

Decatur Chapter #4 Newseyletter

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Argentina's sunken submarine found one year after loss



The Argentine submarine *ARA San Juan S 42* has been located on the ocean floor one year after her loss. A private contractor, operating the ship *Seabed Constructor* found the sub and transmitted more than thirty-thousand photos of the sub using a remotely operated submersible.



Ocean Infinity, a Houston-based company, sent minisubmarines from the *Seabed Constructor* to scour the ocean floor for the submarine and were on the last day of their search when they received notification of a 197-foot-long geological formation in a deep ocean ravine, about 700 miles east of the Argentine city of Puerto Madryn. Photo images revealed it to be the submarine, the *ARA San Juan*. The partially imploded submarine lays at a depth of 2,800 feet. Argentina announced that it does not have the resources to raise the sunken sub.

Largest oil rig discharge in history?

We all know the history of the *HORIZON* oil platform accident, but how many of us were aware of *MC20* (Taylor Energy Platform #23051) located 11 miles off

the mouth of the Mississippi River? How many know that the leak started in 2004 when an undersea mudslide caused the leak. The mudslide was triggered by Hurricane IVAN. Taylor Energy, the New Orleans-based company that owns the platform, has not stopped the oil leak in the past 14 years, so the federal government has taken over.



Photo before the mudslide toppled the platform in 2004.

The Coast Guard began the planning phase of an eventual capping of the leaking well and subsequent cleanup efforts in November, when federal control began. To date the spill has leaked a cumulative total of 10,000 to 30,000 gallons daily since 2004, making it the *MC20* platform spill the largest in history. Should anyone ask why it took 14 years to start efforts to cap this leak?

Pentagon announces contracts for two new aircraft carriers



The Pentagon announced on January 31 that it awarded Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc a \$15.2 billion contract to build two nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. The U.S. Navy told lawmakers in December it intended to pursue a block purchase of two *Ford*-class aircraft carriers, a step officials have said could save billions of dollars as the Trump administration tries to expand the size of the fleet. The hull designations are *CVN 81* and *CVN 82*. No names have been assigned, but there will be political wrangling as to what names should be assigned. Hopefully the Secretary of the Navy will avoid any pitfalls and choose a Legacy name for these two carriers.