



March
2015

CORVINA BASE NEWS

Newsletter of the Year Awards

2014 Class 2 First Runner Up
2012 Western Region Class 2 Winner

2013 Western Region Class 2 Winner
2011 Class 1 Honorable Mention

An American Submarine Just Slipped Under the Arctic Ice Page 9



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Denotes a Holland Club Member



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.

We had an excellent turnout for the March Corvina Base business meeting. Thank you all for your attendance.

How about that presentation about Admiral Hyman Rickover by DeDe Salzman? I think it validated some of the rumors we have all heard over the years about the Admiral. Thank you very much DeDe. There were many good comments about your presentation.

Primo Quarisa, with panache, aplomb and a slight bit of trepidation, was the recipient of the PITA medal which was presented by Frank Kenyon, the previous recipient of the notorious bauble in a brief yet auspicious ceremony. Wear it with pride, Primo. After the presentation, Frank Kenyon won the 50/50 drawing, we think for the first time. Maybe transferring the PITA medal brought Frank good luck. Frank donated a substantial portion of his winnings back to the base. Thank you Frank for your generosity and thanks for carrying the PITA distinction for as long as you did. We will always remember you as a PITA recipient.

And now for something on the serious side. Do you have your vaccinations up to date? Many don't know there are now vaccinations for pneumonia and shingles. Neither one of those issues is the slightest bit pleasant. For those of us over fifty they can be even more serious. If you had the chicken pox, you have the virus that can cause shingles already. Shingles can be totally debilitating. Please ask your physician about the suitability of the pneumonia and shingles vaccines for you. Another thing about vaccines. If you have a hankerin' to visit some of your old overseas haunts, maybe Naples or Subic, it would be to your benefit to check with your physician before you hop on the boat or airplane. Remember, some of the vaccines recommended for those traveling to strange and exotic ports of call take a bit of time to become fully effective. Stay healthy. We all like to see your smiling faces at our various events.

During the April meeting, Bill Conklin will give a presentation on the Kaps for Kids program. Bill, along with his trusty crew consisting of Primo Quarisa and Paul Young, have been laying out the course for the K4K program. I think it will be interesting.

Also, during the April meeting, we will be inducting several of our crewmembers into the Holland Club. Please try to be in attendance to show these Submarine Sailors, who have been qualified for fifty years, the honors which they truly deserve.



Who needed ice for their tea?

Base Officers

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March Meeting Minutes



The meeting was called to order by Commander Wiley at 1400 as COB Heaps sounded three blasts on the klaxon. An Invocation by Chaplain Paul Allen, the Pledge of Allegiance, reading of the USSVI Creed, Tolling of the Bell and moment of silent prayer for all departed submariners, friends, shipmates and family followed in their usual order. There were 33 members and guests present.

New and prospective members introduced themselves, followed by all members present introducing themselves to the group.

DeDe Salzman gave an informative, interesting and amusing presentation of her memories working with and for Admiral Hyman Rickover back in 'The Day'.

The minutes of the February meeting were accepted as published in the current Newsletter.

Vice-Commander Salzman had no significant news to report.

Secretary Pete Akerson reports that the base received no mail requiring action during the month of February.

Treasurer Robert Talbert reports that the Base Treasury still contains adequate funds for all known present and future financial obligations.

Chaplain Paul Allen gave a report on a private local service for member Bert Skidmore who recently departed on Eternal Patrol.

Webmaster Norm Peterson reports all is well with the website/Newsletter and he is pleased with the reaction to the new Newsletter format.

COB Bob Heaps announced that information regarding the March 20 Lunch Bunch gathering will be promulgated by e-mail. Cont. on next page:

Cont. from page 3:

Recruiter Don Brown reports his efforts at signing up new members are continuing with his usual diligence and determination.

There was no Members-at-Large report.

Commander Wiley announced that member Bill Conklin has agreed to Chair the Corvina Base Kaps-4-Kids program and will give a presentation on the program at the April meeting. Volunteers will be needed to assist with the program.

Commander Wiley has found insurance that will cover the Base Assets at the Fernley Cemetery for an annual premium of \$250. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to purchase this coverage.

Commander Wiley reminded us that now is the time for the usual Base Donation of \$500 to the Veteran's Guest House. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to make the donation.

