



Naval Submarine League Pacific Southwest Chapter November 2024 Newsletter

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Our speaker for **Tuesday, 12 November 2024:
Vice Admiral John F. G. Wade, USN,
Commander, THIRD Fleet
will discuss THIRD Fleet operations.**

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.**

Vice Adm. John F. G. Wade is a native of Port Washington, New York. He is a 1990 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy with a bachelor's degree in Economics. He also holds a master's degree in Information Systems Technology from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and a master's degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College in Washington, District of Columbia.

A career Surface Warfare Officer, Wade has served at sea on Patrol Craft, Destroyers, Cruisers and Aircraft Carriers, completing multiple deployments and overseas contingency operations including Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He commanded USS Firebolt (PC 10), USS Preble (DDG 88), Destroyer Squadron 28, and Carrier Strike Group 12 embarked aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72).

Ashore, Wade served on the personal staff of the Chief of Naval Operations; executive assistant to the director of the Quadrennial Defense Review Team; deputy executive assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; chief of staff to Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet; director of maritime operations, U.S. Fleet Forces Command; and, director of operations, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. He served with the Army's 10th Mountain and 82nd Airborne Divisions as commanding officer of the Joint/Interagency Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) – Khost, Afghanistan.

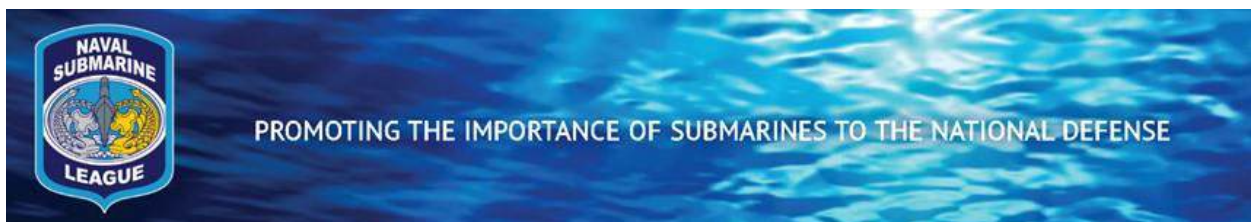
Additionally, he commanded the Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center. Most recently, he commanded Joint Task Force - Red Hill, which was established to safely and expeditiously defuel the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility in Oahu, Hawaii.

Wade assumed duties as Commander, THIRD Fleet in June 2024.

Wade's personal decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Combat Action Badge, and various service, campaign and unit awards. He is also the recipient of the Vice Adm. E.C. Waller and Vice Adm. John D. Bulkeley leadership awards.



Bruce Renne, President (pres@nslpacsw.com)



**Highlights of the 8 October 2024 luncheon / professional forum
with Commodore William (Will) H. Wiley,
Commander, Submarine Squadron ELEVEN
at the Oceanview Restaurant on NBPL**



Members with a wide spectrum of experience take advantage of the social time before lunch was served.



Paul Van Bentham (R) & guest, also a submariner.

CDRE Will Wiley (CSS-11) & NSLPACSW VP VADM (ret) Robert Thomas.



(L to R) ENS Hector, CDR Eric Knepper & COB Jared McDermott from USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) & Jeff Fischbeck



(Above, L to R) VADM (ret) Robert Thomas, LTJG Allen & CDR Mike DeBoer from USS ASHEVILLE (SSN-758) & Don Mathiowetz.



(Left) CMDRCM(SS) Brandon Wallis & Ed Langmaid discuss the upcoming San Diego Fleet Week.



