

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE  
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, February 13, 2016**

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1100 on February 13, 2016 at American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

**MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Steve Bishop, **Debbie Bishop**, **Cathy Chatham**, Howard Chatham, **Ed Ettner**, **Mary Ettner**, **Ruth Garverick**, Mickey Garverick, **Darlene Jaeger**, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, USSVI North East Regional Director Mike Naughton, **Mary Lou Naughton**, **Paul Nelson**, **Terry Nelson**, Michael Niblack, **Joe Phoenix**, **Marie Phoenix**, Mike Varone, **Anita Varone**, George Wallace, **Penny Wallace** and **Woody Woodworth**. (23 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

The Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

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

USS Barbel (SS-316)	Feb 4, 1945
USS Shark (SS-174)	Feb 11, 1942
USS Amberjack (SS-219)	Feb 16, 1943
USS Grayback (SS-208)	Feb 27, 1944
USS Trout (SS-202)	Feb 29, 1944

The ship's bell was tolled twice in remembrance of the 19 USSVI NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

The Base Historian, Richard Lowry, is hospitalized and on the binnacle list. Joe Phoenix read a passage on Submarine History: USS Shark (SS-174) was built by Electric Boat Company and was already operating in the Philippine Sea when Pearl Harbor was bombed Dec 7, 1941. On Dec 19, 1941, captained by LCDR Lewis Shane, she was ordered to return to Manila to embark and evacuate Admiral Thomas C Hart, Commander-in-Chief of the US Asiatic Fleet. He was transported safely to Surabaya, Java.



On her second and final war patrol she just evaded torpedoes from an Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) submarine on January 6, 1942. She patrolled the Molucca passage where she was depth-charged and failed to sink a Japanese ship in a torpedo attack. On February 8, she was ordered to proceed to Makassar Strait via the north coast of Celebes. After responding to this tasking message, the USS Shark was never heard from again. Japanese records reviewed after the war documented that the IJN destroyer *Yamakaze* sunk a surfaced submarine with deck gun fire on Feb 11, 1941. The USS Shark was not credited with sinking or damaging any enemy vessels.

The Base CDR asked that our **American Legion Post 162** liaison, Alan Amos, come forward for

a presentation. The base then donated two checks: one for \$150 as a donation to Post 162 for their support of the base and for use of their facility for our meetings; the second for \$50 as a donation to the Carville Star, a non-profit organization in Louisiana, targeted to assist those afflicted with Hanson's Disease (formerly called Leprosy) in the Philippines. Alan Amos thanked us for both of these contributions and said that each year another 400,000 cases of Hanson's disease are diagnosed and treated.

## **MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes from the January 2016 meeting were disseminated to the membership. There was no discussion.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, presented the Treasurer's monthly report:

Starting balance: \$ 5,259.23

Ending balance: \$ 5,215.59

The annual End of Year (EOY) financial report for 2015 has been sent to, and received and accepted by the USSVI National Treasurer. Copies of the report were forwarded to the Regional Director and District Commander.

A round of applause for Tightwad broke out spontaneously to thank him for his fine work.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Base Commander presented a summary of the most recent **Executive Board Meeting**, including: potential new recruits; plans for this year's Sweetheart luncheon and the Holland Club initiation; End of Year (EOY) Financial Report to USSVI National; boat sponsorships; K4K; updates to the website; Eagle Scout program; Base challenge coin; and an article on base activities at The Cold War Museum for the *American Submariner*.

**Vice Commander:** George Wallace spoke of the Holland Club arrangements for May 14<sup>th</sup> at PJ Skidoos restaurant in Fairfax, VA. This year's inductees will be Tony Poblete and Mickey Garverick.

**COB:** Mike Varone reported that the next Eagle Scout Court of Honor (COH) ceremony will be conducted in Springfield, VA on Feb 20 for Kohl Corrigan, followed by a COH in McLean, Virginia on Feb 27 for Justin Johnson. At each ceremony we will present a certificate and USSVI patch to new Eagle Scouts.

**Membership:** The Base now has 80 members, with 33 Holland Club members including 2 WW II members; 36 regular members; and 11 associate members. Five members were dropped due to failure to pay the 2016 dues; one of them has indicated he will rectify that lapse.

