



USS HADDO NEWSLETTER



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From the Editor:

To all:

I suffered a casualty to my email file which was corrupted and unrecoverable and lost items that I intended to add to the news letter. I hadn't been able to focus much on the newsletter due to the Pandemic. Thankfully I am retired and don't need a Job. Hope everyone is able to get by during this time. Staying at home is a little better than being cooped up on a Submarine on patrol.

Some Nuclear Submarine Crews May Not Even Know About the Pandemic

Warship crews—from aircraft carriers to submarines—are falling victim to COVID-19.

- The virus is sidelining entire ships, including those from the Russian, Dutch, and U.S. navies while [some submarine crews](#) may not know of the pandemic at all.
- In a rare move, a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier captain has [appealed to the media](#) to save his crew.

The COVID-19 coronavirus is starting to have a major impact on navies of the world, as ship crews worldwide are testing positive for the virus. In other cases, ships exposed to a virus carrier have been locked down under quarantine.

On the flip side, a former nuclear submarine commander with the French Navy says the country's strategic nuclear submarine crews [are probably unaware the pandemic](#) is taking place.

Since the viruses' detection in December 2019, the COVID-19 virus has quickly spread across the globe, with 826,222 infections recorded worldwide. It's hard to imagine a place now where the pandemic never

happened, and where people are unaware it is taking place. Thanks to nuclear weapons, that place does exist: aboard nuclear-missile carrying submarines carrying out their patrols worldwide.



Retired French Navy admiral Dominique Salles, who commanded his country's four nuclear missile submarines in the 2000s, said that French crews currently on patrol would be completely unaware of the viruses' spread. The ships typically spend 60-70 days at a stretch and are kept uninformed of such events in order to keep them focused on the nuclear deterrence mission.

It's unclear whether or not U.S. nuclear missile submarine crews are similarly

uninformed of the pandemic. The U.S. Navy [operates](#) fourteen Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines, with eight or nine normally at sea and four or five on “hard alert,” which means they are on station and ready to fulfill their mission. Ohio-class subs typically spend 70 days at a time at sea.

Meanwhile, sailors on two U.S. Navy nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, USS *Ronald Reagan* and USS *Theodore Roosevelt*, have tested positive for COVID-19.

Emails

2020 Reunion
Ralph Stroede

In the last newsletter I stated I would be stepping down from leading the committee for Haddo Reunions. At that time, Ray Butters stepped up and volunteered to take the lead for the 2020 reunion. Unfortunately, there has been a turn of events. I recently received the following from Ray indicating that he needed to back out of putting together the next reunion. Please see Ray’s communique below.

As Ray has asked, if anyone else is interested, please contact him directly to talk about what progress was made. PLEASE NOTE: Ray brings up a good point in light of the recent events with the coronavirus spreading across the US and the many venues that have been cancelled already. Maybe it is time to step back and plan for the next gathering in 2021 after things “calm down”.

Ralph Stroede

Ray Butters Writes:

Haddo Reunion Update

I have gotten several proposals with three good candidates:

- 1 Colorado Springs, CO surrounded by Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods, and a brand new and ultra modern Museum.
- 2 Little Rock, AK at the USS Razorback (SS 394) Maritime Museum, with full run of the Boat (you can't get underway, however).
- 3 Tucson, AZ the weekend just prior to the Monday kickoff of the USSVI National Convention.

Unfortunately, I can't see this effort through; I have to quit. I had an accident here at home a couple weeks ago, no serious damage, but the reason it happened could be the serious part. Anyway I was told lighten my physical and mental load, until the doctors can solve, and hopefully, fix the problem (Please, no flowers; it's way too early for that). Actually, this is one of those bumps in the road that I would rather not even talk about.

When Susie and I volunteered to set up the 2020 Haddo Reunion, we didn't have any illusions that we could come even close to matching the excellence that the Stroede team achieved. But we thought that maybe we could keep the reunions going, or at least go out with a bang. Well, I genuinely apologize that we are not going to do either.

If ever there was a good time to cancel a reunion, however, this may be that time. The CDC still hasn't gotten a handle on this Coronavirus yet. Compared to other countries, the US has very few cases of the virus. But, it's hard to predict what the condition will be in August or September. Entertainers are canceling concerts, airlines are cutting flights, and there are a lot of us from Haddo's past that fall into that 'Old Fart' category and therefore more susceptible to viruses, etc. I'm beginning to sound like an alarmist. Actually, I sound more like my Mother making excuses as to why I couldn't go somewhere that she didn't want me to go.

All things said and done, if any of you would like to pick up the ball I'm dropping, let me know. We've got the seed somewhat planted, but there is still a lot of work to do. If you think you might be interested, let me know and I will send you all stuff that I have and share what information I've gathered. Or, you could put your signature on a completely new and memorable approach to a Haddo reunion (maybe scheduled for next year).

My regrets,
Ray Butters

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