



Fall 2022
VOL MMXXII Issue 04

Clear The Baffles

GOLD COUNTRY BASE



2022 Overall
First Place

Our purpose is "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 may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.



Lawrence J Davis Jr HMCN (SS)

Larry joined the Navy in 1955 and discharged 1981. He Qualified in Submarines on the USS Sabalo (SS-302) in 1966 and also served on the USS Grayback (SSG 574). He was a USSVI Life Member, a Holland Club Member, and a Plank Owner of the Gold Country Base.

Larry, You have served us well and accepted your final orders. We salute you.

Calm winds and following seas



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Now Hear This!

7 December Pearl Harbor Remembrance: 0900 (Rain or Shine) Discovery Park, Sacramento

9 December Holiday Party: Folsom Veterans Hall, 1300 Forrest Street, Folsom Doors open at 5:00pm Dinner at 6:00

13 December Holiday First Call to Morning Chow & Gift Exchange 0900 Susie's Country Oaks Café 1000 Melody Lane, Roseville

Next Meeting—November 26, 2022 Potluck @ 12 noon Meeting Starts 1pm **Folsom Veterans Hall -1300 Forrest St., Folsom**

First Call to Morning Chow & Gift Exchange

Tuesday December 13, 0900 @ Susie's Country Oaks Café 1000 Melody Lane, Roseville

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Shipmates—A lot has happened since I last published some good and all too much not so good. Because of the generosity of our members, we donated a dozen training rifles to the Sea Cadet unit we support. They receive them at our August meeting and showed us they knew how to perform with them.



The fall months brought us back-to-back Eternal Patrol services one for Warren Wiederhoeft in September followed by one for Larry Davis in October. Over the past almost 6 years I have presided over more than a dozen of these, and it never gets any easier. The one bright spot comes by watching how many Submarines and their families come out to honor and demonstrate their support for these sailors and their loved ones. As we all know when we lose a member that gave as much as Warren did to the success of our Base a void is created, as always, our members stepped up to take on the responsibility and carry on the tasks that he did. Lenard Lee took over the duties of the Holland Club Commander and Roger Paul added to his responsibility by taking on the Base History position. Bravo Zulu gentleman and to all who give of their time to keep us moving forward.

At our October we elected a new Base Commander Les Jamison will take the helm at our January meeting. Les has been my right arm for the last many years, and I know beyond a doubt that he will be a great and dedicated leader for us. Congratulations Les, I look forward to retuning to my role as a supporting member of our great base. We also elected for a 3rd term Nick Sadowy as our Treasurer/Membership Chair Nick's steady hand with our funds and our membership has been a great asset to the base, knowing the books are in order and our renewals are moving forward make it better for all of us. Thank you, Nick and congratulations, on your election.

In November we began our most active season of the year. The Folsom parade was a great success with crowds numbering in the thousands we receive a very warm welcome. Thank you, John Kelley, for keeping our float in shape and getting down the parade route. Saturday the 12th brought us back to Bass Pro. Under Commander Jamison's supervision and with a great turnout of members and wives we gave away several hundred hotdogs, recruited 3 or 4 new members and raised the funds to put us over the top to pay for our Lost Boat Memorial. Next month we will have our December 7th event followed by our annual Holiday diner and our First Call gift exchange. The big event coming in January is the Unveiling Ceremony for our Lost Boat Memorial. (see the story page 20) I will ask for volunteers for a committee and put more information out in a few weeks. My wish for all of you is a joyous and safe holiday season. This has been a difficult year for many of us, please take some time from your busy schedule to let those who are a part of your life know that they are loved.

Barry Wyatt, Base Commander

Vice-COMMANDER

Sadly we lost another valued Subvet member - Larry Davis. He always brought a great smile and a friendly number of great sea stories. He was a treasure of knowledge and experiences. Rest your oars and calm seas shipmate. The next couple of months will be very busy with the Folsom Veterans parade, Bass Pro Shop visitation, December 7 - Pearl Harbor memorial at discovery park, First Call - Christmas party gift exchange, and annual Christmas party. We could have a dedication of the Lost Boats monument at South Sacramento river walk in December or January if the stone is completed by December 1st. Also I just received a request for our participation in American Heritage Day at Mt Vernon memorial park on February 20th from 10am to 2pm and we have participated in the past. We will discuss our possible participation at the month's base meeting. So keep your calendar updated so you don't miss any of these exciting events. I am honored that I have been nominated to take the Base Commander position. I am committed to continue to grow the base membership and expand our events to be more family themed to grow our younger membership. The Bass Pro Shop visit and the Folsom Veterans' Day parade were great events. It is nice to be around people that honor Veterans. As the year comes to an end I want to wish all the SubVet members and their families a happy Holiday season. Don't forget the events we have on our busy schedule. stay healthy and God Bless!

Merry Christmas, Stay safe and God Bless our Veterans

Les Jamison, Vice Commander



Names of Jesus



Jesus is referred to with many names in the Bible. This time it is "Vine".

*John 15:1-2 "I am the true **vine**, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*

Because wine was an important part of biblical life, the people knew about vineyards and wine making. Which is why Jesus spoke in terms they were familiar with and why He calls Himself "the vine". The Father the vine dresser and us the branches. The branches are connected to the Vine. To be productive as His followers we must be connected closely to Him.

Because of the low alcohol content, it was safer to drink than today's wines. But drinking it to excess was and is prohibited in scripture.

Greetings shipmates and families,

This is the busiest time of the year with Thanksgivings, December 7th, Christmas parties, Christmas, and New Years in a very short time.

Enjoy these events but pause to think about the reasons for these events. Don't fail to get rest in between.

Season Blessings to all, Howard Grover, Chaplain



OFFICER'S COUNTRY



SUBVET CHECK-IN PROGRAM

Shipmates, It was nice to see Janet and Ed Alves at the September 24 meeting.

We still need to make sure we are doing the calls. It is an enjoyable call for both members who we don't see often and for the member who is doing the calling.

