Tired of...

- Security Screenings? • Filling Out Forms?
- Picking up Day Passes? • Advance RSVPs?
- Long Walks to the Restroom?
- A Minefield of GOPHER HOLES?!

We Are
Too!

Put that NWSSB red tape and access trouble behind you and COME BACK to L.A.-Pasadena subvet meetings as they were meant to be! Yes, **FOOD, FUN** and **FELLOWSHIP** return to the menu as we again take over a room at the Glory Days Beachside Grill in Seal Beach for our Sept. soiré (details at left). For now it's our new HQ: once again your families can join you at our meetings—no questions asked—if they'll be seen with you, that is! Convenience is king once more, safety reigns supreme, and fun and sea stories rule our roost! Come back, won't you?

LOS ANGELES - PASADENA BASE

2022 FLOWER FUND and BOOSTER CLUB

A special thank you to the following folks whose generous contributions this year have helped make our Base activities and charitable functions possible:

Joe Dow • Ken Dorn • Harold Staggs
• Mike Varalyai (RIP)



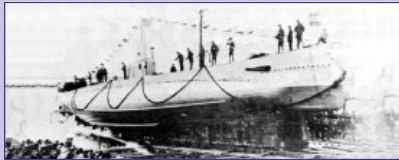
Booster Club and Flower Fund donations are welcome in any amount and are often also popular with 50/50 Drawing winners at our Base meetings. Contributions can be made in cash or by check payable to L.A.-Pasadena Base of USSVI. Checks may also be sent to Mike Swanson at 1149 W. Santa Cruz Street, San Pedro, CA 90731. To ensure proper credit, be sure to indicate Booster Club or Flower Fund on your check.

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE FORCE LOSSES ON ETERNAL PATROL

"I can assure you that they went down fighting and that their brothers who survived them took a grim toll of our savage enemy to avenge their deaths."

— Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, USN

SEPTEMBER TOLLING OF THE BOATS



USS S-5 (SS-110)



USS GRAYLING (SS-209)



USS POMPARO (SS-181)

USS S-5 (SS-110)

Lost on September 1, 1920 when a practice dive went very wrong; she sank at a steep down angle, her bow touching bottom and her stern eventually rising about seventeen feet out of the water. In a dramatic rescue, her exhausted crew all squirmed out of a small hole cut into the exposed hull two days later. Elaborate salvage attempts were ultimately unsuccessful, and S-5 settled to the bottom, abandoned. No deaths nor serious injuries had been suffered.

USS GRAYLING (SS-209)

Presumed lost on Sept. 9, 1943 of unconfirmed causes near the Tablas Strait during her eighth war patrol. Some evidence suggests she may have been rammed in shallow water west of Luzon, but she may also have gone down as a result of operational error or other factors. She had sunk two enemy ships before never being heard from again. Seventy-seven men were lost, including a U.S. Army Air Force passenger whose presence aboard was only recently discovered.

USS POMPARO (SS-181)

Pompano was lost at some point in September or early October 1943, while conducting her seventh war patrol. Before her loss, she had sent two cargo ships to the bottom. Japanese records indicate a submarine in *Pompano*'s patrol area off the Aomori Prefecture near Shiriya Zaki was destroyed on September 17 by an air and depth charge attack. But the exact cause of *Pompano*'s loss remains uncertain: if not sunk by this air/sea attack, then she likely fell victim to a mine sometime between September 9—when she radioed in a ship sinking—and October 5, when she was set to return to Midway. Her suspected final ship sinking, the *Taiko Maru*, actually took place on September 25, so it's more likely her loss to a mine is the correct theory. *Pompano* went down with seventy-seven men.

USS S-51 (SS-162)

Lost on September 25, 1925 when she sank in a collision with the SS *City of Rome*, a British ocean liner, off Block Island, Rhode Island. Thirty-three men perished in the accident.

USS CISCO (SS-290)

Lost on September 28, 1943, during her first war patrol in the Sulu Sea west of Mindanao. Seventy-six men were lost.



USS S-51 (SS-162)



USS CISCO (SS-290)



WE REMEMBER For those who gave their lives in defense of our country WE REMEMBER

Meet the New *Columbia*-Class Submarine

(concluded from page 1)

life—but for the future sailors who will prowling the deep inside her hull, protecting our nation, deterring strategic attacks, and ensuring our freedom and way of life for decades...” Caudle said.

The *Columbia* class is the U.S. Navy’s number one acquisition priority. The service branch hopes the *Columbia*-class boomers will make their first official patrol after sea trials in 2031.

The Heritage Foundation’s 2022 Index of Military Strength recommends the Navy have 82 submarines in action by 2035, up from the 68 deployed as of 2021. The production of *Columbia*-class submarines is a major part of this calculus. Heritage points out in its report that China and Russia are coming close to the United States in the number of submarines their fleets hold.

The *Columbia* class will be the biggest and most complex submarine the United States has ever built. The boats are planned to be 560 feet long, with a beam of 43 feet and 21,000 tons of displacement. The *Columbia* class will have sixteen ballistic missile tubes. These will be part of the Common Missile Compartment, a joint American-British project that will launch the Trident II D5 intercontinental ballistic missile. This three-stage solid-fueled ICBM has a maximum range of 7,400 miles.

Its nuclear reactor will last the life of the vessel—almost forty years of service—with a shorter mid-life maintenance period. But making sure the *District of Columbia* enters service on time

is vital to the program, since the *Ohio*-class boomers—namely the USS *Henry M. Jackson*—will start to retire in five years.

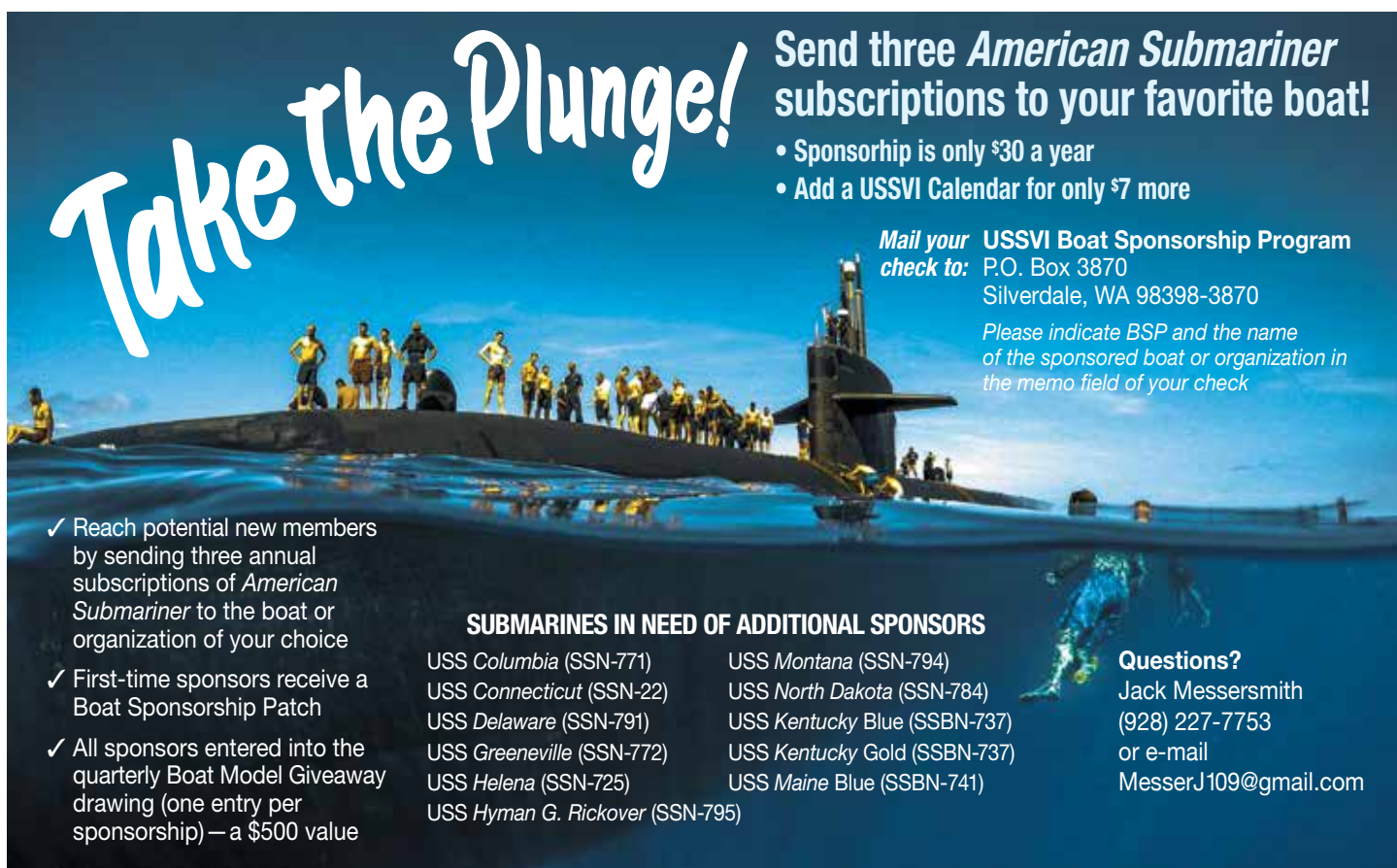
Columbia Class: The Importance of Being on Time

The Navy is making detailed construction plans for the *Columbia* class since there is so little room for schedule slips. This means the Pentagon and Congress will work together to make sure everything is on time and on budget. Work stoppages during the pandemic were a concern, but full production has resumed.

Keeping up with China’s navy has been a mantra for many policymakers. Beijing just launched its third aircraft carrier, and the country’s busy shipyards are pumping out other warships. As a result, the Senate Armed Services Committee decided to fully fund the *Columbia* class in the FY23 National Defense Authorization Act. That is a step in the right direction.

There are many years of development and testing ahead for the USS *District of Columbia*, and it will be a challenge for all involved in the acquisition program to put the ingenuity of America’s naval industrial base on full display.

Now serving as 1945’s Defense and National Security Editor, Brent M. Eastwood, PhD, is the author of *Humans, Machines, and Data: Future Trends in Warfare*. He is an *Emerging Threats* expert and former U.S. Army Infantry officer.



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- ✓ Reach potential new members by sending three annual subscriptions of *American Submariner* to the boat or organization of your choice
- ✓ First-time sponsors receive a Boat Sponsorship Patch
- ✓ All sponsors entered into the quarterly Boat Model Giveaway drawing (one entry per sponsorship) — a \$500 value

SUBMARINES IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

USS <i>Columbia</i> (SSN-771)	USS <i>Montana</i> (SSN-794)
USS <i>Connecticut</i> (SSN-22)	USS <i>North Dakota</i> (SSN-784)
USS <i>Delaware</i> (SSN-791)	USS <i>Kentucky Blue</i> (SSBN-737)
USS <i>Greeneville</i> (SSN-772)	USS <i>Kentucky Gold</i> (SSBN-737)
USS <i>Helena</i> (SSN-725)	USS <i>Maine Blue</i> (SSBN-741)
USS <i>Hyman G. Rickover</i> (SSN-795)	

Questions?

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Navy Commissions *Virginia*-Class Attack Submarine *USS Montana*

(Reproduced from the USNI News website - published June 27, 2022.)

by Heather Mongilio



Sailors attached to the *Virginia*-class fast attack submarine *USS Montana* (SSN-794) man the boat during her commissioning ceremony in Norfolk, VA, on June 25, 2022. (U.S. Navy photo.)

The Navy welcomed the 21st *Virginia*-class submarine into the fleet over the weekend, the service announced Monday.

USS Montana (SSN-794) is the third of the Block IV *Virginia*-class submarines to deliver to the Navy from Huntington Ingalls Industries' Newport News Shipbuilding. It is the second naval war vessel to bear the name of *Montana*, the other being the former *USS Montana* (ACR-13), which was decommissioned in 1921.

Cmdr. Jon Quimby will lead *Montana* as her commanding officer. The submarine is 377 feet long, with a 34-foot beam, according to a Department of Defense news release announcing the commissioning. *Montana* can dive to at least 800 feet. Her crew will be approximately 136.

The submarine will provide next generation stealth, surveillance and special warfare capabilities, Under Secretary of the Navy Erik Raven explained during the commissioning ceremony.

"She will strengthen our nation's ability to keep the peace or restore it through decisive action," Raven said. "This powerful boat and her crew will protect our sea lanes, strengthen our maritime dominance and deepen our relationships with our

allies and partners."

The submarine's namesake represents the state and its American Indian tribes, Raven said. The ship's sponsor is former Secretary of the Department of the Interior Sally Jewel and its maid of honor is Mariah Gladstone, a member of the Blackfeet nation.

"The *Montana* big sky spirit will carry our vigilantes of the deep through many challenges and missions ahead even when its crew cannot see the sky," Raven said.

The Block IV submarines are expected to make fifteen deployments while having three planned availabilities, according to a Navy news release on

the commissioning.

The fast attack submarines are core to the Navy's mission and *Montana*'s design will help the Navy compete with other powers, executive officer Lt. Cmdr. Chris Jessel said during the commissioning.

"*Montana*'s adaptability makes it highly responsive to the changing mission requirements and provides the nation with the capabilities required to be the decisive factor in in any conflict," Jessel said.

HII delivered *Montana* back in March, *USNI News* previously reported. The submarine is the 10th *Virginia*-class boat HII has delivered to the Navy.

Construction on *Montana* began in 2015 and took five years. She was christened in 2020. *Montana* completed sea trials in February and underwent final testing in March.

The submarine represents the best of American ability, said Jennifer Boykin, president of Newport News Shipbuilding.

It's "American manufacturing at its finest," Boykin said. "American ingenuity in all its splendor. And American protection like none other."

Australia to Pick Nuclear Submarine Design in Early 2023, Says Official

(Reproduced from the USNI News website - published July 14, 2022.)

by Heather Mongilio

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Australian government is set to announce the design for its first nuclear submarine in the first quarter of 2023, its deputy prime minister and defense minister said Thursday.

Canberra is also looking to see how it can speed up the process for getting the chosen submarine built and deployed, Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles said on Thursday.

“What I’ve sought is to really look at every way in which we can speed that delivery or the process of having our first nuclear submarine in the water,” Marles said. “And so it will not just be about announcing which submarine, we will be talking about when that submarine will be in the water.”

As part of the process to decide the submarine and timeline, the Australian government also will address the gap that will potentially emerge in getting the Royal Australian Navy’s capability from what it can do with their current *Collins*-class submarines to the chosen submarine, he said speaking during a Defense Writers Group roundtable

The bulk of the Australia-United Kingdom-United States partnership (AUKUS) focuses on Australia getting a nuclear-powered submarine, Marles said. However, it also allows for other collaboration on technology, like artificial intelligence.

“This is a really important issue for Australia,” Marles said. “It’s the most significant platform that we have, which builds our strategic space. And I mean that in terms of the whole, the strategic space in which we operate in the world diplomatically, in terms of trade, this is a fundamentally important national mission.”

Part of closing the gap will be sustaining the current line of *Collins*-class submarines the Australians currently use.

“There is already a commitment to extend the life of *Collins*,” Marles said. “That will be a really important part of the



Australian Navy Collins-class submarine HMAS Sheean (SSG-77) prepares to receive services and supplies from the submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS-39) on September 13, 2019. (U.S. Navy photo.)

program. But I don’t think that’s the totality of the answer. And there are a range of other options that we’re considering about how we can do this. But this is a really important piece of the puzzle.”

While the Australians figure out how to extend *Collins*’ lifespan, it also needs to address the human aspect, he said. The country needs to grow to have enough people to sustain its submarine program.

Another potential barrier to AUKUS is the export policies held by each country. In order for AUKUS to be successful, the three countries need to have a seamless industrial base, Marles said.

“And it would be fair to say that the achievements, the aspirations of AUKUS are going to be tied up significantly with our success or not in being able to break down those barriers,” he said. “And those barriers, yes, some of them exist in the United States system, but it’s not exclusive to the U.S., like we have [them] too and as does the UK.”

That is understood by the governments of both the United States and Australia, Marles said.

But that needs to make its way from the highest levels of gov-

(concluded on page 19)

Russia Allows India to Lease Nuclear Submarines. Here's Why...

(Reproduced from the 1945 website - published July 5, 2022.)

by Peter Suci

A prominent military expert explains why India is allowed to do the unthinkable: lease powerful nuclear submarines from Russia (and why they gain by doing so): Since achieving independence from the UK after the Second World War, India operated a number of “hand-me-down” warships, notably aircraft carriers. Those included former Royal Navy vessels, while the Indian Navy’s current flagship INS *Vikramaditya* is a former Soviet-era *Kiev*-class aircraft cruiser purchased from Russia in 2004.

Between 1988 and 1991, India actually leased its first ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) from the Soviet Union, and in 2019 New Delhi signed a \$3 billion contract for the lease of an *Akula* class nuclear-powered attack submarine (SSN) from Russia for a period of ten years. The agreement between India and Russia was signed following two years of negotiations on the price and various other aspects of the deal.

Under the agreement, Russia was to deliver the submarine, commissioned as the *Chakra III*, to the Indian Navy by 2025. Since inking that deal, New Delhi has sought to acquire a second SSN from Russia, as it would enable the Indian Navy to operate two independent carrier battle groups. India is now seeking to commission its first domestically-built carrier, INS *Vikrant*, later this year.

In addition to serving as part of a carrier strike force, the SSNs

could perform escort duties with India’s fleet of four *Arihant*-class SSBNs, all of which will reportedly enter service by the end of this decade. The Russian-made SSNs can stay and operate underwater almost indefinitely and their endurance is limited only by the food supplies for the crew.

They can be equipped with a range of tactical weapons, including torpedoes, anti-ship cruise missiles, and land-attack missiles, but would not be equipped with long-range nuclear missiles because of international treaties and also because such submarines aren’t employed in deterrence patrols.

It is unclear if Russia’s war in Ukraine will impact the timing of the delivery of the *Chakra III*, or if Moscow even has the capability of providing a second desired SSN.

Designed in the late 1970s and developed in the early 1980s, the *Akula* incorporates a double-hull system composed of an inner pressure hull and an outer “light” hull. This essentially allowed more freedom in the design of the exterior hull shape, which resulted in a submarine with more reserve buoyancy than western attack submarines of the era.

Fifteen of a planned twenty submarines were built and completed by the Amur Shipbuilding Plant Joint Stock Company at Komsomolsk-on-Amur and by Sevmash at the Severodvinsk shipbuilding yard. Five additional hulls were laid down, but some were canceled during construction and two of the hulls were used in the completion of the *Borei*-class nuclear-powered ballistic submarines *Yury Dolgoruky* and *Alexander Nevsky*.

Seven *Akula I* submarines were commissioned between 1986 and 1992 while three Improved *Akula* boats entered service between 1992 and 1995. Construction of the later boats was often suspended at times due to a lack of funds during Russia’s economic crisis.

Now a Senior Editor for 1945, Peter Suci is a Michigan-based writer who has contributed to more than four dozen magazines, newspapers, and websites. He regularly writes about military hardware and is also a Contributing Writer for Forbes.



Russian Yasen-class nuclear submarine. (Russian Navy photo.)

Jack in the Box

by Bob “Dex” Armstrong

Someone recently sent me a post: “Dex, when are you going to get around to sonarmen?”

Got me thinking about the guys with the magic ears.

We had Jack Schneider. Long, lanky cowboy from Arizona. Always wore cowboy boots. Hell, he wore the damn things for dress canvas inspections topside. I’ve seen those damn boots hanging out of his rack when he was asleep. I never saw him take a shower. He probably wore ‘em in there too. He could have had wooden toes for all we knew. Never saw the sonuvabitch out of those block heel boots.

Jack smoked roll-your-owns on purpose. He did it when the COB was still selling nickel a pack sea stores. He always had a string with a Bull Durham tag hanging out of his dungaree pocket. And a twisted tamale-looking butt hanging out of the side of his mouth. The things turned the tip of his mustache yellow.

Took him damn near forever to tell you something. Slowest talking man I ever knew. Would have taken him ten minutes to have told you an atomic bomb was falling on you. Jack never had a sense of urgency about anything—a man completely devoid of pressure. Life just took place without Jack’s help like it was supposed to. Jack just saddled the available horse and let it take him wherever it wanted to go. Didn’t seem to matter. Jack invented “laid back” and elevated it to a point one step below embalming. Should’ve trademarked it: he’d be rich.

God gave Jack one helluva set of ears though. He could be off Iceland and hear tick farts in Philadelphia. He knew what leprechauns sounded like when they were having sex and what angels sounded like when they scratched their tiny butts. Jack could hear sounds nobody else ever heard. He could give the Old Man screw counts on ships in some other ocean. He was amazing.

Whenever we were in some exercise where they were hunting us and the sonarman on duty was having problems identifying certain noise levels, the Old Man would send for Jack.

“Go rack out the ear wizard.”

Jack would come into the control room wiping sleep from his eyes.

“You call for me, sir?”

“Jack, crawl down in your hole and let me know what’s out there.”

“Aye, sir.”

Jack would lift the lid on his box and...

See, sonarmen had this clubhouse below the control room walking deck. You entered it through a hole with a hinged lid. The entrance hole was between the bow plane operating gear and the hydraulic manifold. The hole let the sonarmen drop down into what we called “the Box.” When you peered down there, it looked like someone had crammed Frankenstein’s lab into a freezer crate. All sorts of lights and dials and weird electronic monkey business linked with ten thousand miles of interconnecting cable. With just enough room for a sonarman if he didn’t have a fat wallet. They put dead guys in boxes bigger than sonar shacks, and dead guys smell a helluva lot better than diesel boat sailors. The bathrooms in recreational vehicles look like a Walmart to sonarmen.

Jack would crawl down in his magic box—hoping the methane effects of the evening meal’s lima beans wouldn’t kick in—and go to work. Then he’d pop up like a Jack in the Box and say, “Cap’n, ain’t Navy. Some whompin’ contraption out there crossin’ astern. Gotta be some tired-ass merchant. Screws all dinged to hell and she needs work on her strut bearings. Sounds like the dumptruck of the seas. Ain’t Navy, that’s fer damn sure. Least it ain’t *our* navy. How ‘bout a black ‘n’ bitter for a workin’ man?”

...and then the lid would close.

All boat sailors had something going. Jack’s onboard racket was hand-tooled leather. Made pocketbooks, wallets, pistol holsters, knife sheaths, and real neat belts. Listening to crap through a headset left your hands free. Jack made great hand-carved delicate designs in leather. Had all kinds of punches, carving knives, patterns, dyes, and pieces of leather. The sonar shack on *Requin* smelled like a shoe repair shop. Every officer’s wife got a hand-tooled purse and a nice belt. Most of the chief’s wives wound up with the same. Cigarette cases, checkbook covers—ol’ slow-talking magic ears made ‘em all. Every E-3 lad had an ID and liberty card holder with dolphins and laced edges. Very salty. Being salty took a lot of concentration when you were able to see boot camp not that far behind you and your white hats weren’t soft yet.

(concluded on page 19)

L.A.-Pasadena Members: Just learned of this—an evening of patriotic music in the park!—ed.

Ticket Information Here: <https://sealbeachsymphony.com/2022-patriots-in-the-park/>



Chad Berlinghieri
Artistic Director



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE TICKETS

www.SealBeachSymphony.com

SealBeachSymphony@gmail.com • (562) 509-8640

PATRIOTS IN THE PARK

AN EVENING OF CLASSICAL AMERICANA IN EISENHOWER PARK

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 17th, 2022 • 6PM

Tax Deductible Sponsorship Opportunities are Available



New Members

We proudly welcome aboard our newest base shipmates:

Charles R. Hinman

(Associate Member)

Wife: Keiko

2015 Lime Street, Apt. #904

Honolulu, Hawaii 96826-3930

cell: 808-561-2869

charles.hinman@gmail.com

Phone number at *Bowfin*

Museum: 808-423-1341

Dr. Darin Steven Detwiler

(E5-MM2SS; served 1986-1994)

Wife: Gennette Zimmer

205 7th Street

Seal Beach, CA 90740-6180

cell: 425-232-5743

ddetwiler680@gmail.com

Qualified in 1989 on the

USS *William H. Bates* (SSN-680)

Robert "Bob" John Frazier

EMC-SS E-7 CPO; served '78-'94)

4278 Hill Avenue

Fullerton, CA 92833-3430

cell: 714-931-8654

Uboatman@gmail.com

Qualified in 1981 on the

USS *Tautog* (SSN-639)—'80-'85

USS *Rich. B. Russell* (SSN-687) '89-'92

Robert "Mike" Cailor (returning)

(EM1-SS E6; served '64-'71)

Wife: Rebecca

2514 Elm St., Seffner, FL 33584-5812

cell: 813-585-7615

rmcgfish@gmail.com

Qualified in 1968 on the

USS *Guardfish* (SSN-612)

Edward "Ed" Elliot Kushins

(LT-03SS; served '68-'79)

Wife: Mary Hamilton

45 16th Street

Hermosa Beach, CA 90254-3402

phone: 310-345-3562

edkushins@gmail.com

Qualified on the USS *Flasher*

(SSN-613)—'69-'71, LTJG.

Ramon O. Aguilar (returning)

(E5-ET Radio Div.; 1996-2001)

22736 Jody Lane

Carson, CA 90745-3603

cell: 562-303-0866

octiviano89@gmail.com

Qualified in 1998 on the USS

City of Corpus Christi (SSN-705)



**"Get'cher Chapter News Here
— Read All About It!" —**

When News Breaks, We Pick Up the Pieces...



**Coming on Friday, November 11th
at 11:00 a.m. at
Eisenhower Park Pier in Seal Beach**

A Veterans' Day Celebration

Planned features...

- Patriotic military displays
- Live patriotic music
- Military guest speakers
- Veteran participation
- SubVet Memorial review
- More to be announced

**This event is just starting to be put together; watch for
more information in next month's *Periscope*!**



John P. Holland

L.A.-Pasadena Base 50-Year Holland Club

(75-year members noted with *)

Gerard A. Krudwig	2022
Gregory M. Paulson	2022
Michael J. Swanson	2022
Ralph J. Hansen	2021
Robert F. Schive, Sr.	2021
Larry D. Long	2021
G. Judson "Jud" Scott, Jr....	2021
Edward E. Kushins	2020
Bruce Evan Neighbors	2020
David H. Vanderveen	2019
Philip J. Jaskoviak	2019
Dennis Bott	2018
Robert "Mike" Cailor	2018
Robert Miller	2018
John A. Anderson	2017
Roger C. Dunham, MD....	2017
Richard McPherson	2017
Harry "Bill" Moak	2017
Louis A. Myerson	2017
Elliot Rada	2017
Ronald G. Wagner	2017
Dennis J. Walsh	2017
Michael Kish	2016
Gary Wheaton	2016
Lawrence R. Butler	2015
Samuel T. Higa	2015
Harry P. Ross	2015
Stephen C. Rowe	2015
Charles H. Senior	2015
Larry E. Smith	2015
Sam Aboulafia	2014

(concluded next page)



Los Angeles-Pasadena Base 2022 Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 15:	Monthly Meeting via Zoom Conference
February 19:	Monthly Meeting at Taco Surf Restaurant
March 19	Monthly Meeting at Taco Surf Restaurant
April 16	Monthly Meeting Cancelled
May 7	Lion's Club Memorial Plaque Refit Reception at the Submarine Memorial, West - 1600-1700
May 14	Field Day/Prep at the Memorial Site - 0900
May 21	Hang Up the Tarp at Memorial Site - 0900 Monthly Meeting at the Memorial site Call for participants in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
May 30	Memorial Day Service - 1100 Submarine Memorial, West
May 28	More Tarp Prep at the Memorial Site
June 18	STEAK FEST at Monthly Meeting at Bunker 33 Picnic Area; Nominations for 2023 Base Officers
July 4	115th Annual... Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
July 16	LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic Bunker 33, Seal Beach Weapons Station
August 20	Monthly Mtg. - Glory Days Grill - Hawaii Theme 2023 Base Officer Candidates Announced
September 17	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Election of Officers
October 15	Monthly Meeting Annual Officer Installation Luncheon
November 19	Monthly Meeting - Thanksgiving Theme
December 10	Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Los Alamitos Golf Course

David Palagy.....	2014
Earl Thomas Peratt, Jr.....	2014
David D. Semrau, DDS	2014
Ray Tracy Teare.....	2014
Milton Harry Boudov	2013
Kenneth Jon Dorn.....	2013
M. Mark Hoffer	2013
Michael P. Klein.....	2013
Ronald L. Levenson.....	2013
Edward L. Arnold.....	2012
T. Michael Bircumshaw....	2012
Raymond Cheesebrough .	2012
Bobby O. Mahaffey.....	2012
John V. Mahan.....	2012
Lee Melody	2012
Clyde Matthew Turner.....	2012
George R. Walrath.....	2012
John L. Weisenberger	2012
Edward A. Barwick.....	2011
Joseph W. Koch, Jr.	2011
Stephen D. Diumenti	2009
David Whittlesey	2009
Dennis A. Yure.....	2009
Armen Bagdasarian.....	2008
Paul A. Riggs.....	2008
Rex L. Shields.....	2008
John L. Von Ulmen	2008
Francis R. Traser.....	2006
Ronald K. Thompson.....	2004
Robert L. Conboy.....	2003
James Rogers	2003
John E. Savela, Jr.....	2003
Ben Van Devender.....	2002
Berry S. Yolken	2002
James E. Carter	1999
William F. Long	1999
Herbert J. "Bo" Bolton	1998
Kenneth E. Chunn.....	1998
*Royal Harrison, Jr.....	1995
*Sterling F. Higgins	1995
*Robert Clair Koplin.....	1995
*William J. Dillon.....	1993
*Harold Staggs.....	1992



E-Board Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2022

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted on the morning of Saturday, August 20, 2022.

