



"These dolphins, once you pin them on your chest, leave deep marks, right over your heart, long after the uniforms have been put away."

VOL. 2024 #1

JANUARY 2024

**USS HENRY L. STIMSON ASSOCIATION SSBN655 NEWSLETTER**

**Association Officers & Board of Directors 2023 - 2025**

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

<b>HISTORIAN / CUSTODIAN</b> <u>Larry [Linda] Knutson</u>	<b>WEBMASTER / NEWSLETTER</b> <u>Nick [Linda] Nichols</u>	<b>CHAPLAIN</b> <u>Bruce [Vicki] Stefanik</u>
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**Wishing each of you a Very Happy New Year from your Association Officers and Board!!**

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



Another year has passed and February will mark 45-years since I left the Stimson crew and 50-years since my initial enlistment. CJ and I hope that everyone had a joyful Christmas and wish all a wonderful New Year.

As I write this, we have just returned from a wedding anniversary cruise in the Caribbean. It brought back a memory of a Caribbean swim-call onboard the Stimson in 1978. My biggest concern at that time was the 19-year-old with an M-14 on the sail for shark protection and whether we were in greater danger from an accidental miss by him or from a shark.



**From the Association Vice President - Ray Kreul, TM2(SS) [TMCM Ret] G Comm 65-69 Plank Owner; Assoc. Life Member; USSVI Groton Base/ Snug Harbor Base/Rhode Island Base and Holland Club**

As the snow flies and the last of the autumn leaves fall from the trees the year comes to an end again. I hope you and your families had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. Wishing you all the best in the New Year.

I have to remember and give thanks to our shipmates who are away from their families on patrol during these holidays. Remember them in your prayers as they have the watch of freedom.

I also want to once again say a big thanks and shout out for the Charleston SUBVETS reunion team for putting on a great reunion.

As the new year starts off Rita and I will celebrate our 57-year anniversary at sea for 124 days on a Holland American world cruise. Catch up soon when we return.





This can be any item related to your SS qualification: Qual Certificate; Qual card, picture receiving your dolphins; etc.

**Qualification Cards of Stimson Sailors**



**The following Stimson Shipmates have departed on Eternal Patrol.**

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**MM1(SS) Clyde R. Bowyer Jr. B 66-69**

**MMCS(SS) USN Veteran**

**Eternal Patrol: January 13, 2015**

[reported by Don Kornowski, MM1(SS) B Comm, 65-69]

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THE FOLLOWING WERE LISTED IN THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER WITH MISSING INFORMATION. IF YOU CAN FILL IN THE ??? PLEASE SEND THE INFO TO ME. IF I DON'T RECEIVED INFO FROM THIS REQUEST THEN WHAT WE HAVE IS WHAT WE HAVE .

**MM1(SS) Eugene J. Tiller ? ??-??**

**Eternal Patrol: April 15, 2012**

Crew and dates onboard unknown  
[reported at reunion by Dave Huckeba]

**TM2(SS) George J. Kerr ? ??-??**

**Eternal Patrol: January 5, 2019**

Crew and dates onboard unknown  
[reported at reunion]

**ETN3(SS) Dennis Bak B 76-81**

**Eternal Patrol: 1990**

Crew and dates onboard unknown  
[reported at reunion]

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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 Shipmates**

(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 who are on our Sailing List be without an email address.

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**MM1(SS) Alex Iliria B 77-81**

[updated by shipmate]

**IC1(SS) Charlie U. Davis G 90-92**

[found and update by Don Ort]

**TM1(SS) Martin Sherlock G 69-70**

[found and update by Don Ort]

**FTB2(SS) Jim Riess B 69/SY1/75**

[update by shipmate]

**IC3(SS) Harold C. Amaker G 74-78**

[update by shipmate]

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**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.

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**Diane Meigs, wife of Ken Meigs, ETR2(SS) G 65-70 Plank Owner, Association Treasurer & Life Member, USSVI Member-at-Large & Holland Club**

Cards to: 1537 Pebble Beach Ct, Medford OR 97504

**11.21.2023:** Diane has had her second chemo treatment in Portland the middle of November and arrived back home Monday before Thanksgiving. Her and Ken are asking for prayer during her treatment and prayer for healing.

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**Robert H. 'Bob' Granzow Jr., MIDN B 71, LT  
leaving the Navy**

Cards to: 36717 Ranch House Murrieta CA 92563

**12.24.2023:** Email from Bob: I have had blood cancer for many years, yet only found out recently. Does anyone reading this know of others who have been involved with Nuclear plant operation/maintenance that have had blood cancers, Polycythemia, or bone marrow disease? If so please contact me at [rgranzow@gmail.com](mailto:rgranzow@gmail.com) My oncologist might be able to submit a second chance request. For now, the VA rejected my letter for consideration/lower cost and has been unable to help. The needed drug is \$3,380/month. So, it goes.

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

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

**11.17.2023:** We had a very good first visit to the Wake Forest ALS Clinic. My doctor added 2 medications and he recommended me as a good candidate for a Capture Study out of the University of Miami where they follow your chart entries after each clinic visit. The respiratory therapist gave me breathing exercises. The physical therapist explained why we really should have hardwood in our bedroom because of future equipment needs. The nutritionist taught us that ALS patients do better on the Mediterranean style diet so we will be converting to that. And the social worker connected us with the NC ALS Association social worker who gave us a whole notebook of resources.

And we have selected the contractor to do the VA adapted housing work the Adaptive Housing Construction Specialist said would be needed. They want to make sure it is done before it will actually be needed.

Just continue to keep us in your prayers.  
**11.1.2023:** *In summer of 2022 I started having problems with my right foot. In August '22 it was diagnosed as drop foot and I was fitted with a brace to keep from tripping. The orthopedic leg specialist referred me to a spine specialist to*

*determine the cause. From the MRI he thought I should have problems on my left side so he referred me to a neurologist. After her testing she felt it was more than diabetic neuropathy and she referred me to the neurology clinic at Wake Forest.*

*June 1st, I met with the doctor at Wake Forest. After his review of the reports from the first three doctors and his examination he voiced his suspicion but wanted to wait 3 months and do his own testing. On September 6th I had the testing at Wake Forest Diagnostic Neurology. After a little over a year of doctors and tests I have been diagnosed with ALS. I have been put on the medication that slows progression and will begin working with the specialists at the Wake Forest ALS Clinic in mid-November.*

*Thank you for your prayer support as we begin this journey.*

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

Card to: 4000 Ibis Way Unit 201 Venice FL 34292

**No recent update**

**9.17.2023: Email from Angie Mauk:** Elam Lee has been in dementia for the past two years, Of course we cannot travel. Hope your reunion is a great success, We will miss you all

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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 update**

**10.14.2023:** Sandy and Donna were able to attend the Reunion in Summerville.

**9.6.2023: Dear Family and Friends,**

*Donna's back problems have not resolved, despite two surgeries and other pain treatments. She still has significant pain in her back and right leg, which is reduced with meds but not below about a 5 or a 6. The back surgeon says he cannot help her further. We are working with the pain doctor and he is recommending a nerve stimulator to see if that will*

help. We are proceeding down that track, which will take some time to set up.

Sandy's cancer – The August 27, 2023 PET/CT showed some nodules of cancer grew a little while some others shrank showing Keytruda has not failed completely. Keytruda treatments will be continued; the outcome we wanted. The next check on Keytruda's effectiveness will be on November 12, 2023. We live in three-month increments!

We are looking into the possibility of treating three spots of cancer in my muscle tissue, one in my right shoulder and two in my gluten area (butt) to eliminate these spots which are growing and thus reduce the cancer load on my immune system and let Keytruda be more effective.

