



## Naval Submarine League Pacific Southwest Chapter June 2025 Newsletter

<http://pacificsouthwest.navalsubleague.org>  
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**Our speaker for **Tuesday, 10 June 2025** will be  
Captain Pete "Repete" Riebe, USN,  
Commanding Officer, USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72)**

**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. Pete Riebe is a native of Arlington, Washington. He enlisted in the Navy in 1990 and completed Electrician's Mate "A" School and Nuclear Power School before receiving an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. He earned his commission in 1996 and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1998. He holds a master's degree in global leadership from the University of San Diego and is a graduate of the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center (NAWDC) Seahawk Weapons and Tactics Instructor (SWTI) course, located at NAS Fallon, Nevada.

Riebe assumed command of USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72) May 18, 2023.

Riebe's operational assignments include commanding officer, USS Anchorage (LPD 23) and executive officer, USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71). His squadron tours include command of the "Battle Cats" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 73 and executive officer of the "Seahawks" of HSM 41, flying the MH-60R. Previous tours flying the SH-60B include his Department Head tour with the "Battle Cats" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 43, Training Officer tour with the "Scorpions" of HSL 49, instructor tour with the "Seahawks" of HSL 41, and his junior officer tour with the "Wolf Pack" of HSL 45. He's deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and the Global War on Terror.

Riebe served ashore on the Joint Staff in the J-5 Directorate initially as the Iraq desk officer and then as executive assistant to the Deputy Director for Politico-Military Affairs (Middle East). Additionally, he served as executive assistant to the Commander of U.S. 3rd Fleet.

Capt. Riebe completed the Aviation Nuclear Officer training pipeline in 2018. He has accumulated more than 3,800 flight hours. His personal awards include the Legion of Merit (two awards), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards), and various unit and campaign decorations.

On 19 March 2025, CAPT Riebe hosted an NSLPACSW tour group aboard the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN.



*USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN dockside in San Diego. Source: U.S. Navy Photo, MC1 Kelby Sanders, 2022*



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





**Highlights of the 13 May 2025 luncheon / professional forum  
at the Oceanview with CDR Robert “Wrecks” Belflower, Commanding Officer,  
Helicopter Maritime Strike (HSM) Weapons School Pacific**



*Beautiful spring day at the Oceanview.*



*Steve & Louise Andres & Don Mathiowetz.*



*Russ Ferbach, Bill Gaines & Warrie Leeke.*



*Mike Cosgrove & NSLPACSW Treasurer  
Jim Piburn.*



*Dick Ahlborn must be telling a fishing story to  
CDR Belflower & USMC pilot CAPT Castro.*





*Top L: NSLPACSW Chapter VP Robert Thomas & Jeff Fischbeck.*

*Top R: CDRE Will Wiley (CSS-11) greets our speaker, CDR Robert Belflower.*

*Left: ARCO (ARDM-5) Sailors and their CMC.*

*Below: Head table (CW from LL): Joyce Murphy (President, Navy League, Coronado Council), Terry McKearney (President, SDMAC Foundation), CDRE Will Wiley, (CSS-11), Bruce Renne (President, NSLPACSW Chapter), Speaker CDR Robert Belflower, Donna Kaup, Robert Thomas (VP, NSLPACSW Chapter) & Mike Cosgrove (Commander, USSVI San Diego Base).*







*Left: Bruce Renne kicked off the meeting by reviewing a long list of activities supported by the Chapter in April, including COMSUBPAC Sailor of the Year events and awards, NROTC pass in review ceremony and awards, Old Timer's Luncheon and tolling of the boats, and the 125<sup>th</sup> Submarine Birthday Ball.*

*Below: CDR Robert Belflower, Commanding Officer, Helicopter Maritime Strike (HSM) Weapons School Pacific, provided a briefing on modern air antisubmarine warfare (ASW), as implemented by the Navy with MH-60R multi-mission helicopters deployed with the fleet.*



*U.S. Navy MH-60R assigned to "Sea Hawks" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 41 hovers over Peruvian submarine BAP Pisagua (SS 33) during a hoisting exercise off the coast of San Diego as part of the Diesel-Electric Submarine Initiative (DESI) exercise on October 2024.*





Bruce Renne presented CDR Belflower with a copy of “A Century of Submarines in San Diego” and an NSL coin. CDR Belflower explained how the coin related to the Navy tradition of “stepping the mast.”



