



"To Honor Those Who Serve, Past, Present & Future"

December 2021

Volume 22, Issue 12

**Lest We Forget —
"The USSVI Submariner's Creed"**

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

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News Brief

1. **Next Meeting:** At 1100, third Saturday of each month at the Knollwood Sportsman's Club. Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates:
 - a. **December 18**
 - b. **January 15, 2022**
 - c. **February 19**
2. **Duty Cook Roster:**
 - a. December – Manny Garmendez
 - b. January – Possible 2022 Chili Dump
 - c. February - See Your Name Here!
3. **December Birthdays.** Jim Anderson 1st; Maurice Young 26th. Happy Birthday Shipmates!
4. **Crash Dive** has a few openings where you can showcase your skills while serving your shipmates. Can you see yourself as our Chaplain, Community Outreach Chair, Membership Chair, Charitable Giving Chair, Vice-Commander, or CoB? Contact Clay Hill to step-up.

Crash Dive Meeting Minutes November 20, 2021

1) Call to Order

2) Attendees:

- a) Clayton Hill
- b) Herman Mueller
- c) Charlie Kruger
- d) Scott Jaklin
- e) Frank Walter
- f) Frank Voznak, Jr
- g) Bret Zacher
- h) Chris Gaines
- i) Ted Rotzoll
- j) Manuel Garmendez
- k) Maurice Young
- l) Tara Atwood (ASW Guest)

3) Reports:

a) Secretary's Report

- (1) Veteran's Week was busy but had some noteworthy events
- (2) Serving Those Who Served Breakfast: made contact with old UWM Vets Club
- (3) Student Veterans Association meetings continue; axe-throwing event.

b) Treasurer's Report

- (1) Funds in account: Checking \$4,501.40; Savings \$15,462.44
- (2) Petty Cash: \$100
- (3) \$65 from 50/50, Frank Walter donates winnings.
- (4) \$12,315.88 after payment for sign. Ammended motion to invest \$10k for Memorial Fund, Frank Voznak 2nd. Motion carries.
- (5) Switch to Chase Bank pending. Not eligible to use bank due to Non-profit sub status from USSVI. Chase will not be an option.

c) Committee Reports

i) Newsletter – Chris Gaines

- (1) Work in progress
- (2) Anyone willing to write/forward an article would be appreciated.

ii) Membership – Chris Gaines

- (1) 35 members on roster; 4 postal members with no comms.
- (2) Motion for membership to pursue collecting dues for 2022, Frank V & Frank W 2nd. Motion carries.
- (3) New roster will be 25 members unless new members added.
- (4) Frank Walter voted to be figurehead Vice Commander as senior member

iii) Community Outreach– Bret Zacher

iv) Hospitality – Bret Zacher

v) Webmaster – Frank Voznak, Jr.

- i) Annual bill paid? Motion carried from Oct
- (1) Receipt for payment given to treasurer

vi) Storekeeper – Herman Mueller

- (1) Down to 2 Eternal Patrol medallions

vii) Procedures – Chris Gaines

viii) Eagle Scout – Ted Rotzoll

- (1) Had Court of Honor Postponed to 2022; another at Great Lakes last week.
- (2) 2 scouts coming up the Sunday after Thanksgiving; 3 certificates signed

ix) Memorial Committee – Frank Voznak, Jr.

- (1) Signage corrections finalized; updated report
- (2) Installation should be done after Thanksgiving; before Christmas.

4) **Old (Unfinished) Business**

- a) Elections for Base Positions: any interest or need of relief? Last call.

- b) USS Connecticut (SSN-22) Collision
 - i) CO/XO relieved; investigation to follow?
 - (1) COB relieved also; details not expected to follow
 - c) USS Chicago SSN-721 Post Decommissioning
 - i) Ask Michelle Woods/city if interested in acquiring sail; explore placement
 - ii) Update on contacting Len Wass
 - (1) Waiting to hear back from Michelle
 - a) Toys for Tots
 - i) Still time to participate?
 - (1) Maurice to check if event is back to normal and/or if cash can be donated
 - (2) Herman to ask around mall for more info
 - (3) Not to participate this year.
- 5) **New Business**
- a) Note from USSVI National: Use Chain of Command to report issues and concerns.No need to reach out to National Office Manager about name issues on American Submariner
- 6) **Good of the Order**
- a) Navy Veteran in Norfolk makes news for getting 14 free meals on Veteran’s Day; tipped at each location.
 - b) Response for “Thank you for your service...” - “I’d do it again for you!”
 - c) Duty Cook
 - i) December – Manny, Christmas snacks [gingerbread, cringle, egg nog etc.]
 - ii) January – Chili dump for 2022
 - iii) February –Ted Rotzoll, Goose Chili depending
 - iv) March – Bret, St. Patrick’s meal
 - v) April – Maurice, something good
 - d) 786 Club

- i) Next speaker: 23 Feb 22, VADM Bill Houston, ComSubFor and ComSubLant
- ii) Trip to Pearl in June due to COVID gathering restrictions

2) **SOUND Klaxon**

- a) Next Meeting is 18 December 2021 @ KSC

3) **Adjourn 1301**

Lost Boats

USS Capelin (SS-289)	12/2/43
USS Sea Lion (SS-195)	12/10/41
USS F-1/Carp (SS-20)	12/17/17
USS S-4 (SS-109)	12/17/27

Undersea Warfare History

- **December 2, 1944** | USS Sea Devil (SS 400) attacks a Japanese convoy in the East China Sea and sinks merchant tanker Akigawa Maru and passenger-cargo ship Hawaii Maru, while USS Gunnel (SS 253) evacuates 11 rescued aviators from Palawan, Philippines and turns over all available stores to Filipino forces ashore.
- **December 3, 1943** | USS Tinosa (SS 283) sinks the Palau-bound Japanese fleet tanker Azuma Maru northwest of Sonsorol.
- **December 4, 1944** | USS Flasher (SS 249) sinks Japanese destroyer Kishinami and damages a merchant ship in the South China Sea. Flasher is the only U.S. submarine to sink more than 100,000 tons of enemy shipping in World War II.

- **December 5, 1943** | USS Narwhal (SS 167) embarks nine evacuees at Alubijid, Mascalcar Bay and then sinks Japanese cargo ship Himeno Maru off Camiguin Island.
- **December 6, 1941** | President Franklin D. Roosevelt sends a letter to the Japanese emperor reminding the Japanese leader of their country's long-standing relationship and his concern about developments occurring in the Pacific area.
- **December 9, 1941** | USS Swordfish (SS 193) makes initial U.S. submarine attack on Japanese ship, torpedoing a ship 150 miles west of Manila. Her claim of sinking, though, is not confirmed in enemy records.
- **December 10, 1843** | The first steam ship with screw propeller, Princeton, is launched. In 1844, its guns explode during a demonstration and kill Secretary of State Abel P. Upshur, Secretary of the Navy Thomas Gilmer and several others.
- **December 11, 1941** | The United States declares war on Germany and Italy.
- **December 12, 1942** | Five torpedo boats attack 11 Japanese destroyers off Cape Esperance, Guadalcanal. Motor torpedo boats PT 37 and PT 40 sink Japanese destroyer Terutsuki. In return, the Japanese destroyers Kawakaze and Suzukaze sink PT 44 off Savo Island.
- **December 13, 1775** | The Continental Congress provides for the construction of five ships of 32 guns, five ships of 28 guns, and three ships of 24 guns at an estimated cost of \$866,666. The

ships are Hancock, Randolph, Raleigh, Warren, Washington, Congress, Effingham, Providence, Trumbull, Virginia, Boston, Delaware, and Montgomery.

- **December 16, 1944** | USS Swordfish (SS 193) attacks a Japanese convoy south of Hainan Island and sinks Japanese army transport Atsutasan Maru.
- **December 17, 1917** | USS Remlik (SP 157) reportedly encounters an enemy submarine during a storm in the Bay of Biscay, but the weather prevents an engagement. While she is fighting the heavy seas that day, a depth charge breaks loose on her after deck and is secured by Chief Boatswain's Mate John MacKenzie, who receives the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions.
- **December 18, 1943** | USS Aspro (SS 309) attacks a Japanese convoy in Sakishima Gunto, damaging fleet tankers Sarawak Maru and Tenei Maru, and escapes counter attacks by destroyer Shoikaze. Meanwhile, USS Grayback (SS 208) sinks Japanese freighter Gyokurei Maru east-northeast of Naha, Okinawa and escapes counter attacks by destroyer Numakaze.
- **December 19, 1941** | The U.S. Naval Academy class of 1942 graduates six months early due to the nation's entry into World War II.
- **December 20, 1941** | Adm. Ernest J. King is announced as the designated Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet, in charge of all operating naval fleets and coastal frontier forces, reporting directly to the President.

Next Generation SSN(X) Attack Sub 'Is Going to Carry a Lot of Torpedoes,' Says Admiral

By: [Sam LaGrone](#)

November 22, 2021 8:34 PM



USS Missouri (SSN-780) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled deployment in the 7th Fleet area of responsibility on Sept. 1, 2021. US Navy Photo

ARLINGTON, Va. – The next U.S. nuclear attack submarine must require less maintenance, be fast, quiet and packed with torpedoes, the service’s director of undersea warfare said on Thursday.

The SSN(X) nuclear attack boat will be more focused on the war in blue water than the multi-mission Virginia-class submarines, which are designed to operate closer to shore for missions like signals intelligence and special operation missions.

“Virginia remains the most capable multi-mission submarine in the world – bar none,” Rear Adm. Doug Perry, the director of the undersea warfare division on the chief of naval operations staff (OPNAV N97), said last week. “But we must maintain our undersea advantage by investing for future capabilities. And we know we need to start that work today to make sure we can deliver SSN(X) in time of

need, and without lots of technical or schedule risk.”

In 2019, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the SSN(X) boats could cost up to \$5.5 billion per hull. The current Virginia-class boats cost about \$2.8 billion per hull, while the Block Vs with the 80-foot Virginia Payload Module will cost about \$3.2 billion.

“The Navy indicates that the next-generation attack submarine should be faster, stealthier, and able to carry more torpedoes than the Virginia class—similar to the Seawolf-class submarine. CBO therefore assumed that the SSN(X) would be a Seawolf-sized SSN, which displaces about 9,100 tons when submerged, and would have an all-new design in keeping with the Navy’s description of it as a fast, lethal next-generation attack submarine,” the CBO wrote.

Before Virginia, the Navy developed the Sea Wolf-class to be a deep-diving submarine with a weapons room that can field about 50 torpedoes.

Perry said, in broad strokes, SSN(X) would take the heavily-armed Seawolf template, combine the stealthy technology developed for Virginia and keep the time in maintenance to a minimum.

Outside of a classified initial draft capabilities document, “we don’t know the specific characteristics that will be in SSNs. But we do believe that the next submarine will have a large horizontal payload capacity. You can read that as it’s going to carry a lot of torpedoes. And we know how to do that. It’ll be fast. And it’ll have acoustic superiority. That’s both sensors to hear the other ships out there as well as stealth – staying quiet,” Perry said.

“We know how to do all of these things, but we have to integrate them into one platform. Speed and large payload? We did that on Seawolf, and

we need to pull that forward to a modular construction submarine.”



Overview of USS South Dakota (SSN-790) upgrades for the Acoustic Superiority Program program. US Navy Image

Part of the development of more offensive submarines, the Navy restarted the Mk-48 Advanced Capability (ADCAP) heavyweight torpedo in 2016.

“The heavyweight torpedo will remain the weapon of choice for the submarine for this for the foreseeable future, primarily due to its inherent stealth, its destructive effects in the battlespace, and [it’s] pretty difficult to defend against and it also [preserves] the stealth of launch platform,” Perry said.

The development of the Navy’s Acoustic Superiority Program began on Virginia-class USS *South Dakota* (SSN-790), which commissioned in 2019, Perry said. The package includes a large vertical array mounted on the hull just aft of the sail, a special exterior coating and machinery quieting improvements inside the boat.

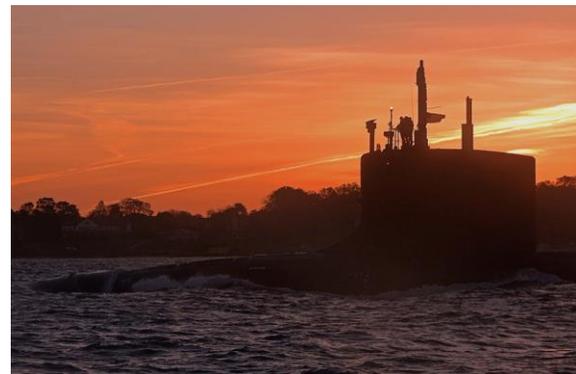
Based on the timing of the construction of the Columbia-class, the new class would come just as the construction of the class of 12 nuclear ballistic missile submarines is ending in the 2040s and in the short term design work should begin soon.

“With Columbia 95 percent design complete, now is the time to begin transitioning that experienced design workforce,” Perry said.

“Fielding any new class submarine is challenging, but we got to strike while the iron is hot.”

The Virginia boats now – and the Columbia boats in the future – are built in a teaming arrangement between Huntington Ingalls Industries and General Dynamic Electric Boat. Each yard builds part of a boat and the components are barged to each yard for final assembly, with EB being the lead yard for the design of each class. Perry said that the workforce would be key to making SSN(X) affordable.

“This maintains a steady demand signal for the shipyard workforce, which is a key element of developing and sustaining a resilient submarine industrial base,” Perry said.



USS Vermont (SSN-792) transits the Thames River while conducting routine operations on Oct. 15, 2020. US Navy Photo

The Navy is also considering how it will leverage unmanned undersea vehicles with its new class.

“We know the ability to influence the battlespace and leverage the seafloor is to get to the bottom of the ocean you will need UUVs,” Perry said. “That requires a submarine interface that will drive what SSN(X) has to be in terms

of a dimension for an interface that will launch and recover [UUVs]. It may be a torpedo tube it may be something different.”

On the other end of construction, the Navy is working to increase the amount of time the submarines can operate by reducing time in maintenance.

“SSN(X) has to have high operational availability, [we’ve] got to be able to keep that ship at sea. And that gets to sort of the class maintenance plan. We’ve learned a lot from operating [the Los Angeles class], then Seawolf and Virginia. We are analyzing those class maintenance plans with PEO Subs and making sure that the class maintenance plan we’ve come up with gives us the highest operational building availability possible,” Perry said. “That’ll be really part of our calculus as we define the work through the capability development document and [requirements] process and defining what SSN(X) needs to be.”

Dues News

You may recall that Crash Dive voted to waive base dues for 2021 in recognition of the impact of COVID on our operations. With many tools now available to combat COVID, and with the resumption of in-person meetings, dues will be collected for 2022.

Dues are \$15 per year. Send your check or money order, payable to ‘Crash Dive Base’, to Chris Gaines at the address below. If you prefer to pay in cash, you may do so at a meeting.

Navy assessing LA sub fleet for possible life extensions

The fact the Navy can extend some of its submarine fleet’s life by several years is likely due in part to the time some of those boats have sat in docks awaiting maintenance.

By [JUSTIN KATZ](#) on November 18, 2021 at 2:19 PM



The Los Angeles-class attack submarine Boise (SSN 764) has become infamous with lawmakers due to its multi-year wait in dock for maintenance. The Navy recently sent the boat to General Dynamics Electric Boat for servicing. (Photo US Navy)

WASHINGTON: The Navy is “systematically” assessing each one of its Los-Angeles class submarines to determine if their service lives can be extended for two to three years, a process a senior officer says will result in a 20% improvement in force projections compared to previous forecasts.

Rear Adm. Doug Perry, director of undersea warfare requirements, told attendees at [Naval Submarine League](#) today that he most recently approved a three-year extension for the nuclear-powered [attack submarine](#) Alexandria (SSN 757) earlier this year.

He added that each boat's extension is being assessed on a case-by-case basis.

"We are currently forecast to sustain a force of 50 SSNs throughout this decade," Perry said. "And then as we build our Virginia-class submarines we will go above 50 and get up to the fiscal year 2016 force structure assessment requirement of 66 SSNs."

At least one factor that has likely contributed to the Navy's ability to squeeze out two or three extra years of service life on some of its submarines is, ironically, its [maintenance backlog](#).

The service has taken harsh criticism from Capitol Hill for at times allowing some boats to sit in dock for several years at a time while awaiting servicing. That time in dock – and by extension time when the sub's reactor was not being used – likely comes into play when assessing whether the boat can sail past its original service life.

The Navy is also starting to work on refueling "five still very capable" Los-Angeles submarines with new reactor cores, Perry said, potentially extending their service lives for an additional 10 years or more.

The service for several years now has been experimenting with whether it could effectively refuel the submarines and had previously stated additional refuelings would be contingent initial trials. Perry also said Portsmouth Naval Shipyard had been selected as the best yard to do that work.

USS Connecticut Underway off Guam After Undergoing Repairs

By: [Sam LaGrone](#)

November 18, 2021 1:37

PM • Updated: November 18, 2021 3:08 PM



USS Connecticut (SSN-22) arrives at Fleet Activities Yokosuka for a scheduled port visit, July 31, 2021. US Navy Photo

The U.S. attack submarine that struck an underwater seamount last month is underway off the coast of Guam after more than a month of damage assessment repairs, two defense officials confirmed to USNI News on Thursday.

USS *Connecticut* (SSN-22) left Guam on its own power Thursday evening local time, according to ship spotters tracking the automatic identification signal (AIS) as it left the U.S. naval base on the island. The departure was confirmed to USNI News by two defense officials.

Cmdr Cindy Fields, a spokesperson with Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, would not confirm the underway when contacted by USNI News on Thursday. She said in a statement the submarine, "has been undergoing damage assessment,

repairs and testing while in Guam. The submarine remains in a safe and stable condition.”

It’s unclear if the attack submarine was testing repairs and intended to come into port and begin the voyage to Bremerton, Wash., for its final round of repairs.

Following the Oct. 2 incident, the boat had traveled to Guam for initial repairs overseen by Naval Sea Systems Command, personnel from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and submarine tender USS *Emory S. Land* (AS-39).

The damage to the submarine was localized to the forward portions and may have damaged the ballast tanks, USNI News understands. The Navy has said repeatedly that the nuclear reactor plant and the propulsion system were undamaged.

Connecticut’s underway comes as the submarine force has announced a navigation stand down in what the Navy has determined was a preventable collision, Vice Adm. William Houston, commander

of Naval Submarine Forces said on Wednesday.

“We have very rigorous navigation safety procedures and they fell short of what our standard was,” he said.

Earlier this month, U.S. 7th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Karl Thomas relieved *Connecticut’s* commanding officer, executive officer and chief of the boat “due to loss of confidence” following the collision.

Moving ahead, the service will now have to determine how to squeeze the attack boat into the repair schedules of the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, which is already suffering a backlog of maintenance.

“If we ended up doing [the *Connecticut* work] in one of the public shipyards, that would certainly cause perturbations in all the other work in the shipyards,” Stefany said before the House Armed Services Committee readiness subcommittee in October.

Crash Dive Base Contact Information

Commander – Clayton Hill, 195 Clover Lane, Cedarburg, WI 53012; clay53012@yahoo.com

Vice-Commander – Bret Zacher; bret.zacher@gmail.com.

Secretary (POC) – Manny Garmendez, mgarmendez@gmail.com;

Treasurer – Bret Zacher; bret.zacher@gmail.com

COB – Vacant.

Chaplain – Vacant.

Membership – Vacant.

Storekeeper – Herman Mueller, 503 Lynn Terrace, Waukegan, IL 60085; 847-445-5034; hermanandlorimueller@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor – Chris Gaines, 513 West Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60506; 630-892-5718 or ccgaines@mindspring.com

Base Historian – Frank Voznak, Jr. 9 South 255 Madison, Burr Ridge, IL. 60527; 630 986-0175 franklin2@comcast.net



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular Life Associate

OUR CREED: "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

- I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard _____ in _____ (Yr)
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)
- I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in _____ (Yr)

Name: (Print /Type) _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ - _____ Tel: (_____) _____ - _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Your E-Mail Address _____ Base/Chapter Desired: _____

The Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference: _____
 Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$115.00; 3 Yr term: \$70.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$25.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$30.00;
 Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00;
 Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. Crash Dive Base dues are \$15 annually.

How did you find USSVI? Friend, Boat Assn, Local Event/News, Internet, Other (_____)
 Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member?: (Mandatory for Assoc Mbrs) _____
 Associate Applicant is: Veteran Spouse of Veteran Other (specify) _____

YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) ____/____/____ If other military service, What Branch? _____

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: _____ Mil Retired (Y/N): _____ On Active Duty? (Y/N): _____

YR entered Mil Service: _____ YR left Mil Service _____ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

Check here if your Military Service falls within these time periods: Dec 7, 1941, thru Dec 31, 1946; June 27, 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 1964, thru May 7, 1975; and Aug 2, 1990 to date.

Check here if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. _____ Hull# _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
2. _____ Hull# _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
3. _____ Hull# _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
4. _____ Hull# _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
5. _____ Hull# _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____

Next of Kin: Name: _____ Relationship: _____ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Dau, Parent, Other)

Addr: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Tel: _____
(Leave this address line blank if the same as your home address)

Upon completion, give or mail this form, including your National and Base membership DUES (payable to 'Crash Dive Base') to Crash Dive Membership Chairman Tom Polzin, 1305 Winslow Circle, Woodstock, IL 60098; 847-867-8668