

never forget
09-11-01

the NEW
STIMSON
DRAFT!



VOL. 2026 #9

SEPTEMBER 2026

USS HENRY L. STIMSON ASSOCIATION SSBN655 NEWSLETTER

Association Officers & Board of Directors 2025 - 2027

PRESIDENT <u>Jerry [CJ] Blevins</u>	VICE PRESIDENT <u>Paul Clark</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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9/11

Something really important to think about in your life – Not just THIS Day but – EVERYDAY.

On this day, in 2001 246 people went to sleep in preparation for their morning flights. 2606 people went to sleep in preparation for work in the morning. 343 firefighters went to sleep in preparation for their morning shift. 60 police officers went to sleep in preparation for their morning patrol. 8 paramedics went to sleep in preparation for their morning shift of saving lives. None of them saw past 10 a.m. September 11, 2001. None. Life is random - In one single moment, life may never be the same.

Tonight, as you go to sleep in preparation for your life tomorrow, kiss the ones you love, hug your spouse and family. Snuggle a little tighter, and never take one second of your life for granted. Never.

REUNION CONTROL CENTER

2027 Stimson Reunion #14

HOTEL: Hilton Garden Inn

Indianapolis South/Greenwood

DATE: Oct 6-10, 2027

LOCATION: Indianapolis IN

Reunion Committee:

Gary & Mary Owen and Doug Cooper

The hotel is undergoing a complete renovation this coming winter. They have obtained a bank of 55 reserved rooms for \$140/night with breakfast included. RV paring is permitted in the hotel parking lot.



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

CJ and I wish all our shipmates good wishes and good health as we reach the 60th commissioning anniversary of the Stimson. We will be away most of August experiencing a river cruise on some of the anemic Rhine River. At least the cruise line has promised to handle all of the luggage during any required

As a gift to our Association I've sent Nick a scanned copy of the Commissioning Program and asked him to place it in the newsletter. It will be in the back and I hope you read it.



Summer has come and gone. Fall is on the way. However, God's love is always with us.

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



Some of you may remember many irreplaceable items were stolen from our storage locker back in Nov 2020. Pictures may be of items we no longer have.



Many of you still haven't asked for a copy of your check-in card. If you were on the Gold Crew during the time when Bob Weeks was the CO you had to complete a check-in card for him. If you're interested in receiving your card please mail the secretary 655webmaster@ssbn655.org.



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

On August 18, 2026, the x-MTS 626 (Daniel Webster) was towed down the Cooper River and departed Charleston on it's last voyage. This was the last hull for a special class of submarines - the FBM and everyone who reads this newsletter served onboard one of them. 41 submarines that were built and sent to sea in the hopes that they would never be needed in time of war. As history proves, building these great boats was one of the best investments this country has made. Each and every one of the 41 For Freedom boats were sent to be dismantled while being able to say they did the job they were specifically made to do.

At the end of the newsletter you will find several pictures of the x-MTS-626 as it set out on it's final patrol.

Email Received: I recently received an email from Maggie Johnson. Her husband, Sam Johnson [CDR B Decom CO 91-93] was the last CO of the Henry L. Stimson and took it through Decom. He was the guest speaker for Reunion 12 in 2023 held in Charleston. As he said at the reunion, he gave the order to turn out the lights. Maggie's email:

"I have just been going over Sam's emails and noticed someone had submitted Sam's passing. The date of death was June 9, 2026.

The reunion in Charleston was his last outing. He continued a slow decline in health through the years. He was hospitalized many times, spent time in nursing homes, and had care at home.

We were so fortunate to meet you all at the reunion. Your gift of chimes keeps on

USS S-5 (SS 110)	Sep 1, 1920 – Practice Dive	No loss of life
USS GRAYLING (SS 209)	Sep 9, 1943 – 8 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 76 souls
USS S-51 (SS 162)	Sep 25, 1925 – Collision off Block Island	Lost with 33 souls; 3 survivors
USS CISCO (SS 290)	Sep 28, 1943 – 1 st War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 76 souls
USS POMPANO (SS 181)	September, 1943 – 7 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands - 77 souls
Five Boats and 262 Men Lost		

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The direct link to the Association Eternal Patrol page is: <http://ssbn655.org/eternal-patrol/eternal-patrol.html>



WELCOME ABOARD: Found & Updated
(Shipmate has been added or information has been updated on our Sailing List. Please check the online Sailing List for shipmates contact info.)

NOTE: Don Ort [MM1(SS) G/SY1/G 69-74, CWO4 Ret], continues to locate our Stimson shipmates

ET2(SS) Andrew H. Jordan G 74-80
[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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Tom Bradish [MM1(SS) B 74-77, Assoc. LM]

Cards to: 42715 N. 45th Dr. Phoenix AZ 85087

8.18.26: Email from Judy: Tom had open heart surgery. Tom is out of surgery. Went really well. Can golf in 3 Mos.

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Ken Farrell [MMCM(SS) G 89-91 COB]

Cards to: 1147 Wildgame Rd., Summerville SC 29483-7037

8.12.26: Text from Ken: Completed the first radiation treatment on the 11th and the second one on the 12th. That was the 2nd and final radiation for this year. All is good!! [843-709-8583]

8.6.2025: Text from Ken: No treatment today. They made a mask that I will wear during treatments. 2 radiation treatments starting on the 18th.

8.6.2026: Text from Ken: I have been diagnosed with cancer on the vertebrae. I've had a MRI and PET scan and the plans are to treat with radiation only. This is a slow growing cancer and the doctor

told me that I will probably die with it but would not die because the cancer.

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Bruce / Vickie 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

9.23.26: Email from Vicki: My surgery is set for September 17th and will include at least one overnight in the hospital. I have to go to Prisma Health Hillcrest Hospital in Simpsonville for this. Dr. Rapp said he will do it laparoscopically.
7.12.26: Email from Vicki: I hope to find out when my surgery will be when I go back to see the surgeon on the 29th. He is taking the time to get copies of my tests and a previous surgery. Currently we are in Atlanta with our daughter. Her husband is being transitioned into hospice from cancer.

6.18.26: Email from Vicki: I received a call yesterday from the surgeon in Greenville that the surgeon here referred me to. What he sent must have stressed how much I need what they can't do locally. They rearranged a few other patients to get me in for the appointment next Wednesday. They found when doing my knee pre-op that my large hiatal hernia had allowed my stomach to move up into my lungs. A follow up barium swallow test by my gastroenterologist confirmed that this was impeding my ability to eat so they sent me to the surgeon here. I will definitely be having surgery, just have to find out when.

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Timothy Breit [ETN3(SS) G 75-77]

Cards to: 500 NW Island Lake Rd Poulsbo WA 98370

NO RECENT UPDATES

5.25.26: Email from Tim: I have been diagnosed with non alcohol related cirrhosis of the liver. also suffered a dislocated shoulder. This required reverse joint replacement.

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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

5.7.26: Email from John: I am now home again after multiple hospital in (109) and out (21) of the last 130 days. A December 2, 2025 stroke (my second) started it off. Only the left side was affected as I received the clot busting shot right

away so only minor residual affects.

Next.... I damaged my left Achilles tendon so was non-weight bearing for most of January through the middle of April. During this time, on February 23, 2026 I had a third stroke which was centered in the portion of the brain that controls my vision leaving me totally blind.

Thank The LORD!!! It has improved to the point that I have a limited kind of short-ranger tunnel vision on most days while other days I am left with shapes and shadows. Doctors say the eyes are fine, it is the Parkinson's and Stroke affecting the brain. However, it now seems that the biggest concern is the COPD and heart failure that is leaving me short of breath.

'If It's Not One Thing Its Another', Getting Older Is Not for the Faint at Heart That's for Sure!
We pray that all are doing much better and can get off the Binnacle List soon. V/R, John & Susan Cole

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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Bob 'Doc' Dougherty [MM1(SS) G/SY1/G 70-74]

Cards to: 2600 Eberly Street, Hatboro, PA 19040

NO RECENT UPDATES

4.17.26: Email from Elaine: Doc was admitted for the 3rd time this year on March 25 and discharged on April 7. He is on 24/7 oxygen. He continues to struggle with breathing whenever exerting any type of energy. Just going 2 or 3 feet is a struggle even with having oxygen. He is scheduled for an Ablation on May 21. This is usually an outpatient and also considered a low-risk operation.

However, with Doc's weakened condition this will be high risk and also involve at least an overnight stay in the hospital with the chance he might be in for 3-5 days. Hopefully this will help with his breathing problem although the doctor only gives it a 60% chance of helping. All prayers are greatly appreciated.

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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

NO RECENT UPDATES

6.25.26: Email from Ken: Diane's cancer has grown a little bit from the beginning of the year to the end of May and was now found in her liver and in 1 kidney but a separate MRI brain scan did not show it being there. That it is in her kidneys and liver is the first time that it has gone beyond her lung. Her oncologist is on vacation but on July 1st, we will be meeting to determine what her treatment plan will be.

2.7.26: Email from Ken: Diane has had some post chemo (treatment #1) complications that we're working through with the help of friends from church who have gone through similar treatments.

1.30.26: Text from Ken: They found more cancer in Diane. She started her 1st of 4 chemo treatments on 30 Jan hopefully will remove the cancer that was uncovered in a PET scan a couple of weeks ago. There will be a 3-week interval between each of the treatments.

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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

12.29.25: Email from Sandy & Donna:

Dear Family and Friends,

We thank everyone who has faithfully prayed for both of us. 2025 has been a year of challenges; however, we also continue to find joy and gratitude each day and thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed on us. Here are our current statuses.

Donna continues to have severe chronic back and leg nerve pain. No doctors we have seen are able to offer a reliable solution, which is depressing but, as we understand it, is not an unusual occurrence. She saw the doctor that did her EMG and he thought a spinal epidural in the "hot spot" that showed on her EMG could provide some relief. He believes this spot is causing some, if not the majority of her pain. The injection is scheduled for early February, first available appointment. She is on the wait list in case an earlier appointment comes available. As often is the case, doctors are often booked up four to eight weeks ahead and that is the case here. The other option is a spinal stimulator, which has limited effectiveness and is not strongly recommended because of the metal rods in her

back. However, that remains a possibility down the road.

Sandy has had some positive news. Specifically, for his heart, he was approved for a procedure to replace his aortic heart valve. This was done a month ago and has helped with his fatigue, dizziness, and lymphedema swelling in his legs. On Wednesday this week, we saw the doctor who did the procedure and he said Sandy's heart was working well – a very positive outcome! His fractured right collar bone from a fall a month and a half ago is healing well and he has almost 100% use of his right shoulder and arm – another positive outcome as this is the arm he uses his cane to help him walk. He had a PET/CT scan on 30 November and, although he will never be cancer free, the scan showed the Keytruda was controlling the cancer well except for two spots in his right hip that were growing slowly. He may have to go back on chemo at some time; however, for now, that is not necessary – another positive outcome.

So, for now, Sandy will try to exercise more to maintain good health and we will continue to look for a solution or solutions to help Donna's challenges.

With love and thanks, Donna and Sandy

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

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

No Recent Updates

1.23.26: Email from George: Ann is doing better but still in pain - so no real change there. Me, I tried boron and it didn't help my arthritis but then I realized I was already taking it with my multivitamin. I did find that turmeric seems to help. My heart has been up and down. Was doing better after giving up chocolate but then started back with aFib again. Realized that I ran out of cayenne about the same time. Have started taking it again and my heart is doing better again.

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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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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Lifesaver setting: Your iPhone may be annoying, expensive and weirdly exposing about screen time, but it might save your life. A woman missed a sharp bend, rolled 330 feet down a mountain, and her car caught fire. She was trapped and badly hurt. Her iPhone Crash Detection called emergency crews, sent GPS, and rescuers arrived about 20 minutes later. iPhone 14 or newer? Make sure it's on: Settings > Emergency SOS > Call After Serious Crash. It's free, already on your phone and seriously useful.

+++++

3-second tech genius: Need text from a photo on your phone? On iPhone, open the photo, touch and hold any word, and the text becomes selectable. Copy, paste, done. On Android, open the picture in Photos, tap the T icon at the bottom right, and drag over the words you want. Brilliant.

+++++

3-second tech genius: Your camera speaks every language. Open **Google Translate**, tap the camera icon, point it at any foreign text and watch it translate in real time on your screen. Menu at a restaurant, a product label, a sign on a trip. No typing. No searching. Just point. Works on iPhone and Android, free.

GREAT LINKS TO SPEND TIME WITH

655 Association Website

www.ssbn655.org

SEA STORIES, COMMENTS and JUST GOOD THINGS From Our Shipmates

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Submitted by Don Ort [MM1(SS) [CWO4 Ret] G/SY1/B 69-74; HC SV Charleston Base]

Don & Donna Ort were recently visiting family in Rhode Island. They stopped to take this pic of the Oldest Wooden Bridge in RI. Note the new SC license plate for SUBVETS.



theleansubmariner

The Lean Submariner

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

<https://theleansubmariner.com/>

A Classic Tale of Submarining

By **Mister Mac** on August 7, 2026

How to hunt a submarine – To Catch a Thief, Send a Thief

To catch a thief, send a thief Every once in a while, I think about submarine related questions. One of those questions is what is the greatest danger to submarines? I think the question could have ma...

Continue reading

The End of an Era – The Last Boat

By **Mister Mac** on August 12, 2026

41 For Freedom – SSBN Memories 41 Years Later

Updated August 12, 2026 Update It's funny how

an old picture can bring back so many memories. Whether a boomer sailor sailed out of Scotland, Guam, Rota or Charleston many of the events they experience...

...The USS Daniel Webster was retrofitted to serve as a Moored Training Ship in the Charleston Nuclear Power Training Unit. She is about to be transferred to an inactivation facility where she will be completely inactivated for the very last time. When she is gone, she will be the last of her generation. AN announcement will be coming soon about how we will commemorate her service and the passing of a generation into history.

Continue reading

The Dawning of the Polaris Age

By **Mister Mac** on August 15, 2026

The Dawn of the Polaris Age – Pittsburgh and Bettis in 1960

The Dawn of the Polaris Age "Those of us here today may not live to write this history, but we must be determined to shape it." Every once in a while, you find yourself in a historic spot and feel a...

Continue reading

Staying on station is crucial

By **Mister Mac** on August 15, 2026

How do you stop a submarine? Sometimes the greatest threat is just down the hall from your office.

Sometimes the greatest threat is just down the hall from your office. I have to admit that I am Navy through and through. My DNA has a lot of US Navy intermingled with my Scots-Irish-English-Welsh bac...

Continue reading

The Story of the Submarine Base at Pearl Harbor

By **Mister Mac** on August 17, 2026

In the Waters of Pearl – Building the Pearl Harbor Submarine Base 1918-1945

I spent a number of years in my youth living and sailing out of Pearl Harbor. The last time we were there was in 2003 and the changes even then were astonishing. Many of the old buildings were still...

Continue reading

A Pocket Guide to Hawaii (1940's version)

By **Mister Mac** on August 22, 2026

An Outsider in Paradise – A Pocket Guide to Hawaii (1940's)

This information comes from the Navy Heritage Center. During the Second World War, Hawaii was the crossroads for the Pacific. Men, material, ships and planes on their way to the battles in the South Pacific and eventually Japan travelled through Hawaii in many cases. Not much changed over the many decades following the war since Korea and Vietnam were also located far from the shores of the mainland. Hawaii remains a vital part of America's defense even today.

When I arrived in 1973, I really wish I had a book like this. As I read through the manual, my mind travelled back to those early days of being an outsider in paradise. Now that I am older and have been exposed to so many cultures around the world, I have a better understanding for the people of Hawaii.

Continue reading

Nuclear Power at Sea

By **Mister Mac** on August 26, 2026

Northern lights (or the glow from a reactor meltdown)

Having a nuclear reactor on board a ship is not a new idea. Having a pair of Russian nuclear reactors on a barge in the Arctic Region is kind of novel however. I have been watching with interest the p...

Continue reading



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

Master your clipboard content

Welcome back, Shipmates! This month we will take a look at a little-known feature of Windows 11 called Clipboard History viewing.

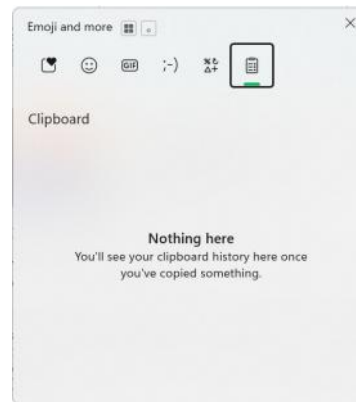
In our daily use of Windows, we likely copy text and images from applications and webpages, to save in our favorite Notes app, or to send to friends and family in e-mails. But what happens to all those items saved to the clipboard? Or

perhaps, you would like to find that item you copied from a webpage, but can't remember where it came from. Now there is a way.

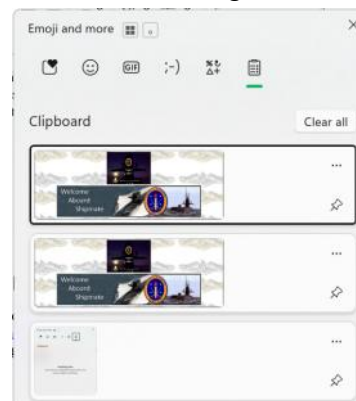
The first step is to enable Clipboard History in the System Settings. You can do it for one PC, or across all of your Windows PC's. Here's the link that describes the actions you need to take to do this:

How to use clipboard history in Windows 11

Once you have enabled Clipboard History, then by pressing the **Windows + V** key sequence, you can see your clipboard history. The left image below shows a clean clipboard when you use the key sequence:



As an example, if I go to our Stimson website and select just the landing page top graphics using the Windows Snipping tool, and then use the key sequence above to display my clipboard, the box to the right shows my clipboard history:



Now, notice the push-pin symbol in the bottom-right corner of each item in the history. Click on that symbol and even if you later click on the "Clear all" button to clean out the clipboard, the pinned items will remain.

And now you are the Master of your clipboard domain and all it contains...

As always, shipmates, comments and suggestions for future topics are welcomed.

Contact me at subvet_ssb@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]

Daily SCAM newsletters from Scamicide.com

Greetings Shipmates! As you know from the Security Corner articles, the goal is to share information with you about the ever-changing scam environment. While it moved slowly in the early days, AI has enabled scammers to create more realistic looking scams delivered via messaging systems, phone calls and e-mails. Where in the past there were tips in the use of poor grammar and odd language that a message was a scam, AI has made significant progress in hiding the prior red flags we depended on.

So how do we keep up with the latest scams to make sure we don't become a victim? There is an excellent newsletter you can subscribe to that sends you a daily "Scam of the Day" e-mail message to keep you informed. You have two ways to get this information. You can visit the website at www.scamicide.com and look at the scam information it offers at the website directly. Another option is to subscribe to the newsletter and have it delivered to your e-mail address daily.

The website is hosted by Steve Weisman. So, who is Steve Weisman? From the website: "Steve is a nationally recognized expert in scams, identity theft and cybersecurity as well as a lawyer, college professor and prolific author. In his informative speeches, articles and books, Steve makes difficult subjects such as cybersecurity, scams and identity theft not only understandable, but enjoyable with the humor he brings to these complex issues. Steve Weisman is a lawyer, admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court He is a college professor at Bentley University where he teaches "White Collar Crime.""

The newsletter is very informative, and keeps up with the current scam activities in play. I highly recommend you visit the site, look at the materials

that are there, and then sign up for the newsletter at the bottom of the webpage. It is a personal decision, but it is absolutely worth the effort. I receive a copy every day.

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

U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



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
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.

200,000 Veterans Have Enrolled in VA Healthcare in 2026-A New Record

As reported July 30 by Brandon Wile for *Military Times*, more than 200,000 veterans had enrolled in VA healthcare in 2026 as of early July, the fastest pace of new enrollment the system has ever recorded. The milestone extends a trend that began accelerating in 2023 following the *PACT Act's* passage, which opened VA healthcare eligibility to millions of veterans with toxic exposure histories who had previously been excluded from the system. The 200,000 figure represents new enrollees only, veterans who had not previously been enrolled in VA healthcare and had signed up for the first time in 2026. It does not include veterans who were already in the system. The cumulative pace of new enrollment since the *PACT Act* took effect now exceeds 739,000 veterans, a 33 percent increase over the two-year period that preceded the legislation.

[Read More..](#)

New VA Policy Can Pay Up to 10 Months of

Rent for Homeless Veterans

As reported July 31 by Ryan Thoma LaBee for Military.com, the VA can now cover up to 10 months of rent, pay utility bills, buy groceries, and arrange transportation for eligible homeless veterans under a new policy that took effect July 29. The authority allows VA medical centers to purchase goods or pay service providers when staff determines the help is necessary to keep a veteran safe, prevent the loss of housing, or connect the veteran with care, employment, and permanent housing. Assistance can include restaurant meals, groceries, hotel stays, moving expenses, clothing, tents, ride-share trips, and smartphones with service plans. The policy remains in effect through Sept. 30, 2027.

Veterans will not receive unrestricted cash payments. VA will generally pay landlords, utility companies, stores, transportation providers, or other vendors directly, and each request will be reviewed by VA staff. The implementation plan carries out Section 403 of the *Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Improvement Act*, which became law in January 2025.

Read More..

View your lab results as soon as they're ready

Now you can view lab results and manage VA benefit overpayment debts directly in the VA Health and Benefits app. Download the app to easily and quickly manage your health care and benefits from your phone.

Learn more

5 exercises to try if you're over 50

You don't have to slow down as you get older. We have 5 ways you can add activity to your day, and in a way that works for you.

Try these exercises

Treat your pain at VA

Chronic pain is more common in Veterans than in the general population. Learn about 3 treatment options VA offers to help relieve your pain.

Read about pain treatment at VA

Acupressure self-care for sleep

Stress, travel, or changes in your routine can throw off your sleep schedule. The good news is

that healthy sleep habits can help you get back on track.

Try this sleep routine

Are you due for a vaccine?

Vaccines (immunizations) are one of the best ways to reduce your risk of serious illness. What vaccines you need depends on your age and health history.

Find your recommended vaccines

Hearing aids and supplies made easy Supplies and adjustments at no cost

Did you know VA provides comprehensive hearing health care with in-person and virtual options? You can even order things like batteries and cleaning supplies through VA at no cost.

Untreated hearing loss can have serious impacts on your health. Find out how you can get started with hearing health care at VA.

Learn more

Protect against heat stroke

Extreme heat can be dangerous for anyone. But it can be especially dangerous for those with chronic medical conditions.

Learn what you can do and how VA can help

Support for caregivers

Caring for a Veteran? Let VA care for you. VA's caregiver program offers training, respite care, counseling, and financial support.

Learn about the VA Caregiver Support Program

Break the cycle: Alcohol and PTSD

It's common to think that a drink can help relieve stress and anxiety. But alcohol abuse can increase symptoms of PTSD.

Have you ever wondered how much alcohol is too much? Too much alcohol can take a serious toll on your health. If you're considering drinking less, VA can help along the way.

Learn More

Care Notices Go Out to 3.8M Veterans

As reported August 12 by Katherine Plummer for *Military Times*, the VA has issued a warning about scam postcards targeting veterans across the United States. The VA wrote in a memo that

they were aware that scammers had sent postcards to veterans claiming they are entitled to VA benefits or extra payments over the last year, but that these postcards were fraudulent and not affiliated with the VA. It heeds previous caution expressed towards scams targeting veterans. Scammers on these postcards are urging veterans to contact them urgently. Once accomplished, they reportedly praise their military service to gain trust before attempting to obtain personal information including bank account details or other sensitive information. The VA advises veterans not to hand over any personal information to those they don't completely trust, notably as millions of veterans will soon receive something through the mail. Between August 13 to September 11, the VA will mail official "Choose VA" postcards to around 3.8 million veterans who are not enrolled in VA healthcare. The agency said that this was legitimate and designed to help veterans learn about their healthcare eligibility. Unlike other postcards, it is not linked to scammers.

[Read More...](#)

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Note to Doctor: I am a Veteran PSA

Learn a bit about VVA's "Note to Doctor: I am a Veteran" program, and why you should inform all your medical care professionals about your military service and how that service could be affecting your health today.

[Watch Here...](#)

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"CHOOSE VA" POSTCARDS

Beginning August 13 through September 11, VA will mail official "Choose VA" postcards to approximately 3.8 million Veterans who are not enrolled in VA healthcare.

If you receive one, don't throw it away. It is a legitimate VA communication designed to help Veterans learn about their healthcare eligibility and how to enroll.

[Learn more](#)

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VA RATED AT 0%, NOW WHAT?

Think a 0% VA disability rating means you get nothing? You could be overlooking valuable benefits and an important advantage if your condition gets worse. Watch the SITREP to learn why your 0% rating may be worth more than you

realize.

