



Vol. 16 No. 7

October 2020

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

Base Meeting:

BOD: October 1, 1800
 Membership: October 8, 1900

Location:

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



Base Commander	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011	Chief of the Boat	Joe Lunn Rick Sparger (act)	843.747.5368 843.553.5594
Base Vice Commander	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282	Veterans Affairs	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
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	Jerry Stout	843.568.5923
			Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.553.1115
			Newsletter	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
			Social Media Coordinator	Lewis Leal	843.270-8870 social@ussvich.org
			Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Kaps for Kids	Mike Emerson	843.302.2650



Submarines Lose During the Month of October

USS SEAWOLF (SS-197)	October 3, 1944 – 15th War Patrol	Lost with all hands –100 souls (83 crew and 17 Army)
USS S-44 (SS-155)	October 7, 1944 – 5th War Patrol	Lost with 56 souls – 2 men became POWs and survived the war
USS WAHOO (SS-238)	October 11, 1943 – 7th 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 – 1st War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 82 souls
USS DARTER (SS-227)	October 24, 1944 – 4th War Patrol	No loss of life
USS SHARK II (SS-314)	October 24, 1944 – 3rd War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 87 souls
USS TANG (SS-306)	October 25, 1944 – 5th 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			
Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting	Thursday, Nov 5	1800	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Veterans Day Ceremony	Wednesday Nov 11	1000	Dorchester County Office Building Main St and US 78 Summerville
Veterans Day Celebration and Cookout (free)	Wednesday Nov 11	1100	Coastal Coffee Roasters 108 E 3rd N St., Summerville
Charleston Base Meeting (Social Hr starts 1800)	Thursday, Nov 12	1900	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek

From the Editor

This has been a trying time for me. Due to the radiation exposure my intestinal tract and urinary system have to be retrained. **THEY CERTAINLY AREN'T ACTING LIKE THEY USED TO.** As a result I haven't been able to do much unless a toilet was handy. It is getting better every day but there is along way to go.

Rick Sparger has taken over the position as COB Acting. Due to his personal situation Joe Lunn is not able to fulfill all the functions he should. Hopefully in the future he may be able to re-assume his duties. Rick was, in my opinion, the best COB we ever had so I'm sure he will handle this very well.

There was a problem with getting the Submariners' Legacy Awards to the last two

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

NEWS-01: Charitable Foundation Bulletin

Submitted by: Ken Earls, Charitable Foundation Exec Dir & Treas on 10/29/2020

This is a "once-in-a-century" year! It has been going on since March and will continue until we get a viable Coronavirus vaccine.

So, the holiday season will arrive, despite all of the hurdles we are facing and many of us will attempt to respond in some viable manner.

Consider shopping on Amazon and use [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) when doing that. Every purchase you make on [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) results in a donation to the USSV Charitable Foundation. We have been averaging about \$90.00 per month from [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) over the past few months and we have the opportunity to bump that up substantially. There is no additional cost to you as the buyer, it is exactly the same as shopping on Amazon.com. The only difference is that on [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), Amazon shares a portion of the purchase with us.

Ken Earls
Executive Director & Treasurer
Charitable Foundation
United States Submarine

From the Editor (Continued)

Classes. As a result Nuclear Power School has assigned a Point of Contact for our awards as well as FRA Branch 269.

Because of my current medical condition plans for Little David maintenance and painting are up in the air. Hope to get up to the Berkeley Museum to decide what we may be able to do. November has a lot going on so we may have to wait until spring.

The 3rd Quarter Budget report will be going to the website the same time as this newsletter. If you look it over you will see that even though the income has been less than expected our expenses have been even less so we will still end the year with a surplus.

Even though we will not be Tolling the Lost Boats this year the Veterans Day Celebration and Cookout will still be held at Coastal Coffee Roasters, 108 E 3rd N St., Summerville. There will be free food Music and a good time. All veterans are welcome.

Attendance at Charleston Base meetings continues to increase and I don't believe we are putting anyone at risk. We will be trying to video the next meeting and information should be coming on how to view it.



TO BENEFIT THE
CHARLESTON SUBMARINE VETERANS'
Admiral Osborn Scholarship Fund



The Scholarship Committee will hold a HUGE sale of miscellaneous household goods, tools, sports, toys, etc. Deals galore!

All proceeds go to the United States Submarine Veterans Charleston Base's Admiral James Osborn Scholarship Fund. Scholarship is available to tri-county high school seniors with a relationship to a qualified submariner. ****To donate items call 843-437-5515****

Date: Saturday, Nov. 14, 2020 (Rain date Nov. 21)

**Where: 1825 Old Trolley Rd
Summerville, SC**

(Halloween Express / Rodney's Rockets)

Time: 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.



SHOTGUN RAFFLE

All proceeds go to the United States Submarine Veterans Charleston Base

Admiral James B. Osborn Scholarship Fund

Scholarship is available to tri-county high school seniors with a relationship to a qualified submariner



WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS SUPER X4 WATERFOWL HUNTER - MOSSY OAK SHADOWGRASS BLADES

- SYNTHETIC STOCK WITH IMPROVED ERGONOMICS, SMALLER PISTOL GRIP AND TEXTURED GRIPPING SURFACES give your hands a sure, non-slip grip. Full coverage Mossy Oak® Shadow Grass Blades camo finish
- BACK-BORED TECHNOLOGY provides optimum shot patterns that are dense and even
- INVECTOR-PLUS CHOKE TUBE SYSTEM offers consistent patterns to match your target situation
- HARD CHROME-PLATED CHAMBER AND BORE make these surfaces highly resistant to corrosion and wear from steel shot
- VENT RIB gives you a smooth, clean sighting plane
- TRUGLO® LONG BEAD™ FIBER-OPTIC FRONT SIGHT offers a true, precise sight picture
- ACTIVE VALVE GAS SYSTEM cycles a wide variety of loads while reducing "felt recoil"
- QUADRA-VENT™ PORTS vent excess gases for cleaner operation
- DROP-OUT TRIGGER GROUP allows for easy cleaning
- AMBIDEXTROUS CROSSBOLT SAFETY is easily reversible
- LARGER BOLT HANDLE AND BOLT RELEASE BUTTON are faster and easier to operate
- LENGTH OF PULL SPACERS allow stock adjustments to achieve a perfect fit
- INFLEX TECHNOLOGY RECOIL PAD directs "felt recoil" down and away from your cheek to reduce flinch and fatigue

Gauge 12

Barrel Length 26"

Length of Pull 14 1/4"

Drop at Heel 2"

Magazine Capacity 4

Barrel Finish Mossy Oak Shadow Grass Blades

Chokes Included Full, Modified, Improved Cylinder

Dura Touch Finish No

Front Sight Fiber Optic

Barrel Material Steel

Recoil Pad Inflex 1, Small with Hard Heel Insert

Sling Swivel Studs Matte Blued

Trigger Finish Matte Black

Bolt Slide Finish Matte Blued

Trigger Material Alloy

Trigger Guard Engraving None

MSRP \$1,069.99

Chamber Length 3 1/2"

Overall Length 47"

Drop at Comb 1 3/4"

Weight 7 lbs 0 oz

Rib Width 1/4

Stock Finish Mossy Oak Shadow Grass Blades

Receiver Finish Mossy Oak Shadow Grass Blades

Chamber Finish Chrome Plated Chamber and Bore

Choke System Invector-Plus Flush

Stock Material Composite

Checkering Textured Grip Panels

Receiver Material Aluminum Alloy

Trigger Guard Finish Matte Black

Magazine Type Tubular

Trigger Guard Material Alloy

Choke Wrench Included Flat Wrench

Ticket price: \$10 each

Drawing to be held February 11, 2021

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base

Minutes of Business Meeting

8 October 2020

Opening Ceremonies:

The October 2020 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of three officers and a total of 41 members. The meeting started at 1900. Vice Commander Tom Lawson was not present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Base Commander Mike Ciesielko and recited by the members in attendance.

The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of October was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.

Submarines lost during the month of October:

USS SEAWOLF (SS-197)	October 3, 1944 – 15th War Patrol	Lost with all hands –100 souls (83 crew and 17 Army)
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USS O-5 (SS-66)	October 29, 1923 – near Panama Canal	Lost with 3 souls

Nine Boats and 563 Men Lost

Chief Engineman, Submarines, Linn Reid Rogers Sr., US Navy Retired – Departed on Eternal Patrol September 15, 2020

First Class Torpedoman's Mate, Submarines, Robert John McCollem Jr. – Departed on Eternal Patrol September 21, 2020

Chief Quartermaster, Submarines, James Fred Loveday, US Navy Retired – Departed on Eternal Patrol September 28, 2020

The USSVI Creed was read by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko.

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members to the meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

None present.

Old Business:

NONE

New Business:

NONE

Secretary – Gordon Long:

The Minutes from the September Base meeting had been published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base website. 33 members attended the September Base Meeting. No other additions or changes were noted. The Minutes were approved.

Treasurer – Base Commander for Gordon Williams:

The Treasurer's Report for September has been published and promulgated on the website.

There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved as provided.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

Highlighted boat of the month:

USS TANG was lost on Oct 25, 1944 with the loss of 78 men in the Formosa Strait while on her 5th war patrol. Tang ranks 2nd in the number of ships sunk and 4th in tonnage, and had won two Presidential Unit Citations. During a daring night surface attack, Tang was lost to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. Tang's last torpedo

broached and curved to the left. Tang fishtailed to clear the turning circle of the torpedo, but it struck her abreast the after torpedo room approximately 20 seconds after it was fired. Tang sank by the stern. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner, including CDR. O'Kane and five who had gained the surface from her final resting place 180 feet below. All survived the war, and CDR O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

ENCS(SS) Linn Reid Rogers Sr. departed on Eternal Patrol on 15 September. He joined the Navy in 1951 and retired in 1972. Linn was a Life Member of USSVI National [2003], Life Member of Charleston Base [2003], and a Holland Club member. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge Number 401 and a Shriner. He qualified on USS CONGER SS/AGSS 477 in 1953, and served on ENTEMEDOR SS 340, BANG SS 385 and as COB [70-72] on TRUMPETFISH SS 425. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website. His memorial service was held on 18 September. CB conducted a bell tolling service but due to limitations placed on attendance only 7 CB members were present.

TM1(SS) Robert John McCollem Jr. departed on Eternal Patrol on 21 September. He joined the Navy in 1956 and retired in 1974. Robert was a Member of USSVI National [2016] and Charleston Base [2016], and a Holland Club member. He was also a member of the FRA Branch 269, the American Legion and the USS TULLIBEE SSN-597 Association He qualified on USS CORPORAL SS-346 in 1957, and served on TULLIBEE SSN-587, RUNNER SS-476, ULYSSES S. GRANT SSBN-631 and MARIANO G. VALLEJO SSBN-658. He also served a POMFLANT Charleston. A note of condolence from Charleston Base has been placed on the funeral home website. His memorial service was held on 26 September at the FRA. CB conducted a bell tolling service which was well attended by base members. I want to thank Rick Wise for standing in for me and doing a great job.

QMC(SS) James Fred Loveday departed on Eternal Patrol on 28 September. He joined the Navy in 1952 and retired in 1973 after 21 years of service. He was a Life Member of USSVI National [2005], Life Member of Charleston Base [2005], and a Holland Club member. He qualified on USS CLAMAGORE SS-343 in 1960, and served on TRUMPETFISH SS-425 and SIMON BOLIVAR SSBN-641. Prior to submarine duty Jim served on USS MISSOURI BB-63, USS BAYFIELD APA-33, USS TARARA CVS-40 and USS LEYTE CVS-32. He also served at NRTC Davenport IA and was a Korean War Veteran. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website. Jim's service was held on Saturday, 3 October. CB conducted a bell tolling service and several base members were in attendance.

SK2(SS) Jon Duckworth departed on Eternal Patrol on 8 October in Florida from a massive stroke. He was a Life Member of USSVI National [2004] and Life Member of First Coast Base [2004]. He qualified on USS SIMON BOLIVAR SSBN-641 in 1973 and also served on STURGEON SSN-637.

So far this year there have been 12 Charleston Base members who have departed on EP. Only two had a page two on file. Please complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

Pauline Bohon, Bruce Bohon's mother, passed away today. She was living with Bruce and Ellen and was under hospice care. Services will be in New York at a future time.

James Graham had knee surgery on 15 September. It was successful and he's doing well with his PT.

Gary Williams had lengthy back surgery on 10 September. Have not heard how he's doing. It was reported at the meeting that Gary fell today and is in pain.

George Burton continues to undergo treatment for lung cancer.

Rick Wise had the seeds implanted on 2 October.

Bob Snyder is home with palliative care.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

Website is constantly updated.

Make use of the EVENTS page on the Charleston Base website. All events that are put out to the membership via email will be listed and updated on the events page.

Member Pictures will now be on the USSVI National website. Please take a look at your profile on the National site and update it if needed. Many have missing info.

Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Ciesielko for George Scharf:

Stacy Power is not present tonight

Nothing to report

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

Lou has added a section on Facebook for pictures from the upcoming Charleston Base Picnic.

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson

Not present.

[Kaps for Kids events are on hold until the hospitals contact us to resume visits.]

Membership – Larry Knutson

277 Charleston Base Members – It is October and Dues are due. Please do not let this stretch out into next year. It causes a lot of extra work.

Public Affairs – Jerry Stout

Nothing to report.

VA – Tom Lawson

Not present

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

The new Scholarship application form is on the Base website. Please be sure to use the new form.

The committee has a few submarine lighters that were donated – Bancroft, Polk and CSS-16. These are for sale to benefit the scholarship fund. See Carl.

The Top Dawg Tavern raffles will be held tonight.

The Committee has a shotgun raffle. Carl had won this from the FRA and donated it to Charleston Base as a fund raiser for the Scholarship fund. Tickets are \$10.

The Rummage Sale will be held on November 14 from 0800 – 1300 at Halloween Express on Old Trolley Road near Dorchester Rd. Please bring all of your items early that morning. Carl will be there at 0500. Any unsold items will be picked up by the Kidney Foundation truck and taken to their Thrift Store nearby.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

There will be a picnic on October 17 at Bushy Park. The Base will provide hamburgers/hotdogs and members are asked to bring a side dish or two. Rick asked that all members attend since it is the final – non-meeting – function for 2020.

We expect to have a good time. The Base will provide some beer also.

Since we will not have a Christmas party this year, we will have a Base meeting in December.

Rick also requested that the Base provide beer/wine for the picnic. Mike Ciesielko volunteered to cook.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar

Provided update on the court case. Patriot's Point has not responded as yet. Contact with the Navy may be next. Still waiting on the judge's decision.

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks

Nothing to report.

Fleet Reserve Association – Rick Sparger

The FRA, yesterday, had its famed Liver and Onion lunch special. Rick hoped that all enjoyed it.

Newsletter – Rick Wise

If anyone has anything that you would like to put in the Base Newsletter, please send it to Rick.

LITTLE DAVID – Rick Wise

Work on the Little David will happen soon. He will provide info to the COB about needed working parties.

Comptroller – Rick Wise

The quarterly report should be out before the end of October.

Recreation –

Nothing to report.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

Nothing to report.

COB – Rick Sparger (Acting)

There are several 10x10 event tents that have not been used in quite a while. Rick proposed that we sell them at the Rummage Sale. There was no disagreement from the Base members. They will be taken to the Rummage Sale.

Joe will return as COB as soon as he is able.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

Reported that Joe Lunn, because of health and COVID concerns, is taking leave from duties as COB. Rick Sparger has

assumed the duties for the time being. Mike asked Base members to pray for Joe. We will be holding a Board Meeting and a Base Meeting in December since we will not be having a Christmas party this year. Mike reminded everyone to clean up the tables before departure.

Good of the Order

After Battery – Ken Hutchison

Nothing to report.

Gun Club

Gun Shoot schedule for this Saturday 10 OCT. Meet at FRA 0830. The rangemaster will provide safety briefing for all involved.

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

This is my first time here this year. I'd like to thank all our members and wives for coming out to my wife's funeral service in February. This was the period of the start of the coronavirus pandemic. Anyway – Thank You!

Because of the pandemic, I spent a lot of time at home, alone. So, I watched movies; lots of movies! All of the Miami Vice series, all of the Star Wars series and many, many, many more! I discovered a new realization about things we take for granted!

C-3PO – was not a CPO

Thor – was a TM. Who else uses a hammer?

Popeye – is a sailor

Beatle Bailey – is a lazy Army dude.

Lucy (of Charlie Brown) – was an ET! Thinks she knows it all, but gets flustered when her skirt blows up.

Bugs Bunny – was a RM – What's up Doc? Probably working on a Rickover Letter.

Pig Pen – Self-Explanatory – A-Gang

Newsflash!!!

I received an email to meet women. I was lonesome and excited! After going through two pages of beautiful women, I turned to the third page and BOOM – A set of boobs – with a message to me. Being a gentleman, I asked if she had another photo. Sure enough, she sent me a spread eagle shot. The only thing I could not see were her eye teeth! It was a porn site. The next three sites were also porn sites. So, once I was sure – after reviewing 50,000 more photos, I was pretty convinced of that and dumped them. Ask for the web address after the meeting, if interested.

My daughter entered me on a site for people over 50, called "OUR TIME". All they had were old broads. I even got hit on by a gal 89 years old. I did finally meet, online, a lady from IVA, South Carolina. I'm waiting to see where that one will lead me. All the write-up is great, but I haven't actually met her, in person, yet! No sooner than I started writing her, she had to take a trip to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to sell some property that she and her late husband had bought nine years ago. He died five years ago. She tells me that that she has to pay \$30,000 in taxes before she can sell the property and she only had \$15,000 cash in her suitcase. While waiting on the bench for the taxi, she needed a trip to the restroom. When she returned, her suitcase was no longer there. NEWSFLASH – ROBBED! FOREIGN COUNTRY! I'll keep you informed. No, she hasn't asked for any of my credit card numbers or cash....YET! Besides, I only have a few thousand that I could send her right now!

Last night, I was asked if the "Geek Squad" could charge me \$299.99 for a Microsoft Windows annual update. It was not something that I remembered signing up for. Luckily, I happened to be on the computer while the guys were doing this and – with no permission from me – watched them take \$8,000 from my savings account and \$1,000 from my checking account. Thankfully, I was able to contact the bank and get the money back into my savings account. The contact at the fraud number told me that they cannot take money from your savings. Everyone, please be careful. I was able to keep from being scammed out of \$9,000.

Drawings & Auctions

Top Dawg Tavern – First Drawing – Larry Knutson – 40

Top Dawg Tavern – Second Drawing – Beetle Bailey – 20

Top Dawg Tavern – Third Drawing – Rick Sparger – 10

There was a Challenge Coin Door Prize based upon the sign-in sheet. The man with the random number chosen did not have a Challenge Coin. The prize will be held until next month.

Depth Charge – Woody Woodsmall

Closing Ceremony

Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting with three blasts of the diving alarm.

Meeting closed.

Navy's Next Attack Submarine Will Be Wider And Based On The New Columbia Class Missile Boats

Joseph Trevithick, The Drive, November 4

The U.S. Navy's future nuclear attack submarine, or SSN(X), is set to be notably wider than the service's present Virginia class, bringing it more in line size-wise with its advanced Seawolf class. It will also leverage technology in development now for its future Columbia class ballistic missile submarines.

USNI News reported on these latest details about the Navy's next attack submarine following a third-quarter earnings call with Rex Geveden, CEO of BWX Technologies on Nov. 2, 2020. BWX Technologies is a major subcontractor to General Dynamics Electric Boat on the Columbia class and has also supported work on other submarine programs, including supplying the nuclear reactors that power the Navy's Virginia, Seawolf, and Los Angeles classes.

"We do expect it will be a larger type of submarine, probably in the size class of the Columbia, but there's not much more to tell than that. But we're working with our Navy customer in what that would look like and how we could take that into production," Rex Geveden said, according to USNI News. "It has the moniker SSN(X) until it gets a class name, and there's some thought, discussion, and analysis. It would be the follow-on to the Virginia fast-attack submarine, and it would feather in sometime in the late 2030s."

USNI News said that despite Geveden using the word "larger," what he was referring to was the overall width of the submarine, rather than its length or displacement. This would make sense considering that the Columbia class boats are expected to have a submerged displacement of almost 23,310 tons. This is more than twice that of existing Virginia class boats, early block models of which displace around 7,800 tons, and even more than that of the unique, extended-length Seawolf class spy submarine USS Jimmy Carter, which has a displacement of just under 12,160 tons, according to the Navy.

That the SSN(X)'s width would be greater than that of the Virginia class would also be well in line with past Navy statements about this future design, dating back to the first public disclosure of its plans for these submarines in 2018, at which time the service described the notional design as Seawolf-like. The beam, or widest point, of those advanced attack submarines, which have seen been modified and reconfigured to be better equipped to carry out intelligence-gathering missions and other specialized activities, is approximately 40 feet, while that of the Virginia class is just 34 feet. Previous reports have indicated that the Columbias will have a beam of 43 feet.

A wider design could allow for the insertion of additional sound-dampening features between the inner hull, where the submarine's systems are and where its crew works, and the outer hull. Reducing the acoustic signature of any submarine is important for making it harder for opponents to detect and track, which, in turn, makes it more survivable.

Of course, the size of the inner hull could also be increased, which would provide added space for various kinds of equipment and weapons. This could also make it easier to integrate future technologies and capabilities, such as the ability to deploy and recover unmanned underwater vehicles.

It's worth noting that the Seawolfs, as originally designed, were dedicated hunter-killers meant to engage hostile ships and submarines and have eight torpedo tubes, along with the ability to carry up to 50 Mk 48 heavyweight torpedoes or torpedo tube-launched Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles. By comparison, the existing blocks of the more multi-mission focused Virginias have just four torpedo tubes and have a standard loadout of 37 torpedoes, though they do also have Vertical Launch System cells to fire Tomahawks.

A 2018 report from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) said that the Navy was, at that time, targeting an SSN(X) design that would be able to carry up to 62 torpedoes or other torpedo tube-launched weapons, including anti-ship missiles, such as the UGM-84 Harpoon, as well as future anti-ship cruise missile weapons, and would not necessarily have a vertical launch capability at all.

"Specifically, the Navy indicates that the next-generation attack submarine should be faster, stealthier, and able to carry more torpedoes than the Virginia class – similar to the Seawolf class submarine," CBO's report said of the projected design as a whole. "CBO therefore assumed that the SSN(X) would be a Seawolf-sized SSN, which displaces about 9,100 tons when submerged, and would have an all-new design in keeping with the Navy's description of it as a 'fast, lethal, next-generation attack submarine.'"

It also makes good sense that the companies working with the Navy now on SSN(X), such as BWX Technologies, would be looking to leverage any features from the Columbia class design that could offer improved performance and increased stealthiness for the SSN(X). This all raises the distinct possibility that the Navy's future attack submarine could have a shortened derivative of the Columbia hullform at its core, but one optimized for the hunter-killer mission rather than nuclear deterrence patrols.

That being said, attack and ballistic missile submarines have very different mission sets with very different general performance requirements. The former needs speed and maneuverability to hunt, while the latter is expected to cruise at

lower speeds for extended periods of time while endeavoring to stay undetected at all costs. As such, the SSN(X) could easily have a markedly different configuration even if shares a significant portion of its hull and subsystems design with the Columbia class.

In addition, there have been discussions about developing a Large Payload Submarine, also derived from the Columbia, as something of a successor to the four Ohio class submarines converted into guided missile boats, which also have significant additional multi-mission capabilities that you can read about in more detail in this past War Zone feature. Any significant additional commonality between the Large Payload Submarine and SSN(X) might also raise the possibility of potentially merging the two designs.

No matter what, the SSN(X) design, and the requirements driving it, are likely to evolve, at least to some degree, in the future. The Navy is still very early in the process of crafting this submarine, requesting a very small \$1 million for the project in the research and development portion of its most recent budget request for the 2021 Fiscal Year.

There also remain very real questions about how the Navy plans to budget for the design and construction of a new class of advanced and potentially very expensive attack submarines together with its other priorities. The service had run into similar issues with the Seawolves and, together with general defense spending drawdowns following the end of the Cold War, ended up only buying three of those submarines. The first-in-class USS Seawolf and its sister USS Connecticut both cost \$6 billion in the end, while the Jimmy Carter, which, as already mentioned, is a unique subclass unto itself, was even more expensive.

They remain the costliest attack submarines ever built anywhere in the world. However, their advanced capabilities, including their especially good performance while operating under thick ice, such as in the Arctic region, mean they are in very high demand within the Navy.

All of this also comes as the Navy is now pushing a proposal to expand the size of its overall fleet to 500 ships and submarines, up from less than 300 now, by 2045, another questionably ambitious plan that you can read about more in these past War Zone pieces.

Still, the Navy is clearly very committed to its new attack submarine plans, at least at present, which it feels are critical to countering expanding and increasingly active Russian and Chinese submarine fleets, as well as other naval developments in both of those countries. China has been on a naval construction blitz in the past few years, including the stunningly rapid construction of large capital ships, including aircraft carriers, amphibious assault ships, and destroyers, as well as various submarines.

"The advantage we have in the undersea is an advantage that we need to not only maintain, but we need to expand. I want to own the undersea for forever because I know that I can be really lethal from the undersea," Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Mike Gilday said in October, according to USNI News. "When you think attack boat, you're thinking, that can move around the timing and tempo of an operational commander's need to deliver ordinance on target in a timely fashion. And so it's got to be a fast sub as well."

As it stands now, the Navy's next class of attack submarine is set to be even larger and far more advanced than the Navy's prized Seawolf class, which remains among the most capable submarines in the world.

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