



HAMPTON ROADS BASE

≈ CURRENTS ≈



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Our Creed:

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."



From the Acting Base Commander



Members of the Phin:

Wow! What a busy time we are having. Schedule just to reschedule. Hurry up and wait. The COVID-19 has got to go. I hope everyone is taking this seriously and complying with the recommendations of the CDC. Our lives have changed. As we unravel from this mess, we will find ourselves meeting and operating our lives differently.

I saw on T.V. that social distance will be part of our lives for the foreseeable future. Restaurant tables will be spaced, all restaurant employees will wear gloves and masks, college students will go to school via computer, sneeze guards between desks, meeting, birthday parties and weddings will be held on ZOOM, etc. Think about it because our lives have changed, as they did with 9-11.

As we plan for our future, I can say that the May meeting is cancelled and the Holland Club Presentation is postponed for now. We are trying to plan through this, as I know how special this is for the new inductees. I do not want to mail everyone a certificate. Hopefully, we can get together in the near future and have a special ceremony.

The base picnic in June is cancelled. We cannot be sure it will be OK to travel and meet together. We also had to think of the caterer, it would not be fair to cancel on him within days of the event.

Our base meeting is in “minutes form” for now. If you have anything for “new business”, “old business”, or “good of the order”, please let our secretary, Bill know. Adam has included a recorded program for the month of April.

The binnacle list has grown. Please reach out to your shipmates and ease their illness. A phone call or a card will go a long way. Ted is coming to the end of his chemo and radiation treatment. Craig is getting stronger, but still has a long way to go. Chuck Steenburgh has beat the COVID-19 and is recovering nicely.

All members of the base have been called, emailed, and/or snail mailed for a ‘wellness check’ due to the COVID-19. Approximately 20 members have not responded. We have found numerous errors in people’s recall list. This is sent out monthly. Please review it for errors (even we can make the goof, also) and contact our secretary, Bill with any corrections or changes to the roster. If you have not been contacted in April for the wellness check, please call me. We will be continuing the wellness checks through this period of COVID-19 activity.

Stay safe, stay healthy and continue the fast cruise.

Gary

Acting Base Commander.



Updated Contact Information

Because we have had so many changes recently, here is an updated list of contact information for the base officers and other key personnel.

Base Commander: Ted Vorce
757-376-2458
tvorce@verizon.net

Senior Vice Commander: Gary Galles
757-714-2733
senior.vice.hrb@gmail.com

Junior Vice Commander/Events Coordinator:
Adam Kingsley
757-535-4179
junior.vice.hrb@gmail.com

Secretary Treasurer: Bill Bond
443-534-3962
secretary.hrbase@gmail.com

Treasurer: Brian Daugherty
757-409-8560
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COB: John (Rock) Pedroni
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Storekeeper: Fran Vorce
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Chaplain: Brian Krammes
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Emergency Relief Fund Committee: Sid Sidlovsky 757-328-9796
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Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Co-coordinators: Rich Corey
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Base Historian: Paul Schmidt
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Brian Daugherty
John (Sid) Sidlovsky
Francis (BUD) Warren
Earl Densten
Gary Merryman

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Boats Lost in May

We remember.... We Honor



USS Squalus (SS-192): On May 23, 1939 USS Squalus suffered a catastrophic valve failure during a test dive off the Isle of Shoals. Partially flooded, the submarine sank to the bottom and came to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers on the USS Falcon (ASR 2) rescued 33 survivors using the diving bell he invented. Twenty-six men drowned in the after compartments. Later, Squalus was raised and recommissioned as the USS Sailfish. In an ironic turn of fate, Sailfish sank the Japanese aircraft carrier carrying surviving crew members from the Sculpin, which had located Squalus in 1939.



USS Lagarto (SS-371): Lost on May 3, 1945, with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of Siam. On her 2nd war patrol, she is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. This minelayer was sunk by the USS Hawkbill 2 weeks later.



USS Stickleback (SS-415): Lost on May 30, 1958, when it sank off Hawaii while under tow after collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). The entire crew was taken off prior to sinking.



USS Scorpion (SSN-589): USS Scorpion was returning to Norfolk, VA from a Mediterranean deployment. On May 22, 1968, she reported her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. She was never heard from again. The exact cause of her loss and the loss of her 99 officers and men has never been definitively determined.



USS Scorpion, in Memoriam

Some of us know more than what we want to regarding loss of Scorpion. Some of us know less than we want regarding loss of Scorpion. What we have in common is that ninety-nine shipmates went to sea and never touched shore again. This year we won't have the opportunity to join the Knights of Columbus in memorializing these men.

What we can do on 22 May is to pour ourselves an ample amount of our favorite libation, slowly raise the glass and toast "to our shipmates on eternal patrol."

THE NINETY-NINE

Keith Alexander Martin Allen
Thomas Edward Amtower
George Gile Annable
Joseph Anthony Baar, Jr.
Michael Jon Bailey
Walter William Bishop
Michael Reid Blake
Robert Harold Blocker
Kenneth Ray Broucker
James Kenneth Brueggeman
Robert Eugene Bryan
John Patrick Burke
Daniel Paul Burns, Jr.
Ronald Lee Byers
Duglas Leroy Campbell
Samuel J. Cardullo
Francis King Carey, II
Gary James Carpenter
Robert Lee Chandler
Mark Helton Christiansen
Romeo S. Constantino
Robert James Cowan
Joseph Cross
Garlin Ray Denney
Michael Edward Dunn
Richard Philip Engelhart
George Patrick Farrin
William Ralph Fennick
Robert Walter Flesch
Vernon Mark Foli
James Walter Forrester, Jr.
Ronald Anthony Frank
Michael David Gibson

Steven Dean Gleason
William Clarke Harwi
Michael Edward Henry
Larry Leroy Hess
Richard Curtis Hogeland
John Richard Houge
Ralph Robert Huber
Harry David Huckelberry
John Frank Johnson
Robert Johnson
Steven Leroy Johnson
Julius Johnston, III
Patrick Charles Kahanek
Donald Terry Karmasek, Sr.
Richard Allen Kerntke, Sr.
Rodney Joseph Kipp
Dennis Charles Knapp
Charles Lee Lamberth
Max Franklin Lanier
John Weichert Livingston
David Bennett Lloyd
Kenneth Robert Martin
Frank Patsy Mazzuchi
Michael Lee McGuire
Steven Charles Miksad
Joseph Francis Miller, Jr.
Cecil Frederick Mobley
Raymond Dale Morrison
Michael Anthony Odening
Daniel Christopher Petersen
Dennis Paul Pferrer
Gerald Stanley Pospisil
Donald Richard Powell

Earl Lester Ray, Jr.
Jorge Luis Santana
Lynn Thompson Saville
Richard George Schaffer
William Newman Schoonover
Phillip Allan Seifert
Francis Atwood Slattery
George Elmer Smith, Jr.
Laughton Douglas Smith
Robert Bernard Smith
Harold Robert Snapp, Jr.
Daniel Peter Stephens
Joel Candler Stephens
David Burton Stone
John Phillip Sturgill
Richard Norman Summers
John Driscoll Sweeney, Jr.
John Charles SweetJames
Frank Tindol, III
Johnny Gerald Veerhusen
Robert Paul Violetti
Ronald James Voss
John Michael Wallace
Joel Kurt Watkins
Robert Westley Watson
James Edwin Webb
Leo William Weinbeck
James Mitchell Wells
Ronald Richard Williams
Robert Alan Willis
Virgil Alexander Wright, III
Donald Howard Yarbrough
Clarence Otto Young, Jr.





Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) News

Unfortunately, we have had to suspend the monthly visits to NMCP for the duration.

Many thanks and Bravo Zulu to the Base Members who have made these visits. **AND**, a REAL BIG BRAVO ZULU to the medical staff at NMCP and to all the others in the front lines.

As of now, there are no projected dates for future visits.

HRB May Birthdays

- Miles Cochran, Jr.
- Mike Kennedy
- Al Friedmann
- Fred Lowack
- R.O. Bradford
- Imants Baltgalvis
- Lynn Moran
- Thomas Nutter
- Dick Schoenberg
- Bruce Marshall
- Edward Potts
- Jim Taylor
- James Woodward
- Arthur Nelson
- Gary Lee Harris
- John M. Anderson
- Byron Pianalto
- Sam Stevens
- Fran Vorce
- Andrew Clark
- Guy Putman



Upcoming Events

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

May 2020

TBD: 136th Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade

June 2020.

17: NSL Meeting
20: Base Meeting//Scholarship Announcement

Welcome Aboard

We gained a new member without having to have a meeting. Still on active duty is Michael Jakubiszen who earned his dolphins aboard USS Connecticut (SSN-22) in 2010.

Michael, please see me at the next opportunity to get you photo. Marlin

May Historic Events

May 10, 1775 - American forces under Gen. Benedict Arnold and Ethan Allen crossed Lake Champlain and captured the British fort at Ticonderoga, New York. The US Navy has honored this action by naming five ships after the battle.

May 10, 1921 - The engine died on USS R-14 (SS 91) while searching for the missing USS CONESTOGA (AT 54) southeast of Hawaii. R-14's crew improvised a sail from materials onboard and sailed R-14 into Hilo five days later.

May 23, 1939 - USS Sailfish / Squalus (SS 192), bottomed at 243 feet after a valve failure caused flooding, was located by her sister ship, USS

Sculpin (SS 191) and established communications. Using the McCann Rescue Chamber, divers from a submarine rescue ship were able to save the remaining 33 Sailors from Sailfish/Squalus. Four enlisted divers were awarded the Medal of Honor for their efforts in the rescue and salvage.

May 15, 1940 - USS Sailfish / Squalus (SS-192) after reconditioning, repair, and overhaul, Squalus was re-commissioned as Sailfish, with LCDR. Morton C. Mumma, Jr. in command.

May 10, 1960 - USS Triton (SSRN-586), commanded by Capt. Edward L. Beach, completed a submerged circumnavigation of the world in 84 days following many of the routes taken by Magellan.

May 02, 1961 - USS Robert E. Lee (SSBN 601) departed for her first patrol, loaded with 16 Polaris A-1 missiles.

May 06, 1962 - USS Ethan Allen (SSBN-608) fired a Polaris A-2 missile with a nuclear warhead toward Christmas Island, 1,700 miles away. The test was the only one the US ever conducted of any nuclear missile from launch through detonation.



2019 SUBLANT Sailors of the Year

On April 3 COMSUBLANT announced this years' awardees.

Sea Sailor of the Year is HM1(SS/SW/FMF) Matthew Thompson of the blue crew of USS West Virginia (SSBN736).

Shore Sailor of the Year, IS1(IW) Marisol Besson is currently attached to Underwater Warfare Development Center in San Diego.

Thompson is responsible for the health of all of the 170 members of his crew. Besson is LPO of the second largest department of UWDC. This department has activities at nine locations in CONUS, Japan and Italy.



Force Master Chief John Perryman is quoted as saying, *“Although we are recognizing these two Sailors, I don’t want any of the other Sailors in the submarine force to lose sight of the fact that Vice Adm. Daryl Caudle and I are particularly proud of the effort and dedication they show every day, and ensure the United States Submarine Force stays the best Submarine Force in the world.”*

Hampton Roads Base will be presenting petty officers Besson and Thompson with One-Hundred-dollar gift card, base Challenge Coins and Certificates of Accomplishment. USSVI Southeastern District will also be presenting Challenge coins and \$150 gift cards to Thompson and Besson.

The other two Sea Sailor and three Shore Sailor finalists will each receive \$100 gifts from the Southeast District One.

The Sea Finalists are:

- MMN1(SS) Christopher W. Diller, USS San Juan (SSN-751)
- MMN1(SS) David T. Anderson, USS San Francisco (SSN-711)

The Shore Finalists are:

- ETR1(SS/IW) Bubber J. Johnson, Commander Submarine Group Eight
- FT1(SS) Jonathan M. Bagley, Navy Torpedo Facility Yorktown
- MMA1(SS) Brian M. Kirkland, Trident Refit Facility, Kings Bay

Thanks to MCCS Leah Stiles of COMSUBLANT Public Affairs, whose 9 April article was gleefully plagiarized above, and to Ted Vorce, Gary Galles and Bill Bond for filling in some of the blanks. BZ tall.



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USWN ARTICLES

Russian warships in English Channel prompt UK Navy shadowing operation

Nada Bashir and Rob Picheta, cnn.com, March 26

London (CNN)-Nine Royal Navy ships have completed a "concentrated operation" to shadow seven Russian warships, the British Royal Navy said Thursday, citing "unusually high levels of activity" in the English Channel and North Sea.

"Royal Navy sailors and aircrew were monitoring every movement of the Russian ships using state-of-the-art radar, surveillance cameras and sensors, allowing them to track their course and speed as they passed the British Isles," the Royal Navy's statement said.

According to Lieutenant Nick Ward, the operation represents part of the Royal Navy's "routine business" and highlights their "enduring commitment to uphold the security" of the UK.

"Portsmouth-based HMS Tyne spent more than a week working in the English Channel, in often challenging seas, keeping a close eye on the Russian vessels as they pass the south coast," the statement added.

British forces are occasionally forced to respond to Russian aircraft or ships nearing the UK's shores.

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Nuclear-Missile Crews Pull Longer Tours in Virus-Hit Air Force

Tony Capaccio, Bloomberg News, April 15

Air Force personnel manning nuclear missile silos in the U.S. heartland are performing rotations as long as 14 days. Fighter pilots on alert for immediate defense of the U.S. are kept in near-isolation.

It's all part of the "new abnormal" for the Air Force as it ensures smooth functioning during the

coronavirus pandemic, according to General David Goldfein, the service's chief of staff.

As the outlines of the pandemic began evident "we did a reset," Goldfein said in an interview Wednesday. "We've got to adapt faster than the virus."

The Air Force focused its efforts on missions deemed essential to the defense of the nation, he said. That includes manning nuclear missile silos as well as air mobility, space, cyber, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations.

It also encompasses the post-Sept. 11 "Noble Eagle" flight personnel in the New York and Washington, D.C., areas who are on alert to take off within minutes of a threat. That means F-16 pilots with the 113th Air National Guard Wing at Joint Base Andrews outside Washington, before they begin their 24-hour on-alert rotation, are told to "self-quarantine at home," while only on-call pilots and maintenance airmen are allowed in the specialized "alert" facility that's normally staffed by multiple people.

"Right now, they are limiting only those who are directly tied to the mission in the building -- no more personnel than necessary," Senior Master Sergeant Craig Clapper, wing spokesman, said in an email. "We have adapted to the new guidelines put in place and the mission has been fully effective as normal."

The military has been under pressure as it struggles to fulfill its national security role without worsening the spread of the virus. The acting Navy secretary resigned last week after dismissing the captain of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier who had sent an urgent plea for help dealing with an outbreak on his ship, now sidelined in Guam. One crew member on the vessel has since died and almost 600 crew members have tested positive for the virus.

As of April 15, the Air Force had 299 of the military's 2,486 confirmed coronavirus cases, according to Pentagon data.

As the pandemic expands, the Air Force's mission-essential flight crews are kept in a "pretty tight bubble," Goldfein said. "They leave the



cockpit, they go directly to their room, they have meals that are cleaned, they're delivered and we keep them there until it's time to get back to the airplanes. We keep them in a bubble because they are flying all over the globe."

It's similar to how the Air Force is managing the personnel who staff its nuclear command and control systems and the silos housing Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles, Goldfein said.

For those missions, teams have been divided into "blue" and "silver" units that are "staying out in the field longer," in some cases as many as 14 days compared with two- or three-days pre-virus, Goldfein said.

The demands aren't going away, regardless of whether the virus does, he added.

"We expect zero relief in terms of operational tempo in those missions," Goldfein said.

PRC, Russian Subs May Soon Face UUV-Launched U.S. Sea Mines

Paul McLeary, Breaking Defense, April 13

WASHINGTON: Unmanned underwater vehicles will scatter anti-submarine mines as a new way to protect US Navy ships at sea, part of a larger push to screen the fleet from increasingly sophisticated Chinese and Russian subs prowling the seas.

This marks an important shift in US naval warfare, as the head of the Navy's mine warfare division, Capt. Chris Merwin, outlined at a conference last year. "Basically we have Quickstrike mines, air-delivered dumb bombs, and we have a few submarine-launchable mines. That is what we have now," but "that is changing big time.

The future "of mining," Merwin said, will be [unmanned underwater vehicle] clandestinely-launched mines,"

Earlier this month, the service held a virtual industry day to discover what technologies companies might be able to deliver for its Hammerhead program which, if successful, would deploy UUVs to spread canisters containing Mk46 anti-submarine torpedoes to critical areas to screen American submarines and ships.

Head of the Unmanned and Small Combatants office, Rear Adm. Casey Moton, said in a release today the industry day was meant to "stress the importance of the program to the fleet – they want it today, they need it today."

But they won't have it today. Or tomorrow.

The plan calls for up to 30 prototypes to be delivered in fiscal 2021, with delivery of what the Navy calls "operationally relevant prototypes" by the end of fiscal 2023. The industry day was attended by 16 companies.

That's a bit of a wait for a program which kicked off in 2018 and has been classified a Middle Tier Acquisition Rapid Prototyping Program and a Navy Maritime Accelerated Acquisition, meaning the Navy wanted to develop the capability quickly.

Anti-submarine warfare (and mine warfare) was relegated to the back burner after the fall of the Soviet Union, a time when the rise of China was barely a consideration and the need to defend against hostile submarines seemed less and less likely. But Russia's modernization of its submarine fleet, along with the growing Chinese capability overall, has led to scrambling inside the Navy to rebuild those once formidable defenses and countermeasures.

The push has also been spurred by the flameout of the anti-sub capabilities of the Littoral Combat Ship, which never delivered as promised. The need was underscored in the service's 2020 unfunded priorities list, which included \$71 million for the Quickstrike JDAM-ER, an underwater mine dropped from an aircraft.

A November 2019 request for information posted by the Navy to a contracting website called the Hammerhead "a moored-torpedo variant mine system for intermediate to deep depths that has the capability to detect, classify, and defeat Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) targets." The configuration is slated to include a capsule to hold the torpedo, a mooring module, a power source, a



sensor, and command, control and signal capabilities.

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'Disruptive' missile defense technologies sought

Jason Sherman, InsideDefense.com, April 22

The Missile Defense Agency is asking industry for ideas on potential "disruptive technologies," seeking white papers by the end of June on new ways to improve defending against ballistic, hypersonic and cruise missile threats.

In an April 20 request for information, MDA announced it is "seeking innovative solutions from commercial and defense industries, to develop new

designs, adapt existing technologies in other fields, or re-design existing capabilities to fulfill our needs."

The RFI explicitly encourages non-traditional missile defense contractors to propose ideas.

"A disruptive technology could be an existing or a demonstrated capability already under development for commercial or military industrial use that could be adapted to provide a solution to MDA's capability gaps," the solicitation states.

