



Vol. 20 No. 04

April 2024

Newsletter of Charleston Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Base Meeting:

Newsletter & Little David Phil Nunnally 843.518.8301

BOD: Apr 4, 2024

Membership: Apr 11, 2024

Location:

FRA Branch 269
 Low Country Home
 99 Wisteria Rd.
 Goose Creek, SC



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Submarines lost during the month of April

USS PICKEREL (SS-177)	3 Apr 43	74 souls lost
USS SNOOK (SS-279)	8 Apr 45	84 souls lost
USS THRESHER (SSN-593)	10 Apr 63	129 souls lost
USS GUDGEON (SS-211)	18 Apr 44	79 souls lost
USS GRENADIER (SS-210)	22 Apr 43	76 taken as POW's, 72 survived the war

5 boats and 370 Men Lost, 72 survived in POW camps

USS Gudgeon (SS-211)

Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. On her first patrol, she became the first US submarine to sink an enemy warship, picking off the submarine I-173.

During her first eleven patrols, Gudgeon was a most active submarine. She sank 25 ships, for 166,400 tons, and damaged 8 more, for 41,900 tons. She started for the Empire but four days after the attack at Pearl Harbor, and there sank a freighter and a submarine. By sinking the Japanese submarine I-73 on 27 January 1942, Gudgeon became the first United States submarine in history to sink an enemy combatant ship. She patrolled the South China Sea in her second war run and sank a large freighter-transport and a medium freighter. Her third patrol was as a member of the forces fighting the Battle of Midway. She inflicted no damage in the battle. Passing from Pearl Harbor to Fremantle, Western Australia, for her fourth patrol, Gudgeon patrolled the Truk area en-route. Here she sank three freighters and a freighter-transport, all of fairly large size. Her fifth patrol was in the Bismarck Archipelago, and resulted in the sinking of three freighters and damage to another.

USS Gudgeon (SS-211)

Armed with the pride borne of her successes on eleven previous war patrols, *Gudgeon*, under Lieutenant Commander R.A. Bonin, sailed from Pearl Harbor on 4 April 1944 to conduct her twelfth patrol in an open sea area in the northern Marianas. She left Johnston Island on 7 April 1944, after having topped off with fuel, and was never heard from again.

USS Gudgeon (SS-211) was probably lost on April 18, 1944 with the loss of 79 men SE of Iwo Jima, but may have been sunk on May 12, 1944 in another attack on an unidentified submarine and heard by several other submarines in the area. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol and most likely due to a combined air and surface antisubmarine attack.

Read the entire patrol history at [Gudgeon \(SS 211\) \(navy.mil\)](http://www.navy.mil/gudgeon)



Upcoming Base Events
See www.ussvicb.org for details

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Board of Directors Meeting	April 4	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Little David Maintenance	April 6 and 18	See details below
Base Meeting	April 11	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek (Social Hour—1800)
Holland Club Induction	April 11	During Base Meeting
USS Amberjack SS-219 Service	April 13	Cold War Memorial Patriot's Point
Submarine Birthday Ball	April 13	Holy City Brewing
Hog Roast Week	Apr 20-27 (Details below)	After Battery

Little David Upkeep
Old Santee Canal State Park
April 6th & 18th

- 900 Stony Landing Road, Moncks Corner
- Due to Covid and other issues, Little David has not had maintenance in about 2 years so it is behind on refit
- Saturday April 6 board replacement and paint prep
- Thursday April 18 painting
- Muster with Phil Nunnally 0930, typically there ~ 3—4 hours
- Notes: Anyone volunteering that has a cordless drill would also be a great HELP and make the work go faster
- Please Contact Phil pbnunnally@gmail.com or the COB cob@ussvicb.org to volunteer or just show up!
- Backup dates in May if needed



CHARLESTON BASE HOLLAND CLUB CEREMONY
April 11th during the base meeting

Join us to announce our new Holland Club inductees



LOST BOATS / USS AMBERJACK / SUBMARINE BIRTHDAY SERVICE

April 13th

- Cold War Memorial Patriot's Point—Good Weather
- NWS Bldg. 777 – Inclement Weather
- 1000 Ceremony Begins
- 0930 Muster at site
- Location decision will be made no less than 24 hours prior

USS Amberjack during WWII

Reports received from the enemy since the end of the war record an attack which probably sank Amberjack. On 16 February 1943, the torpedo boat Hiyo-Dori and subchaser number 18 attacked a U.S. submarine with nine depth charges in 5°-05'S, 152°-37'E. An escorting patrol plane had previously attacked the submarine. A large amount of heavy oil and "parts of the hull" came to the surface. This attack is believed to have sunk Amberjack. However, no final conclusions can be drawn, since Grampus was lost in the same area at about the same time. From the evidence available, it is considered most likely that the attack of 16 February sank Amberjack, but if she did survive this attack, any one of the attacks and sightings thought to have been made on Grampus (see section on Grampus' loss) might have been made on Amberjack.

This vessel was credited with sinking three ships, for a total of 28,600 tons, and damaging two more ships for 14,000 tons damaged



2024 Charleston Submarine Birthday Ball April 13th

"UNDERWAY ON NUCLEAR POWER"

2024 Charleston Submarine Birthday Ball tickets are now available at the website link below.

[2024 Charleston Submarine Birthday Ball Tickets, Sat, Apr 13, 2024 at 5:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Date and time: Saturday, April 13 · 5 - 11pm EDT

Location: The Porter Room at [Holy City Brewing](#)

1021 Aragon Avenue North Charleston, SC 29405 [MAP](#)

Refund Policy: Contact the organizer to request a refund. Eventbrite's fee is nonrefundable.

Cocktail Hour: 1700-1800

Ceremony: 1800-1900

Dinner and Dancing: 1900-2300

Ticket Prices:

- E-6 and Below and SubVETS: **\$65 per person** [+ transaction fee]
- E-7 to E-8/O-1 to O-3: **\$75 per person** [+ transaction fee]
- E-9 and O-4 and above: **\$85 per person** [+ transaction fee]

Rank of Service member used for Significant Other or Spouse attending. Price of ticket includes complimentary coin, cup, and dinner (Lewis BBQ), appetizers, and dessert. Cash bar is available for purchase of alcohol.

Student tickets are available for purchase beginning 21 MAR 24.

UNIFORM:

- **Military:** Service Dress Blues or Whites and above.
- **Civilian:** Formal Attire.
- **SUBVETS:** Vest Uniform: Vest, Blue Shirt w/Dolphin Tie, Khaki Pants

Dinner options:

- **Meat:** Brisket and Pulled pork
- **Side options:** Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Pinto Beans, Green Chile Corn Pudding, Collard Greens, Max & Cheese

Dessert: Banana pudding or Chocolate Dirt Pie

Organized by [NNPTC Heritage Committee](#)

Provided by shipmate Anthony Mazza.

Questions contact Anthony [\[atmazza81@gmail.com\]](mailto:atmazza81@gmail.com)

20th Anniversary After Battery Hog Roast Week

- Starting April 20 through April 27 daily events
- Saturday April 27 hog roast
- Follow daily menu details at [20th Anniversary After Battery Hog Roast – The After Battery Home](#)



Notes from the COB
MM1/SS Greg Landry
COB cob@ussvicb.org

Comments I have received, thus far, on the Oyster Roast out at the After Battery, have been nothing short of Phenomenal! We had Great Weather, Great Food, Great fellowship of the Brotherhood and Guests. It was a Very enjoyable event!

I hope you all Had a Grand and Happy Easter Weekend as well.

1 April – CPO Rate established in 1893 – Happy Birthday Chiefs!!

5 April – Gold Star Spouse's Day

6 April – Little David working party for Upkeep - Santee Canal State Park Muster 09:30

9 April – POW Recognition Day

13 April – Amberjack Lost Boats Bell Tolling and Memorial Service C.W.M. Patriots point

13 April – Submarine Service Birthday – Submarine Service Established 1900

18 April – Little David Working Party for Painting - Santee Canal State Park Muster 09:30

20-27 – 20th After Battery Anniversary Celebration and Hog Roast

27 April – After Battery Hog Roast

30 April – Military Kids Day

From the Editor
Contact me at newsletter@ussvicb.org


In addition to our base meetings and ceremonies, the Nuclear Power Training Command will host a picnic and all Charleston Base SubVets are invited

- Friday, April 12th, 2024
- 1300—1700
- No cost
- Have to be able to get past the ID gate
- NNPTC parking is just past the Weapons Station Pharmacy

Contact [Anthony Mazza](#) for details or you need access to NNPTC

Happy 124th Submarine Birthday!

Real progress began late in the century with the building of the USS Holland (SS-1), named after John Philip Holland. The USS Holland was the first submarine in the US Navy, commissioned on April 1, 1900. Submarines have been active component of the US Navy ever since.



Happy Birthday Submarine Force!

The Submarine Force has come a long way since Bushnell's "Turtle" in 1775. The U.S. Navy officially entered the world of submersibles 125 years later in 1900 with the purchase of USS HOLLAND (SS-1).


For the first two decades of the century, submarines were relatively small, with gasoline powered engines for running on the surface. The "G" Class submarines, built in the early "teens" were the last gasoline powered submarines built before submarine construction switched to diesel-electric. The U.S. had 72 submarines during World War I, but they played significant roles in very few sea encounters.

During World War II, U.S. submarines were instrumental in taking the fight to Japan, following the attack on Pearl Harbor. U.S. Submarines destroyed Japan's ability to sustain military operations in the Pacific by cutting off their access to fuel, raw materials and food. The Submarine Force was credited with being a major factor in our victory in the war, but the Nation paid a terrible price, with 52 submarines lost along with over three thousand Officers and Sailors.

In the decades following the war, submarines have been a cornerstone of U.S. defense strategy, providing forward presence, intelligence, and in conflict, tactical offensive strike capability, as well as other clandestine roles. Fleet ballistic missile submarines have been an essential component of the U.S. nuclear triad for over sixty years, keeping the peace.

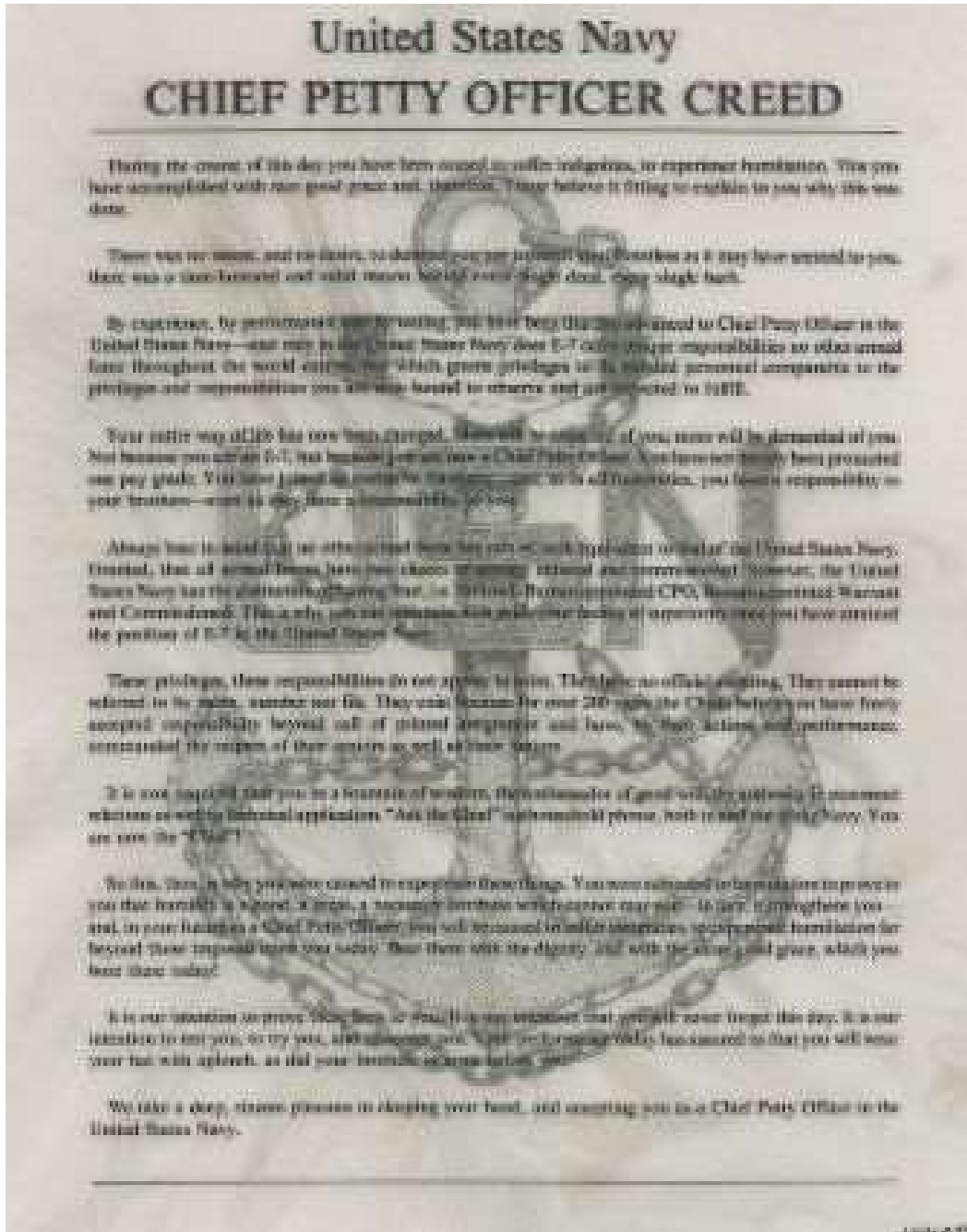
Happy Birthday!

RADM Steven W. Maas, SC, USN (Ret.)
President, DSF Board of Directors



Happy 131st CPO Birthday!

Chief petty officer became an established rank of the United States Navy on April 1, 1893. Over half a century later, senior chief petty officer and master chief petty officer were added, completing what is now known as the Chief's Mess. Over time, the chief has become a symbol of pride across the Navy.



Soviet Sub Collides with USS Kitty Hawk

- Forty years ago on Thursday, March 11th, a Soviet submarine collided with the US Navy aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk.
- The collision occurred as the sub was spying on US warships amid Cold War tensions.
- It was the third instance of a Soviet vessel colliding with an American one in just five months.

Those aboard the carrier didn't know it yet, but their 80,000-ton ship had just collided with a 5,200-ton Soviet attack submarine. The surprise collision came amid heightened Cold War tensions between the US and the Soviet Union.

"I was on the bridge at the time of the incident, monitoring one of the two radars," Capt. David N. Rogers, the carrier's skipper, told reporters shortly after the odd incident. "We felt a sudden shudder, a fairly violent shudder."

Navy helicopters were quickly sortied to check out the situation. The New York Times reported at the time that the collision — which occurred 40 years ago on Thursday— left the Kitty Hawk with only a minor superficial dent while the Soviet submarine K-314 appeared to have more serious problems. The vessel was unresponsive and unable to get moving under its own power.

A Soviet missile cruiser accompanying the submarine dismissed American offers of assistance, according to US officials. The aircraft carrier immediately resumed operations following the tense collision.

Read the full story on multiple websites including:

[A Soviet attack submarine crashed into a US aircraft carrier 40 years ago during the Cold War. It was a bad day for the sub. \(newsbreak.com\)](#)

[Kitty Hawk II \(CVA-63\) \(navy.mil\)](#)

[That time the Kitty Hawk rammed a Soviet sub | We Are The Mighty](#)

Announcements

Help with Nuclear Power School Graduations

Rick Wise and I have been presenting Nuclear Power School graduation awards to the officer and enlisted submarine designated students with the highest GPA. This occurs every eight weeks on a Friday morning starting this year March 1st. I will be covering the graduation April 26th but we could use a back-up for June and possibly future dates.

The process takes about 3 hours on that Friday morning plus printing of the award certificates, supplies provided by me. You do not have to be a nuke to deliver the awards.

If you can help, please contact Phil Nunnally at our base meeting or email me at newsletter@ussvicb.org

Opportunities to Serve our Base

- Openings for
 - ◊ PAO
 - ◊ Base Historian
 - ◊ Kaps for Kids

Contact the Base Commander, the COB or any officer if you can help

Reminder

The USSVI National Website is <https://ussubvets.org>

Tax Tips for Veterans

A guide to Property Tax Exemptions for SC Veterans, Medal of Honor Recipients, and POWs

Veterans

What is the Property Tax Exemption for veterans?

- Veterans may qualify for a tax exemption on home and land, up to five acres if the home and land are on the same parcel, and
- Two private passenger vehicles owned or leased by the veteran solely and/or jointly titled with their spouse.

Do I qualify?

- Veterans deemed totally and permanently service-connected disabled by the VA qualify for the exemption.

Exemptions for a Surviving Spouse

- One vehicle registered solely in surviving spouse's name.
- Home exemption if at the time of veteran's death the surviving spouse acquires sole ownership in fee or for life from the deceased veteran; or prior to the veteran's death the widow/widower owned the home solely.

Medal of Honor Recipients and POWs

Medal of Honor Recipients and POWs qualify for:

- A tax exemption on home and land, up to one acre, and
- Two private passenger vehicles owned or leased by the Medal Recipient or POW.
- For a full explanation please visit: [Exempt Property \(sc.gov\)](http://ExemptProperty.sc.gov)

How do I apply?

- You will need to fill out an application and provide these documents:
 - A VA letter, certifying you are totally and permanently service-connected disabled with the effective date.
 - For vehicles, a copy of the SC registration card, SC bill of sale, or SC title. For vehicles registered or purchased out of state you will need to pay the taxes upfront.
 - For home and land, a copy of the recorded deed and proof of legal residence approval from the county assessor's office.
 - A marriage certificate if home or vehicles are owned jointly with a spouse.
- The quickest and easiest way to apply is through MyDORWAY, our free online tax portal.
- You can use MyDORWAY to fill out the application and submit your supporting documents.
- Visit [MyDORWAY \(sc.gov\)](http://MyDORWAY.sc.gov) to get started.
- You can also submit your application by mail or in-person.
 - Download and complete a Property Tax Exemption Application for Individuals (PT-401-I) at dor.sc.gov/forms. Include the completed PT-401-I with your supporting documents.
 - Mail: SCDOR, Government Services Division, PO Box 125, Columbia, SC 29214-0720

Questions? 803-898-5700

[Exempt Property \(sc.gov\)](http://ExemptProperty.sc.gov)

Email: property.exemptions@dor.sc.gov

Provided by our Base Chaplain Nick Nichols

2024 Charleston Base Distinguished Submariner Award

Distinguished Submariner Award
Johnny Brown
March 14, 2024



2024 Base Oyster Roast

March 16th



SUBMARINER MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

The submarine community has eight Medal of Honor recipients. This is the third of eight in this series.

COMMANDER SAMUEL DAVID DEALEY

- RANK: COMMANDER
- CONFLICT/ERA: WORLD WAR II
- UNIT/COMMAND: U.S.S. HARDER
- MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH: U.S. NAVY
- MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: MAY 26 - JULY 3, 1944
- MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION PLACE: OFF TAWITAWI, SULU ARCHIPELAGO, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the USS. Harder during her 5th war patrol in Japanese-controlled waters. Floodlighted by a bright moon and disclosed to an enemy destroyer escort which bore down with intent to attack. Cmdr. Dealey quickly dived to periscope depth and waited for the pursuer to close range, then opened fire, sending the target and all aboard down in flames with his third torpedo. Plunging deep to avoid fierce depth charges, he again surfaced and, within nine minutes after sighting another destroyer, had sent the enemy down tail first with a hit directly amidship. Evading detection, he penetrated the confined waters off Tawitawi with the Japanese Fleet base six miles away and scored death blows on two patrolling destroyers in quick succession. With his ship heeled over by concussion from the first exploding target and the second vessel nose-diving in a blinding detonation, he cleared the area at high speed. Sighted by a large hostile fleet force on the following day, he swung his bow toward the lead destroyer for another "down-the-throat" shot, fired three bow tubes, and promptly crash-dived to be terrifically rocked seconds later by the exploding ship as the Harder passed beneath. This remarkable record of five vital Japanese destroyers sunk in five short-range torpedo attacks attests the valiant fighting spirit of Cmdr. Dealey and his indomitable command.

COMMANDER SAMUEL DAVID DEALEY



Getting to know Our New Base Members

Bob MacPherson, Retired Navy Chief Warrant Officer (Submarine Engineering Technician) and Machinist Mate Chief (Auxiliaryman)

Over twenty years of service on five nuclear submarines and Instructor at Trident Training Facility in Bangor, WA. After commissioning, served on two submarine support vessels. In addition to qualifying in submarines, he was a Command Career Counselor, Master Training Specialist, Floating Drydock Docking and Repair Officer and Engineering Officer of the Watch on submarine tenders. While serving, he completed his secondary education with Southern Illinois University earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Workforce Education Development (Magna cum Laude).

Bob's second career was working in business and industry where he served as a Business Excellence Facilitator, Continuous Improvement Manager, and Leadership Trainer for over twenty years.

Bob's last career was serving as the Chief of Staff for Westmoreland County Commissioner Doug Chew. In this role, he helped develop and implement policies that impacted human services, law enforcement, county administration, community development, and industrial development in this county of 346,000 citizens. He retired for the third and last time in July of 2023. He continues to contribute to the community by writing grants and coaching local leadership teams.

Bob has been married to Debbie Anderson MacPherson for over 42 years. They have been residents of Westmoreland County in Pennsylvania for over ten years. He is active in a number of veterans and service-related organizations including the Navy League, Submarine League and is President of the General Greene Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. His passion is public speaking. He has presented to hundreds of groups about submarines and leadership since retirement from the Navy.

"I have belonged to USSVI for many years and am a life member. I think the goal of perpetuating the memory of the men and women who served in submarines helps to strengthen the community and helps to inspire young people to want to serve in the future. Submarines played a critical role in winning the second World War and certainly helped us emerge from the Cold War as the clear champion.

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

Lowest Veteran Unemployment Rate in 20 Years

The Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that veterans had the lowest average unemployment rate in 2023 at 2.8%.

Data is based on a report from the Military Times.

Foreclosures of VA Loans Placed on Hold

The VA called on mortgage servicers to suspend foreclosures on VA-backed loans until May 31st. The changes come after a November 11, 2023 report revealing the risk of veterans losing their homes after the VA ended the Partial Claim Payment program.

Report from the FRA Today, March/April 2024

Navy Suspends High-Year Tenure Program

The Navy has indefinitely suspended its High-Year Tenure program introducing "High-Year Tenure Plus". The new program allows sailors who do not advance at a sufficient pace to avoid involuntary separation. This change was primarily put in place for retaining service members in the ranks and at sea.

Report from the FRA Today, March/April 2024

What's going on in politics and the Navy?

STRATCOM Promises Senate No Gap in Ballistic Missile Submarine Coverage

Strategic Command's commander pledged to "ensure there is no gap" between the delivery of the Columbia-class ballistic-missile submarines and the complete retirement of the Navy's leg of the nuclear triad in the 2040s.

But STRATCOM needs resources to keep the Ohio-class SSBNs and its Trident II D5 missiles viable if there are delays in building and delivering the new ballistic-missile submarines, Air Force Gen. Anthony Cotton told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"We are late to need" in all parts of nuclear triad modernization programs, he said, also referring to the land-based ballistic missiles and the air leg. He assured the panel the command would keep legacy systems ready if production falls behind scheduled delivery.

In his prepared testimony, he acknowledged that the Ohio-class "faces continuing sustainment challenges that impact its availability until fully replaced" in 2042.

See the full story at [STRATCOM Promises Senate No Gap in Ballistic Missile Submarine Coverage - USNI News](#)

Navy Awards \$1.2B Repair Contract for USS Boise More Than 7 Years Late

The Navy awarded a contract to start repair work on the nuclear attack submarine USS Boise that returned from its last deployment nine years ago. The contract was awarded to Newport News Shipbuilding.

Boise has been the poster child for the Navy's submarine maintenance backlog in its own public shipyards. The boat was initially set to enter dry dock for the overhaul in Fiscal Year 2016, but there was no room at Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

See the full story at [Navy Awards \\$1.2B Repair Contract for Attack Sub USS Boise More Than 7 Years Late - USNI News](#)

After politics, we all need a little humor



Moo COB

by Harold Nelson, ETC-SS

During one of our boomer port calls stateside, the COB took a few days off to visit family. He had the misfortune of being involved in a car/cow accident that demolished his car, killed the cow, but fortunately left him unharmed.

When the COB returned to the boat, the Topside Watch made the following announcement over the 1MC, "COB, arriving. MOOOOO"

It was many minutes before the laughing died down throughout the boat. It was many more months before the COB let the Topside Watch forget his announcement.

Harold L. Nelson
ETC/SS (Ret)

March base minutes will be in the May Newsletter