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Trident Refit Facility, Bangor Refit Review

Volume 34, Issue 5

**BOATS ON THE
MOVE IN THE
PACIFIC**

**USS Michigan
and USS Kentucky
Visit Busan**

+PLUS

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UPDATES
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THE PACIFIC



Republic of Korea Navy Sailors celebrate the arrival of the Ohio-class guided-missile submarine USS Michigan (SSGN 727) in Busan, South Korea. The port visit in Busan reflects the United States' commitment to the Indo-Pacific region, and compliments the many exercises, training, operations and other military cooperation activities conducted by U.S. submarine forces with our Republic of Korea allies. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Michael Chen/Released)

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REFIT REVIEW

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Public Affairs Office. All photos are property of the U.S. Navy unless otherwise credited.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Team TRF Bangor,

I hope all of you are enjoying this summer as much as I am. We have had an exceptional number of sunny and warm days so far and I encourage all of you to get out and enjoy this almost unprecedented weather. We are in one of the most beautiful parts of our great nation and as such we are surrounded by national parks, trees, mountains and various bodies of water. Please take advantage if you can.

That being said this is also another dry summer, especially for the Pacific Northwest, and I am watching the fire risk meter creep up everytime I enter the base on a dry day. Please exercise caution when lighting campfires, grills, and (hopefully not) fireworks this summer. Always have a plan and resources to put out a fire if need be.

This past month we observed another Independence Day celebration as we mark 247 years since July 4, 1776. Please keep in mind all those who have sacrificed so much over those 247 years to give us the freedom we enjoy today as we savor these summer months. Please keep in mind that every one of you works hard to do your part, as a team, to defend this nation. Both uniformed Sailors and civilians play an integral role in the defense of these United States.

I wanted to also thank the hundreds of employees that took part in the Health and Safety Walk on July 12. We had a tremendous turnout and it was nice to get out and see our workforce. Special thanks to the Safety Office at Code 08 for taking the lead in making this a tremendous event. During the last CO's call (and in my suggestion box afterwards) I received a lot of interest in some type of programs that would allow civilian employees to devote some time to health and wellness. We are looking at that; the rules are fairly complex and before we propose a program we need to work the details to make sure it will work here, but I hear your interest. I also want to make it clear that the stretching exercises which were a part of our VPP program remain authorized as part of our safety program – when we were forced to withdraw from the program we kept everything in it going with the exception of flying the VPP flag.

Finally, even before the drydocks are certified, you can already see an increased workload. The next 6 months are



going to be busier than the last. I cannot stress enough how important it is to do this work and to do it safely. Our mission is to get boats back in the water so they can accomplish their missions – the recent visit of the KENTUCKY to its overseas port visit emphasizes the direct relevance of the work you do every day – and each of you is an important part of that success.

One of the ways you can make your voice heard is to fill out the surveys that come around from time to time. Even though both the FEVS and IG surveys have now closed, please keep an eye out for any surveys that come out in the future, and take advantage of any opportunity to participate in the IG inspection this month. We need to make sure we understand the truth about the challenges and problems at TRF, and we can't do that without feedback.

As always please continue to exercise the good decision-making skills I have come to expect from such an exceptional team, stay safe and I'll see you on the "deckplates!"

V/R,

CAPT Mike Eberlein
Commanding Officer
Trident Refit Facility Bangor

BOATS ON THE MOVE: MICHIGAN & KENTUCKY PORT IN KOREA

Articles by Lt. Cmdr. Samuel Boyle, Commander, Submarine Group 7 Public Affairs, & Hyung-Jin Kim, Associated Press
Photos by MC1 Michael Chen



Capt. Jason Geddes, commanding officer of the Ohio-class guided-missile submarine USS Michigan (SSGN 727) Blue Crew, speaks with Republic of Korea Navy Capt. Han Gwang-hee on Commander, Republic of Korea Fleet base in Busan, South Korea.

Michigan Arrives in Busan

The Ohio-class guided-missile submarine USS Michigan (SSGN 727) (Blue) arrived in Busan, Republic of Korea (ROK), for a scheduled port visit, June 16.

The port visit in Busan reflects the United States' commitment to the Indo-Pacific region, and compliments the many exercises, training, operations and other military cooperation activities conducted by U.S. submarine forces with our ROK allies.

This port call marks the first visit to Busan that Michigan has made since 2017.

Michigan is one of four Ohio-class guided-missile submarines. The Navy's guided-missile submarines provide strike and special operation mission capabilities from a stealthy, clandestine platform.

Armed with tactical missiles and equipped with superior communications capabilities, guided-missile submarines are capable of launching missile strikes and supporting Special Operation Forces missions.

Measuring more than 560 feet long and weighing more than 18,000 tons when submerged, Michigan is one of the largest submarines in the world.

Michigan is the second submarine of the Ohio-class of

ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs) and guided missile submarines (SSGNs), and the third U.S. Navy ship to bear the name. Michigan is homeported in Naval Base Kitsap, Washington, and is operating under Commander, Submarine Group (CSG) 7 in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.

CSG 7 directs forward-deployed, combat-capable forces across the full spectrum of undersea warfare throughout the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea.

U.S. 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy's largest forward-deployed numbered fleet, and routinely interacts and operates with allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region. 🇺🇸

Kentucky Arrives in Busan

The United States deployed a nuclear-armed submarine to South Korea on Tuesday for the first time in four decades, as the allies warned North Korea that any use of the North's nuclear weapons in combat would result in the end of its regime.



Republic of Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol delivers a speech during his visit to the Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarine USS Kentucky (SSBN 737). The visit represents the United States' ironclad commitment to the Republic of Korea (ROK) for its extended deterrence guarantee, and compliments the many exercises, training, operations, and other military cooperation activities conducted with the ROK.

Periodic visits by U.S. nuclear ballistic missile-capable submarines to South Korea were one of several agreements reached by the two countries' presidents in April in response to North Korea's expanding nuclear threat. They also agreed to establish a bilateral Nuclear Consultative Group and expand military exercises.

The USS Kentucky, an Ohio-class submarine, arrived at the South Korean port of Busan on Tuesday afternoon, South Korea's Defense Ministry said. It is the first visit by a U.S. nuclear-armed submarine to South Korea since the 1980s, it said.

Defense Minister Lee Jong-Sup called the submarine's visit a demonstration of U.S. resolve in implementing its "extended deterrence" commitment, a pledge by the U.S. to use its full military capabilities, including nuclear weapons, to protect its allies, the ministry said in a statement.

He said the submarine's visit "shows the allies' overwhelming capability and posture against North Korea."

During the Cold War in the late 1970s, U.S. nuclear-armed ballistic missile submarines made frequent visits to South Korea, sometimes two or three times per month, according to the Federation of American Scientists. It was a period when the U.S. had hundreds of nuclear warheads located in South Korea. But in 1991, the United States withdrew all of its nuclear weapons from the Korean Peninsula.

North Korea's nuclear ambitions have taken on a new urgency after it threatened to use nuclear weapons in conflicts with its rivals and conducted about 100 missile tests since the start of last year. Last week, North Korea conducted a second test of a more mobile and powerful intercontinental ballistic missile designed to strike the mainland United States. After observing that launch, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to further strengthen his country's nuclear combat capabilities.

Also on Tuesday, South Korean and U.S. officials held the inaugural meeting of the Nuclear Consultative Group in Seoul to discuss ways to strengthen deterrence against North Korea's nuclear threats.

"Any nuclear attack by North Korea against the United States or its allies is unacceptable and will result in the end of that regime," the two countries said in a joint statement after the meeting.

President Joe Biden issued a similar warning after his summit in Washington with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in April.

"Both sides affirmed that the NCG will play an integral role in discussing and advancing bilateral approaches, including guidelines, to nuclear and strategic planning and responses to (North Korean) aggression," the statement said.

The consultative body is tasked with sharing information on nuclear and strategic weapons operation plans and joint operations. The U.S. will retain operational control of its nuclear weapons. U.S. officials say the group's establishment and other steps announced in April were meant to ease South Korean worries about North Korean provocations while keeping Seoul from pursuing its own nuclear program.

Earlier Tuesday, Yoon told a Cabinet meeting that the launching of the consultative group "will serve as an important starting point to establish a powerful, effective (South) Korea-U.S. extended deterrence," and that their alliance has been "upgraded with a new, nuclear-based paradigm."

The meeting was co-chaired by U.S. National Security Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell and South Korean Deputy National Security Director Kim Tae-hyo.

North Korea condemned the Biden-Yoon agreements in April, saying they proved the allies' extreme hostility toward the North. It threatened to further escalate its nuclear use doctrine in protest.

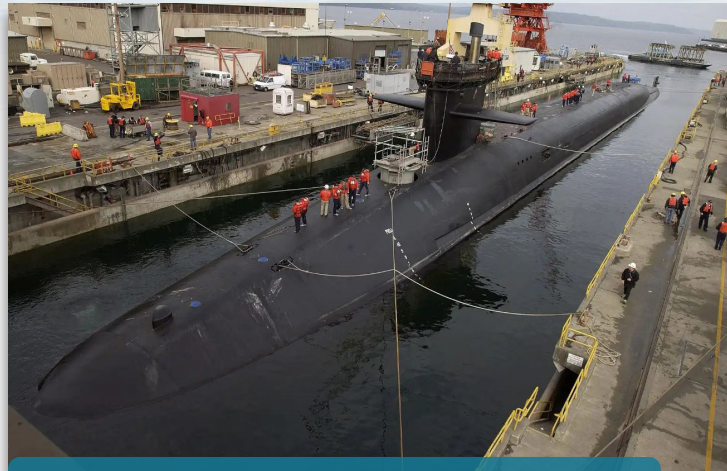
In a statement Monday, Kim's powerful sister and senior adviser, Kim Yo Jong, warned that U.S. moves to reinforce its extended deterrence commitment to South Korea will make North Korea "go farther away from the negotiating table desired by (the U.S.)" and beef up its own military capability.

"(North Korea) is ready for resolutely countering any acts of violating its sovereignty and territorial integrity," Kim Yo Jong said. "The U.S. should stop its foolish act of provoking (North Korea) even by imperiling its security." 🇺🇸

For more news from Commander, Submarine Group 7,
visit www.csp.navy.mil/csg7/
For more Navy news and photos,
<https://www.dvidshub.net/>

THROUGH THE LENS

U.S. Navy Photos by MC2 Sarah Christoph and Nick Scott TRFB Public Affairs, & MC2 Travis Baley, COMSUBGRU 7 Public Affairs



Sailors complete the 200th drydocking maneuver of a Trident submarine, pictured here USS Michigan (SSGN 727), at Trident Refit Facility, Bangor, formerly Trident Intermediate Maintenance Facility (IMF), at Delta Pier Nov. 14, 2002. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy Public Affairs)



U.S. Navy Capt. Michael D. Eberlein, left, commanding officer of TRFB, presents a certificate of appreciation to TRFB team member Wade Bissell. Bissell retired at TRFB after 30 years of service at the command.



TRFB Color Guard parade the colors at the retirement ceremony of Cmdr. Michael Palmer at the U.S. Naval Undersea Museum, Keyport.



Hon. Katsuaki Kamiji, mayor of the city of Yokosuka, left, and U.S. Navy Capt. Ravi Desai, commanding officer of the Ohio-class guided-missile submarine USS Michigan (SSGN 727) (Gold crew), pose for a photo during a tour of the submarine at Fleet Activities Yokosuka.



U.S. Navy Cmdr. Michael Palmer brandishes a "light sabre" during a speech at his retirement ceremony at the U.S. Naval Undersea Museum, Keyport.



Machinery Repairman 1st Class Marcus Flake, left, reenlists with help from U.S. Navy Lt. Ryan Clark at TRFB.

DELTA PIER UPDATES UNDERWAY: Bathroom Updates Support TRFB Mission

Article and Photos by: Nick Scott,
TRFB Public Affairs

The sound of high powered tools permeates throughout the Trident Refit Facility (TRFB) bathroom as construction dust fills the air near the dry dock at Delta Pier on a hot July day. The bathroom itself is small, dark and dingy. But not for long. Contractors attached to TRFB are working hard to re-build the Delta Pier bathrooms into modern and accessible spaces.

“Our jobs are tough, but they’re made unnecessarily tougher when you can’t find a toilet that flushes or a functioning sink to wash your hands,” said Ed Ingles, executive director of TRFB. “This project will fix that.”

Ingles as well as U.S. Navy Capt. Michael Eberlein, commanding officer of TRFB, stated that they want to make TRFB the most desirable place to work according to the TRFB Strategic Plan objective.

This is one of the pieces of the puzzle that makes that happen according to Ingles.

This current renovation is being done under the Infrastructure Strategic Planning and Modernization plan laid out by TRFB throughout this fiscal year and beyond.

“This is a command priority,” said Daniel Stoneburner, a Facilities Planning and Maintenance employee for Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) representing TRFB. “Our mission is of vital importance and we want to provide the best working environment possible. This ensures the mission is accomplished.”

“We really want the workforce to know that the command supports them, we want team members to be happy,” said Stoneburner. “By keeping the workforce happy and focused we get boats in the water faster, and that’s really what we’re about.”

Stoneburner said that safety is the primary concern when planning out these projects. The overall project’s goal is to bring Delta Pier facilities into the modern era while improving both regular working conditions and accessibility.

“We really needed to provide a suitable and modern restroom in our main building down at Delta Pier,” said Hayley Keolanui-Bradshaw, a Facilities Planning and Maintenance employee for Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) representing TRFB.



TRFB team member working during planned Delta Pier bathroom renovations.

“The renovations of all Lower Campus restrooms with modern fixtures and finishes is going to resemble other modern facilities recently renovated,” said Keolanui-Bradshaw. “I’ve heard from some team members that they are really happy that the renovations are finally underway. I know for a fact that our leadership are very happy about it”

Stoneburner said that this project was long overdue.

“It was very difficult to program work for the facilities due to differentials in priorities with PSNS,” said Sotneburner. “Now that TRFB has their own sustainment budget we are able to manage it locally and prioritize based on mission, safety and quality of life.”

“TRFB leadership’s view on quality of life improvement are that if we give the workforce a pleasant and clean place to work, the mission of supporting our nation’s strategic deterrent by repairing, incrementally

overhauling and modernizing Pacific Fleet SSBN’s will happen automatically,” said Stoneburner. “A happy workforce is a productive workforce”

“Building managers and personnel are extremely receptive and very helpful when the challenge is put forth to them to ensure mission capabilities are not impacted during disruptions of projects,” Stoneburner continued. “If it weren’t for the incredible personnel down there that make all that happen, the facility maintenance program would fail.”

The Delta Pier bathroom renovations are ongoing and are currently scheduled to continue through April, 2024. 🌸



TRFB team member working during planned Delta Pier bathroom renovations.

BRAVO ZULU!

U.S. Navy Photos by Nick Scott, TRFB Public Affairs

PROMOTIONS:

June:

Christopher Cristobal
Kristin DeWald
Joseph Graham
Nicholas Hein
Jacob Holbert
Thomas Jasson
Amanda Jones

Gabriel Moren
Zachary Nelson
Mathew Norman
Damen Olin
Craig Orwin
Caleb Shaw
Glenda Sippel

Edward Skirvin
Kristpher Wall
Timothy White
Andrew Williams
Kaycee Williams
Byron Williamson
Kemyss Worley III



TRFB team member Kimberly Perdue, resource manager for repair department (Code 300) at TRFB, right, receives an award presented by Capt. Michael Eberlein, commanding officer for TRFB.



TRFB team member Ed Ingles, executive director for TRFB, right, receives an award presented by Capt. Michael Eberlein, commanding officer for TRFB.



TRFB team member Ken Behal, waterfront building and emergency manager for TRFB, right, receives an award presented by Capt. Michael Eberlein, commanding officer for TRFB.

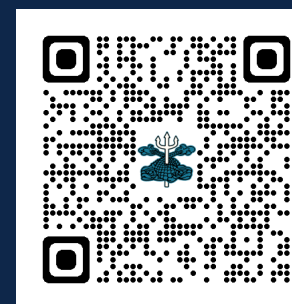


TRFB team member Mike Carpentier, repair superintendent for TRFB, right, receives an award presented by Capt. Michael Eberlein, commanding officer for TRFB.



Trident Refit Facility, Bangor is hiring!
Please email resumes to:
trfbresumes@us.navy.mil

Scan the QR code for job info or go to:
<https://www.navsea.navy.mil/Home/TRFB/Careers/>



Independence Day

Independence Day, known colloquially as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America.

Amelia Earhart Day

National Amelia Earhart Day, is observed on July 24. Earhart was born July 24, 1897. People celebrate her life and achievements, while many remember her for her mysterious disappearance in her internationally anticipated flight around the world.

The Signing of Executive Order 9981

On July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981, creating the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services. The order mandated the desegregation of the U.S. military. The first point in the executive order states "It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin. This policy shall be put into effect as rapidly as possible, having due regard to the time required to effectuate any necessary changes without impairing efficiency or morale."

Looking for portrait or photo support, public affairs guidance, graphic or flyer design, or other command-related media requests? Stop by the Public Affairs office to make a request or appointment today!

Studio portrait walk-ins are held on Wednesdays from 0800-0900. Studio times may be adjusted to suit your schedule.
Remember to bring the prescribed uniform, cover, and package instruction for the specific type of studio portrait requested.

A close-up photograph of two hands, likely belonging to a child, holding a small American flag. The hands are positioned at the top and bottom of the frame, with the flag held between them. The flag's stars and stripes are visible. The background is a dark, out-of-focus pattern of stars.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Celebrating Independence

SINCE

— **1776** —