**PAO:** Mike Varone has submitted an article with pictures to the *American Submariner*. His submission shows last year's tour and NOVA Base meeting held at the Cold War Museum on Washington Navy Yard.

**Veterans Affairs:** Bill Clement was approved by the membership as our 2016 Veterans Affairs Officer. The Base CDR spoke about the DFAS MyPay site distributing the IRS Forms 1095 for the Affordable Care Act in January. These forms certify that TRICARE is satisfactory coverage. You need not submit Form 1095's with your tax return, but you should retain them in your tax records in case of an audit.

**Submarine Historian:** Richard Lowry was approved by the membership to be the 2016 Submarine Historian.

**Store Keeper:** Howard Chatham reported Base Challenge Coins are still for sale.

**Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss):** Steve Bishop reported our next visit to the Fairfax Hospital pediatric oncology ward is scheduled for March 17 at 2:30 PM. The location has moved about one block on the Inova campus in Falls Church. We will now use the Green parking garage because the pediatric oncology ward has moved into its new facility. A costumed representative of Alexandria's Famous Dave's Restaurant (WILBUR the pig) will be joining us on this Inova visit.

Ross Sargent is setting up our next visit to the UVA Charlottesville, VA hospital to its 56-bed pediatric oncology ward. We should be attending the USSVI USS Virginia Base meeting next month in Midlothian, VA (same time as our own monthly meeting) to gain this base's support for joining us on these UVA K4K visits going forward.

A focused fund raising effort is underway to obtain "Community Grant" monies from Wal-Mart stores in this area and in the Charlottesville, VA area. Both visiting the store managers face to face (Mike Varone and Steve Bishop), and submitting the on-line grant applications should complete in the next two weeks. After six years of self-funding this K4K effort we decided to follow the footsteps of our National K4K Chairman John Riley in CT and apply for financial help from Wal-Mart Stores.

**Chaplain:** Steve Bishop mentioned that he had seen the obituary for Carla Petruy, wife of Willie Petruy, in this morning's Washington Post.

**Scouting Coordinator:** Chuck Martin, an Eagle Scout himself, was approved by the membership as the 2016 Scouting Coordinator.

**Naval Submarine League:** Tim Oliver was absent so the Base CDR announced that the next Corporate Member Recognition Days will be March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>; Submarine History Seminar ("41 for Freedom") will be April 6<sup>th</sup>; the 2016 DC Area Submarine Birthday Ball will be April 8<sup>th</sup>; the next Capitol Luncheon will be on April 21<sup>st</sup>; Submarine Technology Symposium will be May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>; and the Annual Fall Symposium will be Oct 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.

**North East Regional Director** Mike Naughton had nothing to report, but the Base CDR added:

- New membership applications are on line with updated dues information
- USSVI qualified again for War Veteran Status; please check your profile at <https://www.USSVI.org> for completeness and accuracy
- There is Burial at Sea information available at the USSVI website

**OLD BUSINESS**

Terry Nelson addressed the final details for the **Sweetheart's luncheon** after the meeting, reminding ALCON to pay the Treasurer before leaving for the restaurant.

The next issue of the American Submariner will include a listing of the boats that are sponsored by USSVI bases and members. We are responsible for notifying our two submarines of our sponsorship.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

USSVI's USS Asheville Base is hosting a 2016 NC SUBVETS Burnsville Memorial Service on 20-21 May, 2016. Registration form will accompany the e-mail forwarding these minutes.

## **NEWS FROM THE FLEET**

- CAPT Eugene Doyle, Commander, Submarine Squadron 11, awarded Senior Chief Electronics Technician John Montgomery the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his proactive actions in a vehicle accident.
- USS Emory S Land will be home ported at naval Base Guam (the second tender there)
- Commander, Submarine Squadron 12 held a change of command ceremony where the Squadron's commodore transferred command to the deputy commander in a ceremony at the Submarine Force Museum in Groton, Conn. Vallejo, Calif. native, Capt. Butch Dollaga transferred command to Baton Rouge, La. native Capt. Ollie Lewis on Friday, Jan. 15.
- Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus hosted a ship-naming ceremony Jan. 19 to announce SSN 801, a Virginia-class attack submarine, will bear the name USS Utah.
- The Battle Efficiency award is presented to subs and ships that were rated to have kept the highest overall performance in their squadron. The winners for each squadron are ... drumroll, please:
  - Submarine Squadron 1: Attack submarine North Carolina, skippered by Cmdr. Gary Montalvo.
  - Submarine Development Squadron 5: Attack submarine Seawolf, skippered by Cmdr. Jeff Bierley.
  - SUBRON 7: Attack submarine Santa Fe, skippered by Cmdr. Tim Poe and then Cmdr. Jake Foret.
  - SUBRON 11: Attack submarine Hampton, skippered by Cmdr. Lincoln Reifsteck, followed by Cmdr. Theron Davis.
  - SUBRON 15: Attack submarine Key West, commanded by Cmdr. John Thompson.
  - SUBRON 17: Ballistic missile submarine Nevada; Blue Crew led by Cmdr. James McIver, and Gold Crew by Cmdr. Chad Hennings.
  - SUBRON 19: Guided missile submarine Michigan; Gold Crew led by Capt. Benjamin Pearson and then Capt. Gustavo Gutierrez, and Blue Crew by Capt. Erik Burian and then Capt. Joseph Turk.
- The submarine tender Frank Cable, out of Guam, also earned the Battle 'E' for its category. Congratulations to the hard-working crews!
- U.S. Navy Adm. Cecil D. Haney, USSTRATCOM commander, announced the winners of the 2015 Omaha Trophies at USSTRATCOM Headquarters on Feb. 3, 2016. The 2015 Omaha Trophy recipient submarine-related organizations are listed by category below:
  - Ballistic Missile Submarine: USS Wyoming (SSBN 742)
  - Naval Submarine Base: Kings Bay, Georgia

**The Binnacle List** currently includes: Art Bivens, Howard Chatham, Richard Lowry, Tom Conlon, and the family of Willie Petruy on the recent death of Carla Petruy.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

Mrs. Joyce R. Kersh - beloved wife of Rear Admiral John M. (Jack) Kersh USN (Ret.), passed away on January 25, 2016

CAPT James Pickens Adams II, USN, Ret. – beloved husband of Cheryl Porter Adams, passed away on January 20, 2016.

CAPT Colin Saari, USN, Ret. - beloved husband of Trish Saari, passed away on January 19, 2016.

CAPT Richard J. Schleicher, USN, Ret. – beloved husband of Margaret Schleicher, passed away on January 13, 2016.

**For the Good of the Order**, the CDR read the list of birthdays for February: Doc Compton and both of his daughters, Don Hall, Charlie Mills, Stephania Nielson, Ross Sargent, and Gary Smith.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Paul Nelson who donated winnings back to the Base. Thank you!!.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup> AND OUR GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE MS. HEATHER BROWN, AN UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGIST FOR THE UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY BRANCH OF NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND. MS. BROWN WILL PRESENT ON CSS H.L. HUNLEY.**

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The CDR requested a motion to adjourn. It was so moved and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1150.

-----  
21 of the members and guests attended the annual Sweethearts luncheon at the Fireside Grill in downtown Lorton. The Base provided each lady with a red rose. Thank you, Terry and Paul Nelson, for arranging this luncheon!

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

**2016 NC SUBVETS BURNSVILLE MEMORIAL SERVICE**

**FRI 20 - SAT 21 May 2016**

**Pre-Registration Form – Cutoff Date 07 May 2016**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Base: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Base: _____			<u>NO.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Registration	Per Person	\$15	_____	_____
Saturday Banquet	Per Person	\$15 if not rooming at Hotel	_____	_____
Breakfast and Dinner include in Room Rates				
Total Included			_____	_____
Dinner count selection Chicken _____ Beef _____ Trout _____ all baked				

