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Annual Submarine Ball Recognizes the Silent Service

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Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

Annual Submarine Ball Recognizes the Silent Service - Today at NPS May 2016 -
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Today@NPS



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

Annual Submarine Ball Recognizes the Silent Service

By MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

Director of Undersea Warfare Division (N97) and guest speaker, Rear Adm. Charles A. Richard, addresses university students, faculty, staff and guests during the 116th Submarine Birthday Ball in the Barbara McNitt Ballroom, April 30, while Northern California Submarine League President, NPS student Lt. Mitchell Nelson, center, listens in. The theme for this year's celebration, planned by Nelson and his fellow league officers, was "Submarines in the Movies: Where Fiction Meets Reality."

"Tonight we celebrate our past and honor those that have gone before us to lay the foundation for our force," said Richard. "It has truly been an exceptional year for the submarine force."

Within the last year, USS John Warner (SSN 785) was commissioned and USS Illinois (SSN 786) was launched, marking the first time that two Virginia-class submarines were released to the fleet within the same year.

"This is the force that many of you in this room will have the privilege to operate, on behalf of our American people, to ensure our nation's security," said Richard. "What we did to get here didn't happen by accident. It came from innovation, necessity, creativity, and most of all, hard work by submariners over the last 116 years."

Richard noted there have been four generations of submariners over that time span, and each generation has helped improve the force, from fundamentals to tactics to new technology.

"The generations of submariners that came before us forged the path, and it's our responsibility and honor to continue and build the force," he said. "As we celebrate our birthday, let us remember and give thanks to the initial innovators from the first generation, our heroes from WWII, and those that have laid the foundation for us."

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Annual Submarine Ball Recognizes the Silent Service

On April 11, 1900, the U.S. Navy purchased John Philip Holland's revolutionary submarine and renamed it the USS Holland (SS-1), America's first commissioned submarine. Since then, submariners have been patrolling the depths of the oceans, providing maritime security around the world.

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