We thank you for your prayers and Jesus for his continued protection. We will keep you informed. Love, Donna and Sandy

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

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

**12.9.2023: Email from Michael.** I had my surgery on September 20th. It took longer than the Dr. expected due to scar tissue from a previous rotator cuff surgery in 2016. There were no complications and I have use of my arm with pain in doing certain actions and movement. I'm still going to PT to get the range of motion back twice a week. I am planning on going back to work in January.

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

**12.10.2023:** Email from Lloyd: You can officially remove me from the Binnacle list. My last bone marrow biopsy shows no trace of cancer and showed that it was 100% of my donors' cells. If you would have told me last May that the only way

that I could survive was for the doctor to give me enough poison (chemo) to kill all the cancer, which almost killed me, and then give me more poison (chemo) to kill my immune system and then put the bone marrow of some guy in England and then his bone marrow would produce its own blood in my body; I would have called them a liar. But that's exactly what happened. I got a blood test yesterday and it showed that my hemoglobin was in the normal range since May 2022. Thank you and everybody who has been praying for me. I truly am blessed. Only thing left on my bucket list, Stimson reunion, lol.

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

**12.18.2023:** Email from Jean: No new updates at this time, but Ron will be re-evaluated for for his Alzheimer's on January 4, 2024. We will let you know the results when available. Thank you for the prayers and blessings.

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. anuary 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

#### **Jewish Grandmother**

A Jewish grandmother is giving directions to her grown grandson who is coming to visit with his wife. "You come to the front door of the apartment. I am in apartment 301. There is a big panel at the front door. With your elbow, push button 301. I will buzz you in. Come inside, the elevator is on the right. Get in, and with your elbow, push 3. When you get out, I'm on the left. With your elbow, hit my doorbell."

"Grandma, that sounds easy, but why am I hitting all these buttons with my elbow?"

"What . . . You're coming empty handed?"

#### **GREAT LINKS TO SPEND TIME WITH**

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#### **655 Association Website**

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

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**Enjoy these videos from the 2023 Stimson Reunion #12 Decommissioning + 30 Years**

#### **Association Eternal Patrol Service**

<https://youtu.be/nGqEWt9tEKU>

#### **Association Business Meeting**

<https://youtu.be/5aEbCOXGI2w>

**Reunion Banquet Program Reunion Chairman Harry Nettles Guest Speaker Sam Johnson, Decom CO**

<https://youtu.be/OH7cLPcq24g>

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

**A US Sailor Showed Japan How to Attack**

#### **Pearl Harbor**

[https://www.military.com/history/us-sailor-showed-japan-how-attack-pearl-harbor.html?ESRC=mr\\_231204.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20231204](https://www.military.com/history/us-sailor-showed-japan-how-attack-pearl-harbor.html?ESRC=mr_231204.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231204)

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

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#### **Submitted by a shipmate Children Are Quick**

TEACHER: Why are you late?

STUDENT: Class started before I got here.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?

JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile'?

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L.'

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

(I love this child)

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

WINNIE: Me!

TEACHER: Glen, why do you always get so dirty?

GLEN: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it.

Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

LOUIS: Because George still had the axe in his hand.

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?  
SIMON: No sir, I don't have to, my Mum is a good cook.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?  
CLYDE: No, sir. It's the same dog.  
(I want to adopt this kid!!!)

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?  
HAROLD: A teacher.



**The Computer Corner**  
**By: Tom Krauser, MM1(SS) B 72-74, 655 Assoc Life Member, USSVI Albany-Saratoga Base, Holland Club**  
**Upgrading Your SSD Hard Drives in Your Computer**

Last newsletter I discussed replacing the SSD drive in my laptop with a larger SSD drive. In this newsletter I will describe the process of actually cloning the drives and physical replacement.

In order to clone the internal hard drive, you will need a USB external enclosure to put the new drive in. This needs to be the same type as drive you are replacing. It could be a 2.5-inch SATA/SSD drive or the NVMe SSD enclosure. I had to purchase an NVMe SSD enclosure since my SSD drive looks like a flash drive stick versus the standard 2.5-inch SATA drives.

I purchased a UGREEN SSD enclosure and a 1TB Western Digital SSD drive from Amazon.

Finding software to actually clone the drives was a small challenge. The Western Digital site had software to clone drives from Acronis True Image, however, that software was looking for a Sabient enclosure so it did not work. I found that a "free" version of Macrium Reflect would recognize the USB UGREEN enclosure with the Western Digital drive and allow me to clone the original 250GB drive to the new 1TB SSD drive. I then

used Macrium Reflect to clone the two drives making the new drive expand to the allowed space.



After cloning the drives, I found a YouTube video to show how to remove the bottom case of my HP laptop to get at the drive. Search YouTube for your Brand/Model to replace the SSD drive. There should be something close you can watch. The video I found was not exactly my model but was very similar.



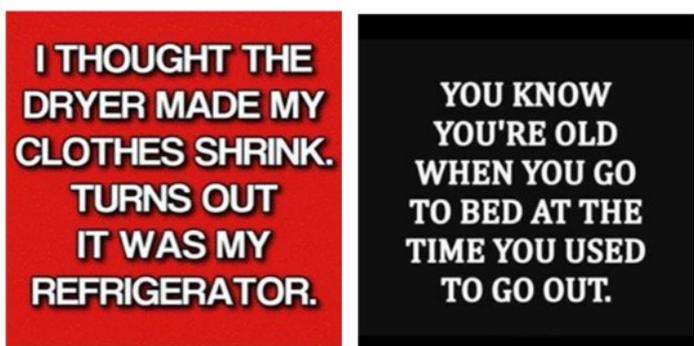
The picture shows a laptop with both types of drives, but my laptop only has the NVMe SSD drive shown and no place for a 2.5-inch SATA

SSD drive. To replace the drive, remove the holding screw and take the old SSD drive out being careful to make sure you have no static electricity on you. Pick up the drive by the side rear edges and place the old drive into the original container the new drive came in. Then being careful not to touch the contacts or circuits, and holding the sides at the rear of the new drive, insert the new SSD drive so the contacts slip into the slot and put the screw back in.

Since there were no connections to the part of case I removed, test the drive by powering on the laptop prior to putting the cover back on and make sure you can log in and use your software. Make sure it works correctly and that File Manager shows the correct drive size of 1TB for the C: drive. Mine now shows 753 GB free space on the C: drive.

Then shutdown the computer and replace the cover, screws and rubber strips. Then power laptop back on and verify everything is working correctly.

Store the old SSD drive as a "cloned" drive with the cloning date on it. If the new drive fails you can always put the original drive back in to restore to the last cloned date point. You may want to periodically "clone" the internal drive to keep a fully functional copy of your hard drive. You may want to purchase another 1TB (or same size as the one you installed) so you always have a drive you can swap.



***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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**Nautilus to Columbia by James C. Goodall**

**Mister Mac Dec 10**

**Happy December.**

This is the time of year when we get presents in the mail and for me that includes the latest project by my friend James. C. Goodall. Jim is a former Air Force guy (Retired) who combines his photographic skills with his passion for submarines and other technical platforms to create [...]

**[Read more of this post](#)**

**What to know if you get care outside of VA**

If you have a medical emergency, don't hesitate to get care immediately. VA may still offer coverage if you go to a non-VA emergency department. Here's what you should know.

**[LEARN MORE](#)**

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**Navy Sub with Tomahawk Cruise Missiles Joins Middle East Buildup as Attacks on US Military Forces Continue**

**[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/06/navy-sub-tomahawk-cruise-missiles-joins-middle-east-buildup-attacks-us-military-forces-continue.html?ESRC=eb\\_231107.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231107](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/06/navy-sub-tomahawk-cruise-missiles-joins-middle-east-buildup-attacks-us-military-forces-continue.html?ESRC=eb_231107.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231107)**

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**Retired Military Pay Days for 2024**

[https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/retired-military-pay-days.html?](https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/retired-military-pay-days.html?ESRC=mr_231211.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231211)

[ESRC=mr 231211.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20231211](https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/retired-military-pay-days.html?ESRC=mr_231211.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231211)

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**See Your 2024 VA Disability Pay Rates**

[https://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/va-disability-pay-rates.html?](https://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/va-disability-pay-rates.html?ESRC=mr_231211.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231211)

[ESRC=mr 231211.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20231211](https://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/va-disability-pay-rates.html?ESRC=mr_231211.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231211)

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**Biggest Military Pay Raise in 2 Decades Finalized in Newly Released Defense Bill**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/07/military-pay-raise-2024-will-be-52-under-newly-unveiled-defense-bill.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/07/military-pay-raise-2024-will-be-52-under-newly-unveiled-defense-bill.html?ESRC=mr_231211.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231211)

[ESRC=mr 231211.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20231211](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/07/military-pay-raise-2024-will-be-52-under-newly-unveiled-defense-bill.html?ESRC=mr_231211.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231211)

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**Overview of VA Pensions**

[https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/overview-of-va-pensions.html?](https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/overview-of-va-pensions.html?ESRC=mr_231218.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231218)

[ESRC=mr 231218.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20231218](https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/overview-of-va-pensions.html?ESRC=mr_231218.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231218)

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**2024 Military Pay Charts**

[https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/charts?](https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/charts?ESRC=mr_231218.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231218)

[ESRC=mr 231218.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20231218](https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/charts?ESRC=mr_231218.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231218)

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**These States Passed New Military Income Tax Cuts in 2023**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/20/these-states-passed-new-military-income-tax-cuts-2023.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/20/these-states-passed-new-military-income-tax-cuts-2023.html?ESRC=eb_231221.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231221)

[ESRC=eb 231221.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231221](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/20/these-states-passed-new-military-income-tax-cuts-2023.html?ESRC=eb_231221.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231221)

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**Your Retired electronic 1099R for 2023 is available on myPay.**

<https://mypay.dfas.mil/>

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**Where to Find Military Discounts Online**

[https://www.military.com/discounts/where-find-military-discounts-online.html?](https://www.military.com/discounts/where-find-military-discounts-online.html?ESRC=eb_231226.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231226)

[ESRC=eb 231226.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231226](https://www.military.com/discounts/where-find-military-discounts-online.html?ESRC=eb_231226.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231226)

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**Overview of Military Education Benefits**

[https://www.military.com/education/money-for-school/education-benefits-in-the-military.html?](https://www.military.com/education/money-for-school/education-benefits-in-the-military.html?ESRC=eb_231128.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231128)

[ESRC=eb 231128.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231128](https://www.military.com/education/money-for-school/education-benefits-in-the-military.html?ESRC=eb_231128.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231128)

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**Navy Modifies 'Up or Out' Policy by Giving Sailors Who Don't Advance an Option to Fill Critical Jobs**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/21/navy-officially-ends-its-or-out-policy-forced-sailors-advance-or-separate.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/21/navy-officially-ends-its-or-out-policy-forced-sailors-advance-or-separate.html?ESRC=eb_231122.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231122)

[ESRC=eb 231122.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231122](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/21/navy-officially-ends-its-or-out-policy-forced-sailors-advance-or-separate.html?ESRC=eb_231122.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231122)

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**Emergency Medical Care**

<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/info-EmergencyCare.asp>

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**VA Has Already Exceeded Its Annual Goal for Housing Homeless Veterans with 2 Months Left in the Year**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/29/va-has-already-exceeded-its-annual-goal-housing-homeless-veterans-2-months-left-year.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/29/va-has-already-exceeded-its-annual-goal-housing-homeless-veterans-2-months-left-year.html?ESRC=eb_231130.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231130)

[ESRC=eb 231130.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231130](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/29/va-has-already-exceeded-its-annual-goal-housing-homeless-veterans-2-months-left-year.html?ESRC=eb_231130.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231130)

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**VA to Open 3 New Vet Centers, Expand 6 Satellite Centers in Various States Early Next Year**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/01/va-open-3-new-vet-centers-expand-6-satellite-centers-various-states-early-next-year.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/01/va-open-3-new-vet-centers-expand-6-satellite-centers-various-states-early-next-year.html?ESRC=mr_231204.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231204)

[ESRC=mr 231204.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20231204](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/01/va-open-3-new-vet-centers-expand-6-satellite-centers-various-states-early-next-year.html?ESRC=mr_231204.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231204)

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### **2024 Veterans Pension Rates**

[https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-pensions.html?](https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-pensions.html?ESRC=eb_231207.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231207)

[ESRC=eb\\_231207.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231207](https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-pensions.html?ESRC=eb_231207.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231207)

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**Thousands of Troops May Be Caught in Medical Debt. Sen. Elizabeth Warren Wants the Pentagon to Find Out How Many.**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/04/sen-elizabeth-warren-implores-pentagon-keep-better-track-of-service-members-medical-debt.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/04/sen-elizabeth-warren-implores-pentagon-keep-better-track-of-service-members-medical-debt.html?ESRC=eb_231205.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231205)

[ESRC=eb\\_231205.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231205](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/04/sen-elizabeth-warren-implores-pentagon-keep-better-track-of-service-members-medical-debt.html?ESRC=eb_231205.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231205)

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**Crackdown on Stolen Valor by Businesses Included in Defense Bill Set to Become Law**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/12/crackdown-stolen-valor-businesses-included-defense-bill-set-become-law.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/12/crackdown-stolen-valor-businesses-included-defense-bill-set-become-law.html?ESRC=mr_231218.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231218)

[ESRC=mr\\_231218.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20231218](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/12/crackdown-stolen-valor-businesses-included-defense-bill-set-become-law.html?ESRC=mr_231218.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231218)

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### **Vietnam War Veterans Health Issues**

If you served during the Vietnam War, you may be at higher risk for some health conditions. The PACT Act expands health care eligibility for Veterans of the Vietnam Era.

[Learn more.](#)

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### **Appointment Check-Ins Made Easy**

Have an appointment scheduled at a VA facility? These check-in options can save you time.

[Learn more.](#)

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### **Self-Care for Colds**

There's no cure for the common cold. But you can ease symptoms and help your body heal faster. Try these tips at the first signs of a cold.

[Learn more.](#)

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### **5 Morning Routines to Reduce Stress**

Stress can damage your physical health and quality of life. Mindfulness helps you stay focused

on the present and manage stress. Make a morning routine to reduce stress.

[Watch now.](#)

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### **Prevent Pain with Better Posture**

Sitting for long stretches of time can cause painful knots and tension. We have posture tips and easy stretches to protect your neck and back.

[Watch now.](#)

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**Veterans Will Soon Be Able to Get VA Health Care at 3 Military Bases in Kentucky, Oklahoma**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/10/26/veterans-will-soon-be-able-get-va-health-care-3-military-bases-kentucky-oklahoma.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/10/26/veterans-will-soon-be-able-get-va-health-care-3-military-bases-kentucky-oklahoma.html?ESRC=eb_231027.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231027)

[ESRC=eb\\_231027.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231027](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/10/26/veterans-will-soon-be-able-get-va-health-care-3-military-bases-kentucky-oklahoma.html?ESRC=eb_231027.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231027)

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### **Arlington National Cemetery**

[https://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/arlington-national-cemetery.html?](https://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/arlington-national-cemetery.html?ESRC=eb_231030.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231030)

[ESRC=eb\\_231030.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231030](https://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/arlington-national-cemetery.html?ESRC=eb_231030.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231030)

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### **Tricare Costs Are Going Up Again in 2024**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/08/tricare-costs-are-going-again-2024.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/08/tricare-costs-are-going-again-2024.html?ESRC=eb_231109.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231109)

[ESRC=eb\\_231109.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231109](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/08/tricare-costs-are-going-again-2024.html?ESRC=eb_231109.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231109)

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**VA Suspends Debt Collection from Veterans Whom It Mistakenly Overpaid Due to Data Errors**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/07/va-suspends-debt-collection-veterans-whom-it-mistakenly-overpaid-due-data-errors.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/07/va-suspends-debt-collection-veterans-whom-it-mistakenly-overpaid-due-data-errors.html?ESRC=eb_231108.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231108)

[ESRC=eb\\_231108.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231108](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/07/va-suspends-debt-collection-veterans-whom-it-mistakenly-overpaid-due-data-errors.html?ESRC=eb_231108.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231108)

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**VA Set Records for Number of Appointments, Claims Processing, Compensation over the Past Year**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/06/va-set-records-number-of-appointments-claims-processing-compensation-over-past-year.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/06/va-set-records-number-of-appointments-claims-processing-compensation-over-past-year.html?ESRC=eb_231107.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231107)  
[ESRC=eb 231107.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231107](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/06/va-set-records-number-of-appointments-claims-processing-compensation-over-past-year.html?ESRC=eb_231107.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231107)

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**Most Military Retirees Will See Medicare Costs Increase in 2024**

[https://www.military.com/benefits/tricare/medicare.html?](https://www.military.com/benefits/tricare/medicare.html?ESRC=mr_231113.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231113)  
[ESRC=mr 231113.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20231113](https://www.military.com/benefits/tricare/medicare.html?ESRC=mr_231113.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231113)

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**World War II Veterans Now Get Free Health Care, VA Says in Holiday Rollout of New Programs**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/10/world-war-ii-veterans-now-get-free-health-care-va-says-holiday-rollout-of-new-programs.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/10/world-war-ii-veterans-now-get-free-health-care-va-says-holiday-rollout-of-new-programs.html?ESRC=mr_231113.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231113)  
[ESRC=mr 231113.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20231113](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/10/world-war-ii-veterans-now-get-free-health-care-va-says-holiday-rollout-of-new-programs.html?ESRC=mr_231113.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231113)

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**Bill Giving Veterans Deemed 'Mentally Incompetent' Easier Access to Guns Gains Steam with Senate Approval**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/10/26/measure-restore-gun-rights-mentally-incompetent-veterans-passes-senate-bolstering-its-chances-of.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/10/26/measure-restore-gun-rights-mentally-incompetent-veterans-passes-senate-bolstering-its-chances-of.html?ESRC=eb_231027.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231027)  
[ESRC=eb 231027.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231027](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/10/26/measure-restore-gun-rights-mentally-incompetent-veterans-passes-senate-bolstering-its-chances-of.html?ESRC=eb_231027.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231027)

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**VA Delays Change to How It Reimburses Veterans' Ambulance Services Amid Fears for Rural Providers**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/27/va-delays-change-how-it-reimburses-veterans-ambulance-services-amid-fears-rural-providers.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/27/va-delays-change-how-it-reimburses-veterans-ambulance-services-amid-fears-rural-providers.html?ESRC=eb_231128.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231128)  
[ESRC=eb 231128.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231128](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/27/va-delays-change-how-it-reimburses-veterans-ambulance-services-amid-fears-rural-providers.html?ESRC=eb_231128.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231128)

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**Tricare Pharmacy Program**  
[https://www.military.com/benefits/tricare/](https://www.military.com/benefits/tricare/tricare-pharmacy-program.html?ESRC=navy_231114.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20231114)

[tricare-pharmacy-program.html?](https://www.military.com/benefits/tricare-pharmacy-program.html?ESRC=navy_231114.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20231114)  
[ESRC=navy 231114.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=navy&utm\\_campaign=20231114](https://www.military.com/benefits/tricare-pharmacy-program.html?ESRC=navy_231114.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20231114)

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**Veterans, Advocates Want Blood Cancers Added to PACT Act List of Burn Pit-Related Conditions**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/13/veterans-advocates-want-blood-cancers-added-pact-act-list-of-burn-pit-related-conditions.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/13/veterans-advocates-want-blood-cancers-added-pact-act-list-of-burn-pit-related-conditions.html?ESRC=eb_231114.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231114)  
[ESRC=eb 231114.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231114](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/13/veterans-advocates-want-blood-cancers-added-pact-act-list-of-burn-pit-related-conditions.html?ESRC=eb_231114.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231114)

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**VA Plans Outreach to Screen 3 Million More Veterans for Toxic Exposures**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/24/va-plans-outreach-screen-3-million-more-veterans-toxic-exposures.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/24/va-plans-outreach-screen-3-million-more-veterans-toxic-exposures.html?ESRC=mr_231127.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231127)  
[ESRC=mr 231127.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20231127](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/24/va-plans-outreach-screen-3-million-more-veterans-toxic-exposures.html?ESRC=mr_231127.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231127)

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**VA Pauses Foreclosures on Veterans Facing Difficulties Making Mortgage Payments**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/20/va-pauses-foreclosures-veterans-facing-difficulties-making-mortgage-payments.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/20/va-pauses-foreclosures-veterans-facing-difficulties-making-mortgage-payments.html?ESRC=eb_231121.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231121)  
[ESRC=eb 231121.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231121](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/20/va-pauses-foreclosures-veterans-facing-difficulties-making-mortgage-payments.html?ESRC=eb_231121.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231121)

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**Veteran Psychedelic Therapy Gets Cautious Support at First House Hearing of Its Kind Since 1960s**

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/15/veteran-psychedelic-therapy-gets-cautious-support-first-house-hearing-of-its-kind-1960s.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/15/veteran-psychedelic-therapy-gets-cautious-support-first-house-hearing-of-its-kind-1960s.html?ESRC=eb_231116.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231116)  
[ESRC=eb 231116.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231116](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/15/veteran-psychedelic-therapy-gets-cautious-support-first-house-hearing-of-its-kind-1960s.html?ESRC=eb_231116.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231116)

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**The Only US Navy Warship Authorized to Fly a Foreign Flag at Sea**

[https://www.military.com/history/only-us-navy-warship-authorized-fly-foreign-flag-sea.html?](https://www.military.com/history/only-us-navy-warship-authorized-fly-foreign-flag-sea.html?ESRC=eb_231110.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231110)  
[ESRC=eb 231110.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231110](https://www.military.com/history/only-us-navy-warship-authorized-fly-foreign-flag-sea.html?ESRC=eb_231110.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231110)

[source=eb&utm\\_campaign=20231110](#)

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### 'The Metal Detector' Reunites Descendants of a B-17 Crew Shot Down in World War II

[https://www.military.com/off-duty/television/2023/11/13/metal-detector-reunites-descendants-of-b-17-crew-shot-down-world-war-ii.html?](https://www.military.com/off-duty/television/2023/11/13/metal-detector-reunites-descendants-of-b-17-crew-shot-down-world-war-ii.html?ESRC=mr_231120.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20231120)

[ESRC=mr\\_231120.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mr&utm\\_campaign=20231120](#)

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### Try Messages on VA.gov

We're building a new home for VA health tools on VA.gov. My HealtheVet features are moving, so that you can manage your health and benefits all in one place. Try the new messages feature now, so you're ready for the change.

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### 5 Exercises for Balance

Build strength and stability with exercises from a VA physical therapist. If your balance feels unsteady, these exercises can help.

[Watch now](#)

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### Don't Skip These 3 To-Do's When You Travel

Add these reminders to your travel checklist. My HealtheVet makes it easy to manage appointments and medications before your trip.

[Learn more.](#)

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### Surprising Ways VA Social Workers Can Help

Did you know social workers are a core part of VA health care? Find out how VA social workers can connect you to resources and support.

[Learn more.](#)

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### Do You Have the Flu?

Flu season is here. Use our online tool to decide if you might have the flu, and if it's time to see a doctor.

[Learn more.](#)

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### Check Your VA Claim

From compensation to benefits, VA has a tool to help you keep track of claims. Check the status

of your VA claim or appeal online now.

[Learn more.](#)

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### Manage Stress with Mindfulness

We all feel extra stress during the holidays. Try these tips and tools to relieve stress, anxiety, and depression any time of year.

[Learn more.](#)

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*Shipmates, if you receive your prescriptions via the Express Scripts program you have probably already received this. Good information here.*



### Get the latest health news & check out our recent topics.

[Changes to your TRICARE prescription drug copayments in 2024](#) On January 1, 2024, you and your covered family members may experience an increase to prescription drug copayments.

[It's time to get your flu vaccine](#) Get your annual flu vaccine with your TRICARE coverage.

[What is the best pharmacy option to fill my medication?](#) Find the best pharmacy to fill your medication.

We regularly add new tips on how best to use your TRICARE pharmacy benefits, manage your health, and save on prescriptions.

[See More Health News](#)

### Navy Fills Nearly All E-9 Billets With New Senior Enlisted Marketplace

(NAVY TIMES 29 NOV 23) ... Diana Stancy Correll

The Navy filled nearly all of its master chief petty officer billets this promotion cycle — the first one ever to utilize the Senior Enlisted Marketplace — as the service shifts to billet-based advancement to reduce personnel gaps at sea.

The Senior Enlisted Marketplace, introduced this year, requires senior chief petty officers to apply for and accept orders for a specific job in order to advance to master chief. That's a departure from the previous system, where a

selection board voted on who was most eligible and qualified to advance.

“We incentivized the Navy’s most experienced enlisted sailors, and gave them the opportunity to stay and advance,” Navy Personnel Command Force Master Chief Bill Houlihan told Navy Times. “And at the same time, we help fill mission-critical billets that require specific training, leadership, experience.”

The first cycle of the Senior Enlisted Marketplace, which kicked off in March and concluded in October, filled more than 140 sea duty billets and 84 billets ashore — a dramatic increase from previous years, Navy Personnel Command told Navy Times.

Prior to implementing the Senior Enlisted Marketplace, the service filled less than 15 master chief petty officer sea-duty billets each cycle. Altogether, the Navy filled 97 percent of the master chief petty officer billets featured on the MyNavy Assignments portal during this year’s advancement cycle.

To Houlihan, the uptick means that E-8 sailors delivered and showed they were ready to meet the demands of billet-based advancement.

“They are up to the challenge of leadership and high tempo, high friction, situations, circumstances and jobs,” Houlihan said. “And when given the opportunity to select those jobs, they jumped at it. That’s why the number has increased so much, because we are...telling them, if you want to be a master chief, we want you to be. But we want you to be a master chief in a position where you can have the most impact. And they were all over it.”

Although promotion to master chief is now contingent upon whether a sailor qualifies for a specific job, Houlihan said that the selection board aimed to select those who were “best and fully qualified to lead at the level of master chief,” and that the board applied the same standard of selection.

The Navy announced in Nov. 2022 that it would roll out the Senior Enlisted Marketplace in March 2023 to coincide with the fiscal 2024 senior enlisted advancement cycle for promotion to E-9.

The Senior Enlisted Marketplace screening board conducts reviews of board-eligible E-8s, who then receive access to the marketplace to apply for a qualified billet if they are selected.

Sailors enter one of 10 of the MyNavy Assignment cycles over the course of the next 24 months to apply for jobs in the marketplace that are aligned with their ratings. Detailers then coordinate the billet alignment and match for the sailor’s next assignment.

During this initial advancement cycle, 530 screened senior chief petty officers and 66 master chief petty officers applied and filled 225 of 232 priority master chief jobs, according to Navy Personnel Command.

The Navy currently plans to expand the Senior Enlisted Marketplace to accommodate E-7 and E-8 promotions. But it’s unclear when exactly the marketplace will include those ranks, according to Houlihan.

“If we were asked to incorporate the promotion of senior chiefs into the marketplace this current fiscal year, we could do that, we’re ready to do it,” Houlihan said. “But I think that whether or not we do it is going to hinge on the level of education we’ve learned about the first round. And so that’s still being determined.”

Overall, Houlihan said he anticipates billet-based advancement will aid retention amongst senior sailors because it provides Navy families greater geographic stability.

“I think it’s going to have significant positive impact, because we are truly allowing families the opportunity to choose, we’re giving them flexibility in terms of where they are assigned and the type of job they are assigned to,” Houlihan said. “And anytime that you can give a sailor or a family the privilege of choice, they typically rally around that.”

There are currently approximately 17,000 gapped billets at sea. However, those numbers fluctuate regularly due to permanent change of stations, a ship decommissioning, or ships moving into a maintenance availability.

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2023/11/29/navy-fills-nearly-all-e-9-billets->

## **Cell Phones at Boot Camp: Navy Will Let Some Recruits Use Their Devices**

(MILITARY.COM 29 NOV 23) ... Konstantin Toropin

The Navy's boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois, says it will start letting recruits have some access to cell phones while they are in training.

"Over the next few weeks," recruits in two divisions -- units of roughly 60 to 80 sailors -- "will have limited access to their cell phones during designated periods of training in order to connect with family and friends and manage personal matters," the Navy announced in a Facebook post Tuesday.

Beyond the announcement, the service offered few details about the policy change that promises to be a major shift in recruits' experience at boot camp and one that is already proving controversial among outside observers.

Typically, Navy recruits have had little access to the outside world or their personal phones while undergoing the difficult early days of training to be a sailor. Instead, recruits still make use of a large room filled with pay phones several times during their 10-week stay at Great Lakes.

The Navy's boot camp website even recommends recruits pack prepaid phone cards to simplify the pay phone process.

However, the service's initial training is one of the last entry-level programs to strictly enforce such a firm stand on cell phones. By contrast, the Army allows its recruits some access to phones -- usually in limited time windows or as a reward -- but they don't carry them at all times.

A 2016 memo on the Air Force basic training website says that its recruits are allowed to use cell phones or pay phones "to make outgoing calls to family members," and they are even "encouraged to maintain their cell phone service" while at basic training. The memo does note that "trainees will use cell phones only under direct supervision of a staff member" and access is "based on their performance."

Military.com reached out to the Navy for

clarification on what its current rules on cell phones are, as well as more details about how the new policy will play out for the two experimental divisions, but did not receive a response in time for publication.

However, on the boot camp's Facebook page, the most popular comments disagreed with or dismissed the need for the policy.

"I was better off without the constant phone interaction," one former sailor wrote.

"This is a terrible idea," another commenter, whose profile had pictures of him in a Navy chief petty officer uniform, wrote before noting that the point of basic training is "to harden young men and women to defend our country, to break them of old habits and toughen them up for the job ahead."

Meanwhile, the Navy's social media post said that the service's intent "is to expand this same opportunity to all Recruit Divisions over time," and the service promised a Frequently Asked Questions page "in the near future to answer questions."

While the motivation behind this change is not clear from the post, the move comes at a time when the service is not only struggling to make recruiting numbers but is also making changes to existing policies to help recruits in the door and into uniform.

Aside from offering historically high bonuses just to ship out to basic training quickly, the Navy also duplicated an Army program that takes would-be recruits who don't quite meet standards and gives them additional training in physical fitness and academic skills ahead of shipping them off to boot camp.

Some of its efforts were more controversial, however. An effort to increase the working hours of its recruiters to six days a week and to at least consider implementing measures to extend recruiters' assignments up to a year received swift backlash and a reversal after only a week.

The Navy managed to recruit 30,236 active-duty enlisted sailors -- 7,464 short of its goal of 37,700 -- this past fiscal year.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/11/29/cell-phones-boot-camp-navy-will-let-some-recruits-use-their-devices.html>

## **U.S. To Deploy Anti-Ship Missiles On Subs In 2024 To Counter China**

(BLOOMBERG NEWS 04 DEC 23) ... Tony Capaccio

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy plans to begin arming submarines next year with ship-targeting versions of the widely used Tomahawk missile, part of Washington's push to ramp up military capabilities to challenge Chinese maritime forces, particularly around Taiwan.

The "Maritime Strike" version of the Tomahawk, the RTX Corporation missile traditionally used as a ground-attack weapon, will be fielded after Oct. 1, 2024, program manager Captain Jon Hersey said in a statement. The latest models will be modified with a new guidance system enabling them to "to engage a mobile target at sea," he said, adding the Navy took delivery of the initial version last year for tests before declaring it combat ready.

Fielding the new version of the Tomahawk — which made its battlefield debut in the early hours of the 1991 Persian Gulf War in Iraq — would add to a growing U.S. arsenal of ship-attack missiles to complement submarine-launched torpedoes intended to counter China's numerically superior fleet. While the Navy also plans to start fielding the weapons on surface vessels, those are more vulnerable to China's land- and sea-based anti-ship arsenal.

Taiwan, which China claims as its sovereign territory, is of particular interest for Washington, which sees defending the island — and its crucial semiconductor industry — as a strategic, economic and political priority.

The schedule for the new maritime strike missile fits roughly within the Pentagon's plans to field thousands of drones in the Indo-Pacific region to counter China, known as the Replicator program, which the Pentagon aims to deploy on a large scale between February and August 2025.

The development also comes alongside

Washington's burgeoning security alliance with the U.K. and Australia, known as Aukus. The trio on Friday announced a raft of plans, including the use of artificial intelligence aboard aircraft patrolling the Pacific to help track Chinese submarines.

The three powers said they would deploy advanced artificial intelligence algorithms on multiple systems, including the P-8A Poseidon aircraft to process data from each nation's sonobuoys, underwater detection devices.

The missiles will be deployed on Los Angeles and Virginia-class submarines, which can carry as many as 12 land-attack Tomahawks, although some modified versions of the Virginia-class will be able to carry as many as 40.

The weapons have a range up to 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers), according to Brent Sadler, a senior research fellow in naval warfare and advanced technology at the Heritage Foundation, as well as a former submariner and head of the Navy's Asia-Pacific Advisory Group.

"The long range provides greater stand-off from Chinese anti-access and area-denial missile forces, and this would complicate Chinese planning for a blockade/invasion of Taiwan," Sadler said in an email. "More work is needed to develop how these missile will be employed to overwhelm" China's forces and take out enough ships to be "war-winning," he said.

Japan may someday also deploy the new anti-ship version of the missile. The State Department notified Congress this month that Tokyo has been cleared to receive its first ground-attack Tomahawks in a sale valued at as much as \$2.35 billion for up to 200 missiles.

"Should Japan also get this weapon, it adds another level of complexity the Chinese will have to contend with," Sadler said.

China has 370 ships and submarines in its naval force, including more than 140 major surface combatants, the Pentagon said in its latest assessment of Chinese military power. The U.S. Navy has 291 deployable vessels.

China's navy is largely composed of modern multimission ships and submarines, and it

launched its third aircraft carrier last year, the CV-18 Fujian.

Vice Admiral William Houston, the Navy's Submarine Forces Commander, said in a statement to Bloomberg News that he's committed to fielding the Maritime Strike Tomahawk as quickly as possible but pointed out that "procurement, modernization and fielding schedules are dynamic and impacted by a variety of factors including industrial base and shipyard capacity."

The U.S. anti-ship arsenal now includes the ship-launched RTX SM-6 air defense missile adapted by the Pentagon's Strategic Capabilities Office and Lockheed Martin's Long Range Anti-Ship Missile. It can be launched from the Air Force B-1-B bomber and the Navy's top aircraft carrier fighter, the F/A-18 E/F.

Separately, the Navy also fields Boeing's sea-skimming Harpoon anti-ship missiles, and Taiwan is buying at least 400 ground-launched versions for coastal defense. Those type of missiles figured prominently in a series of tabletop war games of a potential invasion of Taiwan by China conducted last year by the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

<https://www.stripes.com/branches/navy/2023-12-04/us-navy-anti-ship-missiles-subs-12258848.html>

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### **U.S. Navy Recovers Unmanned Submarine After Launch**

(JERUSALEM POST 15 DEC 23)

The successful tests are paving the way for the US Navy's effort to advance their underwater capabilities as the Houthis continue their attacks on maritime trade.

The US Navy announced Thursday that they successfully launched and recovered an unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV) for the second time ever in an early December test.

The operation, dubbed "Yellow Moray," saw members of the USS Delaware, USS Indiana, and USS Oregon crew launch an HII Remus UUV before recovering the unmanned vehicle.

Operation Moray's launch and recovery

mission is the second such successful test focusing on UUVs the Navy has conducted – the US Navy Submarine Force Pacific succeeded in their first-ever UUV launch and recovery mission last week, according to Naval News.

The two successful tests are paving the way for the US Navy's effort to deploy a torpedo tube-launched and recovered medium UUV by next year as they increase their push for more advanced unmanned underwater capabilities. This push includes improvements in anti-submarine warfare, electronic warfare, anti-mine defenses, and strike missions.

"The Yellow Moray system will provide the US submarine force with additional mission capability, enhancing what the US Navy's submarines can provide our nation's unified combatant commands around the globe," the Navy said in a press release.

### **Houthi attacks rise in Red Sea**

The US Navy tests come as Yemen's Houthi movement continues to attack and divert commercial ships they believe to be affiliated with Israel.

The Houthis issued restrictions on maritime travel towards "occupied Palestinian territories" on Tuesday, declaring that all ships that pass through Yemen must keep radios turned on, bear the proper flag, and quickly respond to Houthi attempts at communication.

A Hong Kong-flagged, Marshall Islands-owned vessel was attacked and asked to divert to Yemen by a Houthi group, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said on Thursday. On Tuesday, they carried out a military operation against a Norwegian commercial tanker delivering crude oil to an Israeli terminal.

"The Houthis have crossed a redline in the Red Sea," President Isaac Herzog said Wednesday on X. "The US-led international activities against the Houthi terror pirates must be bolstered and strengthened in the form of a truly international coalition," he stated.

Herzog added that the "continued acts of terrorism and piracy against ships of all nationalities and ownerships require the entire

international community to act, united, forcefully and decisively, to stamp out this vile threat to the global economy and trade."

<https://www.jpost.com/business-and-innovation/article-778122>

### **Most Americans Would Discourage Young People From Joining Military As Enlisted Service Members, Report Says**

(MILITARY.COM 14 DEC 23) ... Drew F. Lawrence

Most Americans would discourage a young person close to them from enlisting in the military, but a wide majority would encourage them to join as an officer, according to a new Rand Corp. study published this week.

The study found that 54.4% of respondents would dissuade a 17-year-old relative from joining the military as an enlisted service member, though nearly two-thirds of Americans would encourage them to go the officer route, either through a service academy or the Reserve Officer Training Corps, also known as ROTC.

The study comes amid one of the worst recruiting periods the all-volunteer military has known, with most branches failing to meet goals for signing Americans up to serve. Meanwhile, Rand also analyzed public perceptions of veterans, which were "overwhelmingly positive," according to the report.

The report cited the services' current recruiting crisis as a reflection of public perception about the military, with dwindling confidence in the armed forces, the end of the war in Afghanistan, politicization of the military, and polarization of the general public all as contributors to wavering esteem for a typically bulletproof institution.

"At the same time, military propensity -- the likelihood that young Americans will enlist in the military -- and general confidence in the military are declining just as the number of veterans dwindles," the study said. "More than two years out from the end of the longest war in U.S. history, these trends raise important and pressing questions about public perceptions of the military and uniformed service."

The study found that Democrats are less likely than Republicans to encourage a young person they know to enlist in the military, but both are relatively on the same track in encouraging them to join via the officer route.

Rand also found that holding negative views about veterans is associated with a lower chance of encouraging a young person to enlist. Respondents who have served in the military themselves were more likely than their civilian counterparts to believe that most Americans look down on the armed forces, according to the study.

It measured certain veteran stereotypes, both negative and positive. Some positive stereotypes included veterans being self-disciplined, loyal, practical and responsible. Negative stereotypes included being "cold," volatile and unsociable. Most Americans, depending on the stereotype measured, endorsed positive perceptions of veterans, though responses varied based on age and demographic.

Nearly 80% of respondents said that veterans were self-disciplined, while 20% said that veterans were aggressive.

"Negative stereotypes can lead to stigma and discrimination, which is the behavioral manifestation of such beliefs," the study said. "For example, if veterans are thought to suffer from war-induced mental illness, then individuals might avoid interactions with them. But stereotypes do not merely shape the perceptions and behaviors of those who hold them; they can also affect the stereotyped themselves, culminating most problematically in self-stigmatization."

The Rand report was somewhat at odds with another study from the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute, which was published last month. It said that a slim majority of Americans would encourage friends and family to join the military.

Rand conducted its work for the report in February and June of 2022.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/14/most-americans-would-discourage-young-people-joining-military-enlisted-service-members-report-says.html>

## **Over 700 American AUKUS Personnel To Be Based In Western Australia, With Radioactive Storage Facility Also Planned**

(AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION 18 DEC 23) ... Andrew Greene

Defence expects more than 700 American personnel could live in Western Australia to support up to four US nuclear submarines being stationed at HMAS Stirling, where a "low-level radioactive waste management" facility is also being planned.

The projections are contained in comprehensive briefing notes prepared by the newly created Australian Submarine Agency (ASA) which also detail how a one-off Australian government payment of \$US3 billion (\$4.45 billion) will be spent by the United States.

Under the optimal pathway announced by AUKUS leaders earlier this year, the Submarine Rotational Force – West (SRF-West) would first begin hosting Royal Navy Astute-class and US Navy Virginia-class submarines at HMAS Stirling from 2027.

A Virginia-class submarine carries a crew of 132 according to the US Navy, while an Astute-class boat deploys with almost 100 Royal Navy submariners on board.

SRF-West is the first phase of AUKUS and is projected to "grow an Australian workforce of approximately 500-700 maintenance and support personnel" before the 'Sovereign Ready' milestone when Australia can own and operate its own US-made nuclear-powered boats.

"This workforce will then move to support our enduring nuclear-powered submarine program and will be a key enabler for SRF-West," the ASA states in documents obtained under Freedom of Information by former Senator and submariner Rex Patrick.

"In addition to these 500-700 Australians at its height, we estimate that over 700 United States Personnel could be living and working in Western Australia to support SRF-West, with some also bringing families," the ASA predicts.

According to the ASA, SRF-West will be

established as early as 2027 and expand in subsequent years to support up to four US and one UK nuclear-powered submarine, with the Australian government investing \$8 billion to expand HMAS Stirling outside Perth.

The ASA notes there will also be "a small United Kingdom contingent living in Perth" but most British personnel supporting SRF-West "will be in Australia for shorter rotations, meaning they will not be bringing families with them".

Planning begins for low-level radioactive waste management

Decisions on where Australia will eventually dispose of its nuclear submarine reactors are not expected for many years, but planning has begun for "low-level radioactive waste management" at HMAS Stirling to support SRF-West.

"Expertise to manage low-level operational waste arising from nuclear-powered submarine operations and sustainment will be an important part of Australia building the necessary stewardship capability to operate and maintain its own submarines."

The ASA insists the rotational presence of US and UK nuclear submarines in Western Australia "will provide an opportunity to learn how these vessels operate, including the management of low-level radioactive waste from routine sustainment".

"All low and intermediate level radioactive waste will be safely stored at Defence sites in Australia," the ASA briefing documents confirm.

"An operational waste storage facility for low-level radioactive waste management is being planned as part of the infrastructure works proposed for HMAS Stirling to support SRF-West."

More details emerge on Australia's multi-billion dollar payment

Inside the almost 200 pages of ASA briefing notes are further details of how a \$US3 billion (\$4.45 billion) Australian contribution to the US submarine industrial base will be spent, including on enhancing facilities and pre-purchasing components and materials.

"Pre-purchasing submarine components and

materials, so they are on hand at the start of the maintenance period – saving time" and "outsourcing less complex sustainment and expanding planning efforts for private sector overhauls, to reduce backlog".

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-12-18/aucus-americans-western-australia-radioactive-storage-facility/103239924>

*Submitted by Don Ransel, MMCS(SS) B 83 -86, USSVI-Pocono Base & Holland Club*

*Author: Steven Wright*

- 1 - I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- 2 - Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.
- 3 - Half the people you know are below average.
- 4 - 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- 5 - 82.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.
- 6 - A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
- 7 - A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- 8 - If you want the rainbow, you got to put up with the rain.
- 9 - All those who believe in psychokinesis, raise my hand.
- 10 - The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- 11 - I almost had a psychic girlfriend, But she left me before we met.
- 12 - OK, so what's the speed of dark?
- 13 - How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
- 14 - If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
- 15 - Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
- 16 - When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- 17 - Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
- 18 - Hard work pays off in the future; laziness pays off now.

- 19 - I intend to live forever. So far, so good.
- 20 - If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
- 21 - Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
- 22 - What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
- 23 - My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."
- 24 - Why do psychics have to ask you for your name.
- 25 - If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
- 26 - A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.
- 27 - Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
- 28 - The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.
- 29 - To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
- 30 - The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
- 31 - The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.
- 32 - The colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on it.
- 33 - Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.
- 34 - If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
- 35 - If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlights work?



Of the 19 boats that we lost in 1944, the **USS Scorpion (SS-278)** was the only boat lost in January. (Note: some list her date of sinking as 01Feb, although last contact with her was on 06Jan)

The *SCORPION* was launched on 20Jul42 from Portsmouth Navy Yard, ME and commissioned on 01Oct42. She was one of the 77 Gato-class submarines built. The *SCORPION* had a surface displacement of 1,526-ton, surface speed of 20-knot (kt) and submerged speed of 8.7-kt. She had a designed surface range of 11,000 nautical-miles at 10-kt and a battery range of 48-hours at 2-kt submerged. The ship was 311-feet (ft) long with a beam of 27-ft, a 15-ft draft and a 300-ft operating depth. Her propulsion system comprised an electric-drive provided by 4-General Electric 1,375-shaft-horse-power (shp) motors with two motors paired through a reduction gear to each of the twin shafts. Electric power was provided with 4-General Motors 1,535 brake-horse-power (bhp) diesel generators. When she was lost, her crew consisted of 62 crewmen with an average age of 22, 8 officers averaging 28 years old, and 8 chief petty officers with an average age of 26.

On 29Dec43, *SCORPION*, commanded by CDR Maximilian G. Schmidt, left Pearl Harbor. She left Midway, after topping off with fuel, on 03Jan44 to conduct her fourth war patrol in the northern East China and Yellow Seas.

On the morning of 05Jan, *SCORPION* transmitted that one of her crew had sustained a fractured arm and requested a rendezvous with the USS Herring (SS-233), which was returning from patrol and was near her. They accomplished the rendezvous on the afternoon of 05Jan at 30° 07'N, 167° 30'E, but heavy seas prevented the transfer of the injured man. The *HERRING* transmitted this fact on 06Jan, and added "*SCORPION* reports case under control." *SCORPION* was never seen or heard from again. On 16Feb, the USS Steelhead and *SCORPION* were warned that they were close together, and that an enemy submarine was in the vicinity.

When no report was received from her by 24Feb, Midway was directed to keep a careful watch for her, and *SCORPION* was directed to make a transmission. On 06Mar, *SCORPION* was reported as presumed lost.

No reference to the sinking of the *SCORPION* has been found in any recovered Japanese records. It has been assumed that the *SCORPION* was sunk by a mine near the entrance to the Yellow Sea. This is based on the lack of any other evidence of her sinking in that shallow sea and on Japanese Notices to Mariners that were recovered during the Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaign in March 1944, which identified a previously unknown minefield in that area.

In her first three patrols, *SCORPION* sank ten ships, for a total of 24,100 tons, and damaged two more, for 16,000 tons. Her first war patrol was in the approaches to Tokyo in April 1943. Here she sank two freighters, four sampans and two patrol craft. In addition, she damaged a freighter. On her second patrol, in the Yellow Sea, she sank two freighters. CDR William Naylor Wylie was the skipper on these two patrols. He was a former-enlisted man who graduated from Annapolis in 1930 and retired as a RADM. (Our own CDR William L. Powell, Jr. [CO B 74-48] was also prior enlisted and graduated from Annapolis in 1960 and retired as a CAPT.)

The CPO's pictured to the right are (L to R): William A. Flaherty, Jr. QMC; Wilbert L. Randolph, EMC; Nicholas L. Koster, MoMMC; Charles R. Spears, MoMMC; and, Theodore T. Cornelius, MoMMC



## Where Does a Beginner Begin?

### Ten Golden Rules

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

So, you've been bitten by the BUG? Welcome to the wonderful world of genealogy. This might be your first day on the internet or, more likely, you have been surfing for a few months. You might even have been the lucky recipient of four generations on Grandma's tree and some other genealogical "goodies" (as the old and wise researchers call them).

So, where do you go from here? Before you go any further, read and observe these Golden Rules and your future as the supreme recorder of your family's history will be off to a good start:

#### **Rule Number One:**

- \* I shall endeavor, throughout this hobby, to self-educate, self-educate, and self-educate myself.
- \* I understand that there is no ONE person that knows about all facets of genealogy and that I, alone, am responsible for learning the roads to success on my line. Only my full siblings have the same personal history that I do.
- \* I shall read a good, basic book on genealogy paying attention to the lingo and abbreviations (even all the two letter U. S. states abbreviations) and the basic, common courtesy I should use and I shall plug into a good search engine such as yahoo.com, Google.com, or your favorite search engine and find the beginner's pages (see some examples below) and see what the world of genealogy is all about.

[https://blog.genealogybank.com/6-tips-to-get-started-researching-your-family-history.html/amp?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=DSA&utm\\_content=All%20Pages&utm\\_term=&gad\\_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA9ourBhAVEiwA3L5RFu7ePJr1uz79EAo06OMZQHaDumOqd adIFBrW9w0YT3QR4QFsrth5xoCnEMQAvD BwE](https://blog.genealogybank.com/6-tips-to-get-started-researching-your-family-history.html/amp?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=DSA&utm_content=All%20Pages&utm_term=&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA9ourBhAVEiwA3L5RFu7ePJr1uz79EAo06OMZQHaDumOqd adIFBrW9w0YT3QR4QFsrth5xoCnEMQAvD BwE)

<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/free-resources/?gclid=CjwKCAiA9ourBhAVEiwA3L5RFgKpSayXZmUHk2dwvg1fxh6fE1bzTLvn5VAs36KIKYoPtP -b3m2GRoCiwQQAvD BwE>

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/New\\_to\\_Genealogy\\_-\\_Beginners\\_First\\_Step](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/New_to_Genealogy_-_Beginners_First_Step)

#### **Rule Number Two:**

- \* I shall do my HOMEWORK before bugging others for information.
- \* I will read all census records that apply to my ancestors in a given time and place.
- \* I will give all places a COUNTY name as I understand the name of a town or city is nearly always useful in genealogy (New England is sometimes an exception). However, be aware that some cities may be in multiple counties or that county names may have changed over time, and you may not always be sure which county they actually lived in.

#### **Rule Number Three:**

- \* I shall, in any query ...Internet or snail mail... make it clear WHO I am looking for, WHERE I know they were located, and WHEN they were there.
- \* If I have to give an estimated date, I will tell why (such as a child of his, reportedly, born in that county in Abt. 1815). It is better to give an estimated date, if possible, rather than leave the date blank, otherwise you have records that you do not even know what century they occurred in.

**Rule Number Four:**

- \* I shall NEVER ask anyone for EVERYTHING they have on a family.
- \* I understand that many genealogists have whole rooms devoted to a few of their lines.
- \* I will be specific as to what I have and what I need and will offer to pay for excess postage or copying costs if my "exchange" of information falls short.

**Rule Number Five:**

- \* I shall NOT hold back information or refuse to cite my sources or refuse to send the documentation with my material. Having documents scanned as PDF documents makes it easier to share information with others by email.
- \* I understand I cannot copyright research material and that my credibility in the genealogical world is at stake if my work is sloppy or incomplete (lacking sources).

**Rule Number Six:**

- \* I shall ALWAYS document every fact in my family history.
- \* I understand that DOCUMENTATION is just a fancy, long word for "Tell me where you got the information." If I interviewed Aunt Maude and she told me the information (traditional or "jaw bone" history) then I will make sure that Aunt Maude's full name and other information stay with the material whether it is written by hand or entered into a computer program.
- \* If I have used a public record, I will cite the location of the record, (the county, the Archives, etc.) the specific place that record was in (Will Book, County Clerk's office, etc.), and any other pertinent information.
- \* If I quote a census, I will provide a website link to that page of the census, or give the year, the county, the township/post office, the page number, the enumeration date and the household number and all information and whether I took the info from a census film or a printed source.
- \* In my attempt to follow Rule Number One (self-education), I will find out what documentation is considered primary and what is considered secondary. I understand I will have to know these definitions if I want to join many of the societies that demand documentation such as DAR, SAR, pioneer associations, etc.

**Rule Number Seven:**

- \* I will ALWAYS keep in mind that someone, 50 or 100 years from now, will depend upon my research to prove their heritage.
- \* I understand that carelessness, on my part, will result in history being rewritten on a false note.
- \* I pledge that I will NOT, under any circumstance, download a GEDCOM or other electronic medium and load it into my own program. I will, first, check out the documentation that was provided to me (and if it wasn't, I will ask for it....nicely) and then proceed from there. When I do load the information into my program I understand I need to keep the documentation with the family grouping (all marriage, birth, death dates, etc.....not as something like World Family Tree, CD #0023, etc.)
- \* I also understand that this applies to any typed or hand written family group sheets or history also.

**Rule Number Eight:**

- \* Although I entered this hobby for the thrill of the chase I will take SERIOUSLY my responsibility to history and other researchers to do the best job I can do.
- \* I understand that patience is a virtue and not all others, beginners or those that have been at the hobby for years, always understand what I am talking about. I will try to take the time to word my

queries well (as in Rule Number Three) and I hereby pledge that, when I have gained enough experience to know what I'm talking about, that I will take the time to help a beginner.

**Rule Number Nine:**

\* I will try, as soon as possible physically or financially, to JOIN a genealogical association and help others (as well as myself) find their family history.

\* I realize that we all must give as well as take and I will try to compile cemetery statistics or paste in obits or other work needed in the genealogy world. Where possible I will try to provide website links to sources, I use so others can go directly to that link to see the original material.

**Rule Number Ten:**

\* I will ALWAYS remember that this is a FUN endeavor and NEVER become cranky or discouraged. Whenever I hit a brick wall, I will reset my goals and renew my spirit and go find some other ancestors and praise all of them for giving me the best thing of all....my LIFE!