

THE BROADCAST

Official Newsletter of Commander, Submarine Forces

WINTER 2023



AUKUS Leaders Define Path for Australia's Acquisition of a Conventionally Armed SSN



Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday, Royal Navy First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff Adm. Sir Ben Key, and Chief of the Royal Australian Navy Vice Adm. Mark Hammond, tour the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Missouri (SSN 780) following the AUKUS trilateral announcement in San Diego, Calif., Mar. 13. Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States announced a pathway that will increase the ability of the nations to deter aggression and contribute to stability in the Indo-Pacific, and globally.



ZBO

noun acronym

1. Operational signal meaning “the following messages are of concern”.

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The Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Key West (SSN 722) departs Naval Base Guam, Jan. 17.





VICE ADMIRAL WILLIAM HOUSTON
Commander, Submarine Forces

ADMIRAL'S CABIN

*“When conflict arises,
we will win because
of our people”*



REAR ADMIRAL JEFFREY T. JABLON
Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Our Submarine Force is the most lethal and capable undersea Force in the world with the ability to readily execute agile, responsive and lethal force employment across the spectrum of competition and conflict on a worldwide scale. Our people are the foundation of this capability – they are the true source of our naval power and the asymmetric advantage we hold over our competitors. When conflict arises, we will win because of our people; and when called to fight, we will only have one chance to “get it right.”

Accordingly, we must continuously guide, mentor and train our people in a manner that fully develops their potential, enables them to become masters of their specialties, instills complete confidence and trust every day and shapes their own ability to lead others into the future.

Throughout our history, our Force could be described as having a “culture of expectations.” We “expected” our people to figure it out for themselves or to perform to a level based on their position vice one based on experience and knowledge and then scolded them when they did not meet expectations.

This is not productive; if anything, it is demotivating, causing our people to feel stifled and does not promote a environment conducive to retaining our talent.

Today, we must promote a “culture of mentoring” throughout our Force that permeates across every member of the command.

Commanding officers: discuss with your wardrooms and chief petty officer quarters the concept of a “culture of mentoring” vs. a “culture of expectations” and seek improvement to foster a culture where seniors actively mentor and teach juniors aboard your ship. Begin by teaching your people the basics when appropriate and become

involved with guiding them to achieve their aspirations, goals, and ultimately, superior performance.

Your sustained effort is necessary to positively influence and shape behavior. As we actively mentor and teach our people, complement those efforts with your leadership that sets high standards for individual and team performance, builds morale, delegates trust, emphasizes authority and responsibility and enforces accountability. As we sustain a “culture of mentoring”, enhanced combat readiness and mission success will follow – which is essential when called upon by our Nation during times of competition and conflict.

Our victory will always rest with how we develop and mentor our people – and that begins with you.



Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Rick Cheeseman and Personnel, Manpower, and Training Fleet Master Chief Delbert Terrell Jr. speak to leadership of the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Pasadena (SSN 752) before an all-hands call with Pasadena’s crew, Feb. 22.



THE GOAT LOCKER



FORCE MASTER CHIEF NEIL FORD
Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic



FORCE MASTER CHIEF JASON AVIN
Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

“Everyone needs a mentor”

Our successes and failures as individuals and as teams can often be traced back to one concept – Mentorship. As you’ll see elsewhere in this issue, a culture of mentoring is at the forefront of what we do. This trait, this skillset, this mindset, and this culture is a vital prerequisite for any good leader in our Force. We see it everywhere; from the XO grooming their future Department Heads, to the COB keeping the watch team alert and proficient, and to the 2nd Class Petty Officer who has been onboard since pre-com getting their new LPO or junior Sailors up to speed. It is this culture of mentoring, both up and down the chain of command that will positively shape a command, and drive everyone to be the best version of themselves.

I think everyone with any amount of salt in the Navy can point to someone in their careers who took the time to show them what ‘right’ looks like; someone who guided them with sage counsel, whether it be career management, qualifications, relationship advice, or maybe just the best way to get home in San Diego traffic. The leader who got down in the bilge and got filthy with them or took that piece of gear apart with them, and showed them how to fix it. The one you look around for when things are tough, only to find they’ve been standing right beside you the whole time, allowing you to fail smartly, guide you when you need it, and who is there to catch you, and pick you up when you are falling. Our Submarine Force is only the best in the world because of the Sailors who man our boats and shore commands, and the families and staffs who support them. Everyone needs a mentor, whether it is an official relationship, or chosen informally by both parties. People make people better, and relationships between a mentor and a mentee can last a lifetime. We are stronger together.

This will likely be my last newsletter, as I prepare to transfer to 2nd Fleet this summer. If you would have told me 27 years ago that I would one day be a Submarine Force Master Chief, I would have laughed at you. However, I had mentors throughout my career who believed in me. They recognized my potential (when sometimes I didn’t myself), and they held me accountable to do the work commensurate with the level they expected of me. Those leaders showed and

earned respect, they developed trust in everyone around them, and they inspired willingness to work hard for the team and consider others before self. Remember, there is no trophy for second place in this business, and our country is counting on us to be ready if called upon. Our people and our culture are what will ensure we will win.

It has been my honor and my privilege to serve as your Force Master Chief. Although I am sure I did not get to meet every Sailor face to face, I have again been inspired by the professionalism, the intelligence, and the lethality of the best Submarine Force the world will ever know. In parting, I challenge all of you to find that Sailor, that division, that boat, or that squadron to raise up. Actively mentor your people. Set high standards for yourselves and everyone around you, and then empower and motivate them to meet or exceed that bar. Our success depends on it. I wish you all fair winds and following seas.

- FORCM Jason Avin



Rear Adm. Brian Davies, Commander, Submarine Group (SUBGRU) 2, speaks with Sailors in the Submarine Multi-mission Team Trainer at the Submarine Learning Facility Norfolk on Naval Station Norfolk, Va., Feb. 2.



BATTLE "E" WINNERS

SUBLANT

SUBPAC



AT SEA CATEGORY:

USS CHEYENNE (SSN 773)
SUBRON 2

USS ILLINOIS (SSN 786)
SUBRON 1

USS NORTH DAKOTA
SUBRON 4

USS SEAWOLF (SSN 21)
SUBDEVRON 5

USS ALBANY (SSN 753)
SUBRON 6

USS CHICAGO (SSN 721)
SUBRON 7

USS TOLEDO (SSN 769)
SUBRON 8

USS ALEXANDRIA (SSN 757)
SUBRON 11

USS NEWPORT NEWS (SSN 750)
SUBRON 12

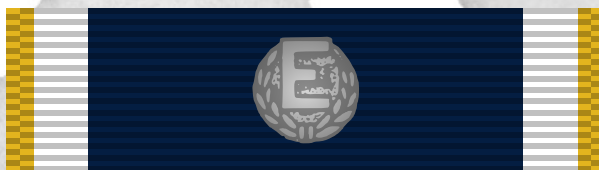
USS ANNAPOLIS (SSN 760)
SUBRON 15

USS GEORGIA (SSGN 729) (B) (G)
SUBRON 16

USS PENNSYLVANIA (SSBN 735) (B) (G)
SUBRON 17

USS RHODE ISLAND (SSBN 740) (B) (G)
SUBRON 20

USS MICHIGAN (SSGN 727) (B) (G)
SUBRON 19



The Battle "E" award recognizes a command's outstanding performance and overall readiness to carry out its assigned wartime task. Bravo Zulu on a job well done!

BEYA

Lifetime Achievement Award Winner Credits Centennial Seven for Introducing him to BEYA

By U.S. Black Engineer Information Technology



Capt. Melvin Ronald Smith, executive assistant to Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, speaks during the 2023 Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) gala, Feb. 11. Smith was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award and is the tenth African American man in Navy history to command a submarine.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was the first to be presented at the 2023 Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) gala on Saturday, Feb. 11. The award went to Captain Melvin Ronald Smith. He has dedicated his life's work to serving his country and shaping future leaders in the U.S. Navy's submarine force.

Only seven Black men, known as The Centennial Seven, rose to command a navy submarine in the twentieth century. Since the year 2000, only two more have joined their ranks. Captain Smith, the executive assistant to the commander U. S. Indo Pacific Command, is the third African American man in the 21st century to join this elite group. One might draw a few conclusions from the word lifetime, Capt. Smith said in his acceptance speech at the BEYA gala.

"All of them connect to a theme that validates the gray hairs on my head," he joked. "I am honored, humbled, and touched to stand here receiving recognition for what I have done. Each was accomplished to make things better than I found them. It's been said that a well-lived life is one in which the things you contribute outlast you. The measure of that will be judged in the future, but the opportunity to do that came from the village that gave me the steps, the guidance, and the movement to get here."

"I was introduced to BEYA years ago by admirals Watson, Haney, Grooms, Williams, captains Peterson, Bundy, and Tzomes.

They are the Centennial Seven. And they did inspire a generation of submarine officers. They pulled us into the fold of that which BEYA represents. I was just reminded how important it is to let people know that you see them, and BEYA does that in many ways. Exposure to BEYA gave me a window into what can and, more importantly, what should be."

During the 2009 BEYA STEM Conference, members of the Navy's Centennial Seven met for a historic reunion with Naval Academy midshipmen. The group included Capt. Pete Tzomes, Rear Adm. Tony Watson, Capt. Will Bundy, Vice Adm. Mel Williams, Capt. Bill Peterson, Adm. Cecil Haney, Vice Adm. Bruce Grooms, Cmdr. Rich Bryant, and Capt. Roger Isom.



Cmdr. Melvin Smith (right) takes command of USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23) from Cmdr. Brian Elkowitz (left) during a change of command ceremony at Naval Base Kitsap, Bangor, Wash., May 29, 2015.



AUKUS

AUKUS Shores up Deterrence, Promotes Stability

By Jim Garamore, DoD News



Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday, Royal Navy First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff Adm. Sir Ben Key, and Chief of the Royal Australian Navy Vice Adm. Mark Hammond, pose for a photo with Sailors assigned to the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Sante Fe (SSN 763) following the AUKUS trilateral meeting in San Diego, Calif, March 13.

The leaders of Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States announced a pathway that will increase the ability of the nations to deter aggression and contribute to stability in the Indo-Pacific, and globally.

The move is a part of the Australia-United Kingdom-United States security partnership agreed to in September 2021. The so-called AUKUS agreement is built upon acquiring conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine capabilities for Australia.

President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced the way forward at Point Loma Naval Base, California, Mar. 13.

President Biden said he was pleased with the progress the three countries had made in the process. “Australia and the United Kingdom are two of America’s most stalwart and capable allies,” he said. “Our common values and our shared vision for a more peaceful and prosperous future unite us all across the Atlantic and Pacific. For more than a century, we’ve stood together to defend freedom and strengthen democracy ... and to spur greater opportunity in all our countries.”

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III attended the ceremony calling the agreement the next step forward in the “transformational partnership.”

“In September 2021, the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom laid out an ambitious vision for our countries that will strengthen our combined military capabilities, boost our defense industrial capacity, enhance our ability to deter aggression and promote our shared goal of a free and open Indo-Pacific,” the Secretary said. “AUKUS is a shared, long-term investment that will allow us to build defense advantages that endure for decades to come.”

The three announced a three-phase program that will ensure a safer region.

Phase one is already underway, said administration officials speaking on background. Part of this is that U.S. and British submarines will visit ports in Australia and those visits will increase. “In fact, the USS Asheville is in Perth, Australia, now for combined training exercises,” the official said. The Asheville is a Los Angeles-class attack submarine.

Another aspect of this phase is Australian sailors will increasingly embed aboard American and British attack submarines and attend nuclear power schools. This portion of

the plan also calls for Australian workers in U.S. shipyards.

Australia is building facilities and infrastructure that will accommodate vessels from all three countries. These improvements could be finished by 2027, and the nations intend to establish a rotational force of U.S. and U.K. submarines in Australia. The Submarine Rotational Forces West, as it will be known, will bolster deterrence, with more submarines forward-deployed in the Indo-Pacific, the official said.

Phase two should start in the early 2030s. Once the Australians are trained and ready, the nation will buy three Virginia-class conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines with an option to buy two more if needed. This will help systematically grow Australia’s capabilities and stewardship for nuclear-powered submarines, and it will help ensure that Australia does not experience a capability gap when its current Collins-class diesel electric subs retire in the 2030s, U.S. officials said.

This means that Australia will have a potent nuclear powered submarine force in 2030s, much earlier than many had expected.

Australia’s future SSN — which officials call the “SSN-AUKUS” — will be a state-of-the-art platform designed to leverage the best of submarine technology from all three nations.



AUSTRALIA

U.S. Navy Sub Visits Perth, Western Australia

By U.S. Embassy in Canberra



Sailors assigned to the fast-attack submarine USS Asheville salute the American flag after arriving at the Royal Australian Navy base HMAS Stirling on Garden Island, Australia, Feb. 27. The Asheville is on patrol supporting national security interests in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.

United States Navy submarine USS Asheville visited Perth, Western Australia for combined training exercises with Royal Australian Navy submarine forces as part of a regularly scheduled patrol in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine docked at HMAS Stirling Naval Base on Garden Island, near Rockingham.

U.S. Consul General Perth Siriana Nair said the USS Asheville's visit demonstrates the close and ongoing cooperation between the U.S. and Australia.

"Our alliance has existed for more than a century and is active today around the world, including here in Western Australia," said Consul General Nair. "I am proud to see our Sailors working together, side by side, strengthening our capabilities at sea and building close friendships."

USS Asheville's Commanding Officer Commander Thomas Dixon said crewmembers were eager to work with their Australian allies.

"Australia has no closer friend than the United States. Together, we are deterring aggression and ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific region," said Dixon.

U.S. Embassy Australia Naval Attaché Captain Kevin Quarderer said, "This cooperation builds on the longstanding and exemplary service of the Australian submarine force and it is truly an honor we are training together in Perth."

The last U.S. Navy submarine to visit Perth was USS Mississippi in November. This followed the USS Frank Cable and USS Springfield visits in April 2022.



GROTON

Pay improvement team visits Groton as part of Submarine Force initiative to improve pay issues

By Submarine Readiness Squadron 32 Public Affairs



Master Chief Petty Officer Lee Alvaran, left, a yeoman attached to the USS Vermont (SSN 792), discusses pay and personnel with Petty Officer 1st Class Randall Valls, a pay specialist attached to Submarine Force Atlantic (SUBLANT) in Norfolk, Virginia, on board Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Conn., Jan. 10.

Groton-based submariners now have direct access to pay and personnel supervisors through a new initiative spearheaded by Submarine Force Atlantic (SUBLANT) Commander Vice Adm. William Houston.

Pay specialists have set up a customer service desk at Submarine Readiness Squadron (SRS) 32, the administrative command representing 19 submarines and associated commands located at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut.

The initiative comes in the form of a Pay Improvement Team, already dubbed the “PIT Crew” by its Level 3 supervisor Senior Chief Petty Officer Gary Dodson.

“Level 3 access gives us the authority and the access we need to fix the issue on the spot,” said Dodson, who is a senior pay supervisor attached to SUBLANT headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia. “The goal is to train yeomen, admin officers, and chiefs on pay issues to better assist Sailors and to restore faith that their pay is going to be right when we’re not around.”

The training-focused visit is the first of many planned visits intended for other SUBLANT locations in Norfolk, Virginia, and Kings Bay, Georgia.

Dodson is accompanied by two pay specialists from SUBLANT as well as Master Chief Petty Officer David Olsen, a Level 3 enlisted incentives program manager from the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) command in Millington, Tennessee.

“We’re happy to be here to sort any reenlistment bonus issues that these Sailors are facing,” Olsen said. “Reenlistment bonuses are typically delayed

from discrepancies between the contract and approval process, a common delay that I have the authority to fix on the spot.”

Dodson and Olsen shared the most common pay problems stem from access issues for the individual commands’ administrative staff, an issue they intend to fix as more local staffs will gain Level 2 “inputting” access.

“Right now, the access required to submit pay requests is limited,” Dodson said. “For the first leg of this initiative, we are in receive mode – taking in problems – to work on them back in Norfolk.”

Dodson added they will have full access by the time they return to Groton or visit other locations.

The PIT crew efforts are part of a broader “Get Real, Get Better” initiative, a Chief of Naval Operations call to action for every Navy leader to apply a set of Navy-proven leadership and problem solving best practices that empower Sailors to achieve exceptional performance.

GROTON

PCU Idaho Crewmembers Visit Namesake State

Chief Petty Officer Joshua Karsten, Submarine Readiness Squadron (SRS) 32



Crewmembers from the future USS Idaho (SSN 799) pose in front of the Idaho state flag during a tour of the capital building in Boise, Idaho, Jan. 25.

Groton-based crewmembers, attached to the Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) Idaho (SSN 799), wrapped up a week-long tour of their namesake state in Boise, Idaho, Feb. 1.

Six Sailors from future Virginia-class submarine - Executive Officer Lt. Cmdr. Darrell Smith, Chief of the Boat Master Chief Petty Officer Travis Skipper, Lt. Beckett Lemley, Petty Officer 1st Class Justin Teal, Petty Officer 2nd Class Peyton Freck, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Gianni Luzzetti - toured the state to learn more of Idaho's rich history and military traditions, as well as share their Navy stories and build relationships in the community.

"It's been an amazing trip so far," said Smith during a visit to Weiser High School in Weiser, Idaho. "Everywhere we go, it's been a wide, warm welcome in Idaho."

"This whole trip has been humbling," said Skipper at the same event in Weiser. "The amount of pride and patriotism that the state of Idaho has definitely opened our eyes and we're thankful to be named the Idaho."

Former Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, who acted as host for the ship's commissioning committee, praised the crew's impact on the people of Idaho during the numerous public events.

"Just last night, for example, at a Boise State basketball game," Kempthorne explained. "When the crew was introduced, it was an immediate standing ovation, which was as sincere and strong cheer as any play that ever happened in that auditorium."

Kempthorne added that the people of Idaho, even those who know of the submarine, prefer to shake hands with the crew members, calling the interactions a "beautiful bond that is existing between the ship and state."

The basketball game was one of two high-visibility sporting events - the other during an Idaho Steelheads professional hockey game - that the crewmembers took center court and ice

to greet cheering fans. Smith led the crowd in three cheers of 'Let it be forever,' the ship's rallying cry and the English translation of the state's motto, "Esto Perpetua."

The crew members visited the state capital to meet with sitting Gov. Brad Little, as well as other state officials. They also toured the campuses of the College of Idaho and Northwest Nazarene University, as well as two high schools in Caldwell and Weiser, Idaho. And most importantly, they paid their respects to veterans at the Idaho Veterans Cemetery in Boise.

"The crewmembers and students paid respects to the recently deceased Mr. Clark Syme, believed to be the last surviving World War II submarine veteran in Idaho," said Lemley, who serves as the ship's navigator, during the event at Caldwell High School. "The students then asked questions of the crew and participated in the USS Idaho battle cry, 'let it be forever!'"

After three days of shaking hands and wowing audiences in the capital region, the crew changed from their dress uniforms to winter gear for four days of winter activities in Idaho's northern mountains. The activities included snowmobiling, sleigh rides, a winter carnival parade, and Idaho's annual Sled Dog Challenge, before the crew made their way back to Boise for a farewell dinner.

"The crew was welcomed warmly and got to count down the start of one of the dog teams," Lemley added. Lemley also commented on the crew's snowmobiling experience, stating "the crew covered over 40 miles on their way to Burgdorf, for the hot springs, and then to Warren, a small mining town where we ate dinner and rested for the night."

(continue Idaho on page 15)



Lt. Cmdr. Darrell Smith, left center, executive officer of the future USS Idaho (SSN 799), and Lt. Beckett Lemley, left, the ship's navigator, create pens with local woodworkers in Boise, Idaho, Jan. 24.



JAPAN

Submarine Group 7 Hosts Japanese Submarine Officers in Yokosuka, Japan

By Lt. Cmdr. Robert Reinheimer, Commander, Submarine Group (CSG) 7/ Commander, Task Force (CTF) 74



Rear Adm. Rick Seif, commander, Submarine Group (CSG) 7, and students of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Intermediate Submarine Officer's Course gather together at CSG 7 on board Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Jan. 19.

Commander, Submarine Group (CSG) 7/Commander, Task Force (CTF) 74 hosted Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) submarine officers at Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan to discuss the roles and responsibilities of CTF 74 as well as U.S. Navy submarine officers' career milestones, Jan. 19.

The 17 JMSDF officers are students of the JMSDF Intermediate Class Submarine Officer's Course at JMSDF's Submarine Training Center in Kure, Japan. The briefs and tour of CTF 74 stressed the importance of U.S.-Japan bilateral submarine force cooperation and provided insight as to the multiple career paths for submarine officers within the U.S. Navy.

"This was a great opportunity for the JMSDF junior officers to see firsthand the operations of CTF 74, and the important role they play within the U.S. 7th Fleet command structure," said Cmdr. KUBO Takayuki, JMSDF Liaison Officer to CTF 74. "I am fortunate to work alongside CTF 74 leadership every day, but for these students, it was important for them to come and get an understanding of submarine operations here in person."

Rear Adm. Rick Seif, Commander, Submarine Group 7, provided a command brief to the students, describing the CSG 7 area of responsibility as well as the impact of the submarine force around the world.

Lt. Cmdr. Jasen Hicks, CTF 74 N5/N7 exercise safety officer, provided a brief on the required educational curriculum and differing career paths for U.S. Navy submarine officers.

"The U.S.-Japanese Alliance is as strong as ever, and Submarine Group 7 has always enjoyed a great relationship with our JMSDF submarine force Allies," said Hicks. "Having this group of students come visit and learn about the career path for U.S. submarine officers was a pleasure, and I am confident they will benefit from seeing how we operate here at CTF 74 and how closely our combined undersea forces work together."

With two classes of students undergoing studies each year, the JMSDF Intermediate

Class Submarine Officer's Course is designed to cultivate professional submarine officers, with the goal of them continuing their careers and eventually becoming a commanding officer of a Japanese submarine.

The class that visited CTF 74 finished their curriculum February. After graduation, the JMSDF officers were assigned as a submarine department head.

Submarine Group 7 is responsible for coordinating a diverse fleet of submarines, surface ships and aircraft deployed to the Western Pacific and the Middle East; forward-deployed submarine tenders and fast-attack submarines homeported in Guam; Submarine Squadron 21 in Bahrain; five ocean surveillance ships when tasked for theater anti-submarine warfare operations, and two oceanographic survey vessels. Under CSG 7 are two task forces: CTF 74 and CTF 54, which provide theater anti-submarine warfare support from the Red Sea to the International Date Line.

KINGS BAY

8th U.S.-ROK Deterrence Strategy Committee Table-Top Exercise

Joint Press Release



U.S. and Republic of Korea delegations visited the Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia, Feb. 23. The visit followed the 8th U.S.-ROK Deterrence Strategy Committee Table-Top Exercise.

The United States and the Republic of Korea (ROK) conducted the 8th U.S.-ROK Deterrence Strategy Committee Table-Top Exercise (DSC TTX), February 22, at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Following the TTX, the ROK and U.S. delegations visited the Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in Georgia, February 23.

During the 54th U.S.-ROK Security Consultative Meeting, November 3, 2022, the ROK Minister of National Defense and the U.S. Secretary of Defense pledged to conduct a DSC TTX annually. This TTX is the first to be conducted during the administration of ROK President Yoon Suk-yeol.

Heo Taekeun, ROK Deputy Minister of Defense Policy, headed the ROK delegation and Dr. Siddharth Mohandas, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia, and Richard C. Johnson, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Policy, headed the U.S. delegation as co-chairs.

ROK and U.S. defense officials, military officers, and diplomats participated in the TTX. Key personnel from the ROK included officials from the Ministry of National Defense (MND), Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), Korea Defense Intelligence Agency (KDIA) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). The U.S. delegation included members from the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), Joint Chiefs of Staff, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA),

U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM), U.S. Forces Korea (USFK), and the Department of State. The participants held in-depth discussions on various approaches to the Alliance's deterrence and response posture in the face of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) evolving nuclear and missile capabilities.

Given the DPRK's recent aggressive nuclear policy and advancements in nuclear capabilities, the TTX scenario focused on the possibility of the DPRK's use of nuclear weapons. The U.S. and ROK delegations focused their discussion on Alliance deterrence to maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and potential options for responding to DPRK nuclear weapons use. Both sides discussed various options to demonstrate the Alliance's strong response capabilities and resolve to respond appropriately to any DPRK nuclear use.

The U.S. side highlighted that 2022 Nuclear Posture Review states that any nuclear attack by North Korea against the United States or its Allies and partners is unacceptable and will result in the end of that regime. Both sides affirmed that the Alliance stands ready to respond to the DPRK's nuclear threats.

(continue Deterrence on page 15)

KOREA

CTF 74 Visits Republic of Korea, Strengthening 70-Year Alliance

By Lt. Cmdr. Robert Reinheimer



Leadership from the Republic of Korea (ROK) Navy and Commander, Submarine Group 7/Task Force 74 pose for a photo at ROK Navy Submarine Force Command (CSF) in Chinhae, Republic of Korea, Jan. 25. CSG 7 directs forward-deployed combat-capable forces across the full spectrum of undersea warfare throughout the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea.

Rear Adm. Rick Seif, Commander, Submarine Group 7/Task Force (CTF) 74, visited the Republic of Korea (ROK) Navy Submarine Force Command (CSF) in Chinhae, ROK to discuss future opportunities for bilateral cooperation and tour the facility's undersea warfare assets, Jan. 25-26.

"It is great to be back in Chinhae meeting with our ROK Navy submarine force Allies and seeing their impressive undersea capabilities firsthand," said Seif. "For 70 years, our Alliance has been ironclad, and I look forward to our continued work together supporting regional security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region."

The U.S.-ROK Alliance was established in 1953. Since then, the Alliance has proven strong and durable in the face of new global conditions and is among the most interoperable, capable, and dynamic bilateral alliances in the world.

During the visit, Seif met with ROK Navy Rear Adm. Suyoul

Lee, Commander, Submarine Force, to further enhance the close relationship between the two naval forces.

"While this year marks the 70th anniversary of ROK-US Alliance, CSF and CTF 74 have an established, watertight cooperation system-- carrying out critical roles, and supporting regional security and combined defense postures," said Lee. "We are further reinforcing the mutual cooperation between CSF and CTF 74 and improving our combined operational and ASW capabilities."

During the trip, Seif also toured the CSF watchfloor, the CSF shipyard and the attack submarine ROKS Dosan ahn Changho (SS-083), enhancing understanding of ROKN capabilities in submarine maintenance, operations, and training.

Submarine Group 7 directs forward-deployed, combat capable forces across the full spectrum of undersea warfare throughout the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean, and Arabian Sea.

MIAMI

SOUTHCOM Hosts Submarine Force's Submarine Conference of the Americas

By Lt. j.g. Michaela White, Submarine Group TWO Public Affairs



U.S. Navy Vice Adm. William Houston, right center, Commander of U.S. Naval Submarine Forces, poses with allied submarine force commanders during the 2nd annual Submarine Conference of the Americas (SCOTA) at U.S. Southern Command in Miami, Fla., Feb. 14.

Commander, Submarine Forces hosted the Submarine Conference of the Americas (SCOTA) at U.S. Southern Command in Miami, Florida, February 13-15.

SCOTA was attended by Western Hemisphere (WHEM) undersea leadership from allied and partner submarine-operating nations to showcase and address national undersea domain capabilities, the challenges of interoperability, and undersea collaboration against strategic competitors in the WHEM.

Vice Adm. William Houston, commander, Submarine Forces, kicked off the multinational conference with a welcome remark to attendees from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and the U.S.

"Our relationships with our allies and partners in the Western Hemisphere are critical to safe maritime operations," said Houston. "The work we initiate here will enhance operational safety for our respective nations as we reinforce our friendships and partnerships."

Following Houston's introduction, U.S. Army Gen. Laura Richardson, Commander, U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), thanked participants for their time and encouraged them to take advantage of the opportunities to collaborate.

"I am committed to strengthening SOUTHCOM's security cooperation with our neighbors and ensuring that the United States remains the partner of choice in the Western Hemisphere," said Richardson. "The opportunity that we have today to engage with one another is indispensable and

I encourage each of you to take this time to strengthen your relationships. I hope that the cooperation between our nations continues to prosper into the future".

Vice Adm. Edgar Luiz Siqueira Barbosa, Commander, Brazilian navy Fleet Forces, echoed Richardson's sentiment on using the conference to bolster relationships and strengthen understanding.

"The conference gives us the opportunity to understand each other's perspective, identify common threats and learn how to operate together," said Barbosa. "In an ever-growing complex world, it is certainly better to increase interoperability capabilities before it becomes urgent. The Brazilian navy gives high priority to the ongoing modernization of our 108-year-old submarine force, to secure sovereignty, as well as to bolster regional deterrence. It is our commitment, as a nation, to ensure regional stability and security of commercial flows. Cooperation with like-minded nations will be our leverage to face modern challenges."

SCOTA also had many U.S. Navy subject matter experts who traveled across the world to offer their perspectives on water space allocation and management, global threats in the undersea theatre, Navy security and lessons in hemispheric security. The speakers included Rear Adm. Steve Mack, Commander, Submarines NATO and Vice Adm. (Ret.) Bill Merz, former Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans, and Strategy.

(continue SCOTA on page 15)

NORFOLK

SUBLANT Celebrates CPOs 130th Birthday

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Ace Foster, SUBLANT Public Affairs



The Submarine Force Atlantic (SUBLANT) Chiefs Mess celebrated the 130th birthday of the CPO rank Apr. 1, 2023.

The earliest known unofficial use of the term Chief Petty Officer dates back to 1776 when the Continental Navy ship Alfred's foremost cook, Jacob Wasbie, a cook's mate, received the title "Chief Cook."

"Being a Chief is not easy and it's not meant to be because we are the back bone of the Navy," said Senior Chief Yeoman Daisy Gray, the Admin departmental leading chief petty officer at SUBLANT. "So when you're given the chance to lead take it; start now in being a leader by being proactive and not reactive."

According to the Naval History and Heritage command, the chief petty officer, as recognized today, was officially established on April 1, 1983, when the rank "Petty Officer First Class" was changed to "Chief Petty Officer." This originally encompassed nine ratings, or occupational specialties: chief master-at-arms, chief boatswain's mate, chief quartermaster, chief gunner's mate, chief machinist, chief carpenter's mate, chief yeoman, apothecary and band master.

"Every Morning I try to ensure that I continue to carry the legacy of those who have gone before me," said SUBLANT's Force Master Chief Neil Ford. "As we evolve as a force, it is our duty to make it an evolution that we can all be proud of."

The rank of chief petty officer is regarded as a significant milestone in an enlisted Sailor's career.

"To future Chiefs, I say keep charging and take care of your Sailors," said Ford. "If you fight for them they will fight for you."

Every year, the CPO birthday serves as a time for chief petty officers to step back and reflect on the proud history of the rank and to help encourage junior Sailors to also join the ranks of the Chiefs Mess.

There are currently three ranks of Chief Petty Officer in the United States Navy: Chief, Senior Chief and Master Chief. According to Naval History and Heritage Command, "Chiefs are recognized for exemplary technical expertise within their rating, superior administrative skills, and strong leadership ability. Most importantly, Chiefs bridge the gap between officers and enlisted personnel, acting as supervisors as well as advocates for their Sailors."

The Submarine Force executes the Department of the Navy's mission in and from the undersea domain. In addition to lending added capacity to naval forces, the Submarine Force, in particular, is expected to leverage those special advantages that come with undersea concealment to permit operational, deterrent and combat effects that the Navy and the nation could not otherwise achieve.

SAN DIEGO

Sailors Participate in Wreath Laying Ceremony

By Commander, Submarine Squadron 11 Public Affairs



Capt. Ken Douglas, left, Commodore of Commander, Submarine Squadron 11 (CSS-11), and Sandy Hanshaw, chairman of the Point Loma Association, lay a wreath across a monument during a Wreaths Across America ceremony at the 52 Boat Memorial at Liberty Station, Dec. 2.

The Point Loma Association, Commander, Submarine Squadron 11 (CSS-11) and veterans from Naval Submarine League Pacific Southwest Chapter held a ceremony remembering those submariners who lost their lives in World War II, and laid wreaths across the monuments at the 52 Boat Memorial at Liberty Station, Dec. 2.

During this annual tradition that began in 2018, Sailors and civilians take the opportunity to reflect and be grateful for the service and sacrifice of those who came before them.

"Today, we honor the Submarine Force of World War II, specifically the 52 boats and their crews that remain on eternal patrol," said Capt. Ken Douglas, commodore, CSS-11. "Sailors like these, who answered their nation's call to selflessly serve during one of its darkest hours, was a major motivation for me and continues to be an inspiration for so many to pick up where they left off."

The U.S. Navy submarine force lost 3,506 service members in total during WWII, along with 52 submarines, making submarine service the most dangerous combat branch during the war.

"Today's Submarine Force is committed to upholding the legacy of those we honor today, and the many who were lost in the conflicts afterward, and to ensure that generations to come will understand the sacrifices made by these Sailors and their families," said Douglas. "Today's era of great power competition makes our readiness more relevant than at any time in the past 75 years."

The design of the memorial includes a planting of 52 American Liberty Elm trees, lining the sidewalk that leads down to the water's edge, one for each of the lost boats. In front of each tree is a black granite monument, laser etched with each of lost boats name, picture, circumstance of loss and the names of all them who perished.

"I want to give thanks for allowing me to say a few words today," said Sandy Hanshaw, chairman of the Point Loma Association. "We also have one of our own memorialized here, Hugh Story Sr., who was the heart and soul of the Point Loma Association for over 24 years. He was a Navy veteran who served in WWII, so as you can see the Point Loma Association and this memorial are very connected."

ARTICLES CONTINUED

Idaho (Continued from page 8)

Kempthorne, when asked about the crew's overall visit, stated his time with the crew allowed him to "see it from both perspectives."

"I see the excitement that the Sailors are experiencing, and that they've said we've never seen such patriotism," Kempthorne said. "And how the people [of Idaho] support so immediately."

Kempthorne added that during a previous state visit, crewmembers collected water from multiple lakes in Idaho to be used for the ship's christening ceremony.

"We went to the different lakes in Idaho gathering the water, which will all go into the champagne bottle," Kempthorne

explained. "So that when Terry Stackley, our sponsor, christens the boat, the first water that will touch the bow of the USS Idaho will be the waters of Idaho."

The future USS Idaho - currently being built at General Dynamics Corp.'s Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, Connecticut - is scheduled to be the 26th Virginia-class submarine to join the fleet and eighth in the Block IV of the class. The Block IV submarines are notable for incorporating smaller-scale design changes that increase the number of deployments a sub can complete for each period of regular shipyard maintenance.

SCOTA (Continued from page 12)

Rear Adm. Jim Aiken, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command, spoke on advancing undersea engagements in the Southern Hemisphere.

"Understanding what each of our navies' strengths and capabilities are at a deep level will ensure that we can better integrate," said Aiken. "We will continue to advance our respective navies' interoperability, freedom of action and security cooperation in order to gain mutual benefit. Integration into real world operations and a focus on operational safety is imperative to the maritime security of the Western Hemisphere."

Each participating nation had the opportunity to provide a national brief on their respective Submarine Force as an

opportunity to showcase their capabilities and potential opportunities for collaboration.

The Submarine Force executes the Department of the Navy's mission in and from the undersea domain. In addition to lending added capacity to naval forces, the Submarine Force, in particular, is expected to leverage those special advantages that come with undersea concealment to permit operational, deterrent and combat effects that the Navy and the nation could not otherwise achieve.

The Submarine Force and supporting organizations constitute the primary undersea arm of the Navy. Submarines and their crews remain the tip of the undersea spear.

Deterrence (Continued from page 10)

Participants highlighted that improvements in the ROK's advanced conventional capabilities have strengthened deterrence. As such, the delegations discussed how best to leverage ROK non-nuclear capabilities to support nuclear deterrence against DPRK nuclear threats. Both sides concurred on the need to continue to strengthen extended deterrence, including through robust consultative mechanisms and crisis communication, as well as information-sharing, and joint planning and execution.

Both sides agreed that events such as the DSC TTX contribute to improving mutual understanding regarding the utilization and enhancement of Alliance capabilities. The delegations agreed on the importance of joint efforts to deter the DPRK's nuclear use, and the crucial value in preparing potential response measures during armistice and reinforcing existing consultation mechanisms to execute those measures.

The ROK and U.S. delegations agreed to report to the U.S.-Korea Integrated Defense Dialogue (KIDD) and Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) on the outcome of discussions conducted during the DSC TTX. Additionally, both sides agreed

to reflect the strategic approaches discussed during the DSC TTX in the ongoing revisions of the Tailored Deterrence Strategy (TDS) and to conduct follow-on TTXs involving political, military, and interagency participants in the near future to continue the joint planning and coordination process.

Following the DSC TTX, the U.S. and ROK delegations visited U.S. nuclear submarine training facilities located at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in Georgia. Rear Adm. Thomas R. "TR" Buchanan, Commander of Submarine Group 10, explained the mission of Ohio-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBNs), and emphasized that SSBN forces operated by the U.S. are a key means of providing U.S. extended deterrence to Allies. The United States will continue to work with the ROK to ensure an effective mix of capabilities, concepts, deployments, exercises, and tailored options to deter and, if necessary, respond to coercion and aggression by the DPRK. The United States will continue to field flexible nuclear forces suited to deterring regional nuclear conflict, including the capability to forward deploy strategic bombers, dual-capable fighter aircraft, and nuclear weapons to the region.

HOMECOMINGS



Seaman Fire Control Technician Tanner Hornsby, assigned to the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS New Hampshire (SSN 778), kisses his significant other as the traditional first kiss during the boat's homecoming at Naval Station Norfolk, Jan. 17.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Abdiel Rentas Vega is greeted by his wife, Mirelis Miranda, his daughter Kyana Rentas and son Angel Rentas moments after USS South Dakota (SSN 790) returned home Sunday, Dec. 18 following a five month deployment.



Lt. Erin Ford, the navigator onboard the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS New Hampshire (SSN 778), embraces her parents during the boat's homecoming at Naval Station Norfolk, Jan. 17.



Lt.j.g. Daniel Clarke embraces his wife Hannah and child Adalyn during a homecoming event for the USS Newport News (SSN 750) at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Conn., Jan. 3.

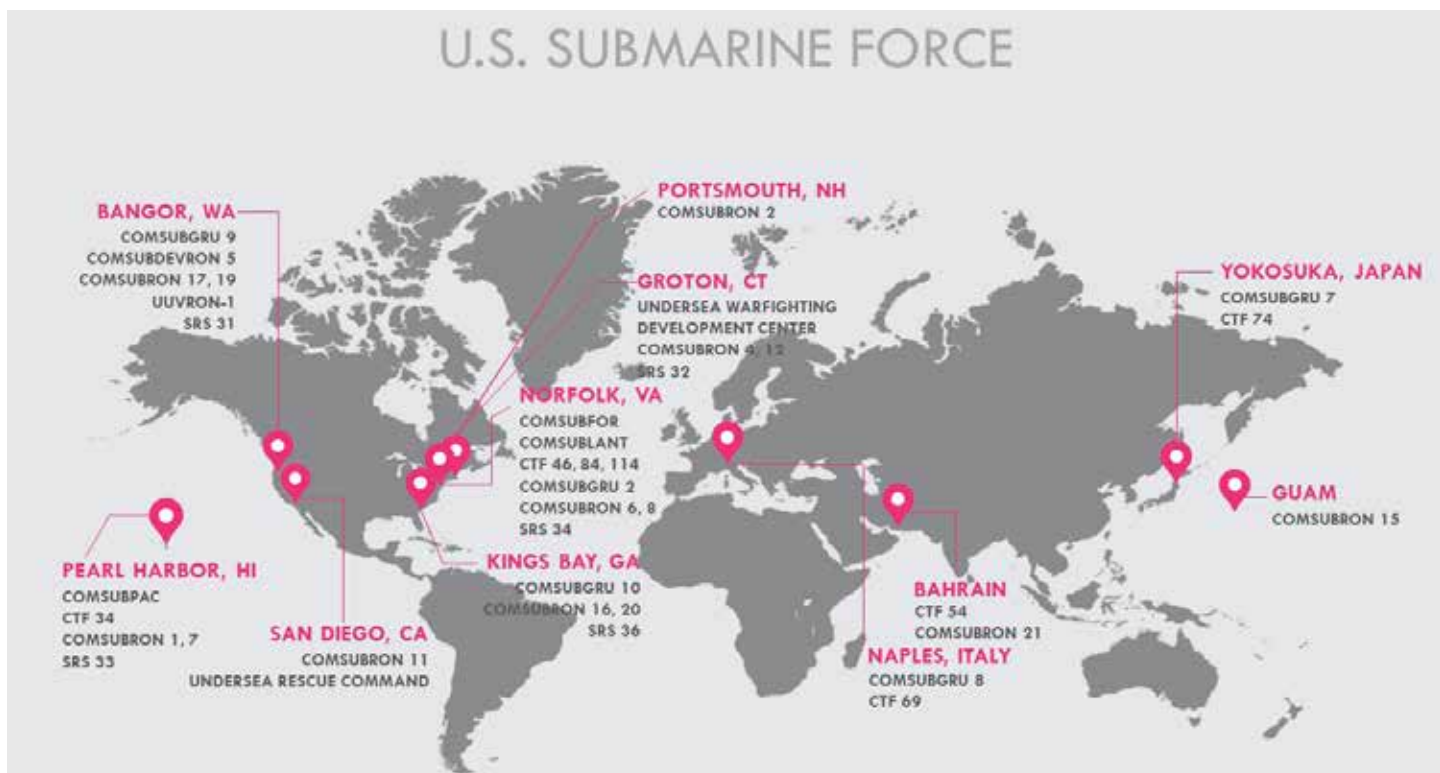


Sailor of the Year Petty Officer 1st Class Spencer Heline, Junior Sailor of the Year Petty Officer 2nd Class, and Bluejacket of the Year Seaman Keil Gerard, attached to the USS Newport News (SSN 750), prepare to greet their loved ones during a homecoming event at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Conn., Jan. 3.



Lt.j.g. Zachary Cutter smiles at his wife following the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Springfield's (SSN 761) return to Naval Base Guam, Jan. 9.

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NAVY NUKES!

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KEY DATES



- 2023 -

April

- Sexual Assault Prevention Month
- Month of the Military Child
- 1 - CPO Birthday
- 11 - 123rd Submarine Force Birthday
- 15 - E9 EVALS
- 31 - O5 FITREPs

May

- Military Appreciation Month
- Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- 6 - Spouse Appreciation Day
- 14 - Mother's Day
- 22 - USS Scorpion Anniversary
- 23-26 - CO/XO/DH Board
- 29 - Memorial Day*
- 31 - O1 FITREPs

June

- 4 - Battle of Midway
- 14 - Flag Day
- 15 - E4 EVAL
- 18 - Father's Day
- 19 - Juneteenth*

* Federal Holiday

July

- 4 - Independence Day*
- 15 - O6/E1-E3 FITREP/EVAL
- 21-22 Fleet Sync
- 27 - Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

August

- 7 - Purple Heart Day
- 10 - DoD Birthday
- 26 - Women's Equality Day

September

- Suicide Prevention Month
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- 4 - Labor Day*
- 14 - Ombudsman Appreciation Day
- 15 - W2, E7-E8 FITREP/EVAL
- 15 - POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 17 - Patriot's Day
- 24 - Gold Star Mother's and Family Day
- 29 - Chief Pinning

October

- Disability Employment Awareness Month
- 9 - Columbus Day*
- 13 - Navy Birthday
- 31 - O4 FITREP

IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND WHERE TO GET HELP, VISIT MILITARYONESOURCE.MIL OR CALL THE MILITARY CRISIS LINE 1-800-273-TALK

This newsletter is a collection of inputs from around the Submarine Force. If you have suggestions for articles, please contact the Submarine Force Atlantic Public Affairs Office:

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