I encourage more people to become involved in the calls. Anyone can make the calls; one does not need to be one on the list of callers to make calls. We can provide the calling information to members who would like to some calling. Keep in mind that these are our friends and shipmates who we just don't see very often. Many are folks who lead busy lives and do not attend our events because of work, travel, family events, etc. However, there are some shipmates who have a hard time attending because of difficulties in getting around and welcome contact with fellow submariners. Every submariner loves a sea story, and that's a no sh...er



FOLSOM JVO I let the Veteran's Hall know that the dimensions of the USS Drum model we would like to be mounted in the building. We spoke of a couple of places in the Canteen where it could be mounted. Having the model mounted in the Canteen would allow it to be visible to more people.

The Folsom VFW is looking for people to sit on the viewing platform for the Folsom Veteran's Day Parade. They are looking for people that have a difficult time walking but would like to participate in the parade. There are 16 seats available. They will need a short military bio of anyone who would like to be on the platform.

If anyone wants to carry the Navy flag during the parade, let me know so we can let the VFW know.

The Veteran's Hall will be open for breakfasts on the third and fourth Sunday of each month.

I let the group know about the December 7 Ceremony and encouraged anyone from the various veteran groups to attend. I also told the group about the event at Bass Pro on November 12

Mark Elftmann , Base Secretary, SubVet Check-In & Folsom JVO Representative



Greetings Shipmates. Base and National renewal season is on us. Membership dues are due. You should have all received the email and a snail mail with your membership dues notice. Thank you to the 61 members who have already sent there's in. For those who haven't please get those back to me ASAP. The deadline is drawing near! I would like to have

all of the dues processed by December 1st, so send in those National dues, Base dues, and Booster contributions. You can make your payments via PayPal to treasurer@goldcountrybase.org . You can also send your check to: USSVI Gold Country Base, 4521 Hart Dr, Shingle Springs, CA 95682-8337. If you have any questions about how much you owe, please feel free to contact me at membership@goldcountrybase.org, or on my cell at (916) 601-8910.



Nicholas Sadowy Treasurer, Membership Chair

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Shipmates, When I volunteered to be the Gold Country Base Historian, I could see that, since I was already the Base Photographer and photographed many of our base events, meetings, special days, and memorial events, I already had a basic understanding of what it meant to be the Base Historian. The dictionary says that a historian is “an expert in or student of history, especially that of a particular period, geographical region, or social phenomenon”. As I see it, that might make me a submariner historian who focuses on the history related to our Gold Country Base. Ob-



viously, since I have not been a member as long as many of our oldest members, I still have lots to explore and learn about our history together and in coordination with the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI).

My first assignment from our Commander, Barry Wyatt, is to update the MS Excel documents for “Gold Country Base” Officer History, Elected Positions, and “Gold Country Base” Officer History, Appointed Positions. I have those documents already and have started adding new names, start and end dates, as well as making note of any officers who are on “Eternal Patrol” However, I will need more input on some names and dates before I can release the current updated version, which will be published in our newsletter sometime soon. I appreciate having our members input on this and other historical information so it will be correct and timely

Roger Paul, Base Photographer/Base Historian



Greeting shipmates! As we get closer to the Autumn months it looks to be quite a busy schedule for us. Looking forward to all our activities and especially my retirement on November 4th. This will give me more time to spend with all of you wonderful gentleman or should I say something that would come out of and old salty sailor on a drunken two week leave. But seriously I look forward to my retirement and taken it a bit easier now. Everyone take care and I'll see you all soon



Gene Ratto , Chief of the Boat (COB)



Base Members who are now or are about to become eligible for Holland Club membership, please contact me at 510-928-8500 or Len@trawlers.com.



Lenard Lee, Holland Club Commander

Holiday Dinner - December 9: Holiday dinner is December 9, 2022 at the VFW hall in Folsom. We will start selling tickets at this week's meeting on. Cost is \$40 per person or \$75 per couple. There will be door prizes and a buffet dinner.



First Call to Morning Chow/ Gift exchange is Tuesday December 13 at Suzie's in Roseville at 9:30 am. The minimum price for gift exchange is \$20

To all of my SubVet families, I wish you the happiest holiday season. It makes us proud to be able to share this time with all of you.



Penny Jamison, SubVet Support Group Coordinator

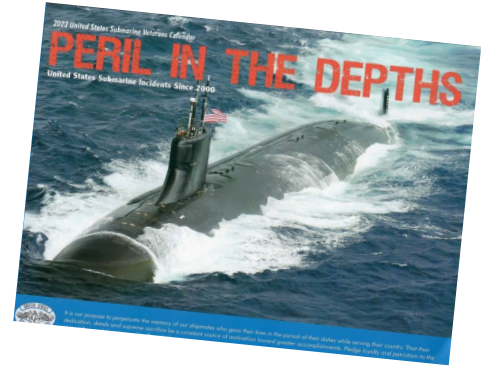


Storekeeper

Shipmates, 2023 Calendars are in and they are going fast. They are \$10 each and I will have them at the meeting.



Also the new hats have arrived and if you are interested the Submarine Tie is available for order at \$40 each.



**Storekeeper
Jerry Wentland**



**First Call to
Morning Chow**

Shipmates, We have been having about 10-12 men at the breakfast, in the past we have had 15-20, this is the time to enjoy good food and great fellowship. Mark your calendars for our breakfast and gift exchange at SUSIES on Tuesday December 13th. This is always a great event.



First Call to Morning Chow Coordinator, Harold Fisher



**Newsletter
Editor**

Shipmates, Sea Stories Wanted. Send me a sea story from your time aboard your boat or while you were on liberty, it could be about your first patrol, your last patrol or just a good sea story and I will do the rest. This edition features a new column from an idea and a submission from Mark. A "Book Review". Check it out on page 22



and send me yours. Also working with Roger I would like to resume publishing Bios especially for some of our newer members, give me a call and I will fill you in on what is needed.