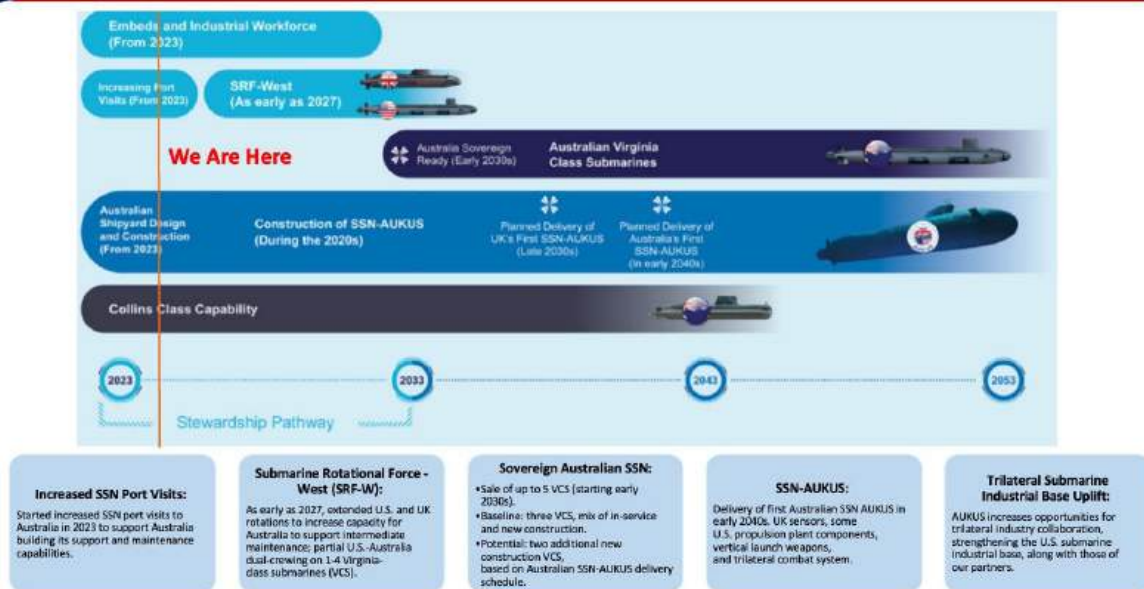
The head table (CW from LL) Don Mathiowetz, John Schmidt, CAPT Jeff Yacker, USN (CO, NBPL), Bruce Renne, CDRE Will Wiley, USN (CSS-11), LT Mark Egan, USN (NROTC), VADM (ret) Robert Thomas, and Joyce Murphy (Navy League, Coronado Chapter).



(L) Bruce Renne called the meeting to order. (R) CDRE Wiley provided an overview of the AUKUS multi-national nuclear submarine program.



AUKUS Pillar 1 Optimal Pathway



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(Left) Bruce Renne thanked CDRE Wiley for his excellent presentation & presented a copy of "A Century of Submarines in San Diego."

You'll find more luncheon photos and a video of the Commodore's presentation from these links or via our website:

[SLIDESHOW](#) (with captions)

[GALLERY](#) (for viewing or downloading individual photos)

[PRESENTATION VIDEO](#)

Peruvian submarine BAP Pisagua (SS 33) arrived at NBPL on Thursday, 12 September 2024

BAP Pisagua will be participating in the 2024 Diesel Electric Submarine Initiative (DESI) exercises with U.S. fleet elements. Pisagua last visited San Diego from Aug - Oct 2022.



BAP Pisagua arriving at NBPL.

Source (center photo): dvids, photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Tierra Brown.

Visit to Emergency Command Center (ECC), Monday, 7 October 2024

CSS-11, in his dual capacity as Commander Submarine Force Representative West Coast, serves as the Radiological Emergency Response Area Commander for the State of California. The ECC for that function is located on high ground on the ocean side of Point Loma. On 7 October, a group of NSLPACSW members and friends had the opportunity to take a guided tour of this impressive facility and learn how the various groups involved in an emergency response would work together.



NSLPACSW members and friends at the entrance to the ECC.

San Diego Fleet Week, 1 to 11 November 2024

You'll find details about Fleet Week events on their website [here](#). NSL Headquarters requested NSLPACSW to have a booth at the event. The Chapter will be seeking volunteers to staff the booth.

Visit to USS Cobia (SS-245) at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum

During WW-II, 28 subs (10 Gato-class and 18 Balao-class) were built in Manitowoc, WI. Twenty-four returned safely and four (*USS Golet*, *USS Robalo*, *USS Keet*, and *USS Lagarto*) were lost at sea. One Manitowoc sub, the *USS Rasher* (SS-269) was credited with sinking 18 ships and ranked second among all U.S. subs for total tonnage sunk (almost 100,000 tons) during the war.

The Wisconsin Maritime Museum commemorates this submarine shipbuilding and operational history with their museum boat and National Historic Landmark, the *USS Cobia* (SS-245), which is a Gato-class sub representative of the type built in Manitowoc, but built by Electric Boat in Groton, CT.

In September, an NSLPACSW member visited the *USS Cobia* (SS-245) and took the following photos.



USS Cobia (SS-245) at its berth at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum (Sep 2024).



Forward torpedo room with six tubes.



Aft torpedo room with four tubes.



Wardroom



Crew's mess



One of two diesel generator rooms, each with two diesel generators.



A valve tree only a submariner can understand.



Submariner's Pub between Manitowoc & Two Rivers.

You'll find more information on the history of Manitowoc-built submarines [here](#).

SUBROC and the FLIP

The UUM-44 SUBROC (SUBmarine-launched anti-submarine ROCKET) consisted of a solid fuel booster rocket with a W55 thermonuclear depth charge warhead.

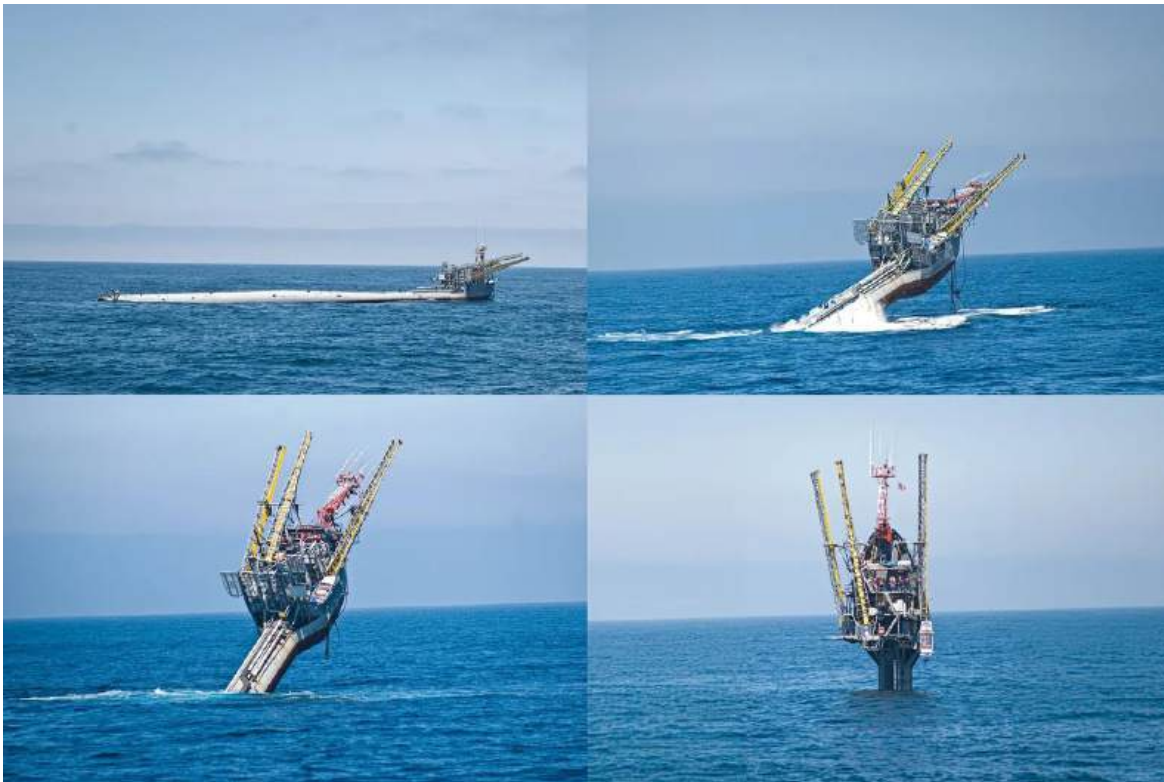


Development by Goodyear Aerospace began in 1958, technical evaluation was completed in 1963, and Initial Operating Capability (IOC) aboard USS Permit (SSN-594) was achieved in 1964. The inertially-guided SUBROC was a long-range weapon, with a range reported in various sources from 25 - 50 miles (40.2 – 80.5 km), roughly bracketing the range to a deep water target in the [first convergence zone](#). While SUBROC production ended in 1968, the weapon was operational for 25 years, until it was retired from the U.S. submarine fleet in 1989.

SUBROC loading on USS Plunger (SSN-595)

Source: missilery.info

So what's the connection between SUBROC and the unique 355-foot (108-meter), non-self-propelled vessel known as FLIP (FLOating Instrument Platform), which was designed with a rather conventional bow and a long cylindrical hull that could be flooded at sea to enable the vessel to float vertically in the water with most of the hull submerged?



FLIP transitioning from horizontal to vertical. Source: New Atlas

Scripps Institute of Oceanography provides the following answer:

“Research Platform FLIP was developed to provide a stable platform to measure fine-scale fluctuations in phase and amplitude of sound waves for the U.S. Navy SUBROC (SUBmarine ROCKET) program. One of the major questions concerned bearing accuracy obtained acoustically out to convergence-zone ranges. Horizontal temperature/salinity gradients in the ocean could introduce bearing errors in the volume of the ocean, and sloping bottoms could do the same for acoustic paths that interacted with the bottom. The Navy needed precise measurements to determine the effect of environmental gradients and fluctuations.

On July 23, 1962, FLIP was tested for the first time in the Dabob Bay area of the Hood Canal in Washington state on the Navy tracking range. After successfully completing trials of the flipping operation, it was towed to San Diego to commence operations in September 1962.

Many years of operations have included deployments in the Pacific as far as Hawaii and one deployment to the Atlantic. While originally intended for acoustic research, it also became a versatile platform for research in upper-ocean physical oceanography, meteorology, geophysics, and biology.”



In its operational lifetime, FLIP conducted more than 380 flipping operations. FLIP was retired and towed to a dismantling and recycling facility in August 2023.

(Left) FLIP in a floating dry dock at Naval Base Point Loma in the 2000s.

For more information on SUBROC and FLIP, check out the following references:

- David Szondy, “Remembering FLIP, the US Navy’s self-sinking research ship,” New Atlas, 12 July 2024: <https://newatlas.com/military/when-us-navy-flipped-flip-transformer-science-vessel/>
- “FLIP, History,” Scripps Institute of Oceanography: <https://scripps.ucsd.edu/ships/flip/history>
- “Goodyear UUM-44 Subroc,” Directory of U.S. Military Rockets and Missiles, 19 July 2002: <http://www.designation-systems.net/dusrm/m-44>
- “Sound in the Ocean,” Naval Gazing, 22 May 2022: <https://www.navalgazing.net/Sound-in-the-Ocean>

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

- Sam Lagrone, “Navy Taps Private Equity Fund to Build New Alabama Sub Module Facility, Austal Awarded \$152M to Support Effort,” USNI News, 22 September 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/09/22/navy-taps-private-equity-fund-to-build-new-alabama-sub-module-facility-austal-awarded-152m-to-support-effort>
- Heather Mongilio & Sam Lagrone, “SECNAV Del Toro Names Attack Boat for Baltimore as Sub-Funding Impasse Continues,” USNI News, 20 September 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/09/20/secnav-del-toro-names-attack-boat-for-baltimore-as-sub-funding-impasse-continues>
- Sam Lagrone, “DoJ Notified of Suspected Faulty Welds on Subs, Aircraft Carriers at Newport News Shipbuilding,” USNI News, 26 September 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/09/26/doj-notified-of-suspected-intentionally-faulty-welds-on-subs-aircraft-carriers-at-newport-news-shipbuilding>
- John Grady, “SECDEF Austin Confident Submarine Industrial Base Can Meet AUKUS Promises,” USNI News, 26 September 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/09/26/secdef-austin-confident-submarine-industrial-base-can-meet-aukus-promises>
- Sam Lagrone, “Lawmakers to Investigate Faulty Sub, Carrier Welding at Newport News Shipbuilding,” USNI News, 27 September 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/09/27/lawmakers-announce-investigation-into-faulty-submarine-carrier-welding-at-newport-news-shipbuilding-ships-affected-in-low-single-digits-officials-say>
- Vice Admiral Robert M. Gaucher, USN, “Maintaining Undersea Superiority: Status Report,” US Naval Institute Proceedings, Vol. 150/10/1,460, October 2024: <https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2024/october/maintaining-undersea-superiority-status-report>
- Joseph Labrum, “Strategic Shifts Require Reshaping the U.S. Nuclear Arsenal,” US Naval Institute Proceedings, Vol. 150/10/1,460, October 2024: <https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2024/october/strategic-shifts-require-reshaping-us-nuclear-arsenal>
- Lieutenant Brant Verhulst, USN, “How Submarined Can Shut Down Trade,” US Naval Institute Proceedings, Vol. 150/10/1,460, October 2024: <https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2024/october/how-submarines-can-shut-down-trade>
- Sam Lagrone, “HASC Wants Navy Info on Suspected Faulty Welds, Says Letter to SECNAV,” USNI News, 3 October 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/10/03/hasc-wants-navy-info-on-suspected-faulty-welds-says-letter-to-secnav>

Submarine Force update from CRS & GAO

- “U.S. Extended Deterrence and Regional Nuclear Capabilities,” Congressional Research Service, report IF12735, 8 August 2024: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF12735>

- “Navy Force Structure and Shipbuilding Plans: Background and Issues for Congress,” Congressional Research Service, report RL32665, updated 24 September 2023: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RL/RL32665>
- “Columbia Class Submarine: Overcoming Persistent Challenges Requires Yet Undemonstrated Performance and Better-Informed Supplier Investments,” Government Accountability Office, report GAO-24-107732, 30 September 2024: <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-107732>

Other submarine force news

- “France Submarine Capabilities,” NTI Fact Sheet, 13 August 2024: <https://www.nti.org/analysis/articles/france-submarine-capabilities/>
- “Russia Submarine Capabilities,” NTI Fact Sheet, 28 August 2024: <https://www.nti.org/analysis/articles/russia-submarine-capabilities/>
- “Chinese nuclear-powered submarine sank this year, US official says,” Reuters, 27 September 2024: <https://www.reuters.com/world/chinese-nuclear-powered-submarine-sank-earlier-this-year-us-official-says-2024-09-26/>
- Tony Capaccio, “New US Submarines Running \$17 Billion Over Budget, Lawmaker Says,” Military.com, 20 September 2024: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/09/20/new-us-submarines-running-17-billion-over-budget-lawmaker-says.html>
- Hyung-Jin Kim, “North Korea Vows Response to US Submarine's Visit to South Korea,” Military.com, 24 September 2024: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/09/24/north-korea-vows-response-us-submarines-visit-south-korea.html>
- Richard Thomas, “UK launches penultimate Astute-class SSN, HMS Agamemnon,” Naval Technology, 3 October 2024: <https://www.naval-technology.com/news/uk-launches-penultimate-astute-class-ssn-hms-agamemnon/?cf-view>

Mark your 2024 calendars for these upcoming events

- 1 -11 November 2024: **San Diego Fleet Week**
- 11 November 2024, **All Flags at the 52 Boat Memorial - Veterans Day,**
- 11 November 2024, **11 AM, San Diego Veterans Day Parade**
- 12 November 2024: **NSLPACSW Chapter Luncheon**
- 7 December 2024: **All Flags at the 52 Boat Memorial – Pearl Harbor Day – Wreath laying with Point Loma Association and SubVets**
- 10 December 2024: **NSLPACSW Chapter Luncheon**

Check the NSLPACSW website for a more complete listing: [2024/2025 calendar of events](#) .



NSLPACSW Luncheon / Professional Forum Reservations Information

<http://pacificsouthwest.navalsubleague.org>

Luncheon / Professional Forum - Tuesday, 12 November 2024
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

- Make your reservation by **4 pm, Thursday, 7 November 2024.**
- 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 at least 2 weeks prior to the luncheon to work out access details.
- Any cancellations are required by **4 PM, Thursday, 7 November 2024.**



PROMOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF SUBMARINES TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE