



December 2023 / January 2024
VOL MMXXIV Issue 01

Clear The Baffles

GOLD COUNTRY BASE



Overall 2022
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.



December 7th Pearl Harbor Memorial and Wreath Laying Ceremony held Faithfully with Honor by Submarine Veterans since 1986

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Now Hear This!

Next Meeting—January 27, 2024 Potluck @ 12 noon
Meeting Starts 1pm Folsom Veterans Hall -1300 Forrest St., Folsom

First Call to Morning Chow & Holiday Gift Exchange
Tuesday February 13, 2024 0930 @ Denny's Restaurant,
100 North Sunrise, Roseville

Shipmates,



We completed a busy and successful year in 2023. I have listed our events we participated in last year:

1-21 – Lost Boat Memorial Dedication at West Sacramento riverwalk

4-15 – Harry Beach’s Celebration of Life at VFW hall in Folsom

5-18 – Harry Beach’s Interment Ceremony at Dixon National Cemetery

4-27 to 4-29 – Western Region Round-up at the Double Tree Hotel in Sacramento

5-27 – Bass Pro Shop Day at the Rocklin Bass Pro Shops

6-24 – Base annual picnic at Folsom VFW Hall

7-04 – 4th of July Holiday Parade in Lincoln

7-23 – Ed Alves’s Celebration of Life at VFW hall in Folsom

7-27 – Cal Expo Veteran’s Day at the State Fair grounds

9-25 – Joe Cooke’s Interment at Napa

11-11- Veteran’s Day Parade in Auburn

11-12 – Bass Pro Shop Day at Rocklin Bass Pro Shops

12-07 – Pearl Harbor Memorial at Discovery Park

12-13—Holiday First Call to Morning Chow & Gift Exchange

12-15 – Holiday Base Party at Folsom VFW Hall

We were terribly busy the past year and it allowed us to honor our base members that went on Eternal Patrol. We participated in events and parades that showed the local communities just who we are. It allowed us to sign up new members and grow our membership rolls.

As we move forward into 2024, we plan to re-visit some of the events attended last year but look forward to new expanding events that include our families as well as Veterans from other Veteran’s organizations.

HAPPY NEW YEAR and God’s Blessing for good health.

Les Jamison, Base Commander

Vice-COMMANDER

Happy New Year everyone. Almost whatever we listen to or watch we hear how difficult this year is going to be. I am not sure either way but it may be rough, but the last several years haven't been really good either. For myself, I am choosing to concentrate on my own plans and ignore as much as possible the doomsayers. I have a vision of how Glynis and I will live that is what I will be working on. There will be people that won't fare well this year, but there will also be people who will have the best year in their lives. I'm choosing to live in the second group.



I was at the Nation Convention in Tucson in August and really enjoyed it. During one of the last meetings I attended, I got the feeling of how grateful I am to be part of USSVI. I had the great feeling that there is no other veteran's organization with the comfort and camaraderie the submarine veterans have.

All of us are part of this group on a smaller scale. We have people in our lives that can and will provide support, comfort and help whenever it's needed. Thanks to all of you for being part of USSVI Gold Country Base.

An example of how being in this group is very nice. Due to some mix-up during the January First-Call -To-Morning-Chow at Denny's in Roseville, we were not able to be in the separate room we usually enjoy breakfast in. About 16 of us were at a big table in the middle of the restaurant with tables of strangers on both sides of us. As we were finishing our breakfast there was some talk of our meals being paid for by someone sitting near us. We were all surprised and happy when it turned out to be true. The only thing marring this experience was that we were not able to express our thanks and gratitude to the generous person who paid for our breakfast.

The Nation Awards season begins on February 1. The last day to submit nominations is April 30. Any member of USSVI can nominate any member or Base. The [USSVI National Awards Manual 2023](#) describes the award and the qualifications. The manual describes how to write the nomination and has a template. If you need help with a nomination, please ask. Because how the nominations are written has an impact on the successful selection of award winners, it is best to have your nominations reviewed by Les, Mark, or Barry who have submitted successful nominations.

SubVet Check-In



I haven't heard of any calls made by anyone and I haven't heard of any interesting conversations. I have heard the gratitude from our shipmates I have called. I get a lot of satisfaction from the calls. Although I get a bit nervous when making the calls, I have never had a bad experience on a call.

The following shipmates might like to receive a call:

John Armitrage 916-722-2491-- Alvin Lehman 916-983-2147 -- Ron Rule 916-761-0875

Mark Elftmann , Vice Commander

OFFICER'S COUNTRY

Chaplain



Antisemitism

Antisemitism has been in the news lately. What is it and what causes it?

It is prejudice or hatred toward Jews.

Just one of the many causes is "**jealousy**" coming from the bible's many references to the Jews as being God's chosen people. Deuteronomy 7:6-7 is one of these: ***"For you are a holy people to the***

Lord, your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because were more in number than any other people for you were the least of all peoples,"

But that does mean He (God) loves all the rest of us any less? **No!** He chose the Jews to be an example to the whole world and everyone in it. Hope that helps you to better understand.

Blessings, Howard Grover, Chaplain



Treasurer



Membership

Greetings Shipmates'!

There are still a few who have not sent in there annual dues. You should have received an email or letter detailing your outstanding national and base dues. Many of you are life members, but don't let that stop you from sending in a booster contribution. If you haven't seen this message,

feel free to contact me at membership@goldcountrybase.org requesting your outstanding balance. Payments can be made via PayPal to treasurer@goldcountrybase.org or mailed to my address: Gold Country Base, 4521 Hart Dr, Shingle Springs, CA 95682.

Nicholas Sadowy ET1SS

Treasurer / Membership Chairman



Events Coordinator



Shipmates, Keep an eye on the Base Website Posts page <https://www.goldcountrybase.org/posts/> for a list annual of activities. The list is being put together to encourage increased presence at our activities. Work maintaining the website continues. If you cannot log onto the website or see errors please let me know.

Ed McCarthy Web Master/Events Coordinator



OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Greeting shipmates and a very Happy New Year to you all, sorry that I was not able to attend the Holiday party in December but the ER visit that day was a long one. I was getting over a cold, but it was the coughing that was giving me more issues that I can say now that I am finally over with and boy that sure



did take a while this time to get over. I am back to normal and looking forward to another full filled year with our base activities. I attended our breakfast last week and it was good to see everyone that came and what a nice surprise when we went to pay our bill someone who was eating there that morning picked up the bill for all of us. That person had already left per the waiter, so we didn't get to say a big THANK YOU. It sure does make you feel good inside to know people appreciate what we have done for our country and what sacrifices we have made. Everyone stay safe and stay healthy and I will see you all at our next meeting.

Gene Ratto, Gold Country Base Chief of the Boat (COB)



Shipmates, This is the slow part of the year for my sphere (Eagle Scouts). I have absolutely nothing to report, and there has been no communication received from the National Officer in a long time.



Stay high and dry!

Gil Miller, Eagle Scout Coordinator



Happy New Year! A few of us met for a mini meeting on the 12th of January. We will meet the second Saturday of every month. Our next meeting is February 10 at 11:am at El Tapatio 1025 Douglas Roseville



We are working on a budget for our annual holiday party and ways to raise funds to offset the price per ticket.

We also discussed sending cards and/or flowers to our sick or hospitalized members. We still have a lot of work to do, so please plan to attend. All ideas to help raise funds are welcomed. Hope to see you there.

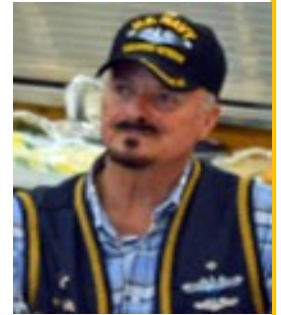
Penny Jamison, SubVet Support Group Commander

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Happy New Year from The Historian / Photographer

Our Gold Country Base is so fortunate to have a dedicated group of "Elected and Appointed Officers" who work so well as a team to keep all our focus areas up to the highest standards. I am very pleased to be able to add my skills and interests as they are needed to help in those efforts. When I reflect on the years that I've been an active member in our Base, I am amazed that we have all accomplished so



much and continue to work together effectively to add new members and contribute to our communities.

As we begin activities in 2024, I am very happy to be able to use my skills as a photographer to document most of our events during the year. I have just downloaded all my photographs from our last three events that I could attend: November 25th GCB Meeting; December 12th Holiday First Call to Morning Chow & Gift Exchange; and GCB December 15th Holiday Party. I was unable to attend our annual December 7th Pearl Harbor Remembrance due to family health issues, but I do appreciate it when other members can be available to take photos for this amazing event.

Kathy and I wish you all an amazing New Year with many blessings and especially good health. It always works best when we all do what we can to help each other and be there during the difficult times.

Roger Paul, Historian / Photographer



Shipmates, This month's edition of our newsletter is a little larger than normal but I thought that it was important to feature the many activities we were involved in during 2023. Once again, I want to express my appreciation to Roger Paul for his contribution of the many pictures you will find on these pages. I also want to say thank you to the members who submitted their BIOS this month, I feel like this is an important contribution



and continues to let other members know who we are beyond our Naval Service. As we move into 2024 I will continue to publish every two months and as always I am open to suggestions so if there's something you'd like to change or if there's something new you'd like to add please let me know. Happy New Year to everyone.

Barry Wyatt, Newsletter Editor/ PAO

My friend has two tickets for the 2024 Super Bowl in Vegas 50-yard line box seats. He paid \$2500 each but he didn't realize last year when he bought them it is the same day as his wedding. If interested he's looking for someone to take his place. It's at Saint Michael's church, at 3:00 PM. The bride's name is Stephanie she's 5'6", about 120 lbs. good cook too. She'll be the one in the white dress.

Contact your Shipmate Chad Clay who submitted this for more information.

Gold Country Base Officers



Base Commander
Kaps4Kids Coordinator
Les Jamison
Qualified 1969
USS Greenfish SS 351
Holland Club
(407) 509-7814
basecommander@goldcountrybase.com



Vice Commander
Awards Chairman
Folsom JVO Rep.
Mark Eftmann
Qualified 1975
USS William H Bates SSN 680
(916) 243-9265



Base Secretary
Diana Clay
Associate Member
(916) 832-0936
dianac5353@gmail.com



Base Treasurer
Membership Chair
Nick Sadowy
Qualified 1991
USS Sturgeon SSN 637
(916) 601-8910 nick@sadowy.com



Chief of the Boat (COB)
Gene Ratto
Qualified 1978
USS Abraham Lincoln
SSBN 602
(279) 600-9400
gene_ratto1@comcast.net



Base Chaplain
Howard Grover
Qualified 1963
USS Spikefish SS 404
Life Member
Holland Club
(209) 245-4067 hgrover@jps.net



Base Photographer
Base Historian
Roger Paul
Qualified 1972
USS Haddock SSN 621
(916) 390-3569 rapaulplus@msn.com



Newsletter Editor/PAO
J. Barry Wyatt
Qualified 1965
USS Henry Clay SSBN 625
Life Member Holland Club
(916) 600-1425
SacSubVet@barrywyatt.com



**Holland Club
Commander**
Lenard Lee
Qualified 1961
USS Salmon SS-573
Life Member Holland Club
(510) 928-8500 Len@trawlers.com



**Eagle Scout
Coordinator**
Gil Miller
Qualified 1963
USS Becuna SS 319
Life Member Holland Club
(916) 365-6721
gemcap646@ranchomurieta.org



**Guest Speakers
Coordinator**
Naval Youth Liaison
Chad Clay
Qualified 1965
USS Daniel Boone SSBN 629
Life Member Holland Club
(916) 502-1623 chdclay@gmail.com



Sub Float Manager
John Kelly
Qualified 1976
USS Pogy (SSN-647)
Life Member
(916) 989-8500
thejbark@gmail.com



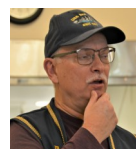
Storekeeper
Jerry Wentland
U.S. Army
Associate Member
(530) 613-6729
nwentland@att.net



**First Call to Morning
Chow Coordinator**
Harold Fisher
Qualified 1965
USS Medregal AGSS 480
Life Member Holland Club
(916) 782-5748 navigator@surewest.net



**SubVet Support
Group Commander**
Penny Jamison
Associate Member
(352) 598-9611
pjamison1050@gmail.com



Web Master
Events Coordinator
Ed McCarthy
Qualified 1983
USS Bergall SSN-667
Life Member (916) 995-5196
eddie105@yahoo.com



**USSVI District 5
Commander**
Tim Carlisle
Qualified 1983
USS Sea Devil SSN 664
Life Member
(925) 812-4239
timcarlisle00@hotmail.com



**USSVI Western
Region Director**
Pete Juhos
Qualified 1980
USS Bergall SSN 667
Life Member
(916) 208-0667 dsv3.ss@gmail.com

Lost Boats

January

USS Scorpion (SS-278)

Lost on Jan 5, 1944 with the loss of 76 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol.

It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.



USS Argonaut (SS-166)

Lost on Jan 10, 1943 with the loss of 102 officers and men off Rabaul, on her 3rd war patrol. While attacking a convoy, she torpedoed a Jap

destroyer who along with 2 other destroyers depth charged her. As she tried to surface, the



USS Swordfish (SS-193)

Lost on Jan 12, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men somewhere near Okinawa, on her 13th war patrol. Probably was lost to a mine.



