



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
SUBMARINE FORCES
1430 MITSCHER AVENUE
NORFOLK, VA 23551-2492

5830
Ser N7/S-005
13 Jan 22

THIRD ENDORSEMENT on Rear Admiral Christopher J. Cavanaugh, USN ltr 5830 of 29 Oct 21

From: Commander, Submarine Forces
To: Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Subj: (U) COMMAND INVESTIGATION OF THE APPARENT STRIKING OF A SUBMERGED
OBJECT BY USS CONNECTICUT (SSN 22) WHILE UNDERWAY IN THE U.S.
SEVENTH FLEET AREA OF OPERATIONS ON 2 OCTOBER 2021

Encl: (128) COMSUBLANT 171637Z NOV 21
(129) COMSUBLANT 281207Z JAN 22
(130) COMSUBLANT 101201Z SEP 21

1. (U) I concur with the investigation's conclusions and the recommendations of Commander, SEVENTH FLEET (C7F) and Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (CSP). I reiterate that this grounding was preventable. The proximate cause was the result of poor navigation planning and execution along with risk management that fell below Submarine Force standards. However, improvements are required at all levels within the Submarine Force (*i.e.*, unit, parent and deployed Immediate Superiors In Command (ISICs), and Type Commanders (TYCOMs)).

2. (U) I recommend approval of the findings of fact, opinions, and recommendations of the investigating officer as endorsed by C7F and CSP with the following comments.

a. (b) (1) (A)
[Redacted]

b. (b) (1) (A)
[Redacted]

c. (b) (1) (A)
[Redacted]

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and planned actions will be tracked by CSP and CSF to completion, and Fleet leadership will be kept apprised of Submarine Force improvement efforts.

d. (U) As I noted in enclosure (130), safety is foundational to the submarine community's culture and our warfighting operations. Consistent with CSP's endorsement, I am also tracking the findings and recommendations of the Safety Investigation Board into this incident.

3. (U) I concur with CSP's assessment that the Submarine Force has room for improvement in the deployment training and certification process with respect to navigation. Additionally, we are conducting a Fleet Response Training Plan Wholeness Review that will afford us the opportunity to broadly and deeply assess our entire training and certification model across all aspects of submarine combat mission areas and core competencies. This review, which is scheduled to be completed by March 2022, will enable us to potentially identify any systemic issues not yet discovered and further bolster our improvement efforts.

4. (U) My point of contact is [REDACTED] (b) (6)



W. J. HOUSTON

Copy to:
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMNAVSACENT
COMSUBPAC