Barry Wyatt, Newsletter Editor

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Shipmates,

Thank you for your vote of confidence in my taking on a new responsibility within our organization as Western Region Director. I'm 'adjusting' well into the new role with its responsibilities, authorities, and accountability to my shipmates and the Board of Directors. I believe my time served (not a level of incarceration, but neither was a time in the submarine force) as both Base Commander and District Commander have prepared me well. An outcome of this year's past USSVI elections have



garnered the organization a new National Commander (Bill Andrea), and new National Secretary (David Campbell); and I have appointed Mare Island Base Commander Tim Carlisle to serve as Western District Five for the remainder of the two-year term I was elected to fulfill in 2021. As of this writing, the Mare Island Base has held elections, and a new slate of shipmates have been elected by their peers to fill positions of Base Commander and Vice Commander. Gold Country Base has an upcoming election for positions on its executive board (e-Board).

Our organization thrives, grows, and evolves when shipmates step up, participate, and actively contribute to their Base, especially among elected and appointed members of the e-Board. It's also critical to the responsibility of individuals (regular and associate members) to show up. It's more than a title. Every Base in the Western Region gains momentum when shipmates are actively engaged, finding new ways to promote their Base, get the word out of our existence, and participate in community events. Times are a changing surely as the transition from smoke boats to nuclear power, or snail mail to email. Grasp for the familiar too long, and you might find yourself left behind. Change is natural and is good. Our old website had plenty of bells and whistles but left the membership vulnerable to those who wanted our personal information but didn't have a need to know. Today's website offers a colorful and informative 'who we are' and security safeguards built in require membership if you want to know more.

As surely as 2022 is soon to close, Gold Country Base will be hosting the 36th annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony at Discovery Park, CA. This year's guest speaker is Alan More, CAPT, US Navy (Retired), and a new member of the Gold Country Base. And, the membership will gather for its Christmas holiday party, First Call to Chow and Gift Exchange per the Base calendar. It takes a considerable amount of time, energy, and effort to plan these recurring events. Gold Country Base is the Host Base for the 2023 Western Region Roundup, which is in the planning stages. Your active participation makes them all worthwhile and fulfills a component of our organization's creed / mission statement: '...we shall provide a way for submariners to gather for mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie...' Bring a sea story, bring yourselves, and bring the enthusiasm you had on the first day you stepped aboard your qual boat and gained the unique admission to our brotherhood / sisterhood!

Debbie and I wish each of you a safe and warm holiday season, and al the best in the coming New Year. Consider the significant accomplishments of your Shipmates, individually and collectively towards the improvement of the Base, and each other's well-being, and that of their community. Let us remember those we have lost in 2022; and take a moment to reach out to a shipmate we have not spoken with in a long time. They appreciate your time and efforts to do so.

Pride Runs Deep!

Pete Juhos

Western Region Director
IPBC Gold Country Base

Gold Country Base Officers



Base Commander
POC PAO
Newsletter Editor
J. Barry Wyatt

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Les Jamison

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Base Secretary
SubVet Check-in Chair
Folsom JVO Rep.

Mark Eftmann
Qualified 1975
USS William H Bates SSN 625



Base Treasurer
Membership Chair
Web-Master

Nick Sadowy
Qualified 1991
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Gene Ratto

Qualified 1978
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Base Chaplain
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Roger Paul

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Holland Club
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Gil Miller

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First Call to Morning
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Penny

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USSVI District 5
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USSVI Western
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Pete Juhos

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USSVI National
Commander
William Andrea

Life Member
Holland Club
wcandrea@bellsouth.net

Lost Boats

November

USS Albacore (SS-218)

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



USS Growler (SS-215)

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



USS Scamp (SS-277)

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



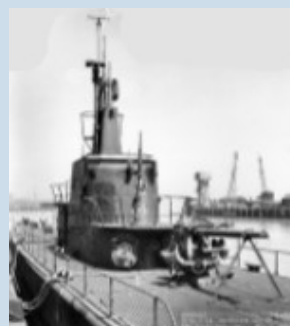
USS Corvina (SS-226)

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



USS Sculpin (SS-191)

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



Birthdays

September

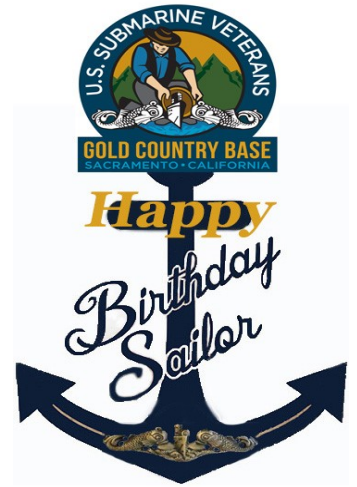
Reggie Bronner Max Rhinehard Larry Shamus

October

Fred Dalbello Pete Juhos Ron Rule
Barry Wyatt Penny Jamison

November

Mike Delleney George Miyao Tom Moniz
Jerry Wentland



On The Lighter Side



"A SAILOR SHOULDN'T HAVTA SIT IN THE CORNER FOR USING SAILOR TALK."

TIPS ON HOW TO
FALL ASLEEP IN A
LIVING ROOM
CHAIR:

1. BE OLD
2. SIT IN A CHAIR





Gold Country Base would not be able to continue to operate without the generous contribution from those Members, Wives and Friends who donate to

Gold Country Base Booster's

Thank you

Ed Alves Alfonso Amaro* Bill Barron*
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VA Information

All Veterans enrolled in VA health care will be eligible for new toxic exposure screenings

WASHINGTON — Beginning November 7, 2022, Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and clinics across the country will offer enrolled Veterans a new toxic exposure screening. These screenings are a key part of the PACT Act, a new law that empowers VA to deliver care and benefits to millions of toxic exposed Veterans and their survivors.

The screening takes five to 10 minutes and begins by asking Veterans if they believe they experienced any toxic exposures while serving in the armed forces. Veterans who answer “yes” are then asked about specific exposures, including: open burn pits, Agent Orange, radiation, contaminated water, and other exposures.

Veterans enrolled in VA health care will be offered an initial toxic exposure screening then follow-up screenings at least once every five years.

Veterans who report concerns about toxic exposures will be connected to information about clinical resources and benefits. These screenings are a part of VA’s broader efforts to provide world-class health care for toxic exposed Veterans.

Veterans can ask about receiving the screening at their next VA primary care provider appointment. If Veterans are not assigned to a Primary Care team or wish to be screened sooner than their next appointment, we invite them to contact their local facility and ask to be screened by the Toxic Exposure Screening Navigator.

Access the following link for more information:

<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES—October 22, 2022

Meeting called to order @ 1300 Base Commander Barry Wyatt and adjourned the membership to the courtyard. The Sea Cadets performed a presentation of the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance. After returning to the hall Commander Wyatt led a formal presentation of the Training Rifles bought by the Base and donated to the Cadets. The meeting resumed and the USSVI Creed and Purpose was read.

INVOCATION: Base Chaplain---- Howard gave the Invocation.

TOLLING THE BOATS: The Lost Boats for the month of October were read by the Vice-Commander Les Jamison, and Chief of the Boat Gene Ratto tolled the bell for each Lost Boat; one additional toll in memory of Lawrence Davis Jr. HMCM (SS) and all those shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

MEMBER INTRODUCTION: There were 15 members and no guests in attendance.

Guest Speaker Introduced BY: Barry: Guest Speaker, Deputy Catherine Bakarich, Youth Services Unit, Sacramento County Sheriff's Office

FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER/ PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt:

Our permanent Morning Chow day will be on 2nd Tuesdays of each month because all the confusion going back and forth Mondays and Tuesdays. E-Board voted on purchasing a pop-up and tablecloth for events. Barry brought up possibly not taking the float to the Wednesday, Dec 7th Pearl Harbor celebration. It takes away the true meaning of the celebration. E-Board will vote on it. The Birthday list needs to be updated and will be put in the newsletter. Navy Seal Cadets cannot provide their services for December 7th event. Max will bring the NJROTC Cadets in place of the Sea Cadets. We will give Max \$500 for gas and any other expenses for bringing the NJROTC Cadets from Salinas.

VICE COMMANDER/ KAPS4KIDS: Les Jamison

Bass Pro event will be Saturday November 12, day after Folsom Veterans parade. We will have hot dogs, fundraiser and have the float there. Caps for Kids will start back up end of spring.

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP Nick Sadowy

Membership is 102 members. Membership due are due soon. You will be able to pay via PayPal with a small fee.

SECRETARY/JVO REP./SubVet Check-in: Mark Elftmann No Report

WEBMASTER: Ed McCarthy -No Report

CHIEF OF THE BOAT (COB) Gene Ratto

Gene is retiring in two weeks, congratulation Gene.

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Howard Grover

HOLLAND CLUB COMMANDER Lenard Lee -No report

STOREKEEPER: Jerry Wentland

Calendars came in and they are \$10. He can order Ties and they are \$40. If interested give Jerry, your information.

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller -No Report

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR/ NAVY YOUTH LIAISON: Chad Clay -No Report

EVENTS COORDINATOR John Mannis – No Report

BASE PHOTOGRAPHER/HISTORIAN: Roger Paul

Roger is requesting a Bio on everyone so he can publish it in the newsletter.

FIRST CALL COORDINATOR Harold Fisher -No report



(minutes continued on the next page)

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES October 22, 2022 (continued)

SUBVET SUPPORT GROUP: Penny Jamison

Holiday dinner will be Friday, December 9th. Seating is limited to 64 people so get your money in as soon as possible. Cost is \$40 per person or \$75 for couples. For the Western Regional Roundup Penny is asking the men to talk to their wives to attend. She wants to come up with activities for the women that attend.

Western Regional Director: Pete Juhos

Pete was elected Western Regional Director, congrats Pete. The National Office is moving to Groton, Connecticut. Pete suggested if you have someone that would like to be a member to attach your card to the application if they should have any questions.

Old Business: Motion to approve the minutes for the month of September as shown in the October Bulletin

Moved by: Howard and seconded by: Pete

New Business:

ELECTIONS: Motion to elect Les Jamison BASE COMMANDER Passed by Acclamation

Motion to elect Nick Sadowy TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP Passed by Acclamation

Good of the Order / Communications:

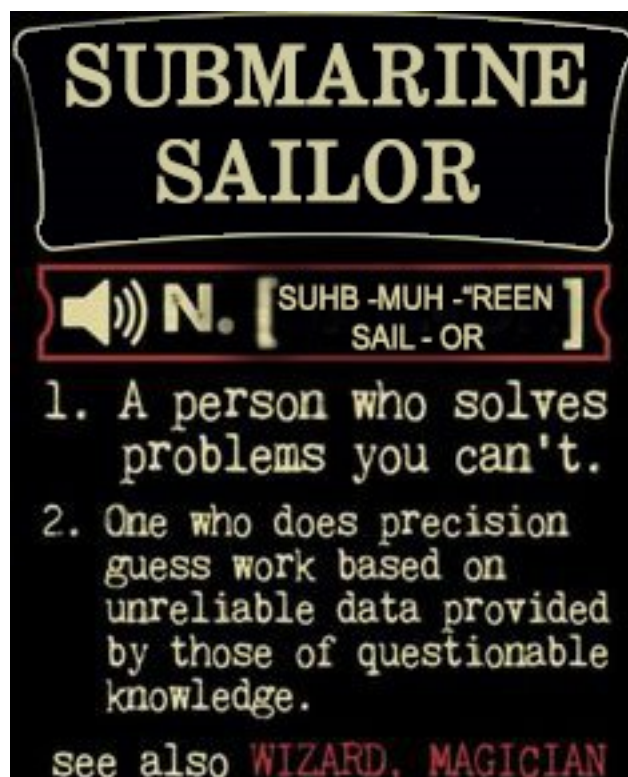
First Call to Morning Chow: Tuesday November 8 at 0930 at Susie's Country Oaks Café, 1000 Melody Lane, Roseville

Next Base Meeting: 11-26-22

50/50 in the amount of \$45, Won By: Bill Barron and donate to the base.

Meeting adjournment: Base Chaplin gave a closing prayer. Chief of the Boat surfaced the Boat @ 2:17PM.

Submitted by Naomi Wentland, Acting Base Secretary



Gold Country Base News

Base Meeting August



Base Meeting September



Base Meeting October



First Call to Morning Chow Susie's Country Oaks Café



Gold Country Base News

Returned to Bass Pro Veteran's Day Weekend Saturday November 12, 2022



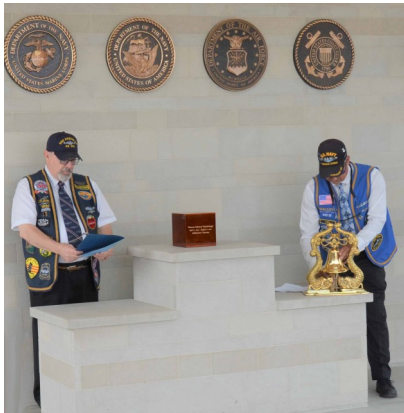
Jerry and Gene told us they were looking
at pictures of their pets



Eternal Patrol

Warren Wiederhoeft ET1(SS) Warren was born in Edgar, Wisconsin, on April 1, 1943 and departed on Eternal Patrol August 7, 2022. After graduating from high school, he joined the navy in June 1961 and discharged in august 1968 as an ET1(SS) warren served on the USS Trumpetfish SS-425 and made 6 patrols on the USS Patrick Henry SSBN 599 where he qualified in June 1966. He was a founding member of our base in 2000 and has been our Historian since 2002. After being the acting Holland Commander for several years he took over that position in February of 2021. Warren served Gold Country as an active member of our Executive Board as our Holland Club Commander and Base Historian, he was a USSVI Life and Holland Club member and Gold Country Base Plank Owner.

*Warren, You Have Served Us Well and Accepted Your Final Orders. We Salute You.
Calm Winds and Following Seas*



Eternal Patrol



Lawrence Davis Jr HMCMS(SS) Larry was born on May 20th, 1937, in Mason County Tennessee and was raised in Buffalo, New York. He left on Eternal Patrol on September 27, 2022. He joined the United States Navy in 1954 and discharged 1981. At the completion of 26 years of faithful service to his country he had attained the highest enlisted rank of Master Chief Petty Officer. He qualified in submarines on the USS Sabalo (SS-302) in 1966 and also served on the USS Grayback (SSG574). Commonly referred to as “doc” by his fellow shipmates and friends, he also saw combat duty in the Vietnam war. He was a USSVI life and Holland Club member and Gold Country Base Plank Owner.

Larry, You Have Served Us Well and Accepted Your Final Orders. We Salute You. Calm Winds and Following Seas



Gold Country Base Upcoming Events

Tuesday December 7th 2022 0900 *(Rain or Shine)*

Pearl Harbor Memorial and Wreath laying Ceremony

Discovery Park, Sacramento, CA *(Set-up 0730) Parade Uniform please*

Guest Speaker:

Captain Allen More USN (SS) Retired

Honor Guard: Everett Alvarez High School Navy JROTC- Salinas

Bugler - Baldwin Wong

Piper – Neil Henderson

More Information: Contact Barry Wyatt, Ceremony Coordinator (916) 600-1425 basecommander@goldcountrybase.org

Please Note Gate Code information below.

All vehicles entering the park must have a valid Gate code **SUBVETS22**, or they will be subject to the standard vehicle entry fee of \$5.00 per vehicle.

Instructions: Each guest will need to use the pay station at the Richards Blvd entrance to enter the code and receive their parking pass. will be printed and needs to be placed on the dash of each vehicle.

Tuesday December 13th 9:00

First Call to Morning Chow & Holiday Steal a Gift

Denny's, 7900 College Town DR. (HWY 50 & How) *Please note the time is earlier due to the gift stealing.* The December First Call is the time for our annual Steal a Gift exchange done in the Spirit of the holidays. Rules, bring a gift worth at least \$15.00, wrapped with no name. We will randomly give out numbers and in that order be able to pick a gift or steal one. The person who gets number one to start will also be able to be the last chooser.



Friday December 9th Gold Country Base Holiday Party & Awards Ceremony

Folsom Veterans Hall 1300 Forrest Street, Folsom

\$40 per person \$75 per couple

NOTE! Space is limited - Make your reservation soon.

Contact Les or Penny Jamison today to reserve your spot.

(407) 509-7814 ljamison3049@gmail.com

We must know if you're coming in order to give the caterer the count.

Checks can be brought to the meeting on Nov. 26th or at the door.



USSVI Regional News

USSVI Western Region Roundup

A Gathering of Submariners

April 27 - 29, 2023

**DoubleTree Hotel
Sacramento, CA**

Save The Date

www.wrroundup.com



USSVI National News

Shipmates,

Thanksgiving is a time to gather with our families, friends, and loved ones to give thanks for all our blessings. Many, if not most of us, have spent Thanksgiving, among all the other holidays, at sea on patrol, defending our country's freedoms. Please pause a moment to give thanks to those currently serving and ensure that we, too, can enjoy those very same freedoms.

Here's hoping everyone has a safe, healthy, and happy Thanksgiving.

Bill Andrea, National Commander



United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation

The USSVCF deliberately focuses its effort and charitable funds to provide National Natural Disaster Relief, Memorials, Visits to Children's Hospitals and especially to a Higher Education Scholarship Program for the Children and Grand Children of our members. All Donations to USSVCF are Tax Deductible. The EIN for the Charitable Foundation is: 95-4830806

<https://www.ussvcf.org/donate.html>



Gold Country Base Lost Boats Memorial

In late 2017, I began working on an idea to build a Lost Boats Memorial somewhere in our area. Working with Tim Spoon and a few other members we came up with the major criteria for the project. We needed to find a spot that was close to water, somewhat safe from vandalism and one with easy access and good public visibility. After a fair amount of research over the next several months I discovered the Veterans Plaza on the River Walk in West Sacramento. I then contacted the Mayor of West Sac and explained what we were trying to do. He handed us off to the city's Superintendent of Parks, Sam Cooney, and we scheduled a meeting at the site. Tim and I met with Sam in May of 2018 and got a clear, supportive message that our memorial would be a great fit for that location.



As it turns out that part of the project was the easy part.

We had a solid prospect for a location, now what do we do? What would it look like, how much would it cost, who would build it, who would install it? As time went by, we explored many different options and when Tim left us for Eternal Patrol in September of 2019 my interest in moving forward just sort of went away.



In the fall of 2020, with the urging of the Base Vice Commander Les Jamison, we once again began focusing on building the memorial. We recontacted City of West Sacramento and found that the support for our project was still strong, but they also let us know that City Committee approval was needed before we could move forward and that would re-

quire a solid example of what the final design would be. In June of 2021, with a base design in hand, Les and I made a presentation to the City of West Sacramento Recreation Committee and received their unanimous support pending their approval of the script that would appear on the monument.

(continued on next page)

Gold Country Base Lost Boats Memorial (continued)

Next, we continued to interview monument companies to provide the granite, do the engraving and installation and eventually found one that has the best price and really wanted to work with us. The total estimated project price was \$18,000 so we put together a fundraising plan to raise the funds.

Fund raising started in earnest in the fall of 2021. Base members contributed the first \$1000 and authorized an additional contribution of \$5000 from the Base's Treasury. Those funds were sent to our National Charitable Foundation which earned us a match of \$3000. Three separate fund-raising trips to Bass Pro set up by Les, additional member donations, a couple of corporate contribution and a fund-raising golf tournament sponsored by the Knights of Columbus provide us with the total we needed and at this point the total project is paid for.



We have set January 21, 2023, for the final installation and unveiling ceremony. This project will not only serve to honor the brave member of our nations Submarine Force that gave there all, but it will also recognize those who served, those who are serving now and those who will sever in the future. All member of the Gold Country Base can be proud of this outstanding accomplishments.

Book Review From The Crew

"Spy Sub" written by Roger C. Dunham a Reactor Operator aboard the boat in the 1960s. It was published in 1996 by the Naval Institute Press.

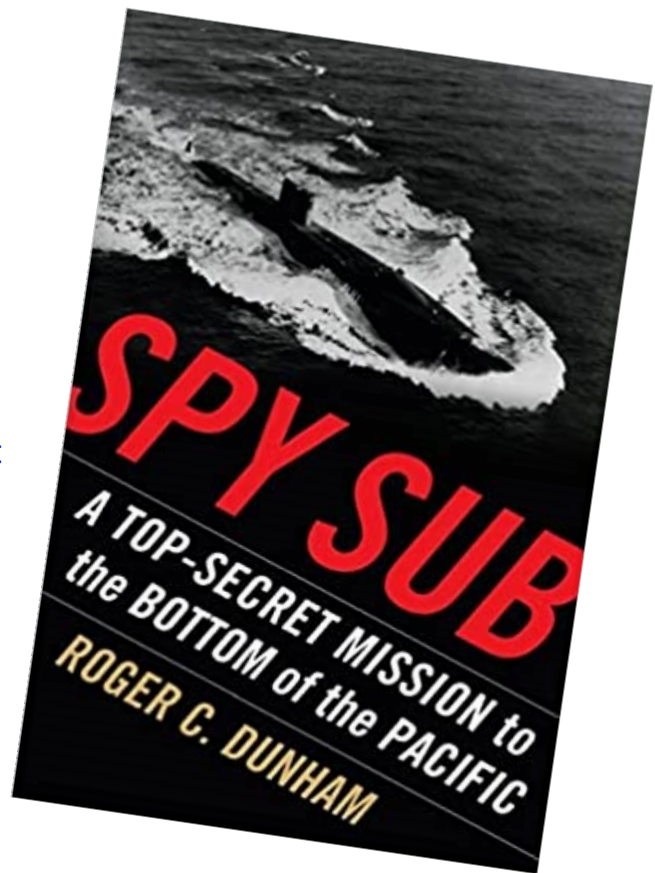
The boat is called the Viperfish but that is not the real name. It was on a still classified mission near Hawaii having something to do with finding a sunken nuclear armed Soviet submarine. The mission resulted in a Presidential Unit Citation for the boat.

Having served on a boat like the Viperfish, I sometimes ask myself why I like to read books about submarine life. Usually there is very little that I haven't experienced myself. However, I like to hear other people's experiences.

The book describes life on the submarine from a Nuc's point of view which I liked. There are a couple of stories about Admiral Rickover's antics which are always amusing, unless of course you were part of the story.

There are even some pictures in the book,

If anyone wants to read the book, let me know and I will give them the copy I have.



Book Review provided by
Base Secretary
Mark Elftmann



This is the first of what I hope will become a regular feature in the Newsletter. If you have read a book that you think your Shipmates would enjoy white a report and send it in.

Barry Wyatt, Newsletter Editor



Featured Boat

USS Abraham Lincoln (SSBN-602)

USS Abraham Lincoln (SSBN-602), a *George Washington*-class fleet ballistic missile submarine, was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865), the 16th President of the United States (1861–1865).

Her keel was laid down by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard of Kittery, Maine, on 1 November 1958. She was launched on 14 May 1960 sponsored by Mary L. Beckwith^[2] (great-granddaughter of President Abraham Lincoln), and commissioned on 8 March 1961 with Commander Leonard Erb commanding the Blue Crew and Commander Donald M. Miller commanding the Gold Crew.

Abraham Lincoln got underway on 20 March 1961 for shakedown and weapons testing at Cape Canaveral, Florida, and returned to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on 1 June for post-shakedown repairs. She left Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on 17 July 1961 to return briefly to Cape Canaveral for further testing and then proceeded to Charleston, South Carolina, for a final loadout. *Abraham Lincoln* subsequently got underway on 28 August 1961 as a unit of SUBRON 14. She arrived at Holy Loch, Scotland, in October 1961. She underwent a refit alongside submarine tender USS *Proteus* during November 1961 and, upon its completion, commenced her first deterrent patrol.



Abraham Lincoln operated out of Holy Loch for the next four years. She alternated periods of upkeep at Holy Loch alongside *Proteus* or submarine tender USS *Hunley* with deterrent patrols from that port.

A highlight of this period occurred during the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962. *Abraham Lincoln* was in the middle of a scheduled four-week upkeep period when she received orders to deploy. She departed in short order and successfully carried out a 65-day patrol.

On 13 October 1965, *Abraham Lincoln* arrived at Groton, Connecticut and entered the Electric Boat shipyard there on 25 October 1965 to begin an overhaul and refueling.

This work was completed on 3 June 1967, and *Abraham Lincoln* returned to her base at Holy Loch and resumed her schedule of deterrent patrols. She continued the pattern of alternating patrols with periods of upkeep alongside either submarine tender USS *Simon Lake* or submarine tender USS *Canopus* through 1972.

(continued on next page)

Class and type	George Washington-class Submarine
Displacement	5,400 tons light ^[1]
	5,959–6,019 tons surfaced ^[1]
	6,709–6,888 approx. tons submerged ^[1]
Length	381.6 ft (116.3 m) ^[1]
Beam	33 ft (10 m) ^[1]
Draft	29 ft (8.8 m) ^[1]
Propulsion	1 S5W PWR ^[1]
	2 geared turbines at 15,000 shp (11,000 kW) ^[1]
	1 Screw ^[1]
Speed	20 knots (37 km/h) surfaced ^[1]
	+25 knots (46 km/h) submerged ^[1]
Range	unlimited except by food supplies
Test depth	700 ft (210 m) ^[1]
Complement	Two crews (Blue/Gold) each consisting of 12 officers and 100 enlisted
Armament	16 Polaris A1/A3 missiles ^[1]
	6 × 21 in (533 mm) torpedo tubes ^[1]

**USS Abraham Lincoln (SSBN-602),
was the Qual Boat of
Chief of The Boat
Gene Ratto**



Featured Boat

(continued)

USS *Abraham Lincoln* (SSBN-602), In early March 1972, *Abraham Lincoln* departed for the United States and arrived at Naval Submarine Base New London at Groton, Connecticut, on 25 April 1972. She held two dependents' cruises before getting underway on 19 May for the United States West Coast to join the United States Pacific Fleet. *Abraham Lincoln* made a brief visit to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, transited the Panama Canal on 1 June, sailed to Bangor, Washington, to offload her missiles, then pushed on to San Francisco. On 25 June 1972, *Abraham Lincoln* entered the Mare Island Naval Shipyard at Vallejo, California, to commence overhaul and refueling.

Pacific Operations

The extensive overhaul was completed in December 1973. After shakedown in the areas around Puget Sound and San Diego *Abraham Lincoln* transited the Panama Canal on 1 June 1974. She held tests and local operations at Cape Canaveral and Charleston, South Carolina. She retransmitted the Panama Canal on 26 July 1974 and proceeded to her new home port, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where she arrived on 10 September 1974 to become part of CINCPAC Fleet and Squadron 15. She then continued on to her advanced base at Guam, arriving on 18 October 1974. She then began deterrent patrols in the Mariana Islands from Guam, which she carried out until 1978. She also participated in numerous tests and exercises. During this period, *Abraham Lincoln* became the first ballistic missile submarine to have conducted 50 strategic deterrent patrols, completing her 50th in 1978.



Deactivation, decommissioning, and disposal

Abraham Lincoln completed her last patrol in October 1979 and arrived at Bangor, Washington, on 30 October 1979 to commence offloading her missiles before beginning inactivation overhaul. Preparations for her retirement continued through 1980 and into 1981.

Abraham Lincoln was decommissioned on 28 February 1981 and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 1 December 1982. She was disposed of through the Ship and Submarine Recycling Program on 10 May 1994 at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.



Part of the sail from *Abraham Lincoln* was used to replace the damaged sail on USS *George Washington* after its collision with *Nissho Maru*. This sail is on display at the Submarine Force Library and Museum, near Groton.

Submarine History

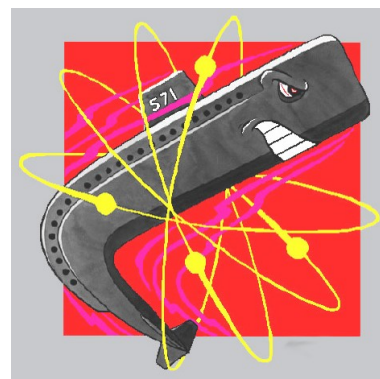
History of the Nautilus (SSN 571)

Construction of NAUTILUS was made possible by the successful development of a nuclear propulsion plant by a group of scientists and engineers at the Naval Reactors Branch of the Atomic Energy Commission, under the leadership of Captain Hyman G. Rickover, USN.

In July of 1951, Congress authorized construction of the world's first nuclear powered submarine. On December 12th of that year, the Navy Department announced that she would be the sixth ship of the fleet to bear the name NAUTILUS. Her keel was laid by President Harry S. Truman at the Electric Boat Shipyard in Groton, Connecticut on June 14, 1952.

After nearly 18 months of construction, NAUTILUS was launched on January 21, 1954 with First Lady Mamie Eisenhower breaking the traditional bottle of champagne across NAUTILUS' bow as she slid down the ways into the Thames River. Eight months later, on September 30, 1954, NAUTILUS became the first commissioned nuclear-powered ship in the United States Navy.