USS S-36 (SS-141)

Lost on Jan 20, 1942 with no loss of life, on her 2nd war patrol. She ran hard aground on a reef and radioed for help. The entire crew was rescued by a Dutch ship after they scuttled her.



USS S-26 (SS-131)

Lost on Jan 24, 1942 with the loss of 46 officers and men in the Gulf of Panama, on her 2nd war patrol. She was rammed by the USS PC-460 and sunk within seconds. The CO, XO and one lookout on the bridge, were the only survivors.



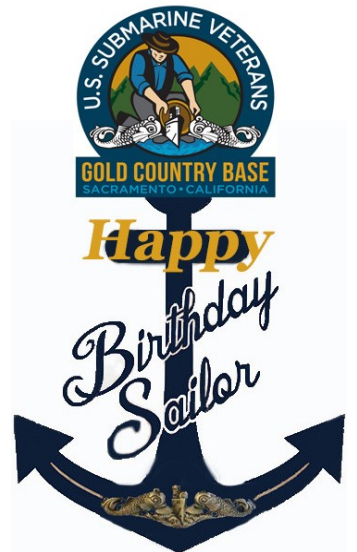
Birthdays

December

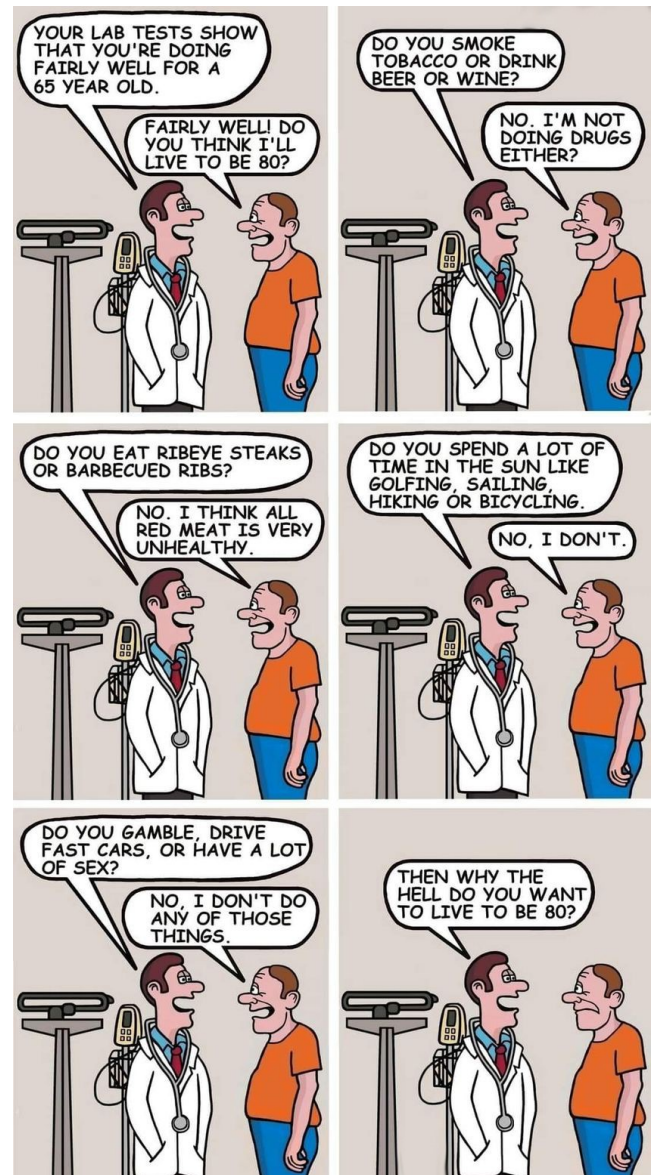
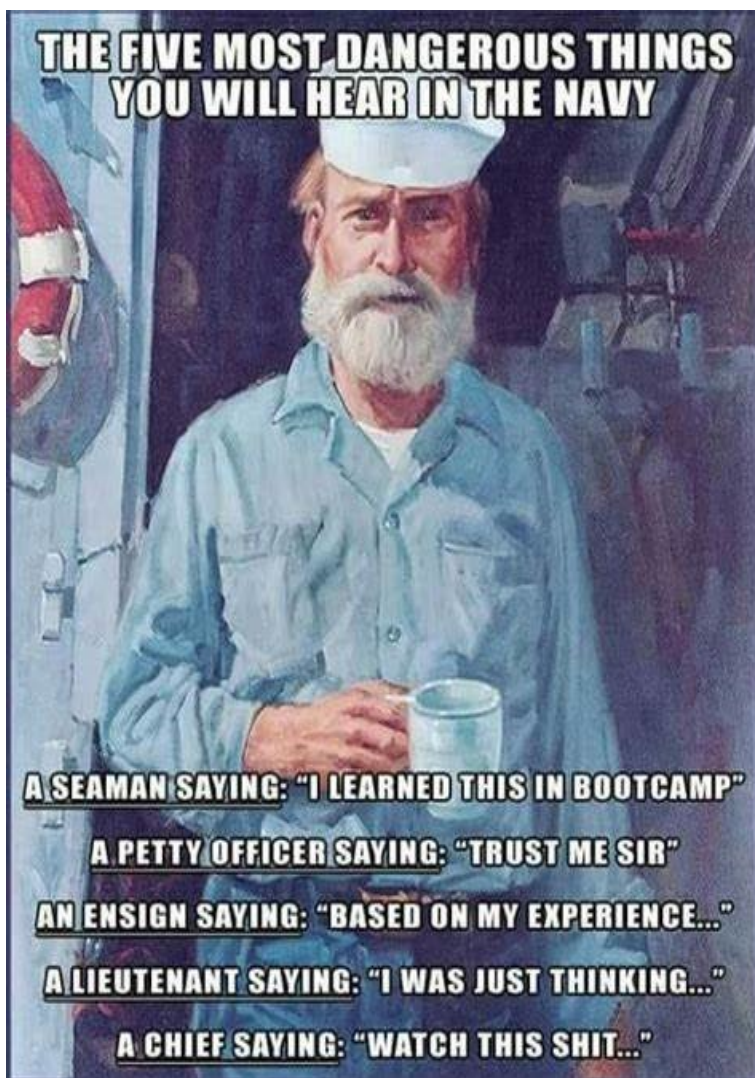
Ted Armstrong Charles Betty Gary English
Howard Grover Jim Hudson Richard Larsen
John Mannix

