



## Naval Submarine League Pacific Southwest Chapter March 2025 Newsletter

<http://pacificsouthwest.navalsubleague.org>  
[nslpacsw@hotmail.com](mailto:nslpacsw@hotmail.com)



Our speaker for **Tuesday, 18 March 2025** will be  
**Rear Admiral Richard Seif, USN**  
**Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet**

Please plan to join us from **11:30 AM to 2:00 PM**  
at the **Bali Hai Restaurant**, 2230 Shelter Island Dr, San Diego,  
for this in-person luncheon / professional forum.

RADM Seif is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is a 1992 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering. He also holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the College of William and Mary's Mason School of Business.

At sea, he has served aboard five nuclear fast-attack submarines. He served as a junior officer aboard USS Newport News (SSN 750), engineer officer and combat systems officer aboard USS Oklahoma City (SSN 723), and executive officer aboard USS Houston (SSN 713).

He commanded USS Buffalo (SSN 715), homeported in Guam, from April 2010 to February 2013. During this tour, he conducted extensive operations in the Western Pacific, and the boat was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, two Battle Efficiency awards, and the Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy. He also commanded USS Jacksonville (SSN 699), completing a U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet deployment, and also served as Commodore, Submarine Squadron One and chief of staff to Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Ashore, RADM Seif has served as the military assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities; deputy chief of staff for Operations for Submarine Group Seven/Task Force 74 in Yokosuka, Japan; the Navy's national director of Submarine and Nuclear Power Recruiting; board member and executive officer of the Fleet Forces Command Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board; and flag aide to Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet/Submarine Allied Command Atlantic. Prior to his assignment as Commander, Submarine Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet

he served as Commander, Submarine Group Seven/Task Force 54/Task Force 74. On 15 June 2023, RADM Seif relieved RADM Jeffrey Jablon as Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

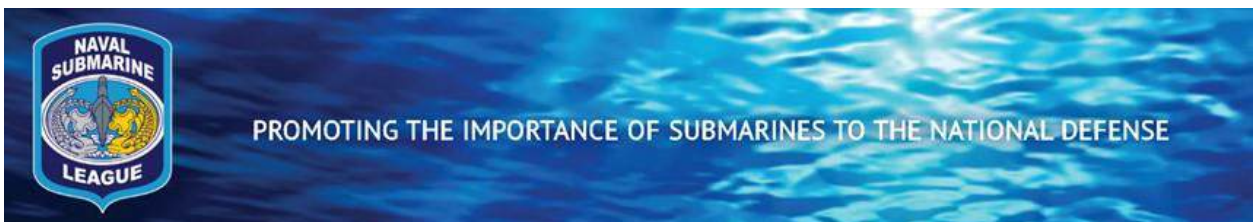
His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal (two awards), Legion of Merit (five awards), Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (five awards), and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards). He has served with crews that have earned seven Battle Efficiency awards, two Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophies, and various unit and campaign awards.



You may recall that RADM Seif was the speaker at the February 2024 NSLPACSW luncheon / professional forum.



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



**Highlights of the 6 February 2025 luncheon / professional forum  
with CAPT Mike Dolbec,  
Commodore – Unmanned Undersea Vehicle Group ONE**



*(L) PACSW President Bruce Renne & Vice President VADM (Ret) Robert Thomas, USN.  
(R) MMCM(SS) (Ret) Russ Filbeck & speaker CDRE Mike Dolbec*



*(L) USS Asheville (SSN-758) CO, CDR Mike DeBoer; COB, TMCM(SS/SW) Justin Urso & CSS-11  
FTCS(SS) Chris Cook. (R) Charlie MacVean (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and three friends from Northrop Grumman.*



*(L to R) USS Asheville crew members:  
Communications Officer LTJG  
Alexander Eckels,  
Sailor of the Year MMN1 (SS)  
Timothy Carson;  
Sailor of the Quarter MMA2 (SS)  
Garrett Konzman;  
Jr Sailor of the Quarter FTSN (SS)  
Lance Chandler; and  
COB TMCM(SS) Justin Urso*



(Left) Marty Cooper, inventor of the cellular mobile phone in 1973 and the Naval Submarine League's 2022 Distinguished Submariner. On 3 January 2025, Marty was among a group of distinguished individuals who were awarded the [2024 National Medal of Technology and Innovation](#). This award is the nation's highest award for technological achievement. It recognizes American innovators whose vision, intellect, creativity, and determination have strengthened America's economy and improved our quality of life. Congratulations, Marty!



Head table (CW from lower left): Bruce Renne; CDRE Mike Dolbec, USN (speaker); VADM (ret) Robert Thomas, USN; Mike Cosgrove, Commander, USSVI San Diego Base; CAPT Lacy Lodmell, USN, CSS-11 Deputy for Training; Terry McKearney, President, SDMAC Foundation; CDR Mike DeBoer, USN, CO, USS Asheville (SSN-758)



(L) Don Mathiowetz remembers CAPT Don Tregurtha, his former CO and PACSW member.

