

## MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1120 on May 14, 2016 at P J Skidoo's Restaurant in Fairfax, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

### MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Stephen Bishop, **Debbie Bishop**, **Art Bivens**, **Marcy Bivens**, **George Bowns**, Howard Chatham, **Cathy Chatham**, **Hank Chiles**, Bill Clement, **Delbert Ennis**, **Ed Ettner**, **Mary Ettner**, **Linda Evcic**, **Robert Frick**, **Susan Frick**, **Mickey Garverick**, **Ruth Garverick**, **Richard Garverick**, **Karen Garverick Bosy**, **Matthew Coffin**, **Earl Griggs**, **Mary Lou Griggs**, **Brian Haller**, **Pat Haller**, **Sam Harris**, **Ginger Haskell**, **James Hay**, **Pepper Henkel**, Steve Jaeger, **Darlene Jaeger**, **Richard Lowry**, **Vicky Lowry**, **Chuck Martin**, **Bruce Miller**, **Mike Naughton**, **Mary Lou Naughton**, **Paul Nelson**, **Teresa Nelson**, **Tim Oliver**, **Chris Page**, **Joe Phoenix**, **Marie Phoenix**, **Ross Sargent**, **Lorraine Sargent**, **Gary Smith**, **Ann Smith**, **Mike Varone**, **George Wallace**, **Penny Wallace**, **Lawrence Woodworth**, (50 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 CDR read the list of boats lost in the month of May. These were:

USS Lagarto (SS-371)	May 3, 1945
USS Squalus (SS-192)	May 23, 1939
USS Stickleback (SS-415)	May 30, 1958
USS Scorpion (SSN-589)	May 22, 1968

### MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the April meeting were previously distributed by e-mail. Minutes approved.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, will present a full report next month. However, we have lots of funds and we are still solvent.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**The Base CDR** presented a summary of the topics of discussion at the most recent Executive Board Meeting: recruiting efforts; final plans for today's Holland Club event; meeting-related items; old business; new business; and meeting/event planning.

**The COB** reported that we sent an Eagle Scout package (certificate, patch, and CDR letter) for Phillip Clabough to his Scoutmaster for today's Court Of Honor ceremony.

**The Membership** chairman, Steve Jaeger, introduced our newest member, Samuel Harris.

**The Youth Outreach Program** chairman, Mark Riethmeier, has contacted LT Hooper, the local Sea Cadets leader. The Base CDR reported that the Sea Cadets are eager to meet with us to

discuss a presentation to and for them.

**The K4K Program** chairman, Steve Bishop, reported that:

1. Mike Varone and Steve Bishop visited the USS Virginia Base in Midlothian, VA to solicit their support for K4K visits to the UVA Medical Center in Charlottesville
2. Ross Sargent, Lorraine Sargent, Mike Varone, Steve Bishop, and USS Virginia Base CDR Kenneth McDermott and Base Treasurer Jim Lincalis visited 31 children at the UVA Medical Center in Charlottesville, VA
3. Walmart, through its Community Fund program, has generously provided our K4K program with \$2375.00 in cash and gift cards in response to our applications.
4. We will be seeking to establish a K4K relationship, like we have at both Inova Fairfax and UVA Medical Center, with the staff of Walter Reed Bethesda Medical Center.

**SUBLEAGUE:** Tim Oliver, NSL Executive Director, reported that:

1. ADM Kirk Donald, USN, Retired, is the new Chairman of the Naval Submarine League
2. The Sea Air and Space Event will be May 16-18, 2016 at the Gaylord
3. The 2016 Battle of the Midway Dinner will be held June 3, 2016
4. Annual Fall Symposium will be held Oct 26-27, 2016.

**The USSVI Regional Director,** Mike Naughton, reported that:

1. The Capitol Base will be holding their Tolling of the Boats ceremony on May 21, 2016 at 1100 at the F-4 Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery. Our COB will be tolling the bell at that ceremony
2. The 2016 National USSVI Convention will be held in Reno, NV on August 14-20, 2016. The USSVI.org website includes a link to the Convention site where you can sign up for the convention and tours, and where you can make hotel reservations.

## **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Famous Daves will not be participating in the Washington DC Memorial Day parade this year, so they have withdrawn their invitation for us to join.

The Lorton 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade will be held this year. We are making plans to participate with the American Legion Post 162. Details will be provided soon.

News from the Fleet and pertinent information e-mailed to the Base will be included with the minutes.

The next NOVA Base meeting will be back at Post 162 in Lorton on June 11<sup>th</sup> and our guest speaker will be CAPT, USN (ret) Jeff Curren, Submariner and Executive Director and Founder of the Patriots for Disabled Divers.org Program. They work with vets suffering from various injuries after deployments, including physical and emotional rehabilitation.

**Binnacle List:** Please keep the following in your prayers: Howard Chatham, Richard Lowry, Steve and Darlene Jaeger for Darlene's mom, Delbert Ennis, Mike Varone, Richard Loulor, and David Cooper.

**For the Good of the Order,** the CDR read the list of birthdays for May: Bill Clement, Mike Harmody, Robert Miller, Joanne Pasquinelli, Mark Riethmeier, Noland Smith, Sue Shannon,

Anita Varone, Penny Wallace, Ron Williams, and Ruri Wootten.

The Base CDR turned over the podium to the Master of Ceremony for today's Holland Club Induction, Past Base CDR Howard Chatham.

Howard then introduced our guest speaker CAPT James Hay: A native of Ramsey, New Jersey, Captain James C. Hay attended the Naval Academy graduating in 1954.

After serving one and a half years in a destroyer, he attended Naval Submarine School, and was assigned to the USS Croaker (SSK-246) where he qualified in submarines in 1957. He next served on USS Trigger (SS-546) as Operations Officer until in 1958 when he attended one year of nuclear training. He was then assigned as Weapons Officer and, later, as Electrical and Reactor Control Officer, in USS TRITON (SSN-586). His next assignment was in 1962 where he served as Engineer Officer in USS HADDO (SSN-604) during new construction. Later he was assigned to USS BARB (SSN-596) as Executive Officer. Then from 1967 to 1972 he served as Commanding Officer of two submarines: USS GEORGE C. MARSHALL (SSBN-654) and USS DANIEL BOONE (SSBN-629). CAPT Hay then became the Military Assistant to the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy) in Washington DC and in 1977 he assumed command of the Naval Submarine Base New London, Groton, CT. CAPT Hay moved to Naples, Italy in 1980 to serve as Chief of Staff, Submarine Group EIGHT. In 1983 he began his final tour as the Assistant to the Executive Director, Advanced Technology Panel, Office of the CNO and retired from the Navy in 1984.

CAPT Hay has worked as the Assistant to the President, Santa Fe Corporation in Alexandria, VA and as Director for Undersea Warfare Affairs, Undersea Warfare Center, General Dynamics in Rosslyn, VA. He currently works as an Independent Consultant and Maritime Writer. CAPT Hay served as Executive Director of the Naval Submarine League and currently serves as Editor of *The Submarine Review*, the quarterly publication of the NSL. He resides in Williamsburg, VA. He is also a USSVI Life Member, a member of both the Hampton Roads and USS Haddo bases, and a Holland Club member.

**CAPT Hays remarks** were centered on submarine qualification, the central concept of the Holland Club. That which he remembers most about submarines was that things went wrong with decided regularity, but his comfort factor was that his guys could always fix anything. Everybody had the proper training and technical supervision. He told only one sea story: Back when the fleet was transitioning from the Polaris to the Poseidon weapons system, his submarine had a particularly hard time with one new electronics assembly. It seemed to fail with "decided regularity" such that the four on-board spares were not going to be enough to remain on station while alert. Working without a tech manual for this electronics assembly, the crew devised a way to repair ten of them while remaining on patrol in alert status. "When God made submarines he didn't have a tech manual."

CAPT Hay closed by congratulating the Holland Club honorees. He also thanked the submarine skippers (like Mickey Garverick) and the ombudspersons in Groton for their help while he commanded the SUBASE Groton. He hopes that we will all live long and prosper.

The Base CDR thanked CAPT Hay for his presentation and presented him with a USSVI NOVA Base challenge coin.



The Master of Ceremony stated that the reason for this special meeting is to show our appreciation, to recognize, and to thank two of our shipmates by inducting them into the prestigious United States Submarine Veterans Holland Club: **Antonio (Tony) Poblete and Michael (Mickey) Garverick.** (Secretary's note: Tony Poblete is sick today so he was inducted into the Holland Club today, and we will personally present him his certificate, hat, etc. at a future meeting.)

Before the Induction, all Holland Club members in attendance were asked to stand so they too could be recognized. Holland Club members Bivens, Chiles, Ennis, Ettner, Frick, Griggs, Nelson, Phoenix, Sargent, Smith, Woodworth, and our guest speaker CAPT James Hay all stood and received a round of applause.



The Master of Ceremony called the inductee forward to the head table. Then, he read the biography, the VCDR read and presented the USSVI Holland Club certificates and cards, the Secretary presented the Holland Club ball cap, the COB presented the coin, and the Treasurer presented the patch. A large poster depicting his qualification boat was also presented to Mickey by the Base CDR.