**TEAR OFF THIS SECTION AS A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS**

Please make checks payable to: **USSVI USS ASHEVILLE BASE**

Mail check to: James A. Seacord III, 311 Colony Lane, Hendersonville, NC 28791

			<u>NO.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Registration	Per Person	\$15	_____	_____
Saturday Banquet	Per Person	\$15 if not rooming at Hotel	_____	_____
Total Included			_____	_____
Dinner count selection Chicken _____ Beef _____ Trout _____				

**Host Hotel: Big Lynn Lodge** NC Hwy 226A (milepost marker 331 on the Blue Ridge Parkway), between

Little Switzerland and Spruce Pine, 10860 N Carolina 226A, Spruce Pine, NC 28777

**Phone:(828) 765-4257**

Directions to Hotel: I-40, Exit 86 (Route 226). Take this bending, curving road all the way to Little Switzerland. When you see the Blue Ridge Parkway overpass, take a left turn, go 2 miles to the lodge.

Reservations at the hotel are the responsibility of the individual. **DEADLINE FOR SPECIAL RATE IS 07 MAY 2016.** Web site <http://www.biglynnlodge.com/>



<http://www.subforce.navy.mil/>



---

### Today In Undersea Warfare History:

**1942** | USS S-36 (SS 141) was lost when it was destroyed after she ran aground on the Taka Bakang Reef in Makassar Strait, Indonesia, near Makassar City. The crew was rescued.

**1943** | USS Silversides (SS 236) sank 3 enemy ships - the cargo ships Surabaya Maru, Somedono Maru, and Meiu Maru.

---

## **U.S. Undersea Warfare News**

### [CSS-11 Recognizes Senior Chief for Heroic Actions](#)

*[Petty Officer 3rd Class Derek A. Harkins, Submarine Squadron 11 Public Affairs, Jan 11](#)*

### [Submarine Squadron Expands](#)

*[Gaynor Dumat-ol Daleno, Guam Pacific Daily News, Jan 11](#)*

### [Submarine Development Squadron 12 Holds Change of Command Ceremony](#)

*[MCC Steve Owsley, Naval Submarine Support Center, New London, Public Affairs, Jan 15](#)*

### [Navy To Name New Submarine USS Utah](#)

*[Dennis Romboy, Deseret News, Jan 15](#)*

### [Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus Names Virginia-Class Submarine](#)

*[Secretary of the Navy Public Affairs, NAVY NEWS SERVICE, Jan 19](#)*

### [Battle 'E' winners: Pacific Fleet's Top Submarines](#)

*[David Larter, Navy Times, Jan 22](#)*

### [USSTRATCOM Commander Announces 2015 Omaha Trophy Winners](#)

*[U.S. Strategic Command Public Affairs, Feb 5](#)*

## **U.S. Undersea Warfare News**

### [CSS-11 Recognizes Senior Chief for Heroic Actions](#)

*[Petty Officer 3rd Class Derek A. Harkins, Submarine Squadron 11 Public Affairs, Jan 11](#)*

**SAN DIEGO (NNS) --** Capt. Eugene Doyle, commander, Submarine Squadron 11, awarded Senior Chief Electronics Technician John Montgomery with the Navy and Marine

Corps Achievement Medal Jan. 8 for his proactive actions in a vehicle accident the previous week.

Montgomery, assigned to Submarine Squadron 11,

administered CPR to a man who had suffered a heart attack while driving on New Year's Day.

"It's an amazing story, and his actions were very heroic," said Doyle, while addressing the command. "If I were part of that family, I'd be very appreciative for what he did."

Montgomery witnessed a car crash on the freeway while driving his parents to his home from the airport.

"I immediately pulled over to ensure that the people in the car were not injured or that they did not need any help," said Montgomery.

The driver's wife told Montgomery she believed her husband was experiencing a heart attack. She allowed him to take her children into his vehicle with his mother to keep them calm. Montgomery and his father then began performing CPR after the driver's wife reported the incident and their location to a 911 operator.

## Submarine Squadron Expands

Gaynor Dumat-ol Daleno, Guam Pacific Daily News, Jan 11

When it comes to projecting U.S. military might in the Asia Pacific, B-52 bomber aircraft flyovers from Guam's Andersen Air Force Base have been part of the more recent displays.

On Saturday, a B-52 from Andersen flew low over South Korea, near the North Korean border, in what the U.S. Air Force Pacific Command leadership called a "response to a recent nuclear test by North Korea."

Last weekend's B-52 flyover near the North Korean border "was a demonstration of the ironclad U.S. commitment to our allies in South Korea, in Japan, and to the defense of the American homeland," said Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., commander U.S. Pacific Command.

In addition to B-52s that are sent on rotational deployments in Guam, there are less visible, yet stealthy fast-attack submarines home ported in Guam that also are key to the nation's defense – thousands of miles from the mainland's coasts.

Rear Admiral Fritz Roegge, Hawaii-based commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet's Submarine Force, discussed the role of the Guam-based submarines and their submariners on Monday during his first official Guam visit since appointed to the position in September.

"This is where the action is," Roegge said. "The boats that are here have a high operating tempo of doing the kinds of missions that submarines have always done and that submariners care most about; the kind of missions they get to do for national security."

The Guam-based Submarine Squadron 15 has increased its capabilities since last year.

After having carried out missions with three Guam-based submarines for years, a fourth, the USS Topeka fast-attack submarine, was permanently stationed to Guam in May. Guam-based submarines have the capability to vertically launch cruise missiles.

The Defense Department also announced last month that USS Emory S. Land would be home ported at

"My Navy training helped me to stay calm and to handle the situation effectively," said Montgomery.

According to Montgomery, he and his father sustained the procedure for approximately 20 minutes until emergency services arrived. They assisted the emergency medical technicians transfer the man from the vehicle and assisted the man's family in changing a tire so they could follow the ambulance to the hospital.

"I feel that we really helped this man and his family," said Montgomery. "I wasn't expecting an award. I think a lot of people at this command would have stepped up and done the same thing."

Doyle agreed that his Sailor's quick response helped to make a difference.

"I understand the man is still trying to recover," said Doyle. "But thanks to Senior Chief Montgomery and his father, he has a shot at that." \_

the Naval Base Guam, doubling the number of submarine repair and resupply ships home ported on the island. Submarine tender USS Frank Cable has been based in Guam for years now.

The Defense Department leadership recognized the value of beefing up submarine presence in Guam about 10 years ago, before President Obama announced a "pivot" to shift more military resources to the Asia Pacific, Roegge said.

The decision to increase submarine presence in Guam preceded more recent international reports of the South China Sea territorial dispute and North Korea's recent nuclear testing.

However, those events "certainly validated the wisdom of having the submarines forward-deployed here," Roegge said.

"Being positioned here in Guam has our submarines much closer to areas of interest ... not just to the United States, but also to the entire international community who all have an interest in ensuring that the law and the freedom of the seas are respected," Roegge said.

"The demands on the submarine force to be able to do missions that are important to national security, in places that are far from our main coast, validate the benefit of that presence," Roegge said.

His Guam visit also is meant to highlight a "Go Guam" campaign to encourage submariners to choose a Guam deployment, because not many people who grew up on the mainland know about the beauty of the island, he said. When submariners aren't on duty, Guam has a lot to offer, including a supportive community and various outdoor activities, such as hiking and diving, he said.

Roegge's responsibilities include submarine assets in San Diego, Hawaii, Diego Garcia, Guam and Yokosuka, Japan. He was commodore of Submarine Squadron 22, with additional duty as commanding officer, Naval Support Activity in Italy.



## Submarine Development Squadron 12 Holds Change of Command Ceremony

MCC Steve Owsley, Naval Submarine Support Center, New London, Public Affairs, Jan 15

**GROTON, CONN.** – Commander, Submarine Squadron 12 held a change of command ceremony where the Squadron's commodore transferred command to the deputy commander in a ceremony at the Submarine Force Museum in Groton, Conn.

Vallejo, Calif. native, Capt. Butch Dollaga transferred command to Baton Rouge, La. native Capt. Ollie Lewis on Friday, Jan. 15.

Under Dollaga's leadership Submarine Development Squadron 12 trained, manned and equipped nine nuclear-powered, fast-attack submarines, homeported at Naval Submarine Base new London, Groton, Conn. as well as testing cutting edge equipment and tactics for potential implementation throughout the entire U.S. submarine force. During his time as commodore, five submarines deployed to the European theater and the Middle East, where they earned "first time ever" achievements while on missions vital to national security.

Dollaga credited his success in the Navy to those he served with, "Throughout my time in the Navy, I have been blessed with people who mentored me and helped me become the person I am today."



Vice Adm. Joseph Tofalo, Commander, Submarine Forces, Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic and Commander, Allied Submarine Command, the event's guest speaker, praised Dollaga for his effective leadership.

"The DEVRON-12 submarines that deployed during your tenure consistently showed up fully ready to meet the demands of a wartime environment," said Tofalo. "They expertly accomplished a broad and challenging range of missions including: intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, unmanned undersea vehicle employment, anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare and extremely

challenging shallow water, high-contact density scenarios."

"On the waterfront side of DEVRON, my focus was engaging with the submarine crews, so my staff and I could train them to operate 'alone and unafraid' on deployment," said Dollaga. "When we operate at 700 plus feet beneath the surface of the ocean and at 25 plus knots, you can't phone a friend for help."

Dollaga said he wanted to empower his crews so they could, "...make informed decisions based on assessing real-time data and believing in their training and instincts."

Dollaga will be the last Commodore of Submarine Development Squadron 12, which will be re-designated Submarine Squadron 12. The development portion of the squadron's mission has been transferred to the newly formed Undersea Warfighting Development Center.

The change of command represents the closing of a chapter, but not the end of the story to Dollaga, "What made DEVRON-12 unique will continue in the submarine force. Its legacy will continue with the people in the Tactical Analysis Group of the Undersea Warfighting Development Center and with the people in Submarine Squadron 12, because the foundation of what they do was forged in DEVRON-12," said Dollaga. "I was just blessed and lucky to be its last commodore."

The next chapter begins with Lewis, who will be the first commander of the newly re-designated Submarine Squadron 12. Regardless of the re-designation, the demand for submarine capabilities will remain.

"Every theater commander wants a submarine's presence to counter threats in their area of responsibility. Our challenge will be to prepare submarine crews to succeed under the most difficult conditions," said Lewis.

The nuclear-powered, fast-attack submarines of Submarine Development Squadron 12 are multi-mission platforms enabling five of the six Navy maritime strategy core capabilities - sea control, power projection, forward presence, maritime security, and deterrence. The submarine is designed to excel in anti-submarine warfare; anti-ship warfare; strike warfare; special operations; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; irregular warfare; and mine warfare - from open ocean anti-submarine warfare to intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance to projecting power ashore with Special Operation Forces and Tomahawk cruise missiles in the prevention or preparation of regional crises.

## Navy To Name New Submarine USS Utah

Dennis Rombo, Deseret News, Jan 15

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus is scheduled to be in Salt Lake City next week to name the next Virginia-class attack submarine the USS Utah.

The submarine will be the second Navy ship to bear the state's name. Japanese torpedos sunk the battleship USS Utah during the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

A naming ceremony at the state Capitol is slated for Tuesday at 10 a.m.

The Navy names Virginia-class submarines for states, and Mabus considered the new submarine's registry number, SSN 801, when deciding the name. The number is the telephone area code for much of the Wasatch Front.

Mabus also takes into account how many ships the state has had in the past and how the name helps the Navy and Marines connect to the state, said Lt. Eric Durie, Navy spokesman.

All those factors make USS Utah a natural fit, Durie said.

The Navy has contracted with General Dynamics Electric Boat and Huntington Ingalls Industries to build the USS Utah in Groton, Connecticut. The submarine is expected to be finished in 2022.

The nuclear-powered submarines weigh 7,800 tons and are 377 feet long. They have the capability to attack targets on shore with Tomahawk cruise missiles and conduct covert, long-term surveillance of land areas or sea-based forces. They are designed with a reactor plant that

doesn't require refueling for the life of the ship.

Virginia-class submarines are replacing the older Los Angeles class, many of which have already been decommissioned, including the USS Salt Lake City in 2006. The Navy decommissioned a cruiser named USS Salt Lake City in 1946.

The only currently active Navy ship with a name connected to Utah is the USS Santaquin, a tug boat at the Guantanamo Bay naval station. Named for the city in Utah County, it launched in 1973.

## Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus Names Virginia-Class Submarine

Secretary of the Navy Public Affairs, NAVY NEWS SERVICE, Jan 19

**SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH – Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus hosted a ship-naming ceremony Jan. 19 to announce SSN 801, a Virginia-class attack submarine, will bear the name USS Utah.**

The submarine will be named to honor the history its namesake state has with the Navy.

Utah was home to the Naval Supply Depot Clearfield, which by the end of World War II was the world's largest naval supply. It boasted approximately 16 million total square feet and employed nearly 8,000 civilian employees. It was responsible for buying and selling ship equipment and supplies and for managing the movement of personnel for three West Coast ports that attended to the Pacific Fleet. In addition, the depot distributed automotive and other material for selected activities in three naval districts stretching from North Dakota to Texas.

The future USS Utah will be the second naval vessel to bear the name; the first, a battleship designated BB-31, was commissioned in 1911 and had a long, honorable time in service. The early part of BB-31's career was spent conducting gunnery and torpedo defense exercises.

In 1914, BB-31 became involved in the Mexican Civil War when it assisted in transporting Mexican refugees to Tampico. Following this mission, it was charged with searching for SS Ypiranga, the German ship that was carrying munitions for the Mexican dictator Victoriano Huerta. After this search proved unfruitful, BB-31's battalion spent the next two months fighting in Vera Cruz. Seven men from her battalion earned Medals of Honor as a result of their actions during this time.

Shortly thereafter, BB-31 returned to conducting battle exercises in the Caribbean until the outbreak of World War I. During this time, BB-31 had the opportunity to act as both the flagship for Battleship Division 6, operating out of Ireland, and later, was part of the honor escort for George Washington during its time transporting President Woodrow Wilson to France.

In 1929, it was BB-31's opportunity to have high-ranking officials on her decks when she transported President-elect Herbert Hoover and his official party to Rio de Janeiro.

Two years after this honorable voyage, BB-31 was converted to a mobile target. This allowed it to be controlled by radio gear. It then spent the next nine years training naval aviators in dive, torpedo and high-level bombings. While conducting anti-gunnery exercises in Pearl Harbor, BB-31 was struck by a torpedo and capsized during the initial stages of the Japanese attack. She was struck from the Navy record Nov. 13, 1944 and received a battle star for her service in World War I.

Virginia-class attack submarines provide the Navy with the capabilities required to maintain the nation's undersea supremacy well into the 21st century. They have enhanced stealth, sophisticated surveillance capabilities and special warfare enhancements that will enable them to meet the Navy's multi-mission requirements.

These submarines have the capability to attack targets ashore with highly accurate Tomahawk cruise missiles and conduct covert, long-term surveillance of land areas, littoral waters or other sea-based forces. Other missions include anti-submarine and anti-ship warfare; mine delivery and minefield mapping. They are also designed for special forces delivery and support.

Each Virginia-class submarine is 7,800-tons and 377 feet in length, has a beam of 34 feet, and can operate at more than 25 knots submerged. They are designed with a reactor plant that will not require refueling during the planned life of the ship, reducing lifecycle costs while increasing underway time. The submarine will be built under a unique teaming agreement between General Dynamics Electric Boat (GDEB) and Huntington Ingalls Industries' Newport News Shipbuilding division wherein both companies build certain portions of each submarine and then alternate deliveries. Utah will be delivered by GDEB located in Groton, Connecticut.

## Battle 'E' winners: Pacific Fleet's Top Submarines

David Larter, Navy Times, Jan 22

The Pacific Fleet's best submarines were announced Thursday, with the crews of seven subs and a

submarine tender earning a shiny new Battle 'E' ribbon to their uniforms.

The Battle Efficiency award is presented to subs and ships that were rated to have kept the highest overall performance in their squadron.

The head of Submarine Force Pacific, Rear Adm. Frederick Roegge, congratulated the winners.

"Each crew member of an award winner can be justifiably proud of their contribution to improve Pacific Submarine Force readiness," Roegge said in the message. "I am extremely proud of your outstanding performance. Well done and congratulations!"