Bruce displays plaque from CSS-11 for NSLPACSW support for Sailor of the Year activities.

You'll find more photos from the ceremony and luncheon at these links:

- [Slideshow](#) (with captions)
- [Gallery](#) (for viewing or downloading individual photos)
- [Presentation](#) video (38 min)
- [“Stepping the Mast”](#) video (4 min)
- [“Modern Air ASW”](#) brief (PDF)

## UCLA Naval ROTC Senior Dinner and Awards, 8 May 2025



Gil Wolverton represented the NSL on 8 May 2025 at the UCLA Naval ROTC Senior Dinner and Awards Ceremony and presented the NSL's "Rear Admiral Frederick B. Warder Outstanding Achievement Award" (aka the "Fearless Freddy Warder Award") to the top graduating NROTC Midshipman headed for Submarine Service, MIDN 1/C Ira Lin.

*Gil Wolverton with awardee MIDN 1/C Ira Lin (R) and MIDN 1/C Aidan Araoz (L)*

## USS ALEXANDRIA (SSN-757) returned to San Diego on 15 May 2025



CDR Chris Rose, Commanding Officer of the Submarine Squadron 11 Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS ALEXANDRIA (SSN 757), and crew returned to Naval Base Point Loma following a 7-month deployment to the Indo-Pacific. You can read COMSUBPAC's announcement of the USS ALEXANDRIA's return [here](#), and a local news account by the San Diego Union-Tribune [here](#).



*U.S. Navy photo by MCS1 Aaron T. Smith*



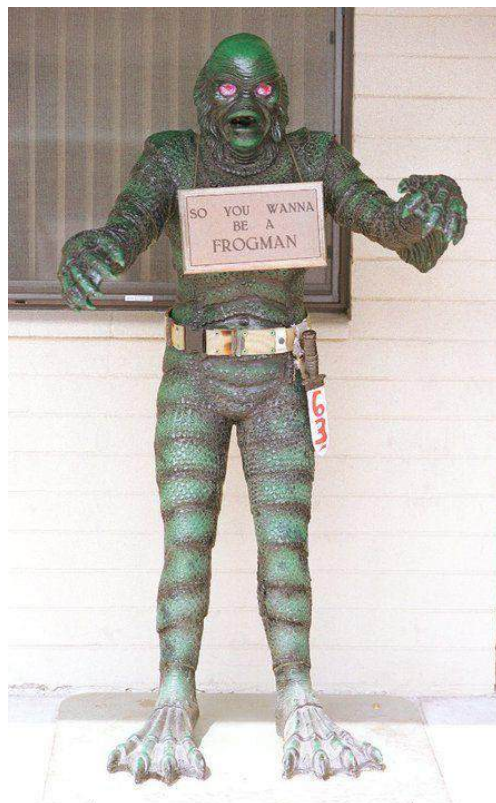
*The Point Loma Association, dozens of local merchants, and the Optimist Club of Point Loma celebrated the ALEXANDRIA's return with numerous banners and over 150 US flags.*



## **Navy SEAL training facility tour, Friday 16 May 2025**



NSLPACSW was invited by Naval Special Warfare Center (NSWC), Coronado to tour their Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) facilities on Coronado's Silver Strand. Check out the Navy SEALs website [here](#), with an overview of BUD/S [here](#). NSLPACSW President Bruce Renne worked with LCDR William Wininger, XO of the NSW Basic Training Command, to organize this tour as a follow-on to the December 2024 NSLPACSW luncheon / professional forum, when LCDR Wininger was one of the speakers.



(Top L) The NSLPACSW tour group. You can read a short oral history on Draper L. Kauffman on the U.S. Naval Institute website [here](#).

(Top R) Gift from Class 250. The secret may be TEAMWORK....or something else.

(Left) Gift from Class 63.

(Below) At the BUD/S beach.





## **Celebrate Memorial Day, Monday, 26 May 2025**

**Fort Rosecrans Memorial Day celebration:** This event is held from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM on 26 May 2025 at one of San Diego's largest and most celebrated memorials dedicated to our fighting men and women. Find more information [here](#) and [here](#).



**Miramar National Cemetery Veterans Memorial Service:** This year the memorial service is held from 1:00 – 3:00 PM on 26 May 2025 to honor the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Navy. Find more information [here](#) and [here](#).



### **U.S. National Submarine Memorial West Memorial Day ceremony:**

This memorial is located at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach. The ceremony will be held on 26 May 2025 at 11:00 AM. The observance, organized by USSVI Pasadena Base, will include guest speaker and NSLPACSW member CAPT (ret.) Jim Bryant, as well as a "tolling of the boats" ceremony, during which each of the 52 U.S. submarines lost during World War II is honored as a bell is tolled. The free event is open to the public and no advance reservations are needed. More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).





### **52 Boat Memorial, Liberty Station, San Diego “All Flags” ceremony:**

The USSVI San Diego Base will be placing a flag on each of the submarine monuments at the 52 Boats Memorial in Liberty Station, San Diego, at 7:30 AM followed by a tolling of the boats ceremony.



**USS Midway Museum *Legacy Week*:** The museum offers a wide variety of events starting on Friday, 23 May. On Monday, 26 May, the Memorial Day events begin with a commemorative wreath laying ceremony at 9:00 AM, in remembrance of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice wearing the uniform of our nation. While the ceremony will honor all who served, there will be a special tribute to World War II



veterans on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Second World War. This event is free and open to the public. Guests must arrive at the ceremony by 9:20 AM to receive complimentary admission to the museum following the ceremony. See the [USS Midway Museum website](#) for more information on this event.

### **Upcoming election of NSLPACSW Chapter officers, 10 June 2025**

The current NSLPACSW officers are listed on the Chapter website [here](#). Nominations are open for next year's Chapter officers. Please send your nominations to NSLPACSW past-President Don Mathiowetz, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, by e-mail: [dbmath1@cox.net](mailto:dbmath1@cox.net).

Elections will take place during the 10 June 2025 Chapter luncheon meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted prior to the elections.

**You must be present to vote.**

As of the distribution date of this Newsletter, the slate of candidates compiled by the Nominating Committee is as follows:

- President: Mr. Bruce Renne, currently serving as President
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: VADM (ret.) Robert Thomas, currently serving as 1<sup>st</sup> VP
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice presidents CMDCM(SS) Brandon Wallis, currently serving as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP
- Treasurer: Mr. Mike Crawford
- Secretary: Mr. Peter Lobner, currently serving as Secretary



## **The Navy SEAL Museum San Diego to open on 4 October 2025**



The new museum, which is the second Navy SEAL Museum in the Nation, is located at 1001 Kettner Blvd, close to the downtown Santa Fe Depot train station. The original Navy SEAL Museum opened in 1985 in Ft. Pierce, FL.

The San Diego Museum's operating hours will be 10 AM to 5 PM, Wednesdays – Mondays (closed Tuesdays). Tickets will be sold online for timed entries. Prices have not been announced. The Navy SEAL Museum San Diego's website is [here](#).



*Artist's rendering of the Navy SEAL Museum San Diego in downtown.  
Source: Terrie Rippee via San Diego Union-Tribune (24Apr25)*



*Seal Delivery Vehicle delivered through a second floor window to the Navy SEAL Museum,  
September 2024. Source: San Diego Museum Council*

You can watch a short (2:41 min) video showing the arrival and installation of the SEAL Delivery Vehicle during construction of the museum in September 2024 [here](#).

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

- Sam Lagrone, “Navy Awards Up to \$18.5B in Contracts for 2 Virginia-class Attack Subs, Workforce Development,” USNI News, 30 April 2025: <https://news.usni.org/2025/04/30/navy-awards-up-to-18-5b-in-contracts-for-2-virginia-class-attack-subs-workforce-development>
- John Grady, “Sea Launched Cruise Nuclear Missile to Deliver in 2034, Says Admiral,” USNI News, 8 May 2025: <https://news.usni.org/2025/05/08/sea-launched-cruise-nuclear-missile-to-deliver-in-2034-says-admiral>
- Tom Grady, “SECNAV Phelan: Fixing Columbia, Virginia Sub Production Top Priority,” USNI News, 15 May 2025: <https://news.usni.org/2025/05/15/secnav-phelan-fixing-columbia-virginia-sub-production-top-priority>
- Heather Mongilio, “Electric Boat, Sub Workers Union Agree to Tentative Contract Ahead of Strike Deadline,” USNI News, 19 May 2025: <https://news.usni.org/2025/05/19/electric-boat-sub-workers-union-agree-to-tentative-contract-ahead-of-strike-deadline>

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

- Ronald O’Rourke, “China Naval Modernization: Implications for U.S. Navy Capabilities—Background and Issues for Congress,” CRS report RL33153, updated 24 April 2026: <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/RL33153>

### **Submarine videos**

- “Breaking Silence: China Unveils Next-Gen of Four Submarine Classes (in connection with their Navy Day 2025)!” (8:46 min), posted by SpaceEyeNews, 29 April 2025: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArZjhsCk0l4>



*Type 636 (like Russian Kilo)*



*Type 039*



*Type 093*



*Type 094*

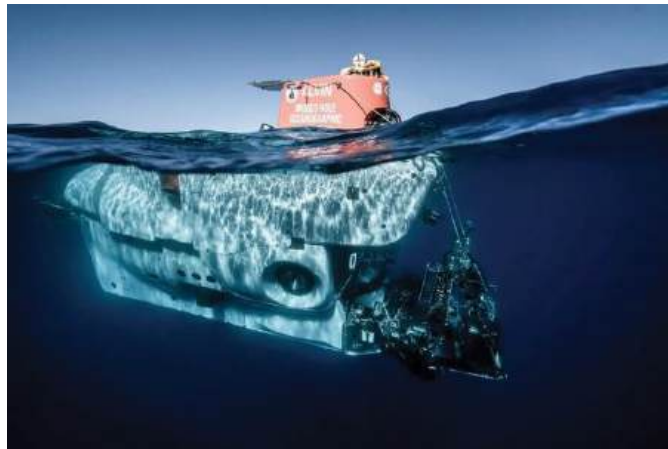
- “New Unreported Submarine In China Leaves West Guessing,” (11:15 min), posted by H.I. Sutton, 12 February 2025: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZbwU1ELFsE>



- “U.S. Tests New Virginia Class Submarine After Upgrade,” (10:33 min), posted by Military World, 15 March 2025:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIJKDwQJT8A>
- (Singapore) “MINDEF signs contract for 2 more Invincible-class submarines,” (7:38 min), posted by CNA, 7 May 2025:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHecWPG7Krk>

### **Other submarine force news**

- “China reveals key capabilities of four major submarine classes during Navy Day,” Army Recognition Group, 23 April 2025:  
<https://armyrecognition.com/news/navy-news/2025/china-reveals-key-capabilities-of-four-major-submarine-classes-during-navy-day>
- “HD Hyundai Heavy Industries Enters Latin American Market with Proprietary Submarine” (for Peru), Hyundai press release, 28 April 2025:  
<https://www.hd.com/en/newsroom/media-hub/press/view?detailsKey=3521>
- Sara Hashemi, “Scientists (aboard the minisub Alvin) Stumbled Upon an Active Volcanic Eruption in a Mid-Ocean Ridge for the First Time Ever,” Smithsonian Magazine, 8 May 2025, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/scientists-stumbled-upon-an-active-volcanic-eruption-in-a-mid-ocean-ridge-for-the-first-time-ever-180986586/>



*Minisub Alvin.*

*Source: Luis Lamar / Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*

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

- July & August: Summer hiatus. No NSLPACSW Chapter luncheons
- 9 September 2025: **NSLPACSW Chapter Luncheon**
- 14 October 2025: **NSLPACSW Chapter Luncheon**



## NSLPACSW Luncheon / Professional Forum Reservations Information

<http://pacificsouthwest.navalsubleague.org>

**Luncheon / Professional Forum - Tuesday, 10 June 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, Thursday, 5 June 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, Thursday, 5 June 2025.**

