



Naval Submarine League Pacific Southwest Chapter October 2024 Newsletter

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Our speaker for **Tuesday, 8 October 2024:
Commodore William (Will) H. Wiley, USN,
Commander, Submarine Squadron ELEVEN
will discuss the AUKUS Agreement**

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. Will Wiley was raised in Elberton, Georgia. He is a 2000 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Political Science. He also holds a Master of Arts in National Security Studies from Georgetown University. Additionally, he served as the Senior U.S. Navy Fellow at The Atlantic Council in Washington, DC during his year as a Federal Executive Fellow in 2016-2017 and completed MIT's Seminar XXI program in 2021-2022.

Wiley's operational assignments include service in both fast attack and ballistic missile submarines, including division officer on USS PROVIDENCE (SSN 719), Engineer Officer on USS KENTUCKY (SSBN 737)(BLUE), Executive Officer on USS HAMPTON (SSN 767), and Commanding Officer on USS JOHN WARNER (SSN 785). During these tours, he completed four strategic deterrent patrols, as well as deployments to the North Atlantic, Mediterranean, Western Pacific, and Arctic Oceans.

Wiley's staff assignments include Shift Engineer and Staff Training Officer at Nuclear Power Training Unit, Charleston, S.C.; Squadron Engineer at Submarine Squadron NINETEEN; Nuclear Enlisted Community Manager at OPNAV N133; Special Assistant to the Director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program for Fleet Matters at Naval Reactors Headquarters in Washington, D.C.; and as the Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities.

During his command tour on USS JOHN WARNER (SSN 785), his ship completed a European Command (EUCOM) deployment while earning the Submarine Squadron SIX

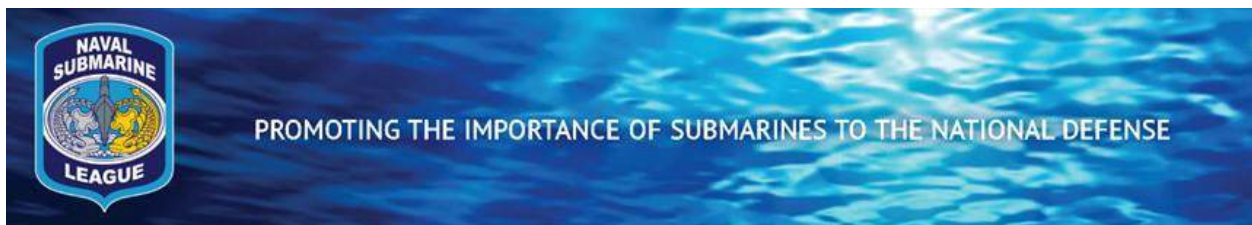
Battle Efficiency “E” for 2018, 2019, and 2020. In 2020, he was awarded the VADM James Bond Stockdale award for inspirational leadership and received the RADM Jack Darby Award for inspirational leadership and excellence in command from the Naval Submarine League.

Wiley’s decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (two awards), Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (five awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), and various unit and service awards.

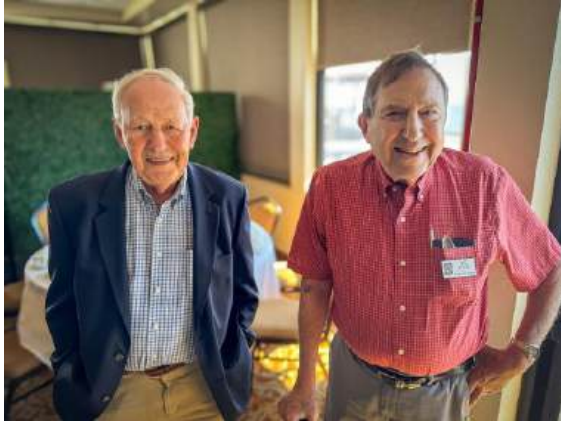
CAPT Wiley assumed command of SUBRON 11 on 9 August 2024.