(R) Russ Filbeck remembers his friend Jimmy Carter and relates experiences at his memorial service.



CDRE Dolbec provided an overview of UUVGRU ONE's mission and its growing fleet of very capable UUVs, which range in size from small-to-medium (S/MUUV) to extra-large (XLUUV).



Left: Bruce Renne presented a speaker's gift and then he & CDRE Dolbec exchanged Challenge Coins.

Below: UUVGRU ONE Challenge Coin presented to Bruce Renne.



You'll find more photos, CDRE Dolbec's briefing slides and a video of the presentation at these links:

- [BRIEFING SLIDES](#)
- [SLIDESHOW](#) (with captions)
- [PHOTO GALLERY](#)
- [VIDEO](#)

## Get to know Submarine Squadron 11 and Naval Base Point Loma

Commander, Submarine Squadron 11 (CSS-11), located on Naval Base Point Loma (NBPL), provides training, material and personnel readiness support for a squadron of



Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarines, the medium auxiliary floating dry dock ARCO (ARDM 5) and Undersea Rescue Command (URC). CSS-11 was commissioned on 1 July 1986 following a reorganization of Submarine Group 5. Four Los Angeles-class SSNs currently are assigned to Submarine Squadron 11: USS



Scranton (SSN-756), USS Alexandria (SSN-757), USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) and USS Greenville (SSN-772). In addition, USS Asheville (SSN-758) is visiting NBPL from Submarine Squadron 15 in Guam for work currently being performed in floating dry dock ARCO. These SSNs are capable of conducting various missions, including: anti-submarine warfare, anti-ship warfare, strike warfare, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. Some personnel assigned to CSS-11 also serve under the SUBPAC umbrella, as members of SUBPAC Representative West Coast (CSPRWC). CSS-11 and CSPRWC also manage emergency response procedures from the Emergency Control Center (ECC), located near the crest of Point Loma.



*Aerial view of Naval Base Point Loma, homeport for CSS-11. Source: CSS-11 Arrival Packet*

CSS-11 has prepared an excellent [“Welcome Aboard – Commander Submarine Squadron 11 Arrival Packet,”](#) that provides newly arriving active duty personnel with a thorough overview of the Squadron and the San Diego area.

Two other important submarine-related facilities located on NBPL are the Submarine Training Facility San Diego (STFSD) and the Arctic Submarine Lab (ASL). As a unit of the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC), STFSD provides basic training through advanced individual and unit instruction designed for qualification and certification of officers and enlisted members of the submarine and surface communities. The ASL is a Fleet Support Detachment of Commander, Undersea Warfighting Development Center (UWDC) and is the "Center of Excellence" for Arctic matters for the U.S. Submarine Force. ASL is responsible for developing and maintaining expertise in Arctic-specific skills, knowledge, equipment and procedures to enable the submarine force to safely and effectively operate in the unique Arctic Ocean environment.



Check out the [CSS-11](#), [NBPL](#), [STFSD](#) and [ASL](#) websites for more information.

NSLPACSW is grateful for the continuing support it receives from the San Diego submarine community, which has provided many excellent speakers for the Chapter luncheons held at the Oceanview on NBPL and encouraged active duty fleet members to attend the luncheons. Following is a list of NSLPACSW local submarine community speakers since mid-2022. How many of these luncheons did you attend?

- October 2024: Commodore William “Will” Wiley, USN, COMSUBRON 11, “Australian, UK and US (AUKUS) Submarine Program Update”
- June 2024: Commodore Ken Douglas, USN, COMSUBRON 11, “San Diego Submarine Force — Past, Present and Future”

- December 2023: CAPT John C. Witte, USN, CO Undersea Rescue Command, “URC’s Worldwide Submarine Rescue Mission”
- October 2023: CDR Christian Rivera, USN, Commanding Officer, Submarine Training Facility San Diego, “Update and Tour of SUBTRAFAC”
- September 2023: CAPT Jeffrey Yackerer, USN, Commanding Officer, Naval Base Point Loma, “The Journey to NBPL”
- October 2022: LCDR Miñano, Executive Officer, BAP PISAGUA (SS-33) & LCDR John Sison, USN, CSS-11 DESI Plans and Engagements Officer, “Diesel-Electric Submarine Initiative (DESI) Program and roles BAP PISAGUA performs in DESI exercises”
- September 2022: CDR Chris Rose, USN, CO USS ALEXANDRIA (SSN 757)
- June 2022: Commodore Ken Douglas, USN, COMSUBRON 11, “The View from Millington” and Submarine Squadron 11 Update

### **Tour of the aircraft carrier *USS Abraham Lincoln* (CVN-72)**

NSLPACSW has been invited to tour the *USS Abraham Lincoln* (CVN-72) on Wednesday, 19 March 2025 at 1430 at Naval Air Station North Island. Tour details and sign-up instructions will be distributed by e-mail.

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

- John Grady, “HII Completes Acquisition of W International Assets,” USNI News, 27 January 2025: <https://news.usni.org/2025/01/27/hii-completes-aquisition-of-w-international-assets>
- Sam Lagrone, “Shipbuilders, Navy Want Deal on 2 Virginia Attack Boats ‘As Soon as Possible’,” USNI News, 6 February 2025: <https://news.usni.org/2025/02/06/shipbuilders-navy-want-deal-on-2-virginia-attack-boats-as-soon-as-possible>
- Gidget Fuentes, “Navy Dolphins, Sea Lions Safe After Growler Crashes 200 Yards from Pens,” USNI News, 15 February 2025: <https://news.usni.org/2025/02/15/navy-dolphins-sea-lions-safe-after-growler-crashes-200-yards-from-pens>
- Mallory Shelbourne & Sam Lagrone, “Virginia Subs, Some Surface Ships Safe in New Pentagon FY 2026 Budget Review,” USNI News, 20 February 2025: <https://news.usni.org/2025/02/20/virginia-subs-some-surface-ships-safe-in-new-pentagon-fy-2026-budget-review>

### **Submarine Force update from CRS, CBO & GAO**

- “Navy TAGOS-25 Ocean Surveillance Shipbuilding Program: Background and Issues for Congress,” CRS report IF11838, updated 23 January 2025: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11838>
- “Navy Virginia-Class Submarine Program and AUKUS Submarine (Pillar 1) Project: Background and Issues for Congress,” CRS report RL32418, updated 11 February 2025: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RL/RL32418>
- “Navy Columbia (SSBN-826) Class Ballistic Missile Submarine Program: Background and Issues for Congress,” CRS report RL32418, updated 5 February 2025: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R41129>



## **Submarine videos**

- “A look at a Navy submarine designed with women in mind,” (3:56 min), posted by CBS Evening News, 11 November 2024:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KGlxwOJB-w>
- “A look inside the USS Minnesota, Guam's newest submarine,” (2:10 min), posted by KUAM News, 27 November 2024:  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1267420641157577>
- “How Navy submarine cooks feed 150 sailors at sea,” (15:13 min), posted by Business Insider, 8 February 2025: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/video/peopleandplaces/how-navy-submarine-cooks-feed-150-sailors-at-sea/vi-AA1yBSh9>

## **Other submarine force news**

- H.I. Sutton, “After loss of Tartus (naval base in Syria), Russia now has no submarines in the Mediterranean,” Naval News, 5 January 2025:  
<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2025/01/after-loss-of-tartus-russia-now-has-no-submarines-in-the-mediterranean/>
- “France’s Suffren-Class Submarine in India, navy to get Close Eye on Pump-Jet Propulsion Technology,” India Defence Research Wing, 7 January 2025:  
<https://idrw.org/frances-suffren-class-submarine-in-india-navy-to-get-close-eye-on-pump-jet-propulsion-technology/>
- Thomas Newdick, “Royal Navy Nuclear Submarine Surfaced Next To Russian Spy Ship To Send A Clear Message,” The War Zone, 23 January 2025:  
<https://www.twz.com/sea/royal-navy-nuclear-submarine-surfaced-next-to-russian-spy-ship-to-send-clear-message>
- Shivam Patel, “German-Indian JV emerges as sole contender for \$5 billion India submarine deal,” Reuters, 23 January 2025:  
<https://www.reuters.com/markets/deals/german-indian-jv-emerges-sole-contender-5-billion-india-submarine-deal-2025-01-23/>
- Thomas Newdick, “Our Best Look Yet At Britain’s New Dreadnought Class Ballistic Missile Submarine Design,” The War Zone, 31 January 2025:  
<https://www.twz.com/sea/our-best-look-yet-at-britains-new-dreadnought-class-ballistic-missile-submarine-design>

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

- **There is no NSLPACSW Chapter Luncheon in April**
- 25 April 2025: Old Timers Luncheon & Tolling of the Boats
- 26 April 2025: Submarine Birthday Ball San Diego
- 13 May 2025: **NSLPACSW Chapter Luncheon**



## NSLPACSW Luncheon / Professional Forum Reservations Information

<http://pacificsouthwest.navalsubleague.org>

**Luncheon / Professional Forum - Tuesday, 18 March 2025  
at the Bali Hai Restaurant, 2230 Shelter Island Dr, San Diego.**

**Doors open 11:30 AM.**

**There will be a no-host (cash) bar and additional time for socializing at this event.**

**The meeting will be called to order when RADM Seif arrives,  
followed by a buffet lunch and RADM Seif's presentation.**

**The meeting will conclude after a Q & A session and social time by 2:00 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, 10 March 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, 10 March 2025.**



PROMOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF SUBMARINES TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE