

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Mountain Home NJROTC unit is proud to announce that on August 8th, 2023, the command of the *USS ARKANSAS* (SSN 800) adopted Mountain Home High School and its Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (NJROTC) Unit as official partners of the submarine for the life of the ship. As honorary Silent Travelers, MHNJROTC will act as the liaison between the ship and the state of Arkansas during the inaugural namesake visit. We will coordinate events within the state to introduce the command of the submarine to her namesake state.

USS ARKANSAS (SSN-800) is a Virginia-class nuclear powered attack submarine currently being built for the United States Navy. She is the twenty-seventh boat of the class and the fifth vessel to be named for the state of Arkansas. She was ordered on 28 April 2014, and named during a ceremony on 15 June 2016 by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. *USS ARKANSAS* was keel laid on 19 November 2022 at Newport News Shipbuilding. The submarine was featured in the 2018 film *Hunter Killer*, which was based on the novel *Firing Point* by George Wallace and Don Keith.

The Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Vincent Kahnke, along with members of his crew, will visit the state from October 18th, 2023, through October 26th, 2023, with events in Mountain Home, Fayetteville, Little Rock, and Jonesboro. The goal of this visit is to garner support for the crew of the *USS Arkansas* from the residents and representatives of the state, and to develop a plan for establishment of a commissioning committee. The SSN 800 commissioning committee will be a statewide network of strong supporters aligned with a common vision to raise broad awareness and generate deep support for the commissioning of the nuclear submarine bearing the proud name ARKANSAS.

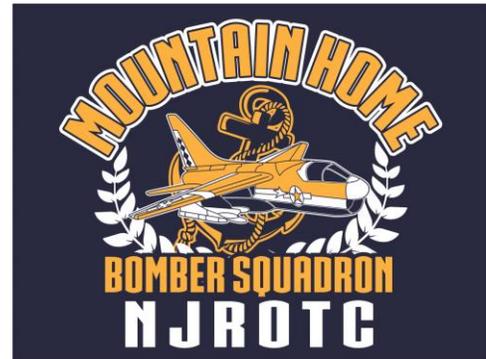
A list of events is still under construction and will be widely disseminated when finalized. An initial draft of the schedule of events is attached. If you would like to accompany Cmdr. Kahnke and the crew of *USS Arkansas* to any of the listed events, or you would like to host events where the schedule allows, please email me at ahale@mhbombers.com.

Very Respectfully,

LCDR Allan Hale, USN (Ret.)
Senior Naval Science Instructor
Mountain Home High School
ahale@mhbombers.com

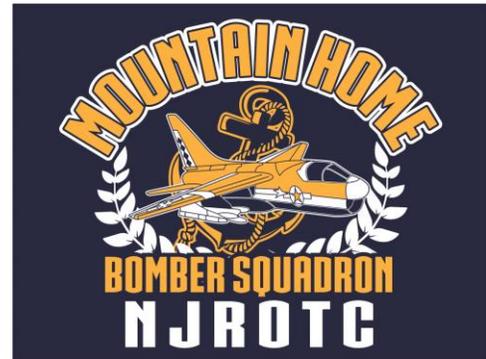
<https://hii.com/news/hii-virginia-class-attack-submarine-arkansas-ssn-800-keel/>

<https://www.sublant.usff.navy.mil/SSN800/>



Initial draft of the schedule for this namesake visit is as follows:

1. Thursday, October 19th, 2023 (Mountain Home, Arkansas)
 - a. 0700-0800 XL-7 Morning show
 - b. 0900-0930 KTLO interview
 - c. 1000-1200 Crew will visit schools across Mountain Home School District
 - d. 1500-1700 (3pm to 5pm). The crew will be Mountain Home, Arkansas, hosting an information meeting for veterans and members of the community at Dunbar Auditorium
 - e. 1800-1830 (6pm-6:30pm) Mountain Home City Council Meeting
 - f. 1900-2000 (7pm-8pm) JH Football game at Bomber Stadium (½ the crew)
 - g. 1900-2000 (7pm-8pm) Mountain Home School Board meeting (½ of crew)
2. Friday, October 20th, 2023 (Mountain Home, Arkansas)
 - a. 0900-TBD Meeting with students and staff of ASUMH (Room number TBD)
 - b. 1600-1930 (4pm-7:30pm) MH NJROTC 30th anniversary celebration at Bomber Stadium
3. Saturday, October 21st, 2023 (Fayetteville, Arkansas)
 - a. TBD Meeting with U of A Veteran and Military-Affiliated Students
 - b. TBD Meeting with U of A Army ROTC
 - c. TBD Meeting with Navy Officer Recruiter
 - d. TBD Razorbacks Football Game (recognized on the field)
4. Sunday, October 22nd, 2023 (Mountain Home, Arkansas)
 - a. Schedule open
5. Monday, October 23rd, 2023 (Little Rock, Arkansas)
 - a. 0900-1100 Meeting with Veterans at the USS Razorback Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum (to discuss commissioning committee formation)
 - b. TBD Meeting with the Governor
 - c. TBD Meeting with government officials
 - d. TBD Interview with Local News Media



6. Tuesday, October 24th, 2023 (Little Rock, Arkansas)
 - a. TBD Morning Show(s)
 - b. TBD Meeting with students and Little Rock, Parkview NJROTC
 - c. TBD Meeting with Veteran Students at UALR
 - d. TBD Interview with Local News Media
7. Wednesday, October 25th, 2023 (Jonesboro, Arkansas)
 - a. 1000-1200 Meeting with students and staff at Jonesboro High School
 - b. 1300-1600 (1pm-4pm) Meeting with students and staff at ASU-Jonesboro
8. Thursday, October 26th, 2023 (Memphis, Tennessee)
 - a. 1000-1600 (10am-4pm) Meeting with veterans of the last ship named USS ARKANSAS (CGN-41)