January

Tony Jacobs Tom Rumsey Lenard Lee
Alan More Patricia Everett Sharon Frost
Debbie Juhos



On The Lighter Side





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

Ed Alves Janet Alves* Bill Barron**

Jerry Bowers Richard Brasher Regy Bronner**

Anita Bronner John Clark* Dennis Cline**

Mike Delleney Mark Elftmann**

Glynis Elftmann Frank Elliott Ken Earls**

*Kevin Fillhouer Howard Grover**

Dennis Henderson Bill Hunt* Les Jamison*

Penny Jamison Pete Juhos Debbie Juhos**

Alvin Lehman Matt Lettau* James MacLean**

John Mannix George Miyao Tom Moniz**

*Alan More Ed Myers Harry Pagett**

Roger Paul Gene Ratto* Elvin Ritscher*

*Gary Robinson Nick Sadowy Louie Slayton**

William Sugnet Jarry Wentland

*Barry Wyatt**

** Multi-Year Donors*

VA Information

You or a Loved One Can Become Part of the California Veterans Memorial

The California Veterans Registry is a permanent record of all California Veterans, past and present, who have served our nation since statehood was established in 1850. Whether cook or fighter pilot, mechanic or chief of staff, this memorial will honor them all, and forever immortalize the contributions that California veterans have made to their nation.

Each California veteran is entitled to the basic information of name, rank and branch of service. To create a truly living memorial, California veterans are encouraged to expand on the basic information by contributing to the enhanced registry.

The Enhanced Registry

California veterans can be truly immortalized by including a photograph (preferably in military uniform) for a donation of \$35 and/or a 100-word statement for a donation of \$15. Any veteran who considers California to be their home is eligible to participate.

There are other memorials in California, but none that represent all who have served, whether in peacetime or during war, and from all branches of military service.

The California Veterans Memorial was built with money raised solely through private contributions such as your donation to the enhanced registry. The memorial receives no state money for this project. Your financial support will go directly to the memorial fund.

Enroll today! [https://](https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/CVRRegister.aspx)

www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/CVRRegister.aspx

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES November 25, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 13:00 Commander Les Jamison the USSVI Creed and Purpose

INVOCATION: Barry Wyatt gave the Invocation.

TOLLING THE BELL: The Lost Boats for the month of September were read by the Vice Commander, Mark Elftmann, and Rick Brashler tolled the bell for each Lost Boat; one additional toll in memory of those ship-mates on Eternal Patrol.

MEMBER INTRODUCTION: There were 26 members and 3 guests in attendance including 0_new members and 0 prospective associate members.

FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER: Les Jamison

Les spoke about our meeting procedure and asked members to minimize side conversations during meetings

VICE COMMANDER: Mark Elftmann

Mark spoke about the USSVI Charitable Foundation Ambassador Program instituted by the National Charitable Foundation. The Ambassador position is a way to have better communication between the Base and the Charitable Foundation. Mark had agreed to fill the position on an interim basis to understand the position and allow time for a permanent Ambassador becomes available.

CHIEF OF THE BOAT (COB) Gene Ratto - No report

TREASURER Base Treasurer: Nick Sadowy

The books are in balance. Gold Country Base does not publicly release financial information in the Newsletter. Any base member can request a report from Base Treasurer via email.

MEMBERSHIP: Nick Sadowy

We have 109 members, 67 members have paid their dues and 42 still have not paid dues

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt

Barry will publish the Newsletter in January. Anyone with a sea story is encouraged to contribute it to the newsletter. He encouraged everyone to submit a biography for the newsletter. He reported that the newsletter has the contact information for two members who it would be good to call.

HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR: Lenard Lee

There are two pending issues with errors in printing that need new documents from the National Holland Club.

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller

No awards to be presented now. USSVI is incorporating the Sea Scouts into the Eagle Scout Award program. When a Sea Cadet earns the CPO rank, the highest Sea Cadet rank, they will be eligible to receive an award from USSVI Gold Country Base

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Howard Grover

Janie Spoon has been ill and in and out of the hospital a few times. Chad and Diana Clay were not at the meeting due to being ill possibly from something from a recent cruise causing the illness.

BASE PHOTOGRAPHER: Roger Paul

Roger has some photos from recent events he will get to Barry.

NAVY YOUTH LIASON: Chad Clay -No report

HISTORIAN: Roger Paul He has been reviewing past newsletters to compile the list of past base officers.

WEB-MASTER: Ed McCarthy - No report

STOREKEEPER: Jerry Wentland

Jerry has calendars available for \$15

He is also taking orders for submarine ties and showed samples of ties available. Anyone interested in ordering a tie should contact him.

Jerry suggested anyone with old submarine calendars to bring them to him. He will give them to Les for use on Kaps-4-Kids visits.

KAPS4KIDS COORDINATOR: Les Jamison

There has been no easing of the restrictions on visits to the Children's Ward at Kaiser

(continued on next page)

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES November 25, 2023 (continued)

SUBVET CHECK-IN PROGRAM: [Mark Elftmann](#)

Mark is continuing to make sure we have current phone numbers. All members are encouraged to call their friends and shipmates, especially during the holiday season.

FOLSOM JVO: [Mark Elftmann](#)

The VFW sent an email explaining that the hall needs to rent hall as much as possible to pay the expenses of the Folsom Veteran's Hall. One of the expenses is rent paid to the City of Folsom as the facility owner.

EVENTS COORDINATOR: [Ed McCarthy](#)

Everything is setup and ready for the December 7 Pearl Harbor Ceremony. Help will be needed at 7:00 AM for setup. There was mention of having a First Anniversary program for the Lost Boats Memorial in West Sacramento on January 21 or January 27.

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR: [Chad Clay](#) - No Report

SUBVETS SUPPORT GROUP: [Penny Jamison](#)

The group is organizing a time and place to meet to discuss how the group can provide more support. A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 11:00 AM at Brookfield's on Taylor Road in Roseville. All ladies are welcome to attend. Penny put out a preliminary sign-up sheet for the Christmas Party. Penny encouraged everyone who might go to the party so she can have an idea of the number to give the caterer. She is shooting to have 50 people to attend. Social Hour will be at 5:00 with dinner at 6:00

WESTERN REGION DIRECTOR: [Pete Juhos](#)

Western Region Roundup will be held April 11, 2024 to April 13, 2024 at the Best Western Silverdale Beach Hotel in Silverdale, WA. A SECNAV Form 5512, available on [Western Region Roundup](#) website, the needs to be completed and submitted by February 1, 2024 to be able to go onto the Navy Base.

The Dolphin Base and Mare Island Base will put on an Annual Crab Feed, which the proceeds are used to support the San Leandro Lost Boats Memorial. The Crab Feed in on January 20, 2024 with a no host cocktail at 5:00 and dinner at 6:00. It will be at the Hayward Veteran's Hall in Hayward, CA.

[Good of the Order / Communications:](#)

Barry spoke about having an inventory of items the Base has. Once the inventory is recorded including the location where each item is stored. Inventories for necessary items needed for different events. John Kelly will tag each item in the inventory to identify them Item and where the location is stored.

[Old Business:](#)

According to Base bylaws, the positions of Base Secretary and Vice Commander should have been nominated at a prior meeting. The election should have been scheduled for this meeting. Barry moved to waive the standard election requirement of nominating in September and electing in October and accept the Vice Commander and Secretary for another two-year term. Pete seconded the motion, the motion passed with no opposition.

Max Shell from Monterey had agreed last year to have his Navy Junior ROTC group This participate in the 2022 December 7, Pearl Harbor Celebration as Honor Guard. The Base had approved to contribute \$500 to cover the transportation. Max never received the check so Les will have a check written and sent to Max.

[New Business:](#)

A motion was made for writing a check of \$1,000 as a down payment for the caterer for the Christmas Party. The motion was seconded and passed with no objections. Les gave \$60 cash to the Veteran's Hall Cantina as down payment for the bartender on December 15.

John and Rick will gather the items needed for December 7 and bring them to the event location. Everyone is to gather at Discovery Park at 7:00 AM to setup for the ceremony

People are needed to help set up for the Christmas Party at 11:00 AM.

[First-Call-Morning-Chow:](#)

Date & Time – December 12, 2023, at Denny's on North Sunrise in Roseville. There will be a gift exchange with a price limit of \$25

Next Base Meeting: Next meeting will be on [January 27, 2024](#)

50/50 Won By: \$65 [Meeting adjournment:](#)

Barry Wyatt gave a closing prayer.

Chief of the Boat surfaced the Boat @ 2:27

Submitted by Mark Elftmann, Vice Commander

Gold Country Base SubVet Check-In

Several of our Shipmates are unable to attend monthly meeting or participate in the events. Both of the men below gave there all to our base. Please take the time to give them a call or a visit. Let them know we are grateful for there service and miss seeing them.

Reginald "Regybear" Bronner was born in Oakland, California in 1942. He joined the United States Naval Reserve (Destroyers) at Treasure Island, San Francisco, at the age of 16 and volunteered for Basic Submarine School at New London, Connecticut, at the age of 17. His first duty station and Qual boat was the USS Baya AGSS-318. He transferred to the USS Sea Fox SS-402. He made a West-Pac cruise to points east during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962-3.



Regy joined USSVI in 1998 and is a Life and Holland Club member. He is a Plank Owner of Gold Country Base. He served as Base Vice Commander from 2016 through 2020.

Regy is residing at Atria Rocklin 3201 Santa Fe Way, Rocklin CA 95765 (916) 435-8281.

Regy Bronner SOG3 (SS) and his wife Anita

Best time to visit or call Regy is early afternoon.



Larry Williams IC2 (SS) and his wife Diana.

Larry was born March 19, 1933 in Sacramento, where he grew up and graduated from C K McClatchy High School. He joined the Navy January 3, 1953 and after boot camp was assigned to the USS Electra AKA-4 an attack cargo ship. After volunteering for Submarine duty he attended Sub-school and then served on the USS Diodon SS-349 where I qualified in 1954. I was discharged from the Navy as a 2ed Class IC Electrician in October of 1959.

After the Navy Larry attended Sacramento Junior College, worked for Western Highway Oil Company for 6 years followed by working for Burroughs Corporation for the next 6 years. He next move into the Banking industry where my duties were retail marketing and Banking. During my career in that field I worked for Security Pacific Bank in Fresno and Brawley; the Bank of America in Brawley and the Motherlode Bank in Placerville where I retired in 1999.

In 1961 I married the love of my life Diana. We have 2 children a son Lawrence, who is a TV Producer and lives in Los Angeles and a Daughter Lori, who works as a Diagnostic Optician and lives in Sacramento.

Larry joined USSVI in 2012 and is a Life and Holland Club member. He is a Plank Owner of Gold Country Base. He served as Base Treasurer from 2013 through 2016.

Larry lives at home 1630 Pheasant Run Dr. Placerville, CA 95667 (530) 435-8281.

Best time to call or visit Larry is early afternoon.

Base Member Bio

Lenard Lee QM1 (SS)

I was born on January 25th 1943 and grew up in Vallejo CA. I joined the Navy in 1960 and qualified on the USS Salmon SS 573 in 1961. I also served on the USS Aspro SS 309 and the USS Raton AGSS 270. I discharged in 1969 as a QM1 (SS)



My first job out of the Navy was assistant master, on Lockheed California's Company research vessel "Sea Quest".

After college, I acquired a teaching credential in marine technology and taught at San Diego City College for two years. At age 28 I bought a commercial fishing boat and fished for about 15 years.



My wife Victoria and I founded Jonah's Seafood a small seafood company with three restaurants and markets, a company we ultimately sold.

In 1987 my wife Victoria and I started a yacht sales business in Alameda CA. We were Yacht Brokers and Yacht Dealers for a little over 30 wonderful years, we retired in 2017.

Since retirement we have enjoyed traveling with our small Jayco trailer, fishing at Lake Folsom, gardening and spending time with our children and grandchildren.

I joined USSVI and the Gold Country Base in 2018 and I'm currently serving as the Holland club Commander.

Base Member Bio

Bill Barron STS2 (SS)



I was born in Baguio, Philippines in 1949. My father joined the US Army during World War II after serving as a Philippine scout. His mother was a registered nurse who also worked with the US Army.

My father was transferred to the states and the family moved to Pittsburgh, CA when I was just four years old. From there we moved to Okinawa where we lived in Naha dependent housing until I was in the 5th grade. While living in Okinawa I explored the jungles and caves outside my neighborhood and found old relics from World War II. Once a friend found a hilt of a broken Japanese katana sword blade. Besides exploring Okinawa's jungles, I often went to the beach fishing with my dad. There I found sandbag bunkers that fit me comfortably facing the coast and could imagine a battle on the beach before me. There were shipwrecked ships along the coast that I explored and often played inside those bunkers pretending I was fighting off attackers. At that time, I did not realize that these were the remnants of the battle of Okinawa. Later I realized those ships were destroyed by kamikaze pilots, and the Japanese army was inside those caves I had explored. It was all an incredible experience for me. The Battle of Hacksaw Ridge was a key battle during the larger Battle of Okinawa, which took place between the US military and the Imperial Japanese Army in **April 1945 Hacksaw Ridge** is a 2016 biographical war film directed by Mel Gibson that shows how bloody that battle was.

When we moved to Fort Ord Army post on Monterey Bay, my father served there until his retirement. During that time, I attended Fremont Junior High school and Monterey High school. After



graduating in 1967 I enlisted in the US Navy, went to boot camp in San Diego, CA and then was fortunate to received training in Basic Electricity and Electronics, Intermediate Electronics and Advanced Submarine Sonar Systems. In 1969 I left San Diego to attend Naval Submarine School in Groton, CT and on completion took a vacation to go visit my parents in Seaside, CA. Since I needed to return to New London to complete more training, I decided to take my memorable first ever train ride from Monterey across the country to New London. It was an amazing trip with huge snow tunnels going through the snowcapped Sierra Nevada mountains. During that trip, I took advantage of not being carded as a 19 year old and had a few beers at the bar. There I met a guy, and we had a great time hanging out. The next day I changed into my E4 uniform and went back to the bar. To my surprise he was in his first-class machinist mate uniform. That was my first time hanging out like a couple of sailors at a bar.

(Continued on next page)

Base Member Bio

Bill Barron STS2 (SS) (continued)

I knew that my cousin Bill Anderson was also in the US Navy submarine service. However, I did not know that he had made it to the rank of CWO4 and was my Commanding Officer of Basic Enlisted Submarine School. I was called out of class to report to his office. My instructor was nervously surprised. "Petty Officer Barron! What the F*** did you do?" I was introduced to all the different commanding officers in New London Base by my proud cousin. After Sub school I reported on board USS Haddock (SSN 621) in Pearl Harbor, HI and got my dolphins in 1970. I was acting as Sonar watch stander, Sonar supervisor, In port Section Leader and 3M Coordinator forward. In 1971 I went to advanced Sonar School, Key West, FL.

In 1973 I left Haddock in Guam and received my Honorable discharge out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. One of my most memorable times was going on 1970 Westpac visiting Yokosuka, Subic Bay, Hong Kong, Okinawa and Guam. Also completing a Pearl-to-Pearl run where you leave port, disappear for a couple of months then reappear was memorable.

After my Honorable discharge I went back to Monterey for a break, and attended Monterey Peninsula Collage to received my Associate of Science Degree in Electronics and my Associated



in Arts degree . My Navy experience and discipline enabled me to pass all classes with high grades while enjoying beach volleyball and B&W photograph.

A friend in MPC told me about a small company in Sunnyvale that does defense contracting. Out of curiosity I visited it. With no resume or preparation, I picked up and filled out an application for employment. That same week I was contacted for an interview and was offered a job as an Independent *Research & Development (IR&D)* technician. This started a new adventure in government contracting jobs and projects.

Like the silent service in the military my job remained undisclosed in most cases. My wife was not told where nor why I had to travel for weeks or months at a time. She also worked in the defense industry, so she understood and accepted it. She said she enjoyed the breaks! My company was acquired by TRW, which was later acquired by Northrup Grumman. After working out of Sunnyvale for about 25 years, Northrop Grumman sold the Sunnyvale, CA, property and transferred my department to McClellan Business Park. We sold our house in Sunnyvale and moved to Colfax, CA. In my last few years of work my assignments were working on U2 aircraft and Global Hawk drones as a Field Service Engineer out of Beale Air force Base. I retired after 41 years. Laura is still shocked with me being home all the time.

I met Laura through a co-worker and married in 1981. We have a son, Paul, who works at the VA Hospital in Palo Alto, CA, and has two children. Our daughter, Liza, is a registered nurse who works in the hospital in Grass Valley, CA. We live near Colfax, CA, in the Sierra Nevada foothills. I am an active member of USSVI Gold Country Base, and the Colfax VFW Post 2003. I love to play Bocce Ball three times a week if possible and have won a few recreational tournaments. We enjoy traveling and recently returned from a cruise to the British Isles and Norway.

USSVI Western Region News

USSVI Western Region Roundup

A Gathering of Submariners

April 11 - 13, 2024

**Best Western Silverdale
Beach Hotel**

Silverdale, Washington

Hosted By USSVI Bremerton Base

www.wrroundup.com



**Register
Today**

USSVI National News

USSVI NATIONAL 2024 CONVENTION



AUGUST 19-24 2024

<https://subvetconvention.org/>

2023 Year In Review



Gold Country Base Treasurer Nick Sadowy & newly elected Base Commander Les Jameson sworn in by District Commander Tim Carlisle.



After a 5-year effort we unveiled Gold Country Base Lost Boat Memorial at the Veterans Plaza on the River Walk in West Sacramento January 20th 2024.



City of West Sacramento Mayor Martha Guerrero

2023 Year In Review



USSVI
Western Region
Roundup
A Gathering of Submariners
April 27 - 29, 2023
Sacramento, CA
Hosted by Gold Country Base



Colors Presented
by the US Naval
Sea Cadets
Sacramento
Division

Missing
Shipmate Table
Ceremony
performed by
Vice Commander
Mark Elftmann



USSVI National Commander
Bill Andrea

2023 Year In Review

*Harry Beach EM2 (SS)
Interment Ceremony Sacramento
Valley National Cemetery
May 18, 2023*



**First Call to Morning Chow
2nd Tuesday every Month**



2023 Year In Review



Bass Pro Memorial Day Weekend



2023 Year In Review



California
STATE★FAIR



2023 Year In Review



National Awards



Golden Anchor
Awarded to Gold
Country Base

Robert Link Awarded
to Base Member
Barry Wyatt



National Awards
presented by
Pete Juhos

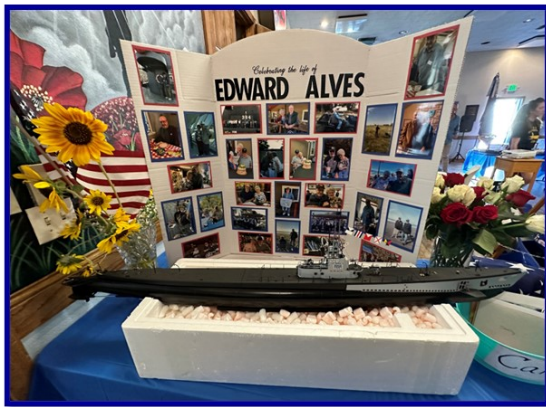


Newsletter of the Year
Awarded to Clear the
Baffles Editor Barry Wyatt

2023 Year In Review



**Edward John Alves MM2(SS)
Eternal Patrol
Ceremony**



2023 Year In Review



Joe Cooke TM2 (SS)
Interment Ceremony
Tulocay Cemetery
Napa California



2023 Year In Review



**2023 Auburn
California
Veterans Day
Parade**



**Bass Pro
Veterans
Day
Weekend**

2023 Year In Review



**37th Annual December 7th
Memorial & Wreath-Laying
Ceremony at Discovery Park**



2023 Year In Review



Holiday First Call to Morning Chow & Gift Exchange



2023 Year In Review

Gold Country Base Annual Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony



Story of Interest



**California Department
of Veterans Affairs**

Lindsey Sin Secretary



Lindsey Sin was appointed as Secretary of CalVet by Governor Gavin Newsom on May 26, 2023. She has served in several roles at CalVet since 2011, including Deputy Secretary of Communications and Deputy Secretary of Women Veterans Affairs. Sin is the first woman to serve as Secretary of CalVet since the appointment of Virginia Mae Days as Director in 1975.

After graduating from high school in her hometown of Sacramento, Lindsey enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served from 1997 until 2005 as a Cryptologic Technician Interpreter in the Arabic language. She completed two flight tours in Rota, Spain during which time she deployed in support of Operations Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom, and achieved the rank of Petty Officer First Class with Naval Aviation and Naval Aircrew designations.

After separating from the Navy, Lindsey returned to Sacramento and worked as the Lead Certifying Official for veterans services at American River College. She continued her work with veterans at Sacramento State as the Veterans Benefit Advisor and Certifying Official, focusing on developing programs for student veterans. Lindsey has a BA in History, Magna Cum Laude, from Sacramento State and an MBA from Drexel University. She resides in Sacramento with her husband and two children.

Lindsey Sin the Secretary of California Department of Veteran Affairs was our guest speaker for the December 7th Memorial event in 2013. In 2021 Lindsay attended the memorial with then Under Secretary Russell Atterberry. At the event she was presented with a plaque in recognition of her support of Sub Vets and all veterans presented by District Director Pete Juhos.



Featured Boat

USS *Balao* (SS/AGSS-285) was the lead ship of the United States Navy's *Balao*-class submarines during World War II and named for the *Balao*, a small schooling marine fish.

Construction and commissioning

Balao's keel was laid down on 26 June 1942 at the Portsmouth Navy Yard in Kittery, Maine. She was launched on 27 October 1942, sponsored by Mrs. Jane Aylward, wife of Lieutenant Commander Theodore C. Aylward, commissioned on 4 February 1943 and reported to the United States Pacific Fleet. Deployed to the Pacific, she was based out of Brisbane, Australia, and Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, where she patrolled for enemy ships and rescued downed aviators. Following an overhaul in California in December 1944, *Balao* returned to the Pacific and served until Japan's surrender. Decommissioned in August 1946, she became part of the Atlantic Reserve Fleet. Re-commissioned in March

1952, *Balao* became as a training ship for anti-submarine and Special Deployment Forces at both Key West, Florida, and Guantanamo Bay,

Cuba. In 1959, she starred as the "pink submarine" in the motion picture "Operation Petticoat". In April 1960, she was reclassified as AGSS-285. A year later, *Balao* simulated a disabled submarine while testing a new device for individual escape, the "Steinke Hood." During the Cuban Missile Crisis in October and November 1962, she was sent to patrol the western Atlantic.

Decommissioned on July 11, 1963, her hulk was sunk off northern Florida on September 6. Beforehand, *Balao*'s fairwater was removed and sent to the National Museum of the United States Navy of the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C.



Class and type	<i>Balao</i> -class diesel-electric submarine ^[2]
Displacement	1,526 long tons (1,550 t) surfaced, ^[2] 2,414 long tons (2,453 t) submerged ^[2]
Length	311 ft 9 in (95.02 m) ^[2]
Beam	27 ft 3 in (8.31 m) ^[2]
Draft	16 ft 10 in (5.13 m) maximum ^[2]
Propulsion	4 × General Motors Model 16-278A V16 diesel engines driving electric generators
Speed	20.25 kn (23.3 mph ; 37.5 km/h) surfaced, 8.75 kn (10.1 mph ; 16.2 km/h) submerged ^[3]
Range	11,000 nmi (13,000 mi ; 20,000 km) surfaced @ 10 kn (12 mph ; 19 km/h) ^[3]
Endurance	48 hours @ 2 kn (2.3 mph ; 3.7 km/h) submerged; ^[3] 75 days on patrol
Test depth	400 ft (120 m) ^[3]
Complement	10 officers, 70–71 enlist-
Armament	10 × 21 inch (533 mm) torpedo tubes (six forward, four aft; 24 torpedoes one [[4-inch/50-caliber gun 4 in (100 mm)/50]]/50 caliber deck gun one 40 mm (1.57 in) Bofors anti-aircraft cannon two .50 cal (12.7 mm) machineguns ^[4]

Featured Boat

(continued)

IT COMES AS NO SURPRISE that security is tight at the Washington Navy Yard, but few visitors expect to have to sneak past the periscope of a World War II-era attack submarine. The conning tower is positioned between a public lot and restricted base parking, looking as if it's ready to fire off a salvo of torpedoes at unsuspecting broadsides. Luckily the vintage conning tower is anchored to a concrete pad.

The decapitated conning tower at the Navy Yard originally sat atop the USS *Balao*. Named after a species of little fishies, the underwater boat had a respectable but not quite awe-inspiring tour of duty in the Second World War.

Its real claim to fame came when the *Balao* starred in the popular war comedy Operation Petticoat alongside Cary Grant.

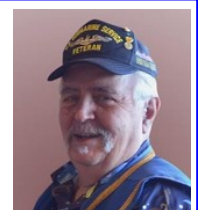
The role itself was a little self-effacing. In the movie a Japanese bomber damages the *Balao* and the submariners repairing it find they have nothing but red and white anti-corrosive paint. When they patch the sub up, the gleaming new paint job is hot pink.



Audiences in 1959 screamed with delight at the prospect. The battle-hardened old sea salts of the U.S. Navy in pink? It was unthinkable. "We blushed when we asked for it and almost fainted when the Navy said okay," the film's producer explained in 1959.

The *Balao* was retired in the 1960s and sunk off the coast of Florida for target practice. But not before nostalgic seamen sawed off the conning tower and had it shipped to Washington. The structure was humorously painted pink for a spell, but the powers to be deep-sixed the idea and soon had it repainted standard Navy Gray.

