



National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day – December 7, 2025  
Fly Your Flag at Half-Staff



**WE  
WISH  
YOU A  
MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

VOL. 2025 #12

DECEMBER 2025

## USS HENRY L. STIMSON ASSOCIATION SSBN655 NEWSLETTER

Association Officers & Board of Directors 2023 - 2025

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

<b>HISTORIAN / CUSTODIAN</b> <u>Larry [Linda] Knutson</u>	<b>WEBMASTER / NEWSLETTER</b> <u>Nick [Linda] Nichols</u>	<b>CHAPLAIN</b> <u>Bruce [Vicki] Stefanik</u>
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Enjoy this Christmas song from Jimmy Deep and Warner Brothers. Not sure what boat they are on. This came out in December 2017.

### **DEEP BLUE CHRISTMAS**



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

CJ and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Be careful during your holiday travels.

The following U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command photo was taken in the Charleston, SC Navy Yard in 1918. The three SubDiv Eight O-Boats, with Christmas greenery on deck were (from left to right) USS O-6, USS O-3, and USS O-7.



**From the Association Vice President - Paul Clark [MM1(SS) B 73-78, USSVI/Holland Club Denizens of the Deep Base, Assoc Life Member]:**

Paul Clark ERUL between the SSTGs 1976



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

December is a time of Peace and Joy.

It is also a time that we celebrate

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



Some of you have asked us to use pictures of our historic items. As you may remember, many items were stolen from our storage locker back in 1994. Pictures that are shown may not still be in our collection.

A portrait of a man with a grey beard and glasses, wearing a dark vest with various patches, including an American flag and a circular logo with the number 50. He is also wearing a blue shirt and a patterned tie.[illegible]

“Great talk to those BESS graduates...and I say talk because it was just that. Not a speech, not a lecture, but a talk that if they listened to the advice and information you gave them there's no doubt they will excel as submariners.”

**SubSchool presentation**  
**OCT2025 Ron Testa.mp4**



### Four Boats and 140 Men Lost During the Month of December

Stimson Shipmates,

## Submariners' Advocacy Group Submariners Helping Submariners

Formed in June 2024, the Submariners' Advocacy Group (SAG) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for US Navy Submariners, both veterans and Active Duty. Members of the Silent Service have been faithful to their oaths and training and have been silent for far too long. SAG will advocate for all Submariners.

## Featured Information

- **NEW:** Read our groundbreaking report **The Unseen Burden: Toxic Exposures and Health Impacts on U.S. Navy Submariners** - exposing the chronic toxic exposure crisis affecting submariners and the systemic failures that have left veterans without proper care.
- Join our Public Facebook Group: **Submariners' Advocacy Group** to stay up-to-date on the latest news and information and to connect with other Submariners.
- Do you feel connected to this cause? Consider donating to help us continue our mission.
- Want to share the message? Try sharing our highly anticipated white paper **Submariners' Advocacy Group White Paper 02-13-2025** with your friends and family.
- Our Executive Director is headed to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of the Wyoming Congressional Delegation as a guest of the Wyoming VFW as well as the staff for

- Looking for more information or have a question? Drop us a line at **[public-affairs@subadvocates.org](mailto:public-affairs@subadvocates.org)**.

- To ensure that all Submariners are respected, receive all earned benefits and entitlements, and are properly recognized for the sacrifices they and their families have made as members of the greatest Submarine Force in the world.

- To advocate on behalf of all US Navy Submariners by undertaking all efforts to initiate required research and studies to facilitate proper medical care for submarine-connected health conditions and disabilities.
- To lobby the US Congress and state legislatures to pass and enact laws to provide for proper medical care of Submariners.
- To be a resource for Submariners, their families, survivors, and the medical community to obtain proper and adequate information regarding submarine-related atmospheric contaminants, toxic chemicals, radiation hazards, and related health issues.
- To provide appropriate materials and education to all interested Submariners.

