

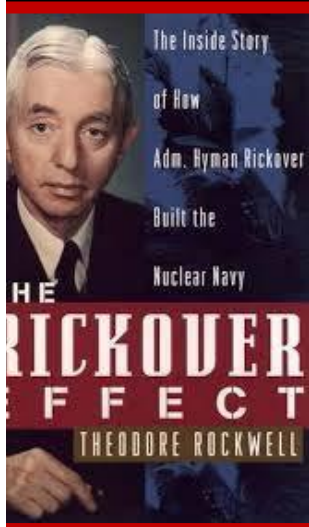


The Rickover Tribune

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

"Committed to Excellence"

Second Quarter, 2025



FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

RICKOVER moved down to dry dock at Electric Boat shipyard to do some upgrades and repairs before going out on our first deployment. We're doing lots of intrusive work under the waterline to make sure that the ship stays healthy for years to come.

For the crew, we spend fewer nights on the boat and pass off quite a bit of work to the shipyard for these months. However, we're still staying busy supporting the shipyard in setting conditions for work and training our teams to get back out to sea. We actually have almost a dozen sailors going out on rides to support our sister submarines that are operating, building experience for the RICKOVER sailors and building deeper teams for the deploying subs. We also supported two weeks of intensive combat simulations in the trainers to support the Submarine Command Course, developing tactics and training the next generation of submarine commanding and executive officers.

Our project is making good progress right now and I'm still very hopeful that we won't find any big problems with the maintenance that have to be fixed before undocking and going back out to sea. There are always bumps in the road with machines as complicated as the RICKOVER, but both the crew and the RICKOVER project team have been working together every day to knock down small problems as they come up and keep the work moving. I'm very happy with our Electric Boat trades and managers, and even more happy with the flexibility and can-do attitude from the crew.

You might miss it if you don't watch closely, but RICKOVER starred in the latest Mission Impossible movie with Tom Cruise. A helicopter filmed us raising and lowering our masts for part of the story on a sub in the Pacific, and it was enough for the crew to get a "special thanks" in the credits and three of us to be invited to the New York premier of the movie. We also sent 10 crew members to Fleet Week NYC, all part of our effort to show off our amazing people and the contributions we make to national defense.

We did have a few big leadership changes in the last few months. LCDR Oliver Nelsen, our engineer officer, was pulled to the SOUTH DAKOTA to go on deployment with them. LCDR Amy Trammel graduated from department head school and relieved him here on RICKOVER. LT Elliot George was relieved as our weapons officer to head to Submarine Group 2 for shore duty and LCDR Samantha Kitts took his place after serving as the engineer on another boat for two years. Finally, after doing so much to take this crew from a building to the pointy tip of the naval spear, TCMC Sean DeGraff rotated to shore after relief by TCMC John Vandenburg.



FROM THE CHIEF OF THE BOAT

BOOYAH RICKOVER!! I am Master Chief John VanDenburg and have relieved as Chief of the Boat, I bring 23 years of naval experience to the RICKOVER and am looking forward to working with all of you. We have a new Ombudsman, Laura Hugill. We have settled into the shipyard and are ahead of schedule. We advanced 4 Sailors to First Class Petty Officer 3 Sailors to Second Class Petty Officer 3 Sailors to Third Class Petty Officer this past quarter. For the first time, wishing you fair winds and following seas from the US Navy's finest warship!



SILVER DOLPHINS RECIPIENTS



ETVSN(SS) Mesler



TMFN(SS) Miller



CSSSN(SS) Britton

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) Brill-Todish

BRAVO ZULU, SHIPMATES!

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



**CSS2(SS)
Coleman**

BRAVO ZULU, SHIPMATES!

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



STS3(SS) Gallman



MMA3(SS) Park



MMA3(SS) Hernandezgante

BRAVO ZULU, SHIPMATES!

**NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL!
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING SAILORS FOR THEIR
DEDICATION AND DEVOTION TO DUTY THAT REFLECTED CREDIT
UPON THE NAVAL SERVICE.**



MMN2 Scibona



MMN2 Mcquilkin



MMA3 Cottongame



YNS3 Kiste



TMFN Prizio



MMN2 Hokoanastanley

BRAVO ZULU SHIPMATES!

**NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL!
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TM3 Macklin



MMN2 Jimenez



TMFN Miller



STS2 Laporte

BRAVO ZULU SHIPMATES!

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

The following Sailors have transferred and we thank them for their faithful service aboard RICKOVER:



LT Verkamp



TMCM Degraff



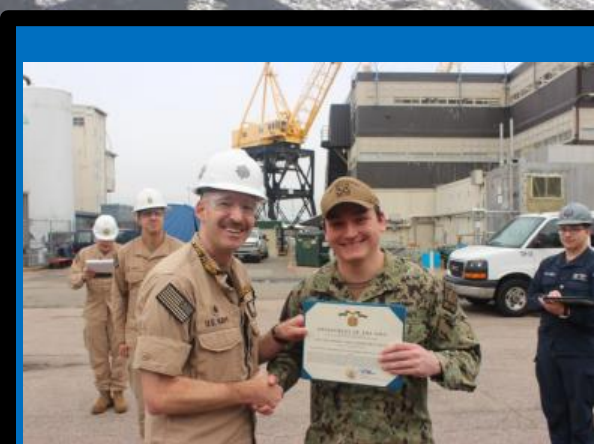
TMC Bergeron



LCDR Nelsen



HM1 Taylor



CSS1 Fernandez

RICKOVER'S NEWEST DEVILS!

