

# TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 3, No. 7

July 2007

## Newsletter of Charleston Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.



### USSVI Creed

*"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States Government"*



Base web page: [www.ussvich.org](http://www.ussvich.org)  
National web page: [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org)

#### Base Meeting:

Thursday, July 12, 2007  
Social hour 1800, General Meeting 1900

#### Location:

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269, Low Country Home  
99 Wisteria Rd.  
Goose Creek, South Carolina. Phone 843-569-2962

Base Officers		Phone Number
Commander	Steve Nelms	843-563-7115
Vice Commander	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Secretary	Ronnie Kerstetter	843-367-1026
Treasurer	George Lisle	843-559-4242

Special Officers		Phone Number
Chief of the Boat	Marty Sessler	843-871-1536
Public Affairs	Richard Cleeve	843-899-4563
Sub Vets WWII	Barnwell Chaplin	843-762-6945
Nuclear Historian	Ed Simokat	843-873-1709
Veterans Affairs	John Nichols	843-873-5897
Chaplain	John Nichols	843-873-5897
Membership	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Holland Club	Bob Lowe	843-573-9045
Little David Project	Rick Wise	843-875-5559
Roving Reporter	Rick Wise	843-875-5559
Scholarship	Jim Yates	843-873-0246
Newsletter	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Storekeeper	Paul Vierung	843-797-2623
Alcohol & Gaming	Dave Mueller	843-553-2775

### Minutes of the June 2007 meeting

Attendance for the June 14, 2007 meeting was 108

**Opening Ceremony:** Base Commander, Steve Nelms, called the meeting to order. A Quorum was present and the meeting was commenced at 1907.

**Introductions:** Four new people were introduced;

**Alcohol & Gaming:** No report

**Holland Club:** Bobby Lowe presented a patch and certificate to inductees Boyce Williams, and Harry Kirk. Danny Davis was not present. Congratulations for being designated submarine qualified for 50 years. The HOLLAND CLUB is an exclusive group within the Sub Vets organization where the

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Thomas Britton, Chris LaForce, James Palmer(USMC), and Willard Warren. Welcome aboard.

**Treasurer:** George Lisle gave the treasurer's report.

**Secretary:** Ronnie Kerstetter asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from last month. A motion was made and seconded. Minutes approved.

**Storekeeper:** Paul Viering reminded everyone "if you ordered something, pick it up". Paul has 7 small CO2 fire extinguishers for sale tonight for \$5 each. These fire extinguishers were donated to Sub Vets by Dale Hostetter (the fire extinguisher man) they are a \$177 item on sale tonight for \$5. Dale has fire extinguishers from time to time.

**Chaplain:** Nick Nichols presented the binnacle list.

- Bill Burke's wife, Lynn, had cancer surgery. She is at home and recovering. Please keep Lynn and Bill in your prayers.
- Larry Sims mother passed away and a card was sent to him with our sympathy.
- ETCM(SS) Ken LeBlanc passed away on May 13<sup>th</sup>. He was a member of the REDFISH Base. The base sent his wife Gail a sympathy card in remembrance of her husband.
- Richard Burke passed away on May 10<sup>th</sup> from a heart attack. He was on the NAUTILUS, RAY and SUBLANT STAFF. No address was known so no card has been sent.
- Pat Stout, Jerry's wife, had cancer surgery and is doing well. The base sent her a get-well card.
- Connie Mabie, Sy's wife, suffered a stroke and is in Health South for rehabilitation. The base sent her a get-well card.
- Sy Mabie is undergoing chemo therapy and is having a difficult time. The base sent him a card wishing him well. Please keep both Sy and Connie in your prayers.
- George Dale was in the hospital for the end of May/first of June. He was seriously sick with an infection and 104 temp but is doing well at present. The base sent him a get-well card.
- Ben Hardaway's wife, Sharon, is in Health South recovering from disc surgery in her back. She is beginning to have some movement in her legs. They are asking for no visitors at present. The base sent her a get-well card.
- Jim Keller is having cancer surgery on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Please keep him in your prayers.
- James Suddeth's mother, Fran Josephson, passed away on June 9<sup>th</sup>. She was our guest speaker on a

requirements for eligibility are a minimum of 50 years qualified in submarines, and a LIFE member of the USSVI organization for 1 year, or a regular member for 5 years.

