

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, March 10, 2018

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1107 on March 10, 2018 at American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Bishop, **Debbie Bishop**, **Cathy Chatham**, Howard Chatham, **Bob Glover**, Brian Haller, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, **CAPT Brad Neff (guest speaker)**, **Paul Nelson**, Tim Oliver, Mike Varone, and **Woody Woodworth**. (13 total)

█ Holland Club Member

█ Associate Member

█ Guest

The COB, Mike Varone, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

The Base Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, read the list of boats lost in the month of March. These were:

USS Perch (SS-176)	March 3, 1942
USS Grampus (SS-207)	March 5, 1943
USS H-1 (SS-28)	March 12, 1920
USS Triton (SS-201)	March 15, 1943
USS Kete (SS-369)	March 20, 1945
USS F-4 (SS-23)	March 25, 1915
USS Tullibee (SS-284)	March 26, 1944
USS Trigger (SS-237)	March 26, 1945

The COB then tolled the ship's bell twice in remembrance of the 24 USSVI NOVA base members on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIAM: CDR David T. Otto, USN, Ret. – 1/30/18; Command Master Chief Frederick Madison Holmes, Jr., USN, – 2/6/18; and CAPT Joseph Sahaj, USN, Ret. – 02/13/18.

PRESENTATION TO AMERICAN LEGION POST 162



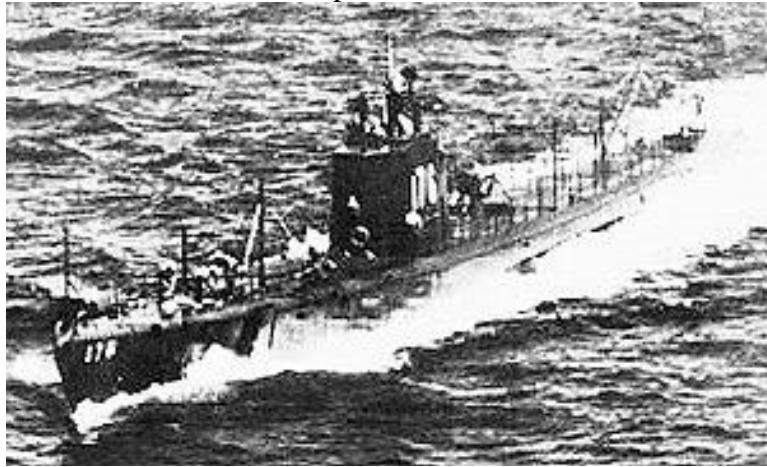
Alan Amos of our host organization, Post 162, was called forward and presented a gift from the Base for their continued support. The check was to thank them for allowing us to use their meeting room space on a monthly basis.

BASE HISTORIAN

Base Historian, Woody Woodworth, presented a multi-sourced synopsis of the saga of the USS Perch (SS-176). Commissioned in 1936, Perch spent most of her early years before the War in the Pacific near the Philippines. At the outbreak of hostilities, she was in overhaul in the Cavite Navy Yard. LCDR David Hurt rushed the crew and yard workers to get underway and

clear the yard on Dec 10. That night at sea, he watched as the enemy destroyed Cavite with bombers. He then patrolled off Hong Kong and missed one enemy merchant ship and then destroyed a second merchant ship. Having expended his emergency load of torpedoes, he sailed south to Darwin, Australia to repair damage.

On Perch's second War Patrol, she patrolled near Celebes and Java. While attacking a large merchant ship, she was hit in the superstructure and her bridge was blown away and all radio communications were lost. The crew attempted repairs on the surface and headed for Java. There she was attacked by two Japanese destroyers and then two Japanese cruisers and three destroyers. With the loss of all four engines, oil, and air systems, the skipper ordered the crew to "abandon ship, scuttle the boat." Perch made her last dive with all hull openings open. The entire crew was captured and of the fifty-four men and five officers, all but five, who died of malnutrition in POW camps, were able to return to the US after VJ Day.



MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the February meeting were distributed by e-mail. There was no discussion or any comments. The minutes were accepted as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, provided the monthly report for March 10, 2018:

Beginning Cash on Hand	\$ 8,010.40
Receipts:	
Dues-Annual, Base	\$ 70.36
Dues-Annual, National	
Interest/Dividends	
Expenditures:	\$ 217.76
Donations Made (Not to National)	
Expenses-Event (2018 HC)	
Ending Sub-Total	\$ 7,863.97
Minus Remaining Walmart Grant restricted use funds for K4K	
	(\$1,302.60)
Grand Total (Discretionary)	\$ 6,561.37

MEMBERSHIP

Steve Jaeger provided the following Membership Information:

- 80 Members
 - 38 Holland Club Members
 - 04 WW II Members
 - 33 Regular Members
 - 09 Associate Members

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Board: The Base Commander presented a summary of the Executive Board Meeting held on 28 February. Discussions included: membership; plans for this year's Holland Club initiation and other upcoming events; Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) program status; NJROTC program; website updates; and the Eagle Scout recognition program.

Chief of the Boat: Mike Varone reported that last year's July 4th Parade in Dale City is on video at: YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeiN6mezbII>. To see USSVI Northern Virginia Base start viewing at 1hour:17min: 10secs. Mike is coordinating with this year's parade chairwoman to get our application filed early so we get placed nearer to the front of the parade assembly his year.

Public Relations: See COB above

Storekeeper: Howard Chatham reported that there are still more Base Challenge coins, patches, base patches, and Holland Club coins available for sale. The 2018 USSVI calendars are now reduced by \$1.00 each.

Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS):

1. Steve Bishop reported that the team visited Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD on February 22nd. We visited children, siblings, and family bedside with two members of the Tri-State Base, Base CDR Daniel Glogg, and Base VCDR and USSVI National Artist Tom Denton. Tom Denton signed and presented his original art work in our coloring book for the older children. Tom loved it and so did the Kid(SS)!!
2. The date for our next visit to INOVA Fairfax Hospital's pediatric oncology ward in Falls Church, VA is Thursday, March 29, 2018. Plan to meet at the Green Women and Children wing visitors' lounge on the ground level, across from the Green parking lot at 2:15 PM. Wear your USSVI sub vest and cap, and bring your parking lot ticket, as the nurses will validate your parking.
3. Steve is working with the UVA Medical Center staff in Charlottesville, VA to set up a similar visit to their pediatric oncology ward on April 24th or 25th.
4. We have helped two other bases get started with K4K: Hampton Roads base now visits two hospitals near Norfolk and the USS Virginia Base comes with us to all visits at UVA. Now the Tri State Base would like our assistance in setting up their own K4K program. Cathy Chatham and Steve will be assisting them and they will be joining us on our Walter Reed visits going forward.
5. On-line applications to the Walmart Community Fund Grant program have been submitted for 2018.

6. The Base CDR, Chuck Martin asked all of the K4K team members present to stand. Paul Nelson, Cathy and Howard Chatham, Debbie and Steve Bishop, and Mike Varone then stood. Chuck then read from John Riley, USSVI National K4K Chairman, and Ron Olson, North East District 4 Commander, e-mails who both sent their Bravo Zulus to this K4K Team for establishing and promoting an outstanding K4K program at NOVA Base.

Scouting Coordinator: Chuck Martin reported that:

- Recent Eagle Scout Court of Honors:
 - Eagle Scout Will Davis, Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held on March 3, 2018.
- Upcoming Eagle Scout Court of Honors: None

Youth Outreach Programs (NJROTC/Sea Cadets/School Program) Coordinator:

- USSVI Northern Virginia Base taught Potomac Senior High School NJROTC cadets Introduction to Navigation class during the week of February 26. Steve Bishop taught the 130 sophomores, juniors and seniors who had never been exposed to the basic navigation Naval Science curriculum. The three Naval Science Instructors on staff were most appreciative for the assistance.

Chaplain: Darlene Jaeger's mom passed away on March 3, 2018. The family is waiting for an Arlington National Cemetery inurnment date.

Navy Submarine League(NSL) : Tim Oliver announced that:

- The NSL recently held its annual corporate members event downtown. It was learned there that there is talk of refueling the newer 688's to fill the trough in the number of SSN's in the out years.
- The NSL will be moving its headquarters to a building near the King St. Metro and there is a good chance that meetings such as USSVI's could be held there.
- NSL is sponsoring Tom Denton (and Tim is traveling to Groton with him) to present his original art work to the USS Colorado crew at its commissioning ceremony.
- Upcoming NSL Events
 - 2018 Sea Air Space Expo is April 9-11 at the Gaylord Hotel at National Harbor, MD. Any volunteers to help man the NSL table? This has always been a great opportunity for both NSL and USSVI Northern Virginia Base.
 - 2018 Submarine Technology Symposium will be held May 15-17, 2018.
 - Capital Chapter & OPNAV N97 are hosting a DC Submarine BEQ, an after work social, Friday 16 March at Sine's Irish Pub in Arlington, VA (Pentagon City/ Pentagon Row), from 1500-1800. RSVP to either LT Jimmy Aylward (OPNAV N97 Flag LT) at james.aylward@navy.mil or Brad Kratovil at bradkratovil@cox.net.
 - Capitol Chapter luncheon is Friday, 20 April 2018 at the ANCC, 1130-1330. Our speaker is CAPT Brian Davies, Director Submarine/Nuclear Officer Distribution (PERS 42) and Nuclear Propulsion Program Manager (N133). Please send RSVP by Friday, 16 March to Brad Kratovil at bradkratovil@cox.net.

OLD BUSINESS

- USS Scorpion (SSN 589) 50th Anniversary Memorial
 - May 25 - 27, 2018 in Norfolk, Va.
 - CNO, Admiral John M. Richardson, as keynote speaker for the memorial service.
 - The Base has made a donation of \$99 and is sponsoring RMCS Robert Johnson. There were 99 men lost on the Scorpion.
- USSVI Scholarship Fundraiser – Frank Hood, Vice CDR of USSVI Marblehead Base, has published a book titled "Poopie Suits and Cowboy Boots" that is about the day-to-day life aboard a US Navy submarine. All proceeds go to the USSVI Scholarship Fund.
- The Awards Manual for 2018 was approved by the USSVI Board of Directors in January 2018. The nomination period for all Awards started on February 1, 2018.
 - The Manual is posted on the USSVI web site, under the Awards tab.
 - Submit your nominations to John Stanford at Jstan131@Comcast.net
- The 2018 USSVI National Convention Caribbean Cruise Registration is now open! You may register and obtain more information by going to <http://www.ussviconvention.org/2018/>.
 - Convention/Caribbean Cruise is scheduled for October 21, 2018 through October 28, 2018.
 - The cruise will be departing from the Port of Ft. Lauderdale and making port calls to Half Moon Cay, Bahamas; Ocho Rios, Jamaica; Georgetown, Grand Cayman; and Cozumel, Mexico then returning to Ft. Lauderdale.
 - A deposit of \$350 per person plus registration fee (\$25 member/\$15 guest) is needed to guarantee your reservation.
 - Final payment will be due no later than July 15, 2018. Payments may be made by check (payable to AAA Travel), or by major credit card.
 - Cabins start at \$669 for Double Occupancy and go upwards to \$9000 for a single suite.

NEW BUSINESS

- USSVI Thresher Base cordially invites you to attend the 55th Annual USS Thresher Memorial Service being held on Saturday, April 7 @ 1300 at the R.W. Traip Academy in Kittery, Maine.
- Dave Oliver (USSVI Northern Virginia Base Member) has written a new book, "Intent to Deceive." The book is available on Amazon in paperback or in eBook in either Kindle or Nook formats on Amazon and Barnes & Noble respectfully. The book is available in paperback for \$14.99, Kindle for \$5.99, and Nook for \$5.95. The Amazon offers a preview of the book and sample readings. If you enjoy a good read this book is for you!
- War History Online published an article titled "This Book Provides A Look Into The Lives Of US Navy Submarine Cooks" that is about the book "Submarine Cuisine" was published after it was commissioned by the Submarine Research Center, US Naval Base Bangor, Washington. It covers submarine living back to WWII, with an emphasis on cooking. It also gives readers a chance to look into what it is like to work as a cook on a submarine and goes into detail about how food is loaded onto a sub, then stored and prepared. It even describes the meals that crews ate. The article is located at <https://m.warhistoryonline.com/featured/this-book-navy-submarine-cooks.html>.

The Binnacle List currently includes:

Al Anceravage, Barbara Harmody, Tony Poblete, Ray Stone, Tom Perrault, and Lorraine Sargent.

For the Good of the Order, the CDR read the list of birthdays for March: James Caldwell, Arthur Dunn, Earl Griggs, Steve Jaeger, John Lindstedt, Terry Nelson, Tom Perrault, Marie Phoenix, and Bill Truslow.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Woody Woodworth. He donated his winnings to the USSVI Scholarship Program. Thank you, Woody!

The Benediction was delivered by Base Chaplain Steve Jaeger.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON APRIL 14TH FOR THE ANNUAL TOLLING OF THE BOATS CEREMONY. THE RECOMMENDED "UNIFORM" IS SUIT OR VEST AND TIE; NO T-SHIRTS AND JEANS PLEASE.

After a short break, the Base VCDR introduced our guest speaker:

**Captain Bradford S. Neff
United States Navy**

Captain Neff graduated magna cum laude from the University of California at Berkeley in December 1985, earning a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, and received his commission through Aviation Officer Candidate School in November 1987.

His initial fleet assignment was as a General Unrestricted Line Officer assigned to VA-94, a fleet



A-7 squadron home-ported at NAS Lemoore, CA, serving as Personnel Officer and Administrative Department Head. During his tour, the squadron embarked on USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65), completed an around the world cruise, and was awarded the Navy Battle Efficiency "E" award. In April 1991, Captain Neff lateral transferred to the nuclear community.

Captain Neff's submarine sea duty assignments include USS NORFOLK (SSN 714), where he was assigned several Division Officer billets and as Combat Systems Officer, USS GREENEVILLE (SSN 772) as Navigation Officer and Engineer Officer, and USS PENNSYLVANIA (SSBN 735) (BLUE) as Executive Officer.

Captain Neff served as Commanding Officer, USS PENNSYLVANIA (SSBN 735) (BLUE), from April 2006 to July 2009, completing five strategic deterrent patrols in command. During his tour, the ship was awarded the 2008 COMSUBRON 17 Navy Battle Efficiency "E" and White Tactical "T" Awards, the FY07, FY08 and FY09 COMPACFLT Retention Excellence "Golden Anchor" Awards, and the 2008 Navy League Trident Submarine Outstanding

Performance Award.

Captain Neff served on shore duty as Current Operations Officer on the Commander, Submarine Force Pacific Fleet Staff from February 1999 to July 2000, as the Director of Nuclear and Submarine Recruiting Programs at Navy Recruiting Command from November 2002 to March 2005, as the Warfare Requirements Officer on the OHIO Replacement Program (PMS397) from September 2009 to March 2013, as Major Program Manager, Submarine Acoustic Systems (PMS401) from April 2013 to April 2016, and is currently assigned as Head, Tactical Systems Branch at OPNAV N97.

Captain Neff was the recipient of the Naval Submarine League's Vice Adm. J. Guy Reynolds Award for Excellence in Acquisition for 2016, and the Rear Adm. Jack Darby Award for Inspirational Leadership and Excellence in Command for 2009. He is entitled to wear the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, and several unit and service awards. Captain Neff, his wife Anita and their two daughters live in King George, VA.

CAPT Neff transitioned from unrestricted line officer to the acquisition corps after his command tour. Only three officers each year are selected for this transition. He spent the rest of the hour telling us what he does at OPNAV N97 as Head, Tactical Systems Branch.

OPNAV is CNO's staff and it comprises some 1600 people. N9 is the OPNAV Resources and Requirements Branch. N97 deals with submarines. He has 11 folks working for him in three branches:

A Branch deals with four Naval Shipyards at Portsmouth, Norfolk, Pearl Harbor, and Bremerton; the VA class construction program; and all shipyard IT programs.

B branch deals with all combat systems.

C branch deals with navigation and all payloads (Tomahawk, countermeasures, torpedoes...).

Much of his work deals with obtaining the budgets to execute programs through the Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) System. In today's budget are the refueling of newer 688-I's and building 2 VA class SSN's per year. Of the \$160 Billion per year flowing to OPNAV, some \$24 B per year goes to submarines in N 97 and of that, some \$ 14 B per year goes to his shop to execute the 34 programs of record in their portfolio.

President Trump wants 355 ships in the US Navy, to include 66 SSNs. We get there only by building 2 per year every year forever. Strategic Deterrence is the Navy's #1 priority, so building 12 Columbia class SSBN's, starting in 2021, is the plan. These ships will never have to be refueled. We are a forward-deployed Navy, and we have an away game mentality.

Today's submarine force includes:

18 Ohio class (14 SSBN plus 4 SSGN) @ 18,700 tons

13 VA class @ 7,800 tons; block 5 will add more Tomahawks

3 SSN 21-22 class @ 12,200 tons very quiet and capable, but very expensive

36 688 and 688-I class @ 6,900 tons

SSBN's today carry 70% of the nation's nuclear weapons.

The Navy's #1 priority is the Colombia class to carry on for the Ohio class.

Here is an analogy for any Navy finding our SSBN's:

1. Park the 560 ft long vessel anywhere on the ground in the state of Texas
2. Fly from Dulles to any airport in Texas and then mount a bicycle
3. Ride the bicycle to find the parked sub in Texas. Good luck !

HEADS UP: Several navies of the world are on the rise, to include: Russia, North Korea, China, Viet Nam, and India. China wants to be a blue water navy and they are sending submarines out with their battle groups. The Russian Federation does not have lots of money, but they are investing heavily in their SSBNs. Their Caliber missile is better than our Tomahawk and it is nuclear capable.

In response to questions, CAPT Neff spoke on submarine torpedoes. We are restarting the ADCAP torpedo production line and we will be bringing on other follow-on torpedo tube-launched weapons soon.

After all questions, the Base CDR, Chuck Martin, thanked CAPT Neff for his informative presentation, and gave him a USSVI NOVA Base Challenge coin.



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The CDR requested a motion to adjourn. It was so moved and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1318.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by
Stephen C Bishop
Secretary, USSVI Northern Virginia Base

UPCOMING EVENTS

Submariner Social BEQ – 16 March 2018

NSL Capitol Chapter and OPNAV N97 will host an after work social Friday 16 March at Sine's Irish Pub in Arlington, VA (Pentagon City), from 1500-1800. If you plan to attend, please let Brad Kratovil (bradkratovil@cox.net) or LT Jimmy Aylward (OPNAV N97 Flag LT) (james.aylward@navy.mil) know as it will help in estimating the size of the group.

Submariner Social Breakfast – 24 March 2018

A group of local submainers will be hosting a Submariner Breakfast on Saturday March 24 at Joe's Pizza & Subs, 9784 Center St., Manassas, VA from 9:30-10:30. If you plan to attend, please email Mike Barham at xcopndee@hotmail by March 20 so they have a head count and can ensure enough food is available.

USSVI NOVA Base Kap(SS) for Kid(SS) visit to INOVA Fairfax– 29 March 2018

INOVA Fairfax Hospital's pediatric oncology ward in Falls Church, VA is Thursday, March 29, 2018. Plan to meet at the Green Women and Children wing visitors' lounge on the ground level, across from the Green parking lot at 2:15 PM. Wear your USSVI sub vest and cap, and bring your parking lot ticket, as the nurses will validate your parking.

USS Thresher 55th Anniversary Memorial Service – 7 April 2018

USSVI Thresher Base cordially invites you to attend the 55th Annual USS Thresher Memorial Service being held on Saturday, April 7 @ 1300 at the R.W. Traip Academy in Kittery, Maine. USSVI Thresher Base will be live streaming the memorial service on YouTube, a link to the live streaming will be available on the USSVI Thresher Base Facebook page on April 7th about 1200 (EDT). (<https://www.facebook.com/Thresher-Base-United-States-Submarine-Veterans-Inc-244298798996773/>)

2018 Sea Air Space Expo – 9-11 April 2018

2018 Sea Air Space Expo is April 9-11 at the Gaylord Hotel at National Harbor, MD.

USSVI NOVA Base Tolling of the Boats Ceremony – 14 April 2018

USSVI Northern Virginia Base will conduct its annual Tolling of the Boats ceremony on April 14, 2018 at the American Legion Post #162 in Lorton, Va. The meeting/ceremony starts at 1100. The recommended uniform for men is suit or USSVI vest and tie.

NSL Capitol Chapter Luncheon – 20 April 2018

Capitol Chapter luncheon is Friday, 20 April 2018 at the ANCC, 1130-1330. Our speaker is CAPT Brian Davies, Director Submarine/Nuclear Officer Distribution (PERS 42) and Nuclear Propulsion Program Manager (N133). Please send RSVP by Friday, 16 March to Brad Kratovil at bradkratovil@cox.net.

Submarine Birthday Ball – 28 April 2018

The D.C. area will be celebrating the 118th submarine birthday ball at the Crystal City Hyatt Regency on Saturday 28 April, 2018. The Chapter will be sponsoring an NSL table(s) at the Ball. Sponsorship helps the Sub Ball Committee lower the cost of the event for the junior active duty attendees (enlisted and officer). Please let Brad Kratovil (bradkratovil@cox.net) know if you are

interested in being part of the NSL group at the Sub Ball -- include the total number attending (yourself, spouse, any guests). It is a great way to honor our great tradition, enjoy the fantastic submarine force comradery, and show our strong collective support.

USSVI Capitol Base Tolling of the Boats Ceremony – 19 May 2018

USSVI Capitol Base invites you to attend their annual Tolling of the Boats Ceremony at the grave site of the USS F-4 in Arlington National Cemetery on May 19, 2018 at 1100. 2018

USS Scorpion (SSN 589) 50th Anniversary Memorial – 25-27 May 2018

The USS Scorpion (SSN 589) 50th Anniversary Memorial Service is being held May 25 - 27, 2018 in Norfolk, Va. The keynote speaker for the memorial service is Admiral John M. Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO).

USSVI National Convention Caribbean Cruise – 21-28 October 2018

Registration is now open for the 2018 USSVI National Convention Caribbean Cruise! You may register and obtain more information by going to <http://www.ussviconvention.org/2018/>. The Convention/Caribbean Cruise is scheduled for October 21, 2018 through October 28, 2018. The cruise will be departing from the Port of Ft. Lauderdale and making port calls to Half Moon Cay, Bahamas; Ocho Rios, Jamaica; Georgetown, Grand Cayman; and Cozumel, Mexico then returning to Ft. Lauderdale. A deposit of \$350 per person plus registration fee (\$25 member/\$15 guest) is needed to guarantee your reservation with final payment due no later than July 15, 2018. Payments may be made by check (payable to AAA Travel), or by major credit card.

USSVI SUBVET NEWS

SubVet News - #2018-012 (sent on 21 Feb 2018) - Back on the Old Website & TOOLS

Because of too many issues with the transfer to the new system we had to go back to old website and the old TOOLS. The URL are ussvi.org for the old website and www.ussvi.org/shipsoffice.asp for the old tools which should be what you had bookmarked for the old system. You use old ussvi sign-in and password and not your e-mail address. We will go back to the new system when these issues are corrected. All Base Tools users are now free to enter data into TOOLS. You will from time to time be getting an test e-mail from website.admin@ussvi.org. The programmers are fixing the National e-mail system for the new site so I do not have to use this very old POC method.

Best,

Al Singleman, Jr. IPNC

SubVet News - #2018-013 (sent on 2 March 2018) - SUBVETTES CHAPTERS/USSVI BASE AFFILIATIONS

When we required the special election with three options for the Subvettes continued existence, the vote was to close the National Subvettes organization and allow those chapters that wanted to continue to affiliate with a USSVI Base, should the Base decide to allow the Subvettes Chapter to be affiliated with their Base.

We indicated, at that time, that the Subvettes Chapters would have control of their own finances in regards to how they raise funds and how they spend their money, however, that they would be required to submit their end of year financial report to the Base with which they are affiliated, who, in turn, would then be responsible for filing it with the USSVI National Treasurer.

Failure so to do will not be tolerated, these end of year reports must be submitted so that USSVI is able to file their tax return. USSVI will not play the games that the Subvettes National organization played when they ignored or were unable to compel their Chapters to submit their EOY reports.

Regional Directors are to contact each of the Bases in their region that have Subvettes Chapters that are delinquent in filing their EOY through the assigned Chapter and advising them that they are responsible for obtaining an EOY Report from their Subvettes Chapter and submitting it as required by the National Treasurer.

Bases have the authority to shut down the Subvettes Chapter, seize all assets, and turn them over to the National Treasurer should their Subvettes Chapters refuse to comply.

Subvettes Chapters existence are solely at the will of the Base with which they are affiliated and a Base can terminate that affiliation at any time for reasonable cause.

JOHN MARKIEWICZ
CWO2, USN RETIRED
UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS (USSVI) NATIONAL COMMANDER

SubVet News - #2018-015 (sent on 5 March 2018) – American Submariner Online Shipmates:

The current electronic issue of American Submariner is now online. We had to make a temporary change in its location due to data transfer from the old website to the new one. The magazine can be accessed by going to our old website, www.ussvi.org and signing in. then click on the green "Documents" button. Next click on the blue "Organization" button. the magazine is the third posting from the top.

William C. Andrea

UNDERSEA WARFARE NEWS (Edited)

Navy Submits 30-Year Ship Acquisition Plan

Staff, Navy Office of Information, February 12

WASHINGTON - The Department of the Navy submitted the long-range ship acquisition plan to Congress Feb. 12.

The 30-Year Ship Acquisition Plan is a Congressionally-mandated report which describes the Department of the Navy's long-range shipbuilding plans for 2019-2048. This year's report focuses on meeting the Navy's baseline acquisition requirements needed to build the Navy the Nation Needs (NNN) and sustaining the domestic industrial base to meet that aim.

In support of the National Defense Strategy's stated goal of achieving a more lethal, resilient and agile force, the plan serves as a roadmap to reach a 355-ship fleet by the early FY2050s, potentially quicker with an aggressive investment of resources. The plan pursues acquisition strategies to build ships more quickly and affordably and places top priority on sustaining the industrial base now and for the future. Ultimately, the plan supports the Navy's overall effort to build the Navy the Nation Needs to protect the homeland, defend the interests of America and its allies abroad, and preserve America's strategic influence around the world.

This plan addresses the Navy's most critical shipbuilding needs by:

- * Building CVNs four years apart after CVN 82 instead of five to support a 12-ship CVN force.
- * Building 12 Columbia-class SSBNs in support of the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) and STRATCOM deterrence requirements.
- * Establishing a stable profile of two per year Attack Submarines (SSN).
- * Establishing a stable profile of 2.5 per year Large Surface Combatants (DDG), plus an additional ship in FY2022.
- * Establishing a stable profile of two per year Small Surface Combatants (LCS, FFG) starting in FY2022, accommodating the transition to FFG(X).
- * Increasing the pace for amphibious ship production to support a 12-ship LHD/LHA force and modernized lethality in FY2033, FY2036 and FY2039.
- * Addresses the candidate long-term replacement for the NNN payload-based submarine, filled mid-term by Virginia Payload Module (VPM).

The plan can be viewed in its entirety here: www.secnav.navy.mil/fmc/fmb/Pages/Fiscal-Year-2019.aspx.

Submarine Force Atlantic Announces Mincey and Ross as

2017 Sailor of the Year Awardees

MCC Darryl Wood, DVIDS Hub, February 15

NORFOLK – The 2017 Submarine Force Atlantic Sailors of the Year (SOY) for sea and shore command were announced February 9.

The winners were recognized by Force Master Chief John Perryman during a ceremony held at the historic Pennsylvania House on Naval Station Norfolk.

"I have the pleasure to recognize today these fine petty officers, who represent the best of our Navy," said Perryman. "Their professionalism and dedication is equally apparent in the performance of their duties and their commitment to their community. These Sailors lead the way among their peers and decisively contribute to the Navy's continued success, I congratulate each of you."

The Sailors that competed for SUBLANT Sea SOY were, Machinist's Mate (Auxiliary) 1st Class Robin Anderson, a native of Centennial, Colo., assigned to USS North Dakota (SSN 784), Machinist's Mate (Auxiliary) 1st Class Brandyn Harper, assigned to USS Maryland (SSBN 738) (Gold), and Machinist's Mate (Nuclear) 1st Class Marshall Ross, a native of Ada, Okla., assigned to USS La Jolla (SSN 701).

Competing for SUBLANT Shore SOY were, Logistics Specialist 1st Class Samantha Mincey, a native of Los Angeles, Calif., assigned to Trident Refit Facility Kings Bay, Legalman 1st Class Sherry Hoffman, a native of Biloxi, Miss., assigned to Submarine Squadron Six, and Machinist's Mate (Auxiliary) 1st Class Anthony Phillips, a native of Queens, NY., assigned to Regional Support Group Groton.

All candidates participated in a series of comradery activities leading up to the ceremony, including a welcome reception, an area-command SOY luncheon, a physical training competition, leadership mentoring, a interview, a community relations event, and historical lectures designed to educate, mentor, test and assess each SOY candidate.

The first planned event was a physical training competition with other area command's SOY candidates,

which concluded with the presentation of the first-ever SOY PT trophy. Even though the SUBLANT candidates did not capture the trophy, they did gain a measurable advantage for the follow-on SOY events, realizing their strength was relying on each other.

“I enjoyed the PT competition,” said Mincey. “Honestly it was hard. I never saw myself being physically capable of carrying someone before. For one of the events, I and another candidate had to run carrying a Sailor around a cone and back, and I think that set the tone for the week. After that PT session, we came together as a group, things we were nervous or unsure about we confided in each other. The mutual struggle definitely helped us bond.”

The SOY candidates also conducted heritage tours onboard Naval Station Norfolk, now celebrating 100 years since being established, and at the Nauticus Naval Museum which offers tours of USS Wisconsin (BB 64).

“There is so much we lose to history, because we can get so focused on the future,” said Mass Communication Specialist Chief Darryl Wood, a SUBLANT SOY mentor. “I was in awe as I toured USS Wisconsin; there is nothing in the fleet that compares. To crawl into the forward 16” gun turret and to see my name scrawled on one of the gun access doors, I was stunned.”

The Chief’s Mess provided mentors to the SOY candidates throughout the week’s events, allowing the new generation of Sailors an informal turnover of knowledge through the experience of previous generations of Navy leaders.

“I joined the Navy out of a sense of duty, to serve my country, and to further my education,” said Marshall. “I’ve always loved working with my hands and being given the responsibility to operate and maintaining the systems onboard a submarine, to safeguard our way of life is rewarding. Having come from a family of military service, both of my grandfathers served, two uncles, an aunt, and my brother, I feel a personal responsibility to pass on the military values instilled in me growing up, to teach and mentor the Sailors around me.”

The Sailors also took time to speak to students at Granby High School’s Naval Junior Officer Recruit Training Corps (NJROTC) located in Norfolk, Va. as part of a community relations event.

“I truly enjoyed the interaction with the NJROTC students,” said Hoffman. “I never knew how in-depth the NJROTC program really was and how much it teaches students about our naval traditions and service. I appreciated the questions the students asked about life onboard a submarine, such as what foods do we eat, how do we get our air and if we see sunlight, even the more thought provoking questions like how does our pay system work, how do we plan to have children, and how do we fit our family into our military life. The students had a breadth of questions and a genuine desire to know. I left feeling there was more I could share with the community and these students, outside of just my job in the Navy.”

To be selected, SUBLANT SOY candidates completed a formal interview sat by five Master Chiefs, who have been qualified as Chief of the Boat or as Command Master Chief, and a retired Navy Captain. The purpose of the board was to assess the Sailors military bearing and knowledge of current events, history, and Navy regulations.

Outside the doors of the board room, Mincey paced awaiting her time to enter. Electronic Technician Chief Vance Braziel, SUBLANT SOY program coordinator, motioned for her to stand in front of the doors and went over entering procedures. She took a paused breath and mouthed a silent phrase, “Sashay you stay”.

“One of the Naval Air Force Atlantic SOY candidates told me that,” said Mincey. “Sashay you stay, as a mental preparation before entering. She was nervous before her board and a Chief approached her and asked how she was doing, when the Sailor mentioned her nerves were getting the best of her, the Chief commented, have you seen RuPaul’s Drag Race? When you walk in tell yourself you are there to stay, go in there like you own it, “Sashay you stay”, and I was like, I’m going to keep that. For me it was about overcoming a fear of the unknown and being confident in who I am.”

Each of these candidates, all whom have been selected as a Command Sailor of the Year, represents the best of the Submarine Force through their dedication to the mission, their profession, and their fellow Sailors.

As the Sea and Shore Sailors of the Year representing SUBLANT, the next round of competition will see Ross and Mincey competing in the Atlantic Fleet Sailor of the Year competition hosted by Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command. The winner of the Atlantic Fleet Sea Sailor of the Year will be meritoriously advanced to chief petty officer.

Navy Approves New Engineering Duty Officer Qualification Insignia

NAVSEA Public Affairs, NAVSEA, February 15

WASHINGTON – Naval Sea System Command (NAVSEA) and Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) officers are among the first to wear the Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) insignia, during a ceremony Jan. 8 at the Washington Navy Yard.

The EDO insignia is the latest qualification pin approved to be worn by qualified active and reserve-duty Navy officers, according to the Chief of Naval Personnel, Uniform Policy and Initiative Updates NAVADMIN 310/17 announcement.

Like other specialized warfare or qualification insignias within the Navy, such as the Professional Aviation Maintenance Officer, Information Dominance Warfare Officer, and the Fleet Marine Force Officer, the EDO qualification signifies that the wearer has achieved a high level of proficiency in their warfare community.

"The EDO insignia provides a means to visually identify an officer's technical expertise to others," said Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Commander Vice Adm. Tom Moore in a letter to the Chief of Naval Personnel.

To be fully qualified as an EDO with a 144X designator, the individual must have a graduate degree in a technical engineering discipline; demonstrate a specific level of technical knowledge and proficiency through the completion of a qualification program; and pass a final oral examination administered by a board comprised of Navy EDO captains.

"The EDO community distinguishes itself by its rigorous selection process," said NAVSEA Deputy Chief Information Officer Capt. Huan Nguyen, an EDO with a combined 25 years of active and reserve Navy experience. "The qualification pin is a way of showing pride in our community and signifies its growing significance in the Navy. This is an important talent acquisition initiative. The insignia also provides a means to visually identify our technical expertise to others."

Upon arriving at NAVSEA five years ago, Nguyen spearheaded the efforts to write the insignia qualification instructions and design the pin. He said, now retired, Rear Adm. Alma Grocki played an integral role in bringing the pin to fruition and that Rear Adm. Ronald Fritzemeier, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) chief engineer, continued to support the effort.

"Originally, we recommended the pin as a Reserve pin, but the Chief of Naval Personnel wanted us to focus on the active/reserve integration, so it grew from there," Fritzemeier said. "I was pleased to see how the EDO community is behind this effort."

"On the Reserve side in particular, folks are really excited about this," said Fritzemeier. "In the Navy, this [gesturing to his left upper pocket] is where you wear your resume. It means a lot to folks to be recognized in this way for their hard work."

Nguyen said most new active-duty EDOs have done a mid-career change known as a lateral transfer from unrestricted line communities, or they chose to exercise an EDO option granted upon commissioning.

"The requirement for transfer or for exercising the option is the completion of either a submarine warfare or surface warfare qualification," he said.

"Therefore, the majority of EDOs wear the same submarine or surface warfare insignia as their unrestricted line counterparts. Another option for EDO is to go through the Engineering Duty Dolphin Program, and by successfully completing it, earn their submarine engineering duty insignia."

According to NAVADMIN 310/17, the new EDO qualification insignia was approved, and qualified EDOs can wear this insignia. Warfare-qualified EDOs have the option of wearing the EDO insignia in the secondary position, since warfare devices take precedence over the EDO qualification insignia.

The EDO qualification pin features a propeller with oak leaves, two swords and a gold fouled anchor. The oak leaves represent naval constructors. The swords represent line officers. The fouled anchor represents a link to the enlisted community in the SurgeMain program, which is part of a NAVSEA Reserve component for qualified Sailors interested in expanding their trade skills or engineering discipline.

USS Colorado To Be Commissioned

Staff, Sky-Hi News, February 20

The newest Virginia-class attack submarine, USS Colorado (SSN 788), will be commissioned at Naval Submarine Base New London, Mar. 17, 2018. It will be the 15th Virginia-class attack submarine to join the

fleet.

As the most modern and sophisticated attack submarine in the world, the submarine can operate in both littoral and deep ocean environments and presents combatant commanders with a broad and unique range of operational capabilities. Colorado is a flexible, multi-mission platform designed to carry out the seven core competencies of the submarine force: anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, delivery of Special Operations Forces (SOF), strike warfare, irregular warfare, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and mine warfare.

Colorado is a part of the Virginia-class' third, or Block III, contract, in which the Navy redesigned approximately 20 percent of the ship to reduce acquisition costs. Colorado features a redesigned bow, which replaces 12 individual Vertical Launch System (VLS) tubes with two large-diameter Virginia Payload Tubes (VPTs) each capable of launching six Tomahawk cruise missiles, among other design changes that reduced the submarines' acquisition cost while maintaining their outstanding warfighting capabilities.

Colorado also has special features to support Special Forces, including a reconfigurable torpedo room which can accommodate a large number of personnel and all their equipment for prolonged deployments and future off-board payloads. Also, in Virginia-class SSNs, traditional periscopes have been replaced by two photonics masts that host visible and infrared digital cameras atop telescoping arms, which are maneuvered by a video game controller. Through the extensive use of modular construction, open architecture, and commercial off-the-shelf components, the Virginia class is designed to remain at the cutting edge for its entire operational life through the rapid introduction of new systems and payloads.

SSN 788 was built at Electric Boat in Groton, Conn and is 7,800 tons and 377 feet in length, has a beam of 34 feet and operates at more than 25 knots submerged. It is designed with a nuclear reactor plant that does not require refueling during the planned life of the ship, reducing lifecycle costs while increasing underway time.

Annie Mabus, daughter of former Secretary of the Navy, Honorable Ray Mabus, is the ship's sponsor.

The submarine Colorado will be the fourth U.S. Navy vessel to bear the Colorado name. The first USS Colorado (Screw Frigate) was named after the Colorado River, the second USS Colorado (AC 7) was an armored cruiser commissioned in 1905, and the third USS Colorado (BB 45) was the lead ship of its class and was commissioned in 1923.

Navy Kicks Off ICEX 2018

SUBPAC Public Affairs, DVIDS Hub, March 7

ARCTIC CIRCLE – Commander, Submarine Forces (COMSUBFOR) officially kicked-off Ice Exercise (ICEX) 2018 in the Arctic Ocean with the construction of temporary Ice Camp Skate and the arrival of two U.S. Navy fast-attack submarines and one U.K. Royal Navy submarine, Mar. 7.

ICEX 2018 is a five-week biennial exercise that allows the Navy to assess its operational readiness in the Arctic, increase experience in the region, advance understanding of the Arctic environment, and continue to develop relationships with other services, allies and partner organizations.

The Seawolf-class fast attack submarine USS Connecticut (SSN 22) from Bangor, Wash., the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Hartford (SSN 768) from Groton, Conn., and the Royal Navy Trafalgar-class submarine HMS Trenchant (S91) will conduct multiple arctic transits, a North Pole surfacing, scientific data collection and other training evolutions during their time in the region.

“With every ICEX we are able to build upon our existing experience and continue to learn the best way to operate in this unique and harsh environment,” said Rear Adm. James Pitts, commander, Undersea Warfare Development Center (UWDC). “We are constantly testing new tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) under the ice, and this exercise allows us to do so on a larger scale and alongside our U.K., joint, and academic partners.”

The Navy’s Arctic Submarine Laboratory (ASL), based in San Diego, serves as the lead organization for coordinating, planning and executing the exercise involving three nations services, three submarines and over 100 participants over the five weeks of operations.

Ice Camp Skate is a temporary ice camp that was established on a sheet of ice in the Arctic Ocean, known as an ice floe. Skate will serve as a temporary command center for conducting submarine operations, including under-ice navigation and torpedo exercises. The camp consists of shelters, a command center, and infrastructure to safely house and support more than 50 personnel at any one time.

“Our Arctic Submarine Laboratory team has been working for over a year to ensure our Submarine Force is able to conduct dynamic torpedo and under-ice operations in this unique environment,” says Larry Estrada,

Director of ASL. "This year's camp is prepared to support the force with communication and weapons recovery."

The camp gets its namesake from USS Skate (SSN 578), the first submarine to surface through open-water surrounded by ice in 1958 and the first submarine to surface through the arctic ice at the North Pole in March 1959. Since the success of Skate's surfacing, arctic operations have been a crucial part of the missions conducted by nuclear submarines.

For more than 70 years, submarines have conducted under-ice operations in the Arctic regions in support of inter-fleet transit, training, cooperative allied engagements and routine operations.

The U.S. Submarine Force has completed more than 27 Arctic exercises; the last being conducted in 2016.

Naval Submarine School Holds Change of Command

Submarine Learning Center, DVIDS Hub, March 6

GROTON – Capt. Jack Houdeshell relieved Capt. Aaron Thieme as commanding officer, Naval Submarine School, at a change of command ceremony onboard Naval Submarine Base New London March 6.

Thieme led a staff of over 400 in training more than 5,000 officer and enlisted pipeline students. During his tour, he implemented character development training and unique qualifications for his staff to help initial accession Sailors solve problems, make good decisions, and respond positively to stress.

As Thieme thanked his staff, he talked about how the submarine force operates in today's maritime environment and the hard work required to be successful in maintaining maritime superiority undersea.

"Much of that work falls on your shoulders in the training that you are doing today," said Thieme. "I want you to feel a sense of seriousness and urgency - not just importance - but urgency in the work you do in developing the training and giving the training for our Sailors and our teams in the science and art of operating in the undersea. Our future as a force and as a Navy quite literally depends on it."

Thieme, who received the Legion of Merit as part of the ceremony, also reorganized his staff during his time in command to better balance the teaching workload among subject matter experts, enhance instructor professional development, and improve staff efficiency.

"Our advantage in the undersea is not driven solely by better submarines and better gear," said Thieme. "Our advantage is also driven by our people - the quality of the all-volunteer professional force and the quality of the training."

Thieme will report to the Undersea Warfighting Development Command for his next assignment.

After Houdeshell assumed command, he praised the staff for the critical role the school has in supporting submarine commanding officers in training their submarine crews to accomplish their missions.

"Just look at recent deployers, all of whom have returned to many accolades," said Houdeshell. "Their success can be directly related to your hard work and dedication."

Houdeshell, a University of Idaho graduate with a Bachelor of Science in applied mathematics, has served with five fast-attack submarines and deployed to the Western Pacific, the Mediterranean and

U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility. He was the executive officer of USS Montpelier (SSN765) and twice the commanding officer of USS Dallas (SSN 700). USS Houston (SSN 713), USS Montpelier, and USS Dallas were all awarded the Battle Efficiency "E" while he was serving with them.

Houdeshell's past assignments have also included Submarine Officer Advanced Course director and director of training at Naval Submarine School; deputy J-2 for innovation and development at U.S. Joint Forces Command; and deputy commander for Submarine Squadron 4.

Naval Submarine School, as part of the Submarine Learning Center within the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) domain, trains officers and enlisted Sailors in the basic knowledge and skills upon which operational submarine commands in the Atlantic and Pacific can build competence and proficiency in operating and maintaining submarines and all their systems.