**IF YOU ARE RETIRED FROM THE  
MILITARY AND CURRENTLY CARRYING  
THE MILITARY ID CARD READ THIS  
INFORMATION!!**

Legacy cards are those you were issued when you retired. Neither the old Blue retired cards nor the old dependents card will be valid after Dec. 31.

Military retirees are required to update their Uniformed Services Identification (USID) cards to the new Next Generation USID card by December 31, 2025. The paper-based USID cards with indefinite expiration dates will no longer be accepted after this date. The new cards are more secure and durable, incorporating features like plastic cardstock and enhanced security measures. According to the DoD Common Access Card





**ET1(SS) Larry Phillippe G 78/SY2/83**  
**ETC(SS) Retired**

[updated by shipmate]

**RM3(SS) John F. DeAnda G 76-79**

[found by Don Ort and updated by shipmate]

**BINNACLE LIST UPDATES:** If you know of a shipmate who should be on the binnacle list please let me know. I will contact the shipmate for permission to add them to this list. I only add those who have given permission.

I am using the binnacle list as an ongoing story for each person on it. This way you will be able to understand the update better than if you do not remember what their health issues were.

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**Diane Meigs [wife of Ken Meigs ETR2(SS) G Comm 65-70 Plank, SV MAL Base HC, Assoc. Treasurer & Life Member]**

Cards to: 1537 Pebble Beach Ct Medford OR 97504

**11.29.25: Text from Ken:** In early November, Diane had some serious surgery. Many of you have been praying for her as she recovers. I'm happy to let you know that as of Thanksgiving Day she has left the hospital and was able to spend the day with her family in Idaho. As of Friday, 28 Nov, she is safely at home and prepared to complete her recovery.

We really appreciated all of your prayers that have got us to where we are now. Praise the Lord!!! Your continued prayers are appreciated.

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**Sandy Hastie [CAPT B 80 (Oct-Dec) CO-1 patrol]**

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

**9.26.25: Email from Sandy & Donna:**

Dear Family and Friends,

It has been a while since we sent an update on our health. It is not for lack of caring but rather for going through an extended period of waiting for doctor results so we could plan a course of action. The below information provides a status of where we are in a mixture of competing challenges.

Since our July update, the addition of chemo to Sandy's Keytruda immunotherapy was paused to determine whether the chemo or his heart issues were causing his increased dizziness, shortness

of breath, fatigue, and retention of fluid in the lymph system (lymphedema). Either the heart or the chemo or both could be causing these symptoms. The lymph system fluid retention causes significant fluid retention in his legs, making walking difficult. After thorough testing, the lymphedema was determined to be mainly caused by severe stenosis in the aortic heart valve.

Combine this with a fall in our home, resulting in a fractured collarbone that eliminates use of his right arm for his walking cane to offset the limp he received after an operation to remove cancer in his left hip. All these challenges caused the cancellation of our attendance at the 65th reunion at the US Naval Academy. This was the last big class reunion for his class, and he planned for so long to attend. We are still waiting for a decision on how to treat the aorta valve stenosis. A long introduction; now we will close with an update.

Donna's back continues to give her a lot of pain. We presently see no options to get rid of the pain; however, we continue to search.

With Sandy, we are balancing his health items. The first big question is his heart. The calcification has worsened recently and is causing the symptoms of dizziness, shortness of breath, fatigue, and fluid retention, especially in the legs.

His cancer is also a worry because the cancer nodules in his hip and shoulder have started to grow again. He has been on a chemo drug in addition to Keytruda. The chemo was also causing dizziness, shortness of breath, fatigue, and fluid retention. For this reason, his oncologist at Duke and his local oncologist recommended stopping the chemo to see how it affected these adverse effects. After stopping the chemo for three infusions (nine weeks), the dizziness, shortness of breath, fatigue, and fluid retention all lessened; however, the drawback is the hip and shoulder cancer continued to slowly grow. His heart specialist, who would install a replacement artificial valve inside the current aorta valve, is concerned about the cancer, which might make Sandy a non-candidate for this procedure. The procedure is a Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TVAR). We are trying to get him to agree to do the procedure while Sandy is feeling better and before the heart gets any worse. That decision is still up in the air. We will start by having a heart catheterization on October 3, 2025.