Bobby noted that the Charleston Base started growing in 1999 and membership is increasing every month.

**Vice Commander Report:** Carl reminded everyone to vote for the Eastern District 4 Commander. Turn in your ballot tonight or send to Buddha by June 20th. Buddha mentioned that we are not looking for approvals from anyone. "What we need is voting power. It is very important that you vote. National was given the right to raise dues as they see fit. You can't complain if you don't vote." Please vote to support the best interests of our local base.

**Fleet Reserve:** No report

**Chief of the Boat:** Marty Sessler said that no e-mails came back, "first time that has happened". 102 people showed up for the picnic. If you were not there you missed a good picnic and a hot day. Thank you to the people cooking over the grill, those handling the tickets, keeping the food cold and the many people that supported this effort. Many people spent a lot of time including the band. The Memorial Day ceremony at Parks Cemetery and Trident Hospital had in excess of 35 people who participated. Need to get more young people involved.

Thank you to Mike Emerson for making a shadow box for the donated flag from Iraq. The flag is now displayed in the After Battery.

As Dave Rein mentioned the 10-year anniversary for the Charleston Base is 24 July.

We will have working parties to make the old spray paint booth into a complete kitchen with a doorway into the After Battery. Join us for the working parties; pitch in, your help will be appreciated.

**Base Commander:** Buddha had the following comments:

Lazy Eye program – cancelled due to liability issues.

Caps 4 Kids – Tom Lufklin is working with MUSC cancer unit to present "Honorary Submariner" hats to kids undergoing treatment for cancer. Tom noted that only 1 in 10 kids would be healthily enough to come to the presentation. The nurses will give the caps to other kids undergoing treatment. We can only have 2-3 Sub Vets at the presentation due to

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few occasions, a Navy WAVE during WWII and worked on breaking the German Enigma and Japanese codes. The base sent James and his family a card in remembrance of his mother. Additionally, a donation will be made to the US Navy Memorial in DC as requested by the family in lieu of flowers.

- It was noted that Greg Smith whose daughter, Kelsey was brutally murdered in KS, was a Submarine Veteran (Sonar Tech). In lieu of having a mailing address to send a card I signed the online Obituary Guest Book for the Charleston Base.
- Richard Sparger's sister passed away

Dates to Remember: D-Day – June 6, 1944.

Flag Folding Detail – Lee Allison will be taking names and phone numbers for those who would like to participate.

**Public Affairs:** Richard Cleeve has the slideshow working on the wall TV monitor during meetings. More new pictures have been added to our base website. Richard has some changes for the website.

**Sub Vets WWII:** Lee Allison reported that the next Swamp Fox Chapter meeting will be at Ryan's Family Steak House 1314 North Main Street in Summerville on Thursday June 21, at 1200 (noon). Any Sub Vets member can join the Sub Vets WWII as an associate member and are encouraged to do so. They hold a lunch meeting every other month on the third Thursday at Ryan's.

**Veteran's Affairs:** Nick Nichols highlighted some items from the VA website. There is a big Red Cross computer scam by individuals trying to get social security numbers and personal information of people in the war zone from family members. TriCare is trying to raise fees again. Get your pneumonia immunization. This is generally recommended for people over age 65 and for anyone with chronic heart and lung illnesses or diabetes.

**Membership:** Carl reports 276 members coming into the meeting tonight. Charleston Base is still #3 in the number of members of any base in the country. We are only 50 behind the #2 base. Keep bringing in new people.

If you change your home address, phone number or e-mail notify Carl Chinn, our membership chairman, so that he can make the changes to both the national and local data bases. If you have inputs (good useful information) for the newsletter send them to Carl Chinn. The next newsletter will go out June 30th or July 1st.

risks of infections to the kids. Richard Sparger made a motion to pass the hat to generate money to buy some hats. This motion was seconded. We collected \$481dollars, enough for about 62 hats including the embroidery.

Ladies social – We would love to have a ladies social if we can get enough to sign up. Same deal as the men \$5 to get in, \$1 beer, \$2.50 mixed drink. Men, this means that you will have to talk to them. Julian Villegas is carrying donations from the Fleet Reserve Branch 269 & Charleston Base Sub Vets to the Walterboro VA nursing home. They can use puzzle books, books on tape, CD's, music, DVD's, VCR's, etc. Items can be tuned in to Buddha and Julian will get them to Walterboro.

**Old Business:** The status of the torpedo was brought up. Buddha will contact Mayor Summy in North Charleston now that the election is over.

**New Business:** Carl Chinn made a motion to purchase a new PA system, not to exceed \$450 to replace the old one that is on its last legs. Motion seconded and approved. No-Neck noted that this is your stuff. Any Sub Vet member can borrow our tables, chairs, cooker, the PA system, etc. Buddha mentioned that we have a sign-out sheet at the gas station at the After Battery for this purpose.

**Good Of The Order:** The depth charge drawing was held. The winner was Glen Gunnis. Bill Roberts asked when is the float coming back? The Aiken base still has the parade float.

Nick Nichols invited all to the Old Fort Baptist Church on Sunday July 1st at 10:30 till 12:00 for a service of patriotic music. Feel free to wear your vest.

If you know of anyone that has not voted for ED-4 Commander get the ballot to Buddha by June 20th.

Dave Rein charged the Alcohol and Gaming Dept Head with falling down in providing services. Being derelict in not having enough Makers Mark Kentucky Bourbon Whiskey at the picnic. Dave asked for a motion to start impeachment proceedings, which was seconded by Clyde Peters. The group decided to give No-Neck Mueller a hymn salute for not having qualified bartenders who could find the Makers Mark.

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2000.

**\*\* End of the minutes for June 2007 \*\***

*"Don't tell mom I'm a submariner, she*

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Bognar	Cowman	Dasch	Deal
Freshour	Gunnis	Hazard	Jones
Keller	Kennedy	Menefee	Owens
Petersen	Simpso	Snyder, R.R.	Stoll
Stuffle			

**Membership and Dues Information:**

We are currently the third largest base in size. We have 277 members behind Groton (2,271) and San Diego (327). Keep on recruitin'!

If you have any changes to your membership info (address, phone, e-mail, etc.) you can now make those changes directly on-line in the Sub Vets national database. If you want, I can make the changes for you...just let me know. If you have changes, please let me know at **chasbasemembernews@sc.rr.com** or **carlc@sc.rr.com** or call 875-3098. This is so we can keep our local information current and accurate. PLEASE send changes to me! I update the COB, Chaplin and others with contact/personal information.



July 12 – Regular meeting, 1900, FRA Branch 269

**Terminology Trivia**

***“Frocking of Naval Personnel”***

An early use of "frock" (15th century) referred to the long habit characteristically worn by monks. Through the centuries, frock came to describe various loose garments of some length. The "frock coat," which was a long-skirted garment coming almost to the knees, became a popular fashion for men in the early 19th century and was quickly adopted for military uniforms. It is feasible that the frock coat was so called because the length was reminiscent of earlier clothing articles.

There is an alternative explanation for the term "frock coat." An ornamental closure, called a "frog," which consisted of a spindle-shaped button passing through

**July Submarines Lost:**

USS S 28	SS 133	July 4, 1944
USS Robalo	SS 273	July 26, 1944

*There is a port of no return, where ships  
May ride at anchor for a little space  
And then, some starless night, the cable slips,  
Leaving an eddy at the mooring place . . .  
Gulls, veer no longer. Sailor, rest your oar.  
No tangled wreckage will be washed ashore.*

**From the Base Commander**



I want to report that we had 139 ballots cast in the District 4 Commander vote. With 277 members this is only 50 percent of our members voting. I am disappointed in this number since I was expecting nearly 100%. This issue is closer to home than most (although ALL issues are important) because one of our own members is running. The results of the vote should be announced 23 July. Remember...if you don't vote, don't BITCH!

**Obituary**

We offer our sincere condolences to our shipmate, ICCS (SS) Ovie 'Mike' Mulkey, his wife Ann and their family on the death in the line of duty of their son, Capt. Louis Mark Mulkey, Charleston Fire Fighter. Please send your cards to the family at: The Mulkey Family, 405 Rose Lane, Summerville, SC 29485-5730.



Capt. Louis Mark Mulkey, 34, of Charleston,

a loop of material or braid, was typical on military uniforms at least as early as the mid-18th century. The expression could have evolved from frog coat to frock coat.

Our assumption is that the current usage of "frocking" is in some way related to the officer's frock coats. The verb form "to frock," relating originally to the monk's cloak, meant "to invest with priestly office or privilege." Perhaps this idea of establishing position by the donning of a particular garment is resurrected here. Another explanation for the link between the term and the practice is that the early undress uniform for a midshipman was a short coat whereas that for a lieutenant was a frock coat. When a midshipman was appointed to act in the capacity of a lieutenant, he wore the uniform of the latter. In this instance, it could be said he was "frocked."

Regarding the practice of frocking itself, there are various instances in Navy Regulations at least as early as 1802 of personnel assuming the uniform of the next higher rank, not necessarily with higher pay, when appointed by proper authority to assume the duties and responsibilities of that rank prior to actual promotion. These appointments were sometimes temporary as when it was necessary rapidly to swell the ranks during war time, especially in the Civil War. Other instances concerned a commander's need to fill an unforeseen vacancy for which there was no one of equal rank. In this case, a junior who was qualified for promotion would assume the uniform and duties pending approval by the Navy Department.

The practice that we currently refer to as frocking has been in common usage in one form or another throughout the Navy's history. There does not seem to be a definite point however at which the practice was first established. The original use of the term "frocking" to describe the current policy is also unclear, but probably is of recent vintage as it does not appear in earlier documents (18th-19th century). The 1974 version is the earliest Bureau of Naval Personnel Manual to contain the policy itself and refer to it as "frocking."

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### **Petty Officer Rating Badge Locations and Eagle Designs**

The uniform regulations of 19 February 1841 introduced a sleeve mark for the uniforms of petty officers consisting of an eagle facing left (from the wearer's perspective) with wings pointed down, while perched on a fouled anchor. It was to be worn half

husband of Lauren Bennett Mulkey died Monday, June 18, 2007. A gathering of family and friends will be held Friday, June 22, 2007 from 4 until 8 o'clock and Saturday, June 23, 2007 from 12 o'clock until 4 o'clock at James A. Dyal Funeral Home, 303 South Main Street, Summerville. A memorial service will be held Saturday evening, June 23, 2007 at 6 o'clock at Summerville High School Stadium. Graveside funeral service will be held Sunday, June 24, 2007 at 5 o'clock at Summerville Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Coach Mulkey Scholarship Fund at any Wachovia Bank location. Louis was born October 10, 1972 in Groton, Connecticut, son of Ovie Michael Mulkey and Elizabeth Ann Kornahrens Mulkey of Summerville. He was a graduate of Summerville High School, Class of 1991. He attended Newberry College and USC. He was a Sertoma Football and Basketball Coach with Summerville High School and a firefighter with City of Charleston Fire Department. He attended St. Joseph Catholic Church. Survivors including his wife and parents are, one brother, Wayne Mulkey of Navarre, Florida; two nieces, Kathryn Danielle Mulkey and Kayla Elizabeth Mulkey both of Navarre, Florida; mother and father-in-law, Karen and Michael Bennett of Gaithersburg, Maryland; grandmother, Elizabeth Kornahrens of Mt. Pleasant; several cousins and two cities of numerous friends, students and co-workers. ARRANGEMENTS BY JAMES A. DYAL FUNERAL HOME, 303 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA. Visit our guestbook at [www.charleston.net/deaths](http://www.charleston.net/deaths). Published in the Charleston Post & Courier on 6/21/2007.

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### **Obituary 2**

It is my very sad duty to advise that Admiral Eugene B. Fluckey, went on Eternal Patrol at 11:45PM EDT 28 June 2007. He was in the Hospice Unit at Anne Arundel Hospital, Annapolis MD. He will be cremated and inurned in the Columbarium at the Naval Academy. A service will be held at the Naval Academy Chapel with inurnment following at a later date, estimated at least four weeks. Admiral Fluckey was the last living Submariner from WWII to have received the Medal of Honor. Another hero is at peace.

Admiral Fluckey. . . Rest your oar

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### **Trayer Commissioned at RTC**

way between the elbow and shoulder on the front of the sleeve. Boatswain's Mates, Gunner's Mates, Carpenter's Mates, Masters at Arms, Ship's Stewards and Ship's Cooks wore it on the right sleeve while Quarter Masters, Quarter Gunners, Captains of the Forecastle, Captains of Tops, Captains of the Afterguard, Armorers, Coopers, Ship's Corporals and Captains of the Hold wore it on the left sleeve. It was difficult to distinguish between different ratings using this system.

The uniform regulations of 1 December 1866 introduced a system of rating badges, with eight specialty marks. Depending on design and where these badges were worn, thirteen ratings could be identified. A petty officer rating badge incorporating an eagle, specialty mark and chevrons with points down was introduced in the uniform regulations of 1886.

The eagle faced left with its wings pointed horizontally to the sides. The regulations specified that petty officers of the starboard watch were to wear rating badges on their right sleeves. The left sleeve was to be used for those on the port watch. General Order 431, dated 24 September 1894, changed the eagle's wings to point upward, though the eagle continued to face to the left. The uniform regulations of 25 January 1913 changed the location of rating badges so that ratings badges were no longer worn on the sleeves corresponding to assigned watches. Right arm rates were to signify men of the Seamen Branch; left arm rates were to be used by personnel of the Artificer Branch, Engine Room Force, and all other petty officers. The eagle continued to face left on all rating badges.

The uniform regulations of 31 May 1941 specified that the eagle was to face to the left in the rates comprising the Seaman Branch: Boatswain Mate, Turret Captain, Signalman, Gunner's Mate, Fire Controlman, Quartermaster, Mineman and Torpedoman's Mate. All other rating badges were to have an eagle facing to the right.

Right arm rates were disestablished 2 April 1949, after having been eliminated by Change #1, dated 24 February 1948, to the 1947 uniform regulations. All rating badges were to be worn on the left sleeve with the eagle facing to the right.

For further information:

Stacy, John A. *U.S. Navy Rating Badges, Specialty Marks and Distinguishing Marks, 1885-1982*. Ft. Washington MD: The author, 1982.

Tily, James C. *The Uniforms of the United States Navy*. New York: Thomas Yoseloff, 1964.

NAVAL STATION GREAT LAKES, Ill. -- The Navy's newest and largest simulator, USS Trayer (BST 21), was commissioned here June 18. Trayer is a 210-foot Arleigh Burke-class destroyer simulator that is ready to embark and train more than 40,000 recruits each year as the centerpiece for Battle Stations 21 at the only Recruit Training Command (RTC) in the Navy.

Battle Stations 21 began in 1997, as part of a 10-year, \$763 million recapitalization of recruit training facilities. The Navy is hoping Trayer and Battle Stations 21 will now set new standards in training by using the latest in simulation technology -- video screens, smells, vibrations and sound effects.

