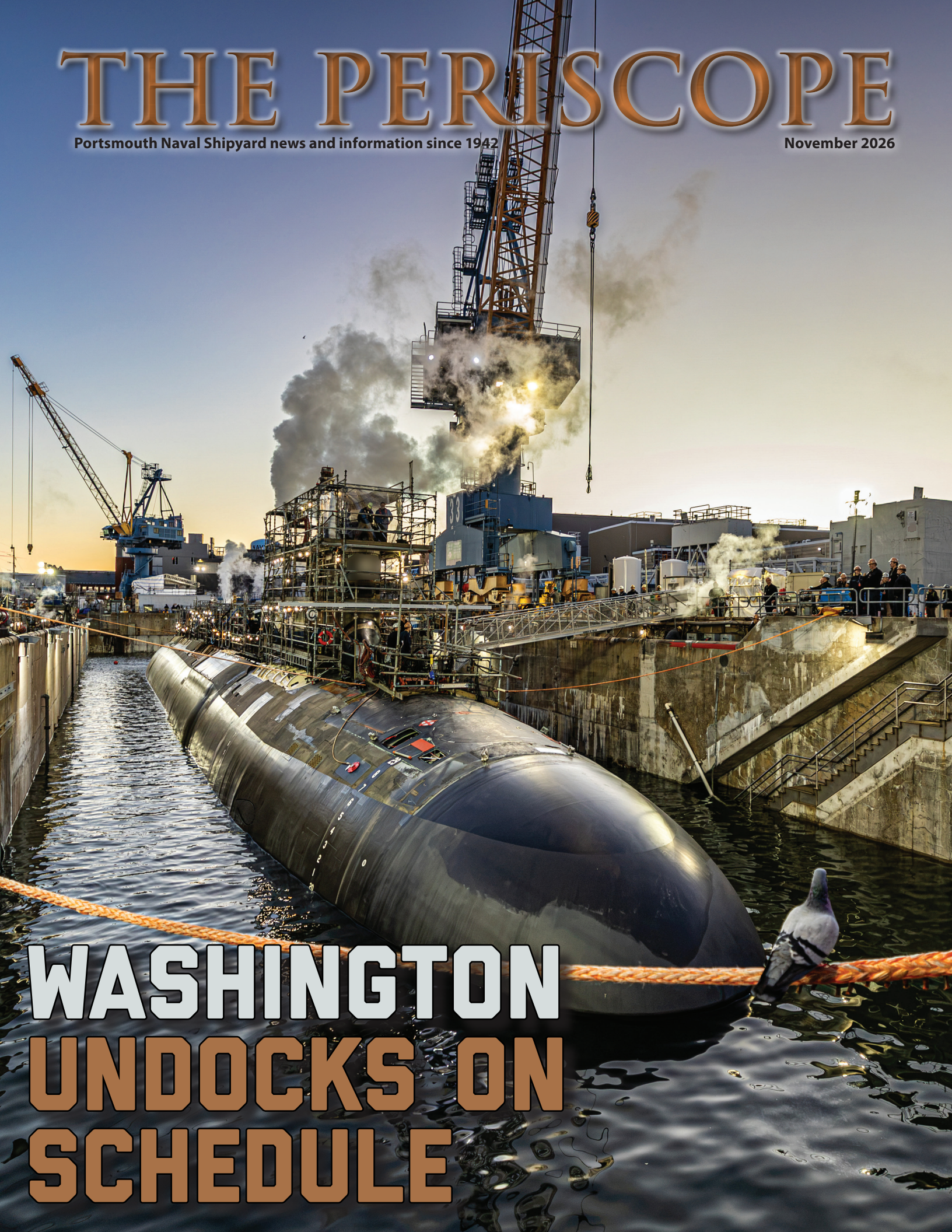
THE PERISCOPE

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard news and information since 1942

November 2026



WASHINGTON UNDOCKS ON SCHEDULE

From the Commander

A Year in Review...



At the beginning of the year we set aggressive goals, and as we near the end of 2026 I take pause to reflect on what was accomplished, and what we need to continue to work towards. Your grit and expertise have reaffirmed the shipyard's gold standard status loud and clear with mission success. We delivered on our goal to send USS Albany (SSN 753) back to the fleet by the 4th of July; we delivered on our goal to send USS North Dakota (SSN 784) back to the fleet in August; and we delivered on undocking USS Washington (SSN 787) on time in October. You did that, Portsmouth!

This year was about sharpening our focus on what makes us the best in the world — our people. We rallied behind the three lines of effort by developing expertise: ensuring authority matches that experience, and driving deck plate led innovation.

Our success is built on a focused skillset that drives efficiency without compromising safety, paired with the cohesive teamwork needed to deliver results. Our expertise is the foundation of our mission to safely deliver these submarines back to the fleet.