**Michael (Mickey) Garverick** a 1959 graduate of the Naval Academy, first served on the USS Mullinix (DD-944). In 1963 he got orders to Naval Postgraduate School, reported aboard but before attending any classes got new orders – to go see the “kindly old gentleman”. As with many of us, he was thrown out of Admiral Rickover’s office but actually made the cut. Following submarine school, Nuclear Power School at Bainbridge, and NPTU in West Milton he reported to the USS Permit (SSN-594). He completed his qualification exams and in 1966 he did an underway evaluation on USS Barb which was commanded by Bud Kauderer, **(the XO was our guest speaker Jim Hay)**, and Gene Fluckey was also aboard that day. To complete this auspicious event the DIVCOM (Bill Crowe) awarded him his dolphins. **[If you don’t know who these folks are you need to bone up on your submarine history.]** He next served on the USS Sam Houston (SSBN-609G) as Navigator, then as XO on the USS Abraham Lincoln (SSBN-602B), and in 1974 he finally got back to Monterey earning an MS in Systems Acquisition Management. In 1976 he took command of the USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN-619B) and in 1979 he was assigned to the TRIDENT System Program Office (PM-2) ending up as the Director of Integrated Logistics Support. He retired from the Navy in 1983.

Not one to stop working, he spent a goodly number of years as the Executive Director of the Naval Submarine League, is a member of the Officers Christian Fellowship and sings in the National Christian Choir.

After his induction ceremony, CAPT Garverick spoke briefly. He thanked his family members in attendance: wife Ruth, son Richard, daughter Karen, and grandson Matthew for their love and

support. He was humbled by today's Holland Club ceremony and he said he appreciated very much the integrity of all gathered in this room.



The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The Base CDR thanked Penny and George Wallace for coordinating this Holland Club Event. Thanks to the anonymous donor who picked up the luncheon tab for the Holland Club attendees.

The CDR reminded ALCON that the next meeting will be on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 1100, at American Legion Post 162 in Lorton, VA.

The meeting was adjourned at 1201.

All attendees then enjoyed a PJ Skidoo's served luncheon of: Petite Filet Mignon, Prime Rib, Lemon Chicken, or Broiled Salmon.

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



## General News

### American Legion Post 162:

1. Post elections will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> May (Armed Forces Day)
2. The porch and wheel chair ramp has be repaired thanks to Life Scout **Andrew Hutcheson's Eagle Scout project**
3. Post will be placing American Flags on Veterans gravesites on May 28. Start time is at 9:30 am at the Post.

Naval Submarine League: Naval Submarine League (see below) would like to rename the chief petty officer award and the E-6 and junior enlisted submariner awards. NSL is seeking nominations for the awards name. If you have a name for an award that you would like to be considered then send an email to Tim Oliver at [timoliver@navalsubleague.com](mailto:timoliver@navalsubleague.com)

VADM Ken Carr, USN, Ret. VADM CARR internment at Arlington Cemetery is on June 16 at 1 P.M. Old Chapel.

U.S. Computer Emergency Response Team (US-CERT) on April 14, 2016 released Alert (TA16-105A) - Apple Ends Support for QuickTime for Windows; New Vulnerabilities Announced. The Alert is located at <https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/TA16-105A>

USSVI National is seeking a volunteer to be the USSVI National Scholarship Chairman. Contact Al Singleman, USSVI National Commander at [al@ssbn657.com](mailto:al@ssbn657.com) or by telephone at (518) 355-2119 if you are interested in the Chairman's position.

### SUBMERGED DETERRENCE: CHINA'S STRUGGLE TO FIELD AN SSBN FLEET

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[Bonnie Glaser](#) and [Matthew Funaiole](#)

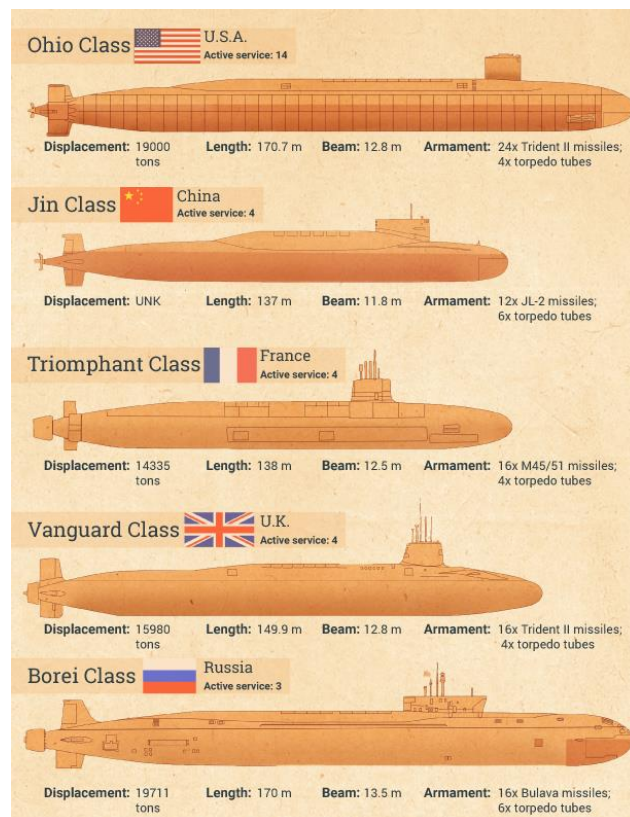
[May 9, 2016](#)

### [China](#)

The gradual, but steady development of China's ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) program has been closely monitored by international observers. China is the last of the Permanent Five members of the United Nations Security Council to establish an operational SSBN force. A

recent report by the U.S. Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) says that China's *Jin*-class SSBN represents the country's "[first credible at-sea second-strike nuclear capability](#)." That goal remains a long way off, however. Although the *Jin*-class is a potential step forward for China's nuclear deterrent, its nascent SSBN program continues to face considerable challenges.

A secure second-strike capability requires that some portion of a country's nuclear forces survive an enemy's first strike. By virtue of being able to hide in the vastness of the ocean, SSBNs have the potential to be an essential component of China's nuclear second-strike capability. A reliable long-range submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), capable of striking a target at intercontinental range with a nuclear payload, is critical to this strategy. The JL-2 SLBM carried by the *Jin*-class can deliver between one to three nuclear warheads to an estimated range of [7,400 km](#). The relatively short range of the JL-2 requires China's SSBNs to travel undetected through several crucial chokepoints into the Pacific Ocean [in order to strike the continental United States](#).



This shortcoming requires China to rely on the stealth of the *Jin*-class to sail the submarine into firing position. However, available information suggests that the [Jin-class is detectable](#) by foreign Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) assets. According to a 2013 report in [The National Interest](#), the *Jin*-class may have fundamental flaws that create a detectable sonar signature. Evidence of this vulnerability can be found in a [2009 ONI report](#), which compared the low-frequency noise of China's SSBN force to Russian/Soviet submarines, and revealed that the *Jin*-class was the noisier than Russian *Delta III*-class SSBNs that were first commissioned in the mid-1970s.



China also faces the technological and bureaucratic hurdles of establishing effective command and control (C2) with its SSBNs. Reliable C2 communication with decision makers on the mainland and firing protocols for when an SSBN loses contact with its national command authority [are critical to ensuring that an SSBN](#) only fires when it is absolutely necessary. Contacting an SSBN when it is submerged requires [advanced communications technology](#). Salt water only permits radio waves to penetrate a short distance into the ocean, requiring communication stations to use Very Low Frequency (VLF) or Extremely Low Frequency (ELF) radio waves to signal a submarine. An alternative option for relaying information to submarines comes from aircraft like the U.S.-E-6B TACAMO that trails a several-miles-long antenna to signal submarines at shallow depths. Little is publicly known about China's communications infrastructure; however the Chinese navy maintains VLF facilities at [Changde and Datong](#).

China may seek to improve its infrastructure on reclaimed land features in the SCS to help secure safe passage for its SSBNs to the Pacific Ocean. Establishing control of the waters within the nine-dashed-line could potentially lessen the drawbacks of the current submarine base on Hainan Island, as submarines operating out of the base are [exposed to ASW forces](#) of the United States and other countries. The [placement of HQ-9 surface-to-air missiles on Woody Island](#) with a range of 125 miles, which could be deployed on other land features, may empower China to counter foreign ASW aircraft during a crisis. China's own ASW forces may also play a key role. Establishing airbases for its emerging aviation-ASW program might eventually enable China to counter enemy attack submarines charged with tracking China's SSBN fleet.

These efforts could potentially enhance China's second strike capability while a new, quieter SSBN and longer range SLBM are under development. There is limited available information on the development of new submarine and missile technology, making it unclear when China will be capable of fully addressing the aforementioned problems. In any case, securing safe passage into the SCS is only a partial solution. China's SSBNs must still traverse the long journey from their home base on Hainan Island, through strategic chokepoints, to locations far away from the safety of China's protected coastal waters – a task that might prove extremely difficult for China's current fleet of *Jin*-class SSBNs.

<http://amti.csis.org/submerged-deterrence-chinas-struggle-field-ssbn-fleet/>

*[ChinaPower](#) is a new website that provides an in-depth understanding of the evolving nature of Chinese power relative to other countries. The website examines five interrelated categories of Chinese power: military, economics, technology, social, and international image. Through objective analysis and data visualization, ChinaPower unpacks the complexity of China's rise.*

#### **About Bonnie Glaser**

Bonnie S. Glaser is a senior adviser for Asia and the director of the China Power Project at CSIS, where she works on issues related to Chinese foreign and security policy. She is concomitantly a non-resident fellow with the Lowy Institute in Sydney, a senior associate with CSIS Pacific Forum and a consultant for the U.S. government on East Asia.

#### **About Matthew Funaiolo**

Matthew P. Funaiolo is a fellow with the China Power Project at CSIS. His research focuses on power relationships and alliance structures in the Asia-Pacific. Prior to joining CSIS, Dr.

Funaiole taught international relations and foreign policy at the University of Saint Andrews in Scotland, where he also completed his doctoral research.



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



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*Charles Digges, Up North, May 3*

# U.S. Undersea Warfare News

## [Eight Things To Know About U.S. Navy's First Submarine](#)

[Staff, Navy Live Blog, Apr 11](#)

Test your knowledge about USS Holland (SS 1) with these eight things that you may not know from U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command:

1. The first commissioned submarine accepted by the U.S. Navy, USS Holland (SS 1), was designed by John Philip Holland. In 1875, his first submarine designs were submitted for consideration by the Navy, but turned down as unworkable.
2. Holland continued to improve his designs and worked on several experimental boats prior to his successful efforts with the privately built Holland launched in 1898. This was the first submarine having power to run submerged for any considerable distance. She was purchased by the Navy after rigorous tests, and six more of her type were ordered.
3. The first Holland was launched by Crescent Shipyards, Elizabeth, N.J., in 1898.
4. It was commissioned Oct. 12, 1900, with Lt. Harry H. Caldwell in command.
5. On Oct. 16, 1900, Holland left Newport under tow

of tug Leyden for Annapolis where she trained Naval Academy midshipmen as well as officers and enlisted Sailors ordered there to receive training in preparing for the operation of other submarines being built for the Fleet.

6. Holland proved valuable for experimental purposes in collecting data for submarines under construction or contemplation. Her 166-mile surface run from Annapolis to Norfolk, Jan. 8-10, 1901, provided useful data on her performance underway over an extended period.

7. Except for the period from June 15 to Oct. 1, 1901, which was passed training personnel at the Naval Torpedo Station, Newport, R.I., Holland remained at Annapolis until July 17, 1905, as a training submarine.

8. Holland finished out her career at Norfolk. Her name was struck from the Navy Register of Ships, Nov. 21, 1910.

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## [Submarine USS Montpelier Undergoes Change Of Command](#)

[Brock Vergakis, The Virginian-Pilot, Apr 18](#)

Cmdr. Stephen Mongold took command of the USS Montpelier in 2013, a few months after the submarine had collided with a guided missile cruiser off the coast of Florida, leading to the dismissal of his predecessor.

A Navy investigation found the principal cause of the collision with the USS San Jacinto was human error: poor teamwork by the Montpelier watch team, and the commanding officer's failure to follow periscope-depth operating procedures.

Mongold was tapped for the job with little notice, but on his final day commanding the Los Angeles-class attack submarine Monday, he was praised for quickly turning the Montpelier around.

"During Steve's tour, the USS Montpelier and crew improved significantly," said Capt. Paul Snodgrass, commodore of Submarine Squadron Six.

"Once a ship that was literally being put back together, to now a high-performing crew that recently completed a successful deployment to U.S. Central Command. There the ship covertly collected intelligence that was deemed extremely important to our highest national security decision-makers."

Mongold was relieved of command during a pier-side ceremony at Norfolk Naval Station. He's moving

on to a job with a Navy nuclear plant propulsion examination board.

Mongold recalled the first day he met with his crew.

"I learned that this crew was special," he said. "This crew had survived some extraordinary circumstances and, despite the challenges the previous months had held, they were still smiling, they still laughed, they maintained a positive outlook, they were curious and they were welcoming."

"What struck me most," he added, "is that this team was seemingly invincible, and they were indeed mighty, and I knew that there was nothing we could not achieve, so we went to work."

The Montpelier's new commanding officer is Cmdr. William B. Swanbeck. He most recently was executive assistant to the director of maritime headquarters at U.S. Fleet Forces Command. His operational assignments include working aboard the submarines USS Asheville and USS Maryland, and as the executive officer of the submarine USS Dallas.

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## [Ohio Gold Conducts Change of Command Ceremony](#)

[MC2 Amanda R. Gray, Commander, Submarine Group Nine Public Affairs, Apr 21](#)

**BANGOR, WASH.** - The Gold Crew of the guided-missile submarine USS Ohio (SSGN 726) welcomed a new commanding officer during a ceremony held at the Bangor Chapel, April 20.

Capt. Gerald Miranda, from San Diego, properly relieved Capt. Michael Lewis, from Bend, Oregon, and assumed the duties and responsibilities of commanding officer for the Ohio Gold Crew.

"Because so much is at stake, the Navy goes to tremendous lengths to ensure that only the right people are given command of a submarine," said Rear Adm. David Kriete, commander, Submarine Group Nine, the guest speaker for the event. "It is not a job for the faint of heart. You men and women of Ohio have been blessed to have one such man as your Commanding Officer, Capt. Mike Lewis. The unique challenges that you face on an SSGN, dictated that the Navy's leaders exercised even greater consideration in selecting only the right officer for this assignment. In Capt. Mike Lewis, they chose exactly the right officer."

Lewis, who assumed command of the Gold Crew in January 2014, guided Ohio through their longest Major Maintenance Period, with Ohio Gold owning the boat through nine of the 11 months in the shipyard. He also led the crew through one forward deployed mission period, which included support of strike and Naval Special Warfare missions and operations with U.S. and allied special operations teams. During his tour, 79 officer and enlisted Sailors received their submarine warfare insignia "dolphins".

"Submarining is a team sport, and success or failure is not the result of one man, but the whole team," Lewis said. "Ohio Gold's triumphs were the result of very incredible teams helping me along the way."

Ohio's Gold Crew was awarded the 2014

Retention Excellence Award, along with winning the Battle "E" 2015 competitive categories for Deck Seamanship White "D", Medical Department Yellow "M", and Information Technologies White "I", under Lewis' leadership.

"I take comfort in knowing that I am leaving Ohio Gold in very good hands, and know that you will continue her on the upward path to greatness," said Lewis. "Capt. Miranda, I wish the best of luck to you as you embark on a very challenging, yet rewarding second command tour."

Miranda comes to Ohio's Gold crew from the Pentagon, where he served as the Executive Assistant for Director, Undersea Warfare Division (OPNAV N97).

"I am humbled that the Navy chose me to assume command of this awesome warship," said Miranda. "There is no better command tour than to serve as CO afloat. If you didn't know, 40 years ago last week, Ohio's keel was laid. She's definitely old, but no less lethal. She is a modern marvel of engineering excellence. I proudly accept responsibility of commanding her and her crew."

Ohio is the first of four Ohio-class guided-missile submarines. The Navy's guided-missile submarines provide the Navy with unprecedented strike and special operation mission capabilities from a stealthy, clandestine platform. Armed with up to 154 tactical missiles and equipped with superior communications capabilities, guided-missile submarines are capable of launching missile strikes and supporting Special Operation Forces (SOF) missions.

Measuring more than 560 feet long and weighing more than 18,000 tons when submerged, Ohio is one of the largest submarines in the world. Ohio is homeported in Bremerton, Washington and is currently forward deployed out of Guam.

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## [Submarine Museum to Open Exhibit on Groton Base History](#)

[Staff, Associated Press, Apr 25](#)

GROTON, Conn. -- The Navy's submarine force museum is opening a new exhibit dedicated to the history of Naval Submarine Base New London.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday to introduce the exhibit, which traces the history of the Groton base beginning with the creation of the New London Navy Yard in the 1860s.

Artifacts at the new exhibit include a telegraph from one of the first submarines stationed at the base and a

submarine school training aid from World War II.

The museum features the submarine Nautilus and is adjacent to the Navy base that is the primary East Coast homeport for Navy attack submarines.

The event is part of a yearlong celebration designed by the governor as "Connecticut's Submarine Century."

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## [Navy Begins Building New Attack Submarine](#)

[Zachary Cohen, CNN, May 1](#)

The U.S. Navy has formally begun construction on its newest Virginia-class submarine, as Jill Biden, wife of

Vice President Joe Biden and the sub's sponsor, hosted the keel laying ceremony for the USS Delaware in Newport News, Virginia.



"These ceremonies are always special occasions, but the keel laying for this submarine is particularly meaningful to me," Biden said at the Saturday ceremony. "As a proud military daughter, military mom and Delawarean, I am honored to serve as its sponsor."

Expected to enter service in 2018, the 377-foot USS Delaware will weigh 7,800 tons and be able to operate at roughly 30 miles-per-hour under water.

In addition to the launching, commissioning and decommissioning, the keel laying is one of the four specifically celebrated events in the life of a ship, marking the initial placement of a central steel beam that serves as the submarine's "backbone."

Biden said it has been nearly 100 years since the Navy had a vessel bearing the state of Delaware's name -- the last being a battleship which served from 1909 to 1924 as part of the Atlantic fleet.

That ship was eventually sold and scrapped in 1924 to meet the requirements of the Washington Treaty on arms

limits.

"I chose the name Delaware to honor the long-standing relationship between the Navy and our nation's first state," Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said last year. "It has been too long since there has been a USS Delaware in the fleet and this submarine will remind future deployed service members and state residents of their strong ties and many shared values for decades to come."

Once construction on the USS Delaware is complete, Jill Biden will break a bottle against the ship during its christening ceremony and call the crew aboard for its commissioning once it is ready to join the fleet.

The USS Delaware's crew is currently made up of 48 sailors and seven officers, led by Cmdr. Brian Hogan.

In January 2013, General Dynamics Electric Boat received a \$2.5 billion contract for the construction of USS South Dakota and USS Delaware as part of the Pentagon's plan to build 30 Virginia-class submarines by 2023.

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## **International Undersea Warfare News**

### **[Submarine Program: AFP Confirms Investigation Into Second Leak Of Classified Information](#)**

**[Matthew Doran, ABC News Australia, Apr 22](#)**

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) are investigating another leak of classified information relating to the bids for the \$50 billion submarine program.

The ABC this week revealed Federal Cabinet's National Security Committee had met to discuss the three international bids for 12 new submarines.

It was reported the Japanese bid had been all but dismissed, leaving France and Germany still in the race.

The AFP has confirmed the Department of Defence has asked it to investigate how that information got out.

"The AFP can confirm it has received a referral from the Department of Defence regarding the possible unauthorised release of government information," a statement said.

"As the matter is ongoing it would not be appropriate to comment further."

News of the Japanese bid falling behind its competitors has led to the Japanese Government considering top-level diplomatic action to promote its case to be the successful builder.

The ABC has been told a direct call by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Prime Minister Malcolm

Turnbull to plead Japan's case is among the options being considered.

It is the second investigation of leaks from the submarine program.

In March, Mr Turnbull announced the AFP would investigate how sections of the draft defence white paper were leaked to The Australian newspaper.

Former prime minister Tony Abbott was quoted in the story, launching a scathing attack about a potential delay in bringing the new multi-billion-dollar submarine program online.

South Australian federal Coalition politicians are awaiting the announcement, which will heavily influence their re-election hopes.

Popular independent Senator Nick Xenophon has been campaigning for the fleet of submarines to be built in his state, and his support has led some Government MPs to fear for their political survival.

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### **[Interim Report Into Submarine Incident](#)**

**[Staff, Manxradio, Apr 25](#)**

#### ***Full report due after consultation***

The UK's sea safety body says it'll publish a report

soon into an incident in Manx waters involving a fishing boat and a British submarine.

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch says its investigation was delayed because it took four months to confirm a submarine was involved.

The Karen, a Northern Irish trawler, was fishing off the Calf of Man last April when her nets were snagged and she was dragged backwards through the water.

The skipper managed to free his vessel and headed to Ardglass for repairs.

The MAIB has now released an interim report into the incident, which says the sub is based at the Royal Navy base in Clyde – but no further details about the vessel have been released.

It says its investigation has concentrated on why the sub caught the nets, the emergency response and what's needed to avoid another similar collision.

A draft report is now nearing completion, but the MAIB says it'll be released to those involved for a 30-day consultation before the document is published.

But the organisation also says it's possible more evidence will come to light that may alter its eventual conclusions.

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## **[North Korea May Be In Advanced Stage of Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile Development, Latest Satellite Imagery Shows](#)**

**[Vishakha Sonawane, International Business Times, May 4](#)**

New satellite images suggest that North Korea may be in advanced stage of developing a submarine-launched ballistic missile, a U.S. think tank said Tuesday. Pyongyang's active pursuance of the missile comes at a time of heightened tensions in the Korean Peninsula, where the reclusive state has carried out several nuclear and missile tests despite stern sanctions.

An April 28 satellite imagery of North Korea's Sinpo South Shipyard shows a submersible missile test stand barge has been moved from its normal position, 38 North, a project of the U.S.-Korea Institute at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, said. The activity was seen six days after the country tested a submarine-launched ballistic missile.

"This shift in location suggests that the SLBM [submarine-launched ballistic missile] program may be moving towards a more advanced stage of development where the need for a submersible test stand barge has diminished," 38 North said. "That conclusion appears to be reinforced by recent test launches from the submarine itself

rather than the barge," it said, adding that the recent SLBM launch was "successful."

"While North Korea's submarine-launched ballistic missile program is making progress, these activities appear in line with previous estimates that the first ballistic missile submarine and operational missiles are unlikely to become operational before 2020," according to the North Korea-monitoring project.

North Korea, which is gearing up for the key meeting of its ruling Workers' Party Friday, is expected to conduct its fifth nuclear test around that time, South Korean defense ministry said Monday. The Kim Jong Un-led regime has conducted a series of missile and nuclear tests since the beginning of this year, and the leader has called to strengthen the country's defense capabilities. Pyongyang has also claimed to have secured intercontinental ballistic missile technologies like reentry and engine technologies.

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## **[Nuclear Submarine Fire In Russia Far East Again Raises Questions Surrounding Safe Dismantlement](#)**

**[Charles Digges, Up North, May 3](#)**

A decommissioned Russian nuclear submarine moored off a naval base on the Kamchatka peninsula caught fire on Friday, but there was no radioactive contamination because its nuclear fuel had already been removed, Russian media reported.

The Russian Ministry of Defense announced the blaze on April 29, saying that the Krasnoyarsk Project 949 submarine was being disassembled in Vilyuchinsk on Kamchatka when its rubber-coated outer hull caught fire.

The fire, concentrated in the bow section, burned for about three hours before it was extinguished by Russian Ministry for Emergency Services, the Interfax newswire reported. The agency reported the fire was stifled without

having to submerge the submarine, as some earlier reports had indicated.

Valery Kosykh, head of environmental monitoring at Russia's Federal Information and Analysis Center, told Interfax in an earlier report that specialists "have not recorded any changes" in background radiation levels in Vilyuchinsk.

"Before the vessel was sent for dismantlement, all weapons systems were removed," a release from the Russian Ministry of Defense, cited by RIA Novosti, read. "The reactor section had been removed. There is not danger to the environment."

The Krasnoyarsk submarine, an Oscar-I class

nuclear-powered submarine, was built in 1983 and launched in 1986 as part of the Soviet Union's Pacific Fleet. It left service in 1998.

On whole, 40 percent of the vessel had been dismantled when Friday's blaze broke out, Andrei Malovik, head of the Northeast Repair Center, where the Krasnoyarsk is moored, told the agency.

Such fires sometimes happen during dismantlement," said Malovik. "This one occurred in the bow section in a hard to reach area, was extinguished, they poured water on it, all was localized and there's no danger."

He added that submarines contain numerous flammable components that assure the vessel's stealth.

But such fires seem to happen with unusual frequency at shipyards owned by the Russia's state owned United Shipbuilding Corporation, which is a co-owner of the Northeast Repair Center, according to its website.

"This emergency is another reminder that the process of dismantling decommissioned subs doesn't always go smoothly," said Nils Böhmer, Bellona's executive director. "There must be an independent investigation of the fire in order to ensure more safety in future dismantlement operations."

### *United Shipbuilding Corporation seems especially flammable*

Then-Russian President, now Prime Minister, Dmitry Medvedev, called for a government investigation of the United Shipbuilding Corporation's dismantlement operations after a particularly dramatic dismantlement fire at the Roslyakovo shipyard, owned by the United Shipbuilding Corporation, in Russia's Northwest in 2011.

The fire, which was blamed on careless welding works, severely injured 19 workers.

Results of the investigation have not been made public.

The Yekaterinburg submarine had put into Roslyakovo for short-term repairs. Bellona's investigation later determined the submarine's nuclear missiles had been onboard during the nine-hour blaze that was only extinguished by submerging the sub. The government later admitted this was the case.

Surprisingly, after extensive repairs at the Zvezdochka Shipyard near Arkhangelsk, the Yekaterinburg was released for active duty in 2014.

The latest fire on the Krasnoyarsk brings to five the number of dismantlement fires that have broken out at United Shipbuilding Corporation owned shipyards since 2011.

In April 2015, the Orel, an Oscar-II class vessel which was undergoing repairs also at Zvezdochka, caught fire. The sub reportedly had to be submerged to extinguish the blaze. Again, careless welding practices were blamed.

In March 2014, the Krasnodar nuclear submarine caught fire during dismantlement at the United Shipbuilding Corporation's Nerpa Shipyard. There were no radiation dangers, as the Krasnodar's spent nuclear fuel had been offloaded.

In September 2013, a fire broke out on the Tomsk nuclear submarine, like the Krasnoyarsk, a Pacific Fleet sub, at the United Shipbuilding Corporation's Bolshoi Kamen near Vladivostok. The circumstances were similar to that of the Yekaterinburg fire: A gas powered saw used to cut through a grate set the vessel's worn rubber covering, cables and paint on fire.

Investigators later admitted 15 workers had been injured after reporting no one had been hurt.

Prior to 2011, the United Shipbuilding Corporation's Zvezdochka saw four other accidents and fires between 2005 and 2009.

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