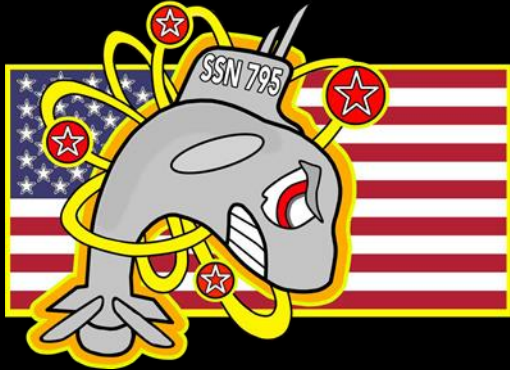


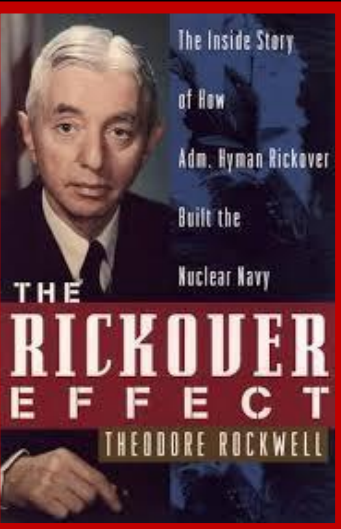
# The Rickover Tribune

The official newsletter of USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER (SSN 795)



**"Committed to Excellence"**

**First Quarter, 2025**



## FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

What a year we've had on RICKOVER! Since commissioning in October 2023, RICKOVER has been as operational as almost any submarine in our force. For better or worse, we're now starting on a docking maintenance period with Electric Boat shipyard that will last about one year.

I'm proud of what the RICKOVER has accomplished in 2024. We awarded over 100 silver fish for sailor submarine qualification, and over 20 gold fish for officer submarine warfare qualification. We qualified a deep bench of experienced operators to take the RICKOVER back out to sea in 2026: even with all the expected turnover we already qualified all the enlisted watchstations we need to get back underway. We shot lots of exercise torpedoes and trained lots of students during our two times hosting the Submarine Command Course. We showed off our ship with four distinguished visitor cruises and one film session for a major motion picture in the Mission Impossible franchise. We also tested all the parts of our ship and plenty of new technologies that the Submarine Force is developing.

Looking ahead, we're going back into the dock for three kinds of repairs. First, there are issues from the initial construction and sea trials that didn't need immediate fixes but the shipyard agrees need to be fixed. These are like the "warranty maintenance" you might do on a new car that wasn't built exactly perfectly. Second, with a year of operations underway behind us we've already had a few things start to fail with wear-and-tear problems, and the Navy is paying to fix these. Finally, there are a few class problems that weren't resolved before the RICKOVER was built, and the shipyard is doing some upgrades for us to prevent future problems. Two of these class problems are not urgent fixes, but they will get worse over time and will take many months to completely resolve, so that's why we'll be out of service for so long.

The crew will stay busy during the entire shipyard period. In addition to setting conditions and supporting the yard in their maintenance, we just spent a year developing a warfighting crew and need to do everything we can to maintain those skills. We will be using the training facilities at Submarine School to train new sailors and keep our teams proficient, and we already have several RICKOVER crew members signed up to ride other boats on deployment while we're in drydock. I look forward to the next months of heavy maintenance, but we're keeping our warfighting mission in mind even while out of the water.



## FROM THE CHIEF OF THE BOAT

HOOYAH RICKOVER!! As I prepare to turn over as Chief of the Boat to my relief, Senior Chief John Vandenburg, I reflect on the opportunities and the accomplishments I have been blessed to be a part of. I would like to thank the Officers, Chiefs, Sailors and our Ombudsman, Celeste, for the dedication, courage, and GRIT each one of you have shown. I am proud of all of you and I know you will continue to build on the legacy we have started. I have many awesome memories from over the past 3 years that I will be able to look back on, but I consider our greatest success to be the reputation we have built for ourselves across the waterfront. It truly means something to be a RICKOVER Sailor and each one of you should be proud of what we have accomplished. I will miss you all and could not have asked for a better group to have served with. I look forward to hearing about all your successes in the future. For a final time, Wishing you fair winds and following seas from the US Navy's finest warship!



# SILVER DOLPHINS RECIPIENTS



MMN2(SS) JUSTICE



STSSN(SS) GALLMAN



ETN3(SS) GRAYSON



ITRSN(SS) TRAVIS



ITSEW(SS) CRIPE

Can you think of a symbol that has immediate meaning to you? Maybe it's the American flag, the logo of your favorite sports team, or your college mascot. For the men and women of the Submarine Force, it's the submarine warfare insignia, informally known as a submariner's "dolphins." Submariners earn their dolphins by demonstrating their vast knowledge of all the systems aboard their submarine in a process they call "qualifying." Qualifying is not just a rite of passage or an achievement for submariners, it is a requirement of submarine service. A new unqualified submariner has a year to successfully complete the qualification process and pass his or her final evaluation board prior to receiving their dolphins.



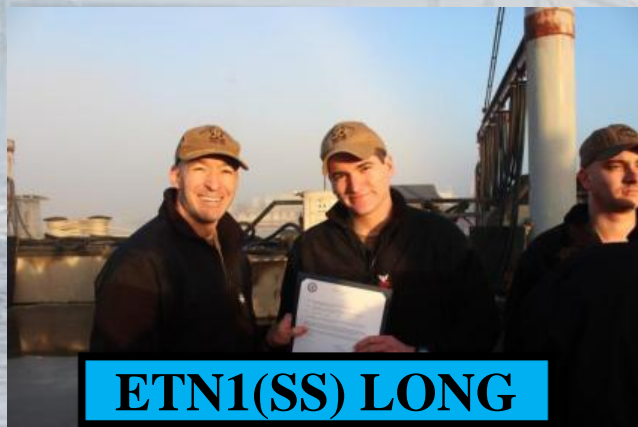
# Congratulations to the following Sailors for being selected for advancement to the next paygrade!



**MMN1(SS) SHIEL**



**FT1(SS) FRANCO**



**ETN1(SS) LONG**



**MMN1(SS) CUMMINS**



**ETN1(SS) LANE**

***BRAVO ZULLU, SHIPMATES!***

**Congratulations to the following Sailors for being selected for advancement to the next paygrade!**



**LSS2(SS)  
JACKSON**



**FT2(SS)  
VELA**

***BRAVO ZULLU, SHIPMATES!***



# Congratulations to the following Sailors for being selected for advancement to the next paygrade!



**ETV3(SU) GLOVER**



**CSS3(SS) COLEMAN**



**STS3(SS) NEWMAN**



**STS3(SS) HINES**



**MMA3(SS) COTTONGAME**

***BRAVO ZULLU, SHIPMATES!***



# FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

The following Sailors have transferred and received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for their faithful service aboard RICKOVER:



EMN1 Thompkins



STS1 Graham



CSS2 Pearson



CDR Shope



MMNC Correia



TM2 Huerta

# RICKOVER'S NEWEST DEVILS!

FTSA  
LOUIS



MMN2  
HARTMAN



MMACS  
FEINBURG



ITRSN  
ENDICOTT



TMC  
COOPER



# WARMEST WELCOMES!





# OMBUDSMAN UPDATE

Hello RICKOVER families! I am Celeste Winters, your Command Family Ombudsman. My role as the volunteer Ombudsman is to support the sailors and their families who are serving on the USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER. I do this in a variety of ways, including providing information and referrals, facilitating communication during crises, and using my experiences and training to help families navigate Navy life.

2025 for the USS RICKOVER has already been extremely eventful! If you or your sailor are feeling stressed or overwhelmed by all the changes, please don't hesitate to reach out for resources. One of the newest resources available to sailors who live in the Groton area is free access to the Headspace app. This app is a science-based program created to help with anxiety, stress, relationship issues, sleep issues, and more. If you would like more information, please let me know!

While our sailors prepare the boat for whatever is coming next, it's just as important for us as family members to prepare ourselves. Learning a new hobby, finding a support group, preparing the necessary paperwork like POAs and wills, or just taking some time for some self-care will make such a difference. With the uncertainty of the schedule, sometimes all we can manage is a few minutes a day to ourselves to relax and unwind. But try your best to do something that brings you joy, peace, or relaxation every day!

## OMBUDSMAN CONTACT INFORMATION

[795ombudsman@gmail.com](mailto:795ombudsman@gmail.com)

PHONE: (860) 772-4133

## RESOURCES

AMCROSS

COMPASS

MWR

FLEET AND FAMILY SUPPORT  
CENTER







# OMBUDSMAN UPDATE

As always, I would be remiss if I didn't remind everyone of proper Operations Security (OPSEC). One of the most critical roles of a military family is to keep the information your sailor gives you secure. This information could be about boat movement, port calls, the maintenance schedule, or upcoming missions. Keeping the information safe includes not sharing it in writing (including text messages), in public places, or on any social media platforms like Reddit, streaming sites, and Facebook. I speak of OPSEC often because we never know when our sailors are going to be called away for a mission, and therefore we should be practicing it constantly.

I am so grateful to continue to work as your Ombudsman! If you need my assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out. You can contact me at the cell phone listed below between the hours of 8am-8pm EST M-F (24/7 for emergencies), or via email (with a return email within 24 working hours).

Celeste Winters

USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER Ombudsman

Cell: 860-772-4133

Email: [795ombudsman@gmail.com](mailto:795ombudsman@gmail.com)

Navy Family Ombudsman are required to report to the command and/or the appropriate authorities all instances of alleged or known child abuse, alleged spouse abuse, potential or attempted suicide, potential homicidal or life-threatening behavior, and any other issues identified as reportable by the Commanding Officer.

## OMBUDSMAN CONTACT INFORMATION

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### RESOURCES

AMCROSS

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FLEET AND FAMILY SUPPORT  
CENTER



# RICKOVER'S ADVENTURES AT SEA



**Underway Section NAV Officers**



**Underway Section WEPS Officers**



**Underway Section ENG Officers**



# RICKOVER'S ADVENTURES AT SEA



**Underway Section Days**



**Underway Section Swings**



**Underway Section Acting Mids**



# RICKOVER'S ADVENTURES AT SEA



Returning to Subbase



Cold Sunset on the Bridge



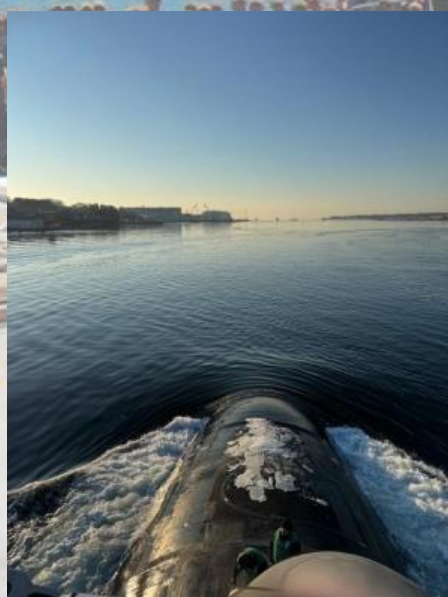
Icy Maneuvering Watch



Sunset on the RICKOVER



Underway from Subbase



Headed out to Sea