

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, March 12, 2016**

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1100 on March 12, 2015 at American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

John Belt, Steve Bishop, Art Bivens, Heather Brown, Del Ennis, Ed Ettner, Mary Ettner, Mickey Garverick, Brian Haller, Chuck Martin, Mike Naughton, Mary Lou Naughton, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Tim Oliver, Mark Riethmeier, Ross Sargent, Lorraine Sargent, Gary Smith, Mike Varone, George Wallace, and Penny Wallace. (22 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

The Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, is away in Florida on family matters, so Mary Lou Naughton, the Chaplain for the Capitol Base, delivered the Invocation.

The Brian Haller read the list of boats lost in the month of March. These were:

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

The COB then tolled the ship's bell twice in remembrance of the 20 USSVI NOVA base members on Eternal Patrol.

The Base Historian, Richard Lowry, prepared a vignette on the USS Trigger (SS-237). He was unable to attend the meeting, so Art Bivens read the Trigger's story. Launched in October, 1941, she arrived in Pearl Harbor in May, 1942, and immediately headed out to support the defense of Midway Island. Bad luck, faulty MK 14 torpedoes, and even worse MK 6 detonators plagued Trigger for her first few patrols.

Trigger ranged the Pacific from the Aleutians to the Japanese homeland to the East China Sea over the next three years and twelve war patrols. She sank 27 ships totaling 180,600 tons, and damaged another 13 ships for 102,900 tons. During her twelfth and final patrol, Trigger was ordered to join a wolf pack in the East China Sea on March 26, 1945, but she never responded to the radio transmission. Her wolf pack partner USS Threadfin heard many explosions from depth charges coming from the air and three Japanese warships. Trigger hemorrhaged debris and oil, and was lost with all hands on board, 89 officers and men. USS Trigger was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its consistent aggressiveness, dogged determination, heroism, and bravery.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the February meeting were distributed by e-mail. There was no discussion. CDR moved that the February meeting minutes be accepted as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, is away dealing with family matters in Florida, so the VCDR repeated the February Treasurer's monthly report:

Starting balance: \$ 5,259.23

Ending balance: \$ 5,215.59.

Next month's report will include all actions since the February Treasurer's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Board: The Base Commander presented a summary of the Executive Board Meeting held last week. Discussions included: potential new recruits; plans for this year's Holland Club initiation; base finances; K4K status; website updates; Eagle Scout Courts of Honor; Youth Outreach programs (NJROTC, Sea Cadet, school presentations); USSVI Highway Recognition status; and a joint venture with USSVI Capitol Base and NSL to visit ancient mariners.

VCDR: George Wallace reported that the Holland Club luncheon and induction ceremony will be held on May 14th at P. J. Skidoo's Restaurant in Fairfax at 1100. Our two inductees will be Mickey Garverick and Tony Poblete. The guest speaker will be CAPT Jim Hay USN (ret) and Editor of the Submarine Review.

Chief of the Boat: Mike Varone answered questions on the USSVI Highway recognition program. This National USSVI effort is to get highways named for USSVI- (similar to Rte 29 being named after the 29th infantry.)

Membership Report: by the Base CDR: 80 members, including our newest member John Belt of Ruther Glen, VA.

33 Holland Club members

2 World War II members

36 Regular members, with

11 Associate members

John Belt introduced himself and said he qualified on the USS Jacksonville (SSN 699), and then he served on the USS Spadefish (SSN 668).

Public Relations: Mike Varone reported that our article and pictures were submitted to the American Submariner showing and describing our meeting at and tour of the Cold War Museum on the Washington Navy Yard. Our submission did not make this quarter's edition. He will communicate with the editor.

Storekeeper: The CDR reported that there are still more Base Challenge coins available for sale.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Steve Bishop reported that the date for our next visit to INOVA Fairfax Hospital's pediatric oncology ward is Thursday, March 17, 2016. Plan to meet at the Green Women and Children wing visitors' lounge on the ground level, across from the Green parking lot at 2:15 PM. Wear your USSVI sub vest and cap, and bring your parking lot ticket, as the nurses will validate our parking. We have visited 195 children in the first six years of our Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) program. Steve also noted that Ross Sargent is working with the UVA Medical Center staff to set up a similar visit to their pediatric oncology ward in April.

We anticipate visiting UVA with the USS Virginia Base from Midlothian, VA.

We have had great success so far with our grant applications to the WalMart Corporation. We have received \$875.00 in Community Grant gifts to date.

Chaplain: The Base CDR read a short memoriam for one of our members who has gone on Eternal Patrol. Roger Stephen Hall, age 69, of Manassas, VA died Friday, December 4, 2015. He was born on January 27, 1946 in Alexandria, VA. Roger qualified in submarines on the USS Baya (SS-318) in 1967 and was a MM2(SS) when he left the Navy. He was a retired engineer for Boeing and was a lifetime member of the USSVI. Funeral services were held on December 8, 2015 and Interment with Navy Honors followed at Stonewall Memory Gardens.

The Eternal Patrol section of our website has been updated to include Roger Hall. **Please make sure your family is aware of the need to notify USSVI upon your passing so USSVI can pay proper tribute.**

Scouting Coordinator: The Base CDR reported that we participated in two Courts of Honor for Eagle Scouts Kohl Corrigan on Feb 20th, and Justin Johnson on Feb 27th.

Youth Outreach Programs (NJROTC/Sea Cadets/School Program) Coordinator: The Base CDR sought and won approval from the members present for Mark Riethmeier to serve as our 2016 Youth Outreach Programs (NJROTC / Sea Cadets / School program) Coordinator.

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

1. There will be a Submarine History Seminar at the Washington Navy Yard on April 6th "41 for Freedom". 2. The 2016 DC Area Submarine Birthday ball will be on April 8th. 3. The Capitol Chapter Luncheon will be on April 21st with RDML Charles Richards as guest speaker. 4. The Submarine Technology Symposium will be May 3rd -5th. 45. The Annual Fall Symposium will be Oct 26th - 27th, and 6. The NSL and USSVI have just agreed that each may place ads in the other organization's magazine free of charge. The NSL annual budget was approved with funding for more outreach activities.

North East Regional Director Mike Naughton: Mike had nothing to report, but the Base CDR commented that Mike will face competition in the upcoming USSVI elections (National has released the slate of candidates for office in 2016.) Also Northeast Region was the first region that all Bases submitted their EOY reports on time. Bravo Zula.

American Legion Post 162: The Post has established a Veterans-In-Need Outreach program. They are currently collecting monetary and household donation for a local veteran in need. In preparation for the Annual Spring Cleaning, the Building and Grounds Committee is seeking

volunteer handymen. The Legion hall's ceiling tiles issues have been fixed and there is a new projector screen at the back of the stage.

OLD BUSINESS

Thank you to Terry and Paul Nelson for organizing the Sweethearts Luncheon last month. Paul told us Terry did 90% of the work, but we think we knew that already.

The USSVI's USS Asheville Base is hosting a 2016 NC SUBVETS Burnsville Memorial Service on 20-21 May. (Registration form was included in February meeting minutes)

NEW BUSINESS

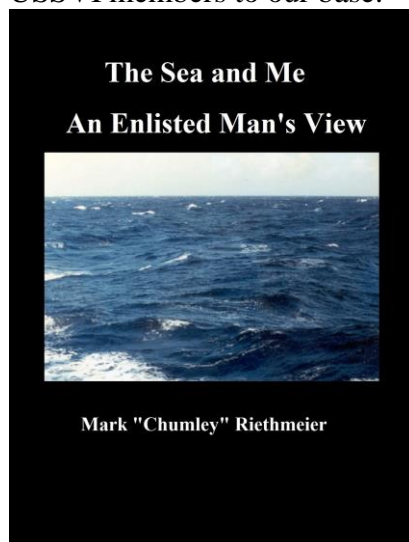
NEWS FROM THE FLEET

- "Submarine Trail" would create 20 sculptures to celebrate the history of submarines in the Groton, CT region.
- SECNAV's daughter christened the Virginia Class Submarine USS Washington (SSN 787) on March 5, 2016.
- USS Tennessee wins an environmental award
- Russian submarines are reheating a Cold War Chokepoint.

See details of the above items in the attached news clippings.

CNO Website: Mickey Garverick offered that the Navy has published some new and interesting information at the CNO's website. Mickey addressed the "Design for Warfare" and the "2025 Vision" documents. He mentioned a new submarine warfighting term, "The Third Offset." This deals with the future use of Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUVs) launched from and controlled from a submerged submarine to expand the area / volume of dominance at sea by future US submarines.

AUTHORS: Joining Art Bivens, Richard Lowry, and George Wallace as the published authors in our membership is Mark Riethmeier. Mark's new book has been published and is titled, "The Sea and Me – An Enlisted Man's View." Mark has offered to donate 20% of his book sales to USSVI members to our base.



The Binnacle List currently includes: Howard Chatham, Richard Lowry, Steve and Darlene Jaeger (Darlene's mom), and Tom Conlon.

In memorium: Roger Hall, Carla Petruy, and CAPT Norman Nash.

For the Good of the Order, the CDR read the list of birthdays for March: Art Dunn, Ruth Garverick, Dave Gault, Earl Griggs, Steve Jaeger, John Lindstedt, Terry Nelson, Tom Perrault, Marie Phoenix, and Bill Truslow.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Paul Nelson (for the second month in a row). Paul donated half of his winnings back to the base. THANK YOU !!

The Benediction was delivered by Mary Lou Naughton.

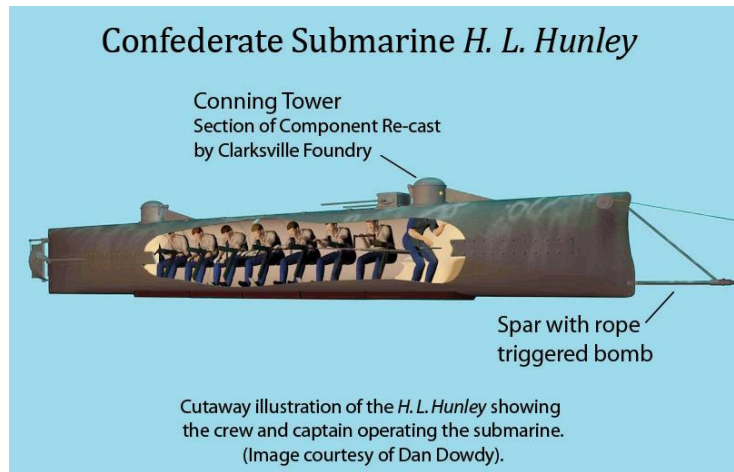
THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON APRIL 9TH FOR THE ANNUAL TOLLING OF THE BOATS CEREMONY. THE RECOMMENDED "UNIFORM" IS SUIT OR VEST AND TIE; NO T-SHIRTS AND JEANS PLEASE.

The CDR requested a motion to adjourn. It was so moved and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1145.

After a short break, the Base VCDR introduced our guest speaker: Ms. Heather Brown from the Naval History and Heritage Command's Underwater Archeology Branch (UAB). The UAB is responsible for the management, research, preservation, and interpretation of the US Navy's sunken military craft (2,599 shipwrecks and 14,000 aircraft wrecks globally.) Heather came to UAB in 2011 after earning her Masters in nautical archeology from Texas A&M. Recently she has been focused on finalizing the Branch's technical report on the recovery of the Civil War submarine H.L. Hunley, which should be published this spring.

The submarine H.L. Hunley was Confederate-built in Mobile, Al in 1863. It was hand-cranked by an 8-man all volunteer crew. It was forty-feet long, three-feet wide, and four-feet tall, with ballast tanks fore and aft of the crew compartment. Before its famous battle for Charleston Harbor in Feb 1864, the submarine sunk twice and killed its crew twice. By adding a 135 pound keg of black powder to the front of a sixteen foot spar attached to the front end of its keel, the Hunley rammed the Union ship Housatonic, backed away and detonated the charge, sending the Housatonic to the bottom in 26 feet of water some 4 miles outside the mouth of Charleston Harbor. The Hunley sunk losing all 8 hands aboard shortly after the Housatonic sank, and about 500 yards out to sea from the Housatonic.

Clive Cussler and NUMA finalized the search for the Hunley in 1995. They found the Hunley by using magnetometers. The ship was buried below three feet of sand with a 45 degree list. In 1999 the Hunley was recovered and taken by barge to the BRAC'd Charleston Navy Base and the Warren Lasch Conservation Center there. As part of the conservation effort by UAB, the hull has been kept wet and cool to preserve the structure and its contents. All eight submariners have been given a final burial in Charleston, and six of them have been identified. The forensic and archeological research continues today, including NSWC research on how much damage 100 pounds of dry black powder can cause....



Heather answered many questions after her presentation. The CDR thanked Heather and then presented her with a USSVI NOVA Base Challenge coin.

Any one desiring a PDF copy of Ms. Heather Brown's presentation, contact the Base Commander at cdr@ussvinova.org



Photo of Base CDR Chuck Martin and Guest Speaker Heather Brown by Mark Riethmeier

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



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



U.S. Undersea Warfare News

[‘Submarine Trail’ Would Create 20 Sculptures to Celebrate History of Submarines In Groton, Region](#)

[Deborah Straszheim, New London Day, Feb 18](#)

[SECNAV’s Daughter To Christen Virginia-Class Submarine Washington](#)

[Richard R. Burgess, Seapower, Mar 2](#)

[USS Tennessee Wins Environmental Award](#)

[Gordon Jackson, Military.com, Mar 1](#)

International Undersea Warfare News

[Russian Subs Are Reheating A Cold War Chokepoint \(Russia\)](#)

[Magnus Nordenman, Defense One, Mar 4](#)

U.S. Undersea Warfare Newstories

[‘Submarine Trail’ Would Create 20 Sculptures to Celebrate History of Submarines In Groton, Region](#)

[Deborah Straszheim, New London Day, Feb 18](#)

GROTON — An art teacher wanted to create a “sub trail” as part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first submarine to the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, and her idea has taken hold.

Teacher Joy Supples’ plan was to have local artists

create a “fleet” of submarine sculptures, similar to the “Whale Tail” art project in New London a few years ago.

About a dozen sponsors have come forward so far, pledging to pay for 13 of 20 planned submarine sculptures that would be unveiled at the Groton Fourth of July parade.

The 5-foot-by-4-foot fiberglass sculptures, which have been ordered, would be decorated by local artists and ultimately displayed at sponsor locations across southeastern Connecticut.

A sub trail computer application would guide visitors to each sculpture and offer information about the sub, sponsor and artist.

Supples, a teacher at Ella T. Grasso Southeastern Technical High School, said she saw an opportunity to galvanize the community and celebrate the sub base's history through art.

"It could give us a unified sense of place and really, a visual reminder to be proud," she said.

Sponsors pay \$5,000 per sub, and the project has secured \$65,000 in sponsorships, with one donor sponsoring two subs. Organizers hope to secure the remaining sponsorships by Feb. 29.

The Mashantucket-Pequot and Mohegan tribes are among the sponsors, said Groton City Mayor Marian Galbraith.

Once all 20 sculptures have a sponsor, Connecticut's Submarine Century would call on artists to submit design ideas to decorate the subs.

Sponsors then would be matched with the winning artists.

"I think that this is a wonderful opportunity for businesses throughout the community to show their support

for the submarine base and how that has impacted their own business and the quality of life here in southeastern Connecticut," said Tricia Walsh, president of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce and a member of Connecticut's Submarine Century executive committee.

"It will just be a great asset to get people excited and moving around and talking about the history of submarines in Groton," she said.

Galbraith said the sub trail offers another way to celebrate the region's connection to the sub base.

Visitors will be able to use the app to find a sub, take their picture with it and share the photo via Connecticut's Submarine Century's Facebook page and the tag #submarineproud.

"It will really highlight and heighten in a really fun way that relationship," Galbraith said.

Proceeds from the CT Sub Trail will go to the USS Groton Sail Foundation.

The group plans to take custody of the sail, upper rudder and other parts of the USS Groton, which was decommissioned in 1997 and was the third submarine named for Groton.

The "sail" of a submarine is the tower-like portion that protrudes from the hull at the center of the ship.

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[SECNAV's Daughter To Christen Virginia-Class Submarine Washington](#)

[Richard R. Burgess, Seapower, Mar 2](#)

ARINGTON, Va. – Huntington Ingalls' Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS) will conduct a christening ceremony for the next Virginia-class nuclear-powered attack submarine on March 5 at the NNS shipyard in Newport News, Va., the company announced in a March 1 release.

Elisabeth Mabus, daughter of Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, will christen SSN 787 the Washington, named for the state of Washington. Speaking at the ceremony will be Secretary Mabus and NNS President Matt Mulnerin.

Washington will be the 14th Virginia-class submarine and the fourth Block III variant, which features a large-aperture bow sonar array that replaced a more costly sonar sphere as well as two Multiple All-Up Round Canister launch tubes that replaced 12 vertical launch

tubes. The redesign was part of a cost-reduction measure that reduced the cost of the submarine and enabled the Navy to afford the construction of two submarines per year.

Virginia-class SSNs are built by NNS in Newport News and General Dynamics Electric Boat in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The most recent U.S. Navy ship named for the state of Washington was BB 56, a North Carolina-class battleship that served with distinction in World War II's Pacific theater. The battleship was scrapped in 1947.

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[USS Tennessee Wins Environmental Award](#)

[Gordon Jackson, Military.com, Mar 1](#)

ST. MARYS -- The ballistic missile submarine USS Tennessee has been named winner of the Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Award in the submarine category.

It's the second consecutive year the Tennessee, home-ported at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, has earned the award.

Vice Adm. Phil Cullom, deputy chief of naval operations for fleet readiness and logistics, commended the 29 winners.

"I would like to extend my thanks and congratulations to all of the fiscal year 2015 Environmental Award winners," he said in a statement. "Your efforts not only embody the environmental stewardship ethic but also

aid in fulfilling the Navy's national security mission. I applaud all of the nominees for their tireless commitment to preserving resources and bettering the environment."

The awards are an annual recognition for the nominated ships, installations and individuals for exceptional achievements in environmental stewardship. Winners will advance to the Secretary of Navy level of competition, where they will compete with nominees from the Marine Corps.

Master Chief Michael Johnson, chief of the boat's Gold Crew and a sonar technician, credited the sailors from both crews that alternate patrols aboard the boat.

"Receipt of this award is a testament to both crews' dedication to environmental preservation as well as their constant professionalism in the operation of the complex equipment aboard the Tennessee," he said.

The winners in various categories included:

- Natural Resources Conservation, small installation
 - Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan
 - Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan
 - Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands, Hawaii
- Natural Resources Conservation, Individual/Team
 - Ian Trefry of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine
 - Naval Air Station Oceana and Naval Air Station Hampton Roads NW Annex NR Support Team, Virginia
 - Southwest Marine Biology Team of Navy Region Southwest and NAVFAC Southwest, San Diego
- Environmental Quality, Non-industrial Installation
 - Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Virginia
 - Naval Support Activity Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
 - Navy Region Center Singapore
- Environmental Quality, Individual/Team
 - Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka PWD Environmental Management Division Team, Japan
 - Naval Station Norfolk Environmental

Compliance Team, Norfolk
- NAVFAC Northwest Environmental Management System Team, Silverdale, Washington

- Sustainability, Industrial Installation
 - Fleet Readiness Center Southeast, Jacksonville, Florida
 - Fleet Readiness Center Southwest, San Diego
 - NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center San Diego
- Environmental Restoration, Installation
 - Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Norfolk
 - Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Maine
- Environmental Restoration, Individual/Team
 - Naval Base Ventura County Environmental Restoration Team, San Diego
 - St. Juliens Creek Annex Environmental Restoration Program Partnering Team, Virginia Beach, Virginia
 - Vieques Environmental Restoration Program Team, Puerto Rico
- Cultural Resources Management, Large Installation
 - Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada
 - Naval Support Activity Crane, Indiana
 - Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Virginia
- Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition, Large Program
 - P-8A Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health Team, Patuxent River, Maryland
- Afloat
 - Large Deck Combatant -- USS Carl Vinson
 - Littoral or Amphibious Warfare -- USS Sentry
 - Military Sealift Command -- USS Emory S. Land
 - Surface Combatant -- USS Chafee
 - Submarine -- USS Tennessee

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International Undersea Warfare Newstories

[Russian Subs Are Reheating A Cold War Chokepoint \(Russia\)](#)

[Magnus Nordenman, Defense One, Mar 4](#)

The recent U.S. promise to fund upgrades to Iceland's military airfield at Keflavik is no diplomatic bone thrown to a small ally. The improvements will allow the U.S. Navy's new P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft to keep an eye on Russia's increasingly active and capable submarine force in a region whose importance is rising with the tensions between Moscow and the West. In short, the Greenland-Iceland-UK gap is back.

During the Cold War, the maritime choke points between Greenland, Iceland, and the UK were key to the defense of Europe. This "GIUK gap" represented the line

that Soviet naval forces had to cross in order to reach the Atlantic and stop U.S. forces heading across the sea to reinforce America's European allies. It was also the area that the Soviet Union's submarine-based nuclear forces would have to pass as they deployed for their nuclear strike missions. In response, the United States and its northern NATO allies spent considerable time, money, and effort on bolstering anti-submarine warfare capabilities and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance in the region. Maritime patrol aircraft from the UK, Norway, and the U.S. (Navy P-3s, flying from Keflavik) covered the area

from above, while nuclear and conventional submarines lurked below the surface. The choke points were also monitored by an advanced network of underwater sensors installed to detect and track Soviet submarines.

But after the Cold War ended, the GIUK gap disappeared from NATO's maritime mind. U.S. forces left Iceland in 2006, and the UK, facing budget pressures, retired its fleet of maritime patrol aircraft fleet in 2010. (The Netherlands did the same in 2003.) Anti-submarine warfare and the North Atlantic were hardly priorities for an Alliance embroiled in peacekeeping, counter-insurgency, and fighting pirates in far-flung Bosnia, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa.

But the term "GIUK gap" is now heard again in NATO circles (and sometimes as GIUK-N gap, to signify the inclusion of the maritime domain around Norway), as it becomes increasingly apparent that Russia is pouring money into its naval forces in general, and its submarine fleet in particular. Moscow is introducing new classes of conventional and nuclear attack submarines, among them the Yasen class and the Kalina class, the latter of which is thought to include air-independent propulsion. AIP, which considerably reduces the noise level of conventional submarines, was until recently seen only in Western navies' most capable conventional subs. Much of Russia's investment in its submarine force has been focused on its Northern Fleet, which is based in Murmansk and intended for operations in and around the Arctic, as well as the Atlantic. The Northern Fleet is also the home of Russia's submarine-based nuclear deterrent.

Russia is believed to be putting these new sub-surface capabilities to the test. The UK, Sweden, and Finland have all launched recent hunts for suspected Russian submarines deep in their territorial waters. Russia has also showed off its new ability to launch land-attack cruise missiles from its submarines; late last year, a sub in the Mediterranean fired Kalibr missiles against targets in Syria.

Russia's growing sub-surface capabilities are coupled with an apparent political will to use them. Its recently revised maritime strategy emphasizes operations in the Arctic, along with the need for Russian maritime forces to have access to the broader Atlantic Ocean. And that access will have to be, just as during the Cold War, through the GIUK gap.

Now the United States is pivoting back to the region; witness the Obama administration's recent announcement that it intends to spend part of the proposed 2017 European Reassurance Initiative budget on upgrading facilities at Keflavik.

And the U.S. is not alone. Britain recently announced that it will seek to rebuild its maritime patrol aircraft fleet, probably by buying P-8s from Boeing. Norway is also considering its options for the future of its maritime patrol aircraft, and is also looking to buy a new class of submarines. Norway also recently upgraded its signal intelligence ship with new U.S. sensors, and the ship is primarily intended for operations in the vast maritime

spaces of the High North.

The emerging challenge in the North Atlantic should also drive NATO and its members to look hard at regenerating the ability to conduct anti-submarine warfare against a potent adversary. European nations should also take a hard look at its aging maritime patrol aircraft fleet and think about its future. The UK and the Netherlands are not the only countries who let their MPA fleets slip after the end of the Cold War.

While current U.S. and NATO efforts at deterring further Russian aggression may be most visible through ground force deployments, exercises, and pre-positioned equipment in Europe's east, a mostly unseen contest is also emerging in the North Atlantic. The GIUK gap is back.

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