



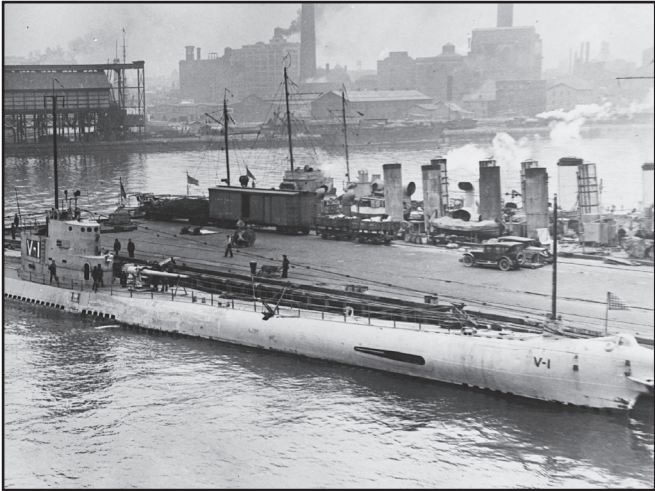
NAVY MEDICINE FAST FACTS

100 Years

October 2024
Special Edition

SUBMARINE INDEPENDENT DUTY CORPSMEN

October 25, 1924



V-1 boats were the first submarines to include hospital corpsmen assigned to their crews, marking a significant milestone in submarine healthcare.

- In the 1920s, the evolution of submarine design enabled extended periods of operation away from tenders / bases, necessitating the creation of submarine Independent Duty Corpsmen (IDCs).
- On Oct. 25, 1924, Chief Pharmacist's Mate John Harrison Davis reported to USS V-1 becoming the first hospital corpsman assigned to a submarine.

- TODAY: Sub IDCs serve as the **Medical Department Representative for a crew of 150+ sailors** and are responsible for all patient care.
- Due to the potential for extended delays in medical evacuations from submarines, Sub IDCs are trained to provide **prolonged casualty care**.



NAVAL UNDERSEA MEDICAL INSTITUTE (NUMI) THE HOME OF THE SUB IDC SCHOOL

- The 56-week Sub IDC School encompasses **Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS)**, radiation health, gas free engineering, sanitation and all elements of medical care.
- Sub IDC students **gain hands-on experience** through simulated medical scenarios, treating a wide range of illnesses and injuries encountered in naval operations.
- A capstone **simulation event at Hartford Hospital** in Connecticut, involves casualty care using only the equipment available on a submarine.
- Since 1955, NUMI has successfully trained **275 classes** of Sub IDCs.



Navy Sub IDCs have served on **43** different classes of submarines since 1924. As of September 2024, there are **180+** Sub IDCs assigned to:



- **Ohio-class** ballistic/guided missile submarines (SSBNs/SSGNs)



- **Los Angeles-class** nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs)



- **Seawolf-class** nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs)



- **Virginia-class** nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs)

Construction began in 2020 on the new **Columbia-class** submarines. In January 2024, the first IDC was assigned to the first boat in this class, **USS District of Columbia** (SSBN 826).



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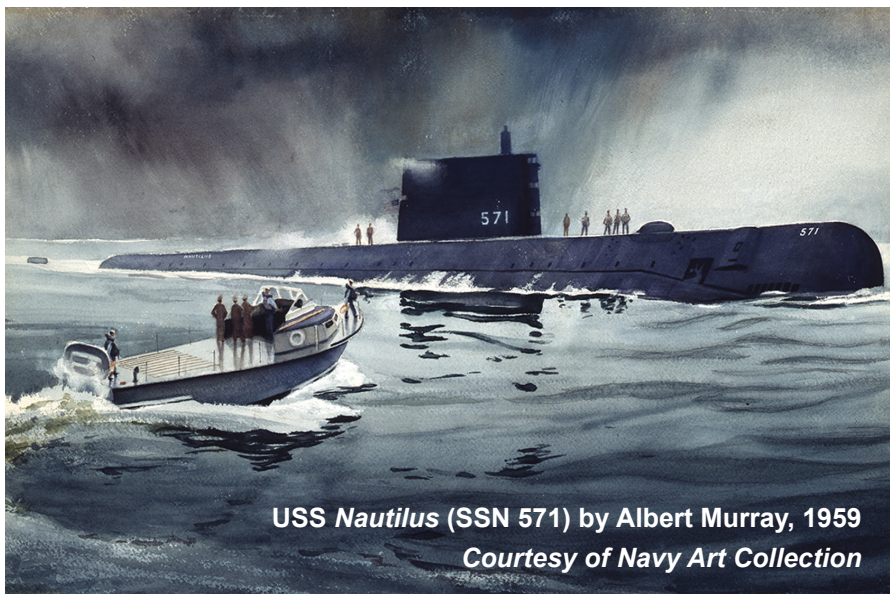


NOTABLE SUB IDC MILESTONES

- HMC **Ernest Resner** – First Sub IDC to serve on nuclear-powered submarine (Sep 1954)
- HMCM (SS) **Charles Williams** – First Force Master Chief of BUMED with warfare designator (Jun 1991)
- USS **William Charette** (DDG 130) – First warship to be named after a sub IDC (2019)

FIRST WOMEN SUB IDCs

- HMCS (later HMCM) **Amanda McDevitt** – USS *Michigan* (SSGN 727), Jan 2016
- HMC (later CMDCM) **Joezette Julien** – USS *Florida* (SSGN 728), Jul 2016
- HMC (later HMCM) **Christine Moore** – USS *Ohio* (SSGN 726), May 2017



USS *Nautilus* (SSN 571) by Albert Murray, 1959
Courtesy of Navy Art Collection

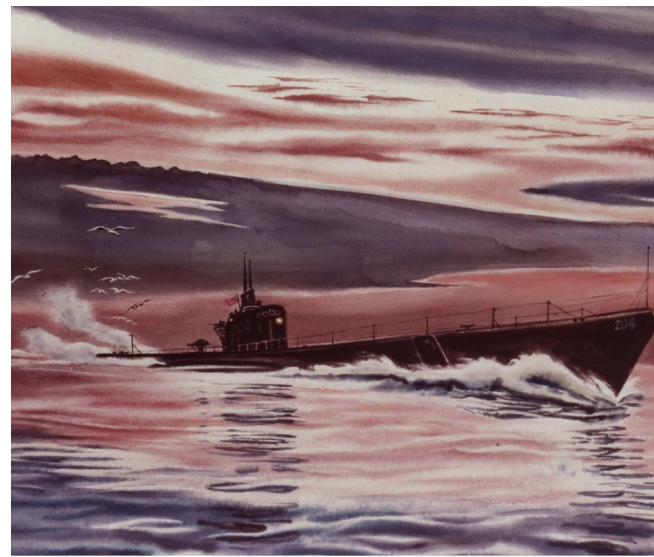


SUBMARINE APPENDECTOMIES

- For submarine corpsmen patrolling enemy waters in World War II, appendicitis was a viable threat, Sub corpsmen diagnosed acute appendicitis in some **127** instances over **116** patrols throughout the war.
- On **three** separate occasions enterprising IDCs performed appendectomies aboard submarines while in enemy waters.
 - Pharmacist’s Mate 1st Class **Wheeler Lipas**, USS *Seadragon* (SS 194), Sep. 11, 1942
 - Pharmacist’s Mate 1st Class **Harry Roby**, USS *Grayback* (SS 208), Dec. 14, 1942
 - Pharmacist’s Mate 1st Class **Thomas Moore**, USS *Silversides* (SS 236), Dec. 22, 1942

THE LAST PATROL – FALLEN SUB IDCs

- Since 1924, **44** Sub IDCs have lost their lives at sea.
- In World War II, the US Navy Submarine Service had the **highest casualty percentage of any American forces in the War (20%)**.
- First KIA: **Feb. 15, 1942** – USS *Shark* (SS 174) – PhM2c **Jesse Lester** of Reyno, Arkansas
- In May 2024, the **wreck of USS *Harder* (SS 257)** was discovered 3,000 feet below the surface off the northern Philippine island of Luzon, **79 years** after it was sunk by Japanese depth charges. Among the **79** crewmembers who lost their lives aboard *Harder* was its IDC, PhM1c **Angelo Lo Cascio** of New York, New York.
- In the 1960s, the Sub IDC community suffered two fatalities:
 - HMC (SS) **Andrew Gallant, Jr.** of Bradley, Maine
USS *Thresher* (SSN 593), Apr. 10, 1963
 - HMC (SS) **Lynn Saville** of Ford Edward, New York
USS *Scorpion* (SSN 589), May 22, 1968



“Going Home” by George Schreiber, 1943
Courtesy of Navy Art Collection