Commissioning ceremony keynote speakers praised the simulator and the work done by its builders and current facilitators.

Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Patrick M. Walsh called Trayer a quantum leap in technology and capabilities in casualty training.

"This vision [Trayer and Battle Stations 21] has resulted in a multi-sensory simulator incorporating the best special technology from industry. If I did not know better, I would think I was standing on a pier in Norfolk, instead of inside a building in Illinois," Walsh said.

The commander of Navy Education and Training, Rear Adm. Gary R. Jones, said it was a vital need for the Navy and America.

"America needs a combat-ready naval force capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, preserving the freedom of the seas, and promoting peace and security," he said. "[Thanks to facilities like Trayer and those who work here], we are and will remain a warfighting, seagoing service."

Local U.S. Congressman Mark Kirk called it the best training facility on the planet.

The more than 250 people in attendance looked on in awe as Trayer was brought to life and commissioned at RTC.

The commissioning ceremony for Trayer was as real as any held in San Diego, Norfolk or anywhere else in the Navy. But this commissioning was unique because this new "Tin Can" is dry-docked inside the USS Iowa complex at RTC in Great Lakes. The entire Iowa complex cost \$82.5 million including the high-tech simulator.

Jones called Trayer and Battle Stations 21 an invaluable tool in training and testing each recruit.

"This is a very special day to be a Sailor and a great day to be a member of the Navy and Marine Corps team. It's a special day because today is a chance to



### Reunion News

If you have information about a boat reunion that you want posted in the newsletter, please give me the details.

USS James K. Polk SSBN/SSN 645 All Crews Reunion - Thursday, July 19, 2007

All Crews July 19th - 22nd, 2007 at Circus Circus 500 N. Sierra St., Reno, NV. For Reservations call 800-648-5010 (be sure to indicate that you are with the USS James K. Polk Veterans Association 2007 Reunion). Additional info at web site: <http://www.ussjameskpolk.com/reunion.htm> Contact: Charlie Kotan reunion2007@ussjameskpolk.com

USS Baton Rouge Thursday, July 26, 2007 Sheraton Waterside, downtown Norfolk, VA. For reservations, 1-888-627-8042. Dinner will be Friday evening, picnic Saturday afternoon, ball game Saturday night. Memorial service early Sunday morning. Contact: Danis Lensch 757-249-8707 757-289-5915 baton689@aol.com

USS Spadefish - Thursday, July 26, 2007 Sheraton Waterside, downtown Norfolk, VA. For reservations, 1-888-627-8042. Contact: Danis Lensch 757-249-8707 757-289-5915 baton689@aol.com

USS Indianapolis (SSN-697) - Friday, July 27, 2007. Indianapolis, IN Indianapolis website: [www.697crew.com](http://www.697crew.com) Contact: snjwalton@aol.com

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### From the District Commander

Charleston Base Members:

I have been busy the past month. The first weekend, I attended the Groton Base Holland Club Induction and the Eastern Region Conference in Groton, CT. In attendance were all District Commanders, ERD John Carcioppolo who hosted the conference with the National Commander, Tom Conlin, Holland Club Commander Bill Britt in attendance. The agenda was full of items that have direct interest in our bases. Issues of concern to Charleston Base Members:

- **Holland Club:** There has been plenty of dissent in the ranks about making members purchase their admission into the Holland Club. Some believe that we should honor these members once they have 50 years regardless of how long they have

honor the recruits that will use this great facility to become Sailors," Jones said. "These Sailors are what today is about. They are part of America's new 'Greatest Generation' -- a generation that sees the atrocities being done in the world, steps up and says, 'Not on my watch!'"

Trayer is the Navy's latest training tool and part of Battle Stations 21, a culmination of basic training and a recruit's last evolution in boot camp. Before recruits graduate from boot camp, they spend an entire night on board Trayer loading stores, getting underway, handling mooring lines, manning general quarter stations, stopping floods and combating shipboard fires. It is as close to being underway as a recruit can get before they receive orders to their first ship. It is also considered the final evaluation of a recruit's reactions in tight situations and a chance for the recruit to see how far they have come in their training.

One of the Trayer's facilitators, Chief Aviation Electronics Technician (AW/NAC) Tim McKinley called it a rite of passage from recruit to Sailor. McKinley said Trayer tests recruits on teamwork and basic skills needed when they report to their first ship.

"It's 12 hours of anything that can happen aboard a ship at sea from missile attacks that can cause fires to flooding caused by exploding undersea mines," said McKinley.

Battle Stations 21 also uses lessons learned from actual events, attacks and mishaps at sea. The 2000 terrorist attack on USS Cole (DDG 67) in Yemen, mine damage to USS Tripoli (LPH 10) in Desert Storm in 1990, and the missile attack to USS Stark (FFG 31) in the Persian Gulf in 1987 have all been incorporated into the training curriculum. The training also incorporates past and historic at-sea accidents, like the fire on board USS Forrestal (CV 59) during the Vietnam War in 1967.

"I feel obviously very proud to be part of this ceremony and having a hand in seeing Trayer and Battle Stations 21 come to fruition," said the former command master chief (CMC) of Cole, retired Command Master Chief James Parlier.

Drawing on his own experience and the experiences of his former crew, Parlier was instrumental in putting together the training syllabus for Battle Stations 21 and helping design Trayer while he was the CMC of Naval Station Great Lakes.

"The designers and McHugh contractors and engineers of Trayer were very keen to listen to

been a member and regardless of if they are life or regular members. ED1 Commander stated that it is all about money. We want a \$100 from a 76 year old or older before we agreed to honor him with the HC.

National Commander said it is not about money it is about loyalty. They need to make a commitment to be a life member or pay dues for 5-years to show their loyalty before we induct them. According to the National Commander, even one shipmate who would receive this award without any loyalty is too much.

ED4 Commander voiced the lament of many that most people would not try to take advantage of us and for those that do, shame on them; but we should not let that deter us from following the creed and honoring those that served. ED1 Commander said that he thinks sometimes we let money get in the way of doing what is right. The more we talk about this, the more attention it will receive.

- USS Ling Petition: NC brought everyone up to date on the Problem with the USS Ling Memorial and the petition that is designed to help keep the Ling in Hackensack. USS Ling Memorial is in trouble in Hackensack, needs refurbish and the situation looks hopeless. One of the things that is staling the expulsion of the Ling from its current site is the \$6.5 Mil price tag for dredging.
- ERD Election 2008: ERD John Carcioppolo will be seeking the position of National Commander and would like for DC's to do some homework and nominate candidates for ERD. He would like the candidate to come from the DC's, however is not required. I am not running!

The second weekend, I attended the USS Drum Reunion in Mobile, Alabama. WWII Drum Sailors have been having their reunion for over 35 years. The daughter of the first skipper attends and Admiral Renzcough was in attendance. He has been able to keep Drum in the news through various interviews and writings in Naval Institute Press. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday with tours of the Drum. The Drum is in fantastic shape as it sits high and dry on blocks. At the same time, I met with several members of Mobile Bay Base. Each time I meet with Mobile Bay Base Commander, he is always asking when Mobile will be getting their submarine back, CSS Hunley.

Jerry Stout, ERD4

what I had to say about Cole and how Trayer should be built with similar scenarios and simulations," said Parlier. "Hopefully there will never again be a Cole incident or similar attack of one of our ships. If there is, the training received here on Trayer will make one heck of a difference." The destroyer simulator was designed by award-winning Hollywood set designers and has state-of-the-art special effects technology. There are scenes and flats on the pier that can be changed to make it look like the ship has pulled into a new port. Trayer also sits in a pool of more than 90,000 gallons of water and there is a lighting system to make it look day or night on the pier. All this scenery and Hollywood-style setting is the first thing the more than 80 recruits from each division see before boarding the destroyer for their "underway" time.

"You actually feel like you're coming down a pier, walking across the brow and boarding a ship. Then you feel like the ship is under attack and you have to fight the ship, stop the fires and flooding, to save the ship," McKinley said.

Trayer is outfitted inside and out with salvaged gauges, pipes and electrical gear from decommissioned ships. Inside, compartments are outfitted with berthing spaces, control rooms and the bridge. There are also special controlled areas where magazine spaces flood and compartments are engulfed in flames.

"It's so real that it stops me in my tracks," said Lt. Andrew Bond, officer in charge of Battle Stations 21. "If she had another side, she'd be ready for sea."

For the faux destroyer's facilitators, or ship's crew, the ceremony was exciting and as close to a real commissioning many of them have experienced.

"I felt very privileged and honored to be part of the ceremony," said BST 21 facilitator, Ship's Serviceman 2nd (SW) Class Tanesha Reece. "It's absolutely amazing to see how this has actually come to life. I've been here since it was just a bunch of wooden boxes [in 2004] wondering how they were going to turn all that into something we can see today. It's also pretty amazing knowing that we can now use Trayer to give and teach recruits a basic knowledge of seeing and working on a real ship."

Many of the facilitators and Trayer "plankowners" said Battle Stations 21 in the destroyer will now train recruits with more real life shipboard scenarios.

"We'll now be able to give these new Sailors a

## **Yokosuka Committee Employs Web to Promote "None for the Road"**

YOKOSUKA, Japan -- A committee of Sailors and civilians at Fleet Activities Yokosuka (FAY) announced June 20 the launch of an innovative tool to get the word out about a campaign to reduce impaired driving incidents.

The committee initiated a Web-based "blog" to keep the community informed about the "None for the Road" campaign, a basewide effort to reduce the number of alcohol-related traffic offenses by providing education and resources to help Sailors and their families make the right decision before getting behind the wheel.

The campaign began May 28 and is scheduled to run through September 3.

Senior Chief Operations Specialist (SW/AW) Andre' Colomas said he thought that since people are spending more and more time on the Internet, the Web would be a useful medium.

"It could be a great tool to help us get the word out on the campaign and keep those interested in the campaign informed of what the committee is doing," Colomas said.

He added that since the blog would be interactive, the committee could also get feedback from the community.

"It is a way for people to interact with the committee and ask questions and suggest ideas. Anyone can post a message and the committee can respond to inquiries," he said.

Colomas said community involvement is crucial to the success of a campaign like "None for the Road."

"We want the campaign to be a community event. Perhaps, this could be a way to get people involved," he said.

Colomas said the committee is advertising the Web site itself through unusual means by adding taglines promoting the Web site to outgoing e-mail messages. The blog can be viewed at <http://nonefortheroad.blogspot.com/>.

chance to see what real battle damage, real flooding and a real on board fire can do and what it takes to fix it, stop it or put it out," said Senior Chief Quartermaster (SW) Anthony A. Kachinsky, who raised the ship's commissioning pennant from the quarterdeck.

"It meant a lot to me to be part of this ceremony. I felt honored hoisting the commissioning pennant, but no less honored knowing that I play a part in teaching the Navy's newest Sailors. Trayer and Battle Stations 21 is the best way I can give each recruit the needed tools to help them handle a hazardous situation at sea," Kachinsky said.

Following the same sequence of events as any commissioning, the ceremony included manning the ship by the facilitators of Battle Stations 21, setting the watch and bringing the simulated destroyer to life.

Walsh summed up the event and the simulator by quoting Adm. Arleigh Burke.

"He said, 'This ship is built to fight. You had better know how.' USS Trayer may never fight a real battle on the seven seas, but an essential part of her mission is to put into operation, for every future Sailor, how to fight as a team with honor, courage, and commitment to each other," Walsh said.