In attendance:

- Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander
- Ed Barwick, Base Vice Commander
- Bill Moak, Secretary
- Mike Swanson, Treasurer
- Ray Teare, Base COB
- Chuck Senior, Director
- Ken Dorn, Director
- Dennis Bott, Memorial Director
- Marilyn Senior, Membership Chairwoman
- Bonnie Barwick
- Paula Jennings

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the meeting at Glory Days Beachside Grill in Seal Beach to order at 1005 hours with a quorum present. Minutes of the July meeting were reviewed with no revisions requested. Mike Swanson moved to accept the Minutes; this was seconded by Dennis Bott and approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Financial Report: Mike Swanson

The Treasurer's Report as of August 19, 2022 was read into the Minutes by Base Treasurer Mike Swanson:

Checking	\$21,225.23
Savings	\$0.00
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$118.39
Total	\$21,156.84

All vendors have been paid up-to-date.

Income:	\$150.00
Expenses:	\$297.00

Flower/Booster Club Additions:

Ken Dorn	\$100.00
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Inkind Donations:

\$00.00

Again, there were no questions or corrections. Ray Teare moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; it was seconded by Bill Moak and approved by voice vote. It was noted that our base currently has no savings account; all funds reside in checking.

Memorial Report:

Dennis Bott reported he had attempted to seed grass in the area of the removed Aleppo Pine, but the seed did not take. He will attempt to seed it again. He also mentioned the trellis behind the yoke of the Memorial had been broken by what appeared to be a homeless individual. He also noted the browning of the hedge facing the parking area; maybe due to salt water extrusion. He will investigate further.

(concluded on next page)

Sub Skipper Fired After 8 Months

USS Scranton's now ex-CO joins more than half a dozen other officers relieved of command.

(Reproduced from the Task & Purpose website; published 7/9/22.)

by Nicholas Slayton



The USS Scranton returning to port. (Photo by Chief Petty Officer Marlowe Dix/U.S. Navy).

What is the half life for a naval commander? If anyone knows, please tell the Navy, since it keeps removing them from command. The latest was the captain of the nuclear submarine USS *Scranton*.

On Friday, July 8, the Navy announced that it had relieved Cmdr. Seth Rumler “due to loss of confidence in his ability to command.” He had only been on the job for eight months. He took over for Cmdr. Dave Latta in November 2021. The USS *Scranton* is a *Los Angeles*-class sub assigned to the U.S. Pacific Fleet’s sub force. Currently the *Scranton*’s own website with the fleet has no skipper listed.

“Navy commanding officers are held to high standards of personal and professional conduct. They are expected to uphold the highest standards of responsibility, reliability and leadership, and the Navy holds them accountable when they fall short of those standards,” the Navy said in its statement on Rumler’s removal.

If that reason for his firing sounds familiar, it’s because

(concluded on next page)

E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

Election Committee Report and Announcement of Slate for Base Offices:

Joe Koch has completed the election slate: Ed Barwick is stepping down as Vice Commander, and Darin Detwiler has accepted nomination for this slot. Otherwise, all other officers will remain as candidates for their current positions. The only change will be the terming out of Sam Higa as a Director. Ken Dorn will run again as Director.

Dave went on to explain how our by-laws were amended to extend terms from a maximum of four years to six years in order to continue a more professional relationship between L.A.-Pasadena Base and NWSSB.

Joe will present this election slate at the General Meeting. In regard to an Installation Luncheon generally held and catered at the October meeting, the board felt meeting as we did today would suffice, with each attendee responsible for their own meals and/or drinks.

NWSSB Access:

Dave has created an agenda of items our base would require to be presented to Weapons Station Commander Jessica O’Brien, and also items to discuss regarding the Memorial, emphasizing what it means to our members and to those who’ve departed. Dave hopes to make her aware of our base’s position regarding issues affected by the Inspector General. One of those is the bricks still to be installed at the Memorial site, and how San Diego and Bremerton Bases have completed similar brick-laying programs without interference from their JAG offices.

Lion’s Club Invitation to Veterans’ Day Commemoration:

Our base has been invited to attend a Veterans’ Day event at the Seal Beach pier. Unknown at this time is just what that involvement would entail, if anything, beyond simple attendance. More to come on this subject.

Eternal Patrol Orders for Jimmy Gray:

Dave reported that Jimmy Gray had received his Eternal Patrol Orders, with services to be conducted on 9/26/2022. Dave had received a query from Jimmy’s spouse as to what ceremony we would perform for Jimmy’s service. He referred her to *Bonefish* Base, yet no response has yet been received. Jimmy was a Member at Large, choosing not to participate in base activities.

Good of the Order:

Chuck Senior inquired as to the status of the plaques to be placed on the back of the Memorial sign facing Seal Beach Boulevard. Dennis explained he had no knowledge of the plaques. Dave indicated that the last he’d heard from Paul Riggs, Paul was still working with the contractor on the project.

Mike asked if anyone had knowledge of any lease we had on the Memorial property. Dave indicated that while the WWII group may have had such a lease, when they disbanded the property formally returned to the Navy. In Dave’s discussion with the NWSSB and the Inspector General, “We are merely visitors.” There was a discussion of a lease for Building 6, but no payment had been made on it in over three years.

There was some concern voiced that the Lion’s Club would become custodians of the Memorial, likely based on the extensive cleanup duties they’d performed there earlier this year. Dave said he had made it clear that what they’d done was a project, and nothing more.

There being no further business, Bill Moak motioned the meeting be adjourned; Ed Barwick seconded and it was passed by all present, ending the meeting at 1052 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Moak

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

Scranton Skipper Sacked

(concluded from previous page)

it has become a catchphrase of the Navy these last two months. The Navy did not go into specific reasons why it lost confidence with Rumler, which is what it has also said for almost all of the seven naval officers and a command master chief who have been relieved of command since May 31 (one was fired after being arrested on suspicion of drunk driving). More than a dozen have been fired since the start of the year.

The term itself is a vague catch-all the military likes to use for a slew of issues, and a Navy spokeswoman told *Task & Purpose* the service relieves on average seventeen commanding officers per year. However, the Navy has not explained what's behind the spate of summertime firings or given specifics on what resulted in the loss of confidence in each case.

The firings are part of a wider command and morale problem plaguing the Navy. There have been a string of deaths on the USS *George Washington*, with at least one confirmed as a suicide, while desertions in the Navy are up. Alongside the string of commanders being fired, it recently emerged that when the USS *Bonhomme Richard* burned in 2020, officers were slow to respond due to disputes over who actually had operational command over it at the time. The Navy chose to scrap the ship due to the extent of the damage.

As for now, Commander Michael McGuire, the current deputy commodore of SubRon 15, is serving as interim leader of the USS *Scranton*.



The U.S. Navy May Keep Its Older Nuclear Missile Subs in the Water for Longer as the Cost of Its New Missile Sub Balloons

(Reproduced from the Business Insider website - published July 17, 2022.)

by Benjamin Brimelow



U.S. Navy ballistic-missile sub *Ohio* with her missile hatches open, Feb. 6, 2001. (U.S. Navy photo.)

On June 4, the U.S. Navy laid the keel for USS *District of Columbia*, the first of its new *Columbia*-class nuclear-powered ballistic-missile submarines, at an Electric Boat facility in Quonset Point, Rhode Island.

The high-profile event was attended by both Adm. Daryl Caudle, commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command, and Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro, who said the *Columbia* class “will be the cornerstone of our strategic deterrence” and “the ultimate guarantor of our national security.”

Lingering over this major milestone, however, are longstanding problems for the *Columbia* program—unexpected delays and technical difficulties that may limit the Navy’s ability to deliver nuclear and conventional missiles.

Compounding these problems is a recent report from the Government Accountability Office that, in addition to cataloging difficulties in the *Columbia* program, noted that the program’s overall cost has increased by another \$3.4 billion to a projected \$112 billion.

With nuclear-powered ballistic-missile submarines (classified as SSBNs) carrying 70% of America’s deployed nuclear arsenal, the prospect of delays has led the Navy to consider extending the life of some of its older SSBNs, even though some are close to the end of their own service lives.

The *Columbia* class

At 560 feet long, 43 feet wide, and displacing 20,810 tons, the *Columbia* class will be the largest submarines ever built by the U.S.

In addition to Mk. 48 Advanced Capability torpedoes, the subs will carry sixteen Trident II D5 submarine-launched ballistic missiles, each of which has a range of over 7,500 miles and can carry up to eight multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles.

The boats will have a service life of forty-two years and have a number of upgrades and improvements over their *Ohio*-class predecessors, including “superior acoustic performance and

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Keeping Old Boomers Around for Awhile

(concluded from page 17)

state-of-the-art sensors to make it the most capable and quiet submarine ever built,” according to the Navy.

One significant improvement is that each *Columbia*-class boat’s reactor will not ever need to refuel during the planned service life, making the reactors more cost-efficient and allowing the subs to be operational for longer periods.

The *Columbia*-class is also being developed jointly with the British Royal Navy’s *Dreadnaught*-class SSBN. Both classes will have the Common Missile Compartment, a section of the submarines jointly developed by U.S.-based Electric Boat and UK-based BAE Systems that will house the SLBMs. Both boats will also be armed with the Trident II D5s.

The Navy plans to build a total of twelve *Columbia*-class submarines. Construction of USS *District of Columbia* is now underway and construction of the second, USS *Wisconsin*, will start in March of 2024.

The Ohio class

The U.S. Navy’s *Ohio*-class subs are currently the largest American submarines. They are slightly smaller than the *Columbia* class will be, measuring 560 feet long, 42 feet wide and displacing 18,750 tons. But *Ohio*-class subs are more heavily armed than the *Columbias*, with four torpedo tubes and 24 Trident II D-5 SLBMs.

Eighteen *Ohio*-class SSBNs were built between 1976 and 1997. In 2002, the Navy determined that it could meet U.S. strategic nuclear needs with fourteen *Ohios* and decided to convert the four oldest boats—USS *Ohio*, USS *Michigan*, USS *Florida*, and USS *Georgia*—into cruise-missile submarines.

Reclassified as SSGNs, these boats traded their torpedoes and ballistic missiles for up to 154 Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles, which are launched from the subs’ refitted missile tubes.

Two of the tubes were converted into swimmer lockout chambers, which, along with the ability to mount a dry-deck shelter holding a SEAL Delivery Vehicle or inflatable boats, allows the SSGNs to carry and deploy 66 special-operations troops for covert missions.

The *Ohios* originally had planned service lives of just thirty years, but because they perform such a vital mission, the Navy increased that to forty-two years.

Possible extension

USS *District of Columbia* is planned to be delivered in 2027, with initial operating capability expected in June 2030 and its first patrol in 2031. The *Ohios*, all but five of which have been in service thirty years or longer, are expected to be decommissioned

between 2027 and 2040.

That is a tight timeframe, especially considering the importance of SSBNs in the U.S.’s nuclear posture. Cost overruns and delays in major Navy acquisition programs are not uncommon, and the Navy is now thinking about extending the lives of up to five *Ohio* SSBNs in case its new subs run into trouble.

“We’re doing evaluations right now on what it would take to do a short repair availability—short-ish repair availability—to extend those ships for a couple of years as a risk mitigator, if need be,” Rear Adm. Scott Pappano, program executive officer for strategic submarines, said at an event hosted by the Advanced Nuclear Weapons Alliance Deterrence Center in May.

The four *Ohio*-class SSGNs, the youngest of which is thirty-eight years old, are to be replaced by the *Virginia*-class Block V nuclear-powered attack subs.

The Block V *Virginias* are designed with an 84-foot extension known as the *Virginia* Payload Module, which adds four tubes capable of firing seven missiles each, allowing the new subs to launch 65 torpedo-size weapons.

Ohio-class SSGNs also have an important role in the U.S. arsenal, and Pappano said the Navy is considering extending their service lives as well.

“Until that [Block V *Virginia*] comes online, we want to make sure we have the missile-shooter capability in the SSGNs for as long as we can, but it’s going to be a delicate balancing act of maintaining the current SSBN fleet vs. extending the SSGN fleet,” Pappano said in May.

The Government Accountability Office report complicates things. In addition to a ballooning price, the report said the Navy has assessed that there is “medium risk” to the *Columbia* program’s ability to meet its accelerated building schedule.

The report identified construction issues and disruptions caused by COVID-19 as reasons for potential delays on the *Columbias*. Shipbuilders have also pulled workers from the *Virginia*-class program to work on the *Columbia* class, contributing to delays on the newest *Virginias*. These factors increase the likelihood that *Ohio*-class SSGNs will need to remain in service.

For now, the *Ohio*-class life-extension plan is only in the evaluation stage. Construction continues on the *Columbia*-class, which the Navy has said is its top priority.

“The venerable *Ohio* class that has guarded us for decades is nearing the end of its service life,” Del Toro said at the keel-laying ceremony in June. “For the safety of our sailors, and the security of our world, we must modernize our fleet.”

Jack in the Box ... by Dex Armstrong

(concluded from page 11)

Note: For sailors who may be reading this idiotic nonsense and are in their first enlistment, you are not Navy until (A) Your white hats get soft; you put wings in them by folding down the sides and you wear them cocked down over one eye or on the back of your head. (B) You toss out your boot camp issue official genuine bonafide Navy neckerchief—that thing you stuck a dime in and rolled up like three feet of garden hose—and go out and buy a flat pressed “greasy snake” and wear it with a knot an inch above the “V” in your jumper. (C) You come to realize that chief petty officers are not God’s direct representatives on earth. (This will dawn on you the first time you find one face down drunk and you have to get him in a cab and back to the boat.) And finally, (D) you know what it feels like to be three sheets to the wind, standing on a pier in a place you’ve never been before and will never be again, wondering what the hell you did with your raghat, drinking stuff out of passed-around bottles, and singing songs that would make your mom shoot you. The stuff in the bottles could be fermented pig-my piss for all you care. And the launch lays to alongside, and the cox’n yells, “Okay girls, it’s late and I don’t intend to put up with any shit from you f*cking idiots!”

And these men with whom your heart will be forever linked, you help them into the boat to head on “home.”

That’s when you’re Navy.

Where was I? You get older and your mind wanders, y’know. Oh yeah, sonarmen.

They tell me sound carries better in water than air. I’ve

always taken their word on that. Being an E-3, you took a lot of people’s word on stuff.

Once, Jack patched underwater sound into the conn when I had the helm. There was the damndest racket going on somewhere out there in the ocean.

“What the hell’s that, Jack?”

“Carpenter fish.”

“What in the hell is a carpenter fish?”

“Nobody knows... Never figured it out. Sounds like the bastards are building a house.”

“That’s why they call ’em carpenter fish?”

“Dex, you’re a gahdam genius.”

I’ll bet the nukes figured ’em out. They’ve got stuff nowa-days on those whomping big iron rascals that can give you the nipple size on a mermaid tit.

All sonarmen—real, honest-to-God sonarmen—have magic ears. That’s why cockroaches on smokeboats passed notes instead of whispering important shit to each other.

Keep a zero bubble . . . Dex.



Aussies Pick Nuke Boat

(concluded from page 9)

ernment downward, he said.

Marles’ visit to the United States was also part of several meetings he had with countries that are part of the Quad, a loose partnership of like-minded countries that support the rules-based order in place since World War II in the Indo-Pacific region, Marles said.

Japan and India are the two other members of the partnership. Marles has had a bilateral visit with each country in the Quad, he said.

This was the first visit to America that Marles has done on behalf of Australia’s new government.

“It is and has been since the Second World War, the most

important bilateral relationship that we have,” Marles said. “The alliance is completely central to our national security and the way we see the world.”

The agreement between Australia, U.K. and the U.S. is in the midst of an 18-month research phase to create a nuclear-powered attack boat for the Royal Australian Navy. The move canceled a deal with France for conventionally powered submarines.

France is an important ally for Australia, Marles said, although he said he would not rehash the decision to cancel the deal and the fallout.

“It has been very important, we feel, to reach a settlement with France, so that we can put a line underneath that episode and move forward. . . . Because France matters, France matters to Australia,” he said.



Ohio-class SSGN

*In memory
of the
fifty-two
submarines
lost in
World War II*



SEALION
S-36
S-26
SHARK I
PERCH
S-27
GRUNION
S-39
ARGONAUT
AMBERJACK
GRAMPUS
TRITON
PICKEREL
GRENADIER
RUNNER
R-12
GRAYLING
POMPANO

CISCO
S-44
DORADO
WAHOO
CORVINA
SCULPIN
CAPELIN
SCORPION
GRAYBACK
TROUT
TULLIBEE
GUDGEON
HERRING
GOLET
S-28
ROBALO
FLIER

HARDER
SEAWOLF
DARTER
SHARK II
TANG
ESCOLAR
ALBACORE
GROWLER
SCAMP
SWORDFISH
BARBEL
KETE
TRIGGER
SNOOK
LAGARTO
BONEFISH
BULLHEAD

