



VOL. 2025 #8

AUGUST 2025

USS HENRY L. STIMSON ASSOCIATION SSBN655 NEWSLETTER

Association Officers & Board of Directors 2023 - 2025

PRESIDENT <u>Jerry [CJ] Blevins</u>	VICE PRESIDENT <u>Ray [Rita] Kreul</u>	SECRETARY <u>Nick [Linda] Nichols</u>	TREASURER <u>Ken [Diane] Meigs</u>	PAST PRESIDENT <u>Tom [Marie] Krauser</u>
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Other Positions 2023 - 2025

HISTORIAN / CUSTODIAN <u>Larry [Linda] Knutson</u>	WEBMASTER / NEWSLETTER <u>Nick [Linda] Nichols</u>	CHAPLAIN <u>Bruce [Vicki] Stefanik</u>
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DEADLINE CUTOFF DATE FOR REUNION REGISTRATIONS AND HOTEL RESERVATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 1

REUNION CONTROL CENTER
2025 Stimson Reunion
October 1 - 5, 2025
Groton CT

From the Reunion Committee -
John & Gretchen Glaub

78 registrations received as of 29 July
Registered Attendees Sailing List

From the Reunion Committee -
John & Gretchen Glaub

**PLEASE REMEMBER WE ARE IN NEED OF
DOOR PRIZES. LET TOM KRAUSER KNOW
WHAT YOU CAN BRING OR SEND.**

Only two months to go before the reunion! Time is flying by! **Hurry and get your registrations in before the September 1st cutoff date!** Come have some fun in Connecticut where the boat was

built and homeported until 1971! Enjoy visiting the Groton SUBVETS, now the new home of the national USSVI. Enjoy touring the USS Nautilus and Museum! Come and enjoy New England seafood and visit nearby Mystic! We are looking forward to hosting everyone. We have been working diligently to get things in order to have a great reunion!

We have an early departure time for Friday for SUBSCHOOL Graduation and base tour. We will be providing a buffet breakfast on that morning since the hotel does not offer a free breakfast.

For those of you who have submitted your registrations, please do not forget to send us your FORM 5512 if you do not have a retired military or DOD ID card. These forms need to be submitted to Base Security one month prior to our visit to the base. The form is located on the reunion website.

655 Reunion #13

Email Tom with a picture of any items you will provide for door prizes. tom0550@yahoo.com

The hotel registration link is on the Reunion Page **655 Reunion #13**

Questions Email: 655reunion2025@gmail.com

Room rates with tax for the Reunion :

Weekdays: \$129 + 15% tax = \$148.35

Weekend: \$159 + 15% tax = \$182.85

Association Members,

The reunion will be held in 2 months in Norwich CT. During our business meeting there are two items that must be addressed and voted on and the Board of Directors (BOD) requests your help.

ITEM 1. Election of officers occurs during the Reunion business meeting every two years. A slate of candidates will be presented to those in attendance to be vote. The elected positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Send any nominations to filling these positions to the Secretary [655webmaster@ssbn655.org] as soon as possible. You must have the persons agreement to run for the position before submitting the name. Although some currently holding these positions may be willing to continue to serve the Association, all positions are open for our members to nominate others to that job.

The chart below shows past and current officers and their years serving on the BOD. Our bylaws state: "Officers may normally serve no more than two consecutive terms in the same office unless election to subsequent terms is in the best interest of the Association. Officers elected to more than two consecutive terms shall consent to re-election."

YEAR	PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	TREASURER	SECRETARY	PAST PRES	WEBMASTER	CHAPLAIN	HISTORIAN
2005	Phil Johnston	na	Phil Johnston	Loree Riggs	na	Jeff Bricmont	JB Helms	na
2005-07	Phil Johnston	Robert Callahan	Phil Johnston	Loree Riggs	na	Randy Allen	JB Helms	Loree Riggs
2007-09	Chuck Hladik	Robert Callahan	Ken Meigs	Loree Riggs	Phil Johnston	VA Host	JB Helms	Loree Riggs
2009-11	Chuck Hladik	Neal Anderson	Ken Meigs	Loree Riggs	Phil Johnston	VA Host	JB Helms	Loree Riggs
2011-13	Chuck Hladik	Neal Anderson	Ken Meigs	Loree Riggs	Phil Johnston	VA Host	JB Helms	Loree Riggs
2013-16	Ray Kreul	Tom Krauser	Ken Meigs	Nick Nichols	Chuck Hladik	Nick Nichols	JB Helms	Loree Riggs
2016-18	Ray Kreul	Tom Krauser	Ken Meigs	Nick Nichols	Chuck Hladik	Nick Nichols	Ken Meigs Acting	Larry Knutson
2018-21	Tom Krauser	Steve Novic	Ken Meigs	Nick Nichols	Ray Kreul	Nick Nichols	Jake Morris	Larry Knutson
2021-23	Tom Krauser	Jerry Blevins	Ken Meigs	Nick Nichols	Ray Kreul	Nick Nichols	Bruce Stefanik	Larry Knutson
2023-25	Jerry Blevins	Ray Kreul	Ken Meigs	Nick Nichols	Tom Krauser	Nick Nichols	Bruce Stefanik	Larry Knutson

ITEM 2. Reunion location and chairman for 2027 Reunion #14. It cannot be emphasized enough how important this decision is to continuing our Association and gathering together every two years. This question on location and chairman usually takes the most time in our meeting so come prepared to volunteer.

The BOD is asking for nominations for location and names of a possible chairman for that reunion. Any Association Member whether or not attending the current reunion, can nominate a location & chairman. Send your nominations to both the Association President [jl.b.ssbn655b@gmail.com] and to the Association Secretary [655webmaster@ssbn655.org]. Guidelines for reunion and chairman are located in our current bylaws: Article VI. Meetings and Reunions [[2310 655BylawsRev101423.pdf](#)]

Submarines Lost During the Month of August

USS BULLHEAD (SS 332)	August 6, 1945 – 3 rd War Patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS – 84 SOULS
USS FLIER (SS 250)	August 13, 1944 – 2 nd War Patrol	LOST WITH 83 SOULS; 8 MEN SURVIVED
USS S-39 (SS 144)	August 14, 1942 – 3 rd War Patrol	NO LOSS OF LIFE
USS HARDER (SS 257)	August 24, 1944 – 6 th War Patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS – 79 SOULS
USS COCHINO (SS 345)	August 26, 1949	NO NAVY LOSS OF LIFE; ONE CIVILIAN LOSS; TUSK LOST 6 SOULS DURING THE RESCUE

FIVE Boats and 253 Men Lost

August 14, 1945 - VJ Day – Victory in the Pacific



**From the Association President - Jerry Blevins, LT(SS) B 76-79,
USSVI USS Groton Base, 655
Assoc Life Member:**

Many of our shipmates have registered for our October reunion and I hope to see many more registrations in the remaining two months. I do regret to let you know that the joy of flying Pilgrim Airlines into the New London Airport is no longer an option. But, please don't let that deter you.

CJ and I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer and we are looking forward to October.



**Chaplain's Corner - Bruce
Stefanik, MS1(SS) B 73-77, 655
Assoc Life Member, USSVI USS
Asheville Base, Holland Club:**

Let us think and pray for those in various parts of the country that are dealing with floods. Let us give thanks for all that are safe. Being safe gives us a chance to love each other.

*I will sing of your love and justice, to you, O Lord,
I will sing praise. Psalm 101:1*

May you and your families be blessed as we think of each other this month.



**Ship's Historian - Larry Knutson,
MMCS(SS) B 79-81 USSVI
Charleston Base, Holland Club:**

Each month one or two more contact us for their card. If you were on the Gold Crew during any time when Bob Weeks was the CO you completed a check-in card for him. Email the secretary if interested

655webmaster@ssbn655.org.



From The Editor & Secretary -
Nick Nichols, TM1(SS) G/SY1/B 70
-75; FTCS(SS) B COB 85-89, 655
Assoc Life Member, USSVI
Charleston Base, Holland Club

[illegible]

Upcoming Reunion: Whether or not you are attending the reunion, I hope everyone has read the information on Page 2. Even if you are not there and you have any input, especially about the location of the 2027 Reunion, just send

an email to the Association Secretary at:
655webmaster@ssbn655.org

There are two important events that occur during the reunion.

1. Eternal Patrol Service for our departed Stimson Shipmates.
2. Association Business Meeting: This will be held to conduct the operation of the Association. The basic meeting agenda is:
 - Reports from the President, Treasurer & Secretary
 - Reports from Committees and Appointed Positions
 - Old Business
 - New Business
 - ◊ Election of Officers
 - ◊ Bylaw Revisions if needed
 - ◊ 2027 Reunion Location/Chairman

Eternal Patrol service for SK1(SS) William Walters Sr.

Last month I noted in the Shipmates Found that the grandson of William Walters, ETVC(SS) Jacob Burgoyne currently the ANAV on the USS Hartford homeported in Groton CT, informed us that his father was in hospice. He was immediately added to the Sailing List. Shortly after the July newsletter was sent out his son informed me that his father has passed.

Linda and I attended William's funeral service at a local funeral home in N. Charleston. Jacob could not attend due to his service commitments but he did manage to attend the funeral via ZOOM. He delivered a very moving tribute to his grandfather by giving him an Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling. I am glad we were able to attend.

Our shipmate Mike Casella wrote a very good Letter to the Editor of the American Submariner, the magazine received quarterly by all USSVI members. I have received permission from him to reprint the letter for you. You'll find it in the section: **SEA STORIES, COMMENTS and JUST GOOD THINGS From Our Shipmates**

LIFE MEMBERS: Our newest Henry L. Stimson Life Member is Scot Thomas, QM2(SS) SY1/G 72 -75, USSVI-HC Requin Base. Scot qualified in 1974 on the Stimson. Congratulations Scot.

If anyone is interested in becoming a Life Member of the Stimson Association please

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George Stevens, MT2(SS) G 68-71

Cards to: 3025 Winterhaven Dr., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404

5.12.25: Email from George: The ravages of aging are taking their toll. In the past three months, my hands have been increasing in pain so that it is constant, actually, fingers to shoulders. Part of the peripheral neuropathy and arthritis I assume. Sometimes my skin feels like it's on fire. Even my exercise program is in shambles. I will see the VA doc next month. My heart is doing better but I do occasionally have a bad day when my heart is racing - and I'm not LOL

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John Cole, LT B WEPS 78-80, USSVI Member-at-Large, CDR Ret.

Cards to: 5914 Ruby Dr Pearland TX 77581-8926

NO RECENT UPDATES

7.31.24: Email from John: Susan and I are doing well as we fight the continuing battle against Parkinson's, Left Shoulder Surgery and now my C1-C6 surgery as well.

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Elam Lee Mauk, EMCM(SS) B 65-69 COB 66-68 Plank, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI USS Sailfish Base Holland Club

Card to: 4000 Ibis Way Unit 201 Venice FL 34292

NO RECENT UPDATES

2.20.2024: Email from Gretchen Glaub: John has joined the USS Sailfish Base and received the following email from the Base Commander. Elam is a member of the USS Sailfish Base:

- I called his home and spoke with his wife. He is in the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Nursing Home in Port Charlotte with dementia. I have added him to our binnacle list. Bill Heck, USS Sailfish Base Commander

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Sandy Hastie, CAPT B 80 (Oct-Dec) CO-1 patrol

Cards to: 75 Lambeth Dr., Asheville NC 28803-3425

NO RECENT UPDATES

10.26.24: Email from Donna: Dear Friends – A Hallelujah Message,

We saw our oncologist Wednesday, October 23, 2024 to get the results of the Sunday PET/CT scan. It was a very enjoyable experience! The new treatment regime significantly reduced the

cancer! Our oncologist was very pleased and said he was amazed at the cancer reduction.

We thank you for your support and prayers, they work. We are very thankful we have a God who answers prayers!

Warmly, Donna and Sandy

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Ron 'RG' Hyson, STS1(SS) B 70-75, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI Hampton Roads Base, Holland Club, STSCM(SS) Retired

Cards to: 3425 MacDonald Rd., Virginia Beach VA 23464

No recent updates

3.26.2024: Email from Jean: The results of Ron's evaluation on January 2024, compared to last year, scored significantly lower on a test of global cognition. His doctor reported that Ron has transition to the Moderately Severe Stage of dementia.

Thank you for all the prayers, caring thoughts, cards, letters, pictures, and memories Ron has received. They really brighten his day.

Jean/Ron

DID YOU KNOW??

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Battery boost: If your phone's nearly dead and you've only got 20 minutes, plug it in and switch on **Airplane mode**. This shuts off Wi-Fi, cellular and Bluetooth, basically all the stuff that quietly drains power. With fewer background processes, your phone can focus on charging faster.

3-second tech genius: Watching YouTube on PC? Press **K** to pause or play, **J** to rewind 10 seconds and **L** to fast-forward 10 seconds. You can also tap **M** to mute or unmute, and **F** to enter full screen mode. Nice.

Miss the old Start menu? With Windows 10 support ending in October, you might not love that Windows 11 centers the taskbar icons by default. Good news: You can switch back to the classic look. Go to **Settings > Personalization > Taskbar > Taskbar behaviors** and set **Taskbar alignment** to **Left**.

Emergency Windows restart: If your PC is totally frozen, don't just hold the power button. Press **Ctrl + Alt + Del** to open the security screen. Then hold **Ctrl** and click the **Power icon** in the **bottom-right**. You'll get a warning about

losing unsaved data. Click **OK** to restart right away.

3-second tech genius: Take a screenshot. On iPhone, press the Side button + Volume Up. On Android, it's usually the Power button + Volume Down.

3-second tech genius: Lost a file? On **Windows**, press the **Windows key** and start typing the name. On **Mac**, hit **Command + Space bar** and do the same. It's the fastest way to find documents, apps or settings.

GREAT LINKS TO SPEND TIME WITH

655 Association Website

www.ssbn655.org

EDITOR: This is a very long read but very interesting. How many of you know the Connecticut hit a seamount?

The Story Of How The Submarine USS Connecticut Crashed

This is the how USS Connecticut ended up impacting a seamount, which required the crew to fight to keep the badly damaged submarine from sinking.

Joseph Trevithick May 24, 2022 12:39 PM EDT

The U.S. Navy released a long-awaited, but heavily redacted report of its investigation into the circumstances surrounding *USS Connecticut* hitting an uncharted seamount while sailing in the Pacific region on Oct. 2, 2021, an accident that caused extensive damage. *The War Zone* has now had a chance to review the entire 67-page document in detail. In the report, investigators describe how a weak command environment and lax attitudes when it came to performing key tasks ultimately put the submarine, which was also suffering issues with some of its sensor systems and other equipment, on a direct path to the accident. It also describes how the crew acted fast to save the stricken submarine that began to sink after making it to the surface after the impact. Here is our full summary of the report and its implications. Continue reading: [The Story Of](#)

[How The Submarine USS Connecticut Crashed](#)

Submitted by Trin Rios LCDR B NAV 76-78, USSVI-HC Tri-State Base

Two fantastic documentaries, *Life on board a US Nuclear submarine*. The attack on the Iranian nuclear facilities and the USS Georgia's launch of cruise missiles.

Life on board the USS Hyman Rickover on patrol:

[America's Most Realistic Submarine](#)

[Documentary: The People's Choice Winner! - YouTube](#)

USS Georgia's launch This is an outstanding video displaying the nuances of the modern battle space, the advances in technology; and most importantly, the professionalism and expertise of our military.

[Iran Challenges America's Ghost Bomber — BIG MISTAKE](#)

SEA STORIES, COMMENTS and JUST GOOD THINGS From Our Shipmates

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Submitted by Mike Casella, SN(SS) B 69-71, LM Qualed SS 1970, USSVI & HC Groton Base
Hi Nick,

Your email took me by complete surprise. In as much as this old dinosaur still receives the AS magazine in the US mail, I had no idea where it stood. Just hoping & waiting for it to arrive in until August.

Below is my email to Chuck, the editor, and then 'my story'. Glad you liked it and it brought back some of those solid memories we all have.

Of course, you have my permission to reprint it for the newsletter.

To quote my late and great shipmate, Lonnie D. Grail, from Des Moines, Iowa - *Casella you are such a Boot but a damn good submariner.*

This Boot is humbly honored you'd even want to reprint it.

I have always wanted to tell my 'growing up in the 60's around submarines in Kittery story'. The column in the previous quarters' AS about submarines getting in your blood, hit me just right. In addition, my story did not mention:

-my *grandfather-the-welder*, while working, fell in the drydock and died in the mid-40's. I never did get to know my fathers' father.

-my father was scheduled to be on the April Thresher sea-trial and his name was pulled at the

last moment. We never talked about it until the very end of his life.

*So, I say to myself whenever I am around former-submariners with many years of riding the boats, with boat-badge-filled-vests, although I only served on 3 patrols, starting to understand and be around submarines when I was 7 or 8 years old, makes me **an-old-salt after all.***

Hi Chuck,

Below is my contribution for possible publication in American Submariner, Sea Stories. It is my history of having 'submarines in my blood', living in the area that built them, and in 1969, finally serving on one. You did say in an email, the publication dead line is June 1, however better early than late.

Thank you for any consideration.

Mike Casella

Submarines have been in my life since childhood days.

Served on The Henry L. Stimson (SSBN 655) B 1969-1971.

I always look forward to receiving American Submariner, perusing the Sea Stories for a good submariner's story or 2, at times even nodding & saying out loud, *damn straight I did that too!* In last quarters magazine, the story - *It gets in Your Blood* - was one of those good ones and yes, the **Henry L** is in my blood.....however submarines have been in my blood since childhood.

Born and raised in Kittery Maine, home of The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (*The Navy Yard Or The Yard* to locals), where my father, a leading-man pipe-fitter, both grandfathers, welder&tool crib, and most every friend's father all worked. Submarines were in my blood early at an early age. Along with my mother and 2 sisters we never missed a submarine launching, sitting on Pierce Island in Portsmouth, directly across from the 2 huge dry-dock launch doors, watching a new Navy Yard built-boat, slide into The Piscataqua River. My father had the duty at every commissioning. From elementary to high school, our class-mates that lived on The Yard, would ask their submarine officer/marine officer fathers to leave our **civilian names** at either Gate so we could go on the Navy Yard, meet to play or just

hang out. Tuesday and Thursday were movie nites, we **played submarines** on sail-conning tower of the USS Squalus on display in a park, baseball at the Navy Yard field, basketball, etc. My father Tony, was quite proud of all his work, with special affection for The Albacore, The Jack, The Thresher, and The Abraham Lincoln. In addition to this early submarine exposure, we lived in a section of Kittery, less than a mile from Gate 2, called The Admiralty Village - government built, 2bedrooms, living room, kitchen, decent size back-yard, one floor, a duplex for 2 families. Navy personnel and families lived on one side of the street, civilians on the other. That is the submarine-in-my-blood-story.

Now the real-submarine part.

Graduated 1967 from Traip Academy (high school). In 1968, The Navy thru The Naval Reserves had a program - 1year inactive duty, 2years active duty, 3years inactive duty.

As a 19yr old, draft eligible, my young life having been immersed in submarines, this was my best option. I enlisted. Now I could serve my country, do it aboard a submarine, and **the circle would be complete.** My family was quite proud.

I served 3patrols aboard the Stimson as a Seaman with these duties: helmsman/planesman, mess cook, and TDU man. I qualified submarines August 1970. With the exception of my children, qualifying submarines was the greatest personal achievement of my life.

Once a submariner, always a submariner.

Mike Casella—Groton Base

Submitted by Bob Granzow MIDN [LT USN] B 71 [May -July]

Recently we returned from a trip to Pearl Harbor and the USS Bowfin (SS 287).

The Bowfin was launched on Dec 7th 1942. Equipped with analog rather than digital controls. Her Woodward Governor's regulated the amount of fuel supplied to the diesel engine cylinders.

Interesting views of Pearl City through the traditional optical periscopes that penetrate the hull, primitive as compared to today's **photonics masts.**

Gato class, were equipped with retractable mast antennas that could both receive and transmit while the submarine remained at periscope depth.

The Health Corner

By: George Stevens MT2(SS) G 68-71

(this article is written from the author's research and point of view)

A new cancer treatment protocol involving repurposed drugs Ivermectin, Fenbendazole, and Mebendazole has recently passed peer review and is being heralded as a potential breakthrough in cancer therapy. Conventional treatments like chemotherapy, radiation, and immunotherapy often fall short of a cure. In recent years, repurposed drugs—medications originally developed for other purposes—have gained attention for their potential anti-cancer properties. Among these, ivermectin and fenbendazole/menbendazole, both antiparasitic agents, have emerged as promising solutions. Supported by preclinical studies, anecdotal case reports, peer review, and the advocacy of physicians like Dr. William Makis and Dr. Peter McCullough, these drugs are being used to cure cancers even at stage four when all other options have failed.

Ivermectin and fenbendazole, antiparasitic drugs, have shown promising anti-cancer effects in hundreds of cases. Ivermectin's mechanisms include inhibiting cancer cell proliferation and metastasis, by targeting pathways used for growth and spreading. Fenbendazole, on the other hand inhibits a critical process in cancer cell division, and induces death in cancer cells. These mechanisms target cancer cells selectively, particularly when used together.

Dr. William Makis, a Canadian oncologist, has been a vocal proponent of these drugs, citing remarkable case studies. In one instance, a patient in their 50s with stage 4 breast cancer was "cancer-free" after four months of ivermectin and fenbendazole treatment. Another patient in their 60s with stage 4 clear cell renal cell carcinoma became cancer-free after three months of this protocol. These cases and many others, shared via Makis's platform on X, highlight the potential of these drugs in aggressive cancers.

Dr. Peter McCullough, a prominent cardiologist, has endorsed the repurposing of ivermectin and fenbendazole, emphasizing their safety profiles as FDA-approved drugs. He has praised the peer-reviewed protocol published on September 19, 2024, in the International Journal of Orthomolecular Medicine, co-authored by Makis,

Dr. Paul Marik, and others. This protocol, the first of its kind, proposes that ivermectin, fenbendazole, and mebendazole (a related drug) disrupt cancer cell. One patient's story has inspired over 110,000 members in online support groups to explore these drugs, though mainstream medicine remains skeptical. Ivermectin has also found to be effective in combating skin cancer, psoriasis and eczema.

Enthusiasm for ivermectin and fenbendazole is also fueled by their affordability and accessibility. 19% of cancer patients in remote regions like Ecuador use ivermectin as an adjunct to conventional treatments due to it being inexpensive and its availability. Complementary compounds like DMSO, vitamin E, curcumin, and CBD oil are often used to enhance their effects, with some studies suggesting synergy. In some studies, DMSO was found to be very helpful in fighting cancer by itself. I recently heard a story from a man whose father was cured of stage 4 lung cancer with Fenbendazole, vitamin D and CBD oil.

Ivermectin and fenbendazole represent a compelling alternative supported by preclinical evidence and compelling case studies from advocates like Dr. Makis and Dr. McCullough. Their affordability and potential synergy with conventional therapies make them attractive, particularly for patients with limited options. From the trials conducted by Dr. Makis, the ivermectin and Fenbendazole combination has been 75% effective in curing cancer. The regimen being used should have a prominent role in oncology. This is the just beginning, but the hope they inspire is undeniable. Don't expect main stream health care to jump on the band wagon as they already have a multi-billion-dollar gravy train with present forms of expensive treatment. Cancer around the globe is being cured with various treatments but they don't typically include chemo or radiation. Do your own research



theleansubmariner

The Lean Submariner

Here's the latest posts on the blog. Still going strong. The link to his blog is

July 2025 – Celebrating 14 years on theleansubmariner.com

By **Mister Mac** on July 1, 2025

Fourteen years has flown by

Looking back over the past fourteen years since I began the blog, there have been many changes in my life and the world. The stunning event that began the desire to write is long past and mostly buried in the dark corners of my mind. Being let go from a job that was both rewarding yet crushing was one of those key events you never forget. Coming home to tell my wife that I was no longer employed in a job that was the primary source of our income was one of the hardest days of my life. I give her a ton of credit though for sticking with me through the aftermath of the day. After the shock wore off, we slowly started picking up the pieces. My first thought was to just try and do my own consulting business, but the Lord had other plans. Without understanding those plans at the time, we would end up going back "home" to Western Pennsylvania.

A new door opened and each time things changed again over the next thirteen years, we were never without opportunities and frankly, the stress level was dramatically relieved.

[Read Blog Post here](#)

Medal of Honor Awardee Frank William Crilley – A Diving Pioneer

By **Mister Mac** on June 25, 2025

Of all the fears I have ever had, being trapped in a sunken submarine is one of the biggest.

The second biggest fear is finding out firsthand where crush depth is

(My submariner nephews always accused me of serving on the both the Turtle and the Holland. This is dedicated to them.)

Over the course of my lifetime, my fears have evolved.

I'm sure most people would say the same thing. As a young boy, I was afraid of roller coasters and not being in control of the things around me. It's not that I feared dying at the time, I was mostly afraid of not being able to stop and start when I wanted to. I recognized that once the roller coaster left the starting point, it was designed to keep going and increase speed at as it left the

heights and plunged to the ground below. I would keep that fear for many years until someone close to me shamed me into riding a monstrous upside-down coaster in California when they were just being launched. I learned that if you exhale with all of your soul on the way down and just enjoy the feeling, it was a pretty pleasurable.

Part of my fear of not being in control is probably due to the time my brother and his friends locked me in a trunk in our basement. It was a sturdy old steamer trunk and had a locking mechanism on the outside. Once someone went inside, the others would lock it. The first boy was an example and quickly let out. They I was conned into climbing in. And they locked it and left me. I can hardly describe the panic I felt when my shouts and later screams went unanswered. I paid my brother back when they finally let me out and he still bears that scar today.

When I ended up in the navy and they asked me if I wanted to go on submarines, I had to overcome my childhood fears of being confined. The extra money was the initial incentive but truthfully, I was ripe for adventure at the age of seventeen. My academics in high school were pretty abysmal so this seemed to be a way to get away from home and from life working in a steel mill or mine. I have to admit, working in a coal mine was an even greater fear than going on a submarine. Dad had taken us down into exhibition coal mine and the dirty black roof was inches away from your head as you rode the cars deep into the earth. I do not know how my great grandfather managed.

[Read Blog Post here](#)

Calling All Recruits

By **Mister Mac** on July 5, 2025

I've been thinking a lot about the progression of the navy boot camp through the ages.

I would imagine if you were able to bring someone from the early twentieth century into today's experience, they would be completely stunned at how far the experience has travelled since their day. As a collector of old Bluejacket's Manuals, I can see the progression of the way sailors were onboarded.

The very earliest manual in my collection was the 1918 version. There was not much different from earlier versions, but the focus was what to

expect when you got to your first ship. While I am sure there were many shore assignments, in 1918, there had been a large infusion of men from all over the country. The entry into the war in April of 1917 probably caught many planners off guard. After all, Mr. Wilson had promised to keep us out of war in the previous election. But the war and the need for large amounts of ships meant that having a pool of potential sailors on board was the focus.

[Read Blog post HERE](#)

Manitowoc Built Submarines – America’s Ability to Innovate and Adapt

By **Mister Mac** on July 6, 2025

In 1940, the American navy was advertised as one of the most powerful in the world.

In a speech to the Navy Council of Illinois in Chicago on Oct. 26—Secretary of the Navy Knox asserted that the United States “has the most powerful fleet in the world and is engaged in the task of building sea defenses strong enough “to stand off any combination of enemy.” He asserted that “maintenance of naval supremacy would be a contribution to peace in a world that would be “ruled by force” for a generation.”

Speaking of strategy, Secretary Knox said that the best defense is that in which “the enemy force is sought out and destroyed.” “The fleet that we are now building is designed for defending America by keeping attack from our own shores and carrying it to the shores of the enemy. That is the American way.”

The winds of war had already started blowing with ferocity on both sides of the world. And Secretary Knox knew exactly how far behind the country was in its preparedness.

Decades of neglect were coming to haunt planners as they realized that adherence to treaties had already cost the nation precious time.

[Read Blog Post here](#)

“Admiral, the Navy is on its way out. There’s no reason for having a Navy and a Marine Corps.” How Johnson and Truman almost lost the Cold War

By **Mister Mac** on July 26, 2025

A Navy Man at Heart

I have to begin this story with a blunt acknowledgement: There has never been a day in my life that the Navy wasn’t the center of the

universe when it came to a world that was free, and the Navy was an overpowering force for good.

That’s kind of a grand statement but if you know anything about me, you know I came from a family rich in naval history. None of me antecedents were graduates of the naval academy and none of them stood on the deck of a fighting warship facing a fierce seagoing enemy. But Dad and Grandpa Mac both served during their generation’s wars and did so with honor. Even as a kid, I knew that a powerful navy was at the heart of freedom.

I was born during one of the years that the navy was reinventing itself. The first nuclear submarine was built in 1954, and the fleet had just proven its worth in a place called Korea. Of course, the navy’s role in defeating both the Germans and the Japanese was the stuff of legends. In the Pacific, the navy dredged itself up from the muddy waters of Pearl Harbor and fought legendary battles across the vast expanses of the Pacific to lead the country into Tokyo Harbor to exact the surrender that was both hard fought and successful.

[Read Blog Post here](#)

Do we need a Navy League?

By **Mister Mac** on July 17, 2025

For many years after my dad died, I kept a few mementos of his on my desk.

Mom had given me his wallet among other things and in the wallet was his driver's license, a card from his days as a Red Cross volunteer, a veteran's card from his discharge as a navy man and a laminated Navy League membership card. When Debbie and I moved back to western Pennsylvania, I followed a family tradition and joined the Navy League. The Pittsburgh Council was pretty large on paper but like many organizations, a small amount of people was actually doing things. I did find a home though and became the Vice President of Education which was right up my alley. I stayed in that role for a number of years until eventually I became president. That is when I really started to understand what made the NL unique.

[Read Blog Post here](#)



The Computer Corner

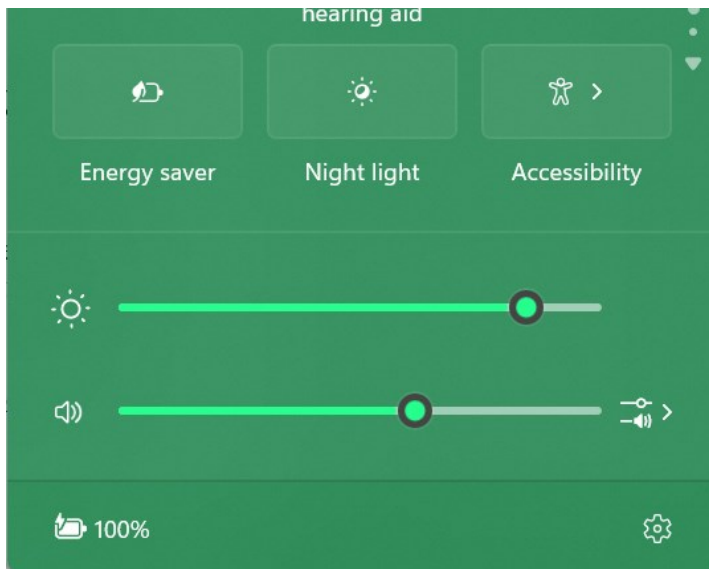
By: George Birmingham ET1(SS)
G/SY1/G 69-74, Assoc. Life
Member, SV Carolina Piedmont
Base, Holland Club

Get cozy with keyboard shortcuts

As the support end-date for Windows 10 approaches, many of you may have made the decision to move to Windows 11 either by upgrading a system whose hardware is Windows 11 compatible, or by purchasing a new Windows 11 system. Once you are using that new system, you will notice that while a lot of the Windows 10 options remain somewhat unchanged, some have changed a bit. This article will show you a few keyboard shortcuts that will make using the system easier. Let's begin...

If you don't have the Windows File Explorer pinned to the task bar, then this makes launching it easier – simply press the **Windows key + E** and it will open the File Explorer app.

If you need to get to the systems settings page quickly, the **Windows key + A** will open the Quick Settings panel to provide quick access. From the pop-up page you can also mute/unmute your sound system, adjust volume levels, and adjust display brightness.



Note the “gear” in the bottom right corner for access to the Systems Setting page

And if you need to step away from your computer and want to keep prying eyes off your screen in less private settings, then **Windows key + L** will lock your PC screen for security, and

require a re-login of pin/password to open the screen.

Microsoft offers a generous list of many shortcuts available at: [Keyboard shortcuts in Windows](#). Be sure to select the Windows 11 section at the top, as this site also includes Windows 10 shortcuts.

And finally, from the Tom's Guide website, you may find this useful:

[15 top Windows 11 tips everyone needs to know](#)

As always, shipmates, comments and suggestions for future topics are welcomed. Contact me at subvet_ssbn@bellsouth.net. And if you have a difficult computer or network problem you need help with, contact me. I'm always glad to help out if I can. //George



The Security Corner

By: George Birmingham ET1(SS)
G/SY1/G 69-74, Assoc. Life
Member, SV Carolina Piedmont
Base, Holland Club

7 Online Scams that you need to be aware of

Our digital lifestyle continues to move forward with new technology, and new security approaches to avoid scammers and identity theft, yet the scammers adapt in new ways through the use of AI to defeat these new security methods. Since the introduction of the Security Corner column, I have commented on many scam approaches being used and will continue to share with you the latest scams as they become known. Back in the June and July 2025 columns, I introduced you to the Scamicide.com website. I hope you have had a chance to subscribe or at least visited the site to see the range of information there. And as previously noted, the AARP website has scam information that will keep you informed and armed for defense as well.

As online Internet users, we do shopping, e-mail, banking and such most every day. The following article provides some interesting insights to online scams being experienced today (*be sure to scroll down to the bottom, past all the annoying ads*):

[7 online scams that can leave you broke, exposed, and feeling helpless — how to stay](#)

This is a good article, and it covers a number of scams including one I actually received in early June – Job Offer Scams! So definitely worth reading. And from that article comes these additional articles you may find informative:

FBI issues serious warning to iPhone and Android users — stop answering these calls ASAP

Hackers are impersonating banks to infect your Android phone with credit card-stealing malware

FBI issues warning over scammers impersonating agents to steal your money

So, take a look at these articles, and perhaps share with family members to keep them safe as well. Our digital lifestyle can be comfortable and productive, but the bad guys are always looking for ways to become part of our journey, but not in a good way!

As always, shipmates, comments and suggestions for future topics are welcomed. Contact me at subvet_ssbn@bellsouth.net. And if you have a difficult computer or network problem you need help with, contact me. I'm always glad to help out



VETERANS AFFAIRS - RETIREE INFO - AARP

<https://www.va.gov/>
And FLEET RESERVE

<<<<<<<<<<<>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

THE LINKS BELOW WERE TAKEN FROM THE EMAILS I RECEIVE FROM MANY SOURCES. These are not in any order so take a look at each of them and decide what you want to continue reading. You DO NOT have to have special accounts to view this information. There may be some general areas of information in here that will be of help to some of you.

Big Transformation Coming to VA – New Health Record System

The new electronic health record system – known as the Federal EHR – will be used at all VA medical facilities as early as 2031. Thirteen new sites launch in 2026, more than doubling the number currently using the Federal EHR.

WATCH

Tips to Stay Safe and Healthy During Extreme Heat

Here are some steps you can take to prevent health problems and stay safe during extreme heat.

BATTLE THE HEAT

VA News: Unlocking Opportunities for Veterans

In this episode of VA News, learn about the record-breaking surge in VA enrollments under the PACT Act, the easy online process for filing CHAMPVA claims, and how VA's Million Veteran Program empowers Veterans through research.

WATCH

[illegible]

VA Resources, we're here for you.

- For any questions or requests, **1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)** is always the right number.
- **Veterans Crisis Line: 988** and press 1, **Chat**, or Text 838255
- **Vet Centers: 1-877-927-8387**
- **Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838 or Chat**
- **Ask VA**
- **Schedule a 1-on-1 Appointment with a VA Benefits Expert**
- For non-urgent questions, you can reach VA using the **VA Health & Benefits App** or **MyHealtheVet** secure messaging to schedule an appointment, refill prescriptions, and access your medical records.

[illegible]

VA Disability Compensation Increase for 2026?

The estimated Cost-of-Living-Adjustment for 2026 based on projections from the Senior Citizens League is in. VA will release the official payment schedule later this year.

GET THE DETAILS

Access Peer Support Anytime, Anywhere
Vets4Warriors offers 24/7 confidential peer support year-round to make sure no Veteran or member of the military family feels alone.
GET SUPPORT

Healthy Snack Ideas While Traveling: A Guide for Veterans

Make your summer road trip better and improve your health by choosing healthy snacks while traveling. Check out these ideas to eat smart on the road. **GRAB THE SNACKS**

Tips to Recharge Your Brain and Body

Learn simple ways to give your body and brain the rest, sleep and relaxation it needs to restore energy and function at its best. **GET THE TIPS**

Suicide Prevention Training: Preventing a Crisis Before It Occurs

Blue Star Families' Blue Star Support Circles is a free program designed for anyone who wants to understand suicide and stress due to combat, military life, and Veteran challenges. If you are having thoughts of suicide, call 988, then PRESS 1 or visit <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>.

ACCESS THE TRAINING

VA Resource Navigator: Quick Guide to All Your VA Benefits

Easily find VA resources and program information, including web links, phone numbers, and QR codes with VA's Resource Navigator.

ACCESS THE NAVIGATOR

A Whole-Health Approach to Recovery for Veterans

Marine Corps Veteran Alison drank heavily to try to cope with depression and anxiety. Treatment for military sexual trauma, PTSD and bipolar disorder gave her the tools to reclaim her life. Learn how a whole-health approach to recovery helped her.

READ HER STORY

Network Like a Pro

Networking is a powerful tool for advancing your career. Here are some simple dos and don'ts to help you network like a pro.

NETWORK WITH CONFIDENCE

How to Get Reimbursed for Your VA-related Travel

If you're traveling for a VA health care appointment, VA will reimburse you for travel

costs, including mileage, tolls, parking and authorized hotel stays, if you're eligible. Your caregiver can get reimbursed, too.

GET REIMBURSED

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VA announces expanded burial benefits

For immediate release

July 10, 2025 - 1:00 pm

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today it has temporarily expanded burial benefits for certain Veterans, per the [Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act](#).

The new law specifies eligible Veterans are those who are discharged from VA-provided medical or nursing care to receive VA-provided hospice care at their home and who pass away between July 1, 2025, and Oct. 1, 2026.

Previously, Veterans who died at home under VA hospice care after discharge from VA-provided medical or nursing care were not always eligible for a full VA burial allowance. The Dole Act addresses that gap.

VA is working hard to fully implement the many provisions of the Dole Act," **said VA Secretary Doug Collins**. "We're excited to offer this expanded benefit, which better supports Veterans who choose to spend their final days at home, surrounded by their loved ones."

Families and caregivers of Veterans receiving hospice care at home following discharge from VA -provided medical or nursing care are encouraged to contact their local VA for information about eligibility and how to apply for burial benefits. Visit [VA burial benefits](#) or call 800-827-1000 for more information and see here for [details on the legislative language authorizing this change](#).

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The House Veterans Affairs Committee recently held a hearing to review how the VA delivers several key programs that directly support our nation's disabled veterans, including the Special Adaptive Housing (SAH) Program, Adaptive Automobiles Program, and Adaptive Sports initiatives. These programs help veterans with service-connected disabilities achieve greater independence—enhancing their daily lives and improving their overall quality of life.

The Special Adaptive Housing (SAH) Program helps eligible veterans make critical modifications to their homes, such as installing ramps, widening doorways, or altering bathrooms, so they can navigate their living space safely and comfortably. This program honors the sacrifices of our veterans by helping them preserve their independence at home.

The Adaptive Automobiles Program provides financial assistance for veterans to purchase and install specialized vehicle equipment, including hand controls, lifts, and modified steering or braking systems. These adaptations help veterans maintain mobility and access to their communities.

The VA Adaptive Sports Program encourages physical activity, mental wellness, and community reintegration by providing access to adaptive sports and recreational opportunities. From wheelchair basketball to adaptive cycling and equine therapy, these programs offer more than just physical benefits—they cultivate a sense of community and renewed purpose.

Each of these programs plays a vital role in restoring independence to veterans facing serious physical challenges. Continued oversight by the Committee helps ensure these services are properly funded, efficiently administered, and accessible to every eligible veteran.

For more information on eligibility or how to apply for these programs, we encourage you to contact your local VA office or a VA-accredited representative.

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**Veterans Service Officer
John Dudas**

Here's How to Maximize VA Benefits over Your Lifetime

Free Cruise Tickets Available for Veterans and Active-Duty Military on This Upgraded Ship

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

Understanding The Types of Military Discharge

Veterans: What's Taxed and What's Not on Your Federal and State Returns

Plans for Mass VA Firings Scuttled, But Department Still Expects 30,000 Employees to Leave on Their Own

Mystery on Pacific Seafloor Proves to Be Part of Daring WWII Saga, US Navy Says

The TSA's Summer Travel Advisory Reminds You to Not Pack This Common Electronic Gadget in Your Luggage

It's Official: The TSA Has Ended Its Loathed Shoe-Removal Policy

Program to Prevent Veteran Home Foreclosures Has Been Revived

Here's why you shouldn't use public phone chargers

Britain Planning \$40+ Billion Nuclear Attack Submarine Investment to More Than Double Fleet Size: Why Deep Cuts Are Likely

The British Ministry of Defence is planning to finance an expansion of its fleet of nuclear-powered attack submarines to more than double its current size, with the decision being part of the latest Strategic Defence Review which has prioritised both medium and long term preparations for possible conflict with Russia. The Review stipulates procurement of 12 next generation attack submarines. The Royal Navy currently operates a fleet of just five attack submarines, namely 7,400 Astute Class nuclear-powered vessels, with two more ships of the class currently in testing or under construction. Development of a next generation attack submarine class is expected to take place under the SSN-AUKUS program, and be pursued jointly with the United States and Australia. Plans for a more than twofold of the attack submarine fleet reflects part of a broader trend towards efforts to tremendously expand British warfighting capabilities, with a particular focus on maritime and aerial power projection assets. This aligns with the country's shift towards a "warfighting readiness" posture stimulated primarily by rising tensions with Russia, but also by a decision to support broader efforts by countries across the

Western world to increase their military presences in East Asia aimed at countering the Chinese challenge to Western regional dominance.

[READ FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

US Navy's newest Virginia-class submarine Arkansas launches

Arkansas is the 13th NNS delivery, offering improved firepower, manoeuvrability, and stealth.

July 3, 2025

The US Navy's *Virginia*-class submarine *Arkansas* (SSN 800) was launched into the James River at Huntington Ingalls Industries' (HII) Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS) yard.

The submarine was moved from a construction facility to a floating dry dock. It was then launched and towed to a submarine pier for final outfitting, testing, and crew certification.

