

60° F  
Rain  
Bangor Trident Base Weather

U. S. SUBMARINE VETERANS BREMERTON BASE  
P O Box 465, Silverdale, WA 98383-0465  
MEMBERSHIP: 271



Gertrude Check: A universal navy term for requesting an underwater telephone check with another boat or skimmer.



Our purpose is: "Perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country..."

Table with columns for ship names and dates: Lest We Forget: March, USS F-4 Jex-SKATE (SS23), USS H-1 (SS-28), USS Perch (SS-176), USS Grampus (SS-207), USS Triton (SS-201), USS Tullibee (SS-284), USS Kete (SS-369), USS Trigger (SS-237), Burial at Sea

- FRONT PAGE, BACK PAGE, USSVI, BREMERTON BASE, SOUP DOWN, DETERRENT PARK, OTHER STUFF

Dene Rogers Goes to Rehab After 2 Weeks in Hospital

(Updated: Mar 28, 2015)
Dene Rogers Sends:
It might help if you put my name % of Millie Hedrick. The nurse said I should get mail at either address. I am doing well and get out of rehab tomorrow.

Hi all, I was in ICU for a little over two weeks. Went in for pneumonia, which quickly turned to double pneumonia. After much testing they discovered bad kidneys and a heart problem. After 3 bypasses and massive antibiotics I am on the road to recovery. The kidneys are recovering on their own and the bypasses are doing well. I was moved to rehab yesterday. Will be recovering at my sister Millie's Place in Peoria, AZ.

Sends cards:
Dene Rogers
% Millie Hedrick
10323W. Olive Av #103
Peoria, AZ 85345
gphysics@tscnet.com
360-649-5165
PS: Dene can receive e-mail and phone calls...doing good/ed
Ad on: Dene wrote: One doctor thinks it all started because of low potassium.

Summary of Submarine Veterans Bremerton Base Meeting 21 March 23, 2015

(Posted: Mar 23, 2015)
Base Secretary Wayne Sieckowski Sends:
There were over 35 base members who turned out to listen to Retired MCPON Rick West talk to the base members. He recognized various members in the audience who he served with. He addressed the forward deployed bases Guam and Spain and said the crews were very accepted of being home ported overseas. He said Guam is becoming a very popular homeport. The pride and morale are very high in the submarine force. He answered questions about the submarine force and China, Russia and their submarines.

The business meeting followed with the various reports. We still need a fireworks stand chairman and if no one steps forward we will operate the stand with a different person in charge daily. Like a duty chief watch bill. We still need a scholarship and raffle co-chair person.

The next meeting will be Tuesday April 21, 2015 at 1900.

115th Submarine Birthday Ball

(Posted: Mar 21, 2015)
The 115th Officers' Submarine Birthday Ball will be held on April 18th at the Seattle Marriott Waterfront from 1715 - 2300. The guest speaker is RADM Phil Sawyer, COMSUBPAC. Ticket Cost for civilian and retired is \$100. The event has a Facebook page with info on the latest on hotel rooms, etc. at: https://www.facebook.com/PacnorwestOfficersSubmarineBirthdayBall
The Enlisted Submarine Birthday Ball is 11 April @ 1700 at the Downtown Seattle Sheraton. Speaker is Force Master Chief Mason. No info on cost or date to purchase tickets. All I saw was a flyer on the COMSUBGRU Nine Facebook page. POC is ETC Jones, charles.h.jones1@navy.mil.

Base Member Goes on Eternal Patrol

(Posted: Mar 14, 2015)
David C. Crawford RMCM(SS), a victim of cancer, went on eternal patrol March 13th. Dave, age 66, born in 1948, was a true nuclear submarine sailor. He served from 1967 to 1993 in Sculpin, Lewis and Clark, Tunny, Nevada, and Alexander Hamilton in his 26 year Navy career. Will post obit when available.

Current Issue of Puget Soundings is On-line

(Posted: Mar 14, 2015)
The quarterly issue (Jan-Mar 2015) of the Bremerton Base newsletter, Puget Soundings, is on line. I think you will enjoy some changes editor Dave Pittman has made to format also some fine articles and many links to other submarine related web sites you will enjoy. Also your on-line issue provides additional color pages with images, a few members will not get to appreciate. God job Dave/ed

JOIN SUBVETS!

Monthly Meetings
Summer Hours
April-September
3rd Tues, 1900 (7PM)
at FRA 29, 521 National Ave,
Bremerton, WA



- Up Periscope
Empire Rising
Dolphin Dash
Submariners Walk Heritage Trail
Scholarship Application
Western Region Roundup in Laughlin, NV
Will Rogers' Reunion
Chicago Submarine Memorial

E-mail Red to change Click Date to See Event

Calendar for March 2015 showing dates 1-31.



South Sound Base Reports



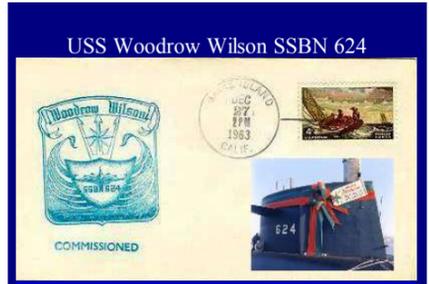
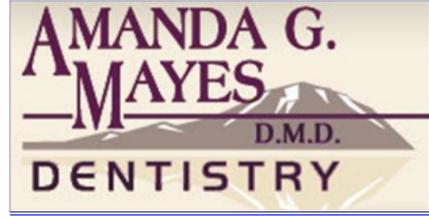
Fujiyama's Silverdale 03-13-2015 Photo provided by Don Bassler

Submarine Videos

- The Largest Submarine in WWII
Jon Jaques Submarine Museum
Submarine Base 1943 WWII THRILLER
Pride Runs Deep (1978) - Full Length Documentary on Nuclear Submarines
SSBN History
SUBMARINES, SECRETS AND SPIES - NOVA - Discovery/Military/History (documentary)
Merge of Nuclear Power & Submarine Hull Design Video
Tom Tom - Submarines
Admiral Rickover
Navy Submarine Force - Silent Service
Sea Spies
about.net
RESCUED BY SUBMARINE
Submarines of World War I
How a World War II Submarine Works
The Silent Service (in color) - U.S. Navy WWII
The Largest Submarine in The U.S. Navy
Ohio Class Submarine I Combat Countdown
Trident Missile Launch From a Submarine
Submarine Service In The 1970s
Watch out from below
Fast Attack
NEW SUBMARINE! U.S. Navy Takes Delivery of PCU Minnesota
Submarine nuclear (DOCUMENTAR)
Russian submarine History
Raising the Kursk Part 1
Raising the Kursk Part 2
The Kursk Cover Up - Russia
Secret Submarine Rendezvous : Documentary on the World War 2 Secret African Mission
HMS Victorious Trident Class Nuclear Submarine
Submarine Patrol 3/3 - Chasing the Enemy
Oberon Arrival in Halifax
RCN Submarines HD
Kursk Submarine Disaster



Communications Supporters Use or lose



Deterrent Park
Sponsors for May 2015
Engraved Paver Installation
Kallio
Gabrio
Souza
USSVI-Farragut Base
Silver
Tarcza (2)
Kriete
Donovan
Powell

U S Submarine Veterans NEWS LINK

Click this Link None [Facebook icon]

ON THE BACK PAGE BELOW ARE QUICK LINKS TO CURRENT MILITARY EVENTS Stuff you won't see in the local fish wrapper

- Earn Back the Trust and Reconsider the Model
New Chinese Nuclear Sub Design Includes Special Tender Operations Mini-Sub
Australia Kicks Off 26 Billion Pounds Submarine Tender
The Military's Robotic Ghost Ship Passes Critical Test
'Under Pressure' - In Defence of Canada's Submarines ...
Shipyard worker looking for answers after being trapped in tank
Shipyard worker looking for answers after being trapped in tank
The Relevance of Rickover
U.S., Australia Practice ASW
White House Consulting Petraeus on Fight Against IS
Navy's USS Jackson 'Handles Like a Speedboat'
War Games: Ancient French Sub Sinks U.S. Carrier

FRONT PAGE BACK PAGE USNS1 BREMERTON BASE SOUTH DOWN DETERRER PARK OTHER STUFF

Back the Trust and Reconsider the Model New Chinese Nuclear Sub Design Includes Special Operations Mini-Sub ... Shipyard worker looking for answers after being trapped in tank

From the Deckplates: Earn Back the Trust and Reconsider the Model Proceedings Magazine - March 2015 Vol. 14(1)31-345 ... The Relevance of Rickover ... Australia Practice ASW

Nearly two years after the start of the federal investigation into Leonard Glenn "Fat Leonard" Francis, chief executive of the Singapore-based Glenn Defense Marine Asia Ltd., several implicated officials await a decision on their fate. In February, three U.S. Navy admirals learned when Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus censured them for unethical behavior.

This scandal is the most damning of all the recent incidents in which leaders have fallen short of professional expectations. Unlike the 1991 Tailhook disgrace, which resulted from a single event, Fat Leonard's company supplied the Navy for 25 years, involving civilian and military officials throughout the Pacific region.

The response to Tailhook was simply crisis management: punishing people who had not been in attendance, enduring anti-drinking campaigns, mandatory sensitivity training for the innocent majority, and community service by junior sailors as a public-relations effort to win back the support of citizens.

Along with delivering the reprimands, Secretary Mabus made an unconditional statement regarding his expectations of senior officers: "All Navy officers, particularly our senior leadership in positions of unique trust and responsibility, must uphold and be held to the highest standards of personal and professional conduct."

The business model that pervades the Navy must also be questioned. We should not be creating so heavily on for-profit businesses, which sometimes come with unethical leadership of their own. The potential is too great to relate situations in which Navy leaders might be tempted, as we have seen. Changing that model might have helped in the Fat Leonard calamity, but it remains the case that a serious breach of leadership is also seen.

Secretary Mabus' words should be a warning to reinforce the integrity of officials who might face temptations similar to those involved in the current debacle. Should this happen again, the results will be devastating. This scandal has diminished trust in the Navy among the public, the Congress, and our sailors. Secretary Mabus' censures are the first vital steps in earning it back.

Senior Chief Murphy retired from the Navy after 21 years of service. He is a contributing author to Everyday Leader Heroes (Caboote Books).

New Chinese Nuclear Sub Design Includes Special Operations Mini-Sub By Sam LaGrone March 25, 2015 11:01 USNS News

China's latest nuclear submarine design appear to include a shelter capable of holding a miniature submarine for special operations forces (SOF) to undertake covert operations to deliver Navy SEALs to shore from U.S. nuclear attack boats, according to an image in wide circulation in Chinese online networks.

The Chinese boat is a Type-931 or Shang-class nuclear attack submarine (SSBN) features a hangar for the SOF submersible that would allow People's Liberation Army troops to discharge deployment much like U.S. forces, according to a translation of a March 17 story in the state-run Reference News.

The image was first reported in English by Jane's Defence Weekly on Tuesday.

Reference News said unlike hangars for U.S. SEAL Delivery Vehicles (SDV), the hangar on the improved Shang-class attack boat could only accommodate the first two-thirds of the vehicle so SDV enters [the] dock space as simple as an ink pen cap.

Consequently, as transfer of personnel to the SDV cannot easily be achieved with the submarine dived, the graphic shows SF personnel being transferred to the submarine by helicopter. read the Jane's report.

Australia Kicks Off 26 Billion Pounds Submarine Tender Mark Siegel Reuters, Mar 25

Australia has invited Germany, France and Japan to pitch for a contract to build its new submarine fleet, kicking off a contentious A\$50 billion (26 billion pounds) project which has become a political football at home.

Signs of progress of the long-delayed project bode ill for Sweden despite a proposal from Australia's opposition party to overturn the Nordic country's earlier exclusion from the lucrative tender.

Speaking at a conference of Australian naval officials and politicians in Adelaide on Wednesday, Defence Minister Kevin Andrews said Germany, France and Japan had emerged as potential "international partners" for the project to replace Australia's six ageing Collins-class vessels.

Andrews added that a "competitive evaluation" would take at least 10 months, after which the Defence Department would advise the government on preferred bidders.

An industry source in Australia said a letter had been prepared for bidders containing requirements including that a concept design be submitted within six months and details on how bidders would involve Australian industry in the programme.

Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) and France's state-controlled naval contractor DCNS have both expressed interest in the tender and said they would build the craft in Australia.

"We've already got the draft contract. We've got the statement of work," Philip Stanford, the chief executive of TKMS Australia told Reuters in an interview on the sidelines of the Future Submarine Summit.

"We've got all of the data descriptions which tell us what we need to do and they've sent us through classified channels the functional performance specifications ... It literally is happening as we speak."

Harry Dunstall, chief of the Australian military's Defence Materiel Organisation, told the conference that after the bidding contracts had been signed, there would be an eight-month period during which the companies would prepare their preliminary design proposal and present it to the government for consideration.

The two Japanese firms that until recently were considered the frontrunners for the project, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries <7011.T> and Kawasaki Heavy Industries <7012.T>, rebuffed an invitation to attend the Adelaide conference.

GEO-STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

After originally promising to build the fleet of up to 12 submarines in Australia, Prime Minister Tony Abbott backpedalled, signalling that cost and timely delivery were paramount.

Sources then said Japan was in the box seat to sell off-the-shelf submarines to Australia, marking what would be Tokyo's re-entry into the global defence export market and strengthening ties between two of Washington's strongest regional allies.

Abbott changed position again during an internal challenge to his leadership in February, promising something closer to an open tender to be completed by the year-end in an attempt to shore up political support.

Presenting a detailed, bipartisan approach to the project, Labour Party Leader Bill Shorten argued Sweden should be involved. The government excluded Sweden, which worked with Australia to build the Collins-class vessels, citing its lack of recent experience.

Under Shorten's proposal, a 12-18 month process would begin with Australia inviting Germany, France, Japan and Sweden to make initial proposals, each receiving A\$7 million from Australia for their involvement.

Australia would then select one to two submarine builders to provide full designs and fixed price contract bids. Those parties would receive an additional A\$5 million each to provide the more detailed final tender bids.

One of Shorten's proposed non-negotiable conditions was that the submarines be built and maintained in Australia.

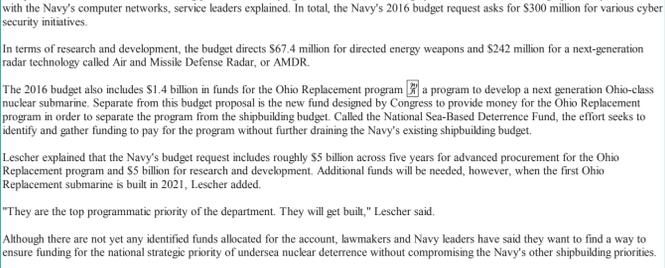
Andrews called the Labour plan a "complete fantasy".

"We have said there would be a significant Australian involvement and that is our position and we are getting on with the job," he said.

The Military's Robotic Ghost Ship Passes Critical Test March 24, 2015 By Patrick Tucker - Defense.com

How do you keep track of increasingly stealthy Russian, Chinese and Iranian submarines? If you're the U.S. military, you build a robotic ghost ship to follow them around the high seas.

Patrick Tucker is technology editor for Defense One. He's also the author of The Naked Future: What Happens in a World That Anticipates Your Every Move? (Current, 2014). Previously, Tucker was deputy editor for The Current, where he wrote for nine years. Tucker's writing on emerging technology.



In 2010, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, announced that they were building a 132-foot autonomous boat to track quiet, diesel-powered submarines. The program was dubbed Anti-submarine Warfare Continuous Trail Unmanned Vessel, or ACTUV.

To little notice, the system earlier this year passed a critical test, moving much closer to actual deployment and potentially changing not just naval warfare but also the way humans, ships, and robotic systems interact across the world's waters.

In six weeks of tests along a 35-nautical mile stretch of water off of Mississippi, testers at engineering company Leidos and DARPA put the ACTUV-UV systems through 100 different scenarios. The test boat, equipped with nothing more than off-the-shelf radar distances, was able to track a boat at 1 kilometer distance, without crashing into rocks, shoals, or erratically behaving surface vessels.

Most importantly, the tests showed that the robot boat could execute a difficult military mission without violating the maritime laws outlined in the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea. They also provided a critical proof-of-concept for machine-learning systems at sea, showing that big robots can, indeed, navigate the open seas along with cruise ships and shrimp boats. The next big challenge for the ACTUV will be the same kind of tests, but with enemy ships trying to block or interfere with it.

The world's waters could soon be crowded with robot ships that almost never hit land.

Speaking at a National Defense Association Event in Virginia, DARPA program manager Ellison Urban outlined why the Navy needs sub-hunting boat bots. Diesel-electric submarines, with their nearly noiseless engines, are incredibly difficult to track from afar. They're also cheap at \$200 million to \$300 million apiece, making them affordable to the likes of Iran, which claims to have a fleet of 17. Instead of chasing down these submarines and trying to keep track of them with expensive nuclear powered-submarines, which is the way we do it now, we want to try and build this at a significantly reduced cost. It will be able to transit by itself across thousands of kilometers of ocean and it can deploy for months at a time. It can go out, find a diesel-electric submarine and just ping on it.

Leidos conducted the tests on a 42-foot surrogate boat while they finish construction of the ACTUV prototype vessel, the Sea Hunter, which is expected to launch this fall.

'Under Pressure' - In Defence of Canada's Submarines ... The Walrus April 1, 2015

Click Here

Shipyard worker looking for answers after being trapped in tank Nick Octavian, iNews Now FORISMS00111

A man who was trapped inside a water tank for more than an hour on a Navy submarine at Norfolk Naval Shipyard is looking for answers nearly a year after the accident happened.

Deshaun Fuller spent 14 years at the shipyard sandblasting the inside of water tanks on ships.

His career as a sandblaster ended, though, on April 23, 2014 after an accident he feared would take his life.

Fuller and another man were working on cleaning a tank aboard the USS Albany submarine.

As part of the procedure, one worker stays outside the tank and uses a temporary cover made of aluminum to seal the tank while the other worker sandblasts the inside.

The day of Fuller's accident, the temporary cover got stuck.

"[The cover] became stuck between the piping and the studs around the opening and could not be completely installed or removed," an official report of the incident compiled by the shipyard says. The tank watch and the breathing air watch attempted to remove the aluminum cover from outside the tank for several minutes with no success.

The Relevance of Rickover By Paul Cantowine | PE Magazine

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U.S., Australia Practice ASW Michael Fabry, Aerospace Daily & Defense Report, Mar 18

The U.S. Navy's Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine SSN 706 USS Albuquerque partnered with the Australian navy earlier this month to strengthen its warfare capabilities through the annual joint exercise Langfish 2015, U.S. Navy officials say.

Langfish 2015 is a tactical deployment exercise between the two navies that trains and teaches tracking methods of both nuclear and diesel submarines, U.S. Navy officials say.

In a direct response to the U.S. Pacific Fleet's priority to enhance antisubmarine warfare (ASW) capabilities, the crew of the Albuquerque participated in ASW missions and joint submarine command courses while deployed to Perth, Australia. The joint exercises allowed for the U.S. Navy to learn and gain knowledge from the Australian diesel submarine HMAS Rankin.

ASW is becoming increasingly important, especially in the Asia-Pacific, where many nations are procuring and operating increasing numbers of submarines. Jonathan Greenert, chief of naval operations, says the U.S. owns the underwater domain and intends to continue doing so.

This provides a unique experience for the submarine crew to employ and experiment with many different real-world tactics, says Lt. Patric Trabert, Albuquerque's damage control assistant. In addition to the skills developed, the weeklong exercise strengthened the ties between the U.S. and Royal Australian navies, U.S. Navy officials say.

is no substitute for this experience, says Lt. Cmdr. Chris Brown, Albuquerque's executive officer. You can simulate this in a trainer, but it is quite different when you have a top-of-the-line diesel submarine being expertly operated by its crew. You really get a chance to see how you perform under pressure.

White House Consulting Petraeus on Fight Against IS Associated Press (AP) 17, 2015 by Josh Lottman

WASHINGTON Top officials in the Obama administration have consulted former CIA Director David Petraeus about the Islamic State militant group. The White House said Monday.

ASW was brought in by President George W. Bush to command multinational forces in Iraq in 2007, and presided over the "surge" of American forces there. Defending the Obama administration's decision to get advice from him periodically, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Petraeus maintains strong relationships with Iraqi military and political leaders.

"He is, I think, legitimately regarded as an expert, when it comes to the security situation in Iraq," Earnest said. "So I think it makes a lot of sense for senior administration officials to, on occasion, consult him for advice."

Petraeus has had only a handful of conversations with officials in the White House's National Security Council since last summer, said a White House official, who said it was similar to the consultation the White House conducts with a variety of national security experts. Petraeus is not advising the White House in any official capacity and is not getting paid for his advice, said the official, who wasn't authorized to discuss the arrangement by name and requested anonymity.

A retired four-star general, Petraeus' vaunted career suffered a major blow from revelations he gave the biographer, Paula Broadwell, eight binders of classified material he had improperly kept. The 62-year-old agreed earlier this month to plead guilty to a misdemeanor count that carries a possible sentence of up to a year in prison.

Earnest said he wasn't aware of any security precautions being taken due to Petraeus' legal situation.

Navy's USS Jackson 'Handles Like a Speedboat' Meridian Star, Mar 13, 2015 by Jeff Byrd

The USS Jackson, the U.S. Navy's third LCS6 or Independence-class littoral combat ship, was discussed during a presentation at Tuesday's Downtown Meridian Optist Club's weekly meeting.

Arieu Legendijk of the Navy League gave the presentation, saying the Navy's latest combat ship will be able to navigate in water as shallow as 15 feet. The ship is also the first to be named after a Mississippi city, Jackson, the state's capital.

Legendijk said U.S. Secretary of the Navy and former Mississippi Gov. Ray Mabus approved the name.

"The USS Jackson was supposed to receive its crest last year but because of sequestration, it was held off," Legendijk said. "We should have the unveiling of the crest later this year. It will be in Gulfport, which will be its commissioned port. The commission party will be there and its free."

Legendijk said because of the ship's shallow draft, some early thoughts were to have it commissioned in Vicksburg but that ran into a problem with Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal. Gulfport was chosen instead.

Legendijk said the USS Jackson will be 418 feet long and 103 wide. It will be powered by two gas turbines and could reach speeds up to 40 knots. It is an aluminum constructed ship from Austral USA's Modular Manufacturing facility in Mobile. It will carry a 3,104 metric ton weight when full.

"This thing will be able to handle like a speed boat," Legendijk said. "It will have all the usual combat systems. It will be able to shoot stuff and blow stuff up. In June, it will have its sea trial. Then they will fix it and get it ready to be commissioned."

The USS Jackson will have a regular crew of 40 but can hold up to 78 if needed. It will operate under three different crews but maintain a continuous operation, most likely in the Pacific theatre.

"One of the things about the crew that will operate this ship is that they will all be senior sailors," Legendijk said. "A senior sailor has between eight to 16 years in the Navy."

Legendijk also said Naval Air Station Meridian should be safe when Congress again debates potential military base closings. He said so would the U.S. Navy's vital training site at the Meridian station. He said the next round of talks will not happen until 2017, a year after the 2016 elections.

The Navy League is a civilian organization that serves and supports all sea services of the United States military. This includes the Navy, the U.S. Marine Corps, the Coast Guard and the U.S. Merchant Marine. It was founded in 1902 by then President Theodore Roosevelt.

War Games: Ancient French Sub Sinks U.S. Carrier WTTA on March 6, 2015 | NEWS.com.au

With a good submarine, a navy can do amazing things. Ask the French. They've just managed to sink a nuclear-powered US super carrier (1) and half its battle group.

The French Ministry of Defence has revealed one of its attack submarines pulled off an astonishing upset during recent war-games in the North Atlantic.

The Aviationist blog spotted an article on the French defence force's website which told how one of their submarines, the Saphir (2) tackled the might of the United States Navy off the coast of Florida.

Formidable force ... The aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt with a protective force o

Formidable force ... The aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt with a protective force of cruisers, destroyers and frigates. A recent exercise saw this expansive, and expensive, defence force bypassed by a French submarine. Source: USNS Source: Supplied

At the core of the surface force was the enormous aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt and its powerful strike wing of 90 combat aircraft and helicopters.

Clustered protectively about it was several advanced cruisers and destroyers, and its own guardian submarine.

DONE DEAL? Japan a reluctant favoured submarine supplier

In one element of the war games, the Saphir was tasked with the role of being the bad guy.

Its mission: To seek, locate and exterminate the US naval force.

The exact details of how it achieved this embarrassing outcome is not known.

French sub sinks US supercarrier

Somewhat, the French submarine must have been able to slip between the defensive sensor patchwork of patrol aircraft, helicopters, warships and submarines to line up a shot on the \$13 billion monstrosity.

SUB CONTROVERSY: Navy boss sunk by Wikipedia

There she lurked as a fictitious political crisis evolved in the world above.

On the final day of the exercise, the order finally came.

She the Theodore Roosevelt.

This 30-year-old Saphir proceeded to do. Along with most of the escorting warships.

The outcome of such war-games are usually kept a close secret. Not only does a result such as the above have the potential to be politically embarrassing for the losing side, it also exposes the existence of weaknesses any future enemy may exploit.

But rumours around of similar significant victories by minor nations against the titanic icons of America's naval might.

Both aircraft carriers and submarines are facing increased scrutiny as to their role in future defence forces.

Both are immensely expensive. Both project immense power.

But their abilities to survive a modern hi-tech battlefield with ever increasing enhancements in sensors and weapons has been called to question in recent years. Images

Prosecutor: Sailors Traded Videos of Women Officers Like Pokemon Cards Associated Press | Mar 13, 2015

MAYPORT NAVAL STATION, Fla. -- A group of male submarine sailors traded illicit videos of female officers in various stages of undress as if they were Pokemon cards, a U.S. Navy prosecutor said Thursday.

Navy prosecutors presented evidence against two of 12 male sailors accused of illegally making and trading videos of female officers aboard a nuclear submarine that was among the first to allow American women to serve alongside men.

The two men in court Thursday, both missile technicians aboard the USS Wyoming nuclear submarine, were accused of trading the videos with other sailors.

Another sailor aboard the Wyoming made the videos with his smartphone and then told others that he had a "gift for them," Navy prosecuting attorney Lt. Cmdr. Lee Marsh said. The Wyoming is based at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in Georgia.

Marsh said that once the sailor took the videos arrived back onshore, he shared them with the others by "bumping" their smartphones together. The videos were not posted online.

"Videos were treated like Pokemon (cards). Something to be collected," Marsh said during the preliminary hearing in the case against two missile technicians charged with conspiracy to distribute recordings of private acts of female officers.

Navy Vice Adm. Michael Connor, commander of the nation's submarine fleet, has characterized the case as a "serious sexual offense, with significant penalties."

The case highlights issues the Navy has faced in switching to coed crews on ballistic-missile submarines. It began the practice in 2011.

More than 50 women now serve aboard submarines, and Connor has said while the change to coed crews has not been without incident, overall it has been a success.

Navy Lt. Paul Hochmuth, defense attorney for one of the accused missile technicians who was in court on Thursday, said his client didn't know what the files were when he accepted the "gift" on his phone.

He argued that the government was unfairly describing the videos as graphic -- he said they were of poor quality, were only ever viewed on smartphones and showed only partial nudity.

"At no point can you ever see a full length view of the person. ... You might see a face ... then a leg ... or a butt ... but there is no full length view," Hochmuth said.

Marsh said the quality of the videos is irrelevant because they were made without consent and that they were plenty graphic.

"The videos consist of ... undressing for the shower and drying off from the shower," he said.

The hearing was presided over by a naval officer, who listened to statements from both sides and will issue a recommendation to Rear Adm. Charles Richard, commander of marine group 10.

Richard will decide whether to pursue courts-martial trials against the defendants, dismiss the charges or use other administrative methods to deal with the cases.

Navy's \$160B Proposed Budget Increases Sea Pay and Submarines Military.com Feb 02, 2015 by Kris Osborn

The Navy received the largest boost of any of the services in the Pentagon's 2016 budget proposal announced Monday as the Navy looks to buy two new Virginia-class submarines, refuel the George Washington aircraft carrier and offer increased sea pay to its sailors, among other initiatives.

The Navy's 2016 budget request asks for \$10 billion more than last year to pay for increases in shipbuilding, research, operations and maintenance, readiness and personnel. Overall, the Navy's budget proposal is \$160.9 billion.

"Across the full scope of the request there was a strong focus on innovation and reform," said Adm. William Lescher, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Budget.

Sailors would increase in sea pay the board 1.3 percent pay raise like the rest of the U.S. military under the proposed budget as well as extra money for increases in air pay, critical skills pay and hardship duty pay for sailors on extended deployments.

Alongside the increased funding for Navy and Marine Corps personnel -- which jumped from \$43 billion to \$46 billion this year, the Navy budget also includes an increase in operation and maintenance funds.

The 2016 operations and maintenance request increased from \$50 billion over roughly \$45 billion in last year's request. Service officials described the increase as a needed measure to reset the maintenance backlog caused by the high operational tempo over the last decade.

"We're asking for more funding to get us back up to speed with our maintenance and depot levels. We are thinking about everything we need and we are trying to put our money toward what increases our presence the most," a Navy official said.

Shipbuilding is also an area where there is a slight increase in this year's budget request. The Navy plans to buy nine ships in 2016 to include \$3.2 billion for two new DFG 51 Arleigh Burke-Class destroyers, \$5.3 billion for two new Virginia-class attack submarines, \$1.4 billion for three Littoral Combat Ships and one new amphibious transport dock or LPD 17.

Lescher said the Navy will deliver 14 ships and retire three, bringing the total fleet size up to 282 ships in 2016. The fleet will reach 304 ships by 2020, Lescher said.

The budget proposal specifies \$2.5 billion for the Navy's new Ford-class aircraft carriers.

The Navy's first Ford-class carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford, was christened in 2013. The ship is slated to enter service and be formally commissioned next year. Meanwhile, the USS Service's second Ford-class carrier, the USS Kennedy, is now under construction at Newport News Shipyard, Virginia. The shipyard is a part of a facility owned by Huntington Ingalls Industries.

Navy leaders included \$693 million in funding to refuel the USS George Washington aircraft carrier. The George Washington is slated to go through a mid-life nuclear refueling and overhaul process which would ensure the platform can serve out the remaining 25 years of its service life.

Navy leaders said last year that the across-the-board budget cuts known as sequestration would force the service to rescind funding for the refueling of the George Washington. This move would have retired the George Washington at the half-way point of its career and reduced the number of carriers operated by the Navy from 11 down to 10.

The Navy has said that this year's budget request includes an emphasis upon ensuring the size of the fleet remains at 11 aircraft carriers.

Also, the fiscal 2016 proposed budget includes \$2.2 billion across the five-year spending plan for a nuclear enterprise review. This includes nuclear fueling for ships and submarines along with naval facilities maintenance and upkeep at shipyards, service officials said.

A 100-person part of this year's budget for the Navy includes funds for the newly announced Task Force Cyber Awareness, or TFCA. TFCA is a new aspect of force dedicated to establishing protocols, identifying vulnerabilities, increasing cyber awareness and shoring up security and access with the Navy's computer networks, service leaders explained. In total, the Navy's 2016 budget request asks for \$300 million for various cyber security initiatives.

In terms of research and development, the budget directs \$67.4 million for directed energy weapons and \$242 million for a next-generation radar technology called Air and Missile Defense Radar, or AMDR.

The 2016 budget also includes \$1.4 billion in funds for the Ohio Replacement program (ORP) a program to develop a next generation Ohio-class nuclear submarine. Separate from this budget proposal is the new fund designed by Congress to provide money for the Ohio Replacement program in order to separate the program from the shipbuilding budget. Called the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund, the effort seeks to identify and gather funding to pay for the program without further draining the Navy's existing shipbuilding budget.

Lescher explained that the Navy's budget request includes roughly \$5 billion across five years for advanced procurement for the Ohio Replacement program and \$5 billion for research and development. Additional funds will be needed, however, when the first Ohio Replacement submarine is built in 2021, Lescher added.

"They are the top programmatic priority of the department. They will get built," Lescher said.

Although there are not yet any identified funds allocated for the account, lawmakers and Navy leaders have said they want to find a way to ensure funding for the national strategic priority of undersea nuclear deterrence without compromising the Navy's other shipbuilding priorities.

"Our view of the deterrence fund is that it is a great first step in bringing recognition of the challenge," Lescher added.



Veteran to Veteran Author Unknown Click

USS Hawaii Returns to Port Harbor Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Friends and families of the crew of USS Hawaii (SSN 776) gathered at the submarine piers to welcome back the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine, returning March 10 to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after completing a deployment to the Western Pacific.

It could be the more proud of the crew of Hawaii said Cmdr. William A. Patterson, Hawaii's commanding officer, a native of Holliston, Mass. "Every one of them represented the submarine force, the Navy and the nation through seven port visits and did a fantastic job tactically when we were out doing our mission."

Hawaii returned home with a new second in charge, as Lt. Cmdr. Charles Phillips relieved Lt. Cmdr. Mark Robinson as executive officer of Hawaii in a re-scheduled relief during deployment.

As this was the first deployment for over one-third of the crew, Phillips said one of the keys to mission success was how well Sailors supported each other.

"Our junior crewmembers eagerly met all challenges," said Phillips. "All first-time deployers took advantage of every opportunity to start and finish as many qualifications as they could."

During the deployment, 23 Sailors and six officers earned their designation as qualified in submarines and now wear their coveted "Submarine Warfare" insignia.

Additionally, 18 Sailors advanced in rank and five Sailors were initiated into the chief's mess.

During the seven-month deployment, Hawaii strengthened relations with multiple countries taking part in maritime exercises and conducted port visits to Svalbard, Australia, and the cities of Yokosuka and Sasebo in Japan.

Machinist Mate 1st Class Darren Polston, a native of Tucson, Ariz., expressed his pleasure in helping to coordinate community relations events during the various port visits.

"During my 14 years of submarine service, I have always heard of boats visiting Australia, and now I finally got to go," said Polston. "I loved meeting current submariners and veterans from all over the world, and being able to speak at an Australian High School."

"We were fortunate to be in town for the Royal Australian Navy's 100th year celebration of their submarine force," said XO Phillips.

Hawaii's crew participated in ceremonies held at the Maritime Museum and hosted distinguished visitors including both senior military and civilian leaders.

Upon her return from deployment, the War Canoe, as the crew calls her, was escorted to the historic submarine piers of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam by tugboats from the Honolulu Peahi Canoe Club, a group of volunteers who have been preserving traditional canoes.

"It was a huge honor to support the military community in this way," said Jason Levitt, an outrigger canoe paddler. "We'll not every day you get to paddle under the Ford Island Bridge, stop and pay your respects at the Arizona Memorial, and then meet up with the submarine USS Hawaii to escort her to the pier."