[Watch now](#)

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VA Makes It Easier for Veterans Affected by the 1973 Records Fire to Refile Claims

Veterans whose military records were destroyed or damaged in the devastating 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center may have an easier time pursuing VA benefits under a newly streamlined claims process. VA says veterans will face fewer duplicate paperwork requests, while claims processors will have better access to information already submitted. Veterans who were previously denied benefits because their records could not be located are being encouraged to file or reopen a claim.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is urging veterans who were denied benefits because their military records were burned in a 1973 fire to file again, saying it has streamlined the claims process for those affected.

Aimed at veterans [whose records were destroyed](#) in the fire at the National Personnel Records Center near St. Louis, the change means those previously turned down because their paperwork could not be found should not assume they are ineligible, the VA said. They can file a new claim or reopen an existing one.

According to the department, the [VA recently began using](#) the new process. VA Deputy Secretary Paul Lawrence and Margarita Devlin, the principal deputy undersecretary for benefits, described the changes as an effort to ease a burden that has fallen on veterans through no fault of their own.

[Read More...](#)

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With Federal EHR, No More 'Last-Four' Check-in at VA Medical Centers

On August 19 the VA announced that for veterans checking in at a VA medical facility, they now only need a quick scan of their Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) to check in. This update applies across all sites using the Federal HER. Scanning a VHIC speeds up check-in, and it also reduces the risk of initially retrieving the wrong patient record, creating a faster, safer, and more reliable start for each visit. Furthermore, eliminating the routine use of the last four digits of the SSN strengthens privacy by reducing

exposure of personally identifiable information.

This update ensures facilities align with VA's long-standing SSN reduction efforts, guided by Office of Management and Budget Memorandum 07-16.

[Read More...](#)

Scam of the day – August 3, 2026 – FTC Warns Veterans About VA Scams

By **Steven Weisman, Esq.** on August 2, 2026

Veterans are frequently targeted by scammers posing as VA employees offering help for a fee in obtaining VA benefits, securing 100% disability rating and expediting claims, all of which are scams. There is no charge to apply for VA benefits, and the scammers cannot provide the services they claim. A recent study by the VA found that scammers contacted 39% of all veterans and more than 25% were scammed out of more than \$500. Using a technique called "spoofing" scammers can manipulate the Caller ID of their targeted victims to appear as if their call is actually coming from the VA.

TIPS

Veterans should recognize that they are a frequent target of scammers and also should remember that there is no fee for applying for benefits. Whenever you get a call, email or text message, you can never be sure who is actually contacting you, but particularly if the caller represents that he or she is a VA representative and asks for a fee for providing services it is a scam.

Fortunately, the VA has set up a very helpful website [VSAFE.gov](https://www.vsa.gov) which contains much helpful information for veterans applying for benefits. In addition, the VA has a special hotline 1-833-38V-SAFE which veterans can call if they have any questions about possible scams.

If you are not a subscriber to Scamicide.com and would like to receive daily emails with the Scam of the day, all you need to do is sign up for free using this link.

<https://scamicide.com/scam-of-the-day/>

Prized Ohio Class Guided Missile Submarine USS Georgia Heading Into Retirement
The Navy's Ohio guided missile submarines are heavily in demand, but all are set to be gone from active service within the next three years.

(*THE WAR ZONE 28 JULY 26*) ... Howard Altman and Joseph Trevithick

After more than 42 years of service as one of America's most potent power-projection platforms, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Georgia has returned home from operations for the final time ahead of its retirement. The boat is one of four Ohio class nuclear-powered guided missile submarines, or SSGNs. The SSGNs are some of the most capable and in-demand submarines in the U.S. Navy's inventory today, but all are set to leave service before the end of the decade.

The USS Georgia returned to its homeport of Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia, on Monday. The boat is scheduled to be officially inactivated on July 31, the first step on a long road through retirement that is set to end with it being recycled.

Georgia was first commissioned as an Ohio class nuclear ballistic missile submarine, or SSBN, in 1984. It was the last of the four Ohio class boats to be converted into a conventionally armed SSGN, returning to the fleet in its new form in 2008. However, it was used as the main testbed for proving out the concept initially, as you can read about in much more detail in this past TWZ feature.

The Ohio class SSGNs are most widely known for their ability to carry up to 154 Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles. However, they typically only carry around 100 of these weapons – a still impressive amount – and are actually highly capable multi-mission platforms. These boats can be fitted with up to two dry deck shelters, for deploying special operators underwater, including in mini-submarines, as well as uncrewed platforms. They are also equipped to act as discreet underwater intelligence fusion nodes and command centers.

This unique mix of capabilities has led the four converted Ohios to become among the most heavily tasked submarines in the Navy. The public presence of one of these SSGNs, as well as their SSBN cousins, in any region of the world sends powerful signals to opponents, as well as allies and partners. Over the years, they have made somewhat regular appearances during spikes in geopolitical friction globally.

USS Georgia, specifically, has been used for this purpose on several occasions in the past,

especially in the Middle East. In late 2020 and early 2021, Georgia made rare publicized trips on the surface through the Strait of Hormuz during periods of particular tension with Iran. In May 2021, Iranian boats harassed the submarine and its escorts during one of these transits, prompting a U.S. Coast Guard patrol boat to fire warning shots.

The USS Georgia is also very likely to have been the submarine that fired more than two dozen Tomahawks at the Iranian nuclear facility at Isfahan as part of Operation Midnight Hammer in 2025. Whether or not it took part in subsequent strikes on Iran as part of Operation Epic Fury this year is unclear.

Despite what the Ohio class SSGNs continue to bring to the table, the Navy currently plans to inactivate all of them over the next three years. The plan had previously been to have all of these boats out of active service by 2028. This timeline has now been just slightly extended, with the USS Ohio, USS Florida, and USS Michigan set to follow Georgia into retirement in Fiscal Years 2027, 2028, and 2029, respectively. USS Ohio is also notably the lead boat in the class and, by extension, the oldest, having entered service in 1981.

As it stands now, there is no direct replacement for the Ohio SSGNs in the Navy's shipbuilding pipeline. The service does have a number of Virginia class attack submarines capable of supporting special operations missions in service now and is planning to acquire enlarged Block V subvariants. Each Block V will feature what is known as the Virginia Payload Module (VPM), which gives the boat four additional larger vertical launch tubes, and will really make it more of an SSGN. Between the VPM and the existing launch tubes carried over from the Block IV design, these submarines will be able to carry up to 40 Tomahawk missiles at a time. The VPM tubes will also be able to accommodate the forthcoming Intermediate-Range Conventional Prompt Strike (IRCPS) hypersonic missile. However, no version of the Virginia class is expected to provide the same level of capability, at least in some regards, as is found on the Ohio SSGNs, based on what is publicly known. The first Block V Virginia class submarine with the VPM is not expected to enter service until 2028.

The Navy is also in the process of replacing its Ohio SSBNs with new Columbia class types. There has been talk in the past of acquiring new "Large Payload Submarines," possibly based on the Columbia design, as a more direct replacement for the Ohio SSGNs. However, the Columbia class program has suffered delays and cost growth, and the priority remains on getting the new SSBNs into service. It is critical for those boats to be delivered on a tight schedule to ensure there is no gap in the ability of the maritime leg of America's nuclear triad to meet operational requirements.

In the meantime, the USS Georgia is already heading toward retirement and, unless the Navy changes course, the last of these highly capable submarines will be out of active service by 2029.

<https://www.twz.com/sea/prized-ohio-class-guided-missile-submarine-uss-georgia-heading-into-retirement>

US Navy Is Reclassifying 19 Virginia-Class Submarines To Reflect Increased Attack Capabilities

(NAVY TIMES 03 AUG 26) ... Riley Ceder

The U.S. Navy announced on Monday that it is reclassifying planned nuclear-powered Virginia-class submarines to differentiate them from past generations with a less lethal munitions package.

The service changed the designation for 19 boats equipped with the Virginia Payload Module from "fast-attack submarines" to "guided missile submarines."

"Reclassifying Virginia Payload Module-equipped submarines as SSGNs accurately reflects the extraordinary strike capacity, operational flexibility, and global reach these platforms bring to the fleet," said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Daryl Caudle. "These submarines will provide our nation with a powerful and persistent deterrent, expand options for our combatant commanders, and ensure the Navy remains ready to fight and win whenever and wherever called upon."

The Virginia Payload Module will install four diameter payload tubes onboard each Virginia-class submarine, each of which can carry seven Tomahawk cruise missiles, totaling an extra 28 missiles for each submarine.

The first submarine to receive the added

capabilities of the VPM is the second Block V Virginia-class submarine, USS Arizona, which is scheduled for delivery in fiscal year 2029.

The reclassification will apply to planned Block V and Block VI submarines, which are scheduled to be delivered through 2038.

The new categorization comes after the Navy announced on Wednesday that it is awarding \$42.1 billion to General Dynamics Electric Boat and Huntington Ingalls Industries-Newport News Shipbuilding to build nine Virginia-class Block VI submarines.

In addition to these, 10 Block V Virginia-class submarines will incorporate the new VPM, according to the Navy.

There are currently 26 active Virginia-class submarines and 23 more Virginia-class submarines in total planned for construction.

The Navy separates the Virginia-class into blocks that delineate an upgrade in technology, munitions capabilities and design.

"The submarine force is defined by our ability to operate undetected and strike without warning," said Vice Adm. Rick Seif, Commander, Submarine Forces. "By integrating high-volume precision strike capabilities into these stealth platforms, these SSGNs serve as the ultimate enabler for Distributed Maritime Operations, giving our warfighters the overwhelming, flexible firepower required to win decisively in any theater."

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2026/08/04/us-navy-is-reclassifying-19-virginia-class-submarines-to-reflect-increased-attack-capabilities/>

'Let's Buckle Up': Pac Fleet Sustainment Chief Takes Over Guam-Based Submarines

(STARS AND STRIPES 24 AUG 26) ... Alex Wilson

Leadership of a U.S. Navy command that overseas undersea warfare from the Western Pacific to the Arabian Sea has changed hands at 7th Fleet headquarters south of Tokyo.

Rear Adm. Gary Montalvo Jr. assumed command of Submarine Group 7 from Rear Adm. Lincoln Reifsteck during an Aug. 17 ceremony, according to a Wednesday news release from the group.

The group, which functions as 7th Fleet's Task

Force 74 and 5th Fleet's Task Force 54, oversees at least five fast-attack submarines and the submarine tenders USS Frank Cable and USS Emory S. Land, all homeported on Guam.

The command also coordinates operations for five surveillance vessels and three oceanographic survey ships when they're tasked for anti-submarine warfare operations in the region, according to group's website.

Reifsteck, of Fairfield, Calif., took command in March 2025 and oversaw 10 submarine deployments, 37 port visits and led numerous operations with six partner nations, according to the news release.

"While I am so proud of our team of professionals, I am also grateful and humbled to have been able to contribute to this region with our allies and partners," he said in the release. "Most notably we have built deep bonds of trust, interoperability, and eagerness to partner and to meet each country's needs."

Interoperability is a term the military uses to describe the ability of a country's armed forces to use another country's training methods and equipment.

Reifsteck reports next to Washington where he'll serve as the director of strategic integration for the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, according to the group.

Montalvo, of Santurce, Puerto Rico, most recently served as director of maritime headquarters and sustainment for the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

"Let's buckle up and let's get to it," he told sailors attending the ceremony, according to the release.

Montalvo joined the Navy after high school in North Carolina and later graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy. He also earned master's degrees from George Washington University and Regent University, according to his Navy biography.

During his lengthy undersea career, Montalvo completed five strategic deterrent patrols, commanded the fast-attack submarine USS North Carolina and led Submarine Development Squadron Five.

He's also served a variety of shore duties, including as a program analyst for the Office of the Secretary of Defense and as executive assistant to the head of U.S. Pacific Command.

<https://www.stripes.com/branches/navy/2026-08-24/guam-submarine-group-new-commander-22644673.html>

x-MTS 626 (Daniel Webster) departs Charleston for the final time

Most pictures provided by Charleston
Harbor Patrol Officer Ryan Brown as
he provided security down the river



September 2nd is one of the most important days of the 20th century.



On September 2, 1945, Japanese officials boarded the U.S. Third Fleet's flagship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay to formally sign the instrument of unconditional surrender. If you're ever fortunate to visit Oahu, Hawaii you can go aboard the Missouri and stand in the spot on the deck where General Douglas MacArthur sat at the table and signed the instrument of unconditional surrender.

The war was over. Authoritarian empires were defeated and peace restored to much of the world. The U.S. sustained 291,557 battle deaths and 113,842 other deaths (i.e., disease, training accidents) totaling 405, 399 service members.

In 1941, on the eve of Pearl Harbor, the Marine Corps' personnel strength was 54,359. At its 1945 peak, the Corps had grown to 474,680.

Seven men who served as commissioned military officers during the Second World War later became U.S. presidents. They were Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan.

Approximately 93,000 American servicemen from World War II, including General George S. Patton, Jr., rest for eternity in American Military cemeteries located on foreign soil. Among those unrecoverable and memorialized are band leader Major Alton Glenn Miller.

We must never forget the thousands of men and women that gave so much for our Freedom that we all enjoy today.

IMPACT OF AGENT ORANGE

Agent Orange was a toxic, chemical herbicide and defoliant used extensively by the United States military during the Vietnam War. Deployed from 1962 to 1971 under [Operation Ranch Hand], its primary purpose was to strip away dense jungle canopy to expose enemy combatants and destroy food crops. The mixture earned its name from the orange identifying stripe painted on the 55-gallon storage drums containing the chemical.

Chemical Composition

Agent Orange consisted of an equal mixture of two synthetic herbicides:

- * 2,4-D (2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid)
- * 2,4,5-T (2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid)

During the accelerated wartime manufacturing process, the chemical compound TCDD (2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin) was accidentally created as a byproduct. TCDD is an incredibly potent dioxin, recognized globally as a dangerous carcinogen and persistent environmental pollutant.

IMPACT OF AGENT ORANGE

Agent Orange exposure is linked to severe, multi-organ medical conditions due to contamination by TCDD (dioxin), a highly toxic human carcinogen. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) (<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/>) recognizes a specific list of "presumptive diseases," meaning veterans who served in qualifying locations do not have to prove their illness was directly caused by the military service to receive benefits.

The health effects are categorized below by the affected body system:

Cancers

The dioxin in Agent Orange alters cellular DNA, significantly elevating the risk of several malignancies:

- * Leukemias and Lymphomas: Includes Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Hodgkin's Disease, Chronic lymphocytic leukemia, and other Chronic B-cell Leukemias.
- * Soft Tissue Sarcomas: Cancers originating in muscles, fat, deep skin tissues, and blood vessels.
- * Organ-Specific Cancers: Includes Prostate Cancer, Bladder Cancer, and Respiratory Cancers (lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus).
- * Multiple Myeloma: A form of cancer attacking plasma cells in bone marrow.

Metabolic and Endocrine Disorders

TCDD interferes with hormone production and hormone receptors, leading to chronic endocrine diseases:

- * Type 2 Diabetes: Characterized by high blood sugar resulting from cellular insulin resistance.
- * Hypothyroidism: A condition where the thyroid gland fails to produce sufficient metabolic hormones.
- * AL Amyloidosis: A rare disorder where abnormal amyloid proteins build up and damage organs.

Cardiovascular Conditions

Exposure accelerates arterial plaque buildup and strains the circulatory system:

- * Ischemic Heart Disease: Reduced blood supply to the heart muscle, often culminating in chest pain or heart attacks.
- * Chronic high blood pressure that can worsen underlying renal or cardiac issues.

Neurological and Nerve Disorders

Thetoxin degrades peripheral nerves and accelerates central nervous system decline:

- * Parkinson's Disease and Parkinsonism: Progressive nervous system disorders causing tremors, stiff muscles, and impaired balance.
- * Peripheral Neuropathy: A nervous system condition causing acute or subacute numbness, tingling, and muscle weakness in the hands and feet.

Skin and Liver Conditions

Some symptoms manifest shortly after primary contact with the chemical compound:

- * Chloracne: A severe, acne-like skin condition resulting directly from dioxin toxicity.
- * Porphyria Cutanea Tarda: A liver dysfunction disorder that causes the skin to thin and blister painfully when exposed to sunlight.

Intergenerational Effects

The genetic disturbances caused by Agent Orange can impact the biological children of exposed individuals:

- * Spina Bifida: A birth defect where the spinal cord fails to develop properly.
- * Congenital Defects: Increased rates of miscarriages, stillbirths, and various physical abnormalities in offspring.

While the active herbicides break down quickly when exposed to sunlight, the dioxin contaminant settles stubbornly into the soil and water supply, working its way up the food chain. Millions of Vietnamese civilians and hundreds of thousands of American and allied veterans were exposed.

Modern Legacy

The U.S. government banned the substance in 1971, and remaining stockpiles were incinerated at sea in 1978. However, the legacy remains a major geopolitical issue. While organizations like the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/>) provide specialized health registries and disability benefits to impacted veterans, ongoing clean-up projects and medical aid initiatives continue to target "hotspots" where high concentrations of dioxin still remain in Southeast Asia.

If you or a loved one is seeking assistance regarding military exposure,

- * What specific symptoms or diagnoses are being experienced?
- * Are you looking for information on filing a VA disability claim?

To file a claim for VA disability compensation for High Blood Pressure (Hypertension) and/or Type II Diabetes, which are officially recognized presumptive conditions under VA guidelines for herbicide exposure, contact the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, at the link above for more information on how to file a claim with the VA and you can contact your local Veterans Service Officer, VSO. You can also contact your local VA facility for more information.

Under the PACT Act, the VA officially recognizes presumptive Agent Orange exposure for any veteran who served on active duty in Guam, or its territorial waters, between January 9, 1962, and July 31, 1980.

I hope this information helps, if you think that you may be exposed to Agent Orange in the past due to your service.

Trin Rios

Milankovitch Cycles

Milankovitch cycles drive long-term climate changes by altering the amount and distribution of solar radiation reaching Earth, influencing ice ages and warm periods.

Overview of Milankovitch Cycles

Milankovitch cycles are long-term variations in Earth's orbit and axial tilt that affect how solar energy is distributed across the planet, particularly at mid- and high latitudes, over tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of years

These cycles include:

Eccentricity: Changes in the shape of Earth's orbit from nearly circular to slightly elliptical, with a cycle of about 100,000 years. This affects the distance between Earth and the Sun, influencing the intensity of seasons

Axial Tilt (Obliquity): The angle of Earth's axis varies between 22.1° and 24.5° over roughly 41,000 years. Greater tilt increases seasonal contrast, making summers warmer and winters colder, while smaller tilt reduces seasonal extremes

Precession: The wobble of Earth's axis, combined with the rotation of the elliptical orbit (apsidal precession), occurs over approximately 26,000 years. This changes the timing of seasons relative to Earth's position in its orbit, affecting which hemisphere experiences more intense summers or winters

Climate Impacts: The combined effects of these cycles influence the amount of solar radiation (insolation) received at different latitudes and during different seasons, which can trigger the growth or retreat of ice sheets

For example: Ice ages tend to occur when Northern Hemisphere summers are cooler, allowing snow and ice to persist year-round.

Interglacial periods occur when summers are warmer, promoting ice sheet melting.

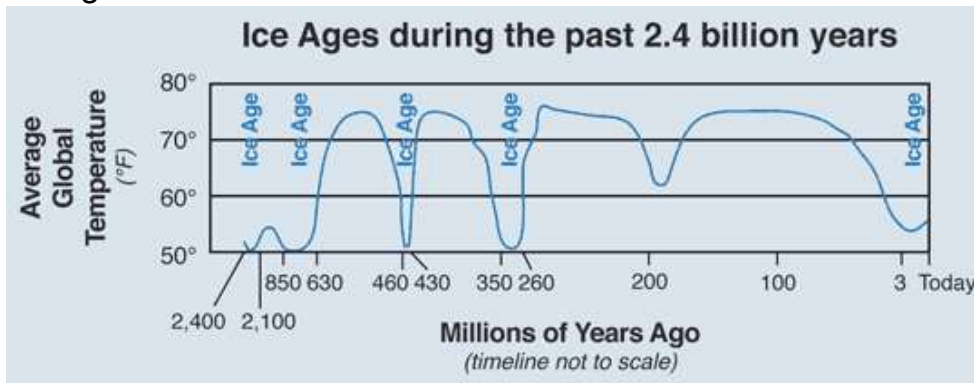
Variations in insolation at mid-latitudes can reach up to 25%, significantly affecting climate patterns over geological timescales

Historical Evidence: Milankovitch's models predicted 41,000-year cycles of ice ages based on obliquity, which matched climate records from 1–3 million years ago. About 800,000 years ago, the dominant cycle shifted to 100,000 years, aligning with eccentricity cycles

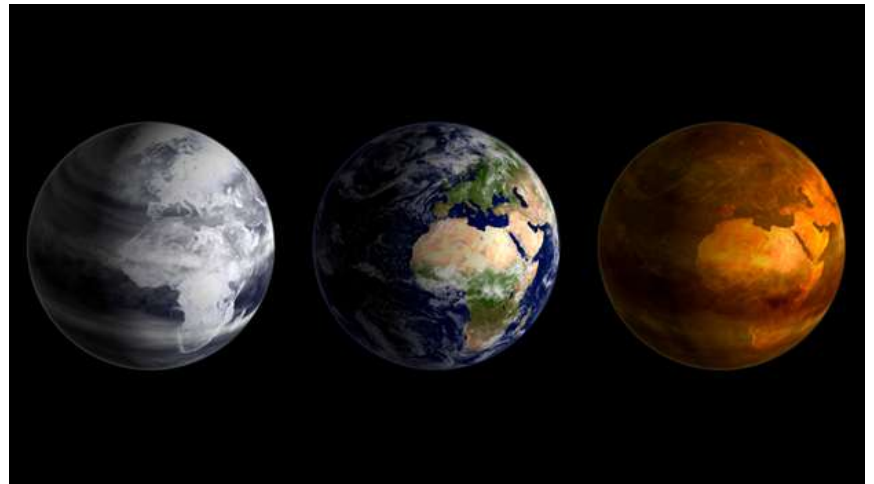
These cycles are considered the primary pacemakers of glacial and interglacial periods, although feedback mechanisms such as carbon dioxide levels and ice sheet dynamics amplify the climate response

Harvard University Summary

Milankovitch cycles are a key driver of Earth's long-term climate variability, shaping the timing and intensity of ice ages and warm periods by modulating solar radiation distribution. While they operate over tens to hundreds of thousands of years, their effects are amplified by feedbacks in the climate system, making them central to understanding past and future climate changes.



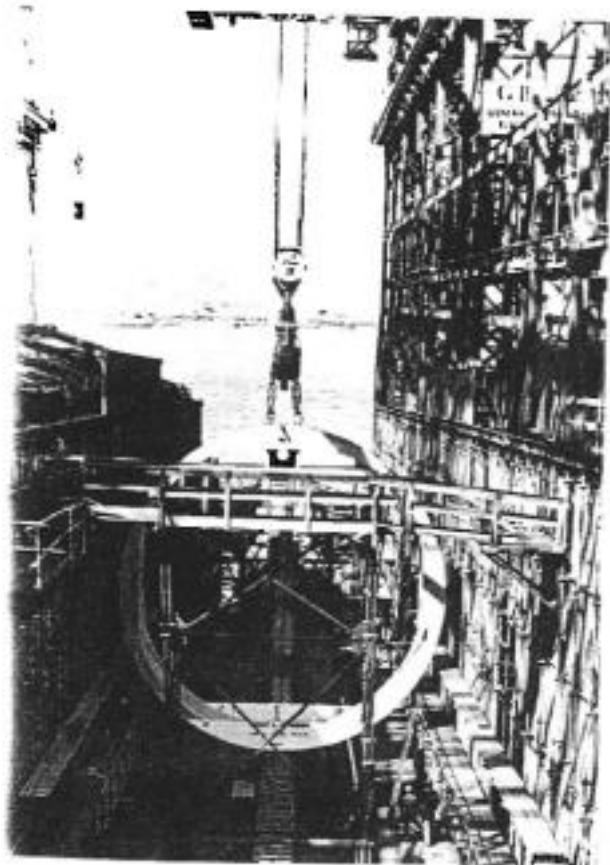
From Ice ages to Burning
Deserts always changing



Milutin Milankovitch -
Serbian geophysicist
and astronomer Milutin
Milanković

**USS
HENRY L. STIMSON
SSBN655**

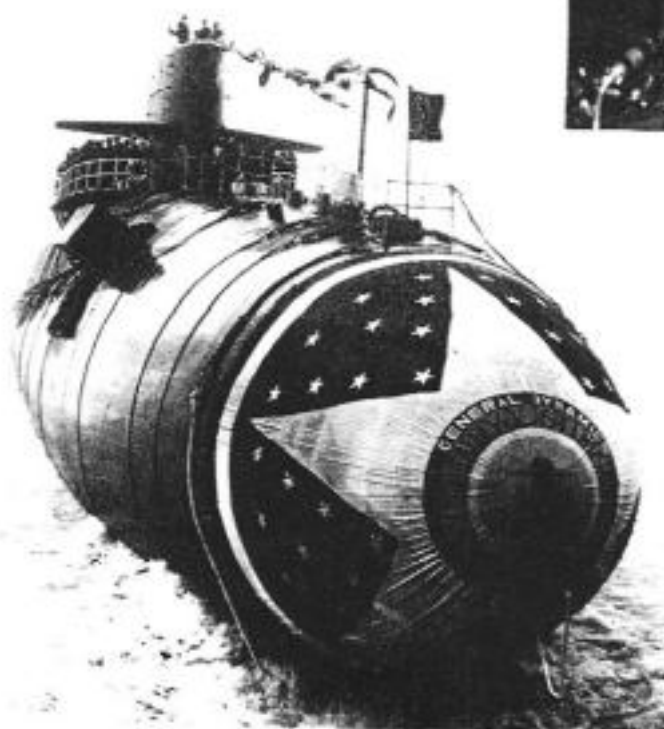




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USS
HENRY L. STIMSON
SSBN655



KEEL LAID

4 APRIL 1964



LAUNCHED

13 NOVEMBER 1965



COMMISSIONED

20 AUGUST 1966



BUILT BY

GENERAL DYNAMICS
Electric Boat Division

SPONSOR

MRS THOMAS DODD

CHRISTENING



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HENRY L. STIMSON

(1867 - 1950)

Henry Lewis Stimson, lawyer, statesman, soldier, diplomat and able administrator was born in New York City in 1867. He received his education at Andover, Yale and Harvard Law School. As a young lawyer, he worked in partnership with Eli Root who became his teacher and lifelong friend and adviser. Root taught the young lawyer the advantages of careful preparation and close

reasoning, traits that later proved useful to Stimson as he assumed various appointive offices. Stimson's devotion to public service was an outgrowth of his concept of the function of law and advocacy in a democratic society. He came to feel that "every American lawyer should regard himself as a potential officer of his government and a defender of its laws and Constitution" for "if the time should ever come when this tradition had faded out and the members of the bar had become merely the servants of business, the future of our liberties would be gloomy indeed." He gave his special qualifications to public office as District Attorney of New York City and in the cabinets of four Presidents (two Republicans and two Democrats): as Secretary of War under William H. Taft, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman, and as Secretary of State under Herbert Hoover. He served Calvin Coolidge as adviser on Latin American Affairs, peacemaker in Nicaragua and Governor General of the Philippine Islands. It is not surprising that Stimson was a responsible "professional" man and was, as his biographer Etting E. Morison wrote, "a forthright gentleman, a great trial lawyer, a courageous soldier, a dedicated public servant, a statesman who would live in grateful hearts."

USS H

The USS (SBN-655) is a nuclear-powered submarine. The Polaris submarine is 110 feet long with a displacement of approximately 1,600 tons when submerged.

HENRY L. Stimson was a waterborne carrier when she was built by the Ammunition Corporation, Groton, Connecticut, and virtually unlimited range. Polaris missiles.

In order to maintain the ship is equipped with a purification equipment for oxygen, carbon

Displacement
Displacement
Speed submerged
Diving depth

USS HENRY L. STIMSON (SSBN 655)

The USS HENRY L. STIMSON (SBN-655) is the Navy's 61st nuclear powered submarine and the 37th of its Polaris submarine fleet. The ship is 425 feet long with a beam of 33 feet and displaces approximately 8,000 tons submerged.

HENRY L. STIMSON began her waterborne career on Nov. 13, 1965 when she was launched at General Dynamics Corporation's Electric Boat Division, Groton, Connecticut. Fast, silent and virtually immune to surprise attack, the HENRY L. STIMSON combines the almost unlimited endurance of nuclear power with the deterrent might of 16 A-3 Polaris missiles capable of wreaking more havoc than all the bombs of World War II.

In order to provide for maximum crew comfort during the 60 day Polaris patrols, the ship is equipped with 390 tons of air conditioning equipment. Special atmospheric purification equipment removes irritants from the air and maintains the proper balance of oxygen, carbon dioxide and other atmospheric elements.



VITAL STATISTICS

Displacement surfaced	about 7,000 tons
Displacement submerged	about 8,000 tons
Speed submerged	over 20 knots
Diving depth	Greater than 400 feet

Built by Electric Boat division of General Dynamics



The decade immediately following World War II saw a great change in the political power structure of the world. The United States changed its wartime role as "Arsenal of Democracy" to the "Bulwark of Freedom" in the cold war. To meet the challenge of the new role, new weapons systems were needed.

In January 1954, the USS Nautilus announced to the world that she was "underway on nuclear power." The vehicle for an advanced weapons system was complete. An undersea craft which is silent, fast, highly maneuverable, and capable of fighting a war the length of World War II without refueling was available.

THE FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINE



Polaris developed merged nuclear long range of navigation position in study, the came into upper level associated

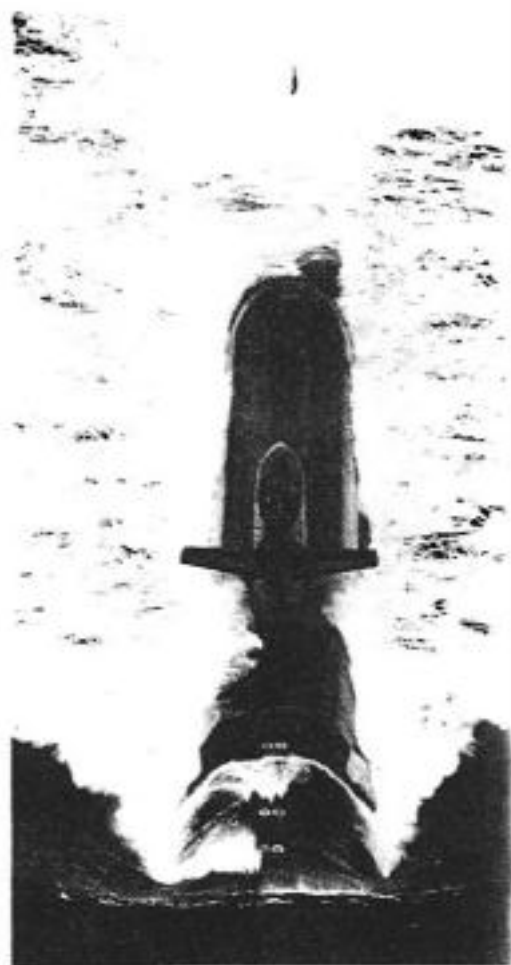
To complete only to provide men who sphere control fresh air control keep for both missions with activities are also



Polaris was the name given to the missile developed by the Navy to be fired from a submerged nuclear vessel. To take advantage of the long range and accuracy of the missile, methods of navigation which allowed fixing the ship's position instantaneously were studied. From this study, the Submarine Inertial Navigation system came into being. The SINS is located in the upper level Operations Compartment with its associated computers.

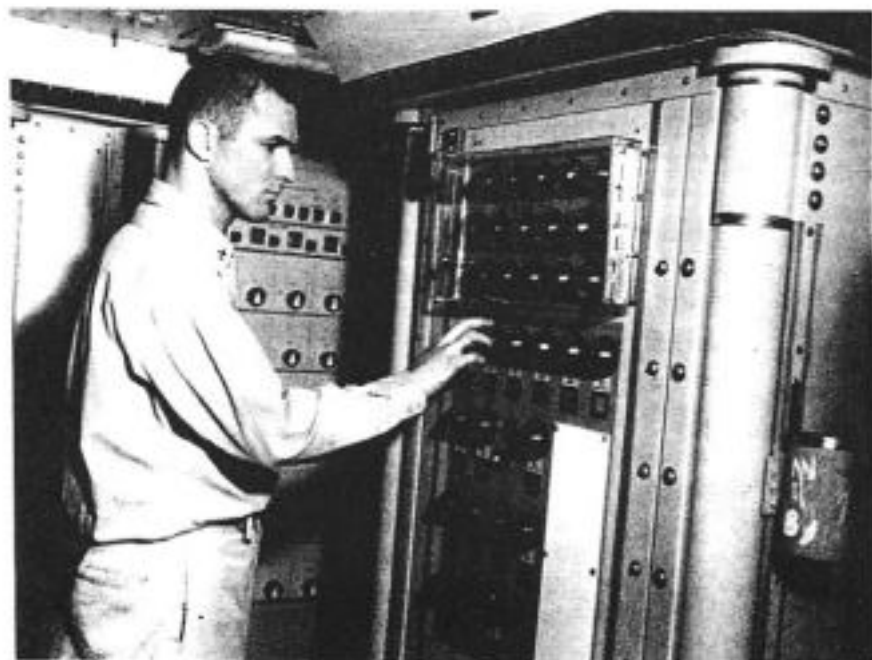
To complete the weapons system it remained only to provide a suitable environment for the men who would operate it. Methods of atmosphere control were devised which would provide fresh air continuously. Temperature and humidity control keep these factors in the optimum range for both men and equipment. Pleasant surroundings with adequate exercise and recreation facilities are also provided.

STIC
.E
ARINE



There will be 41 FBM's in the Polaris Fleet carrying a total of 656 missiles. Forty ships proudly bearing the names of great American patriots and statesmen and leaders, a bulwark for world peace, representing the greatest deterrent to aggression ever known to mankind. If they are forced to fire in anger the Polaris men will tell you they have failed. . . . theirs is a mission to keep the peace.

Hull, propulsion plant, weapons and men all combine to give the Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine a highly complex weapons system capable of staying hidden while moving at high speeds deep in the depth of the waters that comprise 70% of the earth's surface. A mobile, self contained missile launching site whose location is unknown to any potential enemy, ready to deliver immediately a devastating fire power, the FBM submarine is a powerful deterrent to those who might start a global war.



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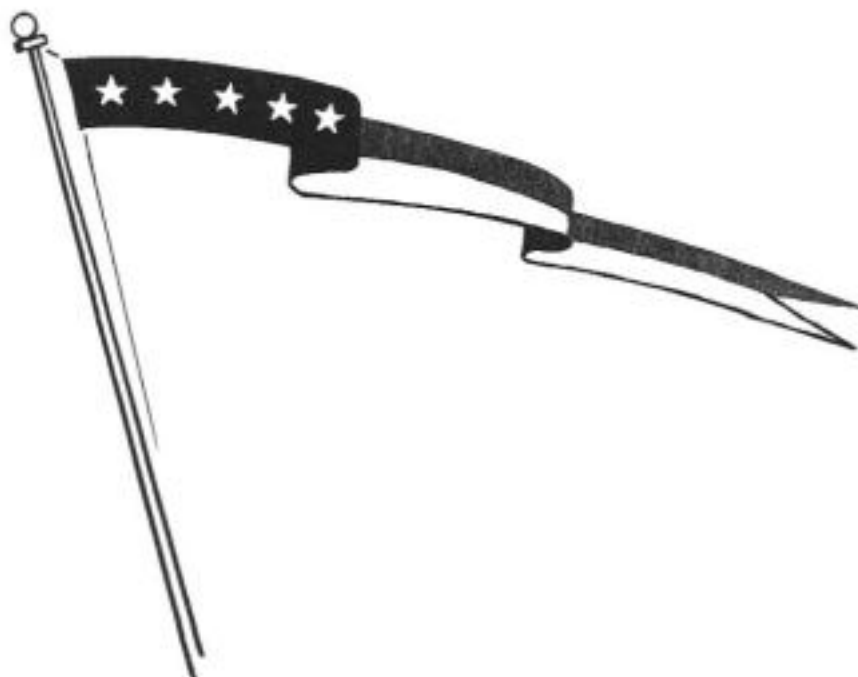
POLARIS SUBMARINES ON PATROL





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THE COMMISSIONING OF A NAVY SHIP

The commissioning ceremony marks the acceptance of a ship as a unit of the Operating Forces of the United States Navy. At the moment of breaking the commissioning pennant, USS HENRY L. STIMSON (SSBN 655) becomes the responsibility of the Commanding Officer who, together with the ship's officers and men, has the duty of making and keeping her ready for any service required by our nation in peace or war.

* * *

The commissioning pennant is believed to date from the 17th century, when the Dutch were at war with the English. The Dutch Admiral TROMP hoisted a broom at his masthead to indicate his intention to sweep the English from the sea. This gesture was answered by the English admiral who hoisted a horse whip, indicating his intention to chastise the Dutch. The English were victorious and ever since the narrow, or coach whip, pennant (symbolizing the original horse whip) has been adopted by all nations as the distinctive mark of a ship of war.



The Commander and Chief
Lyndon B. Johnson



The Secretary of Defense
Robert S. McNamara



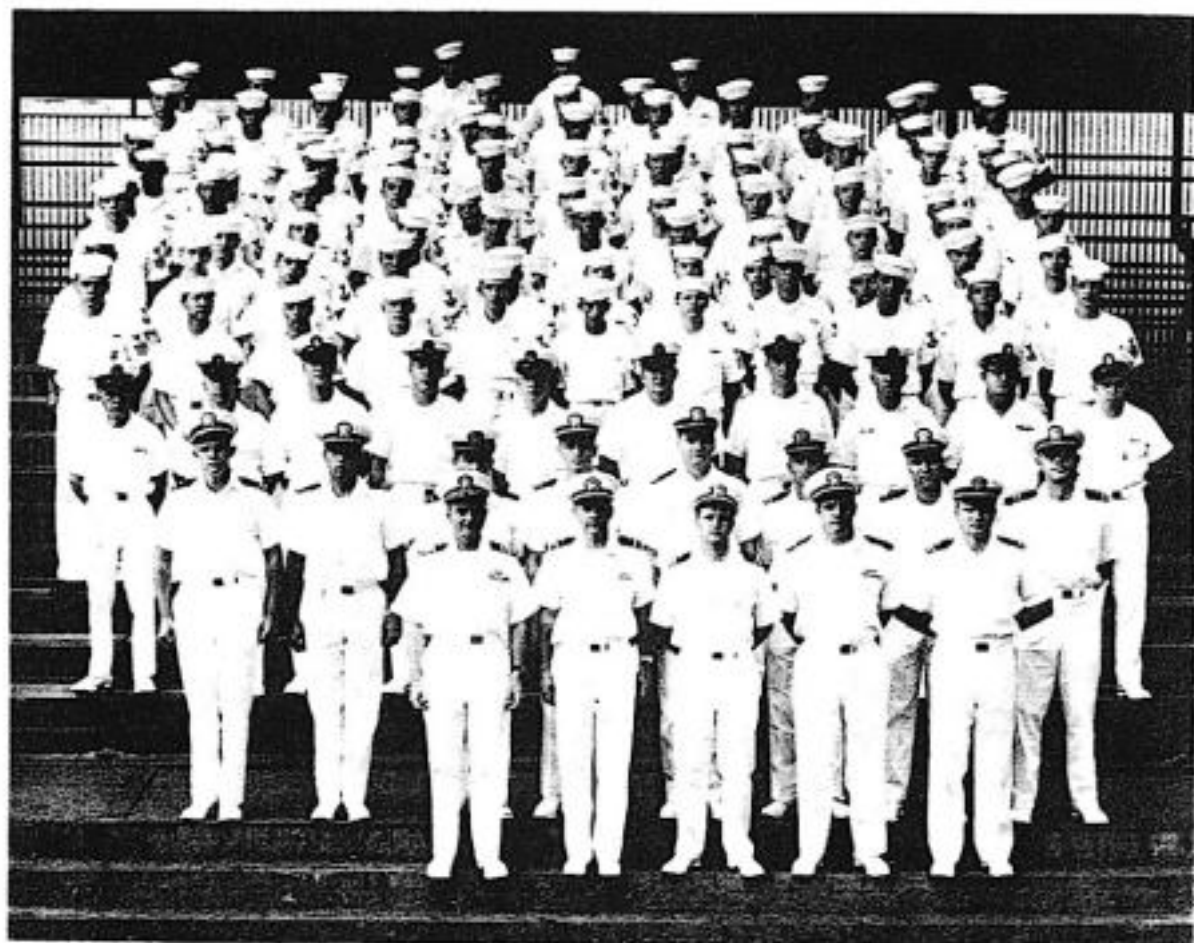


The Secretary of the Navy
Paul H. Nitze



The Chief of Naval Operations
Admiral David L. McDonald

Chief
n



BLUE CREW

Marko,
Maak, I
Noeman
Muse, P

Hibbert,
Hinkle,
Holley,
Hurt, D
Isard, J
Isely, A
Jester, J
Johnson,
Johnson,
Johnson,
Kennedy
Kornow
Lake, L
Lamm,
Landry,
Lanahan,
Lee, J.
Lewis, V
Linebaugh
Malik, T
Martelli,

BLUE CREW

OFFICERS

CAPT R. E. Jortberg, USN Commanding Officer
 LCDR C. R. Greene, USN Executive Officer
 LT P. Berger, (SC), USN Supply Officer
 LT F. B. Braun, USN Assistant Weapons Officer
 LT T. J. Camilleri, USN Electrical Officer
 LT W. L. Coker, MC, USNR Medical Officer
 LT W. J. Doyle, USN Weapons Officer
 LT J. F. Gaudet, USN First Lieutenant
 LCDR M. D. Giambattista, USN Navigator
 LT M. F. Loomis, USN Damage Control Assistant
 LT L. L. Lubbs, USN Communications, Operations Officer
 LT C. H. Otto, USN Engineer Officer
 LT H. W. Rhodes, USN RC Division Officer
 LT W. F. Strobach, USN Main Propulsion Assistant

CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

Rogers, A. T. Jr., MMCM(SS), Chief of the Boat

Bell, R. D., ENC(SS) Greene, D. F., BMC(SS)
 Cochran, J. W., ETC Keary, K. B., STCS(SS)
 Dorff, R. P., HMC(SS) Rimmey, H. T., CSC(SS)

Marko, M. F., FTC(SS) Rossington, R. L., TMC(SS) Terry, D. F., FTC(SS)
 Mank, E. L., EMC(SS) Schwenger, C. L., QMC(SS) White, W. E., ETC(SS)
 Meeman, H. W., FTCS(SS) Squires, J. F., MMC(SS) Willey, K. A., YNC(SS)
 Muse, P. R., FTC

ENLISTED PERSONNEL

Appleby, R. T., IC2 Crosby, D. W., MM3
 Austin, M. W., MM2(SS) Davis, C. A., IC1(SS)
 Bach, R. D., CS3(SS) Desier, L. D., ETN2(SS)
 Back, D. E., ETR2(SS) Dover, R. F., STS2(SS)
 Bagan, R. J., EM2 Drexler, H. M., ET1(SS)
 Baldon, A. A., TN(SS) Ferrante, M. P., MM2
 Barker, J. F., ETR2 Fetting, W. E., ETN2
 Barry, J. E. III, QM1(SS) Piccaglia, M. A., QM3
 Bell, D. C., MM2 Ford, R. W., ETR3(SS)
 Bowyer, C. R. Jr., MM2(SS) Fulkoski, H. E., EN3(SS)
 Boyle, B. J. Jr., MT3 Gifford, A. W., MM2
 Brace, R. G., ET1(SS) Gillinghouse, C. J., ETN2
 Brant, F. J., ET1(SS) Godfrey, C. V., MM2(SS)
 Bullock, L. G., PTM2(SS) Gorsky, C. J., PTM3(SS)
 Burchett, J. C., IC1(SS) Griffin, D. D., ET1(SS)
 Burmeister, W. E., EN3 Halberg, D. B., RM1(SS)
 Caudle, H. G., EN1(SS) Hall, L. R., SA
 Chasse, F. B. Jr., EM2(SS) Hampton, S. W., MT1(SS)
 Collins, R. G., RM1(SS) Harris, E. G., TM1(SS)
 Colter, C. L., RM3 Harvey, T. G., ET1(SS)
 Crawford, G. F., ET1(SS) Henriksen, G. W. Jr., CS1(SS)

Hibbert, L. W., TM3(SS) Martin, B. F., Jr., MM2(SS) Smith, J. J., TM3
 Hinkle, J. D., PTM2(SS) Mazur, J. P., TM3 Smith, W. A., IC3
 Holley, W. E., SK3 McDermott, M. R., ETR3 Stark, C. R. Jr., EN3(SS)
 Hoyt, D. L., TM1(SS) Melvo, M. J., MM2(SS) Steward, R. F., IC2(SS)
 Icard, J. R., EM1(SS) Miller, R. A., EN2(SS) Sullivan, D. P., MT2
 Isely, A. D., MT2 Mumley, M. R., EN3(SS) Supice, A. O., MM3
 Jaster, D. G., MM2(SS) Patten, P. E., MT3 Taulbee, D. K., SN
 Johnson, J. G., EN2(SS) Penny, J. L., QM2(SS) Taylor, J. G., MM2(SS)
 Johnson, J. H., CS2(SS) Pierce, S. M., STS2(SS) Thier, A. L., IC1(SS)
 Johnson, P. A., MM1(SS) Poston, C. D., IC3 Tatt, H. F., TM2(SS)
 Kennedy, V. F., MM2 Price, R. F., PTM2(SS) Twitty, M., SD1(SS)
 Kornowski, D. R., MM2 Robbins, G., SN(SS) Vollmer, C. A., EM2(SS)
 Lake, L. L., STS2(SS) Rothe, M. P., TM2 Warren, G. E., ET1(SS)
 Lamm, M. H., ETR2(SS) Rowe, G. E., FA Werkheiser, D. P., MM2
 Landry, P. F., STS3 Royer, G. D., MT2(SS) West, G. A., MT2(SS)
 Laschen, D. L., SA Salwin, D. A., MM1(SS) West, R. L., EN1(SS)
 Lee, J. F., FA Santiago, L. D., TN(SS) Westbrook, S. W., RM3
 Lewis, W. A., IC1(SS) Shackelford, H. T., YN1(SS) White, J. M., FTG1(SS)
 Linebaugh, D. B., MT2 Shafer, H. J., Jr., MM2 White, J. W., EM1(SS)
 Malik, T. J., EN2(SS) Shumaker, R. L., CS2 Williams, M. E., SM2
 Martelli, M. A., SK1(SS) Slusser, H. L., STS2(SS) Yarber, J. L., MM1



Commissioning Program

INVOCATION

Commander R. W. Odell, (ChC), USN

INTRODUCTION OF BUILDER'S REPRESENTATIVE

Captain Harry A. Jackson, USN
Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Groton

REMARKS

Mr. Edward J. Behney, Vice President Operations
Electric Boat Division, General Dynamics Corporation

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMANDANT THIRD NAVAL DISTRICT

Captain Harry A. Jackson, USN

REMARKS AND READING OF AUTHORITY TO COMMISSION

Rear Admiral George R. Luker, USN
Commandant Third Naval District

HOISTING OF ENSIGN, UNION JACK

NATIONAL ANTHEM

United States Coast Guard Band

ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND

REMARKS

Captain Richard E. Jones

REPORTING OF THE SHIP

Commander J. H. ...

ADDRESS

The Honorable
Under Secretary of the Navy

commissioning Program

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'S REPRESENTATIVE

USN

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hney, Vice President Operations
ision, General Dynamics Corporation

ION OF THE COMMANDANT THIRD NAVAL DISTRICT

Harry A. Jackson, USN

RKS AND READING OF AUTHORITY TO PLACE THE SHIP IN COMMISSION

ir Admiral George R. Luker, USN
Commandant Third Naval District

HOISTING OF ENSIGN, UNION JACK, AND COMMISSIONING PENNANT
NATIONAL ANTHEM

United States Coast Guard Band

ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND AND SETTING OF THE WATCH
REMARKS

Captain Richard E. Jortberg, USN

REPORTING OF THE GOLD CREW AND REMARKS

Commander Robert H. Weeks, USN

ADDRESS

The Honorable George W. Ball
Under Secretary of State

BENEDICTION

Reverend William B. Stimson

GOLD CREW OFFICERS

CDR R. H. Weeks, USN Commanding Officer
 LCDR R. E. Chidley, USN Executive Officer
 LT J. F. Clester, USN Damage Control Assistant
 LT W. R. Eldredge, USN Electrical Officer
 LTJG J. E. Gutierrez, USN RC Division Officer
 LTJG D. B. Howard Jr., USN .. Main Propulsion Assistant
 LT D. P. Joyce, USN Missile Officer
 LT R. W. Kohankie II, USN Supply Officer
 LT J. S. Perry, USN Engineer Officer
 LT E. F. Thacher, USN Operations, Communications
 LTJG W. A. Westhaus, USN First Lieutenant
 LT W. F. Wieting, MC, USNR Medical Officer
 LT J. S. Wilson, USN Weapons Officer
 LCDR E. P. Zimmer, USN Navigator

CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

Sasso, J. F., STC(SS), Chief of the Boat

Amason, J. T., QMC(SS)	Caviness, J. A., FTC(SS)
Benson, R. E., MMC(SS)	Conley, R., ENC(SS)
Carr, D. M., ETC(SS)	Darlin, A. A., CSC(SS)

Hartey, T. J., HMC(SS)	McLaughlin, A. J., ETC	Vanhook, E. D., ETC(SS)
Helm, J. B. Jr., MTC(SS)	Rossum, D. P., EMC(SS)	Wallowitch, M. A., ENC(SS)
Herszog, W. A., RMC(SS)	Stafford, F. R., ENCS(SS)	

ENLISTED PERSONNEL

Allen, L. S., ETR2(SS)	Debender, J. C., ETR2(SS)
Anderson, J. L., RM1(SS)	Dreiss, R. A., RM3
Bainbridge, W. D., ETN2	Eshelich, R. M., ET1(SS)
Balbuena, P. P., SD1(SS)	Finney, E. S., TM2(SS)
Barton, B. E., MT8N	Flemming, N. P., FTM2(SS)
Baughner, L. G., SN	Forbes, E. M. Jr., TM1(SS)
Belk, J. M., EN1(SS)	Portier, D. G., ETR2
Bishop, M. F., TM1(SS)	Franch, L. W., MM1(SS)
Bogan, C., SD1(SS)	Funderbark, J. P., MT2
Boulais, J. P., MM2(SS)	Gibson, R. Jr., MT2
Burroughs, R. H., ENFA	Gilliland, L. D., RM1(SS)
Callahan, R. G., CS2(SS)	Hart, H. W., EN2(SS)
Campbell, J. J. Jr., ETR2(SS)	Hellawell, J. W., EN1(SS)
Carter, J. M., MM2	Hobbs, J. D., RM3
Chapman, J. T., MT2	Howard, E. A. Jr., QM1(SS)
Clugston, W. F., STS2(SS)	Hryniew, S., SA
Comrie, P. A., STS2(SS)	Huggins, R. J., ET1(SS)
Cote, J. P., IC3(SS)	Hughes, B. R., MM2(SS)
Cote, M. J. Jr., STS2(SS)	Hull, T. M., IC2(SS)
Crowder, C. P., SK1(SS)	Jacobs, A. J., MT2
Garnecki, A. K., EM2(SS)	Kiender, M. J., ST1(SS)
Davis, G. L., MT8N	Kierman, H. C., EN1(SS)

Klein, C. K., EN1(SS)
 Krasus, M. A., FN(SS)
 Krew, R. E., TM2
 Laboda, R. J., ETR2(SS)
 Leonard, E. A. Jr., EN1(SS)
 Lewandowski, R. V., MM2(SS)
 Lewis, T. C., TM2(SS)
 Licker, K. L., ETR2(SS)
 Mass, W. M., IC2(SS)
 Marano, M. A., ETN2
 Mathes, S. M. III, FN(SS)
 McCaslin, M. E., FA
 McKensie, J. O. Jr., FTG1(SS)
 Meeks, K. D., ETR2
 Mikowski, M. C., MT1(SS)
 Monteith, L. E., MT2
 Murray, P. P., RM2(SS)
 Nelson, D. O., SA
 Norris, G. F., EN1(SS)
 Novak, S. M., FTM2(SS)
 O'Leary, E. I., FTM1(SS)
 Penning, S. D., TM2

Pika, A. E. Jr., EM1(SS)
 Pollard, R. E., YN1(SS)
 Purch, E. J., FA
 Rada, E. J., SN
 Rayburn, T. S., QM2(SS)
 Reiserer, W. A., MM2
 Riaps, L. A., MM2
 Robinson, W. E., QM2(SS)
 Rodenberger, B. S., RM2
 Sander, P. D., MM2(SS)
 Savage, P. M., IC1(SS)
 Schuba, N. W., EM2
 Schulz, M. D., MM2
 Schumacher, W. W., MM2
 Sells, D. A., IC2
 Shaum, K. R., FTG2(SS)
 Spicer, R. W., ETR2(SS)
 Stephens, A. D., MM2
 Still, T. G., EN2(SS)
 Stokes, J. L., MM2(SS)
 Stulen, B. D., MT2
 Stracks, M. J., TM2(SS)

Sumner, J. W., TM2
 Swigart, A. R., EM1(SS)
 Tangle, H. Jr., EN1(SS)
 Tomasi, M. Jr., QM2
 Tontis, J. R., TM2(SS)
 Towns, J. O., TN
 Tracy, S. L., FTM2(SS)
 Truter, R. S., SN
 Travis, R. L., CS2(SS)
 Veecker, J. L., MM2(SS)
 Wallace, J. R., FTM2(SS)
 Walsh, A. G., YN1(SS)
 Westman, M. A., ETN2
 Weiss, R., MT2(SS)
 White, F. C., ET1(SS)
 Wilson, F. E., CS1(SS)
 Wilson, G. W., ETN2
 Windsor, L. F., IC2N(SS)
 Wood, M. P., STS2(SS)
 Wolontek, S. J., IC1(SS)



A large group photograph of the USS Intrepid's crew members. They are all wearing white uniforms and caps, standing in many rows on the ship's deck. The crew members are arranged in a large, somewhat rectangular formation, with many rows of people standing close together. The background shows the ship's structure and some equipment.

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 EN1(SS)
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 TM2(SS)
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 ETN2
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 IC1(SS)



CDR. R. H. WEEKS, USN
PROSPECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICER
GOLD CREW

Commander ROBERT H. WEEKS, a native of Babylon, Long Island, graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1951, where he received a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree. He served on the destroyer USS R. H. McCARD (DD-822) before entering Submarine School in 1953. After Submarine School, Commander Weeks served on USS GUDGEON (SS-567). Released from active duty in 1955, he was employed by the Electric Boat Division as Project Planning Engineer for USS SEAWOLF (SSN-575), the Peruvian submarines MERLIN and ATUN, and the S1C nuclear prototype. Returning to the Navy in 1956, Commander Weeks then served on USS CAVALLA (SSK-244) and on the staff of the U. S. Naval Submarine School. He entered the nuclear power program in 1960 and has since served as Executive Officer of USS SKIPJACK (SSN-585), USS SEADRAGON (SSN-584), and USS THOMAS A. EDISON (SSBN-610) BLUE. He reported as Prospective Gold Commanding Officer of USS HENRY L. STIMSON (SSBN-655) in January 1966. Commander Weeks is married to the former Gerry Backensto of Troy, New York. They reside in Gales Ferry, Conn., with their five children, Mark, Richard, Carol, Dean and David.



CAPT. R. E. JORTBERG, USN
PROSPECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICER
BLUE CREW

Captain RICHARD E. JORTBERG, USN, graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1944. After serving on the aircraft carrier USS FRANKLIN (CV-13) and light cruiser USS HUNTINGTON (CL-107), he attended Submarine School where he stood first in his class. He was then assigned duty on the USS BECUNA (SS-319) and the Office of Chief of Naval Operations before becoming Executive Officer of the USS TIRANTE (SS-420). In 1957 Captain Jortberg assumed command of USS JALLO (SS-368). From JALLO, he began instruction and operational training for nuclear power. Captain Jortberg assumed command and put in commission the USS TULLIBEE (SSN-597). His latest assignment was Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Nuclear Power School, USNTC, Bainbridge, Maryland. In February 1965, he reported as Prospective Commanding Officer, USS HENRY L. STIMSON (SSBN-655) BLUE. Captain Jortberg is married to the former JoAnn Mundy of Elkton, Virginia, and they have four children, Judith, Patricia, Richard Jr., and Michael.



Commander Submarine Force
U.S. Atlantic Fleet
Vice Admiral Vernon L. Lowrance



Commander Submarine Flotilla Two
U.S. Atlantic Fleet
Rear Admiral Joseph W. Williams, Jr.

POLARIS

Polaris, named for the North Star, is a two staged ballistic missile, designed to be launched from either surfaced or submerged submarines and from shore stations. However, the Polaris launching will be primarily from FBM Submarines. The missile is powered by solid fuel rocket motors and guided by a self-contained inertial guidance system independent of external commands or control.

Within the submarine, personnel can check and prepare missiles for firing while the ship is submerged. Ejected from its launching tube by air or gas, Polaris is forcefully propelled above the surface of the water, where the motor ignites. The missile continues on its own until its thrust is ended by a signal from the missile guidance system. After arriving at the correct speed, and the correct point in space, the second stage motor thrust comes to an end, and the re-entry body then continues along the pre-planned trajectory to the target.

The original Polaris was designated A-1. The A-1 Polaris had a 1200 nautical mile range and was officially retired from active fleet service 14 Oct. 1965. There are currently two generations of Polaris, A-2 and A-3.



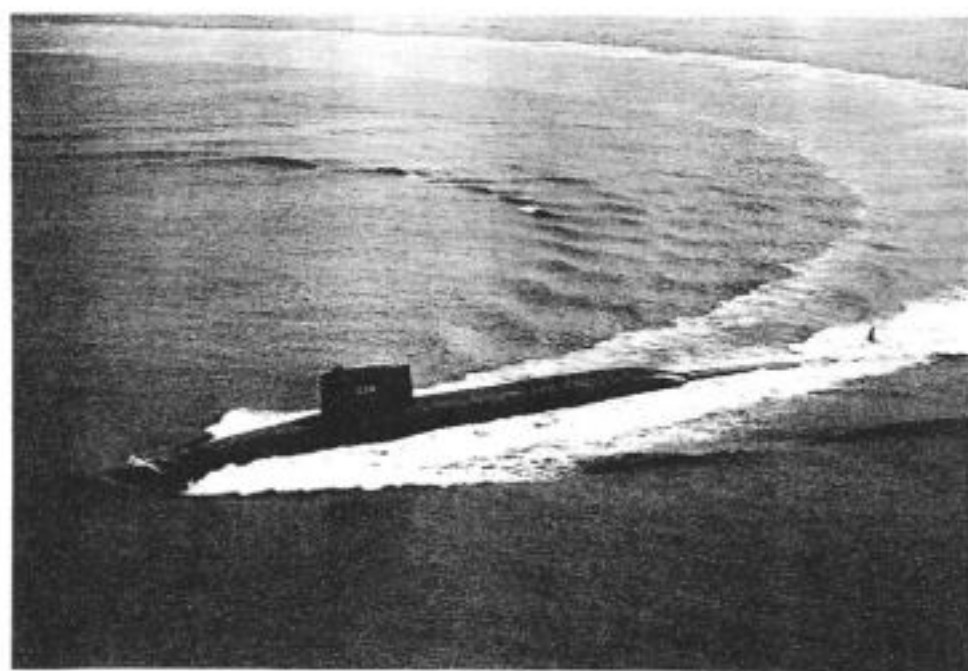
arine Force
: Fleet
: L. Lowrance



The STIMSON carries the Polaris A-3 which has a range of 2500 nautical (2890 statute) miles. The Polaris A-3 is a significant advance over the Polaris A-2. In terms of hardware design, Polaris A-3 is approximately an 85% new missile, but is still the same size as Polaris A-2 (about 31 feet long and 4½ feet in diameter).

A new guidance system developed for use on the A-3 is about one-third the size and weight of earlier systems. Using

extremely precise gyroscopes, accelerometers and its own electronic computer, the guidance system puts the missile on correct course at the time of the launch. The guidance system also maintains the stability of the missile in the pitch, yaw, and roll planes. At the precise instant required, the guidance system shuts off the rocket motors and triggers separation of the re-entry body from the missile. The re-entry body follows a ballistic trajectory to the target.



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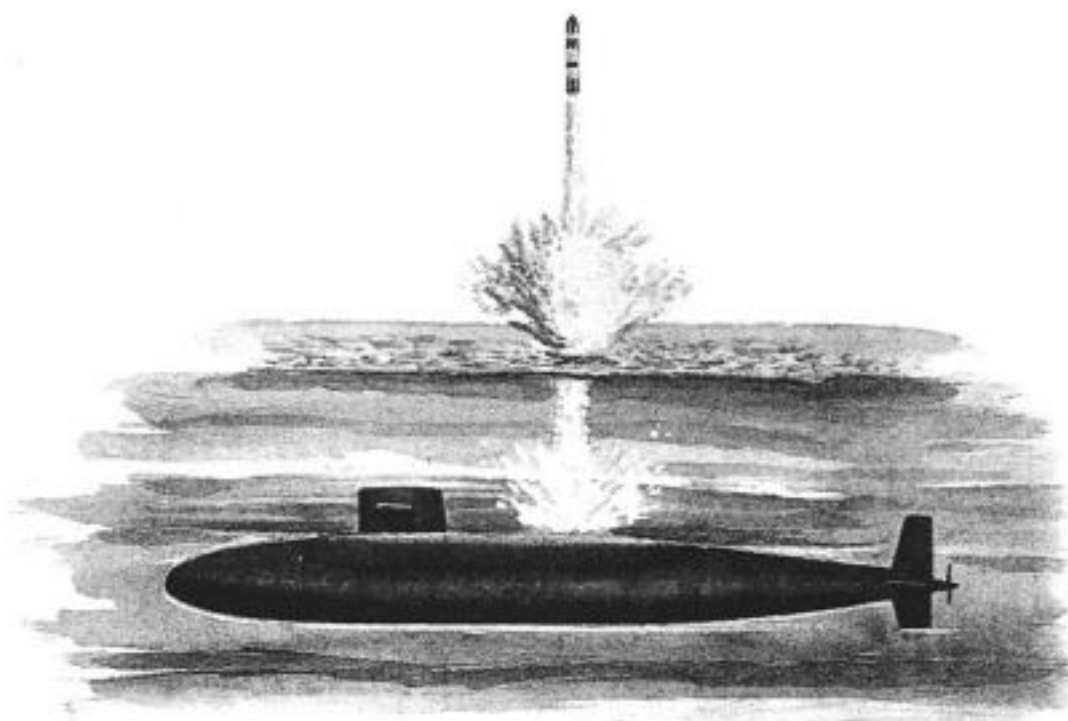
The design and development of the Fleet Ballistic Missile Weapons system was an amazing feat of planning, engineering and testing. But the Polaris A-3 is not the latest missile planned for the FBM Submarine.

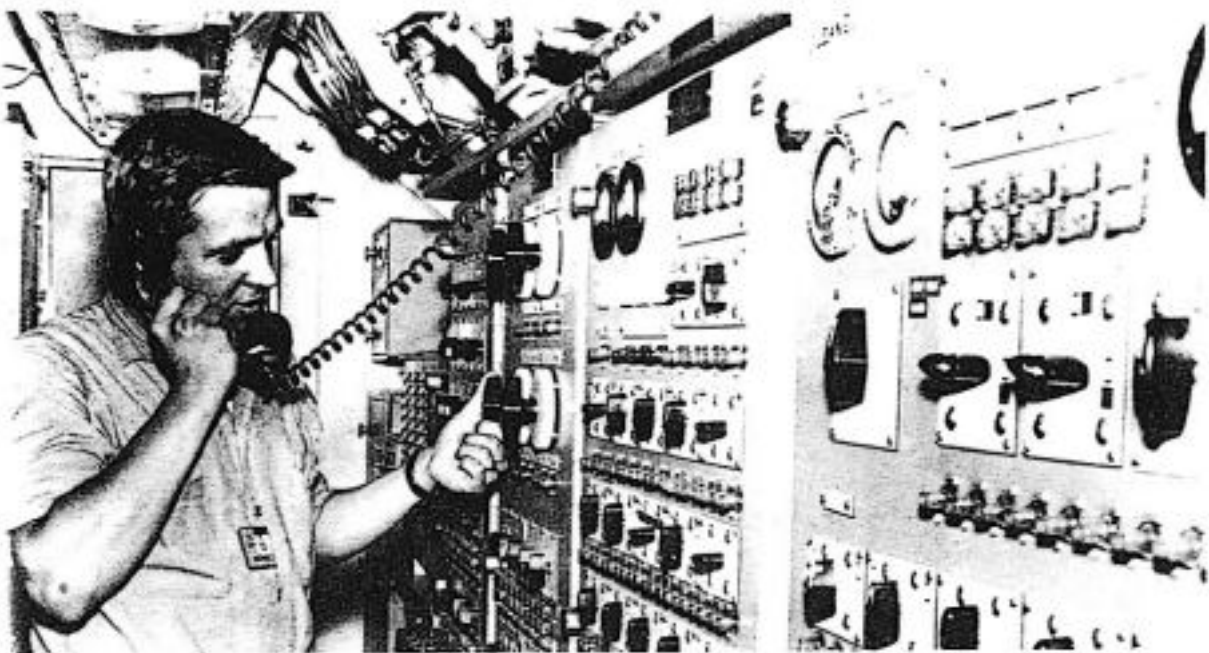
The President announced in January 1965 that a new missile for the Fleet Ballistic Missile Weapon System was being developed — POSEIDON.

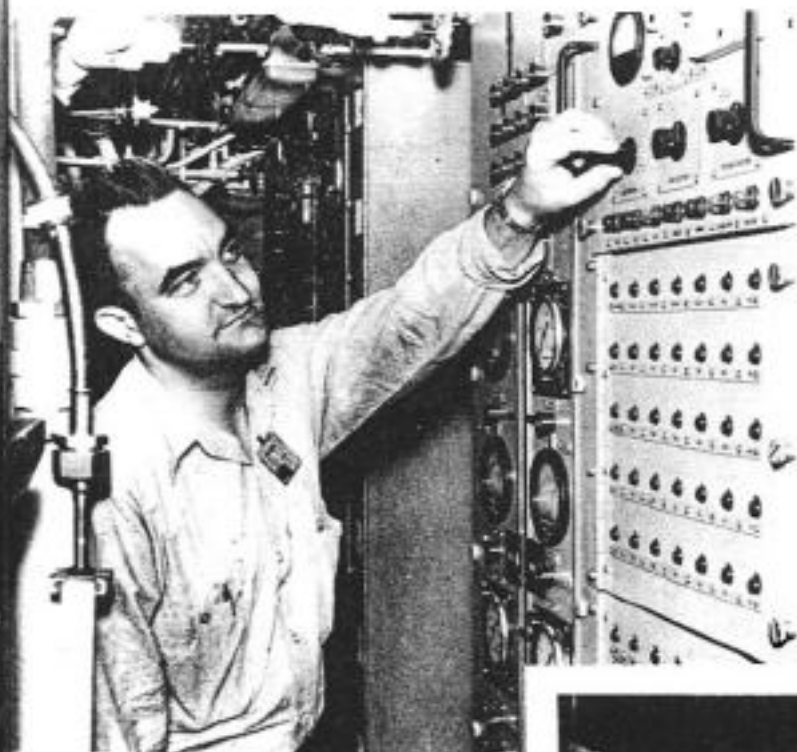
POSEIDON is named after the God of the Sea in Greek mythology, an appropriate name for this sea based missile. He was called the "earth shaker" because of his ability to cause earthquakes far inland.

POSEIDON will be an improvement over A-3. It will have double the payload and twice as accurate.

The increased capabilities of the POSEIDON plus the inherent survivability of the nuclear powered submarine give every reason to believe that the FBM system will continue to be a reliable and credible retaliatory force for this country in the years ahead.

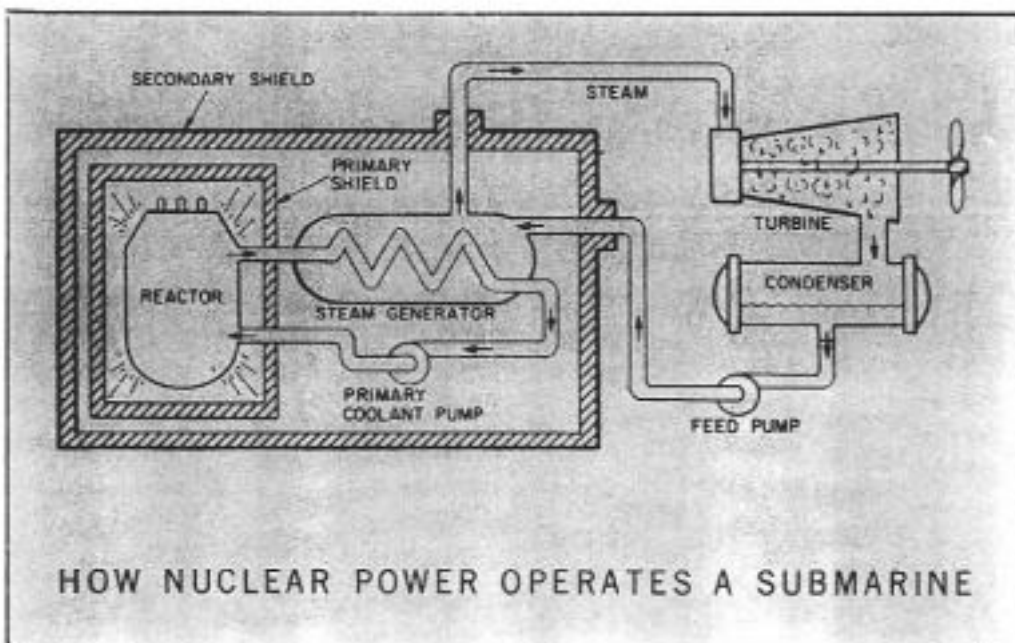








THE POWER PLANT



The STIMSON is powered by a nuclear power plant consisting of a nuclear reactor which provides heat for the generation of steam to drive the main propulsion turbines and the ship's turbo generators for electric power.

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THE PRIMARY SYSTEM

The primary system is a circulating water cycle and consists of the reactor, identical port and starboard loops of piping, primary coolant pumps and the tubes of the steam generators. Heat is produced in the reactor by nuclear fission and is transferred to the circulating primary coolant water which is pressurized to prevent boiling. This water is then pumped through the steam generator tubes where it transfers its heat to the shell or the secondary side of the steam generators and boils water to form steam. It is then pumped back to the reactor by the primary coolant pumps and reheated for the next cycle.

THE SECONDARY SYSTEM

The secondary system is the steam producing cycle and is made up of the shell side of the steam generators, turbines, condensers, and steam generator feed pumps. It is completely isolated from the primary system since the primary water goes through the tubes of the steam generator while the water which is boiling to make steam is on the shell side of the steam generator. Steam rises from the steam generators, then flows to the engine room where it drives the ship's service turbo-generators which supply the ship with electricity and the main propulsion turbines which drive the propeller. After passing through the turbines, the steam is condensed and the water is fed back to the steam generators by the feed pumps. There is no step in the generation of this power which requires the presence of air or oxygen. This fact alone allows the ship to operate completely divorced from the earth's atmosphere for extended periods of time.

During the operation of the nuclear power plant high levels of radiation exist around the reactor and personnel are not permitted entrance into the reactor compartment until after the reactor is shut down. Heavy shielding is used to protect the crew so that the average crew member receives less radiation than he would receive from natural sources ashore.



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THE BLUE AND THE GOLD

Each FBM submarine has two complete, equally trained crews, called Blue and Gold, of about one hundred forty officers and men each. The mission of Polaris Nuclear Submarines necessitates the rotation of personnel at regularly scheduled intervals, while the ship itself remains on station. While one crew has the ship on patrol, the other is in the home port, undergoing refresher training, taking leave, breaking in new crew members, and in general getting ready to go back to sea.

The training cycle of the ship includes taking the ship to patrol with first the Blue Crew, then having the Gold Crew relieve them. Each crew operates independently of the other.

Each crew is made up of the highest caliber of men. Originally, the main source for FBM personnel was from within the Navy. But with the demand for more and more men as the Polaris submarine fleet grows and more men are rotated, most are now new recruits who are the very best people our nation can make available.

To be able to maintain and operate the equipment, a man must be thoroughly familiar with the basic theory and fundamental physical principles involved. A student must grasp the basics of digital computers, inertial theory, computer logic, transistor theory, use of testing devices, and so on. Some of this training is available outside the Navy at the college post-graduate level.

The goal of this highly specialized training is to have the technician fully ready to handle his assigned responsibilities the day he sets foot in the Polaris submarine. On patrol, an FBM submarine is literally a world unto itself. There being no radio transmissions once on patrol, there is no calling for outside help. The submarine must be — and is — self sufficient. It is the operators, officers and men of the U.S. Navy, who make it so.

The Insigne of
USS HENRY L. STIMSON (SSBN655)

The insigne as a whole is a symbol

of the organized intellectual strength that

Henry L. Stimson possessed. The four stars represent

the four presidents under whom he held cabinet positions.

The crossed swords represent his belief that to keep peace you must

be strong to resist aggression and also the two tenures of

office as Secretary of War. The torch is the torch of

dignity and statesmanship that characterized

the life of Henry L. Stimson.