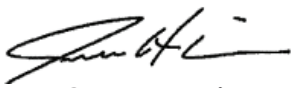
Even though our goals were ambitious, we forged ahead to meet the task at hand. We tackled reducing unnecessary deficiency forms and overly prescriptive work documents through our ability to exercise authority commensurate with your expertise. Your knowledge and proficiency enabled us to cut bureaucratic barriers that slow down your safe execution of work. Your knowledge and skills are our greatest tool, and our processes are evolving to reflect that. The best ideas come from you, the experts doing the job every day!

Lastly, we did great things in the way of innovation, and this was most apparent in the multitude of work teams who executed model lines across the shipyard to develop more efficient ways to get the work done. We initially set out to complete 10 model lines and have knocked it out of the park with more than 50 model lines to date! Your drive, your voice, in action.

With the arrival of USS Columbia (SSN 771), our next major mission is already underway. Getting Columbia back to battle-ready status for the Navy will require us to maintain the same drive, determination, and expertise that defined our success this past year as we forge ahead.

We set these goals high and you answered the call, Portsmouth. Keeping safety top-of-mind, your determination and ability to rise to the challenge is the reason we are the gold standard.

We've made some historic achievements this year, but we all know that there are more improvements to be made, more bureaucracy to strip away, continued focus on safe work, and more work to get our center of gravity and decision making down closer to the deckplates. Where it belongs! You made your successes in 2026 possible, and as we move towards 2027, we will maintain that focus on how this team continues to win!



Capt. Jesse Nice,
88th Shipyard Commander

THE PERISCOPE

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Shipyard Commander
Capt. Jesse Nice

Public Affairs Officer
Jeremy Lambert

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On the cover:
USS Washington (SSN 787) completes a successful on time undocking on Oct. 27, 2026

Photo by:
Branden Bourque

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The Periscope is the official publication of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The content is edited and approved by the PNSY Public Affairs Office. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of War.



USS Columbia (SSN 771) arrives, moving up the Piscataqua River en route to PNSY

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PNSY's Spinning Success, the Lathe

Within Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's inside machine shop, advanced capability lathes are changing how machinists repair the massive components that support Navy submarines. More than traditional lathes, the computer numerical control (CNC) systems combine machining, grinding, inspection and material-treatment capabilities in one location, reducing heavy lifts, limiting unnecessary component movement and helping workers complete critical work faster and more safely.

What once required cranes, riggers, multiple mechanics and hours of coordination can now, in some cases, be accomplished in minutes by a single operator. Spanning more than 90 feet, the lathe is designed to safely hold and precisely machine large submarine components. Computer-programmed cutting tools move along the machine, removing precise layers of metal to restore component geometry.

PNSY began working with the manufacturer of the lathes, Machine Tool Research (MTR) more than a decade ago, following a 2014 effort by Portfolio Acquisition Executive Industrial Operations, formerly Naval Sea Systems Command, to modernize machining. PNSY now has two of these advanced lathes, including one installed in September 2026. The second machine's placement was determined through close collaboration between shop-floor machinists and engineers.

"We are unable to spin components 180 degrees due to how narrow the workspace is in this area of the building, so one of the mechanics thought of the idea to put the second lathe 180 degrees out from the other one which eliminated the need to remove the component from the building, spin it and return it to the lathe," said Justin Orr, Inside Machine Shop superintendent. "This allowed us to switch from machine to machine if we need a different component orientation in the lathe."

The lathe saves significant time. Computer-operated, in-machine non-destructive testing reduces inspection time from more than a month to less than an eight-hour shift. Low Plasticity Burnishing, a surface-treatment process being integrated into the lathe, could reduce a vendor-dependent process from weeks to days completed in-house.

The machine was also designed around the person operating it. Dedicated access platforms, a centralized control console, protective enclosures, safety interlocks and an automatic emergency shutdown system help machinists work more safely and comfortably during their shifts. These features also reduce the need to climb onto machine surfaces, manually handle heavy equipment or work near rotating parts.

Across the public shipyards, where the only four lathes are located, the shared MTR platform supports collaboration, standardized tooling and common processes—helping PNSY deliver critical work that supports returning the Navy's submarines to the fleet.

Article by Danielle Phillips
Photo by Adam Johnson



PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD HOSTS VICE ADM. MICHAEL WOSJE

Article by Alana Demo *Photos by Branden Bourque*

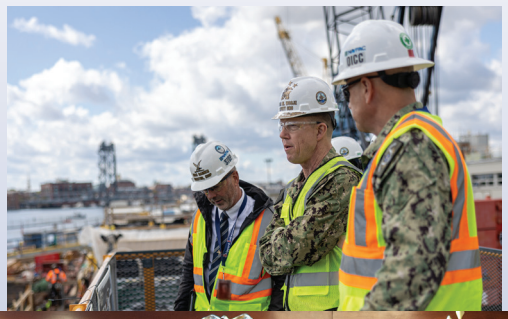
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and Naval Support Activity Maine (NSA Maine) welcomed Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Warfighting Requirements and Capabilities, Vice Adm. Michael S. Wosje, Oct. 8.

The visit focused on future investments and workforce innovations that support the Navy's ability to maintain combat-ready submarines. During his first visit to the shipyard, Wosje met with leadership and subject matter experts to discuss accelerating submarine maintenance schedules through process improvements and infrastructure modernization. He received updates on the Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program (SIOP), including the P-381 multi-mission dry dock construction, and toured facilities highlighting advanced inspection processes, an optimized paint blast and rubber facility, and virtual welding methods.

"Sustaining our undersea dominance requires unmatched dedication, technical expertise and the hands-on capability of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard," said Wosje. "By driving advanced manufacturing, getting decision authority at the lowest possible level, and removing barriers to production, this shipyard is setting the standard for innovation and readiness. Team Portsmouth is delivering a battle-ready fleet that ensures maritime dominance every single day."

Wosje's visit presented the opportunity to showcase how PNSY leverages these advancements to meet the Navy's broader mission. Through ongoing submarine maintenance and facility revitalization, the shipyard is continuously evolving to meet fleet demand.

"Hosting Vice Adm. Wosje was an opportunity to demonstrate how our expert teams are advancing their skills to deliver unmatched warfighting capability back to the Navy," said Capt. Jesse Nice, PNSY commander. "By investing in technology and infrastructure, we are eliminating the roadblocks that stand between our workforce and excellence. The Portsmouth workforce is driving operational improvements, accelerating schedules and delivering greater capability to the fleet."









2026 LENGTH OF

50 YEARS



Daniel Bolduc
Code 930

35 YEARS



Gary Broniarczyk
Code 290



Joseph Goulette
Code 960



Omer Hanson
Code 1063



Frank Humel
Code 205



Jerry Legere
Code 300

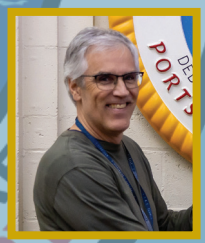
30 YEARS



Christopher Babcock
Code 246



John Brunelle
Code 2318



Andre Clavette
Code 270



Lawrence Dennis Jr.
Code 270



Bryan Dunagin
Code 244



Charles Jones
Code 1210

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

SERVICE AWARDS

Photos by Neil Boorjian

30 YEARS CONTINUED



Timothy Shanholtz
Code 930



Christopher Steeves
Code 246



Randy Stevens
Code 1180



Daniel Sweeney
Code 950

NOT PICTURED

40 YEARS

Jeffrey Ouellette
Code 2370

Michelle Pepin
Code 900T

35 YEARS

Mark Waterman
Code 300

30 YEARS

Kyle Cieliczka
Code 1100

SAFEGUARDING THE FLEET

Article by Sullivyn Cole
Photos by Neil Boorjian

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's Darrel J. Morris, a gas free engineer, was awarded the Navy Civilian Service Commendation Medal for his exceptional service and technical expertise.

Morris was recognized for his rapid response and flawless execution of critical duties aboard the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) and guided-missile destroyer USS Bulkeley (DDG 84). Operating under tight constraints, he expertly coordinated complex technical requirements across multiple departments to resolve urgent shipboard needs.

His decisive actions directly safeguarded the lives of ship repair workers and crew members, ensuring the immediate operational readiness of Gerald R. Ford and the safety of personnel on Bulkeley.

Thank you Darrel J. Morris for your dedicated service, commitment to safety and unwavering support of the fleet and warfighter. Bravo Zulu!







Echoes of Honor

Article by Alana Demo *Photos by Neil Boorjian*

With the industrial hum of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in the distance, a profound silence settled at Naval Support Activity Maine's Thresher Memorial Chapel. Shipmates, neighbors and distinguished guests gathered alongside Gold Star families, for a purpose that transcends the daily mission of modernizing the Navy's attack submarines. They came together for Bells Across America — a solemn ceremony of remembrance and a visible promise kept to always remember those lost in service.

The legacy of the gold star dates back to World War I. In those dark days of global conflict, grieving families wore a simple gold star on a black armband. It was a silent message to their communities — someone



they loved had made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation.

While bells traditionally govern maritime life and signal daily naval routines at sea, this gathering transformed these tolls into a profound tribute of remembrance. Many gathered to honor the selfless devotion, quiet pride and enduring legacy of fallen service members, ensuring their sacrifices are never forgotten.

Each strike of the bell marked an absence; the resonance of every chime carried forward the names of those who stood the watch. This ceremony serves as a powerful, necessary reminder of the human cost of our



freedom and our unwavering commitment to keep their legacy alive.

Every toll of the bell serves as an assurance that our fallen heroes will never be forgotten. "Their names are permanently etched into the history of our fleet, and their spirit lives on in every freedom we defend," said Capt. Bryan Kupyar, commanding officer NSA Maine.

Kupyar gave opening remarks to begin the ceremony. The remarks were followed by the reading of fallen Sailors and Marines names by Command Master Chief Robert Schmugge, and the reading of Army and Airforce names by Nicole Desilets-Bixler, deputy adjutant general New Hampshire National Guard. This was paired with a chiming of the bell to recognize each of those who fought bravely and sacrificed their lives for our country. Chaplain Lt. Bonny Shirk started off the ceremony with a moving performance on the violin.

