

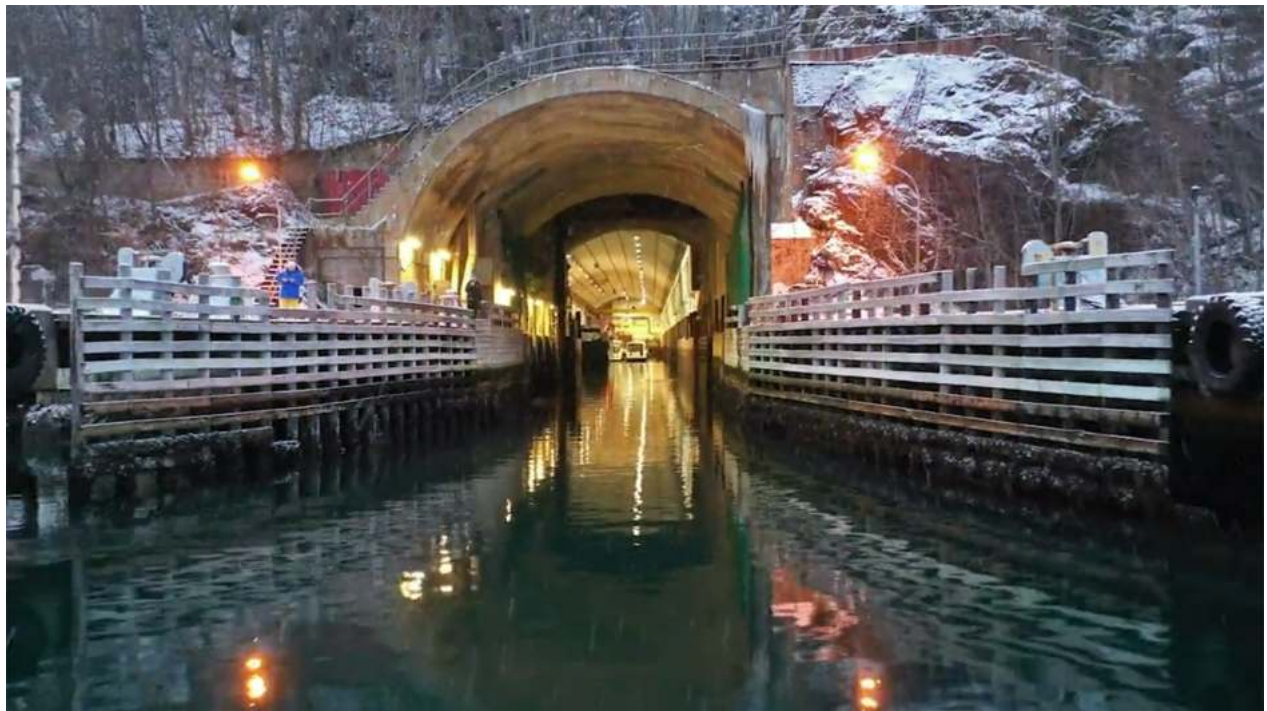
March 2025

CORVINA BASE NEWS



U.S. Navy Wants To Operate Out Of This Norwegian Submarine Cave

Page 8



Our Creed

To perpetuate the memory of our Shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country;

That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments.

Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

Base Commander
 Danny T. McHugh
 310-946-7000
 torpedotube@hotmail.com

Vice Commander
 John Hulsey
 408-375-7238
 jahulsey@garlic.com

Secretary
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Treasurer
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Newsletter/Web
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POC
 Leif Larsen
 972-0583
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K4K Chairman
 Roy Johnson
 775-629-9947
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Past Base Commander
 Rick Johns
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BOOSTER CLUB



Kaps
 Booster Club

Shipmates on Eternal Patrol

2001

Harry Wellman CS1 (SS)

2002

Harry Sembagh EN3 (SS)

Stanley Blair ICC (SS)

2003

Melvin Phillips ET1 (SS)

2004

Boyd Tieslau TM3 (SS)

Russel Scofield TMCS (SS)

2005

Richard Burdette LT. (SS)

Robert Rich EN1 (SS)

Donald Campbell TM2 (SS)

Francis Signore CSC (SS)

2006

Harold Lister EN3 (SS)

2007

James Avitt RM1 (SS)

2008

Larry Garrelts ETCs(SS)

Melvin Schreckengost ET2

Charles H. Massie TM1 (SS)

2009

Wayne F. Garrett ET2 (SS)

Elvin L. Morrison FTC (SS)

Erick Bjorum CWO(SS)

2010

Norm Snyder EM1(SS)

Charles Hyman MM2(SS)

James T. Wright III

Gordon Lane RMC(SS)

2011

Edwin V. Schalbert TMC (SS)

2013

Chester E. MacDowell TMI (SS)

Gerald Stratton ENC(SS)

Jerry D. Noma MM2(SS)

Richard Ekenberg, ETC(SS)

Richard C. Barringer SOSN(SS)

2014

Lowell Wapelhorst MOMM2(SS)

Jack Quade SMSN(SS)

2015

Bert Skidmore YN2(SS)

Frank Kenyon EM3 (SS)

Walter Lewis IC1(SS)

Bob Heaps IC2 (SS)

2016

James Jordan TMSN (SS)

Herbert "Doc" L. Starmer. HMC (SS)

2017

Rudolph (Rudy) Massenzi

Don Brown FTGC(SS)

Joseph Casten EM3 (SS)

2018

Leonard (Lenny) Stefanelli QM1(SS)

Lionel Schmidt STS1(SS)

2019

Primo Quarisa EN3 (SS)

Dennis Wiley MMC(MDV/SS/SW)

Raoul (Bill) Noland EM2(SS)

Taggart Rogers LT(SS)

Thomas Utley MM1(SS)

Delmar Schwichtnberg CWO3(SS)

2020

2021 Rod Friedline ST1(SS)

William G. Parsons RM1(SS)

Jack C. Ely QM2(SS)

Richard R. Dentino EM3(SS)

2021

Oscar Rambeau QM3(SS)

Dale Poe EMC (SS)

James L. Stuart MMC

Kenneth M. McCray EN1(SS)

James Weaver SK2

2022

Dan Fawcett

2023

L. David Craig ETC(SS)

Bob Lewis TMSN(SU)

James Gibson LCDR(SS)

Clyde Webber ETNSN(SS)

2024

Arthur C. Akerson LCDR(SS)

2025

Ted Hanson EWC(SS)



Commander's Log

https://www.military.com/travel/these-resorts-and-hotels-are-just-veterans-and-military-members.html?ESRC=navy_241231.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20241231
https://www.military.com/off-duty/service-members-are-no-longer-banned-displaying-american-flag-horizontally-major-events.html?ESRC=eb_250117.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20250117



[These Resorts and Hotels Are Just for Veterans and Military Members](https://www.military.com/travel/these-resorts-and-hotels-are-just-veterans-and-military-members.html?ESRC=navy_241231.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20241231)

Exclusive resorts and hotels for veterans and military members prove it's not all work and no play with the military. Military bases worldwide are home to some truly memorable vacation spots ...
www.military.com



[Service Members Are No Longer Banned from Displaying the American Flag Horizontally at Major Events - Military.com](https://www.military.com/off-duty/service-members-are-no-longer-banned-displaying-american-flag-horizontally-major-events.html?ESRC=eb_250117.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20250117)

It might come as a surprise, but U.S. service members weren't technically allowed to unfurl giant U.S. flags at major events, despite the practice's status as a staple of many pregame ceremonies.
www.military.com



Secretary's Minutes



Minutes of Membership Meeting held 8 February 2025

14:00: Danny McHugh called the meeting of 12 members and 2 guests to order and instructed Ted Fanning to sound the Klaxon. Danny led the pledge of allegiance, and read the creed and tolling of boats lost in February. Danny then called for a round of introductions. Each member present, in turn, stood and introduced themselves.

Minutes of last meeting: Danny surveyed the membership present for any corrections to the minutes of the January meeting. None were requested. uH

XO Report: John Hulsey has nothing to report.

Past Commander Report: Rick Johns is absent today

Treasurer Report: Bill Brehler advised the membership of our account balances. Expenses this month were for Postage, Dues to USSVI National and a donation the USSVI Charitable Foundation.

Secretary Report: Eric Meagher has nothing to report.

Newsletter/ Webmaster Report: Norm Peterson is absent today.

COB Report: Ted Fanning has nothing to report.

Kap(ss)4Kid(ss) Report: Dan Delorey is absent today. Corvina is looking for a new K4K coordinator to re-boot the program with the aim of ending our current exile from the local hospitals.

P.O.C./Events Report: Leif Larsen is absent today

Parade Report: Roy Johnson has initiated contact with the parade organizations and is waiting to hear from them.

Recruiter Report: John Hulsey reports no new contacts have been made lately. He has packets ready for anyone who would like to take some to hand directly to any prospective members they may meet. Danny says, with John now as XO, we would like to have a new recruiter.

Advisor Report: Bill Conklin is absent today.

Other Business:

National Convention in Reno: Danny mentioned that the convention committee had a meeting and took a tour of the Grand Sierra Resort. The next meeting will take place around October when the committee gets its initial funding from National. <https://www.grandsierraresort.com> <https://subvetconvention.org/>

1409: Due to the exiguous attendance at today's meeting, Danny made a command decision to omit our customary raffle from our usual activities today. He then instructed Ted to sound the Klaxon and adjourned the meeting.



Treasurer's Report

1. All account balances are available at the Base Meetings.

2. Deposits for February:

Base Meeting Raffle	\$ 0.0
Coin Sales	\$20.00
Booster Club	\$600.00

3. Checks issued in February:

Michaels receipt - John Check# 2397 \$19.99

Lost Boats in March

[USS F-4 \[ex-SKATE\] \(SS23\)](#)

lost on **21-Mar-1915** with the loss of **19 crew** when it foundered off Honolulu Harbor.

[USS H-1 \(SS-28\)](#)

lost on **12-Mar-1920** with the loss of **4 crew** when it Grounded, Magdalena Bay, Mexico, was sunk in 9 Fathoms while being towed off

[USS Perch \(SS-176\)](#)

scuttled on **3-Mar-1942** 30 Miles NW Soerabia, Java
60 crew were taken prisoner, 52 survived the war

[USS Grampus \(SS-207\)](#)

lost on **5-Mar-1943** with the loss of **72 crew** when it was sunk in the Blackett Strait

[USS Triton \(SS-201\)](#)

lost on **15-Mar-1943** with the loss of **74 crew** when it was sunk at 0° 09N; 144° 55E

[USS Tullibee \(SS-284\)](#)

lost on **26-Mar-1944** with the loss of **79 crew** when it was sunk in operating area just north of Palau.

(One man was taken prisoner and he survived the war)

[USS Kete \(SS-369\)](#)

lost sometime on or after **20-Mar-1945** with the loss of **87 crew** when it was sunk somewhere between 29° 38N; 130° 02E and Midway.

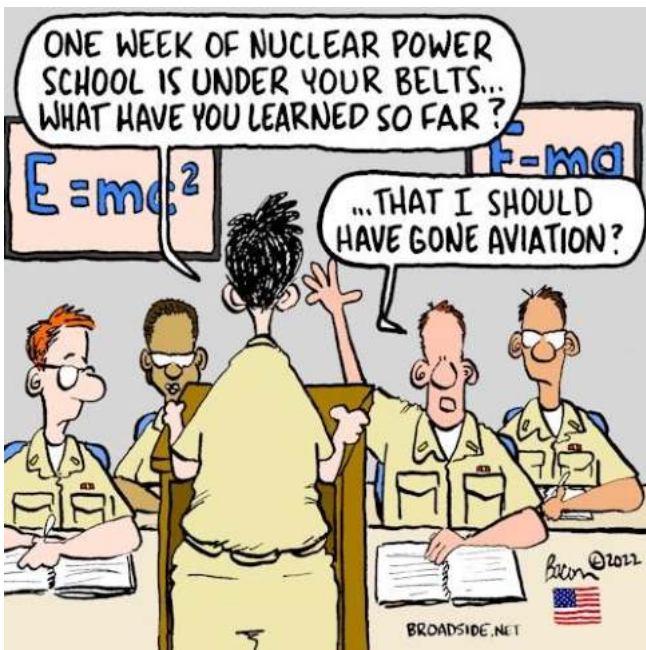
[USS Trigger \(SS-237\)](#)

lost on **28-Mar-1945** with the loss of **91 crew** when it was sunk in area 32° 16N 30° 40N by 132° 05E-127° 50E

Future
Picture
Of
Ted
Fanning



Corn from the COB



"So who would like to respond to what John's shared about life on a submarine?"



Update on one of the USS Corvina crew members

Danny - I am Harvey's son. Terry Sheldon - Brown sent me info about your organization through Dominick Boncore (another submariner).

First, a Bravo Zulu to your organization for the detailed info about the Corvina. I have attached a picture, so you can update Harvey's bio. Yes, he did see me, as you can observe in the attached picture. I was born on 8/28/1942. I assume the picture with Harvey was taken while the Corvina was fitting out at Electric Boat. Harvey and Dolores were married on 11/25/1941. She was 16 and her mother forbade her to drive across country with Harvey unless they were married. You can do the math!

Mom passed away 2 years ago at 6 weeks short of her 98th birthday in 2023. She spent the war working at Electric Boat, not knowing Harvey's fate until January 1946.

After the war my Mom married another submariner, William H Bingham, and he adopted me. He served on 6 boats, including 2 that were sunk on the next war patrol, one being the Bulhead, for which the book "Overdue and Presumed Lost" was written.

I went to the US Naval Academy in the "Son of Deceased Veteran" category, of which there were only 10. I graduated in 1965 and served for 22 years. I was a "black shoe" who served on 4 destroyer types and had plenty of interactions with subs over those tours.

Again , thank you for having a great website about the Corvina.I learned things about my Father from your site.

Fair winds and following seas,

Clyde Bingham, CDR, USN (Retired)



The
commissioning
Of the
USS Kamehameha
Dave, where are you?

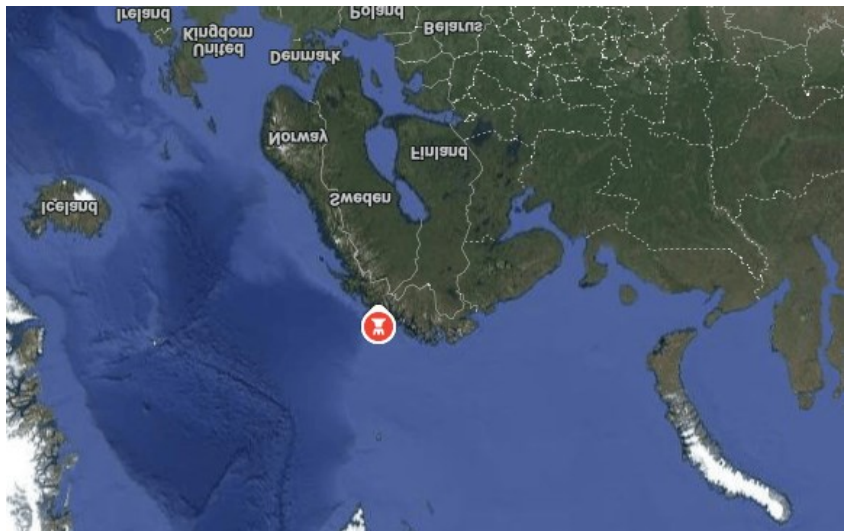


U.S. Navy Still Wants To Operate Out Of This Norwegian
Submarine Cave, But A Deal Remains Elusive

The U.S. Navy has long eyed a return to a cavernous former Royal Norwegian Navy base that could serve as a convenient support point for submarine operations in the Arctic. But if and when American boats will ever be able to return to the Cold War-era Olavsvern complex remains to be seen.

Olavsvern appeared poised to return to operations in late 2020, when Norway's state broadcaster *NRK* first reported that the complex could again be used by American submarines, and that U.S. military officials had made multiple visits to the site in anticipation of a new lease deal.

But U.S. and Norwegian officials told *TWZ* this week that, to date, such plans have not materialized. While officials have not provided the precise reasons for the stall, it's been years since an American submarine has used the facility, with U.S. 6th Fleet telling *TWZ* that a sub last visited the installation in 2009.



The complex would appear to offer several advantages for U.S. forces headed into the Arctic. Nestled in the nation's fjords near the Norwegian Sea, and built under a mountain, the once-secretive Olavsvern base would provide America's silent service with a prime

port location for facilitating patrols in the nearby Barents Sea and Arctic region, waters heavily trafficked by the Russian fleet. Such hardened facilities are complicated and very expensive to build, and portions of the complex sit beneath nearly 900 feet of rock.

“We’d like to go back there,” a U.S. defense official told *TWZ* on condition of anonymity to discuss private deliberations. “The location speaks for itself.”

Submarine caves are rarer than they once were during the Cold War, but some are still in use around the globe today, including much more modern and elaborate facilities. China has a massive submarine cave that is capable of housing nuclear submarines at the Yulin Naval Base on the South China Sea’s Hainan Island, for instance.

How long it might actually take for the U.S. Navy to restart operations there, and what alterations would be required to support nuclear submarines, remains unclear. Images suggest that America’s submarines could not fit into the complex’s submarine tunnels, but deep-sea quays for larger vessels, including nuclear subs, sit on the outside of Olavsvern, according to the Arctic Institute, a non-profit American think tank. Questions also remain about what kind of servicing would be offered to American boats there. Beyond a quick resupply port call or relatively minor fixes, nuclear submarines require extensive support infrastructure.



Geography aside, past *TWZ* reporting from when a new deal appeared close to completion showcased other aspects of Olavsvern that could make it an ideal U.S. submarine hub in the region. It features 32,000 square feet of deep-water docking space, including a dock for maintenance, and the subterranean areas are accessed via a large blast door and 3,000-foot-long entrance tunnel.

The entire base covers 270,000 square feet. Olavsvern also has barracks, hardened storage areas, and other maintenance facilities above and below the surface.

Olavsvern began as a military fuel depot in the early 1950s and cost \$450 million to build over four decades, mostly financed by NATO, according to the think tank, with a massive, hydraulic steel gate installed at the mountain basin’s entrance in the late 1960s, as well as fresh water supplies, a power plant, and ventilation.

Submarines and fast patrol boats were brought into the mountain basin for maintenance and repair during the Cold War, according to the Arctic Institute.

“The base complex soon became an important center for national and Allied exercises and winter training,” the institute says in a history of the complex.

“Olavsvern was also utilized for a significant number of port calls by Allied submarines enroute to and from the High North,” the history continues. “A Norwegian submarine was always kept on 24 hour readiness in the mountain basin, with one submarine always at sea.”

Continued U.S. Navy interest in the facility comes as Russia has expanded its regional operations in recent years. Across Russia’s Arctic territory, this has included an increase in submarine activity and the expansion of its northernmost Arctic base, along with notable physical expansion of a constellation of air and other bases across Russia’s territory in the far north.

The Barents Sea is a critical transit point for Russian submarines and other warships heading from their bases in the northwestern part of the country toward the Atlantic via the so-called Greenland, Iceland, United Kingdom (GIUK) gap.

While 6th Fleet officials said the command continues to work with Oslo to explore using Olavsvern “in ways that would benefit both our shared security and the local community,” *NRK* has in the past reported on local concerns about safety risks from having nuclear-powered subs in the area.

The Norwegian Ministry of Defense sold the base to a private group in 2013, and ministry officials told *TWZ* that, “as of today, there are no concrete plans to expand the military use of facilities at Olavsvern.”

Olavsvern is currently held by military logistics services



provider WilNor Governmental Services, and the base is primarily used for annual winter training by the Dutch Marine Corps, the firm's CEO, Vidar Hole, told *TWZ* Thursday. But Hole said WilNor wants to once again make Olavsvern a logistics hub and High North forward operating base, as it was during the Cold War.

The last military commanding officer of the base before it was sold relayed that nuclear-powered subs made more than 150 port calls there over the years, according to Hole.

"The infrastructure for receiving SSNs and their crews is intact and in good working condition," he said. "The technical status of the base, including submarine compliant port infrastructure, has been documented thoroughly by various allied site surveys as well as by a commercial surveying company."

But before Olavsvern could ever once again accommodate nuclear subs, the firm requires approval from Norwegian radiation authorities, Hole said.

"We have earlier requested the MoD assistance to initiate this process," he said. "Regrettably, we do not have clarity on if and when they will accommodate our request."

Norwegian MOD officials did not answer a *TWZ* query regarding that request by deadline.

Hole said the base has hosted several U.S. senators and U.S. embassy staff, with a bipartisan group of senators visiting the nearby city of Tromsø in 2023.



Outside Olavsvern, the U.S. submarine force has in recent years conducted several port visits in nearby Grøtsund harbor, north of the nearby city of Tromsø, which "accommodates U.S. submarines very well," 6th Fleet officials said. The *Virginia* class attack submarine USS *New Mexico* (SSN-779) visited in May 2021.

The *Ohio* class guided-missile submarine USS *Florida* (SSGN-728) made its own visit there in September 2023, and the secretive attack submarine USS *Seawolf* (SSN-575) also made a high-profile visit to the area in 2020.

While Olavsvern was sold as part of the post-Cold War drawdown undertaken by Western militaries after the fall of the Soviet Union, Norway has seen "a significant increase" in the number of visits by American, British and French submarines since Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimea region in 2014, according to the Arctic Institute.

"According to the Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (DSA), the number of visits has increased from 10-15 to 30-40 visits per year (except for 2020, when the number of port calls was fewer)," the institute states in its history of Olavsvern.

As NATO members in Europe surge defense spending and capabilities in the face of Russia's war in Ukraine and continued saber-rattling against the West, it remains unclear if or when Olavsvern will ever be dragooned into the effort, and whether its expansive and fortified capabilities will ever once again be utilized to counter Moscow in the Arctic. Either way, American and NATO submarines will undoubtedly continue to work to expand their operations and influence in the increasingly critical region.

They call us "The Elderly"

We were born in the 40's.
 We grew up in the 50-60s.
 We studied in the 60-70-80's.
 We were dating in the 60-70-80s.
 We got married and discovered the world in the 60-70s.
 We venture into the 80-90's.
 We stabilize in the 2000's.
 We got wiser in the 2010's.
 And we are going firmly through and beyond 2020.

Turns out we've lived through EIGHT different decades..
 TWO different centuries..
 TWO different millennia..

We have gone from the telephone with an operator for long-distance calls to video calls to anywhere in the world.

We have gone from slides to YouTube, from vinyl records to online music, from handwritten letters to email and Whats App.

From live matches on the radio, to black and white TV, colour TV and then to 3D HD TV.

We went to the Video store and now we watch Netflix.

We got to know the first computers, punch cards, floppy disks and now we have gigabytes and megabytes on our smartphones.

We wore shorts throughout our childhood and then long trousers, Oxfords, flares, shell suits & blue jeans..

We dodged infantile paralysis, meningitis, polio, tuberculosis, swine flu and now COVID-19.

We rode skates, tricycles, bicycles, mopeds, petrol or diesel cars and now we drive hybrids or electric..

Yes, we've been through a lot but what a great life we've had!

They could describe us as "sexennial's," people who were born in that world of the fifties, who had an analog childhood and a digital adulthood.

We've kind of "Seen-It-All"!

Our generation has literally lived through and witnessed more than any other in every dimension of life..

It is our generation that has literally adapted to "CHANGE."

A big round of applause to all the members of a very special generation, which will be UNIQUE!!!!