Arkansas is the 27th *Virginia*-class submarine and the 13th to be delivered by NNS. It offers enhanced firepower, manoeuvrability, and stealth capabilities

Marine Corps Body Bearers Carry The Spirit Of The Fallen Forward: 'That's What The Families Deserve'

(STARS AND STRIPES 12 JULY 25) ... Kaylyn Barnhart Batista

With silent precision and unwavering discipline, the Marine Corps Body Bearers reflect 250 years of Marine Corps ethos.

"Everything the Marine Corps stands for is being the best, no matter what it takes," said Cpl. Kent Place, of Niantic, Conn., who has been a part of the Body Bearers section for a year and a half. "We continue to uphold our high standards regardless of changes that are being made because that's what the families deserve."

As "The last to let you down" — the sacred motto — the hand-selected section of 12 Marines renders final honors to Marines, Marine veterans and their immediate family members at Arlington National Cemetery, Va., and across the national capital region.

"At any time, a Marine has fallen and has a funeral at Arlington National Cemetery ... we're

there to perform a flawless funeral every single time," Place said.

A spokesperson for Marine Barracks Washington said the section is not typically assigned to support funerals out of state. All funeral requests come through Arlington National Cemetery, which coordinates services with the funeral director at the Marine Barracks.

In January, the section transported President Jimmy Carter to his funeral service at the National Cathedral in Washington, to his lying in state in the Capitol Rotunda and then his final resting place in Plains, Ga. In November 2023, the Body Bearers supported the former first lady Rosalynn Carter's funeral, also in Plains.

The section is based at Marine Barracks Washington, which is also home to the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, "The Commandant's Own" United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, "The President's Own" United States Marine Band and the official Marine Corps Color Guard.

'Laying them to rest with honor'

The Body Bearers practice funeral sequences in an underground parking garage at the Marine Barracks to preserve the sanctity of their solemn duty. They practice carrying different sizes and weights of caskets at shoulder length, and practice folding the American flag, performing the sequence as they would at a ceremony.

They are the only Body Bearer section in the military to carry the casket at shoulder length. Additionally, the section carries a casket with six Body Bearers compared to the eight that other services use. Before lowering a casket for burial, Marine Body Bearers raise the casket to eye level to symbolize a final salute.

"Being able to honor them one last time and laying them to rest with honor is super important," said Cpl. Jacob Dorton, of Orem, Utah, a member of the Body Bearer section.

Marine Body Bearers are expected to meet strict strength requirements, including 10 repetitions of: a bench press of 225 pounds, military press of 135 pounds, curls of 115 pounds and squats of 315 pounds. They are also required to consistently achieve first-class test scores in physical fitness and combat fitness.

"There is absolutely zero option to let go of that urn or drop that casket," Place said. "And that

reflects down on our training. We completely push our bodies to the very limit. We break our mental barriers and push even further past that.”

Becoming a Marine Body Bearer is highly competitive. Prospects must be between 70-76 inches tall, hold the rank of sergeant or below and be able to serve 30 months following the check-in at ceremonial drill school, which is located at the Marine Barracks. Those chosen undergo up to a year of intensive training before being deemed ready to carry out ceremonial duties.

While in ceremonial drill school, Marines carry out the ceremonial duties of Body Bearers but must continue their self-paced educational requirements to earn the formal title of Marine Corps Body Bearer.

“For those who have the opportunity to become a Body Bearer, remember your training and always seek the next level of perfection,” Place said.

‘Emotionally and mentally taxing’

The Marine Body Bearers average 400 funerals a year, according to a spokesperson for the Marine Barracks. In addition to the strength required to carry caskets, Marine Body Bearers are also expected to be emotionally strong.

“This job is definitely emotionally and mentally taxing because we’re still human beings at the end of the day,” Place said. “And 200, 300, 400 funerals later, that burden that we carry just gets heavier.”

Dorton said his first funeral was an urn burial of a Marine’s dependent. He said he was “super nervous” conducting the sequence by himself and facing grieving loved ones, but he kept his composure and remembered his training. He has carried out 325 funerals during his two years in the section.

“It’s that family’s worst day. It’s the one funeral they’re going to get,” Dorton said. “No matter what I’m feeling, how tired or thirsty or hungry I am, I need to put out for that family and make sure that I’m paying attention to the details and doing the sequence the way it’s supposed to be performed.”

‘Like a brotherhood’

Only a small percentage of Marines are selected to become Body Bearers. Place said that having fellow Marines who understand the challenges and responsibilities is “like a brotherhood and is super special.”

“You are tied to the Body Bearer community,” Place said. “Former Body Bearers from all sorts of different generations all check up on each other. There’s always someone who’s there before you that’s going to check up on you. And there’s future generations of Body Bearers to come that will come after us, and it’ll be our time to look over them.”

<https://www.stripes.com/branches/marine-corps/2025-07-12/marine-corps-body-bearer-unit-18398428.html>

Delays In Navy’s Next-Gen Submarine Threaten US Seapower, Report Says

(DEFENSE NEWS 11 JULY 25) ... Zita Ballinger Fletcher

The Navy hopes its Next-Generation Attack Submarine, currently known as the SSN(X), will be a successful combination of stealth, operational life and autonomous technology — but that idea may not become reality anytime soon.

A Wednesday report to Congress sent by the Congressional Research Service said the submarine’s development is projected to be significantly delayed.

While the Navy requested nearly \$623 million in research and development for the program in its fiscal 2026 budget proposal, the timeline for the attack submarine has not changed since the service delayed its production from the 2030s to the 2040s last year.

Critically, the Congressional Research Service report lists among its issues for Congress the possible impact this delay could have on U.S. global seapower and warfighting capabilities, specifically “on the future U.S. ability to maintain undersea superiority and fulfill U.S. Navy missions.”

During the fiscal 2025 budget process, the planned procurement of the first SSN(X) was delayed by five years — from fiscal year 2035 to 2040 — “due...to limitations on the Navy’s total budget,” according to the Congressional Research Service report.

Prior to last year, the SSN(X) program had already been delayed from a projected 2031 start.

“The delay of SSN(X) construction start from the mid-2030s to the early 2040s presents a significant challenge to the submarine design

industrial base,” the Navy’s fiscal 2025 budget proposal said. The service said that was because of an “extended gap” between the design programs for its Columbia-class submarine and the future SSN(X).

The plans for the SSN(X) are ambitious. According to the Navy, the next-generation submarine “will provide greater speed, increased horizontal [i.e., torpedo room] payload capacity, improved signatures, flexibility” and “conduct full spectrum undersea warfare.”

Autonomous systems are expected to be integrated into the SSN(X), which will reportedly model the stealth capabilities of the Virginia class and the rapid attack functions of the Seawolf class.

Plans also call for the submarine to incorporate the flexibility and operational hardiness of the Columbia class, which itself is facing staggering delays in development and is currently projected to be delivered two years late in 2029.

Like the Columbia and Virginia classes, the vessel will be nuclear-powered. It is projected to be larger than the original design for the Virginia-class submarine, which is about 7,800 tons submerged, and possibly go over 10,100 tons.

The cost to procure the next-generation submarine is currently projected to fall between \$7.1 billion and \$8.7 billion.

Delays remain an urgent issue within the Navy’s efforts to reboot U.S. shipbuilding, which the GAO has described as being in a “perpetual state of triage.”

<https://www.defensenews.com/naaval/2025/07/11/delays-in-navys-next-gen-submarine-threaten-us-seapower-report-says/>

Navy announces \$250M expansion, upgrade to West Coast submarine base

By GARY WARNER STARS AND STRIPES • July 23, 2025

Read more at: Source - Stars and Stripes

The Navy plans to spend up to \$250 million to extend and modernize a pier at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor to serve new ballistic missile and attack submarines coming into the fleet in the next decade.

The base, which is west of Seattle across Puget Sound, is homeport to the Navy’s largest number of ballistic missile submarines, with eight of the

boats based there. It is also homeport to two guided-missile submarines and two attack submarines.

A “request for information” posted on the Navy’s procurement website is the first step in gauging interest from contractors to bid on the project eventually.

The work will enable the base to homeport more of the new Columbia-class ballistic missile submarines and Virginia-class attack submarines that the Navy has said will join the fleet in the next decade.

The Navy wants to extend a pier more than 500 feet and add structures, a crane, a tractor-trailer truck lane, improved lighting, higher voltage electrical transmission lines, reinforced pier supports and fuel pods, according to the posted solicitation.

Once companies are identified, the Navy will produce detailed plans, ask for formal bids, and begin work when a contractor is chosen.

The Bangor submarine base is part of the larger Naval Base Kitsap complex, with more than 70 tenant commands.

The project is the second major renovation announced at the sprawling 12,000-acre base that is home to more than 15,000 active-duty personnel, 20,000 civilian workers, and 18,000 dependents and retirees.

The Navy has already started work on a \$145 million modernization of piers and electrical systems at Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton to prepare it to homeport the USS John F. Kennedy, the second Ford-class aircraft carrier being built in Newport News. The carrier uses up to three times the electrical power when in port than the older Nimitz-class carriers.

Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton is now homeport to two Nimitz-class carriers — the USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan.

Mark Cancian, a retired Marine colonel who is a senior adviser with the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank in Washington, D.C., said Navy ports have to prepare for a much larger fleet of submarines and ships in the decades ahead than they are handling today.

“We’ve bottomed out on our submarine inventory,” he said. “We can’t build them fast enough to replace the ones being decommissioned.”

Cancian said the Navy needs to use the time to modernize its bases for when the delivery of new submarines catches up with the long-delayed ships.

“It is going to eventually turn around and the facilities to accommodate new and more complex submarines are going to be busy after 2040 or so,” he said. “With the policy emphasis on the Indo-Pacific, there’s a strong indicator of where a lot of the new submarines are going to go.”

The Navy has been decommissioning Cold War-era Los Angeles-class nuclear attack submarines that have reached their 30-year expected lifespan. Of the 60 built between 1975 and 1995, only 20 remain in service. They are being replaced by Virginia-class nuclear attack submarines, with 24 built since 2003. The Navy also has three Seawolf-class nuclear attack submarines from a short-lived program at the end of the 1990s.

Rear Adm. Todd Weeks, the Navy’s lead officer for submarine development, told Congress in April 2025 that the USS District of Columbia, the first of the new Columbia-class of ballistic missile submarines, is 18 months behind schedule, with a delivery date in 2029.

Weeks said the next ships in the class — to be named USS Wisconsin and USS Groton — will be delivered in 2032 and 2034, respectively.

“We are taking action right now to accelerate and recover as much schedule as we possibly can,” Weeks told lawmakers.

The Navy now has 14 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines, each capable of firing 24 Trident II D5 missiles with up to eight individually targeted nuclear warheads on each missile. It has also converted four older Ohio-class submarines to launch guided Tomahawk cruise missiles instead of ballistic missiles. A three-year overhaul of the Navy’s oldest submarine, the USS Ohio, delivered to the Navy in 1981, was recently completed at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard at Naval Base Kitsap.

The Ohio-class submarines are the seaborne leg of the U.S. nuclear weapons triad, which includes land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles and Air Force manned bombers.

<https://www.stripes.com/branches/navy/2025-07-23/kitsap-bangor-upgrade-submarines-18530476.html>

A 38-year career at sea nears its end for Navy’s top senior enlisted member

By ALISON BATH STARS AND STRIPES • July 23, 2025

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy James Honea will retire in the coming months, capping a 38-year career that began on a frigate during the Cold War and ends in Washington as the top enlisted sailor.

Honea, who has served as the 16th MCPON since September 2022, will leave Sept. 12, a Navy statement said Tuesday.

Honea worked to remove barriers and improve the quality of life for sailors and their families, according to the statement.

“I will carry with me the countless memories of meeting sailors across the fleet, hearing about your remarkable achievements, as well as the level of trust you placed in me to advocate for you and your families,” Honea said in the statement.

The MCPON is the senior enlisted sailor in the Navy and serves as an adviser to the chief of naval operations, the highest-ranking officer in the service.

The job includes addressing sailors’ concerns and acting on input from the fleet during visits to ships, bases and other naval units.

Honea’s work with Congress and the Defense Department contributed to significant quality-of-life advancements for Navy personnel, including a 15% pay increase for junior enlisted sailors, according to the statement.

He also helped improve unaccompanied housing, medical care, spouse employment and child care services, and was behind initiatives to better enlisted leadership development, naval education and performance evaluations, the Navy said.

It was unclear Wednesday when the Navy will name the next MCPON, who is typically chosen by the chief of naval operations.

Last month, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth nominated Adm. Daryl Caudle to lead the Navy. The Senate Armed Services Committee is scheduled to begin Caudle’s confirmation process during a hearing Thursday.

Adm. James Kilby, vice chief of naval operations, has served as acting chief since February following Hegseth’s dismissal of Adm. Lisa Franchetti, who had been in the post since

August 2023.

Following his enlistment in 1987, Honea first served as a boatswain's mate aboard the frigate USS John A. Moore, according to his Navy biography.

In 2006, he was promoted to master chief and selected to serve as command master chief in 2009, completing tours on the destroyer USS Gridley and the amphibious transport dock ship USS New Orleans, the biography states.

His ashore assignments include command master chief of U.S. Navy Embedded Training Teams, Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix, deploying to Afghanistan.

He also served as the command master chief of U.S. Naval Forces Korea and U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/ U.S. 5th Fleet, among other assignments, according to the biography.

"As I embark on the next chapter of my life, I will forever cherish the impact you've had on me and look forward to crossing paths with you again in the fleet," Honea said in the statement.

Read story at: <https://www.stripes.com/branches/navy/2025-07-23/honea-navy-retirement-mcpon-18524644.html>

Does anyone who was on the Blue Crew remember this port call in Barbados? I'm sure Bubba Smith remembers it well.



Big US sub drops in

HENRY L. STIMSON came visiting yesterday.

Henry isn't another tourist coming to share our beautiful island, but a 425-foot American submarine.

The sub, which is now in the Bridgetown Harbour, was commissioned in 1962 and carries a crew of 150 men. Its commander is George Keethe Jun. and it can go to a depth in excess of 400 feet.

It has a capacity of 40 knots and will be in Barbados for about four days. The sub is here is on a routine port call and will go on to do "routine operations" after it leaves.

Using Names, Titles, and Other Information in Names Fields in Ancestry

Don Ort - Gold/SY1/Blue 69-74 and Tom Krauser - Blue 72-74

The following are just “recommendations” on how to enter names and other information when adding an Ancestry record. There is no right or wrong way to add names and other information to a record in Ancestry. It depends on what your objective is when searching later for information about people in your tree.

Many times, when entering names from sources there may multiple versions of the spelling of the first and/or last name and there may be “titles” (Sir, Lady, Judge, Dr., Rev., Capt., Col., King, Queen, etc.) associated with the name which we would like to add to the record. Many sources also have “Also Known As” information that you can add to your tree.

There are no hard and fast rules for adding this information to a record. The following article from Ancestry discusses general rules for entering names in Ancestry. There are many other articles online with suggestions on how to enter different information into your Ancestry Profile record.

Entering Names in Your Ancestry Family Tree: https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Entering-names-in-your-Ancestry-Family-Tree?language=en_US

Facts on Profile Page

In Ancestry there are **Facts** tags that can be used to add additional information about each person to their Profile, but we have found that these “**Add fact or event**” entries may have limited value for name and title information and are not usually “searchable.”

Some examples of **Facts** that can be added are: Custom Event, Also Known As, Degree, Elected, Employment, Occupation, Title, and many others that could be added to each Profile.

Only some of these **Facts** have a **Fact Label** field which can be used to put in descriptive information about the fact as a **Label**. Most of these **Facts** only have a **Date**, **Location**, and **Description** field. The **Also known as** fact only has a **Description** with no date information and is added at the “end” of the Profile. These Facts are added in the Date order to the Profile so you have to find them in Date order to read them and they are not easily searchable to find all Profiles with the desired information.

Information that is in the Name or Suffix fields is easily “searchable” using the **Tree Search** function. This makes it much better to add this information to the Name and Suffix fields.

Remember the Suffix field can hold 128 characters so a lot of information can be added to that field.

Maiden Names

For female spouses it is best to use their maiden name in the **Last name** field. If you do not know their maiden name you can add “**?-husbands last name**” for the last name, if you know it, where “?-” is for their unknown maiden name. In older records from England and Europe, people did not always have last names and were sometimes listed as “of Scotland” or other locations. In these cases we can use that information as the last name. They usually used “le” or “de” which translates to “of” so “de Lancaster” would translate to “of Lancaster” for the last name. In some countries, such as Wales or Scotland, they added descriptions such as “ap” or “ab” meaning “son of” or “ferch” meaning “daughter of” and then the father’s first name to represent the preceding generation. So, if the daughter’s name was “Jane” and her father’s given name was “Patrick”

then she may be known as “Jane ferch Patrick” or Jane daughter of Patrick. There are other common linking prefixes to the parent such as “fitz” in Ireland. Irish names later adopted the “Fitz” as part of the last name and continued to use that ancestors first name as the Surname from that time on (Example: FitzPatrick).

Titles

In Ancestry.com there is a **Title** fact which will add a “title” to the record, however, when you use the **Title** fact it only adds a “fact” among all the other Facts with a Date, Location, and Description which can easily get lost in all the other “Facts” for that person and is not really “searchable” when looking for all the records with that Title.

It is much more useful to add the titles in the Name and/or Suffix fields. This not only makes it visible to the user when they are looking at the Profile, but is also much more helpful in Tree Searches when looking for records.

You should avoid putting the “title” in front of the actual given name (first name). When you are searching for records and the title appears before the first name (Example: Dr. Richard Smith or Sir Richard Smith), it will be sorted alphabetically on the title rather than the first name. Thus, if you had multiple Richard Smiths but some records gave his title as “Sir, Rev., Dr., Col., Capt., Gov., etc.” or any other title, they would appear alphabetically based on the “title” instead of Richard. If you were doing a “**Find in Tree**” search on “**List of all people**” and you searched for all Smith’s, the first names would be sorted on what appears “first” in that field. Thus, all the Richard’s would not appear grouped together in the search. The Dr. Richard Smith would be sorted by “d” and Sir Richard Smith would be sorted by “s” making it hard to see if any of the Richard Smiths were common to each other or actually the same person.

You have options of what to do with the titles. One way would be to put them after the given first name in quotes or parenthesis (We prefer parenthesis). Thus, “Dr. Richard Smith” would be “Richard (Dr.) Smith.” You also have the option of adding “Dr.” to the Suffix field and also you can add the **Title Fact** if desired. The option you choose is really up to you.

Another thing you may come across is where the person is commonly known by a generational number such as Henry VIII or Richard I, etc. Normally the “VIII” or “I” belongs in the Suffix field but in these cases, you may consider it part of their known name and want to include it in the First name field since they were commonly known by that name. It is searchable in both places, so a Tree Search for Henry VIII will find the Profile with it in either place. If desired, you can add it in both places.

Nicknames

We usually add “nicknames” such as “John, Sally, Tom, etc.” where the actual name is known but they usually went by another name in quotes (Example: “Sally”) in the First name field.

Also Known As Fact

Some sources have a section called “Also Known As” which contains all the different names and titles that person was known for. You can copy and paste this information in the **Also Known As** fact which only has a Description field and appears at the end of the Profile. This field appears to hold about 256 characters so it can contain a lot of information.

Custom Event Tag

Tom and Don use the **Custom Event** tag to add information that amplifies information in the Name and Suffix fields to expand on the titles or other information used.

For example, William the Conqueror (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_the_Conqueror) is a great grandfather to both Tom (28th) and Don (30th). Looking at the WikiPedia page you can see amplifying information about some of his titles. For example, William was “King of England” and other titles which we add to the Suffix field.

As an example, we can use the link from Tom’s Tree: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/156016012/person/182538965347/facts>

Example: I *P* FK* 🏰 (William the Conqueror; King of the English; Duke of the Normans; Knight)

“I” was “William de Normandie I”, *P* was the 28th great grand-father on the Paternal (father) side for Tom and Don’s 30th great grand-father, FK* has a profile in FamousKin.com for which a web link is included to show all his “famous kin”, 🏰(William the Conqueror; King of the English; Duke of the Normans; Knight) indicates he was of royalty and shows the title information we want to include in the Suffix field.

We can add “Custom Events” to amplify some of the information in WikiPedia. For example, we see information about when he was King of England and Duke of Normandy. In his Ancestry Profile we add a Custom Event Fact. You can add “King of England” to the “**Fact label**” and then you can highlight the details and copy them (Ctrl-C):

King of England	
Reign	25 December 1066 – 9 September 1087
Coronation	25 December 1066
Predecessor	Edgar Ætheling (uncrowned) Harold II (crowned)
Successor	William II

Duke of Normandy	
Reign	3 July 1035 – 9 September 1087
Predecessor	Robert I
Successor	Robert II

Then you can paste it (Ctrl-v) into the **Description** field. For the **Date** we usually use the beginning date (25 Dec 1066) even though a range is given. This places this event in the right timeline order in the Profile. You could put England in the **Location** field or leave the **Location** blank.

Then you can add another **Custom Event** for the “Duke of Normandy” information.

We chose a **Custom Event** fact over the **Occupation** or **Employment** fact because the **Occupation** and **Employment** facts does not have a “**Fact label**” for the actual Title making it harder to see the titles in the Profile.

Tree Tags

To make the Profile even more “searchable” we can add **Tree Tags** to the Profile which can be “filtered” on during a Tree Search. If you look at the Profile you will see there are “multiple” Tree Tags, some Standard and some “Custom Tags”, which were added so we can search on them later.

Precession of the Equinoxes

EASTER 2025

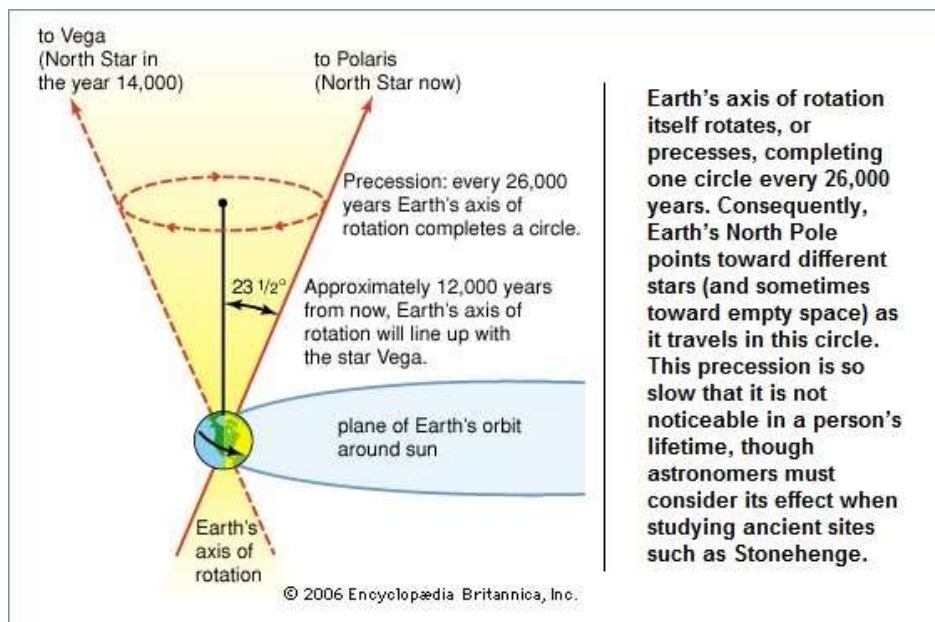
Jim Gutierrez

Chapter 1

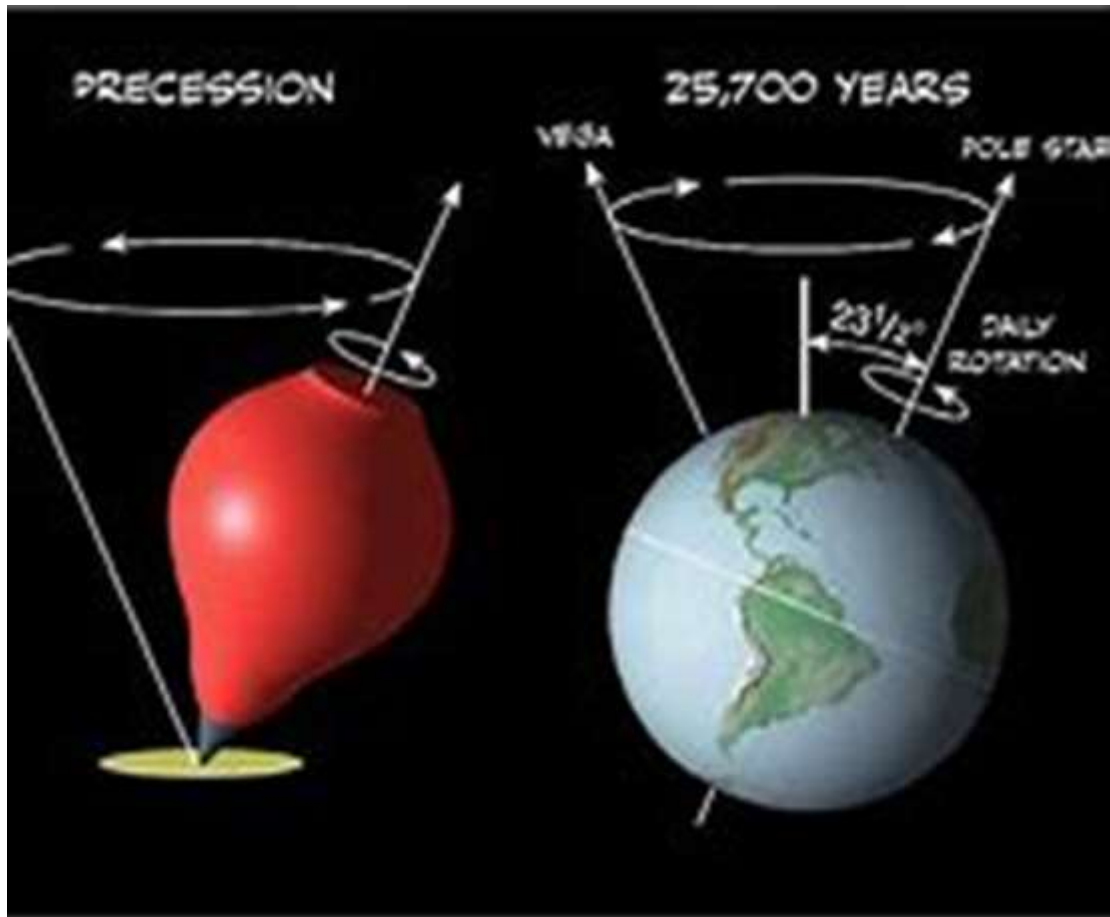
Precession of the equinoxes, motion of the equinoxes along the ecliptic (the plane of Earth's orbit) caused by the cyclic precession of Earth's axis of rotation.

In compiling his famous star catalog (completed in 129 BCE), the Greek astronomer Hipparchus noticed that the positions of the stars were shifted in a systematic way from earlier Babylonian (Chaldean) measures. This indicated that it was not the stars that were moving but rather the observing platform—Earth. Such a motion is called precession and consists of a cyclic wobbling in the orientation of Earth's axis of rotation with a period of **25,772 years**. Precession was the third-discovered motion of Earth, after the far more obvious daily rotation and annual revolution. Precession is caused by the gravitational influence of the Sun and the Moon acting on Earth's equatorial bulge. To a much lesser extent, the planets exert influence as well.

The Earth has a wobble



In the middle of the last century my older brothers and I would spin tops. Video games had not yet been dreamed of. We spent lots of time outside riding horses and we didn't have many toys, so we would spin tops and play with marbles. When the string around the top was tight it gave the top a good spin and it stayed straight up. As the top slowed down it would wobble much like the earth during precession. Then it would fall but with the conservation of angular momentum it would continue to rotate with the axis 90 degrees from where it was. The earth does the same thing; the poles shift but very slowly. Now Antarctica, which once had lush vegetation, is now under ice. The precession period is 25,772. One era in the Mayan calendar is 24,000 years. This is not a coincidence. The Mayans were proficient in astronomy and understood precession and the equinoxes.



Chapter 2 The Mayan Calendar

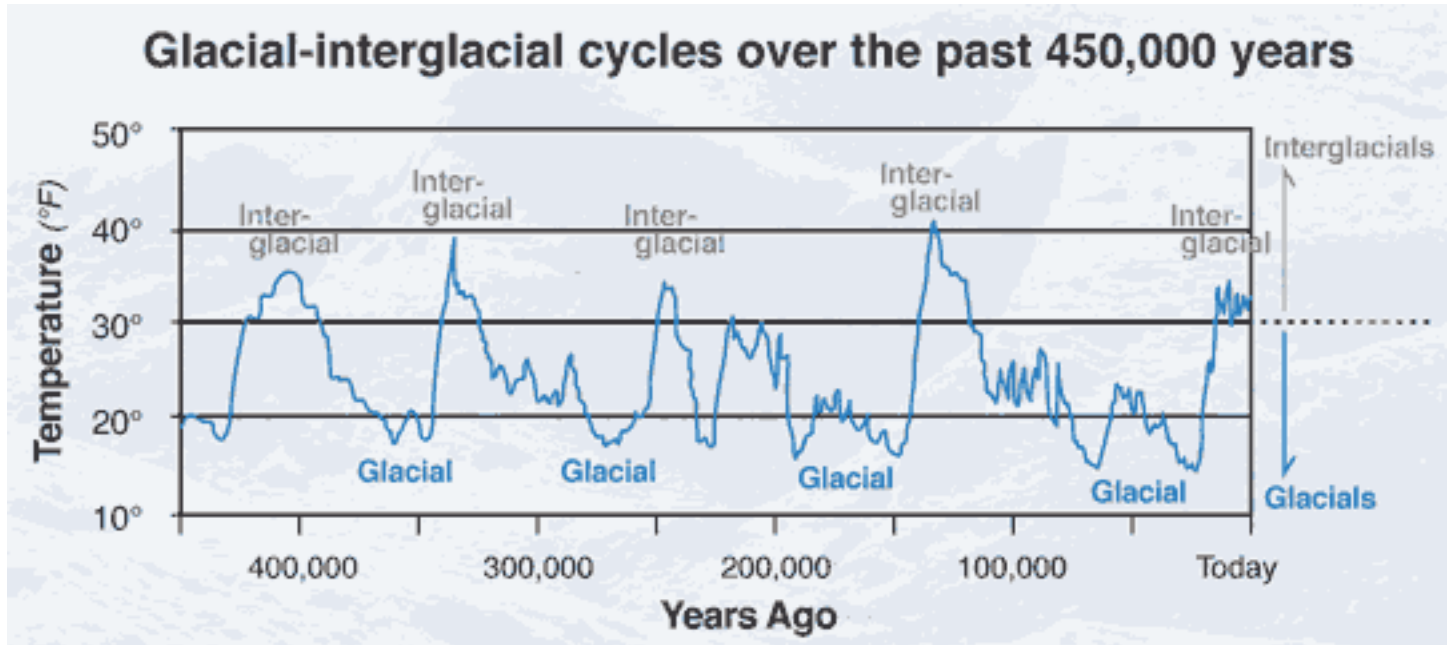
The Mayan Calendar long count is 24,000 years, the length of an era like the one that ended in 2012 according to our calendar. Some folks thought it was predicting the end of the world. You must consider that the stone calendars were carved hundreds of years ago. The carver was not commissioned to produce calendars for the subsequent hundreds of years. They used a functional calendar carved from wood or cast in brass with rotating wheels. The Mayan astronomers discovered the precession and constructed their calendar around it. The construction was very labor intensive, so each town only had one.



The Caracol at Chichen Itza is an observatory used by Mayan astronomers to create their advanced calendar that included eras lasting 24,000 years. They never invented the telescope so they could not see the planets up close like Galileo.

Chapter 3 The earth has had many cycles of Glaciation.

Due to the wobble, the earth receives different amounts of radiation from the Sun in cycles of approximately 24,000 years causing the Glacial cycles.



We are approaching the conclusion of an ice age. This is why the oceans are rising due to the melting polar ice caps. Burning fossil fuels has little effect on this cycle. As the overburden of Ice melts some of the dormant volcanos begin to become active due to the reduced pressure on the mantle. The Earth is constantly changing.



The configuration of the great lakes carved out by glaciers during the earlier part of our ice age show that there was once a high mountain at the apex of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. The mountain had glaciers that carved out the great lakes. The mountain sunk lower into the mantle very gradually and left the two lakes. Now it is just above sea level and has left the two beautiful freshwater lakes. Keep in mind that the sea level was also rising. Our earth is evolving but very slowly, The dynamic mechanisms are earthquakes and volcanoes. The latter being the most spectacular.

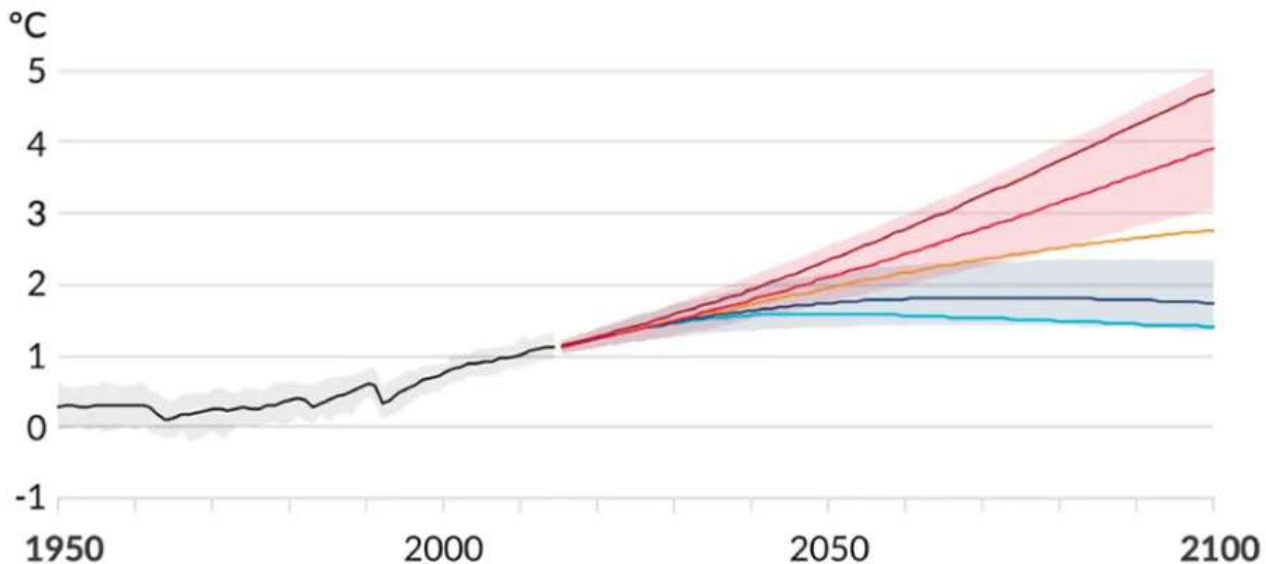
Chapter 4 Now we have models That have been created by Scientists.

Scientists from around the world serve as part of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Scientists have found that from 1900-2020, the world's surface air temperature increased an average of 1.1° Celsius (nearly 2°F) due to burning fossil fuels that release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. This may not sound like very much change, but this warming is unprecedented in over 2000 years of records. Even one degree can impact the planet in many ways. Climate models predict that Earth's global average temperature will rise an additional 4° C (7.2° F) during the 21st Century if greenhouse gas levels continue to rise at present levels. Without swift action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, *models* project that holding global average temperatures to within a 1.5-2.0°C (2.7-3.6°F) increase may no longer be possible.

Who are you going to believe? It's a contest.

LT Jim Gutierrez who traveled under the Polar Ice Cap on an atomic powered submarine, or scientist who have studied the earth cycles in prestigious universities.

Projected Temperature Increase (°C)



Five Scenarios of Fossil Fuel Burning

- | | |
|--|---|
| Highest CO ₂ amounts | Smaller CO ₂ amounts, then no increase in CO ₂ late in the 21st century |
| Medium to high CO ₂ amounts | No increase in CO ₂ beginning in 2050 |
| Medium CO ₂ amounts | |

Chapter 5 Melting Ice rose the water levels in our oceans



Atlantis was once an Island in the Atlantic, as waters rose it is now underwater and has become the Bahama banks.

Chapter 6 Nan Madol and underwater steps by the Japanese Ryukyu Islands In the Pacific Ocean. Nan Madol Island was flooded and the foundations are underwater



Gunther Deichmann



Nan Madol

The steps at Nan Madol continue under water. The Pacific Ocean is rising slowly as the Ice melts. Nan Madol was the ceremonial and political seat of the Saudeleur Dynasty, which united Pohnpei's estimated population of 25,000 people until about 1628. Set apart between the main island of Pohnpei and Temwen Island, it was a scene of human activity as early as the first or second century AD. By the 8th or 9th century, islet construction had started, with construction of the distinctive megalithic architecture beginning 1180–1200 AD.



Nan Madol Island in the Pacific

The underwater steps offshore of the Japanese Ryukyu Islands



Ryukyu Islands



Location map of the Ryukyu islands

About the Author



Jim Gutierrez is a retired Mechanical Engineer. He spent his early days in the Navy. They paid his way through the University of New Mexico in his home town, Albuquerque New Mexico. He was chosen by Admiral Rickover for his Nuclear Power School and spent five years as an officer in the Submarine Force. After the Navy he worked in Petrochemicals, Refining and as a Construction Engineer building River Bend Nuclear Power Station.

Upon retirement he took up writing and has been published in Americal Submariner, World Explorer, and Charles Hood's books about the sailors who chose to cruise under the waves.



655 Reunion #13 - Registration

Dates: 1-5 October 2025

Holiday Inn Norwich

10 Laura Boulevard | Norwich, CT 06360

860.889.5201

To Reserve Rooms: call the number above or link to

<https://hinorwich.info/HenryLStimson>

Reserve by phone reference HenryLStimson

Hotel Prices are good for Mon-Mon 29 Sept-6 Oct

Hotel Reservation **Deadline 1 September 2025**

Hotel Reservation is the responsibility of the individual.

Reunion Registration **Deadline 1 September 2025** Reunion Web Page: [655 Reunion #13](https://hinorwich.info/HenryLStimson)

Transportation is not provided from the airport.



Complete (print legibly), print the form and mail along with a check (payable to **John Glaub**) or money order to **John Glaub, 2 Terrace Ave., Niantic CT 06357**. Reason for **2025 HLS Reunion**.

For any questions contact the committee at: 655reunion2025@gmail.com

Shipmate Name: _____ Guest Name: _____

Relationship (place X beside correct one): Spouse _____ Significant Other _____ Family _____ Friend _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

E-mail: Home: _____ Work: _____

Number who will be attending this event in your group: _____

Patrols on STIMSON: _____ Total # Patrols on all boats: _____

Dates Onboard	Rate	Crew	Dates Onboard	Rate	Crew
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Special Needs: _____

Reunions Attended:	1999 ND	2001 CT	2003 WA	2005 MO	2007 CT	2009 GA
X beside each one	2011 SC	2013 AL	2016 SC	2018 OK	2021 KY	2023 SC

Event attendance will be through advance payment only [pp = per person]

I am registering for the following per person (Association Member and all guests):

Registration Pkg Fee: (required for all) \$160 pp Number: _____ = _____

(This fee includes registration, Saturday banquet, all hospitality room food & beverages, bus transportation.)

OR

Individual pricing: [select what you want to do]

Registration Fee: (required for all) \$65 pp Number: _____ = _____

Saturday Banquet – 3 options for dinner \$65 pp Number: _____ = _____

Buses:

USS Nautilus Museum \$10 pp Number: _____ = _____

Use of bus is required for the SubSchool, Base Tour, SSN Tour – no personal transportation

SubSchool Graduation/ SubBase Tour /

WWII Memorial / Lunch at SUVBETS Club \$10 pp Number: _____ = _____

SSN Tour [if available] \$10 pp Number: _____ = _____

If an SSN tour is available to us, you must be physically able to climb the ladders.

General Comments from the committee.

In order to get onboard NAVSUBASE everyone will be required to have a Military retiree ID card or complete some method for security verification. It may be by completing a special form or going online and completing security information. At this point we do not know which method will be used but as soon as known it will be put out to everyone via email.

REUNION USE ONLY

Check # _____

Date Rcvd _____

Registration # _____

Hotel Resv: _____

The Association has established a refund policy for reunion registrations and it is located within our Bylaws in Article V.g. You can view this policy at: <http://ssbn655.org/association/bylaws/1610%20655BylawRev.pdf>

g. Cancellation of reunion registration and the refund of monies paid will be based on the timing of the cancellation. Registration cancelled prior to the reunion registration cutoff date will result in refund of monies paid minus the registration/office fee. For cancellation after the registration cutoff date, there will be no refund of monies paid.

THINGS TO DO IN THE AREA

MYSTIC AQUARIUM - 55 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT

<https://www.mysticaquarium.org/>

Veterans get in free (proof of veteran status required). \$10.00 off for accompanying household family members. As a side note, they have kiosks to purchase tickets and John did not have to prove he was a veteran.

MYSTIC SEAPORT - 75 Greenmanville Avenue, Mystic, CT

<https://mysticseaport.org/>

Mystic Seaport is the nation's leading maritime museum.
Open daily 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

OLDE MYSTIC VILLAGE - 75 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT

<https://oldemistickvillage.com/>

An open-air village with unique shops

MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT MUSEUM - 110 Pequot Trail, Mashantucket, CT

<https://www.pequotmuseum.org/>

FOXWOODS RESORT CASINO - 350 Trolley Lane Boulevard, Ledyard, CT

<https://www.foxwoods.com/>

MOHEGAN SUN CASINO - 1 Mohegan Sun Boulevard, Uncasville, CT

<https://mohegansun.com/>

The hotel provides a free shuttle to and from Mohegan Sun Casino.

FORT TRUMBULL STATE PARK AND MUSEUM - 90 Walbach Street, New London, CT

<https://ctparks.com/parks/fort-trumbull-state-park>

Fort Trumbull has a legacy of service spanning two and a half centuries, from the American Revolution to World War II to the Cold War. Along with serving as a federal military facility, the fort played a pivotal role in the country's coastal defense system. Originally built in 1777 to protect the New London Harbor from British attack, the first masonry structure was destroyed after Benedict Arnold successfully raided the fort and the British burned New London to the ground.

FORT GRISWOLD BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK - Park Avenue and Monument Street, Groton, CT

<https://ctparks.com/parks/fort-griswold-battlefield-state-park>

The historical park is the site of the largest Revolutionary War battle in Connecticut, the 1781 British massacre of colonial militia. On September 6, 1781, British Forces, commanded by infamous traitor, Benedict Arnold, captured the Fort and massacred 88 of the 165 American patriots stationed there, including commander Colonel Ledyard.

GENIUS MUSEUM - 1650 Hartford-New London Turnpike, Montville, CT

<https://naturesartvillage.com/attraction/genius-museum/>

Take a historic walk and discover a timeless town displaying the rapid transformation of American technology over two centuries, along with the geniuses who created it all! The Genius Museum is a great place for families to share memories, older adults to feel nostalgic, and the young to learn how everyday life has developed with technology's advances.