Bruce Renne, President (pres@nslpacsw.com)



Highlights of the 10 September 2024 luncheon / professional forum with Vice Admiral Charles W. Martoglio, USN (Ret.), who discussed "America's Security During a Period of Confrontation & Conflict" at the Oceanview Restaurant on NBPL



*"Orange County Road Warriors"
Glenn Groen & Joe Koch*



Dick Evert, Ed Langmaid & Paul Van Benthem



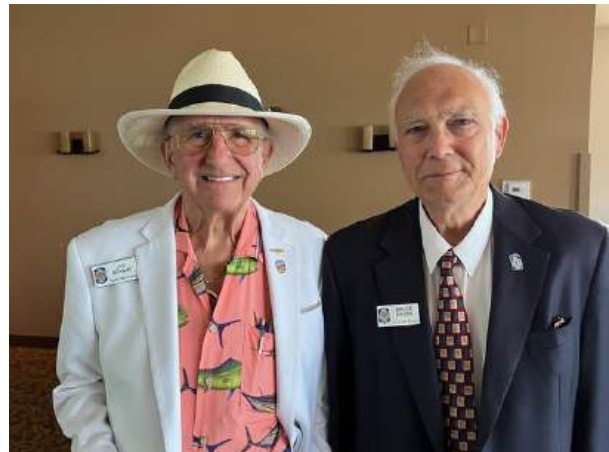
*(L to R) CDR Jeffrey Ransom (CO, USS Scranton),
CDR James Gallagher (XO, NBPL), CAPT Jeff Yackeren
(CO, NBPL) & CDRE William Wiley (CSS-11)*



*(L to R) RADM (Ret.) David Boone,
MC1 Tiarra Brown & Bill Gaines*



*Dick Alborn & Marty Cooper (Naval Submarine
League's 2022 Distinguished Submariner)*



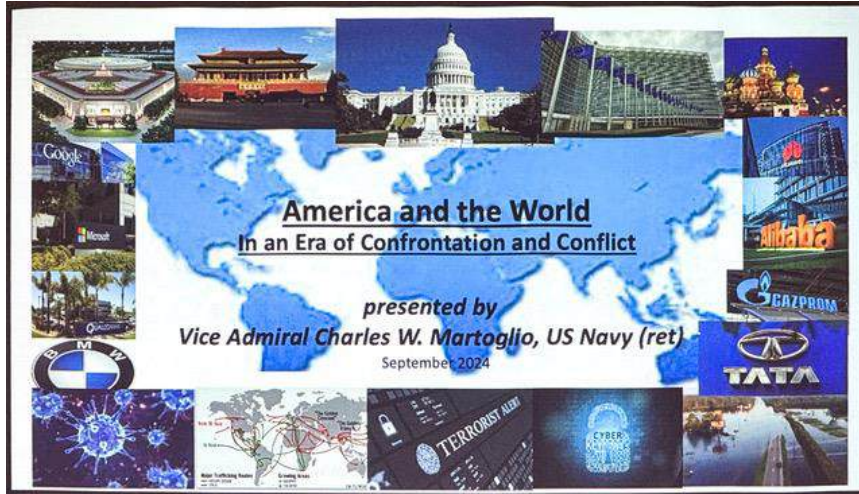
Jim Bryant & Bruce Renne



Bruce Renne called the meeting to order before the Oceanview staff served a fine luncheon.



The head table (clockwise from lower left): CDR Jeffrey Ransom (CO, USS Scranton), Joyce Murphy (Navy League, Coronado Chapter), Terry McKearney (SDMAC Foundation), CAPT Jeff Yackerer (CO, NBPL), RADM (Ret.) David Boone (SDMAC), CDRE William Wiley (CSS-11), Bruce Renne, VADM (Ret.) Charles Martoglio (Speaker)



VADM (ret) Martoglio provided an engaging presentation on current conflicts involving China, Russia, Ukraine and Israel, with a view toward possible outcomes in the future.