"To the Gold Star families in attendance, the message from the shipyard was clear and unwavering: you do not walk this road alone," said Kupyar.

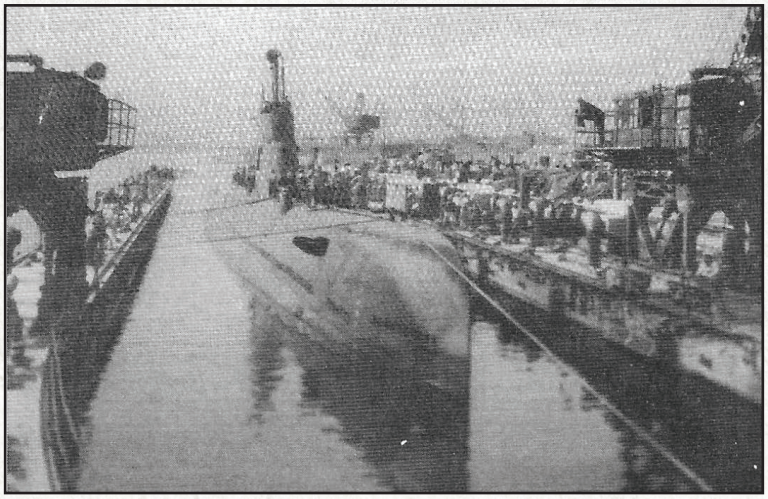


FLOATING DOCK SERVED PNSY FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES

Article by Joe Gluckert
Courtesy Photos

The U.S. Navy's first mobile floating dry dock, ARD-1, arrived at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, on Dec. 12, 1951. The 393-foot, 3,600-ton vessel had already charted a long career that began with its 1934 West Coast launch and included World War II service in San Diego and at Pearl Harbor.

Shipyard workers quickly prepared the dock for local operations. On Sept. 10, 1952, the operating crew docked and undocked fuel barge YON-13 as a maintenance training exercise. The next day, Sept. 11, ARD-1 received its first submarine when USS Tang (SS-563) entered the basin. The docking marked the first time a submarine had used a floating dry dock at Portsmouth.



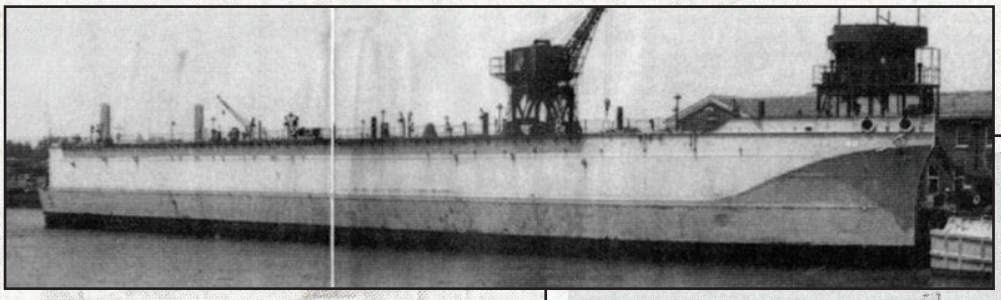
September 11, 1952, USS TANG-first sub docked in floating dry-dock at PNSY. (U.S. Navy Photo)

The dock continued to support the shipyard's submarine workload throughout the decade. In April 1954, the Navy reclassified it as YFD-82, a yard floating dock, though the redesignation did not alter day-to-day operations. Crews secured the vessel to Berth 2 with vertical sliding rails and kept it in steady service. A 1967 Naval Institute Proceedings article confirmed that YFD-82 remained active at the shipyard, regularly drydocking fleet-type submarines for overhaul and repair.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s the aging dock handled conventional diesel-electric submarines. Its 2,200-ton lifting capacity and 60-foot beam accommodated smaller postwar submarines assigned to bases along the East Coast. Shipyard docking logs and published photographs confirm the vessel remained in continuous use well into the late 1960s.

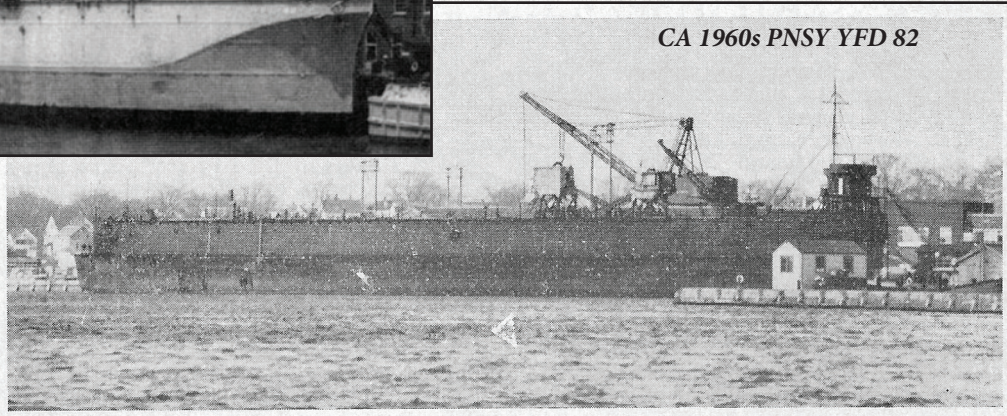
By the close of the decade, the mobile floating dock had reached the end of its service life. The Navy struck YFD-82 from the Naval Vessel Register on March 1, 1969, and on June 24, 1969, the government sold the vessel for $206,500 to the Bromfield Manufacturing Company in East Boston, Massachusetts. Its final disposition after the sale remains unknown.

From December 1951 until its departure in 1969, ARD-1/YFD-82 spent more than 17 years at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. What began as a temporary measure to relieve scheduling strain on the yard's permanent graving docks became a critical Cold War asset, supporting hundreds of submarine maintenance overhauls.



(top) Yard Floating Dock YFD-82 berthed at PNSY's Berth 2 circa 1960s. (U.S. Navy Photo)

CA 1960s PNSY YFD 82



THE ARD-1, 2,200 TON FLOATING DRYDOCK, ASSIGNED TO THE SHIPYARD.

FORWARD, WASHINGTON

USS Washington (SSN 787) reaches a significant modernization milestone as shipyard team completes another major step toward future fleet readiness.



"Washington's undocking is an achievement that represents a coordinated effort across the shipyard to return a renewed and combat-ready submarine back to the fleet," said Capt. Jesse Nice, shipyard commander. "This team overcame every obstacle through our traditional shipyard grit combined with cutting-edge deckplate innovations led by our expert tradespeople. Today, we stand taller, tougher, and poised for the next phase to preserve the Navy's mandate to build and maintain combat-ready forces."

A MILESTONE IN THE JOURNEY

Undocking marks major progress in Washington's modernization

The Virginia-class attack submarine USS Washington (SSN 787) was successfully undocked on schedule Oct. 27, at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, marking a major milestone in its scheduled maintenance and modernization availability, moving the Washington into its next phase of operational testing.

Completion of a submarine's docking period is a critical first step in its return to the fleet and directly supports the Navy's focus on combat-ready platforms, increasing operational availability and contributing to credible, sustained deterrence.

"Washington's undocking is an achievement that represents a coordinated effort across the shipyard to return a renewed and combat-ready submarine back to the fleet," said Capt. Jesse Nice, shipyard commander. "This team overcame every obstacle through our traditional shipyard grit combined with cutting-edge deckplate innovations led by our expert tradespeople. Today, we stand taller, tougher, and poised for the next phase to preserve the Navy's mandate to build and maintain combat-ready forces."

Washington has undergone extensive mechanical and electrical system upgrades, scheduled maintenance, and structural inspections utilizing deckplate innovation such as additive manufacturing. This comprehensive overhaul enhances the submarine's capabilities, modernizes critical systems, and equips Sailors — the Navy's decisive warfighting advantage — with an advanced, reliable platform ready to meet the Navy's operational demands to deliver peace through strength.

"I'm proud of the incredible work done between our crew and the project team, whose exceptional collaboration and vigilance led us to this undocking on time," said Cmdr. Keith Turnbull, Washington commanding officer, USS Washington (SSN 787). "Through this monumental collective effort, we are laying the groundwork that will ultimately deliver the 'Blackfish' as a fully mission-capable, cutting-edge submarine operated by a highly skilled crew that will stand ready to answer our Nation's call."

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is the Navy's center of excellence for attack submarine overhaul, repair, and modernization. This successful, on time undocking reflects the expertise and dedication of the project team, civilian workforce and ship's force, who have worked tirelessly to advance Washington through its availability. As a part of the total force, their collaboration and disciplined execution sustain the shipyard's mission and bolster fleet readiness.

"I am incredibly proud of the USS Washington project team, the entire shipyard workforce and the crew for their unwavering dedication and hard work to complete the complex maintenance and technological upgrades necessary to undock on time." said Kevin Belisle Washington project superintendent. "They met every engineering and modernization challenge head-on with tenacity and grit. Their incredible dedication and collaboration have set a solid foundation to meet the Navy's mission with excellence as we keep forging ahead to the finish line."

Fast-attack submarines are the cornerstone of America's undersea advantage and a critical instrument of national power. As multi-mission platforms, they are foundational to integrated deterrence, enabling sea control, power projection, and persistent forward presence in the most contested environments.





Article by Alana Demo *Photos by Branden Bourque*

Welcome Columbia

USS COLUMBIA (771) ARIVED AT PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD FOR ITS SERVICE LIFE EXTENSION OVERHAUL. LET'S GET TO WORK!

A JOURNEY BEGINS

Columbia's arrival marks the beginning of its maintenance period.

The Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Columbia (SSN 771) and its crew arrived at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on Thursday, Oct. 29, for a scheduled maintenance and modernization period.

While at the shipyard, Columbia will undergo an overhaul as part of the Service Life Extension Program, which includes system upgrades by incorporating cutting-edge maritime technologies and scheduled maintenance work. By integrating modern electronic systems and performing comprehensive engineering updates, this availability ensures the platform returns to service as a highly capable and reliable asset.

"As Columbia enters the Service Life Extension Program, our Sailors and skilled shipyard craftspeople stand ready to return it to the fleet, surpassing our previous achievements on USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) and USS Hampton (SSN 767)," said Shipyard Commander Capt. Jesse Nice. "We will tackle this project with the punctuality, grit and determination that define our legacy."

Stretching nearly 362 feet, Columbia is equipped with advanced technology making it one of the most capable attack submarines in the fleet. The vessel is equipped for long-range Tomahawk strike missions and special forces insertions, serving as a lethal, essential component of the U.S. Navy's fleet.

"Columbia is a front-line attack submarine with a proud history of service and answering our nation's call to preserve freedom on the seas. I'm excited to see the warriors of Columbia partner with the professionals of our Navy's premier shipyard," said Capt. Mike Poplawski, commodore, Submarine Squadron TWO. "I have no doubt that the efforts of the team to complete the overhaul on schedule over the coming months will provide our Nation with a formidable warship at the exact point of need."

Commissioned Oct. 9, 1995, Columbia is the last Los Angeles-class submarine to be built at General Dynamics Electric Boat Shipyard in Groton, Connecticut. It is famously known as the last boat to slide into the Thames River, earning the name "last to slide". This traditional launch style—where the boat slid stern-first down a greased wooden ramp into the water—lasted for more than seven decades and utilized a massive 1,300-foot wooden ramp before modern construction methods took over.

Breaking from the traditional single-city naming convention, Columbia proudly represents three distinct American communities: Columbia, South Carolina, Columbia, Missouri, and Columbia, Illinois.

"The name Columbia carries an honored legacy in our nation's naval history. Inspired by the steadfast spirit of Lady Columbia, America's first national mascot before Lady Liberty, the current crew proudly carries that heritage forward. Team Columbia is focused on our core mission: returning this boat to the fleet ready to fight, win, and sustain the watch," said Jon LeBlanc, Columbia project superintendent.

Columbia is under the command of Cmdr. William J. Murphy and the host community is Kittery, Maine.

By prioritizing innovation, accountability, and a culture of warfighting excellence, the shipyard strengthens the maritime industrial base and invests deeply in its highly skilled workforce. This vital work directly bolsters national security, delivering submarines that are more capable than ever before to ensure the U.S. Navy remains the world's dominant maritime force.

Article by Sullivyn Cole

"As Columbia enters the Service Life Extension Program, our Sailors and skilled shipyard craftspeople stand ready to return to the fleet, surpassing our previous achievements on USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) and USS Hampton (SSN 767). We will tackle this project with the punctuality, grit and determination that define our legacy."

— Capt. Jesse Nice, shipyard commander.

Photos by Branden Bourque and Neil Boorjian











Columbia

Defense Organization Climate Survey

DEOCS the Dinosaur says, "Your Voice Drives Shipyard Change"



What happens after the survey?

Your feedback is 100% anonymous — and leadership uses it year-round to build a stronger shipyard.

Here's how:

Analyze the Data: Leaders review survey results, trends, and comments to highlight our strengths and identify new opportunities to grow.

Host Focus Groups: Facilitated discussions explore key workplace topics to gather fresh ideas and practical solutions.

Take Action: Departments implement targeted improvement plans that foster a positive, supportive workplace for everyone.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts. Your feedback shapes our shipyard!

Victory for the Pantry, Serving Our Community!

Article by Sullivyn Cole ***Photos by Neil Boorjian***

The nuclear engineering and planning department participated in a department-wide battle of who could donate the most pounds of food to the Thresher Memorial Food Pantry at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.



The winner and "heavy weight champions", the nuclear material division, racked in an incredible 503 pounds of food for the pantry, while the primary systems branch took bragging rights as "the speed demon" for donating every item on the food list in the least amount of time.

Together, the department donated more than 1,700-pounds of food. An amazing show of community spirit and teamwork proves that when the workforce unites for a cause, they deliver heavy duty results!

As a reminder, the food pantry is available 24/7 to military and civilian personnel and is located inside the fitness center.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Maritime Trades

Article by Sullivyn Cole
Photos by Branden Bourque

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and York County Community College (YCCC) joined forces Oct. 23 to address a critical national defense priority: recruiting and training the next generation of industrial trade leaders.

During the College and Career Connections Fair at YCCC's Sanford campus, visiting high school students stepped out of the traditional classrooms and into hands-on workshops to test-drive careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), alongside traditional skilled trades.

Cmdr. Eric Thurkins, PNSY engineering and planning manager, Steve Turner, founder and chief executive officer of Bring Back the Trades, and Cait Grant, YCCC vice president, delivered remarks. The speakers encouraged visiting students to explore their potential and consider how their talents could support critical defense industries.





"Whether these students choose a career in our shipyards or forge paths elsewhere, equipping the next generation with the tools to succeed strengthens our entire nation," said Thurkins. "That is one of the most vital contributions we can make."

The event underscored the ongoing partnership between PNSY and YCCC, which aligns community college curricula with modern shipyard requirements to build a sustainable pipeline to stable careers.

"We truly value our partnership with Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the opportunity to collaborate on our shared commitment to developing a skilled and educated workforce," said Grant.

A central feature of the fair was direct engagement with experienced shipyard tradespeople. "I'm excited to help kids discover the value of skilled trades through engaging, hands-on experiences that spark their interest," said Wesley Ouellette, a machinist in the Inside Machine Shop.

Shipyard personnel conducted specialized live demonstrations across several core disciplines, including pipefitting, machining, welding, marine machinery mechanics and non-destructive testing. Students also received guidance on resume writing and professional interview techniques. Additionally, Justin Roy, PNSY apprenticeship program administrator, met with students to provide an overview of the apprenticeship programs.

Raegan Allison, a student at Robert W. Traip Academy, praised the interactive format, "I had so much fun! I learned how to build a resume, got some great interview tips, and discovered that welding was my favorite trade," Allison said. "Everyone was so passionate, excited to share their work and eager to show us how we could get to where they are."

By forging hands-on pathways into critical maritime trades, initiatives like this actively build the workforce that sustains American naval dominance—accelerating fleet modernization, strengthening the defense industrial base, and ensuring U.S. warships remain combat-ready for decades to come.

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD HOSTS REAR ADM. TODD WEEKS

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and Naval Support Activity Maine (NSA Maine) welcomed Portfolio Acquisition Executive for Industrial Operations, Rear Adm. Todd S. Weeks, Sept. 28 and 29.

During his first visit to the shipyard since assuming his position in August 2026, Weeks met with shipyard leadership to discuss how PNSY is meeting mission-critical submarine maintenance requirements. Weeks also met with subject matter experts to discuss workforce-driven innovations and cutting-edge repair capabilities executed through improved workforce processes and emerging technologies during a detailed tour of PNSY's inside machine shop.

Weeks toured the P-381 multi-mission dry dock construction project and engaged in multiple interactions with the shipyard workforce to gain full visibility of the critical work being done to meet the Navy's mission. PNSY, as part of the Navy's Foundry, drives the undersea warfighting advantage by transforming raw inputs and forging them into lethal outputs — platforms and sustained readiness at the speed and scale necessary to win.



Following the discussions, Weeks received a ships tour of the Virginia-class fast-attack submarines USS Washington (SSN 787), USS New Mexico (SSN 779) and the Los Angeles-class USS Hampton (SSN 767).

"The technical expertise and the hands-on capability of the Portsmouth workforce are critical to sustaining our undersea advantage," said Weeks. "By putting the right tools and decisional authority at the right level, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is removing barriers to production and accelerating the delivery of combat-ready submarines back to the fleet. The dedication I saw here proves that Portsmouth is focused on the right priorities."



The two-day visit provided PNSY an opportunity to showcase how it supports its workforce in exercising authority consistent with their expertise and focusing on outcomes over activity. PNSY is dedicated to putting decisional authority in the hands of the workforce and eliminating systemic barriers to ensure the Navy's fleet is consistently positioned for warfighting readiness.

"Through their expertise and dedication, our workforce is streamlining critical maintenance. These efforts are already showing real results across the shipyard," said Capt. Jesse Nice, shipyard commander. "Rear Adm. Weeks witnessed our team's daily commitment to overcoming challenges and accelerating production timelines, reinforcing how vital Portsmouth is to the Navy's mission."

Article by Alana Demo
Photos by Branden Bourque



Looking for Your Employment Verification?

Follow these six steps to request employment verification



Step 1. Open the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Homepage and select the "MyBiz" tab on the left side of the screen.

Step 2. Login to the MyBiz portal.

Step 3. From the MyBiz homepage, select "Request Employment Verification" from the "Key Services" menu on the left side of the screen.

Step 4. Select either "Employment Information" or "Employment and Salary Information," depending on your needs.

Step 5. Enter the intended recipient's email address in the "To" field and hit the "Continue" button.

Step 6. You will receive an email to your designated account with a password you need to forward on to the intended recipient for security reasons.



Momentum

Scan the QR code to visit your member website for more information

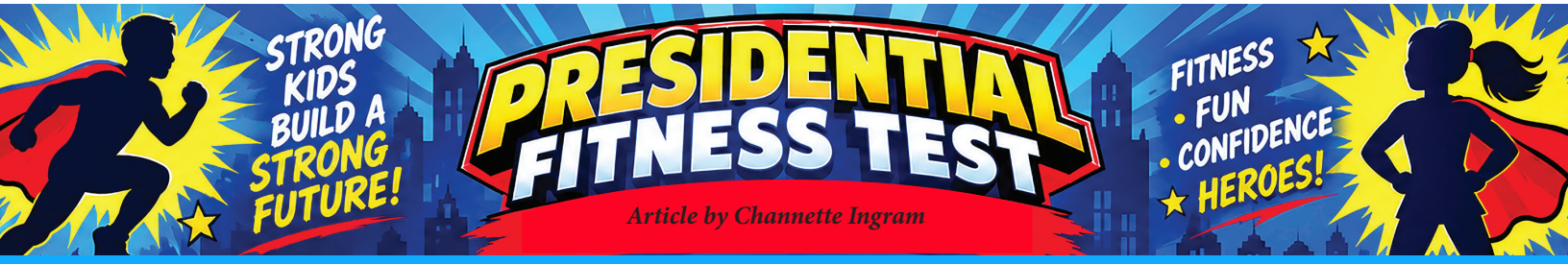
Support without stigma

Reaching out for support during challenging times is a sign of strength, not weakness. Still, some find it difficult to ask for help. Through understanding, empathy and open conversation, we can help others feel more comfortable about speaking up and remind them that they don't have to face challenges alone.

- **Talk openly and respectfully** about mental health.
- **Listen without judgment** when someone shares their experiences.
- **Learn about available resources** and encourage others to use them.
- **Respect privacy and avoid making assumptions** about what someone may be going through.
- **Use supportive language** that promotes understanding rather than blame or shame.
- **Set a good example** by taking care of your own wellbeing and asking for help when needed.
- **Practice kindness and compassion,** recognizing that some challenges may not be visible.

Magellan HEALTHCARE®

Look for monthly news, events and updates from Naval Support Activity Maine's Support Services Child and Youth Program, Morale Welfare and Recreation, and Fleet and Family Service here!



Article by Channette Ingram

On Friday, Nov. 6, military affiliated children participated in the Presidential Fitness Test which concluded with a well deserved superhero movie night.

Capes were optional, but the superhero energy and enthusiasm were present despite the rainy weather. The NSA Maine Child and Youth Program, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosted event had a multitude of kids between the ages of 5 - 18.

The kids in attendance put their superpowers to the test in the shipyard gym running 21 laps, equaling a mile, mutliple pushups and holding planks. Following the event, prizes and medals were awarded to the hard working participants.

Upon completing the test, participants earned fitness badges and enjoyed a superhero movie with friends. The evening was designed to encourage youth to stay active, build confidence and have fun in a positive, family-friendly environment.

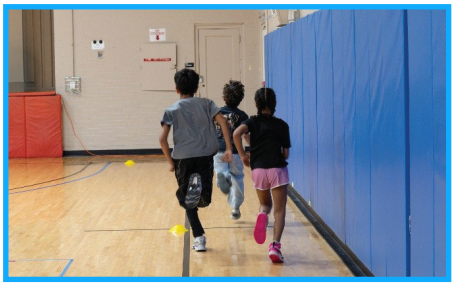




Photo by Neil Boorjian



Naval Support Activity Maine Leadership and personnel participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the official opening of the auto hobby newest vehicle lift onboard NSA Maine. This 21st Century Sailor Initiative offers Sailors and civilians a convenient location to work on their automobiles with the expert eye of our Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) mechanics.

Ryan Patrick Guffey serves as the MWR Director at NSA Maine, bringing 17 years of experience with the Department of War. He has deep-rooted naval ties and personal insight into quality-of-life infrastructure as the son of a 30-year Navy Command Master Chief. Guffey's global experience includes, directing multi-million dollar recreation portfolios and earning a Congressional Meritorious Service Award aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4). Guffey brings expertise to the role to revitalize amenities, expand staffing and build community across the installation.



Photo by Neil Boorjian



Naval Support Activity Maine Leadership and personnel participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the official opening of the new re-surfaced outdoor basketball and pickleball courts at NSA Maine. As part of the 21st Century Sailor Initiative, the courts received new paint, surface and nets. The new footprint provides a convenient location for Sailors and civilians to enjoy physical activity outdoors.

Stay tuned for upcoming news and events from NSA Maine Fleet and Family Services!

VANPOOL LISTINGS HAS MOVED!

For all VANPOOL listings, select Rides and Riders under the Resource tab on the PNSY Sharepoint page, then select the Commuter Information tab.

For questions or vanpool changes contact PNS_TIPS@us.navy.mil.



Awards

During the month of Sept. PNSY issued 1370 awards.

1070	ON THE SPOT	1	SPECIAL ACT	10	SAFETY
197	TIME OFF	92	SPECIAL ACT - QUALIFICATIONS		

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

During the month of Sept. PNSY issued 38 actions.

	Non-Bargaining Unit Employees (Supervisors)	Bargaining Unit Employees (Non-Supervisors)
REPRIMANDS	7	19
SUSPENSIONS	2	4
TERMINATIONS		6


VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED