



Hawfish Scuttlebutt



Razorback Base
United States Submarine Veterans

DECEMBER, 2021



US submarine commander fired after South China Sea crash



Commander Cameron Aljilani and two others were removed from their positions on Thursday following an investigation into the October 2 accident.

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To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

Reminders to all of special events at AIMM on 7 and 11 Dec. The proposed float rebuild is postponed to a date TBD. Please let Billy Holloway know if you want to buy a calendar. Special thanks to all who stepped up to help with sleepovers.

Billy Holloway
Base Commander





(CONT FROM PG 1)

The US Navy has fired the commanding officer, executive officer and top enlisted sailor of a nuclear-powered submarine that crashed into an underwater mountain on October 2, saying the accident was preventable.

Commander Cameron Aljilani and two others were removed from their positions on Thursday following an investigation into the crash in the disputed South China Sea.

The USS Connecticut was forced to sail on the surface for a week to reach Guam.

“Sound judgement, prudent decision-making and adherence to required procedures in navigation planning, watch team execution and risk management could have prevented the incident,” the western Pacific-based 7th Fleet said in a statement.

After a damage assessment in Guam, the vessel will return to the US submarine base in Bremerton, Washington for repairs.

Last week the Navy said the investigation showed that the submarine struck an uncharted “seamount” while patrolling below the surface.

Eleven sailors were injured in the accident. According to reports, the crash damaged the sub’s forward ballast tanks, but its nuclear plant was not damaged.

The US Navy regularly conducts operations in the region to challenge China’s disputed territorial claims on small islands, reefs and outcrops.

Aljilani was replaced by an interim commanding officer.

For weeks, the cause of the incident had remained a mystery, with the US Navy initially saying that the submarine hit an “object” while underwater in international waters.

The USS Connecticut is a Seawolf-class fast-attack submarine USS Connecticut (SSN 22) and had 140 crew, including 14 officers, at the time of the incident.

The Navy says the Seawolf vessels are “quiet, fast, well-armed, and equipped with advanced sensors”. They also have eight torpedo tubes.

The South China Sea is one world’s most disputed and economically significant waterways.

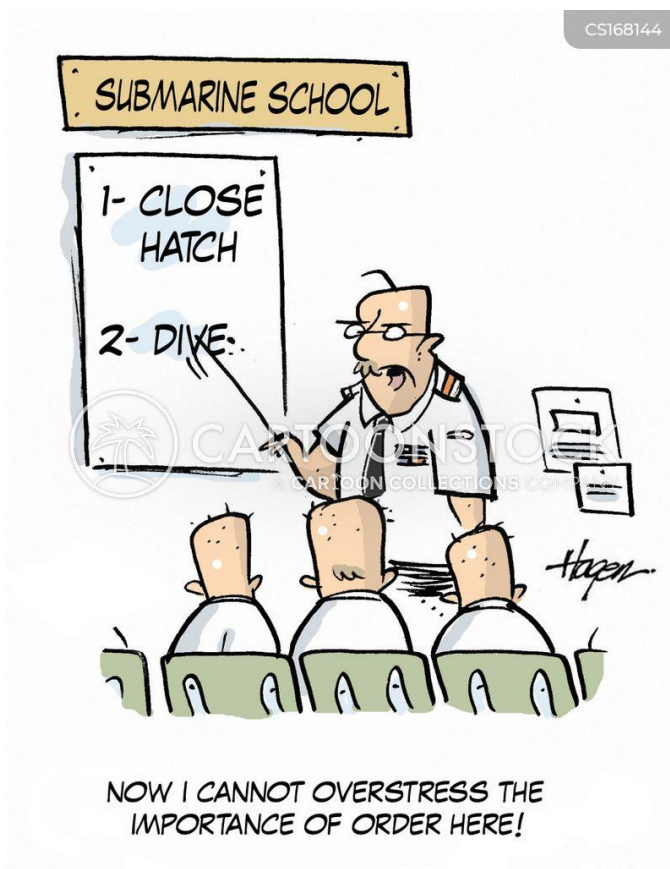
China claims almost the entire area under its controversial nine-dash line and has built artificial islands and set up military outposts in recent years.

Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam and the Philippines also claim parts of the sea, as does Taiwan.

The US has been conducting what it calls “freedom of navigation” operations in the South China Sea to assert navigational rights and freedoms in line with international law.

Tensions in the area have only increased since 2016 when the International Court of Arbitration in The Hague rejected China’s nine-dash line and ruled that Beijing had no historic title over the South China Sea after the Philippines challenged Beijing’s claims and actions over the disputed waterway.

SOURCE: AL JAZEERA AND NEWS AGENCIES





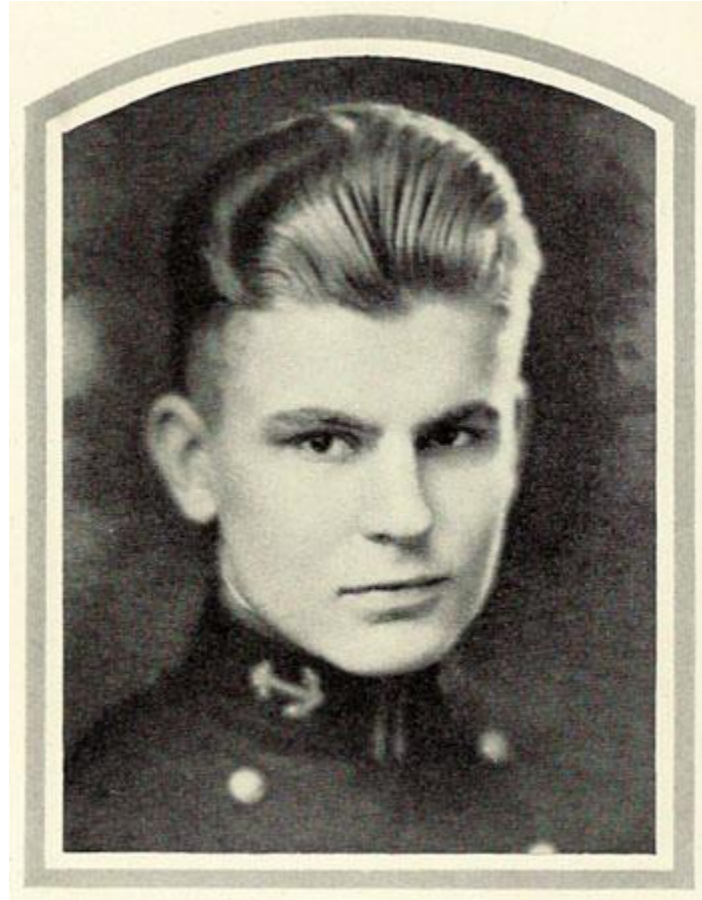
ON ETERNAL PATROL

USS S-4 (SS-109)

1	<u>Bruce Mason Anderson*</u>
2	<u>Clarence Ferdinand Bethke</u>
3	<u>Walter Bishop</u>
4	<u>Earl Welsh Boone</u>
5	<u>Henry Handy Brown</u>
6	<u>Charles Frederick Burrell</u>
7	<u>Charles Beresford Calcott</u>
8	<u>William Franklin Callaway</u>
9	<u>Elmer Lyfford Cash</u>
10	<u>Russell Archibald Crabb</u>
11	<u>William Dempsey</u>
12	<u>Robert William Diefenbach</u>
13	<u>John Joseph Fennell</u>
14	<u>Graham Newell Fitch</u>
15	<u>Charles A. Ford</u>
16	<u>Daniel Michael Galvin</u>
17	<u>Donald Fred Goering</u>
18	<u>Peder Haaland</u>
19	<u>Dewey Victor Haney</u>
20	<u>Buster Harris</u>

21	<u>Aaron A. Hodges</u>
22	<u>Arthur Frederick Hodges</u>
23	<u>Roy Kehlor Jones</u>
24	<u>Paul Richard Kempfer</u>
25	<u>J. H. Long</u>
26	<u>Joseph Alfred McGinley</u>
27	<u>Fred Henry O'Shields</u>
28	<u>George Pelnar</u>
29	<u>John Joseph Powers</u>
30	<u>Rudolph James Rose</u>
31	<u>Alfred Eugene Seaton</u>
32	<u>Roger Leslie Short</u>
33	<u>Frank Snizek</u>
34	<u>Joseph William Sternman</u>
35	<u>Joseph Leighton Stevens</u>
36	<u>Carl Bernard Strange</u>
37	<u>Mariano Tedar</u>
38	<u>Carl Harold Thompson</u>
39	<u>Walter Ross Tolson</u>
40	<u>Donald Weller</u>
41	<u>James Johnson White</u>

Graham Newell Fitch



Rank/Rate	Lieutenant, Junior Grade
Service Number	*
Birth Date	February 26, 1903
From	Arkansas
Decorations	
Submarine	USS S-4 (SS-109)
Loss Date	December 17, 1927
Location	Off Provincetown, Massachusetts
Circumstances	Sank after collision with USCG Pauldin

HELP NEEDED!

The base is at a turning point in its existence. We are in desperate need for an interim treasurer to relieve John Barr on or before February 2022. Mark Taylor's return is undetermined as of this writing. The treasurer can be either a regular or associate member, female or male. John further asked to be relieved as the memorial/ceremonies chair on the same date. Again, no special qualifications are required. Alan Malone has also requested as relief as newsletter editor at the earliest date. I plan to step down as base commander and storekeeper on January 14, 2022.

Per USSVI rules the base cannot continue without a commander, treasurer and seven, Regular members. I leave it up to ALL base members to resolve this situation if USS Razorback Base is to continue. You are all invited to a meeting at the AIMM on January 6, 2022 starting at 1000. Together we can work this out.

Have a Merry Christmas and healthy New Year.

Billy Holloway, Base Commander



Booster Club

Mark Taylor	0
Bob Christians	1
Jilek	4
Richard McCammon	6
Richard Childs	8
Jim Franks	8
Billy Hollaway	8
Pete Jilek	10
John Barr	10

Birthdays

December	Date
Barbara Schwerman	4
Timothy L. Arnold	6
Glenna Butler	8
Kenneth Canitz	10
Barbara J. Higgins	13
Alan Malone	17
Robert Christians	26
Jimmy D. Gage	26
Thomas S. Salisbury	30
Barbara Wewers	31

January	
Michael Vanecek	4
Maurice Lee Barksdale	7
Cecil H. Goins	10
Michael D. Moore	10



Base Officers

Base Commander Holland Club & Storekeeper, Past Base Commander	Billy Hollaway	501-758-3266	retldousn@earthlink.net
Base Vice Commander Past Base Commander	James Barnes	501-319-5888	jimandsue59@sbcglobal.net
Base Treasurer	Mark Taylor John Barr (acting)	501-416-2488	empty704@aol.com
Chaplain, COB	Joe Manning	501-366-0331	apologeticpastor@gmail.com
Newsletter, Past Base Commander	Alan Malone	501-206-7248	o5retired@yahoo.com
Base Yeoman	Myna Miller	215-360-5960	mynamiller63@hotmail.com
Mem. and Ceremonies (acting treasurer)	John Barr	501-663-6622	jbarr346@att.net
Base Historian National Archives Chairman	Joe Mathis	501-565-6021	rnc95ret05@gmail.com
Membership	Johnnie Baker	607-426-6492	johnnie@smarthomeintegration.net
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Past Base Commander	Carl Schmidt	501-778-6583	bonnyclyde@classicnet.net
Past Base Commander	Ray Wewers	501-843-7855	raywewers@gmail.com
Past Base Commander	Greg Schwerman	501-804-0386	gschwerman@suddenlink.net
Past Base Commander	David Boyer	479-227-9633	chopper1267@yahoo.com