

Rogue Submarine Newsletter

Volume 20

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1. Rogue Neptune

Rogue Neptune is drafted. The primary reason I'm not publishing it yet is that I want to finish Rogue Outlaws before doing so. There's always a possibility that something in Rogue Outlaws makes me go back and change Rogue Neptune.

Both books will cover different phases of the same mission, which takes place in Yemen.

Of course, Yemen is a mess. I'm sure it will remain so for years, especially while the world recovers from Covid-19.

2. Rogue Outlaws

I just started Rogue Outlaws, and I'm about 10% through. Once it's ready, probably three months from now, I'll have some sort of rapid but staggered release of Rogue Neptune, Rogue Outlaws, and the next 3-book box set.

3. Big Russian Developments

The Russians repurposed and expand a huge, unbuilt *Oscar-II* hull (600 feet, 30,000 tons) into a special mission boat called the *Belgorod*. Launched in April, the *Belgorod* is the world's longest submarine and smaller only than the *Typhoon*, of Red October fame.

Speaking of big, the *Belgorod* will carry several of the huge (65 foot-long) Poseidon torpedo that can travel more than 5,000 nautical miles and carry a thermonuclear warhead. Its purpose is to overcome missile defense systems and kill American civilians.

Like any big special purpose boat, the *Belgorod* is expected to carry a mini-sub on its back. However, it also can carry the deep-sea "mini" submarine *Losharik*, which is 230 feet long, underneath its belly. That's a monster carrying something not so mini.

Russian submarine: <https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/navy-ships/a27243915/russia-launches-belgorod-the-worlds-longest-submarine/>

4. American Unmanned Submarine

The US Navy has awarded Boeing contracts worth a total of \$274.4m to produce five Orca Extra Large Unmanned Undersea Vehicles (XLUUVs). The point is for the Orca to start from a home port, drive itself to a theater of operations, loiter, and accomplish its mission without human control. That's different from smaller UUVs naval ships may deploy.

Note that this 'extra-large' version of a UUV will almost fit sideways inside the Russian *Belgorod*. That puts the *Belgorod* in perspective.

American UUV: <https://www.naval-technology.com/features/boeing-orca-xluuv-unmanned-submarine/>

5. Japan's Li-ion Batteries

Are you worried about the lithium-ion batteries in your phone or computer exploding? Apparently, the Japanese are not.

They've decided to build the last two of their *Soryu*-class submarines with Li-ion batteries. Li-ion batteries hold more energy than the traditional lead-acid batteries. However, the dangers are obvious. Li-ion batteries are known fire hazards.

The Japanese are gambling in a game of risk and mitigation to extend the undersea durations of their submarines.

Japan's *Soryu*-class submarine: <https://www.janes.com/article/94710/japan-commissions-first-soryu-class-submarine-equipped-with-lithium-ion-batteries>

Thanks for reading! - John