



Vol. 14 No. 10

October 2018

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

Base Meeting:

BOD: October 4, 1800
 Membership: October 11 1900

Location:

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



Base Commander	Ralph Rohrssen	843.670.2135	Chief of the Boat	Joe Lunn	843.747.5368
Base Vice Commander	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011	Veterans Affairs	Ken Curtis	843.797.1268
Secretary	Gordon Long	843.214.2353	Membership	Larry Knutson	843.860.1155
Treasurer	Gordon Williams	843.553.3015	Scholarship	Carl Chinn	843.437.5515
			Storekeeper	Ken Hutchison	843.553.0935
			Historian	George Scharf	843.873.3318
			Public Affairs	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
			Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Events Coordinator	Rick Sparger	843.553.5594
			Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.553.1115
			Newsletter	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
			Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Kaps for Kids	Bill Kennedy	843.875.3109



Submarines Lost During the Month of October

USS SEAWOLF (SS-197)	October 3, 1944 – 15 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands –100 souls (83 crew and 17 Army)
USS S-44 (SS-155)	October 7, 1944 – 5 th War Patrol	Lost with 56 souls – 2 men became POWs and survived the war
USS WAHOO (SS-238)	October 11, 1943 – 7 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 80 souls
USS DORADO (SS-248)	October 12, 1943 – New - training	Lost with all hands – 77 souls
USS ESCOLAR (SS-294)	October 17, 1944 – 1 st War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 82 souls
USS DARTER (SS-227)	October 24, 1944 – 4 th War Patrol	No loss of life
USS SHARK II (SS-314)	October 24, 1944 – 3 rd War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 87 souls
USS TANG (SS-306)	October 25, 1944 – 5 th War Patrol	Lost with 78 souls – 9 men became POWs and survived the war
USS O-5 (SS-66)	October 29, 1923 – near Panama Canal	Lost with 3 souls
Nine Boats and 563 Men Lost		

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Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Board of Directors Meeting	Thursday, Nov 1	1800	FRA Branch 268, Goose Creek
Base Meeting	Thursday, Nov 8	1800	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Tolling the Lost Boats	Sunday, Nov 11	1300	Coastal Coffee Roasters, 108 E 3rd N St, Summerville
Veterans Day Ceremony	Monday, Nov 12	1000	500 N main St, Summerville
Victory House Visit	Tuesday, Nov 13	1000	Carpool from VFW Bellwright Rd.

Information on all these events are on the base website www.ussvicb.org/events/index.html

From the Editor

I have finally received the date for my aortic valve replacement surgery. It is scheduled for Friday November 16 at Trident Hospital. If all goes well I should be out of the hospital for Thanksgiving.

My situation is this, my aortic valve neither fully opens or fully closes. In other words, it's a pipe! I have been advised for the last 7 years to have it replaced but because I had no symptoms I have chosen not to. As I told my surgeon I've worked on several pumps that didn't start back up after the maintenance! Now, at 71, even though I have no symptoms I believe it is time to have the procedure. I will probably wish I had done this years ago after recovering from the surgery.

If thing don't go well I can only say "It's been a great life! Thank you all for being an important part of it!"

From USSVI National

Normal message traffic from USSVI will be published each month in the newsletter. If the message is of immediate interest to the membership it will be sent out by the Base Secretary. Messages are arranged in the order received

No Items Were Received

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base Minutes of Business Meeting

11 October 2018

Opening Ceremonies:

□ The October 2018 Base Meeting was called to order by Secretary Gordon Long in the absence of Base Commander Ralph Rhorssen and Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of two officers (Secretary and Treasurer) and a total of 57 members present. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.

□ The Pledge of Allegiance was led by and recited by the members in attendance.

□ The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of October was given by Harry Nettles in absence of Base Chaplain Nick Nichols who was away for the USS Henry L. Stimson reunion. □ The USSVI Creed was read by Treasurer Gordon Williams. The Secretary welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

□ Two men were present at the Base meeting for the first time:

Randy Smith – EM2 – USS Nautilus '75-79 – moved from Michigan and lives here now.

Roger Jolly – HM1 – USS L. Mendel Rivers '87-'91, USS Sand Lance '91-'93 – the best time of his life.

Old Business:

□ Ronald Lamon presented his updated request to Charleston Base for support of the Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast. Due to scheduling conflicts the date has been changed to November 3. He expressed his thanks to Rick Sparger who provided menu information derived from previous FRA breakfasts. The estimated cost has increased from this latest information but he is still only asking for Charleston Base to support the event with the original \$150 request. The leftover groceries will be provided to the FRA since the event is being held here without any rental fee being charged. He has people to cook but needs volunteers to help run the kitchen. Rodney McKanna presented a motion to authorize the \$150 expenditure from Charleston Base. Jeff Reuer seconded the motion. The motion passed by a show of hands with a wide margin of votes. The Base Treasurer shall provide a check for \$150 to support the Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast. Law Enforcement Agencies in Berkeley County will be notified of the invitation to the breakfast to be held on November 3, 2018.

New Business:

□ **Social Media Coordinator** – Gordon Long presented the BOD request of the Base members to consider becoming the Social Media Coordinator. This individual needs to be someone who is well-versed in the use of social media such as Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, etc... We had no volunteers from the members at this meeting. The request will be presented at the November Base meeting.

□ **Phone APP** – Gordon Long presented the BOD request of the Base members asking if anyone knows someone (even their children or grandchildren) who does coding to build a “Smartphone APP” which can provide basic or even extended information about Charleston Base? We had no response to this request. We will ask again at the November Base meeting.

□ **Base Photographer** – COB (Joe Lunn) presented the need of Charleston Base for someone to take pictures at the Base meetings and other events because we are missing out on Base history. No volunteers at this time. COB also amplified the need for someone to be in charge of Charleston Base member recruitment on Social Media.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

□ The Minutes from the USSVI Charleston Base August Business Meeting (The September Base meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Florence) have been published and promulgated on the Base website. There were no additions or deletions. The minutes were approved.

□ The Treasurer's Report for August/September have been published and promulgated on the website. There beginning in 2034.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams: □ The Treasurer's Report for August/September have been published and promulgated on the website. There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved.

Chaplain – Harry Nettles:

□ **Highlighted boat of the month:**

○ USS ESCOLAR SS-294 was lost on Oct 17, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. Escolar's last communication was with Perth on 17 October- she was never heard from again. She was on her 1st war patrol and was most likely lost to a mine somewhere in the Yellow Sea.

□ **Mike Welch** was in Roper Downtown ICU. He had his surgery on his leg, went home, and then a day later had to go back to the hospital due to heart issues. He was scheduled to have a heart cath but that has been upgraded to a quadruple bypass. He had the bypass on Tuesday and it went well; however it was a 6-way bypass. While in ICU to recover he developed pneumonia. Soupy Campbell notified us that he has been moved to a regular room. He is on the mend but very weak so no visitors yet.

□ **Elmer 'Moon' Mullins** was in MUSC recovering from surgery on the inside of his skull. Fred Woodley informed me that Moon will have the procedure to remove the mass on his skull at MUSC on Wed Oct 3rd at 2:30pm. Fred reported on Thursday that Elmer's procedure went very well to biopsy the area in his skull. They did not keep him overnight and allowed him to go home. He sounded very upbeat and is glad to have that behind him. Fred will visit him this week.

□ **Ken Curtis** is home. On Sept. 27th, he had 2 stints put in and they (the VA) opened two OLD blockages. One of them was the one that caused my heart attack in December 1997. They could not open them at the time but they did yesterday. PRAYER WORKS!!!! I'm home and doing great.

□ **Becky Roberts** had knee surgery this past Monday. She is now home with lots of pain and doing home health for now. She will have to follow up with physical therapist.

□ **Wanda Nelms** was transported to Summerville Medical Center and was in ICU until this past Tuesday. She is now home.

□ **Rick Wise** will be going in for a cardiac cath on Thursday 11th. If this goes well, he will have an aortic valve replacement in November.

□ **Rick Sparger** will have his left knee replaced on October 26th.

□ **Larry Cox** has pancreatic cancer which has metastasized to his liver. He was on weekly chemo but it was having no effect.

Victory House – Ed Stank

□ Ed will be leaving at 1000 on Tuesday October 16 from the VFW on Bellwright Road for the visit to Victory Tickets are \$15 per person. There will be two free drinks provided. There will be plenty of soft drinks at no charge.

□ Ed reported that access to the storage shed on the base currently requires a day notice to obtain the key to the building.

House. Tom Scott usually attends and Ed invited others to come along for the visit. Anyone who has donations for Victory House, please let Ed know, so that he can get them.

Recreation – Ed Stank

□ Ed has tickets to the Base Christmas party to be held on December 14 at the Air Force Base NCO Club.

□ Ed talked about the recreation survey forms that he provided to everyone several months ago. He had 23 responses.

□ He is collecting recipes for assembling a USSVI Charleston Base Cookbook. Please provide your favorite recipe(s) to Ed. He is also looking for help to assemble the book. If you can help, please let him know.

Membership – Larry Knutson

□ USSVI Charleston Base membership increased by one today and we now have 290 members. Larry is collecting dues for next year. Larry requested that if anyone changes their email address, to let someone know so that he can update the Sailing List and we can all update our address books.

Kaps for Kids – Bill Kennedy

□ Reminded everyone that the pictures up front each month are of the submarines lost during the current month.

□ On Tuesday, October 2, the "Kaps" group comprised of Mike Emerson, Ed Stank and Bill Kennedy made a trip to McLeod Hospital in Florence. They visited 14 children. So far this year, 82 children have been visited in the hospitals. This was to be the last "Kaps" visit for the year, but the hospital staff mentioned that November and December are their busiest times. There will be another visit to McLeod on Tuesday, December 4. If anyone needs directions or wants to meet up along the way somewhere, please call Bill.

- The skull caps (doo-rags) went over well with the children during this last trip.
- Bill thanked George Scharf who donated wristbands, on which says, “Kaps for Kids”.
- He also has “Kaps for Kids” patches for those who visit the children with him.

Fleet Reserve Association – Rick Sparger

- The FRA Oktoberfest will be held on Saturday night October 13. \$15/person.
- The FRA will be borrowing the SubVets float for the Charleston Veteran’s Day Parade on November 10. Charlie Hudson will be pulling the float. Those SubVets who are also FRA members are invited to ride on the float.

Submarine Veterans of WWII – George Scharf

- Regular WWII meeting will be held at the FRA meeting room on Thursday, October 18 at 1130.
- We had no WWII veterans at the Base meeting tonight.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- The drawing for the Smoker/Grill will be held at the end of the Base Meeting on November 8. Tickets are \$1 each or 6/\$5.
- The committee also has tickets for a raffle of a book titled, “U.S. Submarines”. The book is signed by Admiral Osborne, of whom, for which the Scholarship Fund is named. Tickets are \$1 each or 6/\$5. Drawing also to be held on November 8.
- For the book, you must be present at the meeting to win. For the cooker, names are written on the tickets, so you do not have to be present to win. See Carl, Rick Sparger or Marty Sessler to purchase tickets for either of these items supporting the scholarship fund.

Storekeeper – Ron Chambers

- The calendars for 2019 will be here next month.
- Ken Hutchison enjoying a vacation with his wife and will be back next month.
- Jenny Viering donated a bunch of books, submarine tee-shirts and patches. There are lots of them here and they are free to who want them. Please look at them after the meeting.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- The float will be taken to Coffee Roasters in Summerville for November 11.
- We have been invited to pull the float for Christmas parades at Summerville, Harleyville and Andrews. Since we are limiting the distance that we will pull the float, Andrews will not happen. Rick polled the members for those willing to attend Harleyville on November 29 and Summerville on December 9. He will send in the forms to enter the float into the parades at those two locations.

COB – Joe Lunn

- At the risk of stealing thunder from the Nuclear Historian, COB shared a story he read on Facebook: A lawyer boarded an airplane in New Orleans bound for New York and brought a box of frozen crabs aboard. He asked a blonde flight attendant to take care of them for him. She took the box and promised to put in the crew’s refrigerator. He advised her that he would hold her personally responsible for them to stay frozen and in an arrogant manner that he was a lawyer and what would happen to her if she let them thaw out. Shortly before landing in New York, she used the intercom to announce to the entire cabin, “Will the lawyer who gave me crabs in New Orleans please raise your hand.” No one raised their hand, so she took the crabs home and ate them. Two things learned here: 1) Lawyers aren’t as smart as they think they are. 2) Blondes aren’t as dumb as you think they are.
- Nothing else to report.

Good of the Order

After Battery – Rick Sparks

After Battery is open every Wednesday. Come on out.

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

A Senior Chief Auxiliaryman goes to the Navy Commissary and notices a very attractive woman waving at him. She says, “Hello.”

He’s rather taken aback because he can’t place where he knows her from, so he asks, “Do you know me?”

She replies, “I think you’re the father of one of my children.”

Now his mind travels back to the only time that he had been unfaithful to his wife, so he asks, “Are you the

stripper from the bachelor party that I made love to on the pool table, with all my buddies watching?” She looks into his eyes and says calmly, “No, I’m your son’s English teacher.” That same Auxiliaryman was in the commissary. He saw a woman shopping in the commissary where she selected:

- A half-gallon of 2% milk
- A carton of eggs
- A quart of orange juice
- A head of Romaine lettuce
- A 2lb. can of coffee
- A 1lb. package of bacon

As she was unloading her items on the conveyor belt to check out, a slightly inebriated Senior Chief Auxiliaryman standing behind her watched as she placed the items in front of the cashier. While the cashier was ringing her purchases, the Senior Chief Auxiliaryman calmly stated, “You must be single.”

The woman was a bit startled by this proclamation, but she was intrigued by his intuition, since she was, indeed, single. She looked at her six items on the belt and saw nothing particularly unusual about her selections that could have tipped off the drunk to her marital status. Curiosity getting the better of her, she said, “Well, you’re absolutely correct. How on earth did you know that?”

The drunk Auxiliaryman replied, “‘cause you’re ugly.”

Rodney McKanna

Thanked everyone for supporting “Undie 500” by bringing underwear for homeless veterans.

Drawings/Auction

- FRA – won by Marty Sessler
- Depth Charge – Skip Chilton

Closing Ceremony

Harry Nettles led the group in a prayer of Benediction; Secretary Gordon Long announced adjournment of the meeting followed by three blasts on the diving alarm. The meeting was closed at 2012.

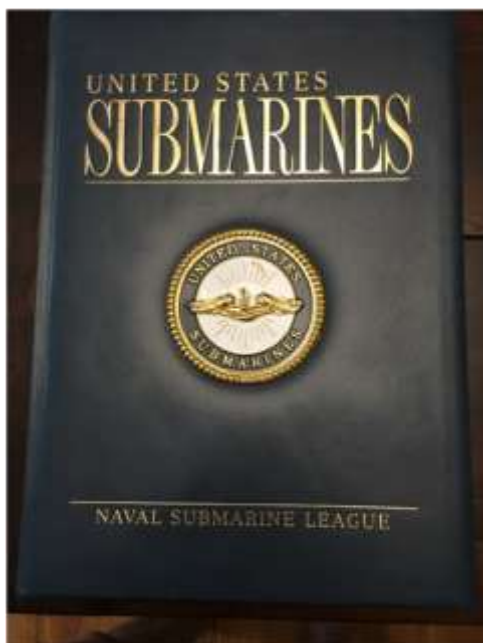
CHARLESTON BASE PRESENTS SUBMARINERS’ LEGACY AWARD TO NUCLEAR POWER SCHOOL CLASS 1804



Charleston Base members presented the Submariners’ Legacy Awards to ENS Broderick Schofield and ETN3 Newt Tiner for being the submarine designated graduates with the highest Grade Point Average for NPS Class 1804.

The Scholarship Committee is raffling a book titled “United States Submarines” and was put out by the Naval Submarine League. This is a great book with super information. What makes this particular one unique is that it has been signed by Admiral James .B. Osborn and that he has made several hand written comments in the book. For those that do not know, Admiral Osborn was the first Commanding Officer of the USS George Washington, the Navy’s first ballistic missile submarine, and who our scholarship is named in memory of.

Make sure you buy your raffle tickets for a great piece of history and submarine memorabilia. Tickets cost \$1 each or six for \$5 and will be available at the meetings. Winning ticket will be drawn at the November 8th meeting.



Raffle to benefit Charleston Base

Admiral James B. Osborn Scholarship Fund

Char-Broil Big Easy Smoker Roaster & Grill

Details:

Big Easy Smoker Roaster & Grill lets you smoke, roast and grill - all in one

TRU-Infrared technology cooks food evenly and juicy with no flare-ups

Evenly cook turkey, ribs, roast, or other cuts of meat in the roasting basket

Holds up to 25 lbs for roasting & has 180 square inches grilling area

Smoker box for added flavor

Temperature control from 9,000 to 18,000 BTU's



Raffle tickets are available at the meetings
or from the bartender
or contact Richard Sparger, Marty Sessler, Carl Chinn

Simply fill in your name & phone number and drop in the box

***Ticket cost: \$1 each or six(6) for \$5
Drawing November 8, 2018***

Move over, 355-ship Navy: New report calls for an even larger fleet

David Larter, Defense News, 26 October

<https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2018/10/26/move-over-355-ship-navy-report-from-trumps-favorite-think-tank-calls-for-an-even-larger-fleet/>

The U.S. is woefully short of ships and even the Navy's target goal of 355 ships is well short of what the country needs to prepare for two simultaneous major conflicts and maintain its rotational presence requirements with excess capacity for surge operations and combat casualties.

That is the major finding of a new study from the conservative think tank The Heritage Foundation, an organization prominent in the Trump era because of its knack for influencing administration policy.

The study calls for a force of 400 ships, 40 percent larger than today's force, and an increase of about 12 percent over the Navy's current 30-year shipbuilding plan. The plan would require another \$4 to \$6 billion annually in the shipbuilding budget to get to 400 ships by 2039, the study estimates.

The study, conducted and written by Thomas Callender, a retired submarine officer and analyst at Heritage, acknowledges the difficulty of achieving a 400-ship fleet under budget constraints and with a limited industrial capacity in the U.S. But, Callender said, the study was based solely on current demands on the fleet, as well as the National Security Strategy and what Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has laid out in the National Defense Strategy.

"My analysis was strictly based on requirements to fight and win two major regional conflicts as well as some additional stated requirements for certain ship classes," Callender said. "I acknowledge that this will mean a significant increase in the Navy's shipbuilding budget – about \$4-6 billion above the Navy's long-range shipbuilding plan."

All ships great and small

The study calls for several big increases over the Navy's current 30-year shipbuilding plan, including a 13th aircraft carrier, 19 new small surface combatants, seven new amphibious ships and a full 22 more combat logistics ships.

The plan calls for only minor adjustments to the large surface combatant and attack submarine numbers.

The big jump in small surface combatants is aimed at having enough ships to support a 13-carrier Navy, support 12 littoral combat ships configured as mine hunters, and have excess capacity to escort logistics ships.

The increase of 22 combat logistics ships is driven by Navy concepts of operations that are moving to an increasingly distributed force that will require support for smaller elements of Navy ships such as far-flung surface action groups, for example.

"While a 400-ship Navy is expensive to build, the nation needs a larger and more capable Navy to deter our adversaries and prevent war," Callender said. "If our Navy is too small to deter great power adversaries such as China or Russia in the future, the cost for fight and hopefully win that war will greater exceed the monetary cost to build a 400-ship navy.

"Additionally, the nation will see the loss of ships and sailors in numbers we have not seen since World War II. It is my hope that we find the national will to fund the 400-ship navy the nation needs and deter a great power conflict."

The Navy's New Submarine Plan Is In. Take a Look.

David Axe, The National Interest, 24 October

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/navys-new-submarine-plan-take-look-34202>

The U.S. Navy plans to develop two new classes of submarine, according to congressional analysis of the sea service's shipbuilding plan for 2019.

The submarines could help to maintain the Navy's advantage in submarine-on-submarine warfare while also filling a looming shortfall in the sailing branch's capacity for sea-to-land missile strikes.

But not without cost. Designing and building five of the new Large Payload Submarine cruise-missile subs and 30 of the new SSN(X) attack submarines could set back U.S. taxpayers \$200 billion by 2048.

That's significantly more than the Navy expected to spend as recently as 2017.

Today the Navy possesses 65 submarines. All of them are nuclear-powered. They include 14 Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarines, or "boomers," which the Navy expects to begin replacing with 12 new Columbia-class boomers starting in 2021.

The balance of today's submarines include 35 1980s-vintage Los Angeles-class attack submarines, three attack boats of the 1990s Seawolf class, 13 newer Virginia-class attack boats and four old Ohios that the Navy converted into cruise-missile carriers during the early 2000s. Each of these old boats can carry as many as 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles.

Today around 10 attack subs are on patrol on any given day while the others undergo maintenance and crew training. Navy plans require as many as 35 boats to surge on short notice to a war zone during a major conflict.

As of 2017, the Navy planned to upgrade the Virginia design and continue buying vessels of that class through the late 2040s, at least, while also retiring the converted Ohio cruise-missile submarines without a direct replacement starting in the mid-2020s.

The latest version of the Virginia includes a hull extension for new vertical missile tubes. This "Virginia Payload Module" boosts the type's cruise-missile capacity from 12 to 40, a feature that could help alleviate a missile-tube shortfall resulting from the planned retirement of the cruise-missile carriers.

But the latest edition of the Navy's 30-year shipbuilding plan revises those plans. Instead of upgrading the Virginia, the sailing branch anticipates designing a brand-new attack boat it calls the SSN(X). The new vessel would enter service

The SSN(X) reportedly would be bigger than the 8,000-ton-displacement Virginia is, and thus would more closely match the 9,000-ton-displacement of the Seawolf class. "The Navy indicates that the next-generation attack submarine should be faster, stealthier and able to carry more torpedoes than the Virginia class" does, according to an October report by the Congressional Budget Office .

But the SSN(X) would not include the payload module, instead devoting its extra space to torpedoes, propulsion and quieting features -- design aspects that contribute to superior performance in sub-on-sub warfare.

Reducing missile armament in favor of torpedoes in the SSN(X) design could, absent other force-structure changes, exacerbate the loss of around 600 missile tubes when the converted Ohios decommission and lengthened Virginias with their extra 28 missile tubes apiece are just beginning to enter service in the mid-2020s.

The new Large Payload Submarine, which the Navy first mentioned in its shipbuilding plan for 2019, addresses this problem. "The Navy provides little information about the size and capabilities of the large payload submarine," CBO explained.

The CBO "assumed that it would be based on the Columbia-class hull with its missile tube section reconfigured to perform whatever missions the Navy might want and that other sections of the ship would receive the necessary equipment and modifications to support the payloads the submarine might carry."

The Navy has been buying new Virginias at a rate of two per year, hoping to mitigate an attack-sub shortfall during the mid-2020s. In December 2016, the Navy announced it needed 66 attack boats to meet regional commanders' needs. But the attack-sub force could decline to a low of 42 in 2028 as old Los Angeles and cruise-missile boats leave the fleet in large numbers.

"Where we sit today is, we can't build ships and deliver them in time to fill in that dip," Vice Adm. Bill Merz, a deputy chief of naval operations, told U.S. senators.

Introducing two new submarine classes could address specific capability shortfalls -- undersea stealth and fleet missile capacity, for example -- but the addition likely will increase overall shipbuilding costs.

The Navy's old plan to upgrade the Virginia design in the 2030s would have cost \$3.6 billion per ship, the CBO estimated. Designing and building SSN(X)s instead could cost \$5.5 billion per sub, according to the CBO. The budget office predicted each Large Payload Submarine would come with a whopping \$7.7-billion price tag.

Adding cost makes it harder for the Navy to, for example, boost submarine production rates in order to address the coming attack-boat shortfall.

The CBO estimated the Navy shipbuilding, as currently planned, could cost \$29 billion per year over the next 30 years. "That total is 80 percent more than the average shipbuilding budget the Navy has received over the past 30 years and about 50 percent more than the average budget of the past six years, a period of increasing shipbuilding appropriations."

Report to Congress on Virginia-Class Attack Submarine Program

Staff, Congressional Research Service, 23 October

<https://news.usni.org/2018/10/23/report-congress-virginia-class-attack-submarine-program-6>

The following is the Oct. 22, 2018 Congressional Research Service report, Navy Virginia (SSN-774) Class Attack Submarine Procurement: Background and Issues for Congress.

>From the report

The Navy has been procuring Virginia (SSN-774) class nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs) since FY1998. The two Virginia-class boats that the Navy has requested for procurement in FY2019 would be the 29th and 30th boats in the class, and the first two to be covered under a multiyear procurement (MYP) contract for at least 10 Virginia-class submarines to be procured in FY2019-FY2023.

The Navy estimates the combined procurement cost of the two Virginia-class boats requested for procurement in FY2019 at \$6,502.3 million (i.e., about \$6.5 billion). The second of these two boats is to be the first Virginia-class boat built with the Virginia Payload Module (VPM), an additional, 84-foot-long, mid-body section equipped with four large-diameter, vertical launch tubes for storing and launching additional Tomahawk missiles or other payloads. The Navy plans to build all Virginia-class boats procured in FY2020 and subsequent years with the VPM, and the Navy's FY2019 budget submission shows that VPM-equipped Virginia-class boats in FY2020 and beyond have an estimated recurring unit procurement cost of about \$3.2 billion in today's dollars.

The two boats requested for procurement in FY2019 have received an estimated total of \$2,128.9 million in prior-year "regular" advance procurement (AP) funding. (This figure is an estimate, because Congress has not yet completed action on the FY2018 Department of Defense appropriations act.) Based on this estimate, the Navy's proposed FY2019 budget requests the remaining \$4,373.4 million in procurement funding needed to complete the boats' estimated combined procurement cost. The Navy's proposed FY2019 budget also requests \$1,810.9 million in "regular" AP funding for Virginia-class boats to be procured in future fiscal years, and \$985.5 million in additional Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) AP funding for components of Virginia-class boats to be procured under the FY2019-FY2023 Virginia-class MYP contract, bringing the total amount of procurement, "regular" AP, and EOQ AP funding requested for the program in FY2019 to \$7,169.8 million (i.e., about \$7.2 billion), excluding outfitting and postdelivery costs.

The Navy's force-level goal, released in December 2016, is to achieve and maintain a 355-ship fleet, including 66 SSNs. To increase the size of the SSN force toward the 66-boat goal, the FY2019 30-year shipbuilding plan includes 16 more

SSNs than the Navy's previous (FY2017) 30-year shipbuilding plan. The first of the 16 additional SSNs is a second Virginia-class boat in FY2021. Under the Navy's FY2019 30-year shipbuilding plan, a 66-boat SSN force would be achieved in FY2048. CRS and CBO estimated in 2017 that adding even more SSNs to the earlier years of the 30-year shipbuilding plan could accelerate the attainment of a 66-boat force to as early as 2037. The Navy's FY2019 30-year shipbuilding plan shows options for adding another 12 SSNs to the 30-year plan, but only 3 of the 12 occur in the earlier years of the plan.

>From the mid-2020s through the early 2030s, the number of SSNs is projected to experience a valley or trough, reaching a minimum of 42 boats (i.e., 24 boats, or about 36%, less than the 66-boat force-level goal) in FY2028. This projected valley is a consequence of having procured a relatively small number of SSNs during the 1990s, in the early years of the post-Cold War era. Some observers are concerned that this projected valley could lead to a period of heightened operational strain for the SSN force, and perhaps a period of weakened conventional deterrence against potential adversaries such as China. The projected SSN valley was first identified by CRS in 1995 and has been discussed in CRS reports and testimony every year since then. As one measure for mitigating this valley, the Navy's FY2019 budget submission proposes to refuel and extend the service life of one older Los Angeles (SSN-688) class submarine. The Navy states that this could become the first of as many as five Los Angeles-class SSNs to be refueled and have their service lives extended.

FOR SALE

Charleston Base members who have items they wish to sell may send me the information for inclusion in the newsletter. Items will run for three issues or until I'm notified by the person submitting the ad that it is no longer needed.

Certified GSA Container Inspector
Past President of SC Locksmith Association
2004 Locksmith of the Year



Crackerjack Locksmith



Robert Temple
Journeyman Safe Cracker
Summerville, SC 29483

843-873-0767
H8SPVMT@GMAIL.COM

Robert Temple - Crackerjack Locksmith

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