

# THE BROADCAST

Official Newsletter of Commander, Submarine Forces

Summer 2022



## Keel-Laying Ceremony Held for First Columbia-class

Ship sponsor U.S. Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, District of Columbia, delivers remarks during the keel-laying ceremony for the future U.S. Navy ballistic missile submarine District of Columbia at the Electric Boat facility in Quonset Point, R.I., June 4.



# ZBO

*noun acronym*

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

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The Ohio-class guided missile submarine USS Florida (SSGN 728), homeported at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga., operates in the vicinity of the NATO Marathi Pier Complex in Souda Bay, Greece, Aug. 25.





VICE ADMIRAL WILLIAM HOUSTON  
Commander, Submarine Forces

# ADMIRAL'S CABIN

## *“Get Better Every Day”*



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

Our Submarine Force continues to “get better” every day through the dedicated efforts of our personnel worldwide. Consistent with the CNO’s “Get Real, Get Better” campaign, Rear Adm. Jablon and I are proud to report on the following accomplishments across the fleet that improve our warfighting readiness, support our people and improve our safety. All of the following accomplishments began with YOU, the Sailor on the deckplate. Keep feeding us your good ideas and don’t hesitate to explore and discuss smarter and more efficient ways to do business with your chain of command.

### **Warfighting**

The latest submarine command course executed with ship-type specific training for prospective commanding officers (PCO) and prospective executive officers (PXO), incorporating an SSBN into the at-sea phase in order to maximize the effectiveness of our warfighting training. This is the first significant change in 20 years.

The Force executed the first Pacific Fleet SSBN at-sea exchange of command in May, demonstrating the resiliency of our people and platforms to carry out sustained SSBN operations at sea.

An information warfare (IW) pilot kicked off with the first 8 IW personnel [information professional or cryptological officer, independent duty intelligence specialist, cryptologic technicians (technical), and cryptologic technicians (maintenance)] reporting to USS New Mexico (SSN 779) and USS Washington (SSN 787).

A cyber pilot has begun, with New Mexico, Washington, USS Colorado (SSN 778), and USS

Maryland (SSBN 738) implementing a new cyber watch stander to raise our warfighting readiness in this critical domain.

In the Atlantic, we developed a Wolf Pack deployment concept to employ two SSNs concurrently in order to heighten our readiness. These submarines will conduct shorter deployments of 60 to 90 days in duration for a specific purpose or mission.

We completed a detailed review of force warfighting readiness which will overhaul the CTQS and CTQM. To bring the best possible Ship Control training to the fleet, we are now placing served COBs on the staff at the Trident Training Facility (TTF) as leads for OHIO ship control training.

### **People**

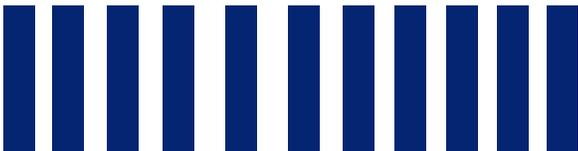
We are incorporating anonymous “360 feedback” into the command qualification process and we’ve executed our first command qualification boards with this feedback.

We successfully petitioned the Navy’s Civilian Hiring Authority to allow Trident Refit Facility (TRF) to hire retiring Sailors directly without waiting 180 days after retirement.

For Sailors qualifying nuclear security force watches on SSBNs as non-missile technicians (MT), there is now a 2.5 day course at TTF King’s Bay (KB) (coming soon to TTF Bangor) that teaches the same knowledge base MTs get in their training pipeline, reducing qualification time from months to weeks.

Nuclear trained Sailors may now qualify to support administration of their own software based systems. This qualification also provides relief to IT-Division from the

(Continued on page 2)



# ADMIRAL'S CABIN

(Continued from page 1)

need to constantly monitor nuclear IT based work.

Vice sending our junior officers (JO) to the shipyard on their initial set of orders, PERS-42 is now writing orders for some JOs with initial assignments to a sea going command with a follow on mid-tour rotation to the shipyard or Pre-Commissioning Units (PCU). This JO split tour initiative will build at-sea experience in our officer corps by allowing more JOs to be assigned to operational ships.

We've accelerated upgrades for Portsmouth Naval Shipyard adding for the first time NIPR connectivity. We are also establishing 1000 Mbps connectivity to the PCU building at EB in Groton and HII in Norfolk.

We streamlined certain cyber 3M requirements giving time back to our people. Five MRCs approved for FR 2-22 (COMPOSE 4.0/4.0.1) and FR 3-22 (CANES SW3) reduced from daily to a weekly or more periodicity, reducing man-hours for these MRCs by 85%, for a total man-hour savings of 15 per week.

We created a pay guide for XO's and command pay/personnel administrators (CPPA) as a tool to share best practices and practical advice to navigate the complex pay and personnel system.

As a pilot program, we placed seven additional CPPAs in Norfolk and simplified the approval process to get Sailors their pay and entitlements sooner, expanding to other locations soon.

Tiger teams have been formed in the Pacific to tackle pay issues. For example, one squadron with over 430 transactions were reduced to less than 180 (and continue to decrease) over the course of a few weeks. Navy Personnel Command has been provided feedback and is working these issues.

The Force is initiating a pilot program to place junior hospital corpsmen (HM) on submarines with the IDCs to provide better medical capabilities for crews and improve recruitment. These junior HMs will report this fall after they complete Basic Enlisted Submarine School.

An additional MMA1 billet for operational SOF-capable VACL submarines has been created, easing the burden for scope of certification quality assurance work.

Fire control technicians (FT) manning on Virginia-class increased from 7 to 8 FTs, to improve the ability

to meet watchbill requirements.

We reduced the course length of SRF-B to about a third of the length of the original Navy-wide school and eliminated course material not relevant to submarines. Auxiliary Division sea-returnee billet NEC requirements are being updated to support school attendance as an I-stop during PCS travel, removing the burden of sending Sailors to school after checking into an operational unit.

## Safety

Following the USS Connecticut (SSN 22) grounding, we promulgated change 2 to the Submarine Operations Manual, changed how we train the force, and are working on bringing advanced tools to ease planning burdens to our ECDIS-N [navigation] systems on an accelerated timeline.