However, despite the above, we continue the fight for both of us. We will keep you informed if and when we get scheduled for the heart procedure and in three months when we get another PET CT scan.

We appreciate your prayers and support and wish we had better news. We know we have always been in God's hands. We are thankful we have a God that listens to prayers!

Warmly, Donna & Sandy

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**Bruce Stefanik [MS1(SS) B 73-77, 655 Assoc Life Member, USSVI/Holland Club USS Asheville Base]:**

Cards to: 50 Fairway View Dr., Etowah NC 28729

**11.11.25: Email from Vicki:** Bruce had a good checkup at his ALS Clinic in October with only 2 very slight changes so he doesn't have to go back for another year.

I had an RFA ablation on lumbar nerves last week. It can take 6 weeks or more to fully take effect so I am in the waiting time. I also learned why I had such a difficult time with my knee during the reunion. We really like the new knee surgeon my PC doctor referred me to as he has had extra fellowship training in problem knees. It seems that my left knee has no ACL so I will need a replacement.

*3.17.25: Email from Bruce: I am doing well. I am holding steady with no progression and do not see my ALS doctor again until October after the Reunion.*

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**George Stevens [MT2(SS) G 68-71]**

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

**11.11.25: Email from George:** My heart is doing better since I gave up chocolate but having a lot of pain from arthritis/muscle/joints - everything hurts. Ann is going for a consult for her back - pinched sciatic nerve.

*9.22.25: Email from George: Ann's back is worse and there's nothing the doctors can do. Shots don't work and surgery is not an option in her case. Me - not much more the docs can do for me either. I am increasing my cayenne intake and that seems to help.*

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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: We pray that you and your loved ones are healthy and happy. 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. It just seems like all of the parts are wearing out as time seems to fly by faster and faster. The things I miss the most are hunting, hiking, gardening and just being in the mountains. I must be content with the flowers and a few pots of garden plants on our patio. Bye for now, Very Respectfully. John F. Cole Cdr., U. S. Navy Retired, 100% Disabled 05/12/1964 To 08/01/1994, E1-E9 & O1E-O5 Vietnam through Desert Storm*

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

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

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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**Restart everything:** If your printer's acting weird, turn it off and unplug it for **30 seconds** before powering it back on. **Restart** your **computer**, too. This clears temporary glitches in the printer's memory and often fixes those annoying "processing" loops.

**3-second tech genius:** Stop swiping all your open apps closed. You might think that helps battery life, but it's a myth. Just so you know, most apps are meant to keep running in the background.

**Power reset your smart TV:** If your TV's acting up with black screens or weird glitches, turn it off and unplug it from the wall. Then hold the TV's **power button** (usually on the front, side or back) for **30 to 60 seconds**. This drains any leftover power and forces a reset. Plug it back in, turn it on, and you're good to go.

**Add multiple emails to Outlook:** You can connect Gmail, Yahoo or any other account to Outlook. Go to **Settings** (top right) > **Accounts** > **Your accounts** > **Add account**. Enter your email, tap **Continue** and sign in. Grant access, then select **Open Outlook** when prompted, and your new inbox will appear in the **left panel**.

**Share your location in Google Maps:** Let friends or family see where you are in real time. Open the **Google Maps** app, tap your **profile icon** in the top right, then go to **Location sharing** > **New share**. Choose how long to share (like 2 hours), then pick who to send it to. FYI: You can also select **Share via link** for others.

**Find anything on your computer:** On macOS 26, press **Command + space bar** to open **Spotlight search**, and type what you need. You can narrow results by hovering over the search field and selecting **Apps**, **Files**, **Actions** or **Clipboard**. On **Windows**, press **Windows key + S** to do the same, and filter by Documents, Settings or Folders.

**Kindle maintenance:** If your Kindle feels slow, it might be time to free up space. Go to **Settings** > **Device options** > **Storage management** > **Manual removal**. From there, browse the **Books**, **Docs**, **Audible** or Others folders. Scroll through the lists, pick what you no longer need and tap **Remove**.

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## SEA STORIES, COMMENTS and JUST GOOD THINGS From Our Shipmates

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

### To all my Submarine shipmates:

Thanks to fellow submariner Mister Mac for this GREAT ARTICLE on the **USS HOLLAND (SS-1)** Sea Trials.

This short article shows a movie made in 1904, that shows the "Torpedo Boat" loading a torpedo and going to sea and firing the torpedo at periscope depth, and cruising up and down from periscope depth (PD).

The article also has links to other **HOLLAND and other early submarine/torpedo boat** related articles.

BE SURE TO WATCH IN FULL SCREEN.  
ENJOY!!!

**CLICK HERE TO WATCH**

**The movie is at the end of the article.**

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*Submitted by a Charleston USSVI Shipmate.*

### Thoughts from a submariner (Bruce Tarleton) at the WalMart checkout:

While checking out at Walmart the other day, the young naive behind the counter, noticing my Submarine Veterans hat, thanked me for my service. He opined that he didn't think he could be on a submarine.

And I replied, "Submarines are not for everyone." To which the lady behind me said, "That's the best response I've ever heard. I guess it takes a special kind to serve on submarines."

And I replied, "Yes. It takes a healthy balance of intelligence coupled with insanity. Integrity, with a dose of 'I don't give a shit.'" Then borrowing from Dr. Joyce Brothers I said, "It's not bravery, but an intense insight into our own capabilities, and the knowledge that every man on the boat can and will do his job."

No, submarines are not for everyone. In the old



Navy of just 20 or 30 years ago, we made sure that the man standing watch next to us knew his job and did it well. After testing and trying him, forcing feelings like self-pity and sorrow out of him, he was left with confidence and pride. Pride in his job, his boat, his service, his nation. Confidence in his abilities, and the abilities of every crewman who wore the Dolphins. When the hatch was shut and the boat slipped beneath the surface, Death would smile. But the Submariner, full of pride and confidence, would smile back.

No, young naive, submarines are not for everyone. Submariners are not a cut above the rest, they are cut from an entirely different cloth. There are average sailors, but no average Submariners. You are either qualified, or you're not. -- Bruce Tarleton

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### ***The Lean Submariner***

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

<https://theleansubmariner.com/>

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### **Man and the FBM Movie**

By Mister Mac on October 31, 2025

Unclassified movie clip of the early days of the Polaris Program.

This was certainly used as a recruiting tool to man the ships that would serve in the Cold War.

### **Man and the FBM Movie**

USS George Washington (SSBN-598) was the United States' first operational ballistic missile submarine. It was the lead ship of her class of nuclear ballistic missile submarines, was the third United States Navy ship of the name, in Honor of George Washington (1732–1799), first President of the United States, and the first of that name to be purpose-built as a warship.

### **USS George Washington SSBN 598 - First and Finest (December 30, 1959)**

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### **The Holland Movie**

By Mister Mac on October 30, 2025

I have spent a lot of time harvesting information about the early days of submarining both here and abroad.

Over the past few years, I have tried to take a deeper look at the Holland submarine and its impact on the US Navy. A few of those articles are here:

<https://theleansubmariner.com/2022/03/30/the-men-who-go-down-into-the-waters-in-these-boats-must-take-their-lives-in-their-hands-hollands-invention-in-1898/>

<https://theleansubmariner.com/2020/04/09/the-creation-of-a-disordered-mind-hollands-submarine-boat/>

Recently I signed up for an account with the National Archives, and it has been really amazing to see are footage and articles about everything from American to Russian submarines in operation. Once you learn how to search and navigate the archives, you can find incredible images, documents and films.

But finding a motion picture reel of the Holland from 1904 was absolutely amazing.

[Read full blog here](#)

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### **Veteran's Day 2025 at Del Webb Cane Bay – DWCB Veteran's Club**

By Mister Mac on November 11, 2025

In May of 2025, I was elected to be the President of the Veterans Club here at Del Webb Cane Bay in Summersville South Carolina.

Our club is focused on providing a place where veterans can meet and share stories. We also provide goods and services to the local Veterans Administration outreach programs for homeless and underserved veterans in the Low Country. It's just another way to give back to our brothers and sisters who haven't made it all the way home.

Today we had our annual service, and I was allowed to present a short talk about what Veterans Day means to some of us.

[Read full Blog here](#)

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### **The Greatest Generation**

By Mister Mac on November 23, 2025

Posted on [February 1, 2021](#) by [Mister Mac](#)

LST 808 burns at Ie Shima May 18, 1945 after being hit by a torpedo. She was later beached and was destroyed by a Kamikaze on May 20, 1945. She had collided with APA 62 USS Berrien on May 11, damaging the APA.

I am reminded every once in a while, that even though some ships are designed to fight the enemy directly, there is still a lot of honor and bravery in those ships that the Navy euphemistically classified as "Amphibs" and



“Auxiliaries”. In my 1943 Bluejacket’s Manual, the vessels were not even listed in the ship identification section.

As it turned out, before the war was over, those ships come closer to the hell of battle than many of the larger ships that seemed to have more glory.

One of my hobbies for the past ten years has been to keep a Facebook page called War in the Pacific: 1941-1946

<https://www.facebook.com/WarInThePacific19411946>

A few days ago, I got a request from a reader to see if I had any information about his grandfather’s ship the LST-808. I don’t keep a lot of files on many ships other than the ones I have written about so I suggested that he visit the Naval History and Heritage Command web page. While I was waiting for a Zoom call to start, I went on line myself and found some great information about the ship.

#### A “LARGE SLOW TARGET”

“It was true that the LST – for Landing Ship, Tank – had an ungainly, awkward appearance. LSTs were somewhat smaller than a typical freighter, but they probably appeared fairly large to [Ernie] Pyle because of their boxlike shape. The U.S.- designed and built LST of World War II was 328 feet long and 50 feet at the beam, with a large, open deck area, which could serve as another transportation deck for supplies, weapons and vehicles. The bow was blunt and high, with doors which swung open to permit lowering of a steel ramp. Although the ship was designed for ocean travel as well as beaching, the bow seemed to push a lot of water when an LST was fully loaded and sitting low. Nothing “sleek or fast,” the LST was built for a speed of 10.8 knots. But there were those who said this was an exaggeration.

[Read full Blog here](#)



**The Computer Corner**  
**By: George Birmingham [ET1(SS) G/SY1/G 69-74, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI/Holland Club Carolina Piedmont Base]**

#### Vital Windows Setting Is Disabled by Default

Windows File Explorer is a tool we all use to manage our systems and personal files. When you

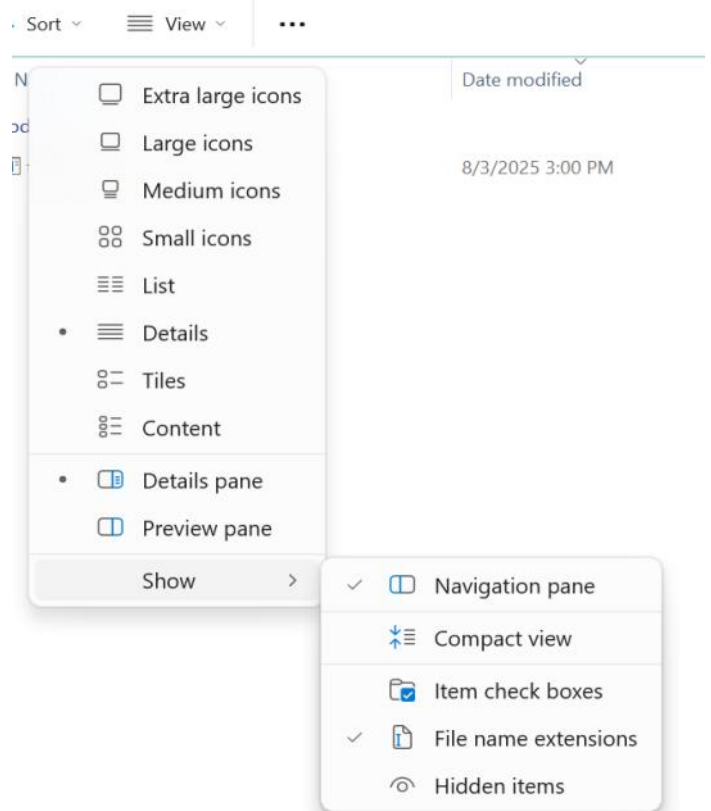
look at files in a directory you typically see something like **<filename>.<type>**, where the **<type>** known as the filename extension can be things like .txt, .docx, .exe, .jpg, and many others. Windows uses the file extension as a way to determine what action to take when you double click on a file.

test file	8/3/2025 3:40 PM	Text Document	0 KB
test file.txt	8/3/2025 3:00 PM	Application	1 KB

The following article, from the MakeUseOf website, discusses how to enable a feature in Windows File Explorer, which is normally disabled by default by Microsoft. It will allow you to see the full extensions applied to a file, which hackers and malware can modify to leverage malicious code to do bad things on your system.

#### **This Vital Windows Setting Is Disabled by Default: Turn It On Now**

So, following the article instructions, I updated the settings in File Explorer to enable full file extension viewing. With the File Explorer running, I clicked on “View” tag in the menu bar, then in the drop-down box I clicked on “Show”, and then clicked on the “File Name Extensions” to enable the function, indicated by the check mark you see below.



To test the option, I created a test file called “test file.txt.exe” in a folder, along with a file called “test file.txt” With the File Name Extension option disabled here is what I see:

Note the I have two files with the exact same name, but one shows as a text document with no extension displayed, with the “.txt” file extension implied, and one shows as an application, but with the “.txt” extension shown! How often do we really look at how a file is identified? We are normally looking at the file name only.

Next, I turned the File Name Extension option on, and here is what I see:

 test file.txt	8/3/2025 3:40 PM	Text Document	0 KB
 test file.txt.exe	8/3/2025 3:00 PM	Application	1 KB

Now we can see the “.exe” additional file extension being displayed, which is why File Explorer identifies it as an application file! Imagine the result if that file contained code to download malware from a website!

At the end of the article linked above, there is an explanation how malicious actors can manipulate file extensions to do bad things.

I know this was a bit technical, but I hope you find it useful. I know I'll be looking at file types more closely myself.

As always, shipmates, comments and suggestions for future topics are welcomed. Contact me at [subvet\\_ssbns@bellsouth.net](mailto:subvet_ssbns@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, USSVI/Holland Club Carolina Piedmont Base]**

### Phishing Is Moving from Email to Mobile – Smishing, Vishing, and Quishing

Greetings Shipmates, and Happy Holidays to you all!

In September 2024 (AI Voice Cloning) and again in March 2025 (Quishing), I provided information on a few of the ways the bad actors

can get access to your personal information. And, if you subscribed to the Scamicide daily newsletters, then you have perhaps a much better feel for the depth and breadth of the methods used to get access to your personal information, and to your money.

Email security has long dominated the security conversation — and rightfully so. It remains a key method for phishing, credential theft, and social engineering. But in 2025, the threat landscape has shifted. Quietly, yet decisively, attackers increasingly are bypassing the inbox and expanding their reach across multiple channels. Recent data from the software development company TechMagic, shows that 41% of phishing incidents now employ multi-channel tactics, including **SMS (smishing)**, **voice calls (vishing)**, and **QR codes (quishing)**. The trend is clear: While email still matters, adversaries are shifting to mobile-first platforms like text, iMessage, WhatsApp, and social direct messages. These attacks are harder to spot, more difficult to control, and more likely to succeed, because they target the most vulnerable point in the chain: the human behind the screen.

**Smishing**, also known as SMS phishing, is a type of phishing delivered via SMS or other mobile messaging applications. Instead of arriving via email, the malicious link often comes as a text — disguised as a trusted contact, delivery service, bank alert, or urgent security warning. Because SMS is native to mobile devices, the messages are not exposed to traditional email security tools — leaving desktop-based defenses blind to these attacks.

**Vishing**, or voice phishing, is a relatively new technique that is surging in popularity due to its effectiveness. It utilizes live or prerecorded phone calls to deceive victims into disclosing credentials or transferring money, often in conjunction with mobile phishing. Attackers spoof caller IDs to appear as trusted entities — such as executives, IT help desks, banks, or government agencies — and target recipients directly on their mobile phones.

**Quishing** is a phishing attack that uses QR codes as bait. Instead of clicking a malicious link in an email, text, or message, the victim is tricked into scanning a QR code with their mobile device. That scan redirects them to a fake website



Veterans across the country in fiscal year 2025.

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### **VA pulls the plug on Biden's \$77M EV-charger earmark**

Nov 19, 2025 11:45 am

VA terminates a Biden-Administration mandate to spend \$77 million on electric vehicle charging stations at VA facilities.

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### **VA extends caregiver support program eligibility for "legacy" Veterans, caregivers**

Nov 20, 2025 10:00 am

VA extends Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers eligibility for certain Veterans and their family caregivers through Sept. 30, 2028.

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### **VA provides Veterans relief from Biden-era backlogged medical bills**

Nov 20, 2025 12:30 pm

VA relieves Veterans of more than \$272 million in potential medical bills that accrued after the Biden Administration stopped certain copayment claims processing and collections in early 2023.

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### **First Columbia-Class Sub 60% Complete, Next Year 'Pivotal,' Says General Dynamics CEO (USNI NEWS 24 OCT 25) ... Sam LaGrone**

Nuclear ballistic missile submarine District of Columbia (SSBN-826) is more than halfway completed, with major modules due to arrive at General Dynamics Electric Boat by the end of the year, company officials said during a third-quarter earnings call on Friday.

The production rate on both the Virginia and Columbia-class submarine lines is improving due to Navy's and industry's focus on enhancing the submarine industrial supply chain, CEO Phebe Novakovic told analysts on the call.

"The first Columbia is about 60 percent complete. By the end of this year, we'll have all the major modules at Groton ready for assembly and test," she said during the Friday morning call. "We're working very hard to move that ship to the left, along with our customer and along with the supply chain."

"We've seen some improvements again [but] this next year will be pivotal," Novakovic added. Last year, Novakovic announced that Electric Boat was slowing construction on 21,000-ton

District of Columbia due to "late deliveries from major component suppliers." Specifically the late delivery of turbines from Northrop Grumman and the bow of the boat from Columbia-class shipbuilding partner Newport News Shipbuilding were major barriers in the sequential assembly of the submarine, USNI News previously reported.

Without mentioning specific components, General Dynamics senior executive Danny Deep said, "we've seen some improvement in the supply chain, and there's other areas where it's still lagging, but those improvements are significant, just [to] give you a sense, and that will have the biggest impact on our ability to drive productivity and schedule and start to grow margins."

Last year, the Navy estimated that District of Columbia would deliver in Fiscal Year 2028 — one year later than initially planned. Once delivered to the Navy, the first-in-class ship is set to go on its first nuclear deterrent patrol in Fiscal Year 2030, relieving Ohio-class ballistic nuclear submarine USS Henry Jackson (SSBN-730) when the boat leaves the fleet.

The call comes as the Navy and the Pentagon are preparing to move new nuclear submarine construction efforts to a direct reporting program under Deputy Secretary of Defense Steve Feinberg, USNI News reported in August. A three-star flag officer, who has yet to be nominated, will lead the new program office.

Navy Secretary John Phelan told USNI News in August that accelerating submarine construction is his top priority.

"I've got to get the submarine issue fixed," Phelan said. "That has got a tremendous amount of focus from us right now, and in particular, getting the schedule shifted left on Columbia and Virginia. We've already begun to implement some things to do that. There was what I'm going to call low-hanging fruit from visiting some of these shipyards. There are a number of things going on right now to help expedite that."

**<https://news.usni.org/2025/10/24/first-columbia-class-sub-60-complete-next-year-pivotal-says-general-dynamics-ceo>**

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**Christening Ceremony Held For Submarine Built By Electric Boat (WRAJ10 26 OCT 25)**



The latest Virginia-class submarine built by General Dynamics Electric Boat was at the center of attention at a ceremony in Groton Saturday morning.

Leaders from Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Utah gave remarks as the USS Utah (SSN-801) was formally christened.

The keel laying ceremony took place in 2021.

According to a release from General Dynamics Electric Boat, the submarine will be the second U.S. Navy warship to carry the name Utah and the first U.S. Navy submarine. The first USS Utah, BB 31, was a Florida-class battleship commissioned in 1911 and later demilitarized and made into a training ship.

Sharon Lee, the wife of Utah Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, and Mary Kaye Huntsman, the wife of former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr., R-Utah, broke the bottle of sparkling cyser, a honey and apple cider wine from Utah, on the submarine.

Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., and Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., were among the speakers at the ceremony, with remarks made by other political figures and Electric Boat leaders.

<https://turnto10.com/news/local/christening-held-for-naval-submarine-built-by-electric-boat-general-dynamics-electric-boat-utah-rhode-island-connecticut-october-25-2025>



## US Navy - Famous Admiral is Recalled to Active Duty

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY -

The Department of the Navy issued orders today to ADM S. Clause, recalling him to active duty, with a report date of 24 Dec 2024. A reservist, with 1,742 years of service, this Naval Aviator specializes in vertical delivery of high-value items. He is flight deck and carrier qualified. He is also a Public Affairs Specialist.

Also recalled were LCDR Dasher, Master Chief Dancer, Senior Chief Prancer, LT Vixen, CDR Comet, Chaplain (LCDR) Cupid, PO1 Donner, and PO1 Blitzen. An individual Augmentee from the Naval Reserve, Ensign Rudolph is also authorized to report for duty; however, he must first successfully complete his Carrier Qual training, which he has failed three times.

Although the above troops are on orders for only 24 hours, it is anticipated that they will submit a travel claim for 24,901 miles at \$0.56/mile, using a POV. Suitable Government transportation is not available.

As a special operations unit, each member is granted a high level of uniform flexibility as well as relaxed grooming standards. Per diem has been modified to include large quantities of hot cocoa, milk, and cookies.

**Go Navy! ...and Mega Merry Christmas!**

P.S. - Let's ALL remember the men and women of our Armed Forces, as they serve in faraway lands during this Christmas Season, and say a prayer that all will be safe awaiting their return home.

A once in a lifetime event for Dick Young. Since the government shutdown would not allow military personnel do anything in uniform outside of their regular duties, my VFW was asked to present the colors at the Bengals/Bears game on November 2nd. Attached are some pictures, one is of me on the Stadium big screen. We were treated like royalty. The Bengals ran the opening kickoff back for a touchdown about 10 feet from where we were standing at the goal line.

