

COLUMBUS BASE SUBMARINE VETERANS

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September 2014



The Green Board



ALL SEAS ARE NAVIGABLE

Columbus Base Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS)

This says it all.....this is why we do what we do.



Our sweet patient Elody became an honorary submariner last week! A big thanks to the Columbus Base of US Submarine Veterans and Wade Kiger, USN Senior Chief for visiting with their Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Program!

From Nationwide Children's Facebook page.



Tolling of the Boats



USS S-5 (SS-110) Lost on 1 September 1920 off the Delaware Capes. All the crew escaped through a hole cut in the hull in the tiller room.



USS S-51 (SS-162) Lost on 25 September 1925 with the loss of 32 men when it was sunk after a collision with the SS City of Rome off Block Island, Rhode Island.



USS Grayling (SS-209) Lost with all hands (76 men) to unknown causes on 9 September 1943 when it was sunk in or near Tablas Strait, Republic of the Philippines.



USS Cisco (SS-290) Lost with all hand (76 men) on 28 September 1943 during a Japanese air and surface attack in the Sulu Sea.

“Sailor rest your oar.”

OUR CREED

“ To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.”

Commander's Corner

By Jim Tolson



You will have to look in the Green Board or on the Columbus Base web site for the pictures of our trip to Nationwide Children's Hospital for the Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) September activity. Wade Kiger met a young lady that may be a future sonar operator. Thanks to Bob McDaniel, Tim Barker and Wade Kiger for supporting this rewarding activity.

Welcome to our newest member Mike Milenovic, FTB2 (SS). His qual boat is USS Simon Bolivar (SSBN-641). His schedule may allow him to be at the October meeting.

As you may know by now, Cmdr. Youtt completed his tour on USS Columbus and was relieved of command by Cmdr. Albert Alarcon. Sounds like Geoff Durbin has already met the new skipper, so we'll look forward to a report on his USS Columbus visit.

Here is a link to USS Columbus getting underway in February 2014, <http://youtu.be/hPZs0J71kic>
Here is another link of USS Columbus arriving in Yokosuka in May 2014, <http://youtu.be/Khu5rgdy5Ck> Can you smell the sea air?

Thanks to Rick Freeman for refinishing the USS Columbus commissioning plaque. It will look great hanging in the Submarine Museum.

Fall is here and so is our final Highway Cleanup October 11. Wade Kiger has done a great job leading this activity this year.

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Activities

- Oct 4, 2014 Columbus Base Monthly Meeting at American Legion Leasure-Blackston Post 239, 700 Morning Street, Worthington, OH 43085.
1200 social & sea story hour, 1300 meeting
- Oct 11, 2014 Highway Cleanup starting at 0830 at Don Gentile, American Legion Post #532, 1571 Demorest Road, Columbus, OH 43228
- Nov 1, 2014 Columbus Base Monthly Meeting at American Legion Leasure-Blackston Post 239, 700 Morning Street, Worthington, OH 43085.
1200 social & sea story hour, 1300 meeting
- Nov 7, 2014 Columbus Veterans Day Parade, noon step off. Same route as last year through downtown Columbus.
- Nov 9, 2014 Logan Veterans Day Parade
- Nov 23, 2014 Gahanna Festival of Lights Parade with Sea Cadets
- Dec 6, 2014 Christmas Dinner / Fire Fighters for Kids Toy Collection, VFW Hilliard



COMMANDER ALBERT ALARCON, USN
USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)



Commander Albert A. Alarcon is the son of retired Navy Chief Petty Officer Carlos Alarcon and Pacita Alarcon. A native of the Philippines, he was raised in Lancaster, California and graduated from the University of Southern California in 1996 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. He earned a Master of Arts degree in Management from Hawaii Pacific University in 2002.

At sea, he has served as a Division Officer on USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771), Engineer Officer on USS PITTSBURGH (SSN 720), and Executive Officer on USS GREENEVILLE (SSN 772). His ships have deployed to the Arabian Gulf, Western Pacific, and U.S. Southern Command Areas of Responsibility.

Ashore, he has served as the Assistant Force Nuclear Power Officer on the staff of Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Submarine Squadron ONE Engineer and Material Officer; and most recently as the Special Assistant for Enlisted Plans, Policy, and Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program Training to the Deputy Director of Naval Reactors.

Commander Alarcon is most proud of the unit awards that his shipmates have earned, which include the Battle Efficiency Award and four Meritorious Unit Commendations. His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy Commendation Medal (five awards), and Navy Achievement Medal (three awards).



Cmdr. Youtt welcoming Cmdr. Alarcon



Cmdr. Youtt piped ashore



Cmdr. Alarcon piped aboard

USS Columbus Holds Change of Command

PEARL HARBOR (NNS) -- USS Columbus (SSN 762) held a change of command ceremony Aug. 26 at the submarine piers on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Cmdr. Albert Alarcon relieved Cmdr. David Youtt as commanding officer.

Youtt expressed how proud he is of having had the opportunity to be in command of the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine and working with some of the best Sailors in the submarine force.

"Thank you for your professionalism, thank you to the Columbus families for your sacrifice and support, and thank you to the crew of the USS Columbus for your hard work and dedication over the past three years," said Youtt.

In command for more than two years, Youtt maintained his ship and crew to the highest level of combat readiness. During Youtt's tenure in command of Columbus, more than 115 new submariners earned their warfare qualifications, or "dolphins," the team executed more than 550 days at sea and steamed more than 115,000 nautical miles. Youtt deployed to the Western Pacific twice and conducted several missions vital to national security.

During the ceremony, Youtt was awarded a Legion of Merit for his successes in command of Columbus from September 2011 to August 2014.

The ceremony's guest speaker, Rear Adm. William Merz, commander of Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command, praised Youtt for an amazing job in command.

"Dave, you have clearly done a superb job," said Merz.

Merz said he looks forward to seeing him in his next assignment as submarine operations officer for Task Force 74 out of Yokosuka, Japan.

"I could not imagine a more perfect leader for this incredibly important position,"

During the ceremony, Youtt was awarded a Legion of Merit for his successes in command of Columbus from September 2011 to August 2014.

As Alarcon assumed command of Columbus, he thanked Youtt for turning over a very capable ship and a highly loyal crew.

"Columbus has sustained superior performance under Capt. Youtt's leadership, and I am truly honored to share in our ship's legacy of excellence," said Alarcon.

Alarcon addressed the crew on their future under his command.

"Our job is to always be ready to answer our nation's calling," said Alarcon. "Somewhere across the ocean, there is another crew waiting for the opportunity to compromise our freedom and our way of life. But little do they know that the bus will always be ready to respond. Gentlemen, we have work to do, let's make our country proud."

USS Columbus is the 51st Los Angeles-class submarine and the 12th improved version of this class, which includes a vertical launch system for Tomahawk cruise missiles and an improved hull design for under-ice operations. She completed a post-shipyard availability in June 1994 in Groton, Connecticut, after initial construction and shakedown operations. In September 1994, the ship conducted an inter-fleet transfer to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and joined the U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Force. [For more news from Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, visit www.csp.navy.mil](http://www.csp.navy.mil) and navy.mil/local/subpac/.

Kaps (SS) 4 Kids (SS)
With Columbus Base Members at Nationwide Childrens Hospital
September 18, 2014



Bob McDaniel with Heidi Snow
(Coordinator)



Tim Barker and Bob McDaniel
Setting up the room



Honorary Submariner Certificate



Jim, Bob, Wade and Tim



Wade with a future Submariner



COLUMBUS BASE MEETING MINUTES 13 SEPTEMBER 2014

Call to Order:

1200 – Commander, Jim Tolson called the meeting to order. Dave Creekmore, COB led us in the salute to the flag. Commander Jim Tolson conducted the invocation. Tolling of the lost boats was conducted by Base Commander Jim Tolson and COB, Dave Creekmore. Welcome to all by Commander Jim Tolson. There were 16 members and guests present.

Secretary's Report:

July report is in the Green Board and no corrections were submitted. I received Two Thank You letters, from Chalmers P. Wylie Ambulatory Care Center for our coffee donations.

Treasurer's Report:

Jim Koogler reported on the status of the Treasury through the end of August 2014.

Webmaster's Report:

Cliff Dodson reported no known problems with the website.

Chaplain's Report:

Wade Kiger reported he had been hospitalized for 4 days last week for pancreatitis but is doing well. Tom Baughman's wife is experiencing kidney failure.

Membership Report/Introductions:

Jim Tolson reported that Mike Milenovic, USS Simon Bolivar (SSBN-641), FTB2 (SS), qual year 1987 is a new member.

Committee Reports:

Activities-

- September 18, 1300, Kaps for Kids, Bob McDaniel scheduled but due to children potential for infection it may be delayed. Email will be sent Wednesday evening to confirm a go for Thursday.
- October 4 – Noon, Base Meeting, American Legion Leasure-Blackston 239
700 Morning Street, Worthington, OH 43085
- October 4 – 1800 Navy Ball, Aladdin Shrine Temple, Contact Udo Maroscher
- October 11 - Highway Cleanup Wade Kiger, 0830 Don Gentile,
Demorest Road, Columbus OH 43228

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

None

For the good of the Order:

USSVI Insurance Policy overview – Jim Koogler presented a comparison of National policy and our current base policy for information.

Meeting with Central Crossing NJROTC and contribution – Jim Koogler provided Columbus Blanket Raffle and donations totaling \$552.00 to the NJROTC fund to go to the Pearl Harbor Memorial in December.

USS Columbus SSN-762 Change of Command – CDR Albert Alarcon – Jim Koogler reported that CDR Alarcon is extremely positive about our support for USS Columbus and supporting the NJROTC Central Crossing invitation to the Pearl Harbor Memorial.

50/50 drawing – Randy McWilliams returned split to the base

Tim Barker – USS Silversides video Bill McCorkle – Buckeyes

Bill Myer – Coffee Cake Rick Freeman – Navy Mug

Rick Freeman – Cheesecake Jim Koogler – Muffin Loaf

Lee Mather – Sandwiches Woody Cook – Navy T-shirt

Don Crinkley – Pen Bob McDaniel – Pen

Tim Barker – Wounded Warrior Calendar

Announcement of the next meeting:

Next Columbus Base meeting

October 4, 2014

1200 Social Hour

1300 Meeting

American Legion Leasure-Blackston Post 239

Morning Street,

Worthington, OH 43085

Closing prayer (Benediction) was given by Base Commander, Jim Tolson

Adjournment of meeting – Commander, Jim Tolson

New Members

Mike Milenovic

Qualified on the USS Simon Bolivar SSBN 641, served from 1987-1991. Resides in Pleasantville Ohio with his wife Tina.

Ben Williams

Qualified on the USS John Adams SSBN 620, served from 1978-1984. Also served on The USS Nathan Hale SSBN 623. Wife is Diane.

Welcome aboard

Navy Humor

THE FIVE MOST DANGEROUS THINGS IN THE US NAVY"

A Seaman saying "I learned this in Boot Camp..."

A Petty Officer saying "Trust me, sir..."

An Ensign saying "Based on my experience..."

A Lieutenant saying "I was just thinking..."

A Chief chuckling, "Watch this shit..."

Submitted by Bob Holt



Upcoming Events

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|--|
| Oct. | 4th | 1100 | Monthly meeting at the Leasure-Blackston Post 239 |
| Oct. | 11th | 0830 | Highway cleanup, meet at the Don Gentile Post, Demorest Rd |
| Nov. | 1st | 1200 | Monthly meeting at the Leasure-Blackston Post 239 |

Let's Go Buckeyes, beat the Hoosiers!!!
You could win tickets to the game!

Central Crossing High School NJROTC is sponsoring a raffle for 2 tickets (in Section 13B) to the OSU/Indiana game on Saturday November 22, 2014. Tickets are \$5.00 each, or 5 tickets for \$20.00. Drawing will be Saturday November 15, 2014. Winner does NOT have to be present at the drawing... you will be contacted and arrangements made. All proceeds will be used to help fund the NJROTC Pearl Harbor Day participation in Hawaii in December 2014.

As mentioned above, the cost is \$5.00 per ticket, or 5 tickets for \$20.00. If you're interested, just let me know. We can meet and exchange tickets/money, or I can fill out tickets for you and mail you the stubs or email a scan of the stubs... and you can mail me a check (address below). I trust you... after all, we're shipmates! You can also call me at 614-620-9445 to purchase.

Send check or money order (payable to CCHS NJROTC Boosters) to:

Columbus Base USSVI
c/o Jim Koogler
2402 Lyncross Street
Grove City, Ohio
43123-8438



DSCC Compound.

The installations new main gate entrance at Yearling Road will officially open at 0001, 29 Sep 2014. The Broad street gate will close to all vehicle traffic at 2400, 28 Sep 2014, and now be designated as the Pedestrian Gate. Also the Yearling Road South Gate will close at 1800, 26 Sep 2014. For more information see the attached link.

Contact: Richard Curry DS-FCS, x692-3722

des.security.manager@dla.mil

Info supplied by Wade Kiger

Boomers On Patrol For 50+ Years Complete 4,000 Patrols

Navy Live Blog, Sep 19

Today the nation commemorates the 4000th strategic deterrent submarine patrol with dual ceremonies at SUBASE Kings Bay, GA and SUBASE Bangor, WA. While all U.S. submarines have nuclear propulsion, the SSBNs (Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear), nicknamed “Boomers,” are capable of carrying ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads.

Since 1960, our sailors have silently patrolled the vast waters of the earth safeguarding the security of the United States and our allies by deterring conflict with potential adversaries. The dual-coast celebration of the 4,000th patrol honors the Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, ship maintainers, shore support services, ship designers, ship builders and technical organizations that successfully teamed up over the past five decades to achieve this milestone.

Post-Cold War Relevance

The U.S. monopoly on nuclear weapons ended when Russia detonated a nuclear device in 1949. The Russians then put the first SSBN to sea and we responded with GEORGE WASHINGTON class SSBNs. Since then, many have worked tirelessly to keep our strategic submarines, armed with sophisticated nuclear armed missiles, always at sea where only those on board know their exact location. On patrol for months at a time, our SSBNs ensure no country will ever threaten our survival without knowing with certainty we will respond at the time and place of the President’s choosing with credible, devastating combat power. While our strategic nuclear forces are a critical element of our nation's deterrent strategy, it's important to understand our strategy is broader than nuclear deterrence and encompasses all elements of national power. It also includes intelligence, dedicated sensors, nuclear command, control and communication (NC3), missile defense, cyberspace and space capabilities, and of course, an effective campaign to orient our capabilities to deter strategic attack and assure our allies.

Staying The Course

The U.S. nuclear triad consists of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, strategic bombers and the SSBN. While each leg of our triad is unique and complementary, the SSBN is our most survivable. The SSBN force is also responsible for a majority of the nuclear weapons within the U.S. arsenal. That alone highlights the importance of the sea-based portion of our deterrent strategy. With weapons that allow us to strike from almost anywhere in the world, the stealth design of our submarines makes finding an SSBN an almost impossible task. Our regular and routine missile flight tests show that our nuclear deterrence capability works and provide reassurance to our allies and warning to our potential adversaries. The shipyards and maintenance facilities streamline and align efforts to support non-stop production work. Weapon facilities safely maintain and load our arsenal onto SSBNs. Marines provide security around the clock. The Coast Guard provides security escorts during surfaced transits into and out of port. Squadrons and support commands assist and certify the submarine crews. And finally, but most important, the SSBN Sailors man these warships continuously, operating our existing fleet and getting it right every day. Their efforts keep our SSBNs at sea where they are the most safe, secure, and effective.

Though the Cold War is long over, the need for SSBNs to patrol the seas has not waned. As the global environment becomes more challenging, our strategic forward presence will not only continue to defend the homeland, but will assure our allies and deter those who might otherwise threaten us. As we commemorate the 4,000th patrol, we celebrate the success of every class of SSBN and honor the men and women of the force who are at the ready, 24/7, supporting USSTRATCOM’s mission of strategic deterrence – protecting this Nation and our allies every day.



USS Grayback

Max. speed (surfaced)	14 knots
Max. speed (batteries)	13 knots
Cruising speed	4-6 knots
Surface propulsion	Diesel-electric
Displacement (surfaced)	2,768 tons
Displacement (submerged)	3,638 tons
Crew	12 officers/77 enlisted
Armament	16 21-inch torpedos

At 0200 hours on June 3, 1972, America's last POW rescue attempt began when Lt. j.g. Mark Lutz guided a Mark 6 swimmer delivery vehicle (SDV) away from the submarine *Grayback*, submerged just outside the mouth of North Vietnam's Red River. Lutz was to deliver two U.S. Navy SEALs, Lieutenant Melvin Dry and CWO Philip Martin, to a small island approximately 4,000 yards away to await the arrival of two U.S. POWs who were to escape their camp by boat. It was a daring secret mission made possible by the only U.S. Navy submarine capable of covertly delivering Marines or Special Forces to an enemy shore.

Commissioned in March 1958 as the lead unit of Regulus cruise missile carrying submarines, the advent of Polaris missiles led to *Grayback's* modification and 1968 re-commissioning as an amphibious personnel transport. It received the designation LPSS-574 (for Submarine, Landing, Personnel). The alterations included lengthening the hull to accommodate two auxiliary fuel tanks forward of the engine room, extending the sail by 10 feet and converting the missile magazines on the bow into a dry deck shelter capable of embarking up to 67 troops and two SDVs. The shelter had a special bulkhead to enable underwater launch and recovery of the troops and SDVs. It also had a decompression chamber installed in the starboard missile hangar location. However, SEALs reported that the shelter's designation as "dry" was at best an exaggeration as it was always damp and humid. Another negative aspect of its design was the air venting, which routed air from the sub's head through the shelters when the submarine snorkeled to re-charge its batteries.

The hull expansion and alterations reduced *Grayback's* speeds by about 2 knots. Although slow when submerged, it was extremely quiet when operating on batteries. Its comparatively small vertical size made it ideal for operations in the relatively shallow South China Sea and coastal waters off Vietnam.

Most of *Grayback's* missions during and after Vietnam remain classified. It reportedly conducted its first covert mission of the war in 1971, but the recent release of details about Operation Thunderhead ensures that it will be best known for its key role in that POW rescue attempt, even though it failed. Unexpected currents and poor navigational information precluded Lieutenant Lutz reaching the island before the SDV's batteries ran out. The SEALs had to abandon it and be rescued by helicopter, sinking the SDV before they departed. Lieutenant Dry was killed while trying to return to *Grayback* by helicopter, and the rescue mission had to be aborted.

Grayback remained active in Asian waters for another 12 years before its aging equipment and a lack of spare parts led to its 1984 decommissioning. It was sunk as a target off Subic Bay, Philippines, on April 13, 1986. However, its activities during and after the Vietnam War convinced the Navy of the need to retain *Grayback's* capabilities. The development of Detachable Dry Deck shelters began in the 1970s, and the first Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered submarines were modified to carry them in 1987. *Grayback* may be gone, but its capability to support special operations forces lives on in the design specifications and construction of every U.S. Navy submarine built since the 1990s.

Submitted by Bob Holt



October Birthdays

Richard Morin	10-02
Karla Tolson	10-02
Bob Wells	10-05
Cliff Dodson	10-09
Bill Anderson	10-22



The Conn

Base commander

Jim Tolson

Vice Commander

Tim Barker

Treasurer

Jim Koogler

Secretary

Woody Cook

Chaplain

Sharon Lloyd / Walt Fleak

COB

Dave Creekmore

Membership Chairman

Jim Tolson

Storekeeper

Frank Lloyd

Web Master

Cliff Dodson

Editor

Jan Creekmore

Activates Chairmen

Remember to bring your donations of coffee, tea and / or hot cocoa to the monthly base meeting. Your donations are very much appreciated by the veterans at the Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Clinic



Editor's Note

If you have comments or articles, please contact the base newsletter editor.

Jan Creekmore at e-mail creek636@columbus.rr.com



Holland Club



Al Albergottie: 1960 USS Blenny SS-324
 John Alexander: 1945, USS Haddock SS-231
 Galin Brady: 1962, USS Swordfish SSN-579
 "Red Downard: 1960, USS Cutlass SS-478
 Bill Dumbauld: 1957, USS Caiman SS-323
 Ed Ellsworth (EP): 1944, USS Blackfin SS-322
 Dick Estell (EP): 1944, USS Scabbardfish SS-397
 Russ Ferguson: 1946, USS Haddo SS-255
 Bob Frier: 1960, USS Menhaden SS-377
 Ben Grimes (EP): 1944, USS Raton SS-270
 "Gus" Hoehl (EP): 1944, USS Flounder SS-251
 Bill Holly (EP): 1957, USS Ray SSR-271
 Gene Horton (EP): 1951, USS Chivo SS-341
 Bernie Kenyon: 1954, USS Hardhead SS-365
 John Leers: 1954, USS Sea Owl SS-405
 "Butch" Leffin: (EP) 1957, USS Hardhead SS-365
 Chuck Martin: 1956, USS Pomfret SS-391
 Lee Mather: 1954, USS Crevalle SS-291
 Bill McCorkle: 1956, USS Dogfish SS-350
 Randy McWilliams: 1963, USS Tiru SS-416
 Bill Meyer: 1963, USS Tigrone SS-419
 "Doc" Morin: 1957, USS Raton SSR-270
 Jim Morton (EP): 1963, USS Baya SS-318
 Joe Murphy (EP): 1947, USS Bugara SS-331
 Angelo Naso: 1963, USS Bluegill SS-242
 Marvin Pastor (EP): 1955, USS Razorback SS-394
 Clem O'Brien: 1944, USS Albacore SS-218
 Dave O'Carroll: 1957, USS Salmon SSR-573
 John Palmer: 1951, USS Guavina SSO-362
 John Pendleton: 1954, USS Toto SS-422
 Phil Philipps (EP): 1949, USS Segundo SS-398
 Bruce Rinehart: 1963, USS Tigrone SS-419
 Ron Rossington: 1954, USS Conger SS-477
 "CO" Smith (EP): 1944, USS Nautilus SS-168
 Denver Smith: 1943, USS Grayling SS-209
 Ken Strahm: 1960, USS Bream SS-243
 Sam Templeton: 1956, USS Trutta SS-42
 George Trace: 1951, USS Caiman SS-323
 Lynn Trump: 1960, USS Sea Cat SS-399
 Ron Waldron: 1953, USS Charr SS-328
 Robert Wells: 1947, USS Capitaine SS-336
 John Woodmansee: 1956, USS Hardhead SS-365

