



## Naval Submarine League Pacific Southwest Chapter February 2025 Newsletter

<http://pacificsouthwest.navalsubleague.org>  
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**Our speaker for **Thursday, 6 February 2025** will be  
**Captain Mike Dolbec,**  
**Commodore – Unmanned Undersea Vehicle Group ONE****

**Please plan to join us from **11:15 AM to 1:00 PM**  
at the Oceanview on Naval Base Point Loma (NBPL)  
for this in-person luncheon / professional forum.**

CAPT Dolbec, a native of Manchester, NH, was commissioned in 2000 from Officer Candidate School after earning a bachelor's degree in Ocean Sciences from Maine Maritime Academy. He holds master's degrees in Engineering Science from the Naval Postgraduate School and Strategic Studies from the Army War College.

At sea, he commanded the nuclear-powered fast attack submarine USS TEXAS (SSN-775), homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, during which he completed an INDOPACOM deployment and a CENTCOM deployment. He also commanded the USS JOHN WARNER (SSN-785) during a EUCOM deployment. His other sea tours include assignment as a division officer on USS SEAWOLF (SSN-21), Navigation and Operations Officer onboard USS ALEXANDRIA (SSN-757), and Executive Officer on USS SAN FRANCISCO (SSN-711). These assignments included operations in the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets and multiple deployments to the North Atlantic, Arabian Gulf, and Western Pacific. While serving with the Royal Navy he completed a North Atlantic deployment with the TRAFALGAR Class SSN, HMS TIRELESS.

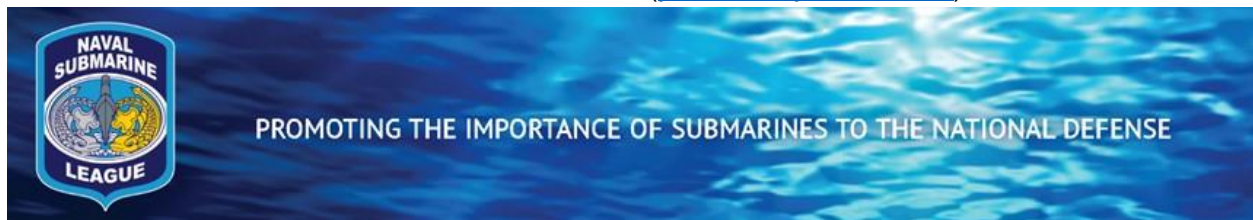
His assignments ashore include USCYBERCOM, where he served as the Director, Joint Operations Center and Chief, Current Operations (J33) as well as the OIC, Task Force Readiness. He also served as the Submarine Group 8 Deputy for Submarine Support in Naples, Italy. As an exchange officer to the United Kingdom, he served as the submarine tactics officer at the Maritime Warfare Centre and created a tactics development program utilizing commercial unmanned submarines.

During his time with the NPS Undersea Warfare Program, he developed a new method of navigation for autonomous undersea vehicles by applying vision-based velocity detection to forward-looking SONAR. For his research, he received the National Defense Industrial Association Rear Admiral Jack Jarabak Medal for advancement in undersea warfare.

CAPT Dolbec is authorized to wear multiple personal awards. However, he is most proud of the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, two Meritorious Unit Commendations, and five Battle Efficiency “E” awards earned while serving with outstanding teams.



Bruce Renne, President ([pres@nslpacsw.com](mailto:pres@nslpacsw.com))



**Highlights of the 14 January 2025 luncheon / professional forum  
with Rear Admiral Richard W. Meyer,  
Deputy Commander, U.S. THIRD Fleet,**



*There was a good turnout for the Chapter's first meeting in 2025.*



*John Thomas, Mike Tarleton, Chapter President  
Bruce Renne & speaker RADM Richard Meyer*



*Charlie MacVean, Don Mathiowetz &  
Scott VanHofen*



*Sharing sea stories (some true) with the USS Greenville CO & crew members.*



*(L to R): CDR DeBoer (CO, USS Asheville, SSN-758), Ray Ferbache, CDR Chad Tella (CO, USS Greenville, SSN-772), Don Mathiowetz & Chapter President Bruce Renne*



*USS Greenville COB, LSSCS(SS)  
Dan Dumitrache & CSS-11 CMDCM(SS)  
Brandon Wallis*



*(L to R): Chapter Treasurer Jim Piburn,  
CDR Chad Tella, Chapter Secretary  
Pete Lobner & CDR DeBoer*



Head table (L to R): Bruce Renne, RADM Rich Meyer (Deputy C3F), VADM (Ret) Robert Thomas, CDR DeBoer, CDR Chad Tella, Terry McKearney (President, SDMAC Foundation) & CDRE Will Wiley (CSS-11)

After Bruce Renne called the meeting to order, CDR DeBoer introduced two Asheville JOs and LSSCS(SS) Dumitrache introduced three Greenville Sailors of the Quarter. Terry McKearney provided an SDMAC update.



RADM Meyer described how his unusually diverse naval career led to his present role as Deputy Commander, U.S. THIRD Fleet.

You'll find more photos from the January NSLPACSW Luncheon here:

[Slideshow](#) (with captions)  
[Photo Gallery](#)



## **Former nuclear submariner and President Jimmy Carter passed away on 29 December 2024 at the age of 100**

The PACSW January 2025 Newsletter reported that NSL selected former President Jimmy Carter and three other former submariners to receive the 2024 Distinguished Submariner Award based on their lifetime contributions to the Nation. Shortly after receiving this award, President Carter passed away on 29 December 2024.

PACSW Chapter member Russ Filbeck has had a long personal relationship with the former President based on their mutual interest in woodworking. Russ has discussed this relationship in a previous Chapter meeting. For an update, you can read the 30 December 2024 San Diego Union-Tribune article "[San Diegans remember Jimmy Carter as friend and humanitarian.](#)"



*President Carter & wife Rosalynn visit Russ Filbeck's woodworking workshop in 2013.  
Source: Russ Filbeck via San Diego Union-Tribune*

## **Don Walsh & Trieste**

On 10 January 2025, the Secretary of the Navy announced that the Explorer-class tactical auxiliary general ocean surveillance ship T-AGOS-25 will be named in honor of former submariner and oceanographer CAPT Don Walsh. The new 356 feet long vessel will be operated by the Military Sealift Command to conduct open ocean anti-submarine surveillance. You'll find more information of the T-AGOS-25 [here](#).



*T-AGOS-25. Source: Halter Marine*

Don Walsh became known worldwide after he and Swiss oceanographer Jacques Piccard descended to the bottom of the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench on 23 January 1960 aboard the deep submergence vessel *Trieste*. They reaching the bottom (at a recently revised depth of 35,814 feet / 10,916 meters) and, after a short stay, returned safely to the surface for recovery by their support ship.



*Bathyscaph Trieste at the submarine base at Point Loma in the early 1960s. Source: U.S. Navy*



*LT Don Walsh was officer in charge of the bathyscaph Trieste and Jacques Piccard was the pilot. Source: John Launois / Life magazine*

After finishing submarine school, Walsh served aboard the submarines *Rasher* (SSR-269), *Sea Fox* (SS-402), and *Bugara* (SS-331), eventually commanding *Bashaw* (AGSS-241). Thereafter, LT Walsh served aboard the *Trieste* from 1959-1962.

Walsh went on to serve as Special Assistant (Submarines) to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research and Development, and later as Deputy Director of Navy Laboratories. During this period, CAPT Walsh pursued a PhD in oceanography from Texas A&M University, focusing on remote sensing, and in 1969, earned an MA in political science from San Diego State University, where his research was on law-of-the-sea issues.

CAPT Walsh retired from the US Navy in 1975 to be a professor of ocean engineering at the University of Southern California. Later in life, he made dives to the sunken battleship Bismarck and RMS Titanic. He passed away at his home in Oregon on 12 November 2023 at the age of 92.

The National Maritime Historical Society (NMSH) has posted a short biography on Don Walsh [here](#). You'll find another tribute to Don Walsh on the U.S. Naval Institute website [here](#).

The *Trieste* was in service with the Navy from 1958 to 1963 and distinguished itself again in 1963 by recovering debris after the *USS Thresher* (SSN-593) sank in the Atlantic. Since 1980, the *Trieste* has been on exhibit in the National Museum of the United States Navy in Washington, D.C.

## **U.S. Naval Institute's WEST 2025 Conference is at the San Diego Convention Center, 28 – 30 January 2025**



An e-mail with conference information was sent to all PACSW members on 11 January 2025. If you wish to register, please visit the [conference website](https://www.westconference.org).

## **Submarine Force news reported by the U.S. Naval Institute (USNI)**

- LT Jeong Soo Kim,, USNR , “The Case for a Fifth Naval Shipyard,” Naval Institute Proceedings, Vol. 150/9/1,459, September 2024: <https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2024/september/case-fifth-naval-shipyard>
- Fred Schultz, “Jimmy Carter, 39th U.S. President and Submariner, Dies at 100,” Naval Institute News, 29 December 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/12/29/jimmy-carter-39th-u-s-president-and-submariner-dies-at-100>
- Sam Lagrone, “Russia Commissions Fifth Yasen Nuclear Attack Sub,” USNI News, 2 January 2025: <https://news.usni.org/2025/01/02/russia-commissions-fifth-yasen-nuclear-attack-sub>



*Yasen-class sub. 1<sup>st</sup> of five entered fleet in 2014, newest in Dec. 2024.  
Source: Russian Navy photo via USNI*

- Sam Lagrone, “Navy Plan to Buy 85 New Ships Will Cost \$1 Trillion, CBO Says,” USNI News, 7 January 2025: <https://news.usni.org/2025/01/07/navy-plan-to-add-85-news-ships-will-cost-1-trillion-cbo-says>
- Mallory Shelbourne, “Submarine Funding Anomaly Insufficient to Get Boats the Navy Wants, Says HII CEO, USNI News, 9 January 2025: <https://news.usni.org/2025/01/09/submarine-funding-anomaly-insufficient-to-get-boats-the-navy-wants-says-hii-ceo>



## Submarine Force update from CRS, CBO & GAO

- “Navy Large Unmanned Surface and Undersea Vehicles,” Congressional Research Service report R45757, updated 19 December 2024: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45757>
- “An Analysis of the Navy’s 2025 Shipbuilding Plan,” Congressional Budget Office, January 2025: <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2025-01/60732-shipbuilding.pdf>

## Submarine videos

- “Sonar 101,” posted by U.S. Naval Institute, 4 December 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvdARU0tHrI>
- “Indian Navy on its Latest Submarine INDS Vagsheer & Combatants INS Surat & INS Nilgiri,” (7:22 min), posted by NEWSS9, 15 January 2025: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVSiPS1qxPo>. INDS Vagsheer is a diesel-electric attack submarine based on the French Scorpène class.
- “U.S. Navy Commissions New Hunter Killer Submarine, USS New Jersey (SSN 796), (8:09 min), posted by U.S. Defense News, 16 January 2025: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zm0IMfiVlwE>

## Other submarine force news

- Joseph Trevithic, “Ohio Class Guided Missile Submarine Deployed Underwater Drones On Award Winning Secret Missions,” The War Zone, 9 January 2025: <https://www.twz.com/sea/ohio-guided-missile-submarine-deployed-underwater-drones-on-award-winning-secret-missions>
- Geoff Ziezulewicz, “U.S. Navy Still Wants To Operate Out Of This Norwegian Submarine Cave, But A Deal Remains Elusive,” The War Zone, 9 January 2025: <https://www.twz.com/news-features/u-s-navy-still-wants-to-operate-out-of-this-norwegian-submarine-cave-but-a-deal-remains-elusive>
- “US Submarine (USS Michigan, SSGN-727) Awarded for National Security Missions in 'Hostile' Waters,” Newsweek, 15 January 2025: <https://www.newsweek.com/us-news-submarine-awarded-national-security-missions-hostile-waters-2015155>

### **Mark your 2025 calendar for these upcoming events**

- 11 March 2025 (**date subject to change**): **NSLPACSW Chapter Luncheon**
- 25 April 2025: Old Timers Luncheon & Tolling of the Boats
- 26 April 2025: Submarine Birthday Ball San Diego



## NSLPACSW Luncheon / Professional Forum Reservations Information

<http://pacificsouthwest.navalsubleague.org>

**Luncheon / Professional Forum - Thursday, 6 February 2025**  
**Oceanview at Ballast Point, Building 501, Naval Base Point Loma.**

**Doors open 11:15 AM.**

**The meeting is called to order at 11:45 AM.**

**Lunch is served at 11:50 AM.**

**The presentation starts about 30 minutes later and the meeting concludes after a Q & A session, a bit after 1:00 PM.**

### **For Members and Guests:**

**The Luncheon / Forum price is \$30 per person, payable at the door with cash, VENMO or check made payable to: NSLPACSW Chapter.**

**All active duty enlisted and officers O-1 to O-3 are guests of the Chapter and welcome to attend at no charge.**

**The NSLPACSW Treasurer, Jim Piburn, will send out the formal invitations for this luncheon. Please make your reservation with him by e-mail at this link: [treasurer.nslpacsw@yahoo.com](mailto:treasurer.nslpacsw@yahoo.com)**

- Make your reservation by **4 pm, Saturday, 1 February 2025.**
- Include the names of each member and guest attending.
- **BASE ACCESS PROCEDURES:**
  - Individuals with CAC / DOD Retired ID / other accepted base access ID may enter the base after showing their valid ID at the base access gate.
  - Individuals without such an ID require a 5512 form on file with NBPL Security OR registration in DBIDS. WITH A 5512 FORM ON FILE, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO STOP AT THE NBPL PASS & ID OFFICE AND PICK UP A ONE-TIME PASS EACH TIME YOU ENTER THE BASE. See Simone Reyes in the PASS & ID Office. Then show the ID at the base access gate.
  - If you are unsure of your base access status, please contact Jim Piburn at [treas@nslpacsw.com](mailto:treas@nslpacsw.com) at least 2 weeks prior to the luncheon to work out access details.
- Any cancellations are required by **4 PM, Sunday, 2 February 2025.**



PROMOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF SUBMARINES TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE