

2025 DEFENSOR



**MID
YEAR
NEWS
LETTER**

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BOARD

CWO & LDO
SELECTIONS

USS ALEXANDRIA
RETURNS





SAILORS OF THE YEAR

Sailor of the Year

Machinist's Mate Auxiliary 1st Class

Tyler D. Kantorczyk

Performance Monitoring Team (PMT)

Petty Officer Kantorczyk flawlessly performed his duties as a member of the performance monitoring team (PMT) from January to December 2024. As leading auxiliaryman for PMT, he led a team of inspectors in the training, inspection and certification of homeported and visiting submarines' auxiliary systems and equipment. His efforts directly contributed to PMT's recognition of the highest performing site within the entire fleet and guaranteed material and mission readiness of fast attack submarines. His superior performance of duty has set the standard for his peers and resulted in his selection as COMSUBRON 11 Sailor of the Year 2024.

Junior Sailor of the Year

Yeoman (Submarine) 2nd Class

Tylan J. Allen

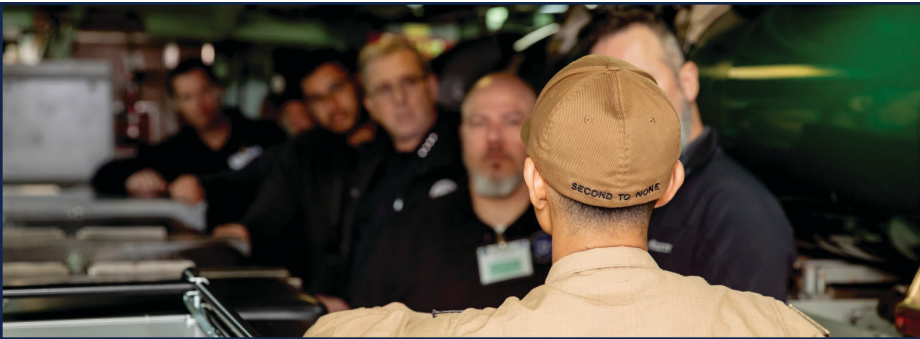
Admin

Petty Officer Allen flawlessly performed his duties as a member of yeoman division from January to December 2024. As an auxiliary security forces member, he contributed to 37 random antiterrorism measures, five security watches and successfully managed traffic flow on a consistent basis. His superior performance of duty has set the standard for his peers and resulted in his selection as COMSUBRON 11 Junior Sailor of the Year 2024.

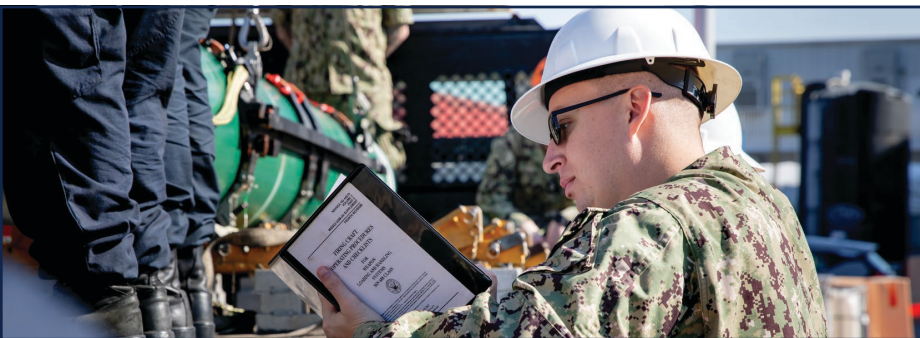


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USS Santa Fe
sails in front of
Point Loma.



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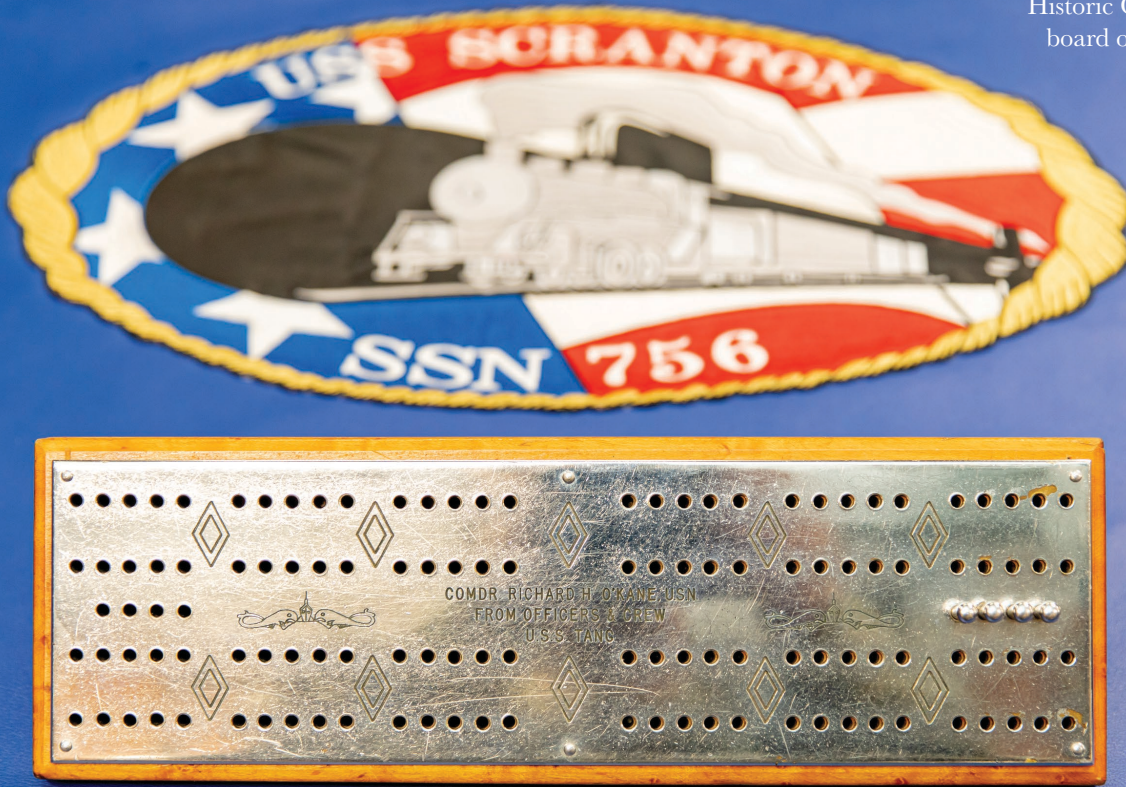
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USS ALEXANDRIA
RETURNS FROM
DEPLOYMENT

Historic O'Kane cribbage board on display aboard USS Scranton.



USS Scranton Receives O'Kane Cribbage Board

U.S. Navy Story by Lt. Cmdr. Tyler Barker

In a ceremony presided by Rear Adm. Rick Seif, commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, the crew of the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Scranton (SSN 756) received the historic O'Kane cribbage board from USS Topeka (SSN 754) as the oldest in-service fast-attack submarine in the Pacific Fleet, Feb. 7, 2025.

The O'Kane cribbage board traces its roots to the Pacific Theater of World War II. Then-Lt. Richard "Dick" O'Kane, executive officer of USS Wahoo (SS 283), played a game of cribbage with commanding officer Lt. Cmdr. Dudley "Mush" Morton while on patrol in the Yellow Sea in April 1943. As legend has it, this

patrol was the first in this area during the war, and to ease tensions, O'Kane and Morton played a game of cribbage, a time-honored submarine tradition.

"We are absolutely ready to get back to our primary mission and continue supporting our nation and our Navy."

- Cmdr. Jeff Ransom

During the game, Morton dealt O'Kane a rare perfect hand, 29 points, a good omen to Wahoo's crew. Wahoo went on to sink two Japanese freighters the same night. In

another game only a few days later, Morton dealt a 28-point hand, as Wahoo's crew sank three more enemy ships.

O'Kane went on to command USS Tang (SS 306), a legendary World War II submarine.

During five war patrols, Tang was credited with sinking more than 30 ships displacing over 118,000 tons, by far the most ships and highest tonnage sunk in the war by one submarine. At the end of her fifth war patrol on Oct. 25, 1944, Tang was struck by her own torpedo and O'Kane and eight other survivors were captured as prisoners of war.

At his retirement in 1957, O'Kane was advanced to the rank of Rear Adm., with a Medal of Honor, three Navy Crosses and three Silver Star awards to his name. The crew of the second USS Tang (SS 563) presented a cribbage board to O'Kane to replace the one he lost in 1944, which his wife later gifted to the Submarine Force upon his death in 1994.

Commissioned in Norfolk, Virginia, Jan. 26, 1991, and now the oldest attack submarine in the Pacific, Scranton recently marked its 34th year of service, coinciding with the upcoming 250th anniversary of the U.S. Navy and the 125th anniversary of the U.S. Submarine Force. Scranton is one of four Los Angeles-class submarines assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron 11, and calls San Diego and Naval Base Point Loma home.

"Scranton's crew is proud to carry on this incredible legacy as the holders of the O'Kane cribbage board," said Cmdr. Jeff Ransom,

Scranton's former commanding officer. "This ship has had generations of capable and professional Submariners, and we are excited to continue to add to 34 years of history here on Scranton."




Cmdr. Richard H. O'Kane, photographed March 1946, shortly after he had been awarded the Medal of Honor.

Scranton's leadership knows that this connection to submariners past, present, and future will continue to strengthen the crew's connection to history and their critical role in today's Submarine Force.

"We are absolutely ready to get back to our primary mission and continue supporting our nation and our Navy," said Ransom. "Being connected to history in this way, with this year being the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Navy and the 125th

anniversary of the Submarine Force, gives our crew an extra sense of pride and dedication to the task at hand."

Commander, Submarine Squadron 11 (CSS-11) is headquartered at Naval Base Point Loma, California, and reports to Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. CSS-11 provides training, material and personnel readiness support for the medium auxiliary floating dry dock ARCO (ARDM 5), Undersea Rescue Command (URC) and four Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarines capable of supporting various missions, including: anti-submarine warfare; anti-ship warfare; strike warfare; and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. 



EMERGENCY CONTROL CENTER OUTREACH



Guests attending the Emergency Control Center (ECC) Orientation Day take a group photo in front of the ECC.

What is it?

Emergency Control Center Team San Diego, led by Commander, Submarine Squadron 11, has hosted numerous events with the State of California, Cities of San Diego and Coronado, and San Diego County. These events strengthen the coordination and partnership with our civil authorities. Through this partnership, the Navy and emergency services maintain a high level of training and readiness.

Capt. Will Wiley welcomes guests in the conference room of the ECC.



Guests attend a briefing on the ECC program.



SQUADRON 11 PROMOTIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025
ADVANCEMENTS!



EMNCS EDWARD KINEGAK
MMNCS JASON CURLS
MMACS ANWAR IVEY
CSS1 ALFONSO PANDAN

ETV1 PAUL DELAFUENTE
MMN1 DALLAS BRAVO
LSS1 DEUNDHRAY STEELE



ETNCS MATTHEW JOHNSON
EMN1 TYLER WOLFF
ETN1 MICHAEL MURRAY
ETV2 JEOFFREY GAMSON
ETV2 SETH LANGLAND

ETV2 DAVID MORALES
ETV2 KONNER SINGLETON
MMN2 TRUONG LAM
TM2 XAVIER LOPEZ
YNS2 ELIJAH SCHAIPIER



LSSCM DANIEL DUMITRACHE
MMNCS MICHAEL CROWLEY
ETN1 JONATHAN SCROGGS
MMN1 BENEDICT DUCASSE
MMN1 MATTHEW LEMKE
MMN1 IAN ROYER

MMN1 NICHOLAS WARREN
ETV2 KEYWAUN EDWARDS
FT2 ERIC JENKINS
ITN2 MATTHIEU GARCIA
TM2 ROBERT TODD



FT1 GERALD AQUINO
MMN1 SAMUEL BROWN
FT2 JOHN BARNES

MMA2 JUAN VIJIL
STS2 DAVID CLEMENTS



ETNCM MATTHEW HOLMAN
EMN1 NATHAN KUCHINSKI
ITE1 MAURICIO HUERTA
ETV2 RENE GARZA
FT2 ETHAN BRAVOAREVALO
ITE2 SEAN BEGAY

ITN2 LOGAN BOWMAN
ITR2 ANGEL ARELLANO
MMA2 ALLEN MARLIN
MMA2 AARON PEREZ
MMA2 ETHAN RUIZ
YNS2 JACK BARRETT



EN2 JIAWEI WU
EN1 RYAN HANSON
BM2 KOSSI PIGNANG

BM2 ALESCIA PUGH
BM2 DAVID SMITH



ND1 SETH DAVIS
YN1 KATHLEENMAE KERR

ND2 SEANBLUE GIOIA
ND2 LUCAS VARELA



U.S. Navy Story by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Aaron T. Smith

Two Sailors from Commander, Submarine Squadron (CSS) 11 were recently selected for prestigious career advancements, marking a significant milestone in their naval careers.

Senior Chief Fire Control Technician Christopher Cook was selected for the Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) program, while Chief Yeoman (Submarine) Donavon Madison earned a spot in the Limited Duty Officer (LDO) program. Both Sailors' selections highlight their exceptional technical expertise, leadership, and commitment to their craft, setting them on a path to greater responsibilities in the Navy.

Cook, from Smyrna, Tennessee, joined the Navy on August 21, 2008. When he joined, he did not set out for a career in the submarine force. Originally aiming to become a corpsman, his plans changed when he was informed the field was overmanned.

"I was presented with the options of the aviation electronic computer field or submarine electronic computer field," said Cook. "Since I had never been on a submarine before, I decided to give it a shot."

In the years that followed, Cook found great leaders and mentors throughout the submarine community, Sailors focused on molding and shaping the next generation of submariners and fire control technicians.

"My first chief, Frederick Ackwith, truly allowed us to learn and flourish as technicians," recalled Cook. "When we were truly stumped, he would step in and show us what right looked like and set an excellent example for us to emulate."

This experience, along with years of hard work, eventually led him to a prestigious leadership opportunity: the CWO program.

"I felt a great sense of gratitude when I found out I was selected for CWO," said Cook. "For the last decade, I have viewed the CWO community as the pinnacle of technical expertise, and to be accepted into such a prestigious community is such an honor."

Cook's journey into the CWO ranks builds on a strong foundation of leadership and mentorship. With over a decade of experience, including running divisions and departments, Cook is prepared to transition into his new role as a Sub-ordnance Chief Warrant Officer.

"I am incredibly grateful for the trust placed in me by the CWO community to spearhead these obstacles," Cook shared.

Madison, from Evansville, Indiana, joined the Navy on July 14, 2013, right out of high school. Madison's initial decision to join the Navy was, as he admits, a spur-of-the-moment decision.

"I honestly joined the Navy off of a whim," Madison shared. "I had no intention of going to



FTCS Christopher Cook, left, marches in the San Diego Veterans Day parade.

college growing up, and I couldn't see myself working at McDonald's for the rest of my life."

Madison's path to the LDO program was driven by his desire for greater career opportunities within the submarine force.

"Growing up as a baby submarine yeoman, you realize that your ability to explore the world and have different jobs within the submarine force is very limited," Madison explained.

With those limited options on his mind, Madison started looking at different avenues he could explore.

"LDO was the community that interested me the most, as I enjoy my current job, and it has the most similarities to it," said Madison.

Madison feels honored by his selection, though he admits he is still in a little bit of disbelief.

"It honestly still hasn't sunk in yet," said Madison. "Every few days, I catch myself reviewing the NAVADMIN to see if I was actually selected or if I had just dreamt about being selected."

Madison's leadership philosophy is rooted in transparency, which he believes is vital for effective communication and team cohesion.

"The most important quality for me would have to be transparency," Madison shared. "I try to always have open communication with my team and foster a questioning attitude."


As he embarks on his new journey, Madison is looking forward to the possibilities that lie ahead.

"I am most excited about the unlimited opportunities that await me in the future. I will be able to visit and explore a lot more of the world," said Madison. "The impact I hope to make is to show that anything is possible, and that persistence is key."

Both Cook and Madison are incredibly proud of their Navy careers and are eager to make a lasting impact in their new roles. With years of experience behind them, both Sailors are driven by a deep sense of commitment to the Navy's mission and a passion for leadership, which has not gone unnoticed by their current leadership at CSS-11.

"Senior Chief Cook and Chief Madison exemplify the technical skill and leadership that define our submarine force," said Capt. Will Wiley, commander, Submarine Squadron 11. "I am excited for our submarine force that we can reward and retain talented Sailors like ours as they can continue their service in these outstanding programs."

Cook is ready to bring his technical expertise and mentorship to the chief warrant officer community, while Madison is excited to continue guiding and inspiring future Sailors as a limited duty officer. Their dedication to shaping the next generation of Navy leadership and ensuring that their legacy of hard work, perseverance, and dedication leaves a lasting imprint on the fleet.

CSS-11 is headquartered at Naval Base Point Loma, California, and reports to Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. CSS-11 provides training, material and personnel readiness support for the medium auxiliary floating dry dock ARCO (ARDM 5), Undersea Rescue Command (URC), and four Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarines capable of supporting various missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-ship warfare, strike warfare, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. 



YNSC Donavon Madison in formation during a chief pinning ceremony.

AROUND THE SQUADRON



Rear Adm. Richard Seif, former commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, tours Undersea Rescue Command.



Capt. Will Wiley, commander, Submarine Squadron 11, presents ARCO with the Battle "E" award.



Australian Navy Rear Adm. Dave Mann, head Virginia work force and commercial, Australian Submarine Agency, tours Naval Base Point Loma.



COMSUBPAC Sea and Shore Sailor of the Year finalists take a group photo.



Madeline Mortelmans, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans and Capabilities, right, tours USS Scranton during a visit to Naval Base Point Loma.



ETV2 Jeffrey Gamson gives a tour to midshipmen aboard USS Alexandria.



YNS2 Tylan Allen, left, asks for clarification on his advancement exam from EMNC Kashawn Sinkler.



TMCS Luke Gossard observes Sailors during a weapons handling evolution.

Chief of the Boat LSSCS Dan Dumitrache speaks to chief petty officers at the Roncador Memorial during the 132nd U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Birthday.





USS Alexandria Returns to Naval Base Point Loma Following Seven-Month Pacific Ocean Deployment

U.S. Navy Story by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Tiarra Brown

NAVAL BASE POINT LOMA (May 15, 2025) - Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Alexandria (SSN 757) returned home to Naval Base Point Loma following a successful seven-month deployment to the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command area of responsibility, May 15, 2025.

Alexandria deployed in 2024 from its homeport of Naval Base Point Loma, California, on a regularly scheduled deployment in support of national security objectives.

The submarine's operations throughout the Pacific Ocean underscore the United States' commitment to an Indo-Pacific that is free and open, connected, prosperous, secure, and resilient.

"This crew went above and beyond, no matter what was asked of them," said Cmdr. Chris Rose, Alexandria's commanding officer. "Deploying on submarines is a demanding but rewarding and consequential task. I could not be prouder of my

Cmdr. Chris Rose, center, oversees pier operations aboard USS Alexandria as they return from deployment.



crew's resolve over the past seven plus months in demonstrating every day what makes our boats and our crews the apex predators of the maritime domain."

While deployed, Alexandria demonstrated the capability and professionalism of the Joint Force, conducting an integrated exercise with U.S. Marine Corps personnel assigned to Third Reconnaissance Battalion during and immediately after a scheduled port visit to Guam.

"This crew did a phenomenal job in all aspects of this deployment," said Master Chief Machinist's Mate (Auxiliary) Mitchell Gatton, Alexandria's chief of the boat. "I am especially proud of the 35 submarine warfare devices earned by Alexandria Sailors, which to me underscores the crew's commitment to continued growth and development."

"I am thrilled to be home with my family and I'm proud of all the great work we accomplished on deployment."

- Torpedoman's Mate 3rd Class Ezekiel Hamner

Between operations and taskings, the crew also made a scheduled port visit to Busan, South Korea, underscoring the strategic and critical relationship between the United States and South Korea. Port visits like this reflect the United States' commitment to the Indo-Pacific region, and complement the many exercises, training, operations and other military cooperation activities conducted by U.S. submarine forces with our Republic of Korea Navy allies.



Chief of the Boat MMACM Mitchell Gatton celebrates with his children on the pier after his deployment aboard USS Alexandria.

This visit also provided an opportunity for Alexandria's crew to gain a deeper understanding of Korean culture while enhancing interpersonal relationships with counterparts.


"I really enjoyed Busan, South Korea because I have never been to that part of the world," said Fire Control Technician 3rd Class Justin Guerra. "Port visits give us that time to explore new places, get some well-earned rest, and experience the culture, food, and hospitality of our Allied and partner nations."

Upon arriving home, and in support of a time-honored Navy tradition, Electronics Technician, Submarine, Navigation 3rd Class Dylan Caruthers was the first Alexandria Sailor to depart the boat for the "first kiss."

"This crew went above and beyond, no matter what was asked of them."

- Cmdr. Chris Rose

"I am thrilled to be home with my family and I'm proud of all the great work we accomplished on deployment," said Torpedoman's Mate 3rd Class Ezekiel Hamner. "This morning when I heard the order to station the maneuvering watch and send line handlers topside, it really hit that we were at the end of our deployment. It was an awesome feeling."

USS Alexandria is the third ship to bear the name Alexandria. The unit's motto is "Twice as Strong," which denotes the fact that it is named for Alexandria, Virginia and Alexandria, Louisiana. She is the 46th Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine and was commissioned June 29, 1991. 



Families cheer on the pier as USS Alexandria returns from deployment.



Families cheer on the pier as USS Alexandria returns from deployment.



USS Alexandria Sailors attend a change of command ceremony.



USS Alexandria Sailors attend a change of command ceremony.



USS Alexandria Sailors attend a change of command ceremony.



125 Years of Submarine Service *Logo Breakdown*

The 125 years of U.S. Navy submarine service logo features a blue and gold color scheme, representing the deep, unyielding waters where submariners operate and the excellence and honor they uphold. Six white stars symbolize the six classes and types of U.S. submarines—Los Angeles, Virginia, Seawolf, Ohio (SSBN), Ohio (SSGN) and Columbia—symbolizing the evolution of submarine warfare and technological advancement. Fifty-two blue stars honor the 52 submarines lost in World War II, a solemn tribute to the submariners who made the ultimate sacrifice. At the heart of the design, a silhouette of a Los Angeles-class submarine braves the rough seas, embodying the resilience, stealth and unwavering dedication of the *Silent Service*. Operating undetected beneath the waves, the U.S. Navy Submarine Force stands ever ready, revealing itself only when duty calls.