The winners for each squadron are ... drumroll, please:

- Submarine Squadron 1: Attack submarine North Carolina, skippered by Cmdr. Gary Montalvo.
- Submarine Development Squadron 5: Attack submarine Seawolf, skippered by Cmdr. Jeff Bierley.

- SUBRON 7: Attack submarine Santa Fe, skippered by Cmdr. Tim Poe and then Cmdr. Jake Foret.
- SUBRON 11: Attack submarine Hampton, skippered by Cmdr. Lincoln Reifsteck, followed by Cmdr. Theron Davis.
- SUBRON 15: Attack submarine Key West, commanded by Cmdr. John Thompson.
- SUBRON 17: Ballistic missile submarine Nevada; Blue Crew led by Cmdr. James McIver, and Gold Crew by Cmdr. Chad Hennings.
- SUBRON 19: Guided missile submarine Michigan; Gold Crew led by Capt. Benjamin Pearson and then Capt. Gustavo Gutierrez, and Blue Crew by Capt. Erik Burian and then Capt. Joseph Turk.

The submarine tender Frank Cable, out of Guam, also earned the Battle 'E' for its category.

Congratulations to the hard-working crews!

## USSTRATCOM Commander Announces 2015 Omaha Trophy Winners

U.S. Strategic Command Public Affairs, Feb 5

**OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb.** - In recognition of outstanding support to U.S. Strategic Command's (USSTRATCOM) strategic deterrence, space and cyberspace missions, U.S. Navy Adm. Cecil D. Haney, USSTRATCOM commander, announced the winners of the 2015 Omaha Trophies at USSTRATCOM Headquarters on Feb. 3, 2016.

Haney said the winning organizations demonstrated "the highest standards of performance in support of USSTRATCOM's global, diverse missions."

"We salute the members of these professional units for their outstanding contributions to twenty-first century strategic deterrence and extend appreciation for their contributions and congratulations on their selection for this prestigious award," he added.

Haney also lauded the efforts of the other nominated units for their dedication to providing a safe, secure, effective and ready deterrent force.

"Each nominee is truly an outstanding representative of their task force, joint task force, or functional component. Their sustained professionalism, record of mission accomplishment and emphasis on effective warfighting readiness is remarkable," he said. "I am proud of each and every one for their contributions to our nation's defense."

The Omaha Trophy, which dates back to the U.S. Air Force's Strategic Air Command, was originally created by the Strategic Command Consultation (SCC) Committee in 1971. At the time, a single trophy was presented annually as a token of appreciation to the command's best wing.

Since then, the tradition has evolved to unit-level awards that recognize USSTRATCOM's premier intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) wing, ballistic missile submarine, strategic bomber wing and global operations (space/cyberspace) unit. This year, a new

category was added to include the combatant command's top strategic aircraft wing.

Those receiving awards represent organizations throughout USSTRATCOM which are critical to fulfilling the combatant command's primary mission: to detect, deter and prevent strategic attacks against the United States and its allies.

Ken Stinson, SCC chairman, said "the people and communities that make up the greater Omaha area are honored to recognize the 2015 Omaha Trophy winners."

"Congratulations and thank you for your service and commitment to our nation," he added.

**The 2015 Omaha Trophy recipient organizations are listed by category below:**

- ICBM: 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana

- Ballistic Missile Submarine: USS Wyoming (SSBN 742), Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia

- Strategic Bomber: 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana

- Strategic Aircraft: 92nd Air Refueling Wing, Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington

- Global Operations: 460th Space Wing, Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado

One of nine DoD unified combatant commands, USSTRATCOM has global strategic missions, assigned through the Unified Command Plan, which include strategic deterrence; space operations; cyberspace operations; joint electronic warfare; global strike; missile defense; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; combating weapons of mass destruction; and analysis and targeting.

[https://www.stratcom.mil/news/2016/595/USSTRATCOM\\_Commander\\_Announces\\_2015\\_Omaha\\_Trophy\\_Winners/](https://www.stratcom.mil/news/2016/595/USSTRATCOM_Commander_Announces_2015_Omaha_Trophy_Winners/)