

**August Base Mtg. Back on Zoom**  
(Please See Page 4)

# THE PERISCOPE

A monthly publication of the Los Angeles/Pasadena Base • United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Volume 17, Number 8 • August 2021



**PRIDE RUNS DEEP**



*"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of 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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### Editor's Corner

A shame to contemplate that Building 6 will soon be no more, though apparently we'll eventually be able to move into some other venue on the SBNWS grounds. BZ to Dave for working so hard to see to our well being in this regard.

Kinduva light issue this time since there were no meetings last month to report on. My thanks to our old friend Phil Jaskoviak for supplying some helpful filler material.

Stay clear of the Delta variant and see you all soon on Zoom. —Jeff

## The Future of Naval Warfare Will Have a Lot More Spy Submarines

**Advanced, but relatively small kits will allow even conventional subs to become increasingly powerful intelligence collectors.**

*(Reproduced from The WARZONE website - originally published June 2, 2017)*

by Joseph Trevithick



As the threat of advanced air and coastal defense networks increases, especially with regards to the rapid spread of long-range and fast-flying surface-to-air and anti-ship cruise missiles, the innate intelligence collecting qualities of submarines are likely to become even more important. At least one defense company seems poised to capitalize on this potential trend.

German firm PLATH, which builds radio direction finding gear and communications intelligence (COMINT) and signals intelligence (SIGINT) equipment, has been steadily working to expand its product line to include systems intended for subs. In an interview with Shephard Media in May 2017, Torsten Düsing, who acts as both the company's technical marketing manager and business case manager for naval solutions, specifically highlighted the spying potential of underwater vessels.

PLATH's particular system, which it unveiled in November 2016, "provides tactically relevant information with minimal mast exposure, listening for communications signals from [anti-submarine warfare] aircraft" when the boat is in danger, Düsing explained. "When not under ASW threat, the task involves building operational intelligence and

*(continued on page 15)*



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*The Periscope* is a monthly  
publication of the  
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base of USSVI

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## From the Wardroom...



Dave Vanderveen,  
Base Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

In last month's *Periscope*, I outlined a change coming in our Base's situation as a tenant of Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station. In short, the Department of Defense is reviewing all Non-Federal Entities which reside on or use Navy facilities, reducing property that is not mission critical, and tightening civilian access to the facilities. It is part of a broader effort to eliminate costs for the things on a military installation which do not support the installation's primary mission.

The Navy Inspector General's office was tasked to conduct the review, and I invested a good bit of time gathering documents and preparing to meet with them. Our interview lasted a couple of hours with dozens of questions (some asked in multiple ways!), and I provided thirteen documents related to L.A.-Pasadena's organization and business conduct. There was some followup on a couple of issues, and in the end, we satisfied the IG team's requirements. Their report will work its way through the Chain of Command to Captain Sherman at SBNWS and we will learn if further work will be required. Based on what I learned in this Inspection and in talking with Captain Sherman's staff, we will be able to move into another building on the Weapons Station. (Hallelujah!)

The issue of access will be somewhat thornier. Those of us who do not have "retired" identification will have to undergo a background check, then will be issued a biometric identification card. We will no longer be able to provide a Base Roster which SBNWS Security would use to pass people onto the Station. As soon as I get the instructions and application forms for the background checks and cards, I will get them out to you.

On a happier note, we held an abbreviated version of our Annual Leroy Stone Memorial Picnic in place of our July meeting. We were able to gather at the WWII Submarine Memorial in Seal Beach and enjoyed lunch and some good conversation. As usual, some folks wished they had worn their "high" boots because the sea stories were flowing! It was good to chat face-to-face again!

Next month, we will conduct the Base's annual financial review and will begin building a slate of candidates for Base offices. *If you have an interest in helping handle L.A.-Pasadena Base business, you are most welcome to nominate yourself for any job.* We will, of course, have a nominating committee formally leading the process.

Please continue to keep yourselves healthy and safe!

*Dave Vanderveen*

Commander

Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



## LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic Sailing List

Herb "Bo" Bolton  
Ken Dorn  
Sam & Anne Higa  
Joe Koch  
Jack & Marlene Mahan  
Bill Moak  
Paul Riggs  
Mike Swanson  
Dave Vanderveen  
Ron Wagner



## LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic, July 17, 2021

We held our Annual Leroy Stone Memorial Picnic on the 17th at the WWII Submarine Memorial in Seal Beach. Our turnout was pretty good, and we enjoyed some good conversation and a pleasant sea breeze. It was good to talk face-to-face again!

As usual, we didn't try to conduct Base business during the picnic, but I did spend a few minutes describing recent work with the Navy Inspector General's office. They were exploring our L.A.-Pasadena organization—our business and service—and of course our use of Building 6 on the Weapons Station. They also examined a dozen documents as part of their work. Two requests for additional information were handled immediately after their meeting, and no discrepancies were noted.

The IG's final report will work its way through the chain of command to Captain Sherman at SBNWS, and we will learn soon after if further work is needed.

In short, we met a significant requirement to allow us to continue to use space on the Weapons Station for our meetings and materials storage. I am awaiting the next steps and we are prepared to respond to the Navy's requirements.

A suggestion was made to conduct our monthly Base meetings in person at the Memorial site. We will work on that possibility, continuing to employ video-conferencing for the benefit of those who cannot attend in person. More information is to come!

*Dave Vanderveen*

Commander  
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base

**Aug. Mtg. Again a Zoom Video Conference**

**Aug. Meeting**

**Date:** Aug. 21, 2021

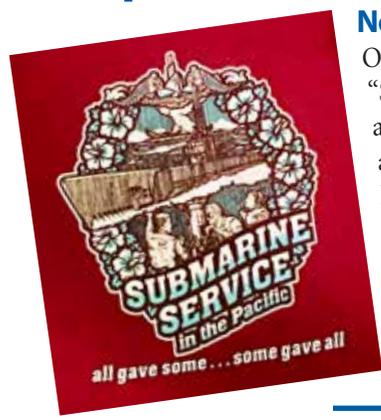
Again this month, our usual base meeting will be conducted via Zoom. With Building 6 now permanently off limits to us, no new on-base venue yet established, and mobile connectivity remaining problematic, this will likely be our meeting status for awhile. Hope to see your face among the crowd!

**Aug. Birthdays**

- We hereby extend the happiest of wishes to all our L.A.-Pasadena Base birthday celebrants.
- John Von Ulmen..... 8/4
  - Ramon O. Aguilar ..... 8/9
  - Jack Mahan ..... 8/11
  - Dennis Parr..... 8/22
  - Dennis Walsh..... 8/23
  - Mark Maynard ..... 8/24
  - Sam Aboulafia ..... 8/25
  - Harold Staggs ..... 8/26
  - Stan Westrick..... 8/29



**Ship's Store**



**New Reduced Price on T-Shirts!**

Our ever-popular L.A.-Pasadena Base "Submarine Service" tees are once again selling like fresh whites after a fall down the pump room hatch! Now a mere **ten bucks** apiece, there's no reason not to have a closetful. Contact Jack Mahan for yours, or just bring a few extra bucks to the next meeting, you skinflint!