After a brief recess for restroom visits and ticket sales, the monthly 50/50 Raffle/drawing was held with the following results: Booze – Ken McCray Flashlights – Mercedes Parsons Cookies – Ken Anderson My apologies to all members, but the remainder of the results were lost or misplaced by me sometime between the meeting and now. I promise to be more conscientious in my recording and posting of the results for future meetings.

After a Benediction by Chaplain Allen, The meeting closed at 1452 with the sounding of three blasts on the klaxon.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pete Akerson, Secretary



Treasurers

Report

- All account balances are available at Base meetings.
- Deposits:
 - \$ 100.00 - Annual dues 2015
 - 40.00 - Booster Club
 - 86.00 – Raffle
 - 50.00 – Sale of items
 - 19.00 - USSVICF Memorial fund
 - =====
 - \$ 295.00
- Checks issued:
 - \$ 160.00 - USSVI Life & 2015 Dues
 - 500.00 – Veterans Guest House
 - 125.00 – War Veterans Memorial Association, Quarterly donation
 - 250.00 – Capital Indemnity Insurance
 - =====
 - \$1035.00

SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

Harry Wellman CS1 (SS)	Harry Sembagh EN3 (SS)
Melvin Phillips ET1 (SS)	Boyd Tieslau TM3 (SS)
Russel Scofield TMCS (SS)	Robert Rich EN1 (SS)
Donald Campbell TM2 (SS)	Francis Signore CSC (SS)
Harold Lister EN3 (SS)	Stanley Blair ICC (SS)
James Avitt RM1 (SS)	Richard Burdette LT. (SS)
Charles H. Massie TM1 (SS)	Wayne F. Garrett ET2 (SS)
Elvin L. Morrison FTC (SS)	Larry Garrelts ETCS(SS)
Erick Bjorum CWO(SS)	Melvin Schreckengost ET2
Norm Snyder EM1(SS)	Charles Hyman MM2(SS)
James T. Wright III	Gordon Lane RMC(SS)
Chester E. MacDowell TMI (SS)	Edwin V. Schalbert TMC (SS)
Jerry D. Noma MM2(SS)	Richard Ekenberg , ETC(SS)
Gerald Stratton ENC(SS)	Richard C. Barringer SOSN(SS)
Lowell Wapelhorst MOMM2(SS)	Jack Quade SMSN(SS)
Bert Skidmore YN2(SS)	



Meetings are held on the first Saturday Of each month at Denny's Coffee Shop, 205 E. Nugget Ave. Sparks NV At 1400 hours.

Chaplains Report

Albert Wedlake Skidmore:

In the February newsletter I wrote about our loss of Corvina Base member Albert Skidmore. A few of the Corvina Base members attended a memorial service and reception in honor of Bert's life. All four of his children were present and as we were ready to leave, Bert Jr., who owns "Intrepid Racing" in Sparks, NV, asked if the Corvina Base would like to have all of his dad's library pertaining to submarines and the US Navy. Bert Sr. had saved many books, "Our Navy" magazines, and a few copies of the New London "Sub Base Gazette" from the 49 and 50 years. Also, several newer books and by the time Corvina Base editor/librarian, Norm Peterson receives all this material it will add up to about 100 pieces.



As I was reading through the "Our Navy" magazines I saw an article titled "The USS Bergall SS-320, "She's Lucky to Still Be Afloat" but no name as to the author and it had to be someone that was familiar with the Bergall because of the sense of humor used to write the article. Corvina Base member and WWII veteran, Bob Lewis, was on the Bergall's 5th and last patrol. Leaving out of Subic Bay, P.I. in June 1945 they first had to contend with a killer typhoon (with winds up to 150 mph) then the Bergall was damaged by an allied placed mine which they triggered. It blew the stern of the Bergall about 3 feet in the air. Bob Lewis, who was asleep in the after torpedo room was thrown up and a big knot was put on his head by a steel

beam. That incident ended their war patrol and Bob was then sent to the USS Sea Devil SS-400 out of Subic Bay.

There is more to this story and other submarines and sailors. Other WWII Corvina Base members were on war patrols in this part of the Pacific Ocean. Lowell Wapelhorst, now deceased, was on the USS Angler SS-240 and part of the rescue of the Bergall on its 2nd patrol. The USS Blackfin SS-322 with Francis Signore, now deceased, who was on all 5 patrols of the Blackfin, plus Harold Lister, now deceased qualified on the Blackfin, Ken McCray, Don Brown, and yours truly, Paul Allen, qualified on the Blackfin in later years. Bill Parsons, on the USS Thresher SS-200 may have even set the mine earlier in the war that the Bergall triggered. Herbert "Doc" Starmer on the USS Cobia SS-245 was in one of the wolfpacks with the Bergall and also laid some mines. Raoul "Bill" Noland on the USS Trutta SS-421 that encountered the same typhoon as the Bergall. Frank Kenyon on the USS Skate SS-305 who experienced the loss of the USS Bonefish SS-223 when it disappeared off the radar screen. Jack Quade, now deceased, on the 5th patrol of the USS Plaice SS-390 and Del Schwichtenberg as the COB on the USS Sandlance SS-381. One last word about Albert Skidmore is that the cartoons he drew of which several were published, including two on pages of the Bergall story. His daughter, Raquel Johnson, from San Francisco, said her dad inspired her in the graphic arts profession she is in today.

Scripture: Psalm 107:29-31 – He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and He guided them to their desired haven. Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men.

Prayer: Father God, we give thanks for these men that went down in the sea on submarines, willing to give their lives if need-be that America could remain a free country with liberty for all. Bless these men and their families, including all the Corvina Base families, O Lord! Amen!

Paul Allen, Corvina Base Chaplain

Street Smart

By Dan Moran

Hi sailors and friends. Most of my time as a Police Officer and Detective was spent arresting the **cowards** that mug, and assault older women and men.



The cowards must have the advantage. I recall of twice responding to "calls for help" that had a different ending. The first one occurred about 11:00 AM, my partner and I exited our car and could hear someone screaming HELP, HELP me. We ran up the stairs to the third floor, stopped short and saw this young dirt bag. He was the one that was calling for help. I saw that he had a knife in his hand. An older man was squeezing the dirt bag's hand with his hand. He said to me that he (the dirt bag) demanded his money, and came at him with a knife in his hand. He told me that he just grabbed his hand and was holding it so that the police could see the knife. The mugger was screaming. I slapped his face and asked him what had happened. He said that he was going to rob the old bastard. He then screamed louder, the old man was smiling at me. Then he released his grip. I garbed the knife and arrested him. The next day in court, the Judge asked me to approach the bench. I told him what happened, and that the victim was a retired brick layer. After a time, I learned that the dirt bag did heavy time. The Judge was the same age as the victim.

The dirt bag had many broken bones in his hand, Justice served.

I was asked to investigate a man that was slashed on his mid section. He was being treated in the Hospital emergency room. I knew the dirt bag; I had trouble with him in the past. He told me that he was walking down the street and for no reason a man (he gave me a description). Turned and cut him with a sword. He then wiped the blood off the sword on my pants. "I thought he was going to kill me."

Cont. next page:

1954



Joseph Casten
EM3 (SS)
USS Baya
AGSS-318

1955



Richard Dentino
EM3 (SS)
USS Tigrone
SS-419

1958



Donald Johnson
RMC (SS)
USS Charr
SS-328

1958



Thomas Bonner
IC22 (SS)
USS Bonita
SSK-3

1959



Gerald Baer
ENFN (SS)
USS Charr
SS-328

14

"There is no reason for any individual to have a computer in his home." -- Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC), in a talk given to a 1977 World Future Society meeting in Boston



I never knew that!

'A SHOT OF WHISKEY'

In the old west a .45 cartridge for a six-gun cost 12 cents, so did a glass of whiskey. If a cowhand was low on cash he would often give the bartender a cartridge in exchange for a drink. This became known as a "shot" of whiskey.

THE WHOLE NINE YARDS

American fighter planes in WW2 had machine guns that were fed by a belt of cartridges. The average plane held belts that were 27 feet (9 yards) long. If the pilot used up all his ammo he was said to have given it the whole nine yards.

BUYING THE FARM

This is synonymous with dying. During WW1 soldiers were given life insurance policies worth \$5,000. This was about the price of an average farm so if you died you "bought the farm" for your survivors.

IRON CLAD CONTRACT

This came about from the ironclad ships of the Civil War. It meant something so strong it could not be broken.

Cont. from page 6:

I then went to the crime scene. I noticed a woman looking at me from her window sill. She nodded at me. I went up to talk with her. She told me "off the record" what happened. She told me that an older man with a cane was walking down the street. She saw the dirt bag grab the man's arm and pull him around. He yelled "give me your money." The man pulled the cover off his cane and swiped the "shit head" with whatever it was, it looked silver. The old man picked up something that the dirt bag dropped. He then turned and walked away. The "shit head" (as the witness called him) started calling for help.

I asked on the record what happened. She said she heard and saw two kids fighting.

Case closed, my boss was very happy. He later told me that someone called him, and told him what happened also.

A beautiful woman, Audrey Hepburn once said nothing is **impossible**. The word itself says "I'm possible"!

Remove a splinter easily by applying a paste of baking soda and water. Then waiting several minutes for the splinter to pop out of the skin.

Keep the wind at your back, have fun.
Dan Moran

Veterans Guest House

USSVI Corvina Base continues to support Nevada's Veterans with our donation to the Veterans Guest House. On March 11, 2015, Dennis Wiley, Commander, and Stephen Salzman, Vice Commander met with Noreen Leary, Chief Executive Officer, to present the donation. This was followed by a tour of this wonderful facility. The Veterans Guest House provides U.S. military service Veterans and their families with caring support during times of medical need



Corvina Base Booster Club

Dennis Wiley
Peter Akerson
Gloria Allen
Don Brown
Dell & Mary Ellen Schwichdenberg
Frank Kenyon

Submarine Museum in Groton, Ct.



The two rings show the size of the Holland and the Ohio

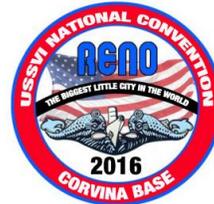


USS Nautilus SSN-571

Paul and I visited Bert Skidmore's son at his business in Sparks, Intrepid Racing. We picked up some books and received a very interesting tour of his shop.



USSVI 2016 CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT By Terry Bolen



Our 2016 Convention Planning Committee latest meeting was held at the Grand SierrResort on Saturday, March 14, 2015 form 9:00 – 11:00 AM.

Members present : Dennis Wiley, Leif Larsen, Don Brown, Paul Young, Diane Hogan, Mark Hogan, Bill Conklin, Bob Heaps and Terry Bolen. Absent: Norm Peterson, Pete Akerson

Important items discussed include:

- USSVI 2016 Convention Website should be up and running by the middle of April. - Norm Peterson
- Convention letterhead and envelopes will be printed soon. -Leif Larsen & Frank Ely
- Meal menus for Holland Club Breakfast, Men's and Women's Luncheons and the Awards Banquet have been finalized and approved. - Dennis Wiley, Bob Heaps & Don Brown
- Three Tours have been approved and will be finalized by Don Brown.
- Tickets for the meal functions have been selected and are ready for printing. Leif Larsen & Frank Ely

Our next Planning Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2015 at the Grand Sierra Resort. Room will be announced by April 4, 2015.

Terry L. Bolen
Chairman USSVI 2016 Convention

Birthday's in April



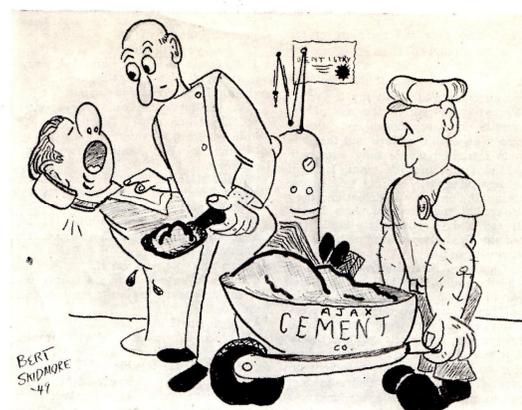
8 Gene Murphy
8 Larry Shipman



"Sure I can see your loyalty and patriotism . . . but the Navy ain't that broke."



"Blast it, Millie, if you'd buy a few things every day, this wouldn't happen!"



"Big one, Doc?"



An American Submarine Just Slipped

Under the Arctic Ice

USS Seawolf's missions and technology are secret

Sometime [apparently in August](#), the U.S. Navy's nuclear-powered attack submarine USS *Seawolf* eased out of the port of Bremerton, in Washington State, on what was probably her fifth or sixth deployment since commissioning in 1997.

A month later the U.S. Sixth Fleet, in charge of ships in European waters, posted a series of photos to the Website Flickr [depicting](#) the U.S. ambassador to Norway, Barry White, touring the 350-foot-long *Seawolf* pier-side at Haakonsværn naval base ... in southern Norway. Thousands of miles from Washington State.

How *Seawolf* got to Norway—and what she might have done en route—offer a rare and tantalizing glimpse into some of the most secretive quarters of the most poorly understood aspects of American naval power.

For it seems *Seawolf* traveled to Norway along a path rarely taken by any vessel: *underneath the Arctic ice*.

Silent service

The Navy doesn't like to talk about its submarines. After all, a sub's biggest advantage is its stealth. And of the sailing branch's roughly 70 undersea boats, *Seawolf* and her two sister vessels *Connecticut* and *Jimmy Carter* are among the most secretive.

Google the names of any of the Navy's *Los Angeles*-class submarines, the most numerous in the fleet, and you'll get hits: Navy statements and photo releases, the occasional news article. But try to look up *Seawolf*-class vessels and you'll get next to nothing.

Her official Website [is blocked](#). The last time *Seawolf*'s exterior appeared in a Navy photo was 2009.

That's because *Seawolf* and her sisters are special. Newer, bigger, faster and more heavily armed than standard attack submarines, the nearly \$3-billion-per-copy *Seawolfs* have been fitted with hundreds of millions of dollars in unique equipment and are assigned to their own special squadron in Washington State.

They deploy for months at a time often without any public notice. The wife of a *Seawolf* sailor described the boat as "[unpredictable](#)."

A steady drumbeat of Navy citations is mute testimony to secret combat missions performed with apparent success. In 2007 *Seawolf*'s 140-man crew earned a Meritorious Unit Commendation—roughly equivalent to a Bronze Star earned in combat—and in 2009 followed that up with a Navy Unit Commendation, equal to a Silver Star.

We know what the submarine force *as a whole* does for a living: gather intelligence, launch cruise missiles at terrorists and rogue states, send commandos ashore for recon and raids. But we don't know which of these missions to attribute to *Seawolf*.

Nor can we say for sure exactly *where* *Seawolf* plies her shadowy trade. She's normally assigned to the Pacific Fleet, but even that can change in a pinch.

Puzzle pieces

Here's what we *do* know. In March 2011 *Seawolf*'s sister ship *Connecticut* was tapped for the rare honor of operating under the Arctic ice for tests.

Connecticut and the brand-new [Virginia-class sub](#) *New Hampshire* sailed north of Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, for one of the Navy's infrequent "ICEX" exercises, begun after the submarine USS *Nautilus*, in 1958, became the first undersea boat to reach the North Pole.

Connecticut "worked with the U.S. Navy Arctic Submarine Laboratory and the University of Washington Applied Physics Laboratory to test new equipment and train for under-ice operations in an arctic environment," the Navy [announced](#).

The new equipment included "high-frequency sonar for safe Arctic operations and the Raytheon Deep Siren acoustic communications system," the sailing branch [added](#).



We know that *Seawolf* spent almost three years in drydock starting in September 2009. Contractors did [\\$280 million in work](#). And when *Seawolf* returned to the cold Pacific waters in April 2012, she was "even more capable and effective than at any time in her 15 years of service," according to Cdr. Dan Packer, her skipper at the time.

It's possible *Seawolf* received the same under-ice gear *Connecticut* tested in 2011. The Arctic is, after all, a new area of concern for the Navy. With the ice receding, new shipping lanes are opening up and foreign navies are getting more active.



"We have some very fundamental interests—security interests—in the Arctic region," Adm. Gary Roughead, then the Navy's top officer, [said in 2009](#).

Chilly reception

In any event, it's apparent that *Seawolf* has crossed over the top of the world for her current deployment. Practically speaking, there's no other way the vessel could have arrived in Norway mere weeks after departing her home port in Washington State.

So what was *Seawolf* doing under the ice? Most likely simply training ... for fighting under ice. For a submarine crew, going to the Arctic "gives us the opportunity to test our combat systems, our navigation systems, our communication systems and just what it's like to operate in this very challenging environment," Roughead said four years ago. And there are good reasons besides a tradition of secrecy to do so quietly. Consider Moscow's reaction to the 2009 ICEX. "Any action by foreign submarines in the vicinity of Russia's maritime borders naturally demand heightened scrutiny on our part," a Kremlin spokesperson [warned](#).

The Russians want to know what America's subs are doing, too.

Reprint from *War Is Boring*

H2O at Home
Let's get green together! www.myh2oathome.com/barbar

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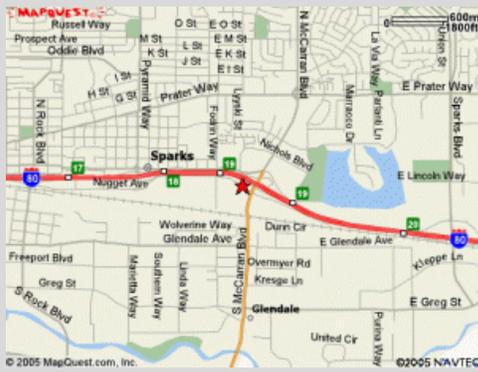
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Meetings are held on the first Saturday Of each month at Denny's Coffee Shop, 205 E. Nugget Ave. Sparks NV At 1400 hours.



SERVICE & SACRIFICE

The Trident Family

Do you have what it takes to be a Trident wife?

While your husband is on patrol for 2 1/2 months, can you:

- Handle all the family finances?
- Keep a secret and not tell anyone when he's returning?
- Handle receiving only 3 or 4 short messages from him?
- Make the decision to put the dog to sleep?
- Put up the Christmas tree? And then take it down?
- Get the car repaired when it breaks down?
- Hold a job and take care of your children?
- Put all your love but no worries in a 50-word family-gram?
- Fix supper and get the kids to soccer on time?
- Take the trash out every night without feeling resentful?
- Celebrate your wedding anniversary by yourself?
- Take pride and satisfaction in knowing that your support of your husband's service is helping to keep peace in the world for your family and your country?

If you can do all these things and more, you may have what it takes to be a Trident wife.




World Submarine News

Russian Shipyard Makes History: 4 Subs Under Construction Simultaneously



Russia's Sevsmash shipyard is simultaneously building four nuclear-powered submarines for the first time in the country's modern history.

Four of the most advanced nuclear-powered submarines in the world are now simultaneously under construction at Russia's Sevsmash shipyard for the first time in the country's modern history, Russia media reported.

"Sevsmash finished 2014 with good results, completely fulfilling the planned volume of the state defense order. Also in 2014, four fourth-generation nuclear submarines have been laid down at the stocks of the shipyard," Sevsmash spokesman Marat Abizhanov said.

Last year, the company constructed and transferred two Yasen- and Borei-class nuclear-powered submarines, the Severodvinsk and the Vladimir Monomakh, which were then delivered to the Russian Navy.

This year, Sevsmash is constructing Yasen-M- and Borei-A-class nuclear-powered submarines, the Kazan and the Prince Vladimir, as well as the multipurpose nuclear submarine Novosibirsk and the nuclear submarine Prince Oleg.

Founded in 1939, Sevsmash is based in the northern Russian city of Severodvinsk, and remains the only Russian shipyard to build atomic submarines for the Russian Navy.

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Chinese Naval Fleet Now Outnumbers US Combat Vessels

China is at the forefront of building submarines and now has more than the United States, says a Navy admiral testifying before a congressional committee that is discussing future funding for US defense projects.

Vice Admiral Joseph Mulloy told legislators on Thursday that not only is China building "some fairly amazing submarines" but that the Chinese are carrying out more deployments and expanding their area of operations as part of an rapid military buildup.

"We know they are out experimenting and looking at operating, and clearly want to be in this world of advanced submarines," Mulloy told committee members, according to Reuters.

US military officials are in the middle of a major push to stay ahead of the Chinese, said Mulloy, adding that while the Chinese submarines are inferior in quality compared to those from the US, there are more Chinese nuclear and diesel vessels than what the US has, even though the US has the world's largest defense budget.

The US Navy has 71 commissioned submarines, while the Chinese have 77 principal surface combatant ships, 61 submarines, 55 large and medium amphibious ships, and about 85 missile-equipped smaller combatant ships.