**USS *Balao* (SS/AGSS-285) was the
Qual Boat of Gold Country Base
Shipmate on Eternal Patrol
Tim Spoon**

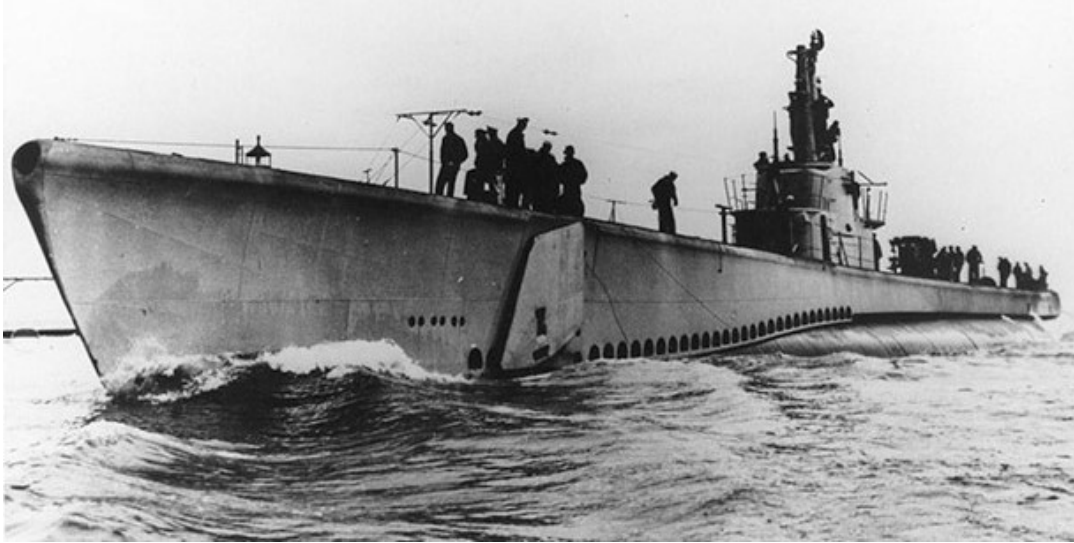


WW II Submarine News

Submarine Warfare Played Major Role in World War II Victory

Submarine warfare has been around a while. Primitive subs were used with mixed results from the Revolutionary War up until World War I, when advances were made in propulsion and torpedoes.

However, it was the Germans who most effectively used their submarines, called U-boats, against allied shipping during World War I. The allies took note and began to modernize their submarines. By the time the United States became involved in World War II, the advances were pivotal to the success of the country's sea power.



USS Archerfish (SS/AGSS-311) was a *Balao*-class submarine. She was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the archerfish. *Archerfish* is best known for sinking the Japanese aircraft carrier *Shinano* in November 1944, the largest warship ever sunk by a submarine.

"Compared with their World War I counterparts, submarines [in World War II] now exhibited greater speed, more effective weaponry, sophisticated detection technology and great versatility, and could pursue their victims rather than just lying in wait," wrote historian Gary E. Weir in a U.S. Naval Historical Center publication "Silent Victory 1940-1945."

Submarine warfare took place in both the Pacific and European theaters of war. However, U.S. Navy submarines saw their greatest success against Japanese merchant vessels and warships. Submarines also played humanitarian and special operations roles in the campaign against Japan. In many of the hardest-fought battles of the war, submarine crews rescued downed carrier pilots, including future President George H.W. Bush. Fleet submarines also delivered troops tasked with special missions. In August 1942, USS Nautilus and USS Argonaut delivered Marine Corps Col. Evans F. Carlson's "Raiders" to Makin Island in the Gilbert chain as a diversion during the Guadalcanal campaign. Subsequently, the two submarines returned to pick up the Marines after they completed their missions to reconnoiter the island and destroy important enemy facilities. In all, U.S. submarines destroyed 1,314 enemy warships in the Pacific, representing 55% of all Axis power warships lost and a total of 5.3 million tons of shipping, Weir stated.

WW II Submarine News

(continued)

Out of 16,000 U.S. submariners, the force lost 375 officers and 3,131 enlisted men in 52 submarines, and "although this was a tragic loss, it was still the lowest casualty rate of any combatant submarine service on either side in the 1939-1945 conflict," Weir noted. In the final months of the war, American submarines had difficulty finding targets because the Japanese had virtually no ships left to sink.

Submarines also played an important role in the European theater in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, where German U-boats posed a menace against allied shipping, particularly in the early years of the war.

By mid-1943, U.S. advances in sensors and antisubmarine weapons carried by warships convoying merchant vessels greatly reduced the U-boat threat, and much of the submarine force was transferred to the Pacific theater.



After World War II, huge advances were made in submarines: nuclear power enables submarines to remain underwater for long periods of time, and improvements in weaponry include long-range, accurate missiles and torpedoes that can be used against ships, other submarines and even land targets.

Submarines are also used for other missions such as intelligence gathering, minelaying and transport of special operations forces.

Together with long-range bombers and intercontinental ballistic missiles, today's ballistic missile submarines are the third component of the nuclear triad.

Navy Submarine News

US Navy Looks To Expand Atlantic Submarine Initiative To The Pacific

Commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command Adm. Caudle Explains the U.S. Navy's Wolfpack Submarine Initiative at SNA 2024

The commander of U.S. Fleet Forces is looking to expand an Atlantic-based submarine deployment initiative to the Indo-Pacific to strengthen Navy responsiveness to challenges posed by Russia and China.

Adm. Daryl Caudle, commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command, told reporters at a breakfast on Monday during the Surface Navy Association's (SNA) annual symposium about the Wolfpack Initiative.

In reference to the submarine warfare of the Second World War, Wolfpack is one of many efforts being undertaken by the Navy under the "One Atlantic Concept," which aims to rid commanders of the command challenges posed by the operational lines separating combatant commands. **Another effort, dubbed Task Force Greyhound, conducts a similar mission but with guided missile destroyers.**



"The Wolfpack is a little back of a throwback word that Adm. Houston came up with of how we conducted submarine warfare in World War Two. The idea there is if you had a set of ships back then they could communicate to one another because they were overmatched by speed of the targets that they were pursuing. And we could link together submarines more effectively to actually impact damage."

In contrast, today's Wolfpack designates submarines that are out of their deployment cycle with a level of readiness and certification as "combat surge ready." These boats are then counted under a contingency response force, which can rapidly deploy to developing situations.

"In short notice, I can flow that submarine to a point of need that can be mutually agreed upon between the EUCOM commander and the NORTHCOM commander to respond to some Russian out-of-area deployment."

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649 Cadena Dr.
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Fax: 866.384.0192
Max@WestCoastSpecialties.com

MendedLIFE.com
Something good is the making

Joel Walton
Marriage & Family Therapist
Lic No. 98304
(916) 587-1948
7844 Madison Ave, Suite 108,
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

A photograph of Joel Walton, a man with a mustache wearing a baseball cap and a light-colored shirt, smiling against a background of a landscape.

Joel.Walton@MendedLife.com

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**Overall 2023
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

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