



the NEW

STIMSON  
DRINK



PRICE: ONE  
DCA'S MATTRESS



Grandparents  
DAY  
September 10th

VOL. 2023 #9

SEPTEMBER 2023

USS HENRY L. STIMSON ASSOCIATION SSBN655 NEWSLETTER

Association Officers & Board of Directors 2021 - 2023

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Tom [Marie] Krauser	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Jerry [CJ] Blevins	<b>SECRETARY</b> Nick [Linda] Nichols	<b>TREASURER</b> Ken [Diane] Meigs
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Other Positions 2021 - 2023

<b>HISTORIAN / CUSTODIAN</b> Larry [Linda] Knutson	<b>WEBMASTER / NEWSLETTER</b> Nick [Linda] Nichols	<b>CHAPLAIN</b> Bruce [Vicki] Stefanik
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**NO NOMINATIONS OR REUNION LOCATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FOLLOWING THE LAST NEWSLETTER.**

Shipmates,

The reunion is now on top of us. In a little over a month, we will be meeting for Reunion #12 in SC. During our business meeting there are two items that must be addressed and voted on and the Board of Directors (BOD) requests your help.

**ITEM 1. Election of officers occurs every two years, or at each reunion.** A slate of candidates will be presented to those in attendance to be voted on. The positions elected are President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. We are asking you to send any nominations to filling these positions to the Secretary [<mailto:655webmaster@ssbn655.org>] as soon as possible. Check with the shipmate and get his agreement to run for the position before sending in his name.

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

Although there are nominations in the following list, all positions are open for our members to nominate others to that job.

A.. President:

1. Jerry Blevins, current Vice President, has been nominated by Tom Krauser to serve as President and has agreed to serve if elected.

B. Vice President:

1. Nominations are needed.

C. Treasurer:

1. The BOD nominates Ken Meigs to continue as Treasurer. Ken has agreed to continue if elected. He has served as our Treasurer since 2007 and is considered to be the best candidate for the position.

D. Secretary:

1. The BOD nominates Nick Nichols to continue as Secretary. Nick has agreed to continue if elected. He has served as our secretary since 2013.

The Stimson Association was officially established with bylaws in 2005

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

**ITEM 2. Reunion location and chairman for 2025 Reunion #13.** It cannot be emphasized enough how important this decision is to continuing our Association and gathering together every two years. The Association has actually had a couple of business meetings when it looked like there would not be a next reunion because no one had a location and chairman. The BOD is asking for nominations for location and names of a possible chairman for that reunion. Guidelines for the reunion and chairman are located in our current bylaws: Article VI. Meetings and Reunions.

Send your nominations to the Association President Tom Krauser [[krauser0550@gmail.com](mailto:krauser0550@gmail.com)]. Tom will also answer any questions you may have concerning the 2025 #13 reunion/location/details.

**REUNION CONTROL CENTER**

**October 11-15, 2023**

**Charleston SC**

**Hilton Garden Inn (Summerville SC)**

**[information and directions to the hotel venue are on the Reunion #12 Webpage]**

**126 registrations** have been received as of 30 August 23. Check here to see who has signed up to attend: [Registered Attendees Sailing List](#)

**BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS NEWSLETTER THE DEADLINE FOR REUNION REGISTRATION HAS PASSED. ALL REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED BY 1 SEPT HAVE BEEN PROCESSED.**

STATES W/REGISTERED ATTENDEES				
SC	NY	FL	KY	NC
CT	OK	GA	TN	CA
VA	OH	AL	AZ	CO
MA	PA	NM	TX	IN
IN	WI	MD	MN	

**What did the printer say when it ran out of paper? Oh, *sheet!***



**From the 2023 Reunion Chairman, Harry Nettles, QMCS (SS) G COB 91-92, [QMCM Ret.], USSVI Charleston Base, Holland Club:**

Here we are a little over 40 days to the reunion. The Hunley Tour is looking better every day with almost 80 signing up for it. It is a fantastic artifact thanks to the late Clive Cussler,

who put together the team which located the wreck, raised it and turned it over for preservation. She is high and dry now and continues to be preserved. I and the Charleston group are looking forward to seeing all of you this fall. Stay safe and be careful in your travels.



**From the Association President - Tom Krauser, MM1(SS) B 72-74, 655 Assoc Life Member, USSVI Albany-Saratoga Base, Holland Club**

Our daughter Amy has taken a job at Florida Power and Light and has moved there from Baron Rouge. She is currently living in Jensen Beach on the ocean while she looks for a house. We are looking forward to visiting her there.

Marie and I are looking forward to the reunion in Charleston where we can visit with all of our shipmates. Look for details about the reunion in the newsletter. Make sure to get your reservation in before the deadline.

If you have any questions or concerns for the board, please feel free to contact us so we can address them.



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

Shipmates, I recently had to replace my old commuter. After researching several models I chose one with Thunderbolt™ ports. If you would like to know more please read my writeup under the Computer Corner section.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in

**Submarines Lost During the Month of September**

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





right now just in time for Susan and I to celebrate our 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary tomorrow on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The knee, leg and foot are still very hot and swollen to the point that I can't put on any shoes. Making the reunion is still in GREAT DOUBT unless things turn around soon.

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**Michael Schwarzott, STS2(SS) B 75-76**

Cards to: 7935 Edgebrook Circle Apt 1, N. Charleston SC 29418

**8.26.2023: Email from Michael:** I was finally going to come to one [reunion] but unfortunately, I am having a total reverse shoulder replacement on Sept 20th. That will be a hard recovery with lots of PT and relearning to use my arm again.

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**Lloyd Hyatt, MT2(SS) B 73-76**

Cards to: 134 Coral Way, Jacksonville Beach FL 32250

**5.24.23: Email from Lloyd:** I did have my bone marrow transplant on April 10. I just met with my doctor after my 30 day bone marrow biopsy and so far everything is going well. I did have some graft verses host disease but things have settled down. My cancer is in remission, no cancer detected in my bone marrow and my donors DNA has been detected in the bone marrow. I want to thank everyone for the prayers. I'll give you a new update after the next biopsy in 60 days. Lloyd Hyatt MT2(SS) Blue Crew

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

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

**5.24.23: Email from Jean:** I really don't have any updates, just taking it one day at a time. We have started attending some social events at our local VFW and Ron enjoys the camaraderie of his VFW buddies, this certainly raises his spirits. Please keep checking in. Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

*1.29.23: Email from Ron 'RG': After my diagnoses of Alzheimer's, February 2022, I had to have my Aortic Heart Valve replaced in April*

*followed by Cardio Rehab from June to August of 2022. I entered a CBD Oil Study from July to October through EVMS, Eastern Virginia Medical School, to help with my anxiety and agitation. It seemed to help a lot. January 2023, I was reevaluated for my Alzheimer's and I am now in the moderate stage. I was prescribed new medication to help with my memory and anxiety. It seems to be working very well. Thank you for all your prayers, RG and Jean*

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## GREAT LINKS TO SPEND TIME WITH

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**655 Association Website**

**[www.ssb655.org](http://www.ssb655.org)**

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*Submitted by George Birmingham, ET1(SS) G/SY1/G 69-74, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI Carolina Piedmont Base, Holland Club*

In our younger days, as we traveled our nation's highways, it was fun to watch for the Burma Shave signs along the way.

Catchy jingles, that made you laugh and broke the boredom in your path.

Here's a link that brings back some of those memories. It is the complete text of the original Burma-Shave jingles, as archived in Frank Rowsome Jr.'s book *The Verse by the Side of the Road*.

**[Here you will find the complete text of the original Burma-Shave jingles](#)**

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

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### **The Bridge**

A man who is a devout Christian saves a child from being run over but gets killed in doing so. When he meets saint peter at the gates to Heaven, he is escorted to meet God. Who looks at his record of church appearances and then speaks to him.

"I see you are a man of the faith and have never done anything bad in your life and you made the ultimate sacrifice giving your life for a child you didn't even know. Just for this, I'm going

to send you back with a one-time wish to make your life better. Tell me what is it you wish for?"

"Thank you, God I'm so grateful I do have a wish. I'm afraid of flying and get terribly seasick. And all my relations now live in America so could you please build me a highway from England to the US so that I can drive there?"

God sits there for a little while and looking sad replies.

"I'm sorry my son but that feat of engineering isn't possible owing to the depth of water and the stresses involved please ask for another wish."

The man thinks for a little bit then says.

"There is one other thing I would like."

"Go ahead my son make your wish and I'll make it come true."

"Well, I've never got on with women I don't know how to talk to them. Could you please make me understand how women think so that I can find a wife and have children?"

God sits there for what seems like forever and then answers.

"How many lanes would you like on the highway?"

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*Submitted by George Birmingham, ET1(SS) G/SY1/G 69-74, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI Carolina Piedmont Base, Holland Club*

### **IT'S Sooooo HOT!**

.... The birds have to use potholders to pull worms out of the ground!

.... The trees are whistling for the dogs!

.... The best parking place is determined by the shade instead of distance!

.... Hot water now comes out of both taps!

.... You can make sun tea instantly!

.... You learn that a car seat belt buckle makes a pretty good branding iron!

.... The temperature drops below 95 °F (35 °C) and you feel chilly!

.... You discover that in July it only takes 2 fingers to steer your car!

.... You discover that you can get sunburned through your car window!

.... You actually burn your hand opening the car door!

.... You break into a sweat the instant you step

outside at 7:30 a.m.

.... Your biggest bicycle wreck fear is, "What if I get knocked out and end up lying on the pavement and cook to death?"

.... You realize that asphalt has a liquid state!

.... The potatoes cook underground, so all you have to do is pull one out and add butter!

.... The cows are giving evaporated milk!

.... Farmer are feeding their chickens crushed ice to keep them from laying boiled eggs!

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*Submitted by Jeff Morse, STS1(SS) B 86-91*

### **How Submarine Sonarmen Tirelessly Hunt For Enemies They Can't Even See**

The ability to fight and win in the high-stakes game of undersea warfare is all about the art of listening. Here's how it's done.

#### **The War Zone** Aaron Amick



Sound analysis is a vital tool in naval operations. Sonar operators are a trained group of sailors who are responsible for managing a large amount of real-time acoustic information. They combine some natural ability with yearlong shore-based training before putting on a set of headphones at sea. The means and methods of the sonar operator's job are one part of science combined with some individual talent to recognize acoustic patterns both audibly and visually. In this article, we will dive into what a sonar team provides the tactical decision-makers on board a vessel and how they go about providing it.

**[Read the complete story here](#)**

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*Submitted by David Huckeba, MM1(SS) SY1/B 71-75, MMCS(SS) Ret.*

### **ADKINS: America's Submarine Crisis**

Story by Alex Adkins



AT SEA - JANUARY 22: The USS Florida sails during "Giant Shadow," a Naval Sea Systems Command/Naval Submarine Forces exercise to test the capabilities of the Navy's future guided missile submarines January 22, 2003 off the coast of the Bahamas. The Florida is one of four Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines to be converted to guided missile submarines. © (Photo by David Nagle/U.S. Navy/Getty Images)

The U.S. Naval force faces a national security crisis: insufficient attack submarines to defend our shores. A concerning report from the Congressional Research Service found that around 40 % of fast attack submarines need to be repaired or awaiting maintenance due to supply chain issues and not enough workers available. Attack submarines are an excellent deterrent against our adversaries, but the U.S. is failing to meet production standards.

2015 was the last year that the Navy missed its target of 20% for out-of-commission submarines. With its current high of out-of-commission submarines, the number of attack submarines has shrunk in a decade from 53 to 49, which is unsustainable. For comparison, the U.S. in the 80s produced three attack submarines and one ballistic missile submarine every year of the decade. The Navy's standard requirement is 66 for its current military obligations which is the minimum for defending our shores.

[Read complete story here](#)

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*[NOTE: If you receive retired pay or VA pay be sure to read the following. Very important to you and your family.]*

### **Why It's Important to Inform DFAS of Life-Changing Events**

Alerting DFAS to any changes that might affect your Survivor Benefit Plan promptly can make your beneficiary's experience much easier.

Keeping your account updated includes:

- making sure you report life-changing events right away
- ensuring your beneficiary choices are current, and
- providing up-to-date contact information for both you and your beneficiary.

What are life-changing events? Events like:

- Marriage or Remarriage
- Divorce
- Birth or adoption of a child
- Death of a spouse or child

Be sure to report any change of life events as soon as they happen. Some changes to Survivor Benefit Plan coverage have a one-year time limit, so it is very important that you notify DFAS promptly.

If you are making a change to your SBP coverage because of a life event, you can now use the convenient, online askDFAS upload tool on DFAS.mil to submit your DD2656-6 (Survivor Benefit Plan Election Change Certificate) and supporting documents. And when you submit a DD 2656-6, you'll get email status notifications to the email you provide in askDFAS, or if you send it by postal mail or fax, to the email in your myPay account.

DFAS continues to develop helpful tools and information for you and our website puts it all at your fingertips: <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary>.



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### **The Computer Corner**

**By: Tom Krauser, MM1(SS) B 72-74, 655 Assoc Life Member, USSVI Albany-Saratoga Base, Holland Club**

### **Clearing Fake Pop-Up Virus Messages**

This is similar to an article I had some time ago but I have been helping more people lately recover from it lately and felt it might be worth repeating.

When you are on the internet with your "browser" (Edge, Chrome, Firefox, etc.) and are searching for information, you may click on a site

that appears to be related to your search. This site is actually a fake site that will then display a screen that says you have a virus or something else wrong with your computer. It will usually say it is from Microsoft or a virus software company and will warn you to IMMEDIATELY CALL the phone number on that screen to have a “Microsoft technician” fix the issue. It may or may not be talking warning you not to shut down the computer or close that window.

**NEVER CLICK ON THE WINDOW OR CALL THE PHONE NUMBER ON THE SCREEN !!!!!**

**IF YOU CALL THE PHONE NUMBER**, they will say they need to take “control” of your screen so they can “analyze your computer”. If you give them control, it will look like they are doing something to your computer, but they are actually INSTALLING MALWARE on your computer. After they “analyze your computer” they will tell you they found “serious problems” with the computer and the charge is about \$300 to “fix it”. They will ask for your credit card number to pay to fix your computer. At this point they have already installed the MALWARE so your computer is already compromised. Giving them your credit card only makes it worse because now they can use it to charge other things.

If you did let them on your computer you may need to take it to a professional to have any MALWARE removed or restore you computer. If you gave them your credit card number, you need to immediately call your card provider to stop the card and have any charges reversed.

**WHAT TO DO WHEN THE MESSAGE FIRST POPS UP**

When the virus message first pops-up **DO NOT CLICK ON THE MESSAGE OR TRY TO CLOSE IT**. This could trigger code to install something on the computer or to make it the “default” screen when the “browser” opens. At this point, this message is usually an HTML file that is only in that “browser” and is not actually doing anything to your computer unless you click on it and it initiates code. It may have made itself the “default screen” for that “browser” so it would keep opening each time you open that browser.

**Steps to clear the virus warning screen from your computer.**




**Step 1**

If you have **Task Manager** on your **Task Bar** or **Start Menu** (discussed in a previous newsletter), you can open the **Task Manager** and click on the “browser” (Edge, Chrome, Firefox, etc.) that you are using and select “**End Task**”. This should close the browser and the pop-up screen.

If **Task Manager** is not on your **Task Bar** or **Start Menu**, then press **Ctrl-Alt-Del** and a screen will come up to allow you to open the **Task Manager** and close the affected browser.

If this worked (or did not work) then proceed to Step 2.

**Step 2**

Click on the Start Menu Icon  then select Power  then select  **Shut down**. After the computer shuts down, wait a couple of minutes before restarting to make sure all memory is cleared.

**Step 3**

Restart the computer and Log into your area. Before opening anything, run a “complete” virus and malware scan on the computer. If you have additional malware programs installed (such as SuperAntiSpyware) then run them also. These programs can usually be run at the same time.

**Step 4**

After the virus and malware scans have been run. Click on the “browser” (Edge, Chrome, Firefox, etc.) you were using when the pop-up message occurred. When the “browser” opens you may get a warning that the browser was not properly closed and an option to “Restore previous pages” will be offered. **DO NOT RESTORE PREVIOUS PAGES** since one of those “previous pages” is the initial virus message HTML page.

Close the “Browser” by clicking on the X in the upper right corner to close the “browser”. After the browser closes then reopen the browser. This time the warning to “Restore previous pages” should not appear.



Hopefully, the virus message has been cleared and will not reappear. You should be OK to use your computer. If the message does reappear repeat the steps again. If it keeps reappearing, you may have to get a professional to fix the problem.

You should open the browser setting (usually the 3 dots or bars in the upper right corner). You should clear all browsing history, data, cookies, and review the Start pages to make sure it is opening the desired pages on startup.

You may want to run the virus scans again just to make sure nothing got installed.

This type of pop-up virus message usually only affects that browser and other “browsers” on your computer should normally not be affected.

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**The Computer Cornder part 2:**

*Submitted by Jerry Blevins, LT(SS) B 76-79, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI Groton Base*

**Thunderbolt™ Interconnect Technology**

One key decision that I recently had to make in selecting my replacement laptop was choosing between a computer with Universal Serial Port (USB) Type-C (USB-C) ports or with Thunderbolt™ ports. This necessitated me learning something about Thunderbolt™ and the newer versions of USB-C. This is my attempt to share what I learned about these technologies. The following is a layman’s comparison (I’ll let our experts provide any needed corrections in future Newsletters.)

Thunderbolt™ is an Intel® technology introduced in 2011 that has transitioned through four versions.

Thunderbolt™ 1 and Thunderbolt™ used a Mini-Display Port (MDP) that was common on Apple Products. The Thunderbolt™ 3 and Thunderbolt™ 4 physical connector is identical to a Universal Serial Port (USB)-C connector.

Thunderbolt™ Version	1	2	3	4
Speed (Gigabytes per Second [Gbps])	10	20	40	40
Bandwidth (Gbps)	4	12	16	32
Monitors	One 4k	One 4k	One 4k	Two 4k

The Thunderbolt™ 3 and Thunderbolt™ is backward compatible with USB-C devices. The USB-C, Thunderbolt™ 3, and Thunderbolt™ 4 connector is symmetrical eliminating a right-side up only position.

**USB Type-C (USB-C)**

This is an industry-standard connector that is capable of transmitting power and data through a single cable. Now to complicate things. USB-C is a hardware standard (i.e., size of connector; prongs size, quantity, and location). USB 3.2 is a data-transfer standard that is compatible with a USB-C connector.

A USB-C connector can drive a HD monitor and can handle up to 100 W of power transfer. Those capabilities are software dependent and not port dependent. My new HP laptop uses a USB-C connector for the power supply.

Connector Data Type	USB 3.2 Gen 1	USB 3.2 Gen 2x1	USB 3.2 Gen 1x2	USB 3.2 Gen 2x2
Formerly Labeled	USB 3.0 or USB 3.1 Gen 1	USB 3.1 Gen 2		
Connector Type	USB-A or USB-C	USB-A or USB-B-C	USB-C only	USB-C only
Speed (Gbps)	5	10	10	20

**The Computer Corner part 3:**

Submitted by George Birmingham, ET1(SS) G/SY1/G  
69-74, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI Carolina Piedmont  
Base , Holland Club

Did you know?

Windows 11 collects users' data to offer a better overall experience. But how exactly Windows 11 does it is something you should know to become more aware of what is at stake when you willingly or unwillingly share data with Microsoft.

1. Windows 11 Sends Telemetry Data to Microsoft
  2. Windows 11 Collects Data Through Advertising IDs
  3. Windows 11 Can Track Your Location
  4. Windows 11 Collects Your Activity History
  5. Windows 11 Collects Your Voice Data
- 5 Ways Windows 11 Collects Your Data**

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**Veteran Service Officer Update  
From the Desk of USSVI National Veteran  
Service Officer—John Dudas**

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**VA Studying Whether 3 Types of Cancer Are  
Linked to Overseas Military Service**  
<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/07/25/va-studying-whether-3-types-of-cancer-are-linked-overseas-military-service.html>

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**Why Now Is (Really) the Time to Apply for VA  
Benefits**  
<https://www.military.com/money/personal-finance/why-now-really-time-apply-va-benefits.html>  
[ESRC=eb 230731.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20230731](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/07/25/va-studying-whether-3-types-of-cancer-are-linked-overseas-military-service.html)

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**What Survivors of Veterans Need to Know  
About the PACT Act**  
<https://www.military.com/benefits/what-survivors-of-veterans-need-know-about-pact-act.html>  
[ESRC=eb 230801.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20230801](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/07/25/va-studying-whether-3-types-of-cancer-are-linked-overseas-military-service.html)

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**VA Hospitals Rate Higher Than Civilian  
Facilities in New Federal Survey**  
<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/07/27/va-hospitals-rate-higher-civilian-facilities-new-federal-survey.html>  
[ESRC=eb 230728.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20230728](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/07/27/va-hospitals-rate-higher-civilian-facilities-new-federal-survey.html)

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**VA Plans Events Across the Country to Help  
with Filing Toxic Exposure Claims**  
<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/07/27/va-plans-events-across-country-help-filing-toxic-exposure-claims.html>  
[ESRC=eb 230728.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20230728](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/07/27/va-plans-events-across-country-help-filing-toxic-exposure-claims.html)

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**Why You Should Get a Veterans Designation  
on Your Driver's License**  
<https://www.military.com/discounts/veterans/why-you-should-get-veterans-designation-your-drivers-license.html>  
[ESRC=navy 230808.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=navy&utm\\_campaign=20230808](https://www.military.com/discounts/veterans/why-you-should-get-veterans-designation-your-drivers-license.html)

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**These Resorts and Hotels Are Just for  
Veterans and Military Members**  
<https://www.military.com/travel/these-resorts-and-hotels-are-just-veterans-and-military-members.html>  
[ESRC=navy 230808.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=navy&utm\\_campaign=20230808](https://www.military.com/travel/these-resorts-and-hotels-are-just-veterans-and-military-members.html)

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**VA Mobile Medical Clinics to Serve Homeless  
Veterans in 25 Cities**  
<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/08/07/va-mobile-medical-clinics-serve-homeless-veterans-25-cities.html>  
[ESRC=eb 230808.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20230808](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/08/07/va-mobile-medical-clinics-serve-homeless-veterans-25-cities.html)

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**Purple Heart Benefits**  
<https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/purple-heart-benefits.html>  
[ESRC=mr 230807.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20230807](https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/purple-heart-benefits.html)



## **Disaster Assistance for Veterans**

Veterans and their families should be aware of assistance available to them because of a natural disaster.

### **DHS and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) resources**

#### **US Government resources**

If you need help determining where to go for care or have questions about the **VA resources available to you, please call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411).**

**READ MORE**

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## **Next PACT Act deadline Sept. 30: Direct Health Care Enrollment**

Veterans who deployed to a combat zone, never enrolled in VA health care and left the military between Sept. 11, 2001, and Oct. 1, 2013, are eligible to enroll directly in VA health care through the PACT Act. This special enrollment period ends at 11:59 p.m. local time on Sept. 30, 2023.

**APPLY NOW**

**LEARN MORE**

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## **Get Care Now with VA Health Chat**

VA Health Chat connects Veterans with a VA health care team member in real time. Get medical advice, schedule appointments, or refill prescriptions wherever you are.

**Learn more.**

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## **How to Spot Deep Vein Thrombosis**

Many things can cause pain or swelling in your leg. In fact, deep vein thrombosis can have the same symptoms as other health problems. Know what to look for to stay healthy.

**Learn more.**

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## **Are You Due for a Vaccine?**

Did you know you may be eligible for a no-cost flu shot? As flu season approaches, find out if there are other vaccines you may be due for.

**Learn more.**

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## **Summer Heat Safety**

With record high temperatures this summer, it's important to understand the risks and warning signs of heat related illnesses. We have tips to help you stay safe.

**Learn more.**

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## **VA Support for Staying Independent**

You don't have to face aging, disability, or illness alone. VA has resources to help you protect your independence, well-being, and care preferences.

**Learn more.**

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## **Secure Messaging: Recipe for Success**

Secure Messaging makes it easy to stay in touch with your health care team. But unclear messages can cause confusion. We have tips to avoid stressful miscommunication.

**Learn more**

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## **Prevent Gout Pain**

Gout is a form of arthritis that's easier to control than others. Getting early treatment can prevent future pain and joint damage.

**Learn more.**

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## **Indigestion? Try These Tips**

Heartburn, bloating, and nausea can be signs of acid reflux. Certain foods and daily habits can hurt or help.

**Learn more.**

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## **Long COVID: What You Should Know**

If you've had COVID-19, it's important to know the signs of Long COVID. Even in mild cases, COVID-19 can affect the lungs, heart, brain, and other organs.

**Learn more.**

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## **Physical Therapy at Home**

Physical therapy improves balance, strength, and mobility. You can try physical therapy through VA Video Connect, from the comfort of home.

**Learn more.**

## **The Lean Submariner**

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

<https://theleansubmariner.com/>

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## **Retirement 3.0 Let's try this again**

**Mister Mac** Aug 5

I think I am a bit of a hoarder. Well, that's not quite true. I know I am a hoarder. For instance, I have an old file resistant box that has every piece of paper the Navy ever gave me. Everything from my DD-214's to the evaluations and fitness reports that were in my service jacket [...]

**Read more of this post**

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## **The SHIP'S DECK LOG SHEET NAVPERS 3100/2 (Rev 5-73) – Every Entry Tells a Story**

**Mister Mac** Aug 8

The SHIP'S DECK LOG SHEET NAVPERS 3100/2 (Rev 5-73) I have been working on my application for PACT act benefits for a number of months now. One of the most frustrating things is trying to prove that we were where we were. Submarines are notorious for secrecy (which they should be) but in order to [...]

**Read more of this post**

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## **August 9, 2023 PACT ACT Update**

**Mister Mac** Aug 9

Today is an important day for those affected by the PACT ACT.

<https://www.va.gov>

**Read more of this post**

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## **PACT Act Extension – August 14 2023**

**Mister Mac** Aug 10

Good news for those who are having trouble getting through the web portal:

**Read more of this post**

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## **Aloha Spirit and Maui – Forty Years of Memories**

**Mister Mac** Aug 10

Watching the television and on-line reports of damage to Maui has been difficult. The loss of life and property damage is heart wrenching. My

memories of that paradise are fading now with age but I can still see some images in my head.

The first time I went there was at the end of a [...]

**Read more of this post**

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## **Veterans' Organizations**

**Mister Mac** Aug 12

I've been thinking a lot about starting an official USS San Francisco SSN 711 organization. The purpose would be for the crew to stay connected and informed about where people ended up and what they did after graduating from the boat. It could also be a one stop shop for future reunions and gatherings. Finally, [...]

**Read more of this post**

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## **At the heart of it all – August 15**

**Mister Mac** Aug 15

August 15, 2002 was just another ordinary day. Well at least it started out that way. I was ending up one work project working at a new factory that helped develop. The Hummer project was pretty challenging for many reasons. I was the third project manager brought in by Raytheon to try and close [...]

**Read more of this post**

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## **The Submarine Recognition Manual NAVPERS 10011**

**Mister Mac** Aug 15

A new era: In 1959, the United States was about to fast forward its submarine program. The nuclear program was well under way and the ballistic missile submarine program called Polaris was in full swing. Congressional reports at the time talked about the mounting Soviet threat. The Soviets had also developed a number of shipyards [...]

**Read more of this post**

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*Submitted by George Stevens, MT2(SS) G 68-71*

**The US has sent the nuclear-powered submarine USS Tennessee with 20 Trident II intercontinental ballistic missiles with a launch range of more than 12,000 kilometres to the UK**

By: Maksim Panasovskyi | 25.07.2023,



The US Navy has been revealing the location of strategic nuclear submarines that carry nuclear weapons with unexpected frequency over the past year. One of the Ohio class submarines has arrived in the UK.

### Here's What We Know

In July, the USS Tennessee, bearing the submarine number (SSBN-734), anchored off the coast of Scotland. The submarine was visited by the head of the British Submarine Force, Commodore Paul Dunn, and the commander of European Command, US Army General Christopher Cavoli.



The US Navy has 18 Ohio-class nuclear-powered submarines, 14 of which carry up to 20 Trident II (D5) intercontinental ballistic missiles. The service does not say whether the USS Tennessee has nuclear weapons on board.

Our heroine, like other Ohio-class strategic submarines, can carry more than 100 nuclear warheads (3-8 for each missile). The Trident II (D5) has a maximum launch range of over 12,000 kilometres.

8 of the 14 Ohio-class submarines operate in the Pacific Ocean. The area of responsibility of the remaining submarines is the Atlantic. The USS Kentucky recently visited the Republic of Korea for the first time since 1981.

Source: [@US STRATCOM](#)

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*Submitted by David Huckeba, MM1(SS) B 71-75  
[MMCS Ret], Assoc. Life Member*

### Almost 40% of US Attack Submarines Out of Commission



The guided missile submarine USS Ohio (SSGN 726) stops for a personnel boat transfer

Thomas McKenna, July 11, 2023

More than a third of U.S. submarines are out of commission due to ship-building delays, according to data released by the Congressional Research Service.

Thirty-seven percent of the U.S. Navy's attack submarines—18 out of 49—are out of commission for repairs, up from 12 boats a decade ago. The Congressional Research Service said the backlog was due to "insufficient numbers of workers and facility constraints" at naval shipyards as well as "supply chain issues," saying that the delays have cut the "force's capacity for meeting day-to-day mission demands and potentially putting increased operational pressure" on active boats.

The statistic demonstrates the extent of U.S. naval unpreparedness for a potential war with China. The U.S. Naval Institute said in May that China's Navy is the largest in the world and is expected to grow to 440 "battle force" ships by 2030, while the United States will sit at 290 battle

force ships the same year. Dozens of Pentagon war games

published last month revealed the United States is unprepared for a "horribly bloody" war with China.

Gatestone Institute senior fellow Gordon Chang said last month the United States is "not prepared to fight China."

"It's not just a question of having a larger Navy than ours," Chang told Fox Business. "It's also a question that they have types of weapons that we don't have and which right now we have no defenses for."

The Biden administration's 2024 budget proposal asked for sharp budget cuts to the Navy and the premature retirement of eight ships and two combat vessels, the Washington Free Beacon reported. Sending these ships to an early retirement would remove more than 600 vertical missile launch systems.

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*Submitted by David Huckeba, MM1(SS) B 71-75 [MMCS Ret], Assoc. Life Member*

### **'Sir, Our Aircraft Carrier Was Destroyed': How a Stealth Submarine Killed a Navy Carrier in a Simulation**

Story by Brent M. Eastwood

**Sweden's Gotland-class Submarines are Quiet and Deadly:** Diesel engines aboard submarines used to be considered out of date and something more in line with World War II than today's modern stealthy subs.



051001-N-1722M-355 San Diego (Oct. 1, 2005) The Swedish diesel-powered attack submarine HMS Gotland transits through San Diego Harbor with the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan

(CVN 76) following close behind during the ÒSea and Air ParadeÓ held as part of Fleet Week San Diego 2005. Fleet Week San Diego is a three-week tribute to Southern California-area military members and their families. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Michael Moriatis (RELEASED)© Provided by 1945

Not so with Sweden's Gotland-class of subs.

These modern diesel-electric boats, now powered by air-independent propulsion (AIP), are so quiet that the U.S. Navy took an interest and leased one of the models to conduct testing and war games.

### **How the Gotland Sank the USS Ronald Reagan in a War Game**

The reason why there is so much interest in the Gotland-class submarines comes largely from a wargame several years back that went very bad for the U.S. Navy.

The HMS Gotland was able to penetrate the defensive measures of a carrier strike group in 2005. The small sub got so close it produced a photo of the carrier USS Ronald Reagan near San Diego. In a naval war game such as this, it is considered a "sinking."

The Navy liked the Gotland so much that it leased it for a second year for more simulations. Now the Chinese have the same reduced-noise technology that is proving a challenge for American undersea warfare tactics.

### **It's a Robust, Multi-role Sub**

The Gotland-class boats were originally designed by Saab-Kockums and commissioned in the mid-to-late 1990s. These subs can fulfill all kinds of roles – from surface-attack to killing other submarines to dropping off special operations forces personnel. There are three of the boats in the Gotland-class and they are able to sneak up on adversaries and snoop for communications and electronic intelligence.

### **The Gotland Kicked Butt in War Games Against the U.S. Navy**

The U.S. Navy, with some of the best anti-submarine ships and aircraft in the world, just could not find the Gotland in combat simulations. The relatively low-cost \$100 million (cheaper than a nuclear-powered model) sub was able to sneak

around at will while performing opposing force (OPFOR) maneuvers. The Gotland and the American carrier battle group, consisting of several support ships, ran the simulation over and over and the Gotland still came out on top.

### **What's the Secret?**

The secret to the Gotland's low acoustic signature is the quiet Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system of the Stirling engine. This means the Gotland does not have to surface often or use a noisy snorkel like traditional diesel boats.

Instead, the Stirling engine has a 75-kilowatt battery that uses liquid oxygen. The Stirling produces speeds of 11-knots on the surface and 20-knots submerged. The Gotland just runs on AIP for weeks at a time. The Swedes were the first to employ this type of propulsion.

### **Run Silent and Be Hard to Find**

It has 27 electromagnets designed to lower its magnetic signature. Its hull is more sonar-resistant, and the tower is made of materials with some stealth characteristics. Equipment inside is covered with rubber acoustic-deadening to reduce sonar detection.

### **Not a Very Big Sub**

The subs are relatively small at 205-feet long, have a beam of 20-feet, and a draft of 18-feet with a displacement of 1,380 tons. The crew numbers are low and only a maximum of 32 sailors can serve on board.

### **Watch Out for the Torpedoes**

The Gotland has two 533mm and two 400mm torpedo tubes. The Bofors Type 613 torpedoes are launched from the 533mm tubes. The Type 613 is a muscular torpedo used in surface warfare. It has wire-guidance and homes in on targets, sending a warhead of 529 pounds. The sub can also lay mines.

### **Gotland-class Submarine Gets Upgrades**

Since the Gotland was originally produced in the 1990s, the Swedes instituted a 2020 mid-life upgrade. During this time 50 systems such as navigation and sensors were newly fitted, and others changed. The next generation of the Blekinge-class will allow the subs to assess their environment with an optronic mast, which will

replace the periscope.

### **U.S. Navy vs. Gotland: A Rematch?**

If it hasn't already, the U.S. Navy should work with the Swedish Navy to replicate the 2005 training exercises to see if the Americans can improve their performance against the upgraded Gotland-class. This would be extremely helpful as China now has AIP technology and would surely use such submarines in a naval conflict with the U.S. Navy.

### **Read Here**

**During a sermon, a pastor announced:**

**"If you know your wife is controlling you, move to the left."**

**All the men in the church moved to the left except one man.**

**The pastor was happy there was at least one strong man, and asked him:**

**"How come your wife can't control you?"**

**The man quietly replied, "It's my wife who told me not to move."**



USS Daniel Boone (SSBN-629) firing a colored water slug, at Mare Island in February 1964



<b>Shipmate</b>	<b>Onboard Rate - Crew - Years</b>
Andress, Jay & Barbara	MMCS - SY1/B 72-77
Bak, Joe & Pat	MMCM - SY1/B 72-77; B 85-86
Ballard, Danny & Arlene	FTB2 - B 86-89
Batson/Hagman, Brad & Dana	MT3 - B 85-88
Bell, Gary & Merry	CAPT - G 74-77 <b>CO</b>
Blevins, Jerry & CJ	LT - B 76-79
Bonds, Larry, Christina & Jeremy	MM1 - B 73-75
Boyle, BJ & Barbara	MT2 - B 65-67 Plank
Bradish, Tom & Judy	MM1 - B 74-77
Chiarito, Michael & Marylou	MMFN - G 71
Clark, Paul & Margaret	MM1 - B 73-78
Cook, Woody & Dorothy	QM1 - B/SY1/B 69-74
Cormier, Mark	STS2 - G 79-80
Crawford, George & Barbara	ETC - G 65-67 Plank
Daugherty, Harry & Stacy	LTJG - B 76-78 CHOP
Duqueno, Steven	MM2 - SY1/G 72-76
Elliott, Tom & Lori	LTJG - B/SY 91-93 CHOP
Flynn, Michael & Pam	MM1 - SY1/B 72-76
Frisch, Bruce & Kathryn	TM2 - G/SY1/G 71-75
Getchel, Joseph & Karen	ET1 - B 73-76
Glaub, John & Gretchen	MM2 - B/SY1 71-74
Graham, Ron & Cindy	MM2 - G 68-71
Hastie, Sandy & Donna	CAPT - B 80 <b>CO</b>
Hayes, Tim & Terry	MM1 - SY1/B 72-77
Hettmansperger, Steven & Tina	RM3 - B 76-78
Hinkle, David 'Dave	EM1 - B 74-79
Hladik, Chuck & Joyce	TM2 - G 67-70
Huckeba, David & Karen	MM1 - B/SY1 71-75
Hunt, Jim & Jana	RM2 - B 78-80
Johnson, Sam & Maggie	CDR - B 91-93 <b>Decomm CO</b>
Knutson, Larry & Linda	MMCS - B 79-81
Kornowski, Donald	MM1 - B 65-69 Plank
Krauser, Tom & Marie	MM1 - B/SY1 72-74
Kreul, Ray & Rita	TM2 - G 65-69 Plank

<b>Shipmate</b>	<b>Onboard Rate - Crew - Years</b>
Lawson, Tom & Suzanne	FTCS - G 80-81 <b>COB</b>
Lindley, Bill & Joan	TM2 - G/SY1/G 70-75
Long, Gordon & Jean	RM2 - G 81-85
Matherly, David & Ginny	LT - B 77-81
Monfort, Robert & Lisa	QM1 - B 85-90
Morris, Mike & JoyAnn	MMC - G 84-88
Muth, Joe & Michele	LT - B 82; G 85-86
Natarajan/Smith, Srid & Honey	LT - B 83-86
Navarrete, Dennis & Karen	MM3 - B 86-90
Nelson, Lindsay & Karen	EMC - B 76-78
Nettles, Harry & Lee	QMCM - G 91-92 <b>COB</b>
Nichols, Nick & Linda	TM1/FTCS-G/SY1/B 70-75/B85-89 <b>COB</b>
Ningen, Russ & Laura	LT - G/SY1 70-72
Ort, Don & Donna	MM1 - G/SY1/B 69-74
Owen, Gary & Mary	MT2/IC2 - G/SY1/G 70-75
Penning/Ames, Stan & Stevie	TM3 - G 65-68 Plank
Rada, Elliot	SN - G 65-67 Plank
Rowe, Gerald & Diane	MM2 - B 66-69 Plank
Sanderson, Jim & Isabella	FTB2 - B 82-86
Sanner, Bill & Kim	ET2 - SY1/B 72-78
Schomer, Howard	MM2 - G 78-81
Sessler, Marty & Sharon	MTC - SY1/B 72-75
Shepherd, Skip & Sandi	TM2 - B 74-75
Stefanik, Bruce & Vicki	MS2 - B 73-77
Stracke, Mike & Michael (son)	TM2 - G 65-70 Plank
Thomas, Scot & Laurie	QM2 - SY1/G 72-75
Thompson, Tom & Ellen	EM3 - B 85-89
Upchurch, Walt & Elmyra	MM1 - SY1/B 72-75
Violette, Dave & Beth	MM1 - B 73-76
Welch, Mike & Jennifer	YN1 - G 76-78
Woodside, Steve	MM1 - SY1/G 72-76
Wyckoff, Michael	FTGC - B 92-93
Young, Dick & Debbie	SN - G 70-71
Young, Neil	LT - B 79-81

Submitted by Tom Elliott,

LTJG B Decom 91-93 [CDR Ret]

One of the two brass propellor's inlayed in the deck between the SSTGs in the ER. This is the second after the second shipyard period.