Bruce Renne presented a set of San Diego Bay nautical map coasters to VADM Martoglio.

You'll find more photos from the luncheon here: [Slideshow](#) & [Gallery](#).

USS Asheville (SSN-758) visiting Naval Base Point Loma (NBPL)

The Los Angeles-class Flight III / 688i fast-attack submarine USS Asheville (SSN-758) arrived at NBPL on 20 August 2024 for an extended visit that will include a maintenance period in the ARCO floating dry dock.



Asheville is assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron 15 at Polaris Point, Naval Base Guam, where it normally is assigned as one of four Los Angeles-class SSNs forward-deployed in the Pacific.

USS Asheville (SSN-758) arrives at NBPL. Source: U.S. Navy photo.

UNITAS LXV

The world's longest-running annual multi-national maritime training exercise, UNITAS LXV, was conducted off the coast of Chile from 3 to 12 September 2024. U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps forces were part of the multi-national contingent that included 17 surface vessels, 2 submarines, 20 aircraft and more than 4,300 personnel from 24 partner nations. One of the submarines in the exercise was the San Diego-based Los Angeles-class Flight III / 688i fast-attack submarine USS Hampton (SSN-767).

USS Scranton (SSN-756) leaves ARCO floating dry dock at NBPL

After a maintenance period, the Los Angeles-class Flight III / 688i fast-attack submarine USS Scranton (SSN-756) came out of the floating dry dock ARCO (ARDM 5) at NBPL on 4 September 2024.



USS Scranton in ARCO. Source: U.S. Navy photos

Mare Island Dry Dock LLC is still operating on part of the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard (MINSY)

MINSY was the first U.S. Navy base on the west coast and was in service from 1854 to 1996. In addition to a 69 combatant surface ships, ranging from a wood sloop-of-war in 1858 to destroyers, cruisers and tankers in WW II, MINSY built 27 diesel subs, 17 nuclear subs, 5 sub tenders & the Trieste II deep submergence bathyscaphe. At its peak, MINSY had eight shipbuilding ways, four dry docks and reportedly was capable of berthing and working on 100 ships at a time.

The 637-class sub USS Drum (SSN-677) was the last new sub (or vessel of any kind) laid down at MINSY. It was laid down in August 1968 and commissioned in April 1971. USS Drum was not, however, the last new sub completed at MINSY. That honor went to USS Guitarro (SSN-665), which sank next to the pier in May 1969 and was not commissioned until September 1972.

USS Halibut (SSN-587), USS Seawolf (SSN-575) & USS Parche (SSN-683) received their special modifications at MINSY. Nautilus was decommissioned at MINSY in 1980 before being returned to Groton, CT to serve as a museum ship.



After MINSY was closed in 1996 as part of the DoD Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, it seemed that all ship building & repair activities ended at the site. But that's not so. Check out [Mare Island Drydock, LLC](#), which today offers a wide range of dry-docking, ship repair & conversion, major overhaul & emergency ship services.

Dry Docks	Lay Berthing	Crane Service
<p>Concrete graving docks that can accommodate ships under fully loaded conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dry Dock 2 720 feet long 98 feet wide• Dry Dock 3 480 feet long 90.5 feet wide	<p>Three secure berthing options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Berth 12 - 650 feet Mooring up to 950 feet• Berth 13 - 400 feet Mooring up to 660 feet• Berth 14 - 200 feet Mooring up to 260 feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crane B-1 Certified at 67,000 lbs (33.5 tons)• Crane D-7 Certified at 269,000 lbs (134 tons)• Crane D-3 Certified at 56,000 lbs (28 tons)• Grove 165-ton Rough Terrain

Source: Mare Island Dry Dock LLC.

In August 2024, the USCG heavy polar icebreaker Polar Star (the only heavy polar icebreaker in the USCG fleet) returned to service after a five-month stay at Mare Island Drydock to complete the final stage of its service life extension program. See more information on Polar Star's return to service is here: <https://www.twz.com/news-features/u-s-coast-guard-has-a-working-heavy-icebreaker-again>

The following two photos show Polar Star at Mare Island Drydock.



Source: Mare Island Dry Dock LLC.



Source: USCG U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area

It's good to see that some of the shipbuilding resources at Mare Island still are in service.

Where will the Nation get new HEU for Naval Reactors?

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is responsible for managing dwindling stockpiles of U.S. government-produced highly-enriched uranium (HEU), which is needed for naval reactor cores, and tritium, which is needed for thermonuclear weapons. In addition, NNSA delivers government-produced low enriched uranium (LEU) (i.e., by down-blending some limited HEU resources) for use as fuel in certain power reactors operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to produce new tritium.

On 26 August 2024, BWXT announced that its subsidiary Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. had received a contract from NNSA “to complete a yearlong engineering study to evaluate options for the deployment of a centrifuge pilot plant that would establish a domestic uranium enrichment (DUE) capability for national security purposes.” The DUE centrifuge technology has been under development Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). The planned pilot plant will demonstrate DUE centrifuge performance, reliability and life-cycle costs for NNSA. When the government-owned pilot plant is built, Fluor will be the engineering, procurement and construction service provider. You’ll find more details [here](#).

U.S. submariners and the Medal of Honor

The National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, TX records that [eight different submariners have earned the Medal of Honor](#). The first was awarded in 1924 to heroic Torpedoman 2nd Class (TM2) Henry Breault. The other seven recipients were commanders of attack submarines in the Pacific during World War II. In that theater, American submarines played a central role in defeating Imperial Japan, sinking more Japanese ships than any other platform.

- LCDR Howard Gilmore (SS-215, Growler)
- CAPT John Cromwell (SS-191, Sculpin)
- CDR Samuel Dealey (SS-257, Harder)
- CDR Eugene Fluckey (SS-220, Barb)
- CDR Richard O’Kane (SS-306, Tang)
- CDR Lawson Ramage (SS-384, Parche)
- LCDR George Street (SS-420, Tirante)

The locations of submarine Medal of Honor actions in WW II are shown in the accompanying graphic.



Source: *The National Medal of Honor Museum*

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

- Dzirhan Mahadzir, “French Frigate Drills with U.S., Japanese Forces in the Western Pacific, U.S. Sub Tender Ready for Work on Boats in Australia,” USNI News, 16 August 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/08/16/french-frigate-drills-with-u-s-japanese-forces-in-the-western-pacific-u-s-sub-tender-ready-for-work-on-boats-in-australia>
- Tom Grady, “160 Years After the First Ship Was Sunk by a Sub, Researchers Are Still Looking for Answers,” USNI News, 23 August 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/08/23/160-years-after-the-first-ship-was-sunk-by-a-sub-researchers-are-still-looking-for-answers>
- Mallory Shelbourne, “U.S. Attack Sub Pulls into Australia for Repairs in Early AUKUS Step,” USNI News, 24 August 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/08/23/u-s-attack-sub-pulls-into-australia-in-early-aukus-step>
- Mallory Shelbourne, “Australia Hiring Naval Repair Workers Ahead of More U.S. Submarine Visits,” USNI News, 2 September 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/09/02/royal-australian-navy-hiring-maintenance-workers-ahead-of-more-u-s-submarine-visits>
- Sam Lagrone, “White House Wants an Extra \$2B for FY24 Virginia-class Subs, Attack Boat Pair Could Cost \$11.3B,” USNI News, 4 September 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/09/04/white-house-wants-an-extra-2b-for-fy24-virginia-class-subs-attack-boats-pair-cost-11-3b>
- Sam Lagrone, “Navy Awards Blue Forge Alliance \$951M Contract for ‘Uplifting’ U.S. Submarine Industrial Base,” USNI News, 10 September 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/09/10/navy-awards-blueforge-alliance-951m-contract-for-uplifting-u-s-submarine-base>
- Sam Lagrone, “New Navy Sub Funding Proposal to Combat Growth in Labor Costs Raises Questions in Congress, White House,” USNI News, 14 September 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/09/13/new-navy-sub-funding-proposal-to-combat-growth-in-labor-costs-raises-questions-in-congress-white-house>
- “Submarine USS New Jersey Commissioning Ceremony,” USNI News Video, 14 September 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNu2QkyZ2Vc>
- Sam Lagrone, “Austal USA Awarded \$450M to Build a Submarine Construction Facility in Mobile,” USNI News, 16 September 2024: <https://news.usni.org/2024/09/16/austal-usa-awarded-450m-to-build-a-submarine-construction-facility-in-mobile>

