



HAMPTON ROADS BASE

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Our Creed:

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their 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.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment.

Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice.

The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."

From the Acting Base

Commander

Shipmates:

I hope is all well for you and your loved ones. Covid-19 has hit us hard and it gives us the opportunity to strive for success. In the past it was for us to better ourselves for the betterment of our country. Now we protect our fellow Americans for the betterment of ourselves. We need to stay hunkered down to ensure we and our loved ones won't get this virus and will allow it to die out because it can be passed onto others and others and others and to keep going. Please follow all guidelines of social distancing, frequent washing and sanitation and other guidelines handed down by the CDC (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).



For our base, it has been equally challenging. Ted Vorce, our Base Commander, has completed larynx cancer surgery and is half way through chemo and radiation treatment. Due to this, I will continue to perform the duties as acting base commander.

To continue on with health, Craig Werner has submitted his resignation for the positions of base secretary and treasurer. Craig initially thought he had impending liver failure, to find out he actually had pancreatic cancer. The surgery went well despite the fact it lasted 13 hours vs. the scheduled 6-8 hours.

Craig is doing well, he is home, not up for visitors nor phone calls yet. He is still weak from his battle and will require time to recover and gain strength.

For both Ted and Craig, we need to protect their immune systems. Please no visitors until after they request them. Especially in the light of Covid-19.

I have appointed Brian Daugherty to the position of interim base treasurer and Bill Bond to the position of interim base secretary. We will have nominations, elections for base secretary and treasurer, and inductions for these positions at our next meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for 18 April 2020 at 11:15, the base leadership will continue to monitor the progress of Covid-19. If we have any changes, I will send out a mass email. If you don't feel safe in your situation, even if we have a meeting, DON'T COME. We are going to miss you but we'll hook up after this mess. And that goes for any other meeting you may have.

Sailor of the Year board is scheduled for 30 March 2020. Due to Covid-19 the selectees will not be allowed to travel. I was initially invited, but due to the restrictions of the Covid-19 we will not participate in this year's SOY board. We will congratulate the winners of the COMSUBLANT SOY for sea and shore with a check, coin, and certificate sent out with the COMSUBLANT package.

The Sub Ball was changed in April for the commissioning of the USS Delaware, and now is on hold until the organizers can figure out how to recover from Covid-19 and have reservations set for our large group. I have been told the Admiral does not want to cancel the Sub Ball.

As for the base picnic, we are marching forward until we find out differently. The caterer is scheduled but we won't sign a contract until we have confidence that this is going to happen.

As always, I'll be available to you by phone or email. Run silent, run deep.

Acting Base Commander.

Gary



Updated Contact Information

Because we have had so many changes recently, here is an updated list of contact information for the base officers and other key personnel.

Base Commander: Ted Vorce
757-376-2458
tvorce@verizon.net

Senior Vice Commander: Gary Galles
757-714-2733
senior.vice.hrb@gmail.com

Junior Vice Commander/Events Coordinator:
Adam Kingsley
757-535-4179
junior.vice.hrb@gmail.com

Secretary Treasurer: Bill Bond
443-534-3962
secretary.hrbase@gmail.com
Treasurer: Brian Daugherty
757-409-8560
treasurer.hrb.ussvi@gmail.com

COB: John (Rock) Pedroni
757-460-1305
rockinvabeach@aol.com

Storekeeper: Fran Vorce
757-376-2459
ussvi.hrb.storekeeper@gmail.com

Chaplain: Brian Krammes
757-621-2182
ussvihrbchaplain@gmail.com

Emergency Relief Fund Committee: Sid Sidlovsky 757-328-9796
sidofva@gmail.com

Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Co-coordinators: Rich Corey
757-356-0134; Sid Sidlovsky 757-328-9796
rcorey1@charter.net, sidofva@gmail.com

Social Media Coordinator, Webmaster: Sam Stevens
757-814-7976
sstvns7@gmail.com

Base Historian: Paul Schmidt
757-481-1297
pschmidt@PBP-attorneys.com

Newsletter Editor: Marlin Boyle
757-238-0632
ussvi.hrb.editor@gmail.com

Boats Lost in April

We remember.... We Honor



USS Pickerel (SS-177): Lost on April 3, 1943 with the loss of 74 officers and men, while on her 7th war patrol. She was lost off Honshu. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area contained numerous minefields.



USS Grenadier (SS-210): Lost on April 22, 1943 near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet, the plane dropped a bomb causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew



spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane. While she shot down the plane, when enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 61 crew members taken prisoner, 57 survived the war.

USS Gudgeon (SS-211): Lost on April 18, 1944 with the loss of 79 men off Saipan. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol and most likely due to a combined air and surface antisubmarine attack. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. On her first patrol, she became the first US submarine to sink an enemy warship, picking off the submarine I-173.



USS Snook (SS-279): Lost on April 8, 1945 with the loss of 84 officers and men. Snook ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk and is tied for 9th in the number of ships sunk. She was lost near Hainan Island, possibly sunk by a Japanese submarine.



USS Thresher (SSN-593): Lost on April 10, 1963 with the loss of 112 crew members and 17 civilian technicians during deep-diving exercises. 15 minutes after reaching test depth, she communicated with USS Skylark that she was having problems. Skylark heard noises "like air rushing into an air tank" - then, silence. Rescue ship Recovery (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by Trieste proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands to their deaths in 1,400 fathoms of water, some 220 miles east of Boston.



Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) News

Unfortunately, we have had to suspend the monthly visits to NMCP for the duration.

Many thanks and Bravo Zulu to the Base Members who have made these visits. AND A REAL BIG BRAVO ZULU to the medical staff at NMCP and to all the others in the front lines.

As of now, there are no projected dates for future visits.



HRB April Birthdays

- 01: Chris Stolle
- 02: Scott Cotton
- 04: Jim McDonald
- 06: Randy Kulp
- 07: Jeffery Cross, Ed Magary
- 08: Pat Taylor
- 11: **US SUBMARINE SERVICE**
- 11: Ben Kern
- 12: Harry Seibel
- 13: Dan Walters
- 15: James Hay
- 16: Charles Walden, Errol Jennings
- 17: Tony Antonik, Craig Dudley
- 20: George Williams
- 21: Dan Hengerer
- 22: Jim Mason
- 23: Merrill Dorman
- 24: Earl Koepcke
- 27: Ryan Straughn
- 29: Kirk Unruh



Upcoming Events

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



April 2020

15: NSL Meeting

18: Base Meeting

May 2020

?: Sub Ball (location also TBD)

16: Base Meeting / Holland Club Induction

21: WWII Memorial & Hall of Fame

24: Scorpion Memorial

25: 136th Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade

June 2020.

17: NSL Meeting

20: Base Meeting/Picnic/Scholarship Announcement

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April Historic Events

April 1, 1893 - Navy General Order 409 establishes the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

April 1, 1943 - USS Shad (SS 235) torpedoes and damages the Italian blockade runner Pietro Orseolo, shortly after the Italian ship reaches the Bay of Biscay and her escort of four German destroyers.

April 3, 1797 - Capt. Thomas Truxtun issues the first known American signal book using a numerical system entitled, Instructions, Signals, and Explanations, ordered for the United States Fleet.

April 7, 1979 - USS Ohio (SSBN 726), the first Trident submarine, launches at Groton, Conn

April 9, 1959 - The first seven Mercury astronauts are selected, including three Navy aviators and one Marine: Lt. Cmdr. Walter M. Schirra, Lt. Malcom S. Carpenter, Marine Lt. Col. John Glenn Jr., and Lt. Cmdr. Alan B. Shepard.

April 10, 1963 - During diving tests, USS Thresher (SSN 593) is lost with all hands east of Cape Cod, Mass., including commanding officer and 17 civilian technicians

APRIL 11, 1900 – USS HOLLAND acquired by the US NAVY.



April 17, 1915 - Chief Gunners Mate Frank Crilley, a naval diver, rescues a fellow diver who had become entangled at a depth of 250 feet during salvage operations for USS F-4 submarine that had sunk March 25, 1915, with the loss of her entire crew. For his heroism on this occasion, he is awarded the Medal of Honor in 1929.

April 18, 1942 – Doolittle raid on Tokyo & Nagoya.

April 18, 1943 – U.S. Army Air Force P-38s off Bougainville, using signals intelligence, shoot down plane carrying Imperial Japanese Navy Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, Commander in Chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet.

April 24, 1906 - Reburial Commemoration Ceremony for Capt. John Paul Jones is held at the Naval Academy. At the ceremony, President Theodore Roosevelt delivers a speech in honor of the legendary Revolutionary War naval captain.

April 28, 1944 - German torpedo boats attack U.S. Navy LST convoy in Lyme Bay during Operation Tiger training for the Normandy Invasion. USS LST 507 and USS LST 531 are sunk at Portland Bill, England, and USS LST 289 is damaged, with 198 Sailors dead or missing and 551 Army dead or missing from later reports

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USWN ARTICLES

U.S. Navy completes ICEX 2020

Lt. Michelle Pelissero, Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, March 12

BEAUFORT SEA, Arctic Circle (March 12, 2020) - Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine, USS Toledo (SSN769) and Seawolf-class fast attack submarine, USS Connecticut (SSN 22) both surfaced through Arctic sea-ice March 4 during the multinational maritime Ice Exercise (ICEX) 2020 about 150 miles north of Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

Both fast-attack submarines participated in the three- week biennial exercise to assess Submarine Force readiness to operate in Arctic environments, increase operational experience in the region, and develop partnerships and collaborative efforts to advance the U.S. Navy's overall understanding of the region.

"Our Submarine Force brings individuals from all over the United States and these incredible individuals train here in the Arctic to maintain readiness and capability to defend the homeland when called upon," said Rear Adm. Butch Dollaga, Commander, Undersea Warfighting Development Center. "In this critical region, we must be ready to traverse under the ice from the Pacific to Atlantic and continue to work with partner nations, and academic and technical partners to advance technology in the Arctic environment."

In order to support submarine operations, the Arctic Submarine Laboratory (ASL) established a remote Arctic ice station on a moving ice floe that provided a stable platform where a tracking range, sensors, communication equipment and personnel could be safely moved to and from participating submarines.

Along with practicing surfacing through the ice, the submarine force conducted endurance tests that included such standard operating procedures as loading the ship with the maximum amount of food, maintaining radio silence, accomplishing repairs at sea, and operating the ship under a rigorous training schedule.

"The Arctic is a potential strategic corridor for expanded competition. The Submarine Force must maintain readiness by exercising in Arctic

conditions to ensure they can protect national security interest and maintain favorable balances of power in the Indo-Pacific and Europe, if called upon," said Vice Adm. Daryl Caudle, Commander, Submarine Forces. "In a high-interest area like the Arctic, we must always be ready to deter any future emergent threats."

In recent years, the Arctic has been used as a transit route for submarines. The most recent ICEX was conducted in 2018 with USS Hartford (SSN 768) and USS Connecticut (SSN 22).

Navy Merges Sub Radio and IT Ratings

MC1 Mark D. Faram, Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs, March 16

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The rise of great power competition at sea has led to the Navy redoubling its efforts to own electronic warfare across the world's oceans - both above and below the surface.

That battle in the subsurface domain is getting a boost in the form of a rating merger, the result of which increases the Navy's undersea electronic warfare effectiveness while enhancing the force's ability to operate and maintain computer networks onboard its boats.

Starting this summer, one of the silent service's newest ratings – Information Systems Technician (Submarines), or ITS for short, will nearly triple in size as it merges with the fellow submarine rating Electronics Technician (Radio), known as ETRs.

"This merger will allow the Submarine Force to address concerns with ITS workload while simultaneously building our electronic warfare subject matter expertise," said Vice Admiral Daryl L. Caudle, Commander Submarine Forces. "Mastery of electronic warfare will be critical to the Submarine Force's contribution to the high- end fight."

The move, which has been in the works since the summer of 2019, is expected to take another year to be fully complete. On the manpower side, the 740-strong ITS rating will bring on-board the roughly 1,600 ETRs.

The end result will be an ITS general rating made up of two service ratings – one dedicated to communications, the other concentrating on electronic warfare. Both skill sets



will share the workload of submarine information technology, too.

The merger decision was made after a multi-year manpower survey identified a need to increase the numbers of information technology specialists on submarines intersected with the need to beef up the ability for responding to emerging subsurface electronic warfare threats.

“Merging ETR into ITS as a service rating addresses both of these priorities,” said Capt. Angela Katson, head of enlisted plans and policy for the Chief of Naval Personnel. “While raising the total number of Sailors available to perform local-area network maintenance and operations on submarines, it also creates a career path for Sailors to become specialized professionals in the electronic warfare mission area.”

The move is in keeping with the Navy’s Rating Modernization effort, part of the Navy’s ongoing Sailor 2025 move. It is expected that the merger will eventually allow ITS Sailors greater flexibility in duty assignments.

The move will be more than just getting a new rating patch for ETRs but bring with it a choice among two separate career paths. All Sailors in the combined rating will now get a new career path in either the ITS-Communications or ITS-Electronic Warfare service ratings.

These career paths will be distinct, each managed by separate training pipelines and NECs, and will have their own rating examinations as well as advancement quotas. Billets will be managed by NECs and aligned to enhance the career paths of our Sailors.

Sailors currently serving in ETR or ITS ratings will work closely with their community managers to ensure they are selected into the optimal career path.

“Sailors will be assigned by a combination of their desires and the needs of the Submarine Force,” Katson said. “While every effort will be made to ensure that the Sailor’s desires are met, ensuring a healthy future rating structure and future promotion potential is vital to the future health of all Sailors in the rating.”

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We hate isolation; ballistic missile submarine crews love it

Tom Rogan, Washington Examiner Online March 25

For most of us, the current lockdown is jarring and tedious. But, for our nuclear ballistic missile submarine

crews, isolation is something to revel in. The more isolated these crews are, the more successful their patrols will be judged. They are very happy to avoid contact with the world.

Spread across 14 Ohio-class submarines, these crews are the linchpin of America's nuclear deterrent force. Four or five of the submarines are on "hard-alert" patrol at any one time, ready to strike the command and control hubs of America's two most likely nuclear adversaries, Beijing and Moscow.

But, to deter those targets effectively, America's ballistic missile submarines must do two things: stay hidden and remain within the ideal range of their targets.

That means getting into a patrol sector and consistently avoiding detection. And, considering that these patrols tend to last more than two months, this is no easy task. It takes a lot of skill, and the stakes are high. Where our failure to avoid vulnerable family members might now lead to a personal coronavirus tragedy, a failure to remain hidden from the enemy would undermine the nation's existential defense strategy.

After all, the linchpin of America's sea-based nuclear deterrent strategy is not our submarines per se but the confidence of our adversaries that those submarines can destroy them with a speed and lethality exceeding their ability to destroy us.

Put simply, that means the Navy must conduct regular patrols that are hidden from Chinese and Russian aircraft, satellites, and submarines trying to find them. Considering the interest in depressed ballistic trajectories that would shorten the time from missile launch to warhead impact, these patrol sectors are likely outside the first island chain in the Western Pacific Ocean (China/North Korea targeting), beyond Ireland in the North Atlantic Ocean (Russia), and sometimes also in the Indian Ocean (Pakistan, guarding against the contingency that the military loses control of its nuclear forces).

Fortunately, our crews are very good at staying hidden, even when the prospective enemy is working hard to track them. And now, armed with a greater means to deter Russia across the range of nuclear conflict, they remain a critical ingredient in the preservation of peace. Also fortunate is the fact that the Navy and its allies' attack submarines are far better at tracking Chinese and Russian ballistic submarines than theirs are at tracking ours. That means those nations cannot confidently rely on their sea-based deterrent forces



to be able to launch their missiles in the event of a war.

So, yes, isolation is jarring for most of us. But not for the SSBN crews. They love isolation and couldn't operate without it.