**2021 Calendars Now Available!**

Get yours through the USSVI website or see details elsewhere in this issue. Don't miss it—they're selling fast!



Get in touch with our Storekeeper, Jack Mahan, at 714-349-5878 for more purchasing information.



USSVI Logo Patch  
(9¾ x 6¾)  
**\$11.00 ea.**



L.A.-Pasadena Base Patch  
(3¾ x 5)  
**\$5.00 ea.**



Holland Club Member Patch (3x3)  
**\$6.00 ea.**

LOS ANGELES - PASADENA BASE

**2021 FLOWER FUND and BOOSTER CLUB**

A special thank you to the following folks whose generous contributions this year have helped make our Base activities and charitable functions possible:

- Ken Dorn (x7!) • Jack & Marlene Mahan • Mike Varalyia (x2!)  
Ed Kushins • Sally Moran • Skip Loveless • Harold Staggs



Booster Club and Flower Fund donations are welcome in any amount and are often also popular with 50/50 Drawing winners at our Base meetings. Contributions can be made in cash or by check payable to L.A.-Pasadena Base of USSVI. Checks may also be sent to Mike Swanson at 1149 W. Santa Cruz Street, San Pedro, CA 90731. To ensure proper credit, be sure to indicate Booster Club or Flower Fund on your check.

# UNITED STATES SUBMARINE FORCE LOSSES ON ETERNAL PATROL

*"I can assure you that they went down fighting and that their brothers who survived them took a grim toll of our savage enemy to avenge their deaths."*

— Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, USN

## AUGUST TOLLING OF THE BOATS

### USS BULLHEAD (SS-332)

Lost on 6 August 1945 with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her third war patrol when sunk by a depth charge dropped by a Japanese Army plane. U.S. and British submarines operating in the vicinity were unable to contact *Bullhead* and it was presumed that she was sunk during Japanese antisubmarine attacks. Eighty four men lost. *Bullhead* was the last boat lost in WWII.

### USS FLIER (SS-250)

Lost on 13 August 1944, with the loss of 80 crew members while on her second war patrol. *Flier* was transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute. Thirteen survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. Eight survived and six days later friendly natives guided them to a Coast Watcher and they were evacuated by the USS *Redfin*.

### USS S-39 (SS-144)

Lost on 14 August 1942 after grounding on a reef south while on her third war patrol. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by the HMAS *Katoomba*.

### USS HARDER (SS-257)

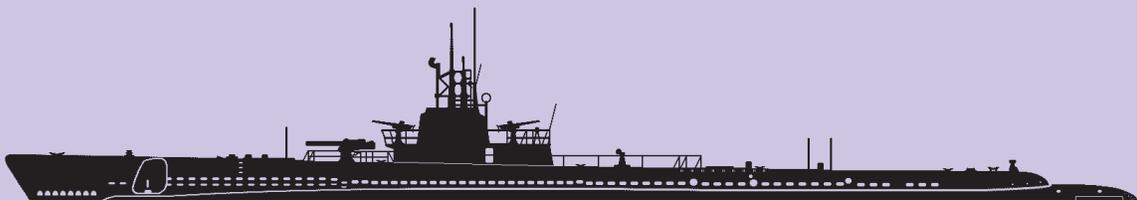
Lost on 24 August 1944 with the loss of 84 crew members from a depth charge attack by a minesweeper near Bataan while on her sixth war patrol. *Harder* had won a Presidential Unit Citation for her first five war patrols and CDR Dealey was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously. *Harder* is tied for ninth in the number of enemy ships sunk.

### USS COCHINO (SS-345)

Lost on 26 August 2 1949 after being jolted by a violent polar gale off Norway caused an electrical fire and battery explosion that generated hydrogen and chlorine gasses. In extremely bad weather, men of *Cochino* and *Tusk* (SS-426) fought for 14 hours to save the submarine. After a second battery explosion, Abandon Ship was ordered and *Cochino* sank. *Tusk's* crew rescued all of *Cochino's* men except for one civilian engineer. Six sailors from *Tusk* were lost during the rescue.

### USS POMPANO (SS-181)

Lost on 29 August 1943 (between Aug 8 and Sept 27) with the loss of 76 men while on her seventh war patrol. Before being lost, she sank two enemy cargo ships. The exact cause of her loss remains unknown, but she probably fell victim to a mine. *Pompano's* last known ship sunk happened on September 25, so she probably struck that mine on or after that date but before 5 October, when she was scheduled back at Midway.



For those who gave their lives in defense of our country

**WE REMEMBER**

# China Has a New Ship to Hunt U.S. Navy Submarines

(Reproduced from the Insider website—published May 27, 2021)

By Caleb Larson (19fortyfive)



Guided-missile submarine USS Ohio off the coast of Okinawa, Feb. 2, 2021. (USN/Sgt. Audrey M. C. Rampton.)

A new open-source investigation has revealed that China recently launched their third anti-submarine detection ship at a shipbuilding facility in Wuhan, augmenting Beijing's ability to detect submarines.

The ship is most likely a SWATH design, or Small Waterplane-Area Twin Hull. The twin-hull design is both very stable, even at high speeds or in rough seas, and is also known for being very quiet, a useful quality to have for a ship intended to use sonar and other acoustic listening devices to detect submarines.

The Chinese design is likely broadly similar to American SWATH designs, which are noted for having long-range and high endurance.

SWATH-type ships track submarines by trailing towed sonar devices behind them on long spools of cable, and can actively detect submarines by shooting “pings” into the ocean and listening to the bounce-back for submarines hiding in the deep.

Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Forces operate SWATH ships as well, known as the *Hibiki*-class, with the third of the class just recently entering service.

The Cold War-era class' operating costs are reportedly split between the United States and Japan, and the data swept up by the Japanese ships is shared with Washington as well. This gives the United States in effect more ears in the water at a lower cost.

One of the United States' ocean surveillance ships made headlines in the late 2000s when it was repeatedly harassed by both Chinese ships and aircraft during a submarine observation mission in the South China Sea.

Though the area the ship had been operating in is widely recognized as international waters, China claims sovereignty to wide swaths of the South China Sea and insisted it was defending waters within its

exclusive economic zone.

The People's Liberation Army Navy has a history of dropping in on American Navy ships and aircraft. During a 2014 U.S.-led multinational naval exercise, the PLAN quietly slipped an electronic surveillance ship near the USS *Ronald Reagan* aircraft carrier and its carrier strike group, presumably to scoop up electronic data.

Despite the threat of detection posed by ocean surveillance ships, submarines in American naval service are progressing.

Construction has already begun on the new nuclear-powered *Columbia*-class ballistic submarines, which are slated to enter service in the early 2030s. Thanks to a new electric-drive design, the *Columbias* are anticipated to be the quietest submarines ever built for the U.S. Navy.

One of the United States' primary advantages over other countries like China is the U.S. Navy's advanced and hard-to-detect submarine assets, which could be used to restrict Chinese surface vessel movement in the event of a conflict.

This new ocean surveillance ship indicates that China is putting real effort into offsetting or eliminating that advantage, in the event that a conflict with the United States would break out.

*Caleb Larson is a defense writer based in Europe. He holds a master of public policy and covers US and Russian security, European defense issues, and German politics and culture.*

# Here Comes the Navy's Next Generation Attack Sub

*The new submarine will fight enemy fleets above and below the waves.*

*(Reproduced from the Popular Mechanics website - published May 27, 2021.)*

*by Kyle Mizokami*



*Current Seawolf-class U.S. Navy submarine. (Getty Images.)*

**A** Congressional Research Service report reveals new details about the U.S. Navy's next-generation attack submarine, or SSN(X). The sub, which begins procurement in 10 years, will refocus the U.S.'s undersea fleet away from supporting land wars to fighting enemy fleets both above and below the waves.

The Navy's current attack submarine fleet consists of a mix of older *Los Angeles*-class submarines, *Seawolf*-class submarines (shown above), and the latest class of *Virginia*-class subs. The *Virginia* class, currently in production, was meant to combine an affordable platform with a submarine that could operate closer to shore and support the land conflicts of the 9/11 era.

The unprecedented peacetime expansion and modernization of China's People's Liberation Army Navy, as well as the introduction of new Russian attack and missile submarines, has prompted the U.S. Navy to begin development of SSN(X). Like the short-lived *Seawolf* class before it, SSN(X) will be built to directly take on enemy submarines and surface ships.

A submarine focused on fighting other navies needs things the

*Virginias* don't have, including a strong hull for exceptionally deep diving, more torpedo tubes, and a larger internal torpedo/missile magazine. The subs will also likely be larger to accommodate linking up with and transporting uncrewed undersea vehicles.

The new report says the Navy is examining three different options for SSN(X): a design based on the *Columbia*-class ballistic missile submarine, one based on the *Virginia*, and a brand-new design.

A *Columbia*-based boat built for carrying nuclear missiles would be huge, but could cost a lot to operate down the road. A *Virginia*-based boat, meanwhile, would be easier to develop, but could suffer similar limitations to the current class of boats. And an entirely new sub could check off every one of the Navy's requirements, but will still be expensive to develop and build—at least at first.

The SSN(X) could also include laser weapons, large flank sonar arrays, a quieter electric drive system, and hypersonic weapons.

# Why Some Submarines Return to Port Flying Pirate Flags

(Reproduced from the Military.com website.)

by Blake Stilwell



USS Jimmy Carter returns home flying a Jolly Roger. (U.S. Navy/Lt. Cmdr. Smith.)

When the USS *Jimmy Carter* sailed into its home port in Washington state in September, 2017, it was flying an unusual flag: the distinctive skull and crossbones of a Jolly Roger.

There's no telling exactly what the *Jimmy Carter* was doing at sea, as its missions are probably among the most closely guarded secrets in the U.S. Navy, but submarines fly those pirate flags when they return from a mission after some kind of "operational action."

While no one outside of the crew can tell you what that "operational action" entailed, the history of Western submarines flying the Jolly Roger upon a successful return is a funny bit of history.

Submarines haven't always been an accepted part of naval warfare. When they first became a viable technology, some old sailors thought they were a less-than-gentlemanly act of war. They compared the idea of silently striking the enemy from under the waves to an act of piracy.

Whether the old salts liked it or not, submarines were here to stay. And as if to prove you can't just call sailors anything you happen to find derogatory, those early submariners adopted the pirate theme and made it their own.

Sir Arthur Wilson was the first sea lord of England's Royal Navy when submarines entered active service. He was a great naval officer and Victoria Cross recipient while at sea. But by land, even as first sea lord, Wilson wasn't impressing anyone. He's mostly remembered for a short tenure, marked mostly by being a loud crank.

No matter how cranky Wilson was, he was still in charge. If he

thought submarines were a dirty way of fighting, one would think he'd axe the program. Instead, he did the opposite, actually promoting the use of submarines as a future for the Royal Navy.

Being the first sea lord who no one seemed to like might have been the reason he gets credited for saying submarines were "underhanded, unfair and damned un-English." There's no actual proof he said this, but history isn't kind to unlikable people.

What Wilson did say about submarines came long before he was the one making the decisions for the navy, because it also flies in the face of what he actually did as first sea lord:

"They'll never be any use in war and I'll tell you why. I'm going to get the First Lord to announce that we intend to treat all submarines as pirate vessels in wartime and that we'll hang all the crews."

When World War I broke out in 1914, the Royal Navy's submarines got its first taste of naval combat. A contemporary of Wilson's, Lt. Cmdr. Max Horton, was out to sea aboard one of England's earliest submarines, the HMS *E9*. Horton and the *E9* were off the coast of German islands in the North Sea when they came upon the German light cruiser *Hela*.

Horton torpedoed *Hela* from 600 yards, and the cruiser was soon at the bottom of the sea. The *E9* evaded German anti-submarine efforts for the entire voyage back to safer waters, but once it arrived back in port, Horton hoisted a large Jolly Roger flag, a nod to Wilson's threat of hanging his triumphant crew.

For every subsequent enemy he sunk, Horton intended to raise another pirate flag, but he ran out of room. Instead, he increased the size of his boat's Jolly Roger and started adding symbols and other information to denote the submarine's victories, similar to how airmen marked their kills on the nose of an aircraft.

Thus, a new tradition for submarines was born. By World War II, the practice not only grew, but pirate flags actually were issued to submarine crews. Submariners from Allied nations also joined in on the practice and have flown their Jolly Rogers ever since.

While some of the markings on these pirate flags are self-explanatory, others will be known only to the crew. When the *Jimmy Carter* returned to her Washington port flying one, there was a symbol on the flag—but good luck finding out what that means.

Blake Stilwell can be reached at [blake.stilwell@military.com](mailto:blake.stilwell@military.com). He can also be found on Twitter @blakestilwell or on Facebook.

# Messcooking on Smokeboats

by Bob “Dex” Armstrong

Many people—those who actually never did it—have a confused idea about the submarine messcook. They think a messcook was at best a flunky assigned menial tasks because he was some kind of mental defective jaybird or some miscreant jerk being punished a la Army KP variety.

The Navy decided early on that putting idiots and pissed off people on boats serving food was a bad idea. I have often wondered how many tough, hardboiled, hard-as-nails Army NonComs have any idea how many dead flies, mouse turds and boogers they consumed in the course of a career that were served to them by smiling guys they stuck on KP for punishment. It would have to be calculated in increments of tons.

First, the selection process for submarines eliminates the low I.Q. sub-par folks with the intellect of Hostess Twinkies. They tend to end up at one of those bootcamps where they issue you a shovel.

Messcooking is an art—a theatrical art. You audition for the part before 70 to 80 raging maniacs: your crew.

It is a form of animal taming that you do without a chair and whip. It has less to do with cooking than it does with two-man crowd control.

I learned the art from an absolute master: Adrian Stuke. If there is ever a submarine messcook hall of fame, it will have a forty-foot bronze statue of the great Stookey-Man greeting the incoming visitors with a recorded rendition of his actual voice yelling “Park yer butt and pipe down.”

If you were non-rated, either qualified or non-qualified, you messcooked in rotation. Messcooking was an equal opportunity profession. If you were E-3 and below and had a Masters Degree in astrophysics, a Doctorate in Crown Princess’ Gynecology and a fortune rivaling the Sultan of Persia, you messcooked. There was no appeal process. Your name simply found its way to the non-prejudicial merry-go-round known as “Watch, Quarter and Station Bill.” It was that simple. Nothing else you would ever encounter in life would be that fair or so simple—other than the mechanical operation of bra hooks.

What did messcooks do? I am glad that you asked, since I apprenticed under the absolute master mentioned above. I feel totally qualified in answering your question...

A) Messcooks, first and foremost, herded the incoming

chowhounds into the individual Formica-topped tables in the messdeck in the same manner as cattle are moved into the designated feedlots at the Chicago stockyards. The tables have been previously set with Pyrex dishes and silverware with at least two fork tines going in the same direction. In rough seas red rubber mats were rolled out on the messdeck tables to keep the dishes from doing the North Atlantic Cha-Cha all over hell and half of Georgia.

B) Next, they served the salad they’d made previously.

Preparing salad was a messcook’s job. Before my 19th birthday, I learned several culinary skills known only to the finest chefs of Europe. Stuke taught me how to bang a head of lettuce down on the counter on its stalk, making it simple to remove.

And how to peel the green hide off a cucumber then take a fork and score the sides so that when you slice the damn thing, poker chip fashion, the edges looked like gear teeth. After two tours, I was a regular Martha Stewart.

Sometimes we misjudged the amount of salad required for a sitting. For example, take rough weather—State Five running seas—boat gyrating like a washing machine in the rinse cycle, smell of gastric juice and previously eaten meals wafting forward from the After Battery head. These were indicators of a light turnout, so we didn’t prepare a lot of salad.

Sometimes we underestimated the turnout. Stuke found a solution to this situation. He would yell, “Listen up! I put a toenail in the salad. Five bucks to the guy who finds the toenail.” Suddenly salad consumption fell off considerably. Everyone aboard *Requin* knew instinctively that Adrian was perfectly capable of tossing a toenail in the salad. We *did* stuff like that in the pre-nuclear Sub Force. Today, any messcook who pulled something like that would probably end up in “acceptable behavior” rehab training.

We served the meals only when the animals at each sitting were seated and situated. Absent the civilizing influence of the fairer sex, the prescribed Emily Post gentility rules were forgotten. Elbows on the table, napkins poked in dungaree shirt pockets instead of on the lap, and conversations with a mouthfuls of meatloaf were approved messdeck etiquette. Most of us had to undergo civility retraining by brides as we acquired them.

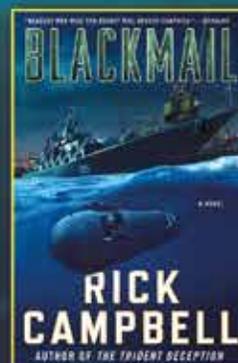
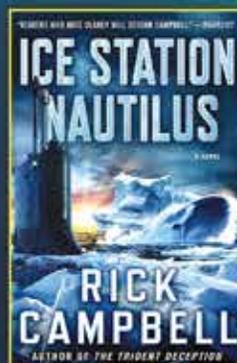
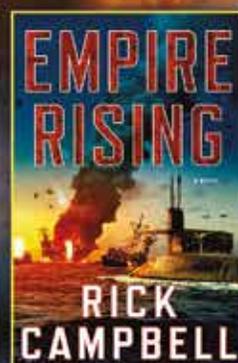
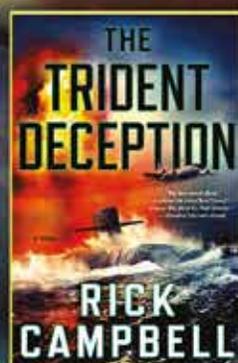
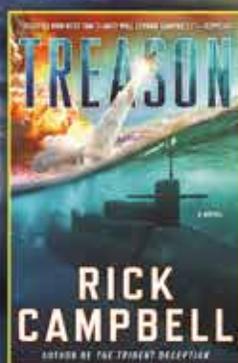
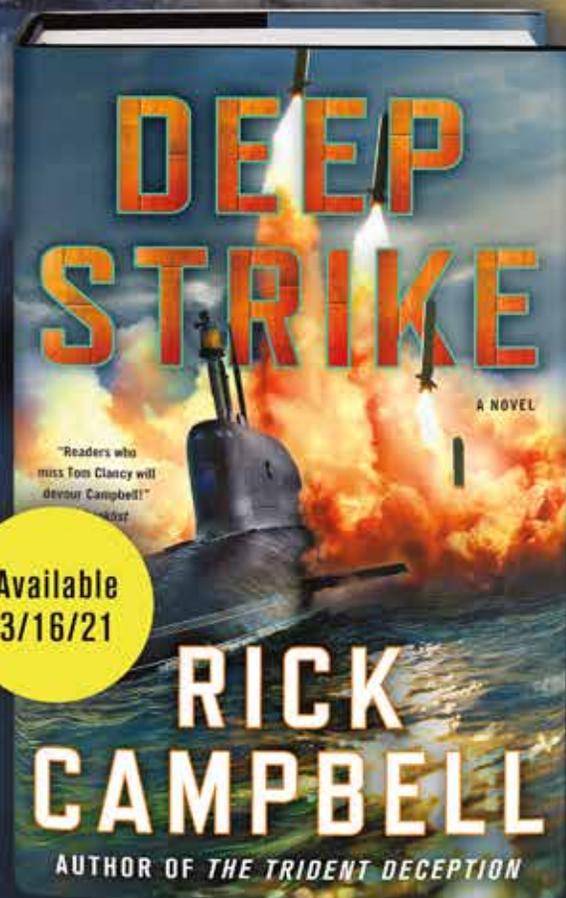
There was also always some jaybird who would say something to the effect that “Mother used to make this dish like...”

(concluded on page 17)

"Readers who miss Tom Clancy will devour Campbell." —*Booklist*  
WHO WILL STRIKE FIRST IN A RACE TO STOP A ROGUE RUSSIAN  
SUBMARINE FUNDED BY ISIS FROM HITTING AMERICAN SOIL?

# DEEP STRIKE

NOW IN PAPERBACK!



PRAISE FOR THE WORK OF NAVY COMMANDER (USN RETIRED) RICK CAMPBELL:

"Compelling and thrilling." —JACK COUGHLIN, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Shooter*

"A fistfight of a thriller. A masterpiece." —DALTON FURY, former Delta Force and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Kill Bin Laden*

"The best submarine novel since Tom Clancy's *The Hunt for Red October*." —*Booklist* (starred review)

"Fans of submarine thrillers will welcome Campbell." —*Publishers Weekly*

**DEEP STRIKE** — RELEASES MARCH 16, 2021 TO BOOKSTORES EVERYWHERE  
(PRE-ORDER OR PURCHASE WHERE YOU BUY YOUR BOOKS — HARDCOVER, EBOOK, OR AUDIOBOOK)



John P. Holland

**L.A.-Pasadena  
Base 50-Year  
Holland Club**

(75-year members noted with \*)

- Larry D. Long .....2021
- G. Judson “Jud” Scott, Jr....2021
- Edward E. Kushins ..... 2020
- Bruce Evan Neighbors .....2020
- David H. Vanderveen .....2019
- Philip J. Jaskoviak.....2019
- Dennis Bott .....2018
- James A. Burnett.....2018
- Robert “Mike” Cailor .....2018
- Robert Miller .....2018
- John A. Anderson.....2017
- Roger C. Dunham, MD....2017
- Richard McPherson ..... 2017
- Harry “Bill” Moak .....2017
- Louis A. Myerson .....2017
- Elliot Rada .....2017
- Ronald G. Wagner .....2017
- Dennis J. Walsh.....2017
- Michael Kish.....2016
- Gary Wheaton .....2016
- Lawrence R. Butler .....2015
- Samuel T. Higa .....2015
- Harry P. Ross .....2015
- Stephen C. Rowe .....2015
- Charles H. Senior .....2015
- Larry E. Smith .....2015
- Sam Aboulafia .....2014
- David Palagyi.....2014
- Dennis Neal Parr .....2014
- Earl Thomas Peratt, Jr.....2014
- David D. Semrau, DDS ....2014
- Ray Tracy Teare.....2014

(continued next page)



**Los Angeles-Pasadena Base  
2021 Calendar of Upcoming Events**

- January 16: Monthly Meeting as Zoom Conference
- February 20: Monthly Meeting as Zoom Conference
- March 20 Monthly Meeting as Zoom Conference
- April 17 Monthly Meeting as Zoom Conference
- May 15 Monthly Meeting as Zoom Conference  
Nominating Committee Appointed  
Call for participants in the Huntington  
Beach 4th of July Parade (?) TBD
- May 31 Private Memorial Day Service - 0930  
(L.A.-Pasadena Base Subvets Only -  
Public Service Disallowed by Weapons Station)  
Submarine Memorial, West
- June 19 Monthly Meeting as Zoom Conference  
~~Call for nominations for 2022 Base Officers~~
- July 4 ~~Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade~~  
Base Participation Cancelled
- July 17 LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic... Now to  
take place at the Memorial Site
- August 21 Monthly Meeting as Zoom Conference  
2022 Base Officer Candidates Announced**
- September 18 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
Election of Officers
- October 16 Monthly Meeting  
Annual Officer Installation Luncheon
- November 20 Monthly Meeting - Thanksgiving Theme
- December 18 Annual Christmas Luncheon  
at the Los Alamitos Golf Course

(Holland Club Roster, continued)

Milton Harry Boudov ..... 2013  
Kenneth Jon Dorn..... 2013  
M. Mark Hoffer ..... 2013  
Michael P. Klein..... 2013  
Ronald L. Levenson..... 2013  
Edward L. Arnold ..... 2012  
T. Michael Bircumshaw.... 2012  
Raymond Cheesebrough . 2012  
Bobby O. Mahaffey..... 2012  
John V. Mahan ..... 2012  
Lee Melody ..... 2012  
Clyde Matthew Turner ..... 2012  
George R. Walrath ..... 2012  
John L. Weisenberger ..... 2012  
Edward A. Barwick..... 2011  
Joseph W. Koch, Jr. .... 2011  
Stephen D. Diumentti ..... 2009  
David Whittlesey ..... 2009  
Dennis A. Yure..... 2009  
Armen Bagdasarian..... 2008  
Bernard M. Kauderer ..... 2008  
Paul A. Riggs..... 2008  
Rex L. Shields..... 2008  
John L. Von Ulmen ..... 2008  
Francis R. Traser..... 2006  
Melquiades Mares, Jr..... 2005  
Ronald K. Thompson..... 2004  
Michael Varalyai ..... 2004  
Hughie T. Blackwell..... 2003  
Robert L. Conboy..... 2003  
James Rogers ..... 2003  
John E. Savela, Jr..... 2003  
Ben Van Devender..... 2002  
Berry S. Yolken ..... 2002  
James E. Carter ..... 1999  
William F. Long ..... 1999  
Herbert J. “Bo” Bolton ..... 1998  
Kenneth E. Chunn..... 1998  
\*Clifford Bernard Murr ... 1996  
\*Royal Harrison, Jr..... 1995  
\*Sterling F. Higgins ..... 1995  
\*Robert Clair Koplin..... 1995  
\*Mark Maynard..... 1994  
\*William J. Dillon..... 1993  
\*Harold Staggs..... 1992



Note that the following e-bulletins from Regional and National appear in these pages in the order received. The most recent information therefore appears toward the back.—ed.

## **FOX Traffic:** **Bulletins from USSVI—Regional and National**

*Shipmates and Ladies,*  
*Forwarding USSVI correspondence to L.A.-Pasadena Base members.*  
*Dave*

From: USSVI POC: William C. Andrea <NJVC@ussvi.org>  
Date: July 10, 2021  
Subject: *American Submariner* 2021 3rd digital edition info: IMPORTANT!  
Submitted by: Wayne Standerfer, National Commander on 7/10/2021

Shipmates,

At this time due to a situation out of our control, we cannot upload the *American Submariner* 2021 3rd Quarter Edition to our website, which enables members who have chosen the digital copy option to access the magazine.

As a temporary workaround, we have made this latest edition available by the use of Google Drive. Please copy and paste the following link into your web browser; it will open this edition for your viewing.

<https://bit.ly/3igRhrA>

We hope this will be the last time we have to use our present website for this purpose.

All the Best and please take care,  
Wayne Standerfer  
USSVI National Commander

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*Shipmates and Ladies,*  
*Forwarding USSVI correspondence to L.A.-Pasadena Base members.*  
*Dave*

From: USSVI POC: William C. Andrea <NJVC@USSVI.ORG>  
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021  
Subject: USSVI VSO News for July, 2021  
Submitted by: William C. Andrea

Next-Generation Military ID Card ‘Stepchild’ Designation Stirs Controversy.  
<https://bit.ly/3BzkUNw>

The Commissary Agency Is Making This Service Free Again for Now.  
<https://bit.ly/3ruNH5>

DoD Confirms: Rare Heart Inflammation Cases Linked to COVID-19 Vaccines.  
<https://bit.ly/3iXUc8X>

Remarriage Rules Relaxed for Surviving Spouses Seeking VA Benefits.  
<https://bit.ly/3rymaMo>

(concluded on next page)

## World's Longest Nuclear Submarine Belgorod Begins Its First Sea Trials

(Reproduced from Inceptive Mind website, published June 28, 2021.)

by Ashwini Sakharkar



Belgorod out on first sea trials.

Russia tested *Belgorod*, its new giant special-purpose nuclear-powered submarine, in open water for the first time. It was piloted in the White Sea over the weekend.

Officially known as Project-09852, the 184-meter (604 feet) submarine is believed to be the largest submarine developed anywhere in the world in thirty years. It displaces more water than a World War I battleship and can dive to a depth of 1,700 feet.

Once approved for use, the ship will be capable of launching the “Poseidon” nuclear-armed unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV). This UUV reportedly has a range of 5,200 nautical miles (10,000 km) and a submersion depth of 1,000 meters. Poseidon will be able to reach an underwater speed of a whopping 108 knots (200 km/h) and hit a variety of targets, including aircraft carrier groups and coastal fortifications. The robots won’t enter service with the Russian fleet until 2027.

The submarine will also act as an aircraft carrier for smaller submarines and operate very

(concluded on next page)

## USSVI Regional and National News Bulletins...

(concluded from previous page)

House Passes Bill Giving Female Veterans Access to Birth Control.

<https://bit.ly/3iGyUwi>

Why You Should Get a Veterans Designation on Your Driver’s License.

<https://bit.ly/3eRUI6Z>

Navy Announces End to Relaxed Grooming Standards.

<https://bit.ly/3wYE5N7>

Since 9/11, Suicide Has Claimed Four Times More Military Lives Than Combat.

<https://bit.ly/3rurMan>

Here’s How Much the Pentagon Has Spent So Far to Treat Transgender Troops.

<https://bit.ly/3eSHKpx>

Troops Can Finally File Medical Malpractice Claims Against the Military. Here’s How.

<https://bit.ly/3iGBoeb>

This Navy Drone Ship Just Traveled Nearly 5,000 Miles from the Gulf Coast to California.

<https://bit.ly/3y4MH6d>

10 Best States for Military Retirees.

<https://bit.ly/3y3MvEr>

VA Will Soon Begin Processing Claims for Three New Agent Orange Illnesses.

<https://bit.ly/3rAu1c3>

Don’t forget the USSVI Convention next month in Orlando, Florida!

John Dudas

USSVI VSO

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*Shipmates and Ladies,*

*Forwarding USSVI correspondence to L.A.-Pasadena Base members.*

*Dave*

From: “USSVI POC: William C. Andrea” <NJVC@ussvi.org>

Date: July 27, 2021

Subject: Contacting the National Office... IMPORTANT!

Submitted by: Dennis Nardone, USSVI Exec. Administrator

Shipmates,

When contacting the National Office by email, use...

[www.ussvi@telebyte.net](http://www.ussvi@telebyte.net)

NOT: [www.office@ussvi.org](mailto:www.office@ussvi.org).

[www.office@ussvi.org](mailto:www.office@ussvi.org) is not working correctly.

Dennis Nardone

USSVI Executive Administrator

(Our thanks to Marilyn Senior for straightening out this email address snafu.—ed.)

## World's Longest Sub Begins Sea Trials

(concluded from previous page)

deep with robotic arms that can damage or even cut vital cables lying on the seabed.

Until now, the specifications of the *Belgorod* were unknown. However, the submarine is undergoing factory tests and will be handed over to the Russian government toward the end of 2021.

State trials will begin once the manufacturer's trials are completed. The nuclear submarine should be handed over to the customer at the end of 2021, as planned.

Ad Still Here by Popular Demand!

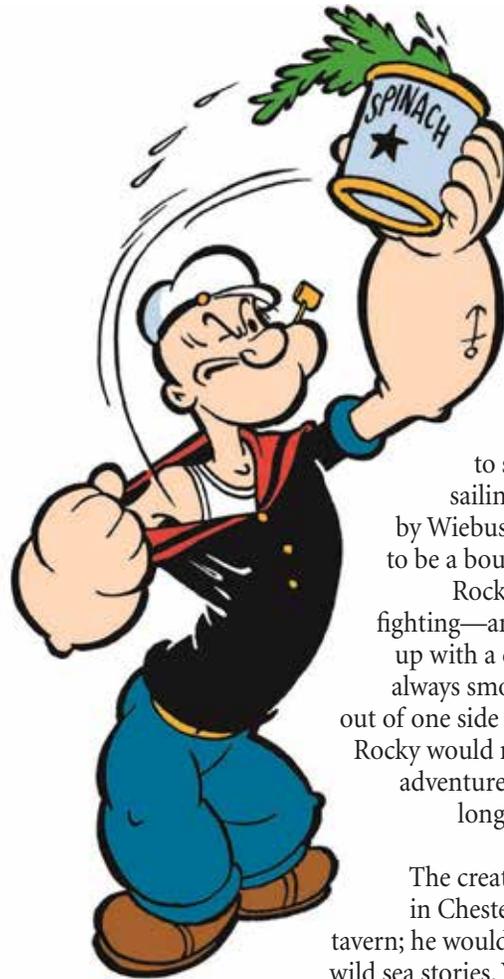


## Just the Place for Killer MidRats!

Hey, know anyone on boats out of New London? Or, planning a visit to Groton yourself?

Drop anchor at this local dive: **Wings'n'Pies** at 924 Route 12, just down the road from the Base's Main Gate. Your editor enjoys firsthand knowledge that the pizzas here are some of the tastiest and sloppiest around. Forget those extra napkins—just wipe your greasy fingers on your shirt and they'll think you've been hanging out with the A-Gang!

*Editor's Note:* Not much in the way of communication came in from Regional and National this month, so we found ourselves in need of some filler material. Our base's old friend Phil Jaskoviak came through with what's below, and he apparently received it from our own Paul Riggs! This being a pulled-directly-from-the-internet-story, I have no idea of its truthfulness. But it's an interesting read anyway, and fun to consider as legitimate. Who knows? The Popeye character had to be influenced or inspired by somebody...



## Popeye the Sailor Man—Who Knew?

His real name was Frank “Rocky”

Fiegel. He was born in 1868 in Poland and, as a child, immigrated to the United States with his parents, who settled down in a small town in Illinois. As a young man, Rocky went

to sea. After a twenty-year Merchant Marine sailing career, Fiegel retired. He was later hired by Wiebusch's Tavern in the city of Chester, Illinois, to be a bouncer, maintaining order in the rowdy bar.

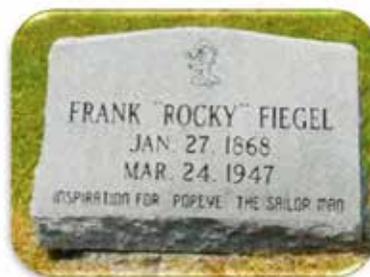
Rocky thus quickly developed a reputation for fighting—and usually winning. As a result, he wound up with a deformed eye (“Pop-eye”). He also nearly always smoked a pipe, so came to consistently speak out of one side of his mouth. In his spare time at the bar, Rocky would regale the customers with tales of exciting adventures he claimed to have experienced over his long career as a sailor crossing the Seven Seas.

The creator of Popeye, Elzie Crisler Segar, grew up in Chester and, as a young man, met Rocky at that tavern; he would sit and listen for hours to the old sailor's wild sea stories. Years later, Segar became a cartoonist and developed a comic strip called “Thimble Theater.” He honored

Fiegel by asking if he could model his new comic strip character—“Popeye the Sailor Man”—after him. Naturally, the flattered Fiegel agreed. Segar claimed that “Olive Oyl” and other characters were also loosely based on actual persons. Olive had actually been modeled after Dora Paskel, the owner of a small grocery store in town. Apparently she truly looked much like the character in his strip, even dressing much the same.

Segar kept in touch with Rocky through the years, always helping him with money— even giving him a percentage of what he earned from his Popeye illustrations.

*Who didn't love those cartoons?* Many watched them religiously. All were so funny, so moral—each with a satisfying ending. Wonder if today's kids even know who Popeye is? And who knew he was based on an actual person? Wonderful!



Frank Fiegel

## Many More Spy Subs in Future

(continued from page 1)



The sail of the USS Annapolis pokes through the ice during an exercise in 2009. One of the masts may have the Radiant Gemstone antenna. (USN photo.)

fundamental knowledge by collecting, recording and direction finding signals.”

Effectively the equipment performs an important defensive electronic counter-measures function, helping the crew hide the submarine from enemy forces, as well as acting as a general intelligence gathering tool. PLATH’s complete system includes software package to analyze the signals the sensors receive. It can use the information to map out “emitters” such as radio transmitters, radars, or other electronic systems to give the sailors a better understanding of their surroundings and potential threats. Garnering this electronic order of battle on the fly could also be valuable for building a broad picture of an enemy coastline in preparation for larger operations or for gathering strategic intelligence, such as flight data telemetry from missile tests.

“The geographic focus is on urbanized littorals in crisis regions, harbors, shipping routes and military test, training and maneuver areas,” Düsing noted. “The need to establish a line of sight to adversary tactical [very high frequency] sources between 30 and 88 MHz and at the lower end of the [ultra high frequency] band means that only submarines can get close enough.”

Of course, depending on the relative strength of the equipment, this need for a “line of sight” to the target could be a serious issue, even for a submarine. In addition, while PLATH’s system can start to work below the surface, it only actually begins to scan and collect information when the boat reaches periscope depth and raises its appropriate antennas, according to

Shepherd. The system’s relatively small size—at least according to the German defense contractor—and ability to use existing antennas already on a sub might make up for these limitations. Combining the gear with underwater drones or sub-launched unmanned aerial vehicles, either as antennas, signal relays, or both, could help extend its overall range.

Regardless, Düsing isn’t wrong about navies recognizing the value of having such equipment on submarines, as well as their inherent abilities to sneak in and out of sensitive areas without detection. The basic idea of a radio direction finding and SIGINT kit for sub-surface vessels is probably old news to many larger naval forces around the world. The United States in particular is a pretty prolific operator of spy subs, even if it hasn’t officially acknowledged it as of yet.

As of 2017, the U.S. Navy had at least one dedicated spy submarine, the USS *Jimmy Carter*, also known as SSN-23. The third and last *Seawolf*-class nuclear attack submarine, SSN-23 has a unique 100-foot-long, 2,500-ton “Multi-Mission Platform” addition to its hull, as well as small, auxiliary devices for precision maneuvering. The boat is so secretive that an annual history of



USS Jimmy Carter. (USN photo.)

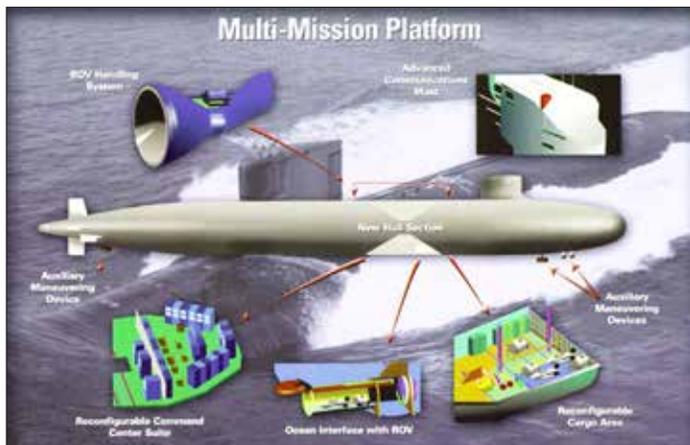
the ship’s goings on during 2013, which the author obtained via the Freedom of Information Act, only described its main activity as “Mission 7.” But this duty was important enough to earn the sub a Presidential Unit Citation, which rewards “extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy.”

Though the service is especially tight-lipped about *Jimmy Carter* and what she does when she goes out to sea, it has publicly acknowledged that this section can house underwater drones, SEAL special operations divers, and more. It is widely believed

(concluded on page 16)

## Many More Spy Subs in Future

(concluded from page 15)



An official schematic of the unique modifications to USS Jimmy Carter. (USN photo.)

this section contained equipment necessary to tap undersea communications cables, a mission that other spy subs, such as the USS *Parche*, reportedly performed during the Cold War.

But the Navy has also given other submarines SIGINT gear that seems much more in line with what PLATH is now offering. In 2015, Phase Zero, a now defunct section of Gawker Media, published a detailed breakdown of how the National Security Agency (NSA) employed *Los Angeles*-class nuclear attack submarines to scoop up cell phone signals and other communications chatter, based on documents obtained via former intelligence contractor Edward Snowden. Like the equipment Düsing described to Shephard Media, these modified boats could use their new gear to both track signals for intelligence purposes or spot incoming threats, according to a separate briefing that Phase Zero located from Pennsylvania State University Applied Research Laboratory.

After receiving the data via satellite, NSA would run it all through a software fusion program codenamed BLINDDATE. As of 2008, at least two *Los Angeles* boats, the USS *Annapolis* and USS *Montpelier*, had the requisite antennas and collection gear, which the Navy nicknamed Radiant Gemstone. A cursory Google Search turns up Navy budget requests for additional Radiant Gemstone equipment in 2009 and 2010, as well as information on an associated naval data link and fusion system called Radiant Mercury (RADMERC).

“The RADMERC program facilitates sharing of critical information across security domains and among allied, coalition and inter-agency partners,” according to an official list of the Navy’s Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command’s (SPAWAR) programs. “The Radiant Mercury product provides cross-domain information sharing capabilities from Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI) to General Service (GENSER) and GENSER to Unclassified.”

The Russians have had a number of spy submarines similar to the *Jimmy Carter*, including the shadowy Project 10831 *Losharik*, but there is little publicly available information on their exact designs and capabilities. Given Russia’s fondness for electronic warfare, it seems likely that the Kremlin’s more conventional submarines have at least some system that can perform basic electronic intelligence functions. As of May 2017, Moscow had reportedly ordered work on a new, massive “research” submarine. If PLATH’s system is as small and easy to install as they claim, it’s entirely possible that other navies with advanced submarine forces, such as China, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, already have similar equipment.

However, the company’s add-on kit, or something close to it, would be ideal for smaller navies on tighter budgets. It could readily turn even older or compact submarines into covert spies, giving them renewed life and making them able to spy on ports or other coastal points of interest that might be otherwise off limits to those countries. Beyond submarines of some description, the only other way to get a line-of-sight SIGINT setup into these sensitive regions without immediate detection would be with an advanced, high-flying or stealthy spy plane or drone. Few countries have the resources to operate those kinds of systems.



The Russian Oscar-class submarine Orel. (Wikimedia.)

Of course, if submarine spies become any more common, it’s equally likely that military forces around the world will simply respond by developing even more new and improved anti-submarine defenses. China is already reportedly building an underwater sensor network that might be able to detect underwater craft trying to move discreetly through the contested South China Sea and East Seas. In turn, navies are working on quieter and otherwise stealthier submarines. It’s a long-standing game of undersea cat-and-mouse.

What seems clear, both from PLATH’s new developments and existing systems, is that the submarine as an intelligence tool is an idea that can only gain more traction as time goes on, even with smaller navies.

Contact the author: [joe@thedrive.com](mailto:joe@thedrive.com)

## Armstrong - Messcooking on Smokeboats

(concluded from page 9)

“Frank, I know this will come as a complete surprise to you, but when your mother was cooking, truckers would take the bypass around your hometown to keep from smelling her cooking.”

Or the cook would come out of the galley and knock out the lad's plate in the sharpshooter bucket and say, “Sorry I offended your delicate pallet. Go eat down the street.”

This is where lion taming technique came in real handy.

After the meal, the messcooks were the solid waste specialists, either first or second loaders on the “garbage gun” (GDU or garbage disposal unit). Or if we were riding on the surface, we would check with the diving officer and request permission to assemble and toss one- and two-way trash over the side.

Trash dumping at sea was a highly skilled trade, like knuckle ball pitching and cobra breeding.

In those days, as trash and garbage accumulated in the boat, it just stacked up everywhere. You lived with your

disposable refuse until you could hit the surface and launch the stuff over the side.

These were the pre-Woodsie Owl/EPA days before anyone gave a damn about tons of garbage, medical waste and trash floating in the world's oceans. In those days, you plowed through all sorts of assorted crap snorkeling around out there. As a lookout, I saw oil drums, phone poles, and once, off the mouth of a South American river, a half-submerged bright red VW bug.

Messcooking kept you down inside the warm boat when the guys on the bridge were freezing their cajones off. It provided you access to hot coffee and leftover cake. It gave you an opportunity to “Jackass Jaw” the entire crew, three times a day. It allowed you to get a handful of the first tray of hot cinnamon buns to emerge from the night baker's oven. And, it provided the forum where lasting friendships were formed.

Nobody in the crew ever forgot the really good messcooks.

Keep a zero bubble . . . *Dex.*



# Take the Plunge!

## Send three *American Submariner* subscriptions to your favorite boat!

- Sponsorship is only \$30 a year
- Add a USSVI Calendar for only \$7 more

Mail your check to: **USSVI Boat Sponsorship Program**  
P.O. Box 3870  
Silverdale, WA 98398-3870

Please indicate BSP and the name of the sponsored boat or organization in the memo field of your check

- ✓ Reach potential new members by sending three annual subscriptions of *American Submariner* to the boat or organization of your choice
- ✓ First-time sponsors receive a Boat Sponsorship Patch
- ✓ All sponsors entered into the quarterly Boat Model Giveaway drawing (one entry per sponsorship) — a \$500 value

### SUBMARINES IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

USS <i>Columbia</i> (SSN-771)	USS <i>Montana</i> (SSN-794)
USS <i>Connecticut</i> (SSN-22)	USS <i>North Dakota</i> (SSN-784)
USS <i>Delaware</i> (SSN-791)	USS <i>Kentucky Blue</i> (SSBN-737)
USS <i>Greeneville</i> (SSN-772)	USS <i>Kentucky Gold</i> (SSBN-737)
USS <i>Helena</i> (SSN-725)	USS <i>Maine Blue</i> (SSBN-741)
USS <i>Hyman G. Rickover</i> (SSN-795)	

### Questions?

Jack Messersmith  
(928) 227-7753  
or e-mail  
MesserJ109@gmail.com

**Anonymous  
L.A.-class Boat  
Docked at Pearl  
Harbor Subase**

*Photo taken from  
atop the former  
Escape Training  
Tower (now a fancy  
office/conference  
room) on Oct. 12,  
2007. (Photo credit:  
Yours Truly.)*



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*In memory  
of the  
fifty-two  
submarines  
lost in  
World War II*

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SEALION	CISCO	HARDER
S-36	S-44	SEAWOLF
S-26	DORADO	DARTER
SHARK I	WAHOO	SHARK II
PERCH	CORVINA	TANG
S-27	SCULPIN	ESCOLAR
GRUNION	CAPELIN	ALBACORE
S-39	SCORPION	GROWLER
ARGONAUT	GRAYBACK	SCAMP
AMBERJACK	TROUT	SWORDFISH
GRAMPUS	TULLIBEE	BARBEL
TRITON	GUDGEON	KETE
PICKEREL	HERRING	TRIGGER
GRENADIER	GOLET	SNOOK
RUNNER	S-28	LAGARTO
R-12	ROBALO	BONEFISH
GRAYLING	FLIER	BULLHEAD
POMPANO		