CSSSA
HO



LCDR
TRAMMEL



LTJG
GAUTHIER



LTJG
SEWALL



TMCN
VANDENBURG



MMN3
DZURICA



HMC
HARRIS



MMN3
KRAMER



LCDR
KITTS



ITNC
RODRIGUEZ



LTJG
HARRIS



ITR3
SHEPARD



EMN1
OTIS



WARMEST WELCOMES!



OMBUDSMAN UPDATE

Hello RICKOVER families,

My name is Laura Hugill, and I'm honored to introduce myself as your new Ombudsman for the USS RICKOVER. My husband, Cameron, has been in the Navy since 2009, and we were married in 2021. Over the years, Navy life has taken us to seven different states, and we've experienced the challenges of PCS moves, long-distance stretches, underways, and deployments. Professionally, I spent ten years working for the Naval Undersea Warfare Center and the Office of Naval Intelligence, and I am currently an engineer with Raytheon. I recently completed my doctorate and am finally able to spend more time on hobbies I enjoy – reading, sewing, gardening, hiking and camping with Cameron and our two dogs. As your Ombudsman, my goal is to help families stay connected, informed, and supported as we move through deployments, underways, and homecomings. I look forward to working with you and supporting the RICKOVER family.

As we head into summer, I'd like to highlight two important topics:

Hurricane Season Preparedness:

Hurricane season runs from June 1st through November 30th, and early preparation is key. Now is the time to make sure your emergency plans are up to date, including designated evacuation routes, communication points, and contacts both near and far. Your emergency kit should include basics like bottled water, non-perishable food, medications, flashlights, batteries, pet supplies, and copies of important documents. If you're new to the Connecticut Shoreline area, or unfamiliar with local procedures, take a few minutes to learn about evacuation guidance and shelter locations. Stay informed through local alerts and trusted sources like the National Weather Service, who can provide critical updates during an emergency.

For more detailed resources and checklists, visit:

<https://www.ready.navy.mil>

<https://www.ready.gov>



795ombudsman@gmail.com

PHONE: (860) 772-4133

RESOURCES

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MWR

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OMBUDSMAN UPDATE

Operations Security (OPSEC) Reminder:

May is National OPSEC Awareness Month, making this the perfect time to refresh our understanding of how we can protect our Sailors and their mission. Although the RICKOVER is currently in drydock, the importance of OPSEC has not diminished. Please remember that information about the boat's maintenance, crew schedules, or future movements should never be shared – even if it seems insignificant. Avoid posting details online or mentioning timeframes or operations in casual conversation in public settings. Even well-intentioned messages to friends or family can pose a risk if they contain sensitive information. When small details are combined, they can reveal a larger picture that puts our Sailors at risk. OPSEC is a shared responsibility, and by protecting what we know, we are directly supporting the safety and success of our RICKOVER crew.

Availability & Contact Information:

I am available for non-emergency phone calls Monday through Friday from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM, and for emergencies 24/7. You may text or email at any time, and I will respond within 24 working hours. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, need support, or just want to connect.

Laura Hugill

USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER (SSN 795) Ombudsman

Cell: 860-772-4133

Email: 795ombudsman@gmail.com

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/795ombudsman>

Navy Family Ombudsmen are required to report to the command and/or 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.

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OMBUDSMAN UPDATE

To the USS RICKOVER families,

By the time this newsletter rolls out, I will have stepped down from the Command Ombudsman position. My husband's time on the USS RICKOVER will have come to an end, and we'll be off on our next Navy adventure! Your new Ombudsman, Laura Hugill, is going to be a great resource, and I am excited to see her thrive in this role as the crew prepares for life after the shipyard.

I cannot adequately express what our time on the RICKOVER has meant to me. To all the family members, thank you for trusting me and allowing me to be a part of your Navy story. Serving as the Ombudsman for the last 2.5+ years has been an honor. When I was interviewed for this role back in 2022, I told our CO at the time that my goal was to be a positive influence and a reliable source of information for the families and Sailors aboard the RICKOVER, and I hope I have achieved that. To the Sailors, thank you for putting up with my constant requests for updated forms! And thank you for trusting me to connect with your families and friends, I hope you know how important those connections are for the ones left on shore while you're out working hard at sea.

Our current CO reminded me that I have been the Ombudsman for every day the USS RICKOVER has been out to sea, and that is something I am so very proud of. As I have said many times before, the life of a submarine family is a unique and often lonely one, but this crew has truly become an extended family for me, my husband, and our son. We will forever be part of Team HGR! I am so grateful for our current Command leadership: CDR Williams and his wife Allison, LCDR Schweers and his wife Olivia, and TMCS VanDenburg and his wife Allison. This TRIAD is top notch, and I cannot wait to see how they continue to make the RICKOVER the best in the Navy. Thank you for supporting me and allowing me to play a small role in this command. I will be cheering you on from afar, and I hope our paths cross again one day.

Sincerely, Celeste Winters

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RICKOVER'S ADVENTURES AT HOME



Engineering Red "E"



Electronic Warfare Green "E"



Weapons White "W"



TMC cooking it up!



Command Picnic



Final game with COB

RICKOVER GETTING IT DONE



All Hands in the Torpedo Room



Tall man coming through



Lots of work going on!



The Galley



Ready for lunch?



HMC Harris rocking out

RICKOVER heading
to Electric Boat



RICKOVER'S ADVENTURES AT HOME



On the Red Carpet



Rickover Team on the Jimmy Fallon Show



Rickover Team With Tom Cruise

NEW YORK CITY FLEET WEEK 2025



NEW YORK CITY FLEET WEEK 2025



Visiting the USS INTREPID museum



Early Access to Yankee Stadium



Nasdaq Opening Bell With SECNAV