As a lesson learned from the deep dive of the USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) fire and in compliance with NSTM Chapter 77, Flame Resistant Variant (FRV) coveralls have been mandated for use for all waterfront personnel in duty section status in the near future to ensure maximum readiness in the event of a fire casualty.

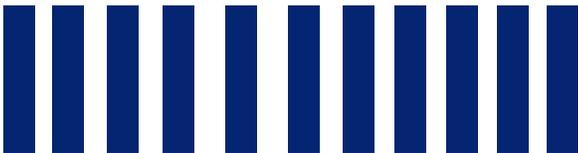
Private shipyards are upgrading their fire detection systems to the same level as our public yards, coming soon to USS Boise (SSN 764), USS Hartford (SSN 768), and Columbus (SSN 762).

On SSBNs, a removable, in-port fire suppression system was designed and manufactured by TRF KB and implemented onboard boats in refit, improving safety.

## Closing

We are doing our absolute best to enable our crews and staffs on the waterfront to innovate, improve, and develop into the most capable and lethal warfighting Submarine Force the world has ever seen. Again, your concerns and ideas to make us better matter, and we want to hear them.

Apex Predators!



# THE GOAT LOCKER



FORCE MASTER CHIEF NEIL FORD  
Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic

**“In the business of Warfighting, there are no days off.”**



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

First, I would like to thank Force Master Chief (FORCM) Steve Bosco for all of the hard work he has done for the Submarine Force. I know Military Sealift Command is in good hands. I assure you that he and I are very like-minded, though we may go about it slightly different. Our vision is close in trim. I consider my selection as FORCM to be one of the highest honors of my life, second only to being a dad. My wife, Dawn, and I are excited to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

The past few years have been the most difficult some of us have ever experienced. COVID-19 threatened to tie our hands in ways that were impossible to predict. As a result, we have not had a break in forward-deployed operations or the strategic mission. Out-of-the-box thinking, ingenuity and hard work, all common traits from within the Force, have kept us on the right track. This is a testament to the Sailors on the deckplate fighting the good fight.

Submarines cannot go to sea without Sailors, period. We must fully embrace a culture of diversity and inclusion for our Apex Predators to defend our way of life. Currently, we have eight SSGN crews, two SSBN crews and two SSN crews with enlisted females. This comprises 3.6 percent of the Submarine Force; we can do better.

Having served as Chief of the Boat on the first East Coast fully-integrated crew, the ship earned the Commander, Submarine Squadron 16 Battle “E” Award back-to-back which I believe is due to the integration of our enlisted, women Sailors. We must continue to expand the role of our women, allowing them more opportunities to serve at sea on every platform.

Retaining all Sailors is my focus. We must meet every obligation that we have made to our Sailors. Do not take ‘no’ for an answer. Removing road blocks enables us to take care of our Sailors. This will have an exponential effect on the lethality of our Submarine Force.

Mission, loyalty and our comradery work together to make us a lethal force. The true measure of loyalty is caring about the well-being of our Shipmates. This includes both long and short term well-being. Caring for your Shipmate is stepping in and setting them on the right path.

Everyone must be responsible for their own actions. The admission of mistakes takes courage. We must accept mistakes and problems as facts and own our part in how they happen. When we use our lessons learned and daily experiences and share them with others, we build trust and confidence.

Your action or inaction, your speech and your personal behavior directly correlates to the actions of other Sailors. Your action allows you to display an example of what “right” looks like as you lead other Sailors through tough situations. Remove the road blocks that prevent each Sailor’s success and watch them grow!

In the business of warfighting, there are no days off. We ask a lot from each one of you. When you are afforded the time and opportunity to spin down, I ask that you do so. Your mental health is just as important as your physical. Also, your family and friends must know they are important to you. Show them that you are grateful for their support.

Take the time to remind yourself why you are here and why you chose to serve in the premier Force of the greatest Navy in the world.



# COLUMBIA KEEL LAYING

## Keel Laying Ceremony Held for First Columbia-Class Ballistic Missile Submarine

By Naval Sea Systems Command and Commander, Submarine Forces Public Affairs



**General Dynamics Electric Boat welder Maria Betance-Pizarro welds the initials of the sponsor of the future U.S. Navy ballistic missile submarine District of Columbia onto a metal plate at a ceremony at the Electric Boat facility in Quonset Point, R.I., June 4.**

General Dynamics Electric Boat conducted a keel laying ceremony for the first Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine, USS District of Columbia (SSBN 826) at Quonset Point, Rhode Island, June 4.

Keel laying is an event in which the initials of the boat's sponsor are welded onto a plate attached to the submarine, signifying a major milestone in the construction of a boat.

District of Columbia is the first Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine being constructed in the minimum 12-ship class, which will replace the existing 14 Ohio-class nuclear-ballistic submarine force due to begin retiring from service in 2027.

Adm. Daryl Caudle, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, highlighted the significance of ballistic missile submarines as the most survivable leg of the U.S. military's nuclear triad.

"As every ballistic-missile submarine has since the keel laying of USS George Washington (SSBN 598) here at Electric Boat in November 1958 – the District of Columbia, and all those in its class will continue to serve as the most survivable leg of the nuclear triad – standing constant watch far beneath the waves, as we have done for over 63 years – a stalwart deterrent against those who would seek to do the unspeakable," said Caudle.

Caudle also spoke on the keel laying of District of Columbia as a historic occasion in ensuring Americans' freedom and way of life for the foreseeable future.

"Laying the keel of the future USS District of Columbia truly

is a historic occasion – not only for the countless designers, welders, metal workers, electricians, and master craftsmen whose unmatched expertise, ingenuity, hard work, and dedication will bring this modern marvel to life – but for the future Sailors who will prowl the deep inside her hull, protecting our nation, deterring strategic attacks, and ensuring our freedom and way of life for decades to come," said Caudle.

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro, the event's principal speaker, echoed Caudle's sentiment on the importance of the Columbia-class being the largest, most capable and most advanced submarine produced by the U.S. as an insurance policy.

"As Admiral Caudle detailed, the Columbia class will be the cornerstone of our strategic deterrence, the ultimate guarantor of our National Security," said Del Toro. "Our strategic submarines represent approximately 70 percent of America's deployed nuclear arsenal."

Del Toro continued to speak on the need to modernize our Submarine Force to ensure the safety and security of the world.

"Potential adversaries know the silent service is on patrol at this very moment, but they don't know where and that protects us all," said Del Toro. "The venerable Ohio-class that has guarded us for decades is nearing the end of its service life. For the safety of our Sailors, and the security of our world, we must modernize our fleet, and our nuclear command, control, and communications systems."

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), the boat's sponsor and the delegate to the House of Representatives from the ship's name, the District of Columbia, attended the ceremony. Her initials were welded onto a plate by Electric Boat welder Maria Betance-Pizarro.

"As a third-generation Washingtonian, I am excited and honored to be the sponsor of the future USS Columbia," said Norton. "I look forward to meeting and establishing relationships with the men and women who will serve aboard her."

The U.S. Navy, alongside Electric Boat, began the conceptual designs for Columbia in 2007 as a replacement for the Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarines. The Columbia-class will carry 16 missiles each, which in total represents approximately 70 percent of the U.S. nuclear triad.

The Columbia-class remains the Navy's number one acquisition priority and is scheduled to see its first delivery in 2027. The transition from the Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarines to the new Columbia-class will ensure continuous sea-based strategic deterrence into the 2080s.



# FIRST FEMALE CHIEF OF THE BOAT

## FIRST FEMALE 'CHIEF OF THE BOAT' REPORTS TO LOUISIANA (GOLD)

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Heather C. Wamsley

Growing up, many people are told that hard work and dedication will take a person far. Mentors, teachers, and parents will say that if you are motivated enough, you can achieve your wildest dreams. But what if a person's dream has never been accomplished by anyone else?

"There have been challenges," said Master Chief Information Systems Technician (Submarine) Angela Koogler, "But you just have to keep going. There are going to be walls you have to knock down, but you can't let them stop you."

This is the mindset Koogler has had throughout her 20-year Navy career. This is the drive that has led to many successes and accomplishments in her life. Her most recent achievement, however, may be her biggest yet.

Koogler, who hails from Kettering, Ohio, found out last year she had been selected to serve aboard a submarine as the first female chief of the boat in U.S. Navy history. She joined the crew of USS Louisiana (Gold) (SSBN 743) on Aug. 22.

The chief of the boat, or COB, is an enlisted Sailor who serves as the senior enlisted advisor to the commanding officer and executive officer of a U.S. Navy submarine.

Koogler credits her motivation and drive for success to her mother, who dedicated 33 years of her life to civil service. She says watching her mother work hard and help other people inspired her to do the same.

"I've always kind of been a go-getter and hard charger," said Koogler. "My mom was like that. She was a hard worker and it was just instilled in me as a child. She worked as a civil servant for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base my whole life, and being around the military with her all the time kind of put me in that direction."

Koogler's plan was always to join the military after high school, until an injury sidelined her for a few years. Instead of letting that derail her plans, Koogler created a new path for her future Navy career.

"I was going to join right out of high school, but I tore everything in my ankle my senior year playing soccer," said Koogler. "So, I went off to college, was working and went back in when I was 23 to see what I could do."

Koogler was able to join the Navy in July 2002. She has been devoted to her military career ever since.

"Once I joined, I knew I found my career, and my Navy family and friends that I would have forever," said Koogler, "I have continued to serve over the years because it is a good fit for me and I love it."

Koogler knows that stepping into her new role as COB will come with many challenges and much greater responsibility, something she has prepared for throughout her time in service.

"Every time I was up for orders, I was always looking for something different and challenging," said Koogler. "Then when it was announced



that enlisted women could apply for submarines, with some encouragement from my Sailors, I went ahead and applied."

Women haven't always been allowed to serve alongside their male counterparts in the Submarine Force. It wasn't until 2011 that female officers began serving aboard U.S. Navy submarines. This opened the door for the follow-on integration of enlisted women, which began in 2016.

Then-Chief Koogler reported to her first submarine, the guided-missile submarine USS Michigan (SSGN 727), in May 2016, followed by a tour at Submarine Squadron 19.

"Koogler only has 36 months on board a submarine, but I knew she was the perfect candidate to be the first woman COB," said Submarine Squadron 19's Command Master Chief Travis Brown. "In 36 months, she walked off a submarine as a qualified diving officer of the watch, and everything in between, while also learning how to lead submarine Sailors."

Attempting to reach goals that no one before you has accomplished can be intimidating, but Brown believes Koogler's achievement is breaking barriers.

"We kind of pushed her a little bit because it's always spooky if you're going to be the first person to do anything," explained Brown. "But

this is a huge glass ceiling busted in the Submarine Force. Now there's a path to the top of the Submarine Force."

Koogler feels that gender should play no factor in Sailor roles.

"We need to keep breaking down the barriers so that it just becomes all Sailors," said Koogler. "A Sailor is a Sailor to me and we shouldn't have to define their gender. It's important to integrate everybody and it shouldn't matter as long as they get the job done."

This new position is a great milestone in Koogler's career, but it's not the final triumph she has her sights set on. Her ultimate dream is to one day serve as a command master chief (CMC).

"Since my first command I've always wanted to be a command master chief," said Koogler. "Now that I've converted to the submarine force I have to serve as chief of the boat before I can go into the CMC world, so this is just another stepping stone."

Koogler credits retired Command Master Chief Floyd O'Neill, her first CMC at Navy Reserve Center Port Hueneme, California, as her inspiration for wanting to become a CMC herself.

"I really looked up to him, almost like a father figure," said Koogler. "I knew that was what I wanted to do. I want to be able to take care of Sailors. I want them to develop and accelerate themselves. It's kind of always been my goal."

This type of Sailor-centered leadership mentality is what Koogler hopes to embody when she takes on this assignment.

"I want the crew to be successful in doing our mission," said Koogler. "I also want them to be personally successful in their own worlds. I have always thought it's important to be a well-rounded Sailor."

# COMMISSIONINGS

## USS OREGON (SSN 793)



Crewmembers attached to the Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS Oregon (SSN 793) man the ship during a commissioning ceremony in Groton, Conn., May 28.



Cmdr. Lacy Lodmell, commanding officer of the Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS Oregon (SSN 793), delivers remarks during the ship's commissioning ceremony. SSN 793, the third U.S. Navy ship launched with the name Oregon and first in more than a century, is a flexible, multi-mission platform designed to carry out the seven core competencies of the Submarine Force.

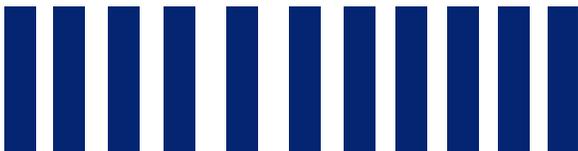
## USS MONTANA (SSN 794)



Under Secretary of the Navy Erik Raven delivers remarks during a commissioning ceremony for Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS Montana (SSN 794) in Norfolk, Va., June 25.



Crewmembers attached to the Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS Montana (SSN 794) man the ship during a commissioning ceremony in Norfolk, Va., June 25.



# CHANGES OF COMMAND

## COMMANDER, SUBMARINE GROUP 9



Rear Adm. Robert Gaucher and Rear Adm. Mark Behning salute during a change of command ceremony onboard Naval Base Kitsap – Bangor, Wash., June 28.



Rear Adm. Robert Gaucher and Rear Adm. Mark Behning cut a ceremonial cake following a change of command ceremony onboard Naval Base Kitsap – Bangor, Wash.

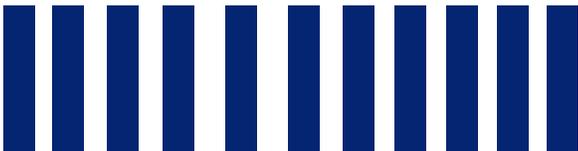
## COMMANDER, SUBMARINE GROUP 10



Rear Adm. Thomas R. "TR" Buchanan, incoming Commander, Submarine Group Ten, salutes the national ensign during a change of command ceremony held aboard the Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarine USS Tennessee (SSBN 734) at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga., Sept. 2.



Rear Adm. Thomas R. "TR" Buchanan, incoming Commander, Submarine Group Ten (left), speaks to distinguished guests, family and staff during a change of command ceremony held aboard the Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarine USS Tennessee (SSBN 734) at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga.



# SCOTA 2022

## SUBMARINE FORCE KICKED OFF INAUGURAL SUBMARINE CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Cameron Stoner

Commander, Submarine Forces hosted the inaugural Submarine Conference of the Americas (SCOTA) onboard Naval Station Norfolk, July 26-27.

The inaugural SCOTA was hosted 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, Peru and the U.S.

"We are all at this conference together because our countries share the same values of democracy," said Houston. "Our submarine forces all offer unique capabilities and advantages and this conference will enable all of us to take the next step forward in our partnerships while also strengthening our ability to operate as a cohesive joint and combined force which can respond to emerging crises if needed."

Following Houston's introduction, a video of Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro was played for participants thanking them for their time and collaboration while encouraging them to take advantage of the unique opportunity to bolster knowledge and strengthen relationships between allies and partnerships.

"I would like to thank all of the key leaders of the West's undersea domain who are participating in this important conference today," said Del Toro. "I believe SCOTA will lay a new foundation for a renewed sense of collaboration and threat awareness from the undersea domain, so I urge you to make the



Participants of the inaugural Submarine Conference of the Americas (SCOTA) pose for a photo onboard Naval Station Norfolk, July 26. SCOTA is a multinational conference with attendees from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Peru and the U.S.

most of this gathering and keep building our vital security partnerships."

After two days of presentations and discussions, Rear Adm. Carlos Alfonso Saz Garcia, Commander, Submarine Forces, Peruvian navy, left the conference with deeper comprehension on the challenges of interoperability and undersea collaboration against strategic competitors in the Western Hemisphere (WHEM).

"For us it is very important to participate in this type of gathering, which is the inaugural

Submarine Conference of the Americas, as it seeks to unify the collaboration amongst all the submarine forces in the western hemisphere," said Saz Garcia. "We have many things in common, we navigate the same seas and have similar submarines. I truly think SCOTA will reinforce ongoing partnerships and provide a different vision from the undersea to a common security problem throughout the Americas."

The conference included presentations from multiple subject matter experts on global threats in the undersea theater, Navy security, the future of the combined fight in the western hemisphere and lessons in hemispheric security.

Adm. Daryl Caudle, Commander, Fleet Forces Command, spoke on the advantages and capabilities participating countries had over potential adversaries.

"One of our key advantages collectively in this room is our Navies' capabilities and overmatch in the undersea domain," said Caudle. "Our competitors cannot duplicate or match the advantages we hold in the undersea environment. We must all have a deep level of understanding of what each of our Navies' strengths and capabilities are, so that we can better integrate together when the time arises."

# DYNAMIC MONGOOSE

## NATO EXERCISE DYNAMIC MONGOOSE 22 CONCLUDES

*By Allied Maritime Command Public Affairs*



**Starboard division from front to back: Norwegian submarine, FGS Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, HNLMS Van Amstel, HMOMS Thor Heyerdahl. Centre Division from front to back: Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS John Warner (SSN 785), HNLMS De Zeven Provinciën, HDMS Absalon, HMS Portland, HNLMS Karl Doorman. Port division from front to back: German submarine, HMCS Halifax, NRP Corte Real, and FS Bretagne. All vessels participating in EXERCISE DYNAMIC MONGOOSE 2022 sail together on June 19.**

NATO-led exercise Dynamic Mongoose concluded June 24 in the High North. Ships, submarines, aircraft and personnel from nine Allied nations exercised in the Norwegian Sea for Anti-Submarine warfare (ASW) and Anti-Surface warfare training from June 13-24.

These exercises are held annually in the Northern Atlantic, the area in which NATO trains and practices Anti-Submarine Warfare skills.

The exercise had the participation of Sailors and Airmen from nine NATO nations: Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom and the United States including 3 submarines, 11 surface ships and 16 Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

“Anti-Submarine Warfare is an all-arms mission, the coordination between ships, submarines and aircraft can be difficult but is the most effective way to detect and track submarines. Dynamic Mongoose gives all our ships the opportunity to train these skills,” said Commodore A. van de Sande, Commander of NATO task group, Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1).

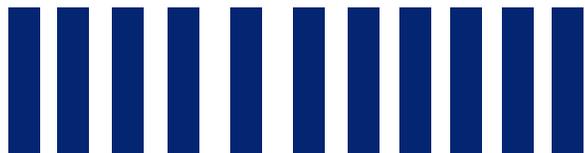
Coordination of the exercise rested with Commander Submarines Forces NATO, in Northwood, UK. There, U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Steve Mack leads a 40-person team of non-commissioned officers and officers from NATO’s 13 submarine nations: Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands,

Norway, Spain, Poland, Portugal, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

“This exercise helps to ensure that our Sailors can respond most effectively to threats posed by sub-surface forces,” said Mack. “It provides an opportunity for our forces to work together as a team within the alliance, practicing and improving our interoperability in the ASW domain. It further demonstrates that the Alliance stands ready to defend against these threats across the AOR [Area of Responsibility].”



**Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS John Warner (SSN 785) sails next to a German submarine during EXERCISE DYNAMIC MONGOOSE as part of OPERATION REASSURANCE.**



# MIDSHIPMEN OPS



Midshipmen repair a water pipe in the wet trainer in the Trident Training Facility onboard Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia.



Midshipmen practice properly repairing a water pipe using a strong back patch at the Trident Training Facility onboard Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia.



Midshipmen practice properly repairing a water pipe using a strong back patch at the Trident Training Facility onboard Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia.



# USS NAUTILUS REOPENS

## USS NAUTILUS RETURNS TO PUBLIC DISPLAY

*By Naval Submarine Base New London Public Affairs*



**Sailors run aboard the first nuclear-powered submarine, USS Nautilus (SSN 571), as it returned to public display during a ceremony at the Submarine Force Museum, Sept. 9.**

Members of the public joined senior Navy leaders, government and state officials, and veterans and friends of the world's first nuclear powered submarine, USS Nautilus (SSN 571), in celebrating the historic ship's return to public display during a ceremony at the Submarine Force Museum, Sept. 9.

The ceremony, which coincides with the kick-off the Connecticut Maritime Heritage Festival, that took place on the Thames River, and in Groton and New London, Sept. 9 - 11, marked the Nautilus' grand re-opening for public tours following a ten month, \$36 million preservation project.

The preservation has ensured the historic ship will be able to inform, educate, and engage the public for the next 30 years.

The centerpiece of the museum, as well as a National Historic Landmark and Connecticut's State Ship, USS Nautilus (SSN 571) was launched and commissioned in 1954. The first "true" submarine, with the unparalleled speed, stealth, mobility, and endurance that only nuclear propulsion can provide, Nautilus was limited only by the food the vessel could carry for the crew. Nautilus would become the first ship to reach the geographic North Pole in 1958 and would actively serve the Navy and

nation for more than 25 years. During the submarine's service, Nautilus completed 2,500 dives and logged more than 510,000 miles on nuclear power.

A marvel in 1954, Nautilus remains a marvel today as the only nuclear powered U.S. naval vessel available to the public for general visitation. On average, more than 100,000 guests annually tour the historic ship that was the first to harness the power of the atom. The Historic Ship Nautilus and Submarine Force Museum are located at 1 Crystal Lake Road, Groton, CT, 06340.



**A ribbon is cut in celebration of the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, USS Nautilus (SSN 571), returning to public display during a ceremony at the Submarine Force Museum, Sept. 9.**

# HOMECOMINGS



Petty Officer 2nd Class Andrew Frable proposes to his girlfriend Nevada Currier during a homecoming event for the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Indiana (SSN 789) at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Conn., Aug. 10.



A sailor attached to the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Indiana (SSN 789) poses for a photo with his family during a homecoming event at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Conn., Aug. 10.



Senior Chief Petty Officer Yeoman Nick Shortal of the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Asheville (SSN 758), embraces his family after returning from deployment, July 1.



Sailors assigned to the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS John Warner (SSN 785) greet family members during the boat's homecoming at Naval Station Norfolk, Aug. 4.



The Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Asheville (SSN 758) returns to its homeport in Guam, July 1.



Sailors aboard the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS John Warner (SSN 785) shift colors during the boat's homecoming at Naval Station Norfolk, Aug. 4.

# CSG-7/CTF 74 VISITS PARTNERS

## CTF 74 Visits Republic of Korea for SWCM 54

By Lt. Cmdr. Robert Reinheimer



Rear Adm. Rick Seif, Commander, Submarine Group 7, left, and Rear Adm. Lee Su Youl, Commander, Republic of Korea (ROK) Navy Submarine Force, pose with the signed memorandum at the conclusion of the 54th semiannual Submarine Warfare Committee Meeting (SWCM) in Jeju, South Korea, June 22.

Rear Adm. Rick Seif, Commander, Submarine Group 7/ Task Force (CTF) 74, visited the Republic of Korea, June 20-22 culminating with the 54th iteration of the semiannual Submarine Warfare Committee Meeting (SWCM) with the Republic of Korea (ROK) Navy Submarine Force.

“The partnership between the U.S. and ROK Navies has always been strong,” said Seif. “Restarting these meetings in person following the pandemic was hugely important. Being able to meet with our submarine counterparts, review tactics and procedures, and to work on ways to operate better as a combined force helps us both to hone our skills and, ultimately, accomplish our missions.”

During SWCM, Seif met with Rear Adm. Lee Su Youl, Commander, ROK Navy Submarine Force (CSF), to further enhance the close relationship between the two commands.

The two naval leaders signed a formal agreement at the conclusion of the conference that reaffirmed the longstanding relationship. The agreement serves to signify both parties’ agreement to work collaboratively with one another, increasing the readiness and integration of the US-ROK combined submarine force.

“ROK CSF and U.S. CTF-74 have established a comprehensive coordination system for operations of submarines including operations/tactics, training, mutual logistics support, and are

maintaining close partnerships,” said Lee. “The 54th SWCM, which has been held for the first time in three years, will serve as an opportunity to further strengthen mutual cooperation between CSF and CTF-74, and improve our combined operational capabilities.”

SWCM was established in 1994 during the early years of the ROK submarine force. Since then, leaders of both the U.S. and ROK submarine forces have met consistently to deepen partnerships and advance combined submarine training and force integration.

During the trip, Seif also toured ROK military facilities in Busan and Chinhae. While in Busan, Seif and Lee visited the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea (UNMCK) to lay a wreath together in honor of those UN Forces that gave their lives for world peace and freedom. The UNMCK, where more than 2,300 service members from 16 countries have been interred, is the only United Nations-designated cemetery in the world.

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.

For more news from Commander, Submarine Group 7, visit [www.csp.navy.mil/csg7/](http://www.csp.navy.mil/csg7/).

# CSG-7/CTF 74 VISITS PARTNERS

## CSG-7 Commander Visits USNS Effective in Yokohama

By Lt. Cmdr. Robert Reinheimer



Rear Adm. Rick Seif, Commander, Submarine Group 7/Task Force 74 greets Sailors from Naval Ocean Processing Facility, Whidbey Island, July 13.

Rear Adm. Rick Seif, Commander, Submarine Group (CSG) 7/Task Force (CTF) 74, visited the Victorious-class ocean surveillance ship USNS Effective (T-AGOS 21) in Yokohama, Japan, July 13.

During his visit, Seif was given a tour of the ship and took the opportunity to address the entire crew, congratulating them on a highly successful time underway in support of theater undersea warfare objectives in the U.S. 7th and 3rd Fleet areas of operation.

"Undersea warfare is a team sport that includes our allies and partners, and many different platforms across multiple domains," said Seif. "As the theater undersea-warfare task force commander for 7th Fleet, I called on Effective to deliver unprecedented, critical support to our operations across the entire theater, and team Effective knocked it out of the park! It's an honor to visit with you today, and to recognize your professionalism, expertise and readiness that are such an important part of the undersea battle force."

During their underway, Effective was a critical component of a high-interest, multi-domain theater undersea warfare operation, providing initial detections, sustained tracking and valuable negative search data, which was then used by the CTF 74 team to inform intelligence assessments and asset allocation.

Effective's underway featured many notable firsts, including the first Compact Low Frequency Active (CLFA) employment

in an operation with multiple U.S. submarines, and the first operational deployment of a surveillance towed-array sensor system (SURTASS) vessel to U.S. 3rd Fleet waters in support of homeland defense.

The Navy's five tactical auxiliary general ocean surveillance (T-AGOS) ships are operated by Military Sealift Command (MSC) to support the anti-submarine warfare mission of the commanders of the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets.

Augmenting the MSC crew aboard Effective was a military detachment (MILDET) from Naval Ocean Processing Facility (NOPF) Whidbey Island, led by SURTASS Mission Commander and MILDET officer in charge (OIC), Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dewayne McCullough.

"I couldn't be more proud of this group of Sailors and civilian mariners,"

said McCullough. "No matter what the mission threw at us, the team responded and showed their determination to see the job through to completion. The multi-platform coordination and teamwork performed by these Sailors was unprecedented and the continued support from the Civilian Mariners to keep the ship operational and ready is what made this mission possible."

Seif thanked the NOPF Sailors for their work while underway and presented them with a Letter of Appreciation.

The Navy's two classes of surveillance ships, Impeccable and Victorious, use SURTASS equipment to gather undersea acoustic data. The ships also carry electronic equipment to process and transmit that data via satellite to shore stations for evaluation. Effective is the second of the Victorious-class ocean surveillance ships.

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.

For more news from Commander, Submarine Group 7, visit [www.csp.navy.mil/csg7/](http://www.csp.navy.mil/csg7/).

# UUVRON-1 BECOMES MAJOR COMMAND

## UUVRON-1 Becomes Major Command and Conducts Change of Command Ceremony

By Lt. Cmdr. Amelia Umayam



**Cmdr. Robert Patchin, commanding officer, Unmanned Undersea Vehicle Squadron (UUVRON) 1, delivers remarks during a ceremony held to elevate UUVRON-1 to a submarine force major command and establish Unmanned Undersea Flotilla (UUV Flotilla) 1 as a subordinate command at Naval Base Kitsap-Keypoint, Washington July 14.**

The U.S. Navy held a ceremony to elevate Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Squadron (UUVRON) 1 to a Submarine Force major command at Naval Base Kitsap-Keypoint, July 14.

The designation of UUVRON-1 as a major command analogous to a submarine squadron, and the establishment of UUV Flotilla One as a subordinate command demonstrates the importance of undersea warfare capability development and fielding for the U.S. Navy.

“The employment of UUVs and the unique capabilities they bring are an unbelievably important force multiplier and a significant contributor to undersea dominance,” said Rear Adm. Jeff Jablon, Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, in a message to the command. “Our UUV capability is an enabler, expanding the reach of our submarines in support of the Joint Force.”

The U.S. Navy uses UUVs to enhance our understanding of the undersea domain through the information their sensors provide. The UUVs operated by Sailors assigned to UUVRON-1

are versatile tools which can be quickly and efficiently be modified and adapted to fit the mission.

This ceremony was also a change of command for UUVRON-1, with Rear Adm. Stephen G. Mack, commander, Submarines NATO, as the guest speaker. Cmdr. Robert Patchin turned over command to Capt. Jason Weed. Following the change of command, Patchin will be retiring after 23 years of naval service.

“If you need any indication of what Cmdr. Rob Patchin and his team have accomplished during his time in command,

look no further than what we are here to do today,” said Mack. “Rob has progressed UUVRON to the point where we are now ready to make another significant leap for UUVRON in scope and impact as we transition her to a Major Command with Cmdr. Rob Patchin being relieved by Capt. Jason Weed.”

“I am both incredibly proud and humbled to have been part of this team for the past three years,” said Patchin. “The Sailors’ hard work and dedication to their craft has advanced the UUV enterprise by an unfathomable amount. I look forward to seeing the extraordinary progress they will continue to make under Capt. Weed’s leadership.”

Originally established in 2017, UUVRON-1 has expanded its initial footprint from 39 to a staff of over 100 Sailors operating rapidly deployable systems across the globe. As unmanned platforms, they can operate in environments which may not be easily accessible to a human crew. Each day, the Sailors from UUVRON-1 embody their command motto and “extend the reach” of manned platforms, providing additional information and capabilities to the commander.

# SAN JUAN OMBUDSMAN AWARDED STOCKDALE AWARD

## USS San Juan Ombudsman awarded U.S. Fleet Forces top honor for 2022

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist Joshua Karsten



**Byrne Blumer, ombudsman for the USS San Juan (SSN 751) and U.S. Fleet Forces recipient of the 2022 Mrs. Stockdale Ombudsman of the Year, embarks San Juan as the ship returns from routine operations to Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Conn., Sept. 2.**

A USS San Juan (SSN 751) spouse has been selected as the 2022 Mrs. Stockdale Ombudsman of the Year for U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF), competing with over 800 commands for the top honor.

Mrs. Byrne Blumer, a native of Trumbull, Connecticut, has been in the ombudsman seat for San Juan since April 2020 and credits her nomination to the hardships and successes for both the crew and families during the early stages of the COVID pandemic.

“The boat deployed in 2020 when there were no mask mandates,” Blumer recalled. “And when they returned, the base had a mask mandate, so I coordinated with a local organization that made 200 masks in 48 hours for the crew.”

The mask campaign was just one of dozens of examples of Blumer’s steadfast support of the command and families included in her nomination, which was initially submitted by San Juan’s then-commanding officer Cmdr. Douglas Sattler and endorsed all the way through U.S. Submarine Force Atlantic Chief of Staff Capt. Andrew Miller, who called Blumer “truly exceptional” in a hand-written note on his endorsement.

Sattler praised Blumer’s accomplishments while serving as ombudsman through two deployments and associated workups – which included five childbirths – in a COVID environment, while simultaneously navigating a full-time job and raising three children of her own.

“She always remained focused and professional, ensuring the Sailors were notified,” Sattler said. “She sought out creative ways to address the concerns of families.”

Although Blumer remained readily available to answer

countless phone calls and emails from spouses and family members, it was the videoconference meetings she credits with bringing the San Juan community together.

“The interesting thing COVID did for our families was it expanded our network,” Blumer explained. “Two years ago, we really just had local Groton families involved, and the Zoom world gave us the ability to connect with families in Utah or Hawaii or overseas.”

Blumer said the crew and families recently started in-person events and “it was like everybody already knew each other.”

This “expanded network” included Andi Snedden, a parent of a San Juan Sailor, who initially did not know anything about the submarine community or how to communicate with her son.

“I found a Facebook page for the San Juan FRG [Family Readiness Group],” Snedden said in a statement letter detailing her first interaction with Blumer via Zoom. “As a parent, this gave me peace of mind knowing that I had a personal resource I could go to for questions, concerns, or an emergency situation.”

Snedden added that Blumer was able to contact her son during family emergency while the San Juan was underway, which resulted in her son calling within the hour.

“We get the call when babies are born, but we also get the call when people unfortunately pass away or are injured or all of the above,” Blumer said of her ombudsman training and experience.

Another former San Juan parent, Vikki Kempker, wanted to be at their son’s homecoming event, but couldn’t plan for the dates due to operations security, scheduling changes, and quarantine mandates at the time.

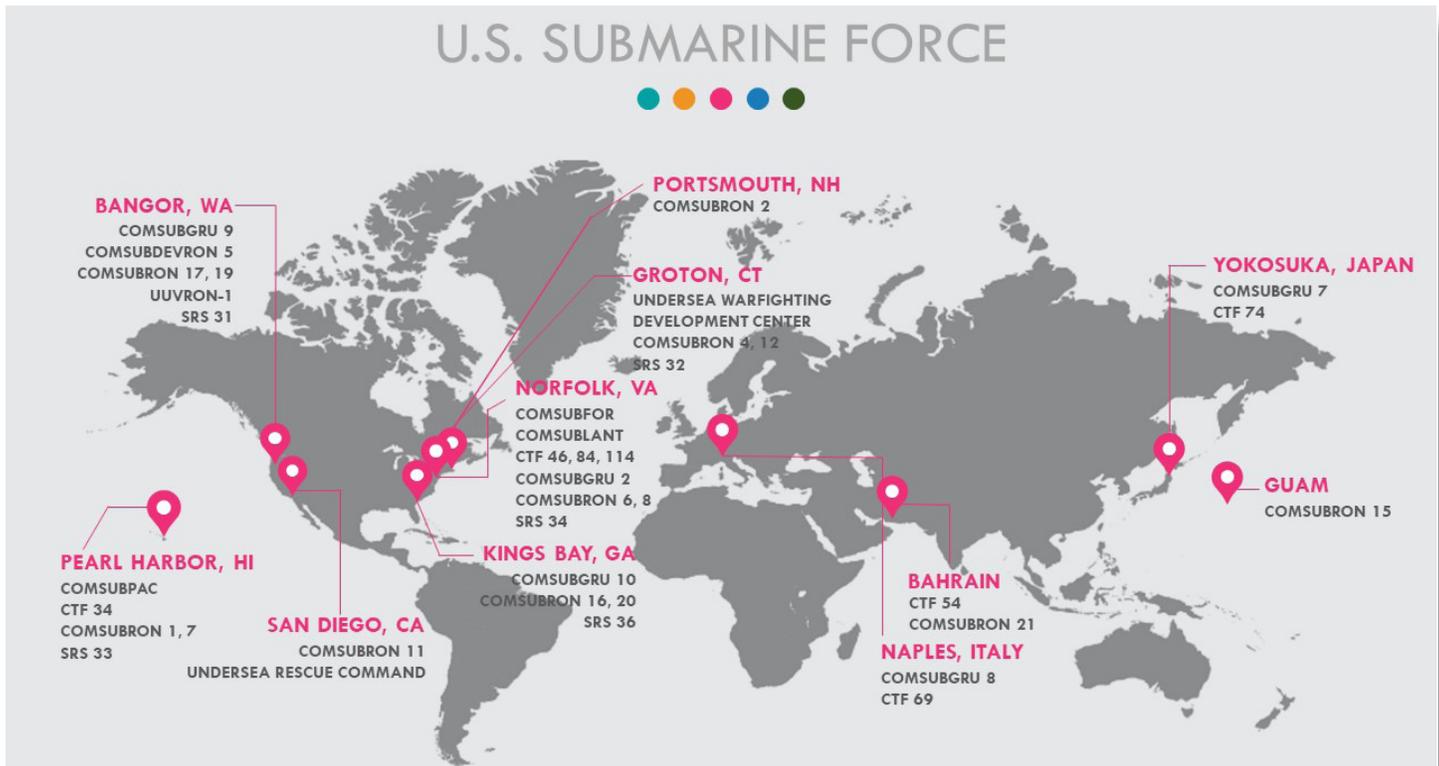
“She was responsive, kind, supportive, and able to contact me when she knew info she could share,” Kempker said. “I am so grateful for Byrne! She understood my role as a mom.”

For Julia Belding, current girlfriend of a San Juan Sailor, she recalled a lot of anxiety among the FRG in response to a recent short-notice deployment.

“Byrne noticed this and immediately set up a Zoom call to address any concerns and talk through popular questions,” Belding said. “Without her, the energy of the FRG would be entirely off.”

Apart from her volunteer ombudsman responsibilities, Blumer works as a sales manager for an automotive finance company. Blumer studied business administration and played softball at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts. As a native of Connecticut, she met her husband Andrew while he was attending “A” School in Groton, Connecticut. Andrew Blumer, a native of Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania, is currently a sonar technician assigned to San Juan. The couple have three kids together, aged six, three and 10 months, and enjoy “taking the kids to pools, playgrounds, and zoos or aquariums.”

# CONTACT INFORMATION



## NORFOLK, VA

- **SUBLANT:** 757-836-1341
- **CTF84:** 757-836-5366
- **CTF114:** 757-836-3560
- **CSG2:** 757-836-2891
- **CSS6:** 757-967-6985
- **CSS8:** 757-396-3643
- **SRS34:** 757-967-2529

## GROTON, CT

- **UWDC:** 860-694-5528
- **CSS4:** 860-694-3229
- **CSS12:** 860-694-2753
- **SRS32:** 860-694-3606

## PORTSMOUTH, NH

- **CSS2:** 207-438-2529

## KINGS BAY, GA

- **CSG10:** 912-573-3733
- **CSS16:** 912-573-2454
- **CSS20:** 912-573-2422
- **SRS36:** 912-573-0853

## NAPLES, ITALY

- **CSG8/CTF69:**  
(DSN) 314-626-3604

## BAHRAIN

- **CSS21/CTF54:**  
(DSN) 318-439-3081

## PEARL HARBOR, HI

- **SUBPAC:** 808-473-2418
- **CTF34:** 808-473-0696
- **CSS1:** 808-473-2891
- **CSS7:** 808-473-3267
- **SRS33:** 808-473-1080

## BANGOR, WA

- **CSG9:** 360-396-6821
- **CSS17:** 360-396-5591
- **CSS19:** 360-396-6269
- **CSDS5:** 360-315-4102
- **UUVRON-1:** 360-315-5662
- **SRS31:** 360-396-6505

## SAN DIEGO, CA

- **CSS11:** 619-553-8666
- **URC:** 619-674-8688

## GUAM

- **CSS15:**  
(DSN) 671-343-6154

## YOKOSUKA, JAPAN

- **CSG7/CTF74:**  
(DSN) 315-243-5006

# NAVY NUKES!

Check out <https://go.usa.gov/xunb3> for real-time information regarding policy updates, relevant pubs, and opportunities that impact **YOUR CAREER.**





# KEY DATES



## - 2022 -

### October

- Disability Employment Awareness Month
- 10 - Columbus Day\*
- 13 - Navy Birthday
- 21 - Chiefs Pinning
- 30 - O4 FITREPS

### November

- Military Family Month
- Warrior Care Month
- Native American Heritage Month
- 1-2 - Naval Sub League Symposium
- 11 - Veterans Day\*
- 15 - E6 EVALS
- 24 - Thanksgiving\*

### December

- 7 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 7 - Major Command/LDO Dry-Dock CO Board
- 25 - Christmas Day\*

Federal Holiday\*

## - 2023 -

### January

- 2 - New Year's Day\*
- 12 - Active O6 Line Promotion Board
- 16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day\*
- 26 - National Spouses Day
- 30 - O3 FITREPS
- 31 - Joint GAMCOTS

### February

- Black History Month
- 1-2 - Joint GAMCOTS/SUBFOTS
- 15 - Active O5 Line Promotion Board
- 16 - Nuclear LDO ISP Board
- 20 - President's Day
- 30 - O2 FITREPS

### March

- Women's History Month
- 3 - Navy Reserve Birthday
- 15 - W5-W3 FITREPS, E5 EVALS
- 25 - Medal of Honor Day
- 29 - Vietnam War Veterans Day

### April

- Sexual Assault Prevention Month
- Month of the Military Child
- 1 - CPO Birthday
- 11 - 122nd Submarine Force Birthday
- 15 - E9 EVALS
- 30 - O5 FITREPS

## IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND WHERE TO GET HELP, VISIT [MILITARYONESOURCE.MIL](http://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:

CSL\_PAO@us.navy.mil  
www.sublant.usff.navy.mil

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