On the morning of January 17, 1955, at 11 am EST, NAUTILUS' first Commanding Officer, Commander Eugene P. Wilkinson, ordered all lines cast off and signaled the memorable and historic message, "Underway On Nuclear Power." Over the next several years, NAUTILUS shattered all submerged speed and distance records.



CDR Anderson On July 23, 1958, NAUTILUS departed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii under top secret orders to conduct "Operation Sunshine", the first crossing of the North Pole by a ship. At 11:15 pm on August 3, 1958, NAUTILUS' second Commanding Officer, Commander William R. Anderson, announced to his crew, "For the world, our country, and the Navy – the North Pole." With 116 men aboard, NAUTILUS had accomplished the "impossible", reaching the geographic North Pole – 90

degrees North.

In May 1959, NAUTILUS entered Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine for her first complete overhaul – the first of any nuclear-powered ship – and the replacement of her second fuel core. Upon completion of her overhaul in August 1960, NAUTILUS departed for a period of refresher training, then deployed to the Mediterranean Sea to become the first nuclear powered submarine assigned to the U.S. Sixth Fleet.

Submarine History

Continued from page 20

Over the next six years, NAUTILUS participated in several fleet exercises while steaming over 200,000 miles. In the spring of 1966, she again entered the record books when she logged her 300,000th mile underway. During the following 12 years, NAUTILUS was involved in a variety of developmental testing programs while continuing to serve alongside many of the more modern nuclear-powered submarines she had preceded.

In the spring of 1979, NAUTILUS set out from Groton, Connecticut on her final voyage. She reached Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California on May 26, 1979 – her last day underway. She was decommissioned on March 3, 1980 after a career spanning 25 years and over half a million miles steamed.

In recognition of her pioneering role in the practical use of nuclear power, NAUTILUS was designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior on May 20, 1982. Following an extensive historic ship conversion at



Mare Island Naval Shipyard, NAUTILUS was towed to Groton, Connecticut arriving on July 6, 1985.



On April 11, 1986, eighty-six years to the day after the birth of the Submarine Force, Historic Ship NAUTILUS, joined by the Submarine Force Museum, opened to the public as the first and finest exhibit of its kind in the world, providing an exciting, visible link between yesterday's Submarine Force and the Submarine Force of tomorrow.



Navy Submarine News

Better weapons, Complex Training Bolster US Submarine Force

ARLINGTON, Va. — The U.S. Navy has combined two undersea warfare courses that pit two platforms against each other, according to the commander of Naval Submarine Forces.

This is the first time the service has made a major change to the submarine command course in 20 years, Vice Adm. William Houston said Nov. 1 at the Naval Submarine League's annual conference.

Even as the service considers what it wants in a future attack submarine, the undersea community is making today's boats more lethal through high-end training and advanced weapons. Chief among the training changes is the combination of the submarine command course for attack submarines and the D5 backfit course for ballistic missile submarines,

With two attack submarines and one ballistic missile submarine now involved, "what we are finding is tactics on SSNs and SSBNs operating together that we either had forgotten about or we did not know. It is tremendously powerful," Houston explained.

He said the ballistic missile submarine Tennessee is currently in the course with attack boats Colorado and Indiana. Tennessee received upgrades including a large vertical array sensor and the Submarine Warfare Federated Tactical System, making it "an exceptionally capable platform," he added.

Houston later told Defense News that "our submarine command course is one of our pinnacle events; it's where we practice tactics to go to war."

With the inclusion of the ballistic missile subs, "we're literally operating the best SSNs in the world against the best

SSBNs, and we're seeing who actually comes out on top," he said.

Another at-sea event, the Black Widow exercise in the Atlantic, includes helicopters, P-8A Poseidon aircraft, surface ships and submarines working together to conduct a range of anti-submarine warfare activities.

A second exercise series, Silent Recluse, helps subs develop new tactics for going after surface ships. Houston would not go into detail about those tactics, but noted that "it's consistent with our vision of preparing for combat in the most dangerous decade that we're facing."



Sailors load a Mark 48 advanced capability torpedo onto the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine Scranton on June 24, 2021

The existing Los Angeles- and Virginia-class submarines are also receiving improved weapons. Rear Adm. Doug Perry, the director for undersea warfare on the chief of naval operations' staff, said at the same conference that his office is focused on increasing the quantity and the capability of heavyweight torpedoes, which is the "weapon of choice for the foreseeable future" due to its stealth and destructive capability as well as the difficulty involved in defending against them.

Mark 48 torpedo production ended in 1996. Since then, the Navy has focused on increasing the capability of its existing inventory but did not invest in buying more torpedoes to fill stockrooms. Now, Perry said, the Navy needs to do both.

The first new torpedoes are delivering this year after the production line was restarted in 2016. These new weapons have better processing power and software, and they have an improved range due to the introduction of a stored chemical energy propulsion system previously used on lightweight torpedoes.

Additionally, he said, the Harpoon anti-ship missile is back on submarines after two decades, having undergone test at the 2018 Rim of the Pacific exercise.

And the Maritime Strike Tomahawk is on its way to the sub fleet; this effort adds a new seeker to the

Block V Tomahawk to create a long-range anti-ship capability that's expected to reach initial operational capability in 2025, Perry said.

And, he added, hypersonic missiles are coming to the newest Virginia-class SSNs starting in 2029.

"Across all our instruments of lethality, we're improving readiness and capacity: We're building our [heavyweight torpedo] inventory, improving [the torpedo] capabilities, and moving forward with a number of strike weapons that give us diversity and lethality in the battlespace," Perry said.



The Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine Tennessee enters the dry dock at the Trident Refit Facility in Kings Bay, Ga., on Feb. 1, 2021

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Fall 2022 Newsletter



**2022 Overall
First Place**

“Clear the Baffles” is the official Newsletter for the Gold Country Base of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. Published semi-monthly. Please submit ideas or articles to Publisher Barry Wyatt at ; sacsubvet@barrywyatt.com or contact me by phone at (916) 600-1425