Submarine Force update from Congressional Research Service (CRS) & Government Accountability Office (GAO)

- “China Naval Modernization: Implications for U.S. Navy Capabilities—Background and Issues for Congress,” CRS report RL33153, updated 16 August 2024: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RL/RL33153>

- “Great Power Competition: Implications for Defense—Issues for Congress,” Congressional Research Service, Report R43838, updated 28 August 2024: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R43838>
- “NAVY READINESS - Actions Needed to Improve Support for Sailor-Led Maintenance,” United States Government Accountability Office, September 2024: <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-24-106525.pdf>

Other submarine force news

- Thomas Newdick, “Portuguese Diesel-Electric AIP Submarine Just Patrolled Under The Arctic Ice,” The War Zone, 26 June 2024: <https://www.twz.com/news-features/portuguese-diesel-electric-aip-submarine-just-patrolled-under-the-arctic-ice>
- Howard Altman, “Secretive Guided Missile Submarine USS Florida’s Leadership Talks About Their 727-Day Deployment,” The War Zone, 31 July 2024: <https://www.twz.com/air/secretive-guided-missile-submarine-uss-floridas-leadership-talks-about-their-727-day-deployment>
- Joseph Trevithick, “Australia To Help Maintain Visiting U.S. Nuclear Submarine For The First Time,” The War Zone, 22 August 2024: <https://www.twz.com/sea/australia-to-help-maintain-visiting-u-s-nuclear-submarine-for-the-first-time>
- Joseph Trevithick, “Everything We Just Learned About The Ghost Shark Uncrewed Submarine,” The War Zone, 23 August 2024: <https://www.twz.com/news-features/everything-we-just-learned-about-the-ghost-shark-uncrewed-submarine>
- Thomas Newdick, “India’s Improved Nuclear Ballistic Missile Submarine (INS *Arighat*) Enters Service,” The War Zone, 29 August 2024: <https://www.twz.com/sea/india-improved-nuclear-ballistic-missile-submarine-enters-service>
- Mai Jankowicz, “The US Navy Is About to Launch a Submarine Built for a Mixed-Gender Crew, the First of Its Kind,” Military.com, 10 September 2024: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/09/10/us-navy-about-launch-submarine-built-mixed-gender-crew-first-of-its-kind.html>

Mark your 2024 calendars for these upcoming events

- 7 October 2024: **NSLPACSW tour** – Emergency Control Center on Naval Base Point Loma – details will be distributed in a separate e-mail
- 8 October 2024: **NSLPACSW Chapter Luncheon**
- 1 -11 November 2024: **San Diego Fleet Week** – [see details here](#)
- 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 USSVI
- 10 December 2024: **NSLPACSW Chapter Luncheon**

Check the NSLPACSW website for a more complete [2023/2024 calendar of events](#).



NSLPACSW Luncheon / Professional Forum Reservations Information

<http://pacificsouthwest.navalsubleague.org>

Luncheon / Professional Forum - Tuesday, 8 October 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, 3 October 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, 3 October 2024.**



PROMOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF SUBMARINES TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE