



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS



“To Honor Those Who Serve, Past, Present & Future”

November 2022

Volume 23, Issue 11

**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. **November 19**
 - b. **December 17**
 - c. **January 21, 2023**
2. **Duty Cook Roster:**
 - a. November – Herman Mueller
 - b. December – Clay Hill
 - c. January – 13th Annual Chili Dump
3. **November Birthdays:** Gary Walters 7th; Len Wass 10th; Bill Stannard 15th; David Fitzgerald 23rd; Manny Garmendez 27th. Happy Birthday, Shipmates.
4. You can get ahead of the curve and send **your 2023 dues** to Bret Zacher. See page 10 for his contact information.

Crash Dive Meeting Minutes October 15, 2022

1) Call to Order 1115

2) Member Introduction –

- a) Clayton Hill
- b) Herman Mueller
- c) Frank Walter
- d) Chris Gaines
- e) Maurice Young
- f) Glenn Barts
- g) Manny Garmendez

3) Reports:

a) Secretary's Report

- i) IL Submarine plate call campaign: Spoke with Scott; need IL info (John Connon)
 - (1) IL plate in senate, vote inactive until Dec
- ii) Running a base election with official ballots. Thoughts/input?
- iii) Military Ball at Milwaukee Hilton, 11 Nov 22. Klaxon?
 - (1) Forward e-flyer to Bret for email distribution
 - (2) Veteran's week at UWM leading up to Veteran's Day Ball

b) Treasurer's Report

- i) Funds in GLCU: Checking \$1,586.64, Savings \$2,050.00 (\$1,060.00 for Cobia)
- ii) Crash Dive Memorial: \$6,084.30; Cobia Drydock: \$5,010.00; Petty Cash: \$100
 - (1) Some expenses last month
 - (2) Toys for Tots great turnout in memory of Larry J. Warnke

c) Committee Reports

- i) Newsletter – Chris Gaines
 - (1) October is work in progress; looking for more articles/content
- ii) Membership – Chris Gaines
 - (1) Dues being collected
 - (2) Life members who cannot be reached to be dropped as Members at Large
- iii) Community Outreach– Bret Zacher
 - (1) LinkedIn submarine veteran search; has worked well for Tennessee base.
- iv) Hospitality – Bret Zacher
- v) Webmaster – Frank Voznak, Jr. [ABSENT]
- vi) Storekeeper – Herman Mueller
 - (1) Updated proof passed around; decide on blue or white BG. White preferred.
 - (2) Polo shirt still pending
 - (3) Standby bell acquired and to be furnished; Bret to send Chicago bell contact to Herman
- vii) Eagle Scout – Ted Rotzoll [ABSENT]
 - (1) Report via email: no courts of honor in progress

4) Old (Unfinished) Business

- a) WWII Chicago Memorial
 - i) Updated pavers program with install after winter
 - (1) Engraver issue resolved. Stock of bricks to be purchased.

- (2) Final costs should be finalized soon; Interest is varied amongst area bases

b) New Website Liaison Petty Officers Training

- i) Secretary and Membership. Training update?
(1) Training scheduled for officers; report to follow next month

c) Contact with Naval Station Great Lakes

- i) National Museum of the American Sailor: possible Naval History and Heritage Command contact
(1) Visit planned for this afternoon; museum possibly moving in coming years
- ii) Museum space for artifacts?
(1) No update from Frank about Alvey foot locker

5) New Business

a) Toys for Tots: Collection today

- i) Photos taken of toys to be donated

b) Crash Dive Base Hats

- i) Bret to explore local supplier to purchase hats for ~\$10/ea

c) Future Meetings on Base Proposed

- i) Base access and visiting Port of Call (former Officer/Chief's Club)
- ii) To be explored during base visit this afternoon

6) Good of the Order

a) Cobia Working Party: this weekend/week

- i) Arrive Sunday 16 Oct. Work Mon-Wed, 17-19 Oct.

b) Duty Cook

- i) November – Herman Mueller
- ii) December – Clay Hill
- iii) January – CHILI DUMP!

c) 786 Club

- i) Luncheon coming up Thu Nov 3rd at 1130, at Union League Club of Chicago
- ii) Luncheon speaker Capt. Aaron Peterson, Commodore Subron One
- iii) 3rd deployment of the ship coming up
- iv) Prepping halfway boxes for crew, including single-sailors

d) Donated \$100 to KSC for fundraiser raffle: Did we win?

- i) No notice, no prize. Better luck next time.

7) SOUND Klaxon

- a) Next Meeting is 19 November 2022 @ KSC

8) Adjourn for Chow 1205

Lost Boats

USS ALBACORE (SS 218)	11/7/44
USS GROWLER (SS 215)	11/8/44
USS SCAMP (SS 277)	11/16/44
USS CORVINA (SS 226)	11/16/43
USS SCULPIN (SS 191)	11/19/43

U.S. makes unusual disclosure of ballistic missile submarine's presence in Persian Gulf

Courtney Kube and Chantal Da Silva - Oct 20

The U.S. military made an unusual disclosure Wednesday, revealing the presence of one of its submerged nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine in the Persian Gulf in a move likely to make waves across the region.

The U.S. Central Command released photos showing CENTCOM Commander General Michael "Erik" Kurilla onboard the submarine, in a rare decision to reveal the vessel's location.

It is extremely rare for the U.S. military to acknowledge where their ballistic missile subs are operating, particularly when they are stationed near an adversary's shores.

In a statement Kurilla praised the submarine and its crew, calling submarines like it "the crown jewel of the nuclear triad."

"The West Virginia demonstrates the flexibility, survivability, readiness, and capability of USCENTCOM and USSTRATCOM forces at sea," he said.



The USS West Virginia at an undisclosed location in international waters in the Arabian Sea. (U.S. Central Command / Twitter) © U.S. Central Command

Kurilla's visit may be seen as sending a message to U.S. adversaries in the region, including Iran, of Washington's capabilities, including submarines that can carry up to 20 submarine-launched ballistic missiles with multiple warheads.

A defense official said Kurilla's visit was not a response to any recent event or provocation, but is more a signal after months of mounting tensions, which have seen attacks against locations housing U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria.

In June, U.S. officials said attacks by Iranian proxies against bases housing U.S. military personnel in Iraq and Syria were increasing, while Washington had not responded with force since 2021.

Iran has not appeared to publicly comment on Wednesday's submarine visit.

The submarine visit also comes as Russian President Vladimir Putin has threatened to use nuclear weapons

amid Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, with Iran becoming more involved in the war, including supplying drones Russia has used to strike targets in Ukraine. Kurilla's trip to the submarine included a helicopter ride to a large ship, a ride to a smaller boat, then crossing a rope bridge to step onto the submarine, a U.S. military official said. He also visited with the head of Naval Forces in the region, Vice Admiral Brad Cooper, they said.

This article was originally published on NBCNews.com

Navy readies new tools, training after Connecticut submarine collision

By Megan Eckstein
Nov 2, 02:17 PM



In this Dec. 15, 2016, photo, provided by the U.S. Navy, the Seawolf-class fast-attack submarine USS Connecticut (SSN 22) departs Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for sea trials following a maintenance availability. (Thiep Van Nguyen II/U.S. Navy via AP)

ARLINGTON, Va. — The U.S. Navy submarine force is nearly done implementing reforms following an October 2021 undersea collision of attack submarine

Connecticut, according to the commander of submarine forces.

Vice Adm. William Houston said 27 of 28 major actions recommended in the command investigation have been completed, with the last one set for completion in the spring.

These major actions include new procedures, additional training, and new technology to help submarines navigate.

Connecticut was damaged when it struck an undersea mountain in the South China Sea, which features shallow waters and rugged terrain.

“Fundamentally that accident should have been avoided. The crew was more than capable of doing that,” Houston said at the Naval Submarine League’s annual conference here.

“In this case, there’s actions that the ship did not take that were required per procedure. So we’re giving them additional procedures, and we’re also giving them additional training so that they understand some of the principles behind those procedures,” he later told reporters.

On additional training, he said the entire officer curriculum had been revisited, and junior officers will now be given additional navigational training. Junior enlisted sailors will also receive more training on navigation and how to properly use their navigation equipment.

The submarine command course will also specifically train prospective commanders on how to use the tools at their disposal to avoid an underwater mishap, rather than

just warning them to beware underwater obstacles.

Houston said he also had a particular interest in the systems crews use to navigate underwater, when the crew is wholly reliant on sensors rather than being able to look out a window for situational awareness.

Today, he said, the crew looks at the electronic navigation system to find the shallowest spots to avoid. In the aftermath of the Connecticut collision, “we rapidly advanced computer capability to go ahead and look for all the shallow spots on the chart. And we can do that with 100% accuracy in about three seconds,” he said, without asking the crew to manually check for shallow spots.

Houston said that system will be fielded in two months.

During Houston’s speech, he also addressed fire safety efforts by the submarine force in the aftermath of the Bonhomme Richard amphibious warship fire in 2020.

He showed a photo of a complex tangle of piping sitting on a pier. The Rube Goldberg-style contraption, he said, could prevent the next submarine fire disaster, like the one that took Los Angeles-class submarine Miami out of commission in 2012.

“When Miami occurred, we wanted to have a suppression system or something that gave us more time, especially on a strategically loaded [ballistic missile submarines with nuclear weapons], to go ahead and lower the heat level on that if we ever had a fire break out,” Houston explained.

“We’ve been studying this problem for 10 years, millions of dollars of investment. I challenged the status quo with my team. In 90 days for \$10,000, we developed that system,” he continued pointing at the photo. “It’s a temporary manual system, but that will put over 800 gallons per minute in the missile compartment upper level and buy additional time.”

He said the makeshift system had been fielded at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in Georgia, and is in the process of being installed at Naval Base Kitsap in Washington.

Better weapons, complex training bolster US submarine force

By [Megan Eckstein](#)
www.defensenews.com
Thursday, Nov 3



The Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine Tennessee enters the dry dock at the Trident Refit Facility in Kings Bay, Ga., on Feb. 1, 2021. (Elaine Rilatt/U.S. Navy)

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

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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. (MCC Josue L. Escobosa/U.S. Navy)

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

Crash Dive Base
Rondout - Lake Bluff, IL

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 torpedos.

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.

For Houston, who oversees the entire submarine force, these advances are necessary to keep up with [what the National Defense Strategy demands](#) of the undersea force.

“We are a sea-denial platform. We are also one of the platforms that can get into bastion areas. We need no support; we’re an independent operator. But we can also be plugged in networkwide for the distributed maritime operations,” Houston said of the force. “I call us the apex predators of the Navy.”

About [Megan Eckstein](#)

Megan Eckstein is the naval warfare reporter at Defense News. She has covered military news since 2009, with a focus on U.S. Navy and Marine Corps operations, acquisition programs and budgets. She has reported from four geographic fleets and is happiest when she’s filing stories from a ship. Megan is a University of Maryland alumna.

Here's the Last Hurdle Keeping Subs from Being Drone Motherships

The unmanned underwater vehicles need software that enables them to come back aboard via torpedo tube.

By Caitlin M. Kenney

Staff Reporter, Defense One

November 2, 2022 07:40 PM ET



Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT), U.S. 5th Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces, center right, along with Major Gen. Ala Abdulla Seyadi, commander of the Bahrain Coast Guard, center left; and Rear Adm. Mohammed Yousif Al Asam, commander of the Royal Bahrain Naval Force, right, listen to a presentation on a Razorback unmanned underwater vehicle. U.S. Navy / Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Dawson Roth

The U.S. Navy is working on software that will enable submarines to launch and recover underwater drones through torpedo tubes instead of using bulky, labor-intensive on-deck shelters.

“When this game-changing capability is deployed, every [attack submarine] will have the ability to serve as a UUV [unmanned underwater vehicle] mothership,” Rear Adm. Casey Moton, the program executive officer of unmanned and small combatants, said Wednesday at the Naval Submarine League’s 2022 annual symposium in Arlington, Virginia.

Today’s Razorback UUVs launch from a dry deck shelter that requires dozens of divers, Rear Adm. Doug Perry, the director of the Navy’s

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undersea warfare division, said Tuesday at the event. A new tube-launched version would require far less room in a sub’s packed confines.

“So the transition [to] torpedo-tube launch and recovery is huge. We’ve got 200 torpedo tubes in the fleet. We want to leverage as many of those as possible across our platforms to get down to the ocean floor as necessary,” Perry said.

“What a UUV does is just like a [unmanned aerial vehicle] does, it can serve as a scout, do missions that you do not want the manned platform to do,” Vice Adm. William Houston, the commander of naval submarine forces, told reporters Tuesday. “So essentially, we can go out and we can use these UUVs to scan, search, do other things for us, come back to the submarine, and we’re not using a tremendous number of torpedo stows for that.”

The final hurdle is writing software to allow a deployed drone to maneuver itself back into the flooded tube “and to get a bull’s eye every single time,” Houston said.

“It’s very complex because the submarine is moving, the UUV is moving, you’re using sensors to drive it into a very narrow tube on a moving platform with sea current going against it,” he said. “So it is challenging. We have world-class organizations working with us to solve this. And we have had great success, and we’re ready to do our final demos coming up.”

Houston did not say when those demonstrations would take place. The Navy is working with “two people” on the “special proprietary software” to do the drone recovery and it can be used on other UUVs once it’s ready, Houston said.

U.S. Navy Minced Beef On Toast

In the Navy this is served over
toast at breakfast.

Recipe by [STILLATIT](#)
www.allrecipes.com

Published on June 18, 2020



Prep Time: 10 mins
Cook Time: 20 mins
Total Time: 30 mins
Servings: 10
Yield: 10 servings

Ingredients

- 1 ½ pounds lean ground beef
- 2 onions, chopped
- salt and pepper to taste
- 5 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 (8 ounce) cans peeled and diced tomatoes with juice
- 1 (5.5 ounce) can tomato juice
- 2 cups hot water
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon granulated sugar

Directions

1. In a large skillet over medium heat, cook the ground beef and onions until beef is evenly browned; do not drain. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Stir in flour 1 tablespoon at a time, until beef juices have been absorbed.
2. Stir in tomatoes, tomato juice, and water. Simmer on low heat to thicken.
3. Stir in nutmeg and sugar; simmer until flavors are blended well.

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