

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 3, No. 9

September 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.ussvicb.org

National web page: www.ussvi.org

Base Meeting:

Thursday, September 13, 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
Publicity	Larry Starland	843-863-8474
Sub Vets WWII	Barnwell Chaplin	843-762-6945
Nuclear Historian	Rick Carlson	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 Viering	843-797-2623
Alcohol & Gaming	Dave Mueller	843-553-2775

Minutes of the August 2007 meeting

Attendance for the August 9, 2007 meeting was 95

Opening Ceremony: Base Commander, Steve Nelms, called the meeting to order. A Quorum was present and the meeting was commenced at 1900.

Introductions: Terry Gomez, John Johnson, Andrew Bergamo. Robert McColem, Tom Rice (Tallahassee, FL). Welcome aboard.

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

Treasurer: George Lisle gave the treasurer's report.

Storekeeper: Ken Fuhr reports that many are placing

Chief of the Boat: Marty Sessler thanked everyone for their help with the working parties. The new kitchen walls and floor still need to be completed. A grand opening will be held upon completion of the new kitchen for The After Battery. Buddha thanked No-neck for all his time and efforts to get folks out to social nights. The group gave Dave Mueller a hymn salute for all his efforts in promoting The After Battery. Upcoming events; Harleyville Seesaw Days Parade 8 September, parade starts at 1100, line-up at 0930.

April 23,24,25, 2008 Kings Bay combined convention.

Saturday 27 October Hog Roast At 1300 at the barn.

Senator Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma introduced s.1877 a bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to prescribe

orders by saying, "Hey order me this", and are not filling out a form. Please fill out a form or you probably won't get it.

Chaplain: Nick Nichols presented the chaplain report and said, "Thank you, it was a much slower month."

Ken Fuhr had an abdominal bypass operation on July 12th. After some minor complications were corrected he was allowed to go home and is doing well. The base sent him a card wishing him a speedy recovery.

Sue Peters, Clyde's wife, had lung surgery on July 13th. Everything went well and she is recovering well. The base sent her a card wishing her a speedy recovery.

George Wells had surgery on July 31. His surgery went well and the doctor was able to just remove the cancerous part of the lung without removing the entire lobe but he is doing well with some minor complications. He was expected to go home yesterday. The base sent a card wishing him a speedy recovery.

Jim Keller has started intensive chemo treatment and will not be at any functions until the end of November. The base sent a card wishing him well in his treatments.

Sy Mabie's last chemo treatment has not affected him as much as past treatments. Sy is home with his wife Connie following her rehabilitation.

The base received a note from the Hutchinson family acknowledging our card to them. It's being passed around for you to read. The base received a note from the Anderson family acknowledging our memorial service for Duane. It's being passed around for you to read. At the request of Walt Deal, the base sent a card to Joey Peake, a young cancer patient. Walt included the card in the hat Joey was given. Several follow-ups were made on those who've had surgery or illnesses in the last couple of months along with the base sending additional cards. A flag folding detail has been formed and will be used when needed.

Dates to Remember: August 14, 1945 – VJ DAY – WWII ends in the Pacific.

Scholarship: No report

Holland Club: Bobby Lowe said that, "Everyone that is legal has been inducted."

Public Affairs: Larry Starland submitted a newspaper article, "Veterans group gives scholarship award" describing Charleston Base Sub Vets Carl Chinn and Julian Villegas presenting a \$500 scholarship to Summerville High graduate Gregory Stabler during our July 12th meeting. This was printed in The Summerville Journal Scene August 8th edition. Larry will help us to get the word out promoting the Charleston Base. Hats will be presented next Thursday for the Caps4Kids program.

Sub Vets WWII: Lee Allison invited everyone to meet Abe Jenkins "our newest member and our calendar chairman." Sub Vet WWII calendars can be purchased for \$6. The next Swamp Fox Chapter meeting will be

that members of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform may render the military salute during hoisting, lowering, or passing of flag. This bill passed in the senate by unanimous consent.

Base Commander: Buddha introduced Rick Jones, who works in the college sports business, as tonight's guest speaker. Rick noted that this was his third speech today and he wasn't here very long before he realized that "this group is more fun than those other groups." Rick discussed the first National Veterans Day Celebration that will be held in the greater Charleston, SC region from November 8-11, 2007. "We are throwing a thank-you party for America's Veterans." This annual multi-day, multi-event celebration will invite the nation to gather here in Charleston to honor the brave commitment of our nation's veterans, and our current enlisted men and women. Through educational programming, reunions, cultural activities, expositions, church services, parades, walks and concerts, this promises to be the largest Veterans Day celebration of its kind, anywhere.

The idea is to put meaning back into Veterans Day. We got a lot of young people that have got to understand that freedom is never free. The inspiration came from the book *Once upon a town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen* by Bob Greene (Near Christmas of 1941, the people of North Platte, Nebraska, heard that their local soldiers were coming through town on a troop train and decided to give the boys a homecoming party at the local train station. They continued to entertain, thank, and feed GI's for the next 5 years. This is the story of the decency of one town that wanted to do something positive for our troops).

Some of the many activities that are being planned that Rick mentioned are:

FIRST DAY (THURSDAY): Golf tournament at Charleston National and Westcott Plantation, Thursday night starts the first of four performances of "Thanks for the memories" (a musical tribute to past USO shows) at the Charleston Music Hall written by Brad and Jennifer Moranz with permission from the Bob Hope Estate.

FRIDAY: Middle School outreach with talks by veterans to the 7th graders on what Veterans Day means to America. Free picnic at the Citadel at 2 pm, followed by the corps of cadet's parade. Dinners by age groups, if you served during the 1940-1950's - Yorktown steak dinner with the show "Swingtime Canteen", 1960-1970's – Naval Base Store House Row with the Pet Shop Boys, Harley Davidson will be there. If you served in the 1980-1990's – Daniel Island Club dinner, and if you served 2000 up to current service – cookout downtown at bus shed at the visitor's center.

SATURDAY: Pancake breakfast by local American

at Ryan's Family Steak House 1314 North Main Street in Summerville on Thursday August 16th, at 1200 (noon). Any Sub Vets, Inc. 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 Charleston Base now has 277 members with 8 or 10 new members in the wings. Charleston Base is still #3 in the number of members of any base in the country. "Membership is looking up."

Newsletter: Is everyone getting their newsletter? OK.

Alcohol & Gaming: Neck thanked Clyde Peters for handling the depth charge tickets and said Clyde should get the Navy Achievement medal for this work. Neck discussed with the group some considerations in the event that Buddha should have a manual shutdown and the Charleston Base would have to come up with a new stowage place for all the Sub Vet stuff. Neck then read a long list of Sub Vet items being stored at the barn. Ed Simokat asked, "How long does Buddha have left." Moving on, Neck talked about the open house party to be held at The After Battery upon completion of the new kitchen. Neck says that we will have a new big screen TV. A hat was passed for donations and a motion was made by Richard Sparger to forward any remaining money needed to the social group by the Charleston Base until the TV is paid off by the social group. Motion carried.

Vice Commander Report: Carl says that the new PA system is in and stored at the barn.

Fleet Reserve: No report

District Commander: No report

Legion and VFW posts, Freedom Walk on the Ravenel Bridge \$3, SOS cook-off at Park Circle, "Salute to Freedom" at Patriots Point with the Charlie Daniels band \$5 ticket.

SUNDAY: Charleston Parade, Channel 4 ABC will broadcast the entire parade live. Free event at Riverfront park, "Red, White, and Blue Day" with bands and fireworks, also all the presidential political candidates have been invited to appear that day.

This is good for the city, but mostly we just want to say "Thanks." "Good Morning America" will be here in Charleston filming for that weekend. Charley Gibson will be here to do the evening news. ABC news 4 is the official TV station for the four-day event.

Committees are being formed for a variety of tasks needed to put on the inaugural National Veterans Day Celebration. Visit the website at www.nationalveteransdaycelebration.org or call 843-559-0844 to volunteer.

Old Business: Ed Simokat has turned over the Nuclear Historian duties to Richard Carlson. Richard demonstrated his qualification skills with a good story about drinking from a cup.

New Business: For planning purposes our base Christmas Party is scheduled for 15 December at Gatherings in Dorchester.

Good Of The Order:

The depth charge drawing was held. The winner was Ken Hutchinson.

Bill Roberts recommended that we send a hat to our guest speaker Rick Jones. Buddha responded that the base will take care of him.

Mike Slattery, chief cook, will transfer to the Fleet Reserve on 5 October.

Rick Wise has the replacement sign ready for the Little David project at the park in Moncks Corner.

Congratulations to Mark Morgart on making CPO.

Thanks to James Eckles for the donation of a diving alarm contact switch.

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2000.

**** End of the minutes for August 2007 ****

"Don't tell mom I'm a submariner, she thinks I play piano in a warehouse."



Binkley	Bowles	Chaplin	Gravley
Hartley	Hutchison	Ingebretson	Katen

September Submarines Lost:

USS Grayling	SS 209	September 9, 1943
USS Cisco	SS 290	September 28, 1943
USS S-5	SS 110	September 1, 1920
USS S-51	SS 162	September 25, 1925

There is a port of no return, where ships

Knutson	Lanier	Law	McRae
Moody	Sims	Stump	Sumner
Villegas	Votta	Wardean	Willis
Wilson, L.	Wilson, W.		

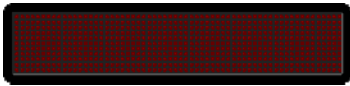
Membership and Dues Information:

Time is getting short!!

Your 2008 dues are payable by 1 October 2007. Pay early; avoid the rush. You can pay me at the meeting or send your dues to me. Not sure how much you owe? Just ask me. List posted at the meeting.

Send dues to:

Carl Chinn
217 Brailsford Rd
Summerville, SC 29485-5405



September 8 – See Saw Days Parade, Harleyville, SC
Line-up at 0930, parade starts at 1100.

September 13 – Regular meeting, FRA, Goose Creek.

Terminology Trivia

“Marooned”

This old punishment for mutineers consisted of placing them on an island with musket, cutlass, and a breaker of water; and leaving them to their fate. It got its name from a certain Cimarron Indians who had been transplanted in the West Indies as cheap labor and, deserted by their Spanish masters, had been left to starve to death. The famous Captain Drake discovered them in a pitiable condition and gained the Indian's lasting gratitude by returning them to their far-off home.

“Church Pennant”

The Church Pennant is the only flag ever flown over the National Ensign at the same point of hoist. It is displayed during church services conducted by a Chaplain, both ashore and afloat.

Who Is A Veteran?

A veteran - whether active duty, retired, national guard or reserve is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America", for an amount of "up to and including my life."

That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

Author Unknown

*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



Free to a good home:

25-inch RCA color TV, includes wall mount.

First come, first served

Contact Buddha, (843) 563-7115

Available for loan:

Member Larry Sims has a Hoveround available to loan.

If you are in need contact Larry at (843) 462-7885

Wreckage of World War II Submarine Found Off Aleutian Islands

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The mangled remains of a vessel found in the Bering Sea are likely those of a World War II submarine that disappeared with a crew of 70 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska.

The discovery of the USS Grunion on Wednesday night culminates a five-year search led by the sons of its commander, Mannert Abele, and may finally shine a light on the mysterious last moments of the doomed vessel.

"Obviously, this is a very big thing," the oldest son, Bruce Abele, said Thursday from his home in Newton, Mass. "I told my wife about it when she was still in bed and she practically went up to the ceiling."

A remotely operated vehicle snapped pictures and captured three hours of video footage of the Grunion on a rocky underwater slope north of the volcanic island, according to another brother, John Abele, who was in Kiska Harbor with the search team on Thursday.

The submarine lies 1,000 feet below the surface and had been crushed by water pressure, said Abele. He is director and co-founder of the medical equipment company Boston Scientific Corp. and the youngest of the three brothers.

"The most surprising thing was the damage," he said. "It was much more than we or anyone else imagined. Initially it was very hard to recognize as a ship."

The hull had imploded so severely that the interior, including bunks and a dive wheel, were clearly visible, Abele said. No human remains were found.

The search team hired by the Abeles, Deep Sea Systems International, said no identifying markings or lettering could be seen, however, the location and appearance of the vessel indicate it is the missing sub.



Reunion News

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

USS Casimir Pulaski SSBN 633 Reunion
May 15 – 18, 2008, Ramada Inn, Charleston, SC

KapSS 4 KidSS

Submarine Veterans Charleston Base presented Honorary Submariner Ball Caps to the children at the Medical University of South Carolina. The presentation was made August 16th in the Atrium on the 7th floor of the Children's Hospital. Chief of the Boat Marty Sessler, Vice Commander Carl Chinn and Shipmate Tom Lufkin presented the KAPSS to the children under a National Outreach Program. The program was initiated to provide suitably embroidered caps to children who are undergoing any sort of treatment that causes a loss of hair. The caps were embroidered with the submarine service Dolphin insignia with the words "Honorary Submariner". The special embroidery was donated by Vicki and Bill Gannon, owners of Oakbrook Custom Embroidery located in Summerville, SC.



More KapSS 4 KidSS

"There's a 95 percent chance that this is the Grunion and a less than five percent chance that it's not," said Christopher J. Nicholson, general manager of the Cataumet, Mass.-based company. "The fact that they actually found this in an expanse of ocean is really pretty spectacular."

The Grunion had a propeller guard, which was rare in subs of the day, Abele said. The vessel discovered yesterday also had the fence, which prevented docking lines from getting caught in the propeller.

The Grunion patrolled Alaska's Aleutian Islands during the early months of World War II. Her last official radio message to the submarine base at Dutch Harbor came on July 30, 1942 and described heavy enemy activity at the Japanese seaplane base at Kiska Harbor.

Earlier that month, the Grunion had sunk two Japanese submarine chasers and heavily damaged a third near Kiska, one of two islands in the far west Aleutians captured by the Japanese. Until a few years ago, the clues to the Grunion's disappearance were too fragmented to justify a search.

After receiving more information from a model ship builder in Japan, the Abeles launched an initial expedition to Kiska in August 2006. Sonar images of a sub-shaped silhouette prompted a second journey this month.

As news of the search spread, several relatives of the Grunion's crew banded together to locate others with ties to the lost men. To date, the relatives of 69 men are following the progress of the search, said Mary Bentz of Bethesda, Md., whose uncle died on the Grunion.

Bentz said the news is a relief after decades of not knowing what happened. Her father's youngest brother, Carmine Anthony Parziale, of Weedville, Penn., was in his early 20s when he served as a torpedoman third class on Grunion.

"I know when my dad would talk about him, his eyes would well up with tears," said Bentz. "I was relieved to know that this is finally over, that now we can say, two and three generations later, that we know what happened."

A forensic engineer and other experts will use the footage to piece together the Grunion's final hours and figure out why it sank. The search crew of 17 plans to spend several more days looking for sunken Japanese ships in the area.

"Actually seeing the burial site was touching and in a way rewarding," John Abele said. "It provides a closing and hopefully an answer to the unknown."

Saluting the Flag

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) today praised the passage by unanimous consent of his bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag. Current law (US Code Title 4, Chapter 1) states that veterans

Joey will be 16 this Oct. 31, 2007. He was born here in Charleston my wife worked with his dad and mom at the Super 8 on Ashley Phosphate Rd for over ten years. Joey is like one of our grand's. He was diagnosed with cancer when he was twelve went through radiation treatments, chemo, stem cell replacement, etc. Two years ago he was termed cancer free. Six-month checkup, OK. Twelve-month checkup OK. Twenty-four month checkup the cancer had came back. Back into more chemo and more studies, didn't work as well this time. Spots showed up in his lungs on a CT scan. Was scheduled to have part of his lung removed on 8/06/2007, doctor wanted one more scan before he cut into him. No spots, lungs where clear, canceled that surgery. Joey is going through his last week of chemo this week, this time around. Pray for him.

Foot Note: First hat sent out. I got a hat from Charleston Base and a card from Nick and overnigher it to Joey the Friday before he was to go under the knife. Joey's father said when he got his hat and card he couldn't believe that people this far away from him who he has never met would do something like that for him. He put his hat on and told the doctor to cut away cause he new that he was going to be all right.

Walt Deal TMC(SS) USN Ret.



From Richard Cleeve, Public Affairs

There will not be any new information until late September because of computer drive failure. Sorry for the delay.



From the Base Storekeeper

The Ship's Store will not be open at the September meeting. Please plan accordingly.

VA Local Access

The Department of Veterans Affairs is represented by numerous Regional offices (VARO), state Benefit

and servicemen not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.

"The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service," Senator Inhofe said. "Veterans and service members continue representing the military services e even when not in uniform. "Unfortunately, current U.S. law leaves confusion as to whether veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag. My legislation will clarify this regulation, allowing veterans and servicemen alike to salute the flag, whether they are in uniform or not. "I look forward to seeing those who have served saluting proudly at baseball games, parades, and formal events. I believe this is an appropriate way to honor and recognize the 25 million veterans in the United States who have served in the military and remain as role models to others citizens. Those who are currently serving or have served in the military have earned this right, and their recognition will be an inspiration to others." This Bill was passed July 25, 2007.

Navy To Install Raytheon's AN/BYG-1 On Ohio-, Seawolf-Class Subs

By Geoff Fein, Defense Daily, August 23, 2007

The Navy earlier this week recommended Raytheon's [RTN] advanced submarine combat control system, AN/BYG-1, for fleet introduction on the SSGN Ohio-class and SSN-21 Seawolf-class attack submarines, following favorable tests and evaluations, the company reported.

Raytheon has installed its AN/BYG-1 on four submarines. Besides the one Ohio and Seawolf-class, the system has also been installed on two Los Angeles-class attack submarines, John Holmes, An/BYG-1 program manager, told Defense Daily yesterday.

"This particular modification will be put on 17 different submarines, within those three classes," he added.

All four of the new Ohio-class SSGNs will get the AN/BYG-1 system, Holmes noted. The combat system will also go on two of three Seawolf-class subs (SSN-21 and - 22). The USS Jimmy Carter (SSN-23) will get the next iteration, he added.

Work on the initial 17 installations should be completed by mid-2008, Holmes said. Once those installations are completed the next cycle of upgrades will begin, he added.

The 17 combat system modifications are known as TI-04.

TI-04 delivered Tactical Tomahawk capability to the submarines as well as torpedo improvements, Larry Epstein, director of undersea warfare systems told Defense Daily.

The first installation of TI-06 is underway and dockside testing has begun, Holmes said.

Offices, Vet Centers, and medical facilities throughout the U.S. and its territories. Locations of these facilities can be found at:

-VARO:

<http://www.vba.va.gov/benefits/ROcontacts.htm>

-State Benefit Offices: <http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>

-Vet Centers:

<http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/vetcenter.asp>

-Medical, cemetery, and all the above:

<http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp>

-The yellow pages of your local telephone directory under Government Offices

For questions or information you get an email response by asking your question at <https://iris.va.gov/scripts/iris.cfg/php.exe/enduser/home.php>.

To talk to someone you can go to your local VA office or call the following

-VA Benefits: 1(800) 827-1000 for Burial; Civilian Health & Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA); Death Pension; Dependency Indemnity Compensation; Direct Deposit; Directions to VA Benefits Regional Offices; Disability Compensation; Disability Pension; Education; Home Loan Guaranty; Life Insurance; Medical Care; Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment.

-Education (GI Bill): 1(888) 442-4551

-Health Care Benefits: 1(877) 222-8387

-Income Verification and Means Testing: 1(800) 929-8387

-Life Insurance: 1(800) 669-8477

-Mammography Helpline: 1(888) 492-7844

-Special Issues - Gulf War/Agent Orange/Project Shad/Mustard Agents and Lewisite/Ionizing Radiation: 1(800) 749-8387

-Status of Headstones and Markers: 1(800) 697-6947

-Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD): 1(800) 829-4833

-Suicide Call Center: 1(800) 273-TALK (8255).

SBP Paid Up Provision Update 03

Effective 1 OCT 08 Uniformed Services Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) participants who reach 70 years of age and have made 360 payments (30 years), will no longer have to pay premiums for continued SBP coverage and will be placed in Paid-up SBP status. Paid-up SBP provisions were mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 1999. The law also established a paid-up status, also beginning on 1 OCT 08 for participants in the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan once they reach 70 years of age. No action is required of SBP participants to be placed in Paid-up SBP status. Once the eligibility criteria has been met, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) will automatically stop deducting premiums from qualifying military retired pay accounts. The law establishing Paid-up SBP does not allow for refunds of premiums paid before October 1, 2008, even though a

AN/BYG-1 will be incorporated into the Virginia-class submarines beginning in 2010, Epstein said. "It will be the combat system for the Virginia-class," he said.

The recent Follow-on Operational Test and Evaluation (FOT&E) reports highlighted several performance enhancements and confirmed the operational effectiveness and suitability of the AN/BYG-1(V)6 and (V)7 for the SSN-21 and SSGN platforms, Raytheon said.

AN/BYG-1 exploits the power of sonar, electronic support measures, radar, navigation, periscopes, communication, command and weapons to provide a fully integrated submarine combat system. The system was designed using commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) equipment and open standards that provide interoperability, portability, scalability and supplier independence for all hardware and software components. The AN/BYG-1 system allows for rapid COTS insertion to accommodate and integrate additional functionality, sensors and/or weapons, according to the company.

The system also brings information assurance to submarines, Epstein added.

"It's introduced for the first time into submarines," he said. "There is a lot of information assurance capability in the system."

Raytheon IDS is the AN/BYG-1 systems integrator for the combat control suite, delivering the advanced communication; navigation and weapon launch capabilities that are critical to submarine combat operations. In addition to the weapons control subsystem, the company provides integration, control and coordination of the tactical control, weapons control, and tactical network subsystems, ensuring complete end-to-end functionality, the company said. Every two years a new AN/BYG-1 modification cycle starts up, Holmes said.

Upgrading the system from TI-04 to TI-06 or -08 will take 30 to 45 days, and includes test and verification of the system, Epstein said.

There are plans to incorporate AN/BYG-1 into the Trident ballistic missile submarines; however, Holmes said Raytheon is not working on that right now. He added that it wouldn't be a difficult upgrade because the SSBNs have vertical launch tubes and the company will have added the combat system to the four SSGNs, which are converted SSBNs.

In 2003, the Royal Australian Navy upgraded to Raytheon's combat system, on its Collins-class submarines. The first system has gone out to sea trials, Holmes added.

USS Parche Dedicates Sail to Puget Sound Navy Museum

BREMERTON, Wash. (NNS) -- A special ceremony was held at the Puget Sound Navy Museum on Aug. 24, to dedicate the sail from the decommissioned submarine USS Parche (SSN 683).

retiree may have reached age 70 and made 360 or more premium payments. More information on Paid-up SBP, including frequently asked questions and news updates, should be available at the DFAS Web site at www.dfas.mil/retiredpay.html within the next several months.

TRICARE: New Contracts May Cut Care Networks

Under new TRICARE support contracts to take effect in 2009, more than 168,000 TRICARE Prime enrollees could lose access to some managed-care networks - and therefore pay higher out-of-pocket costs.

Those people are now in managed-care networks set up more than 40 miles from a military base or a base-closure site.

Retiree advocates say a proposed change to the next generation of contracts - floated by TRICARE in a draft bid proposal - would encourage contractors like Humana, TriWest and Health Net to make more cost-competitive bids by dismantling networks that aren't near military treatment sites or Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC, sites.

Cutting the number of Prime Service Areas, or PSAs, would save the government money, but it would also hit thousands of beneficiaries in the wallet.

Retirees, their spouses and survivors living more than 40 miles from a base would lose access to TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Extra, the military's preferred-provider option. They would have to shift to TRICARE Standard, which - for beneficiaries - is the costliest of TRICARE's three options.

The number of doctors willing to accept TRICARE patients also could tighten in areas where PSAs would no longer exist.

TRICARE officials declined to comment on the potential effect of the draft Request for Proposal, or RFP. It was released for review by potential bidders and other interested parties a few months ago.

Officials said they didn't want to influence comments that they received. An official did emphasize that the RFP was only a draft. But the comment period, in fact, closed July 19 - with few comments filed. A final RFP is expected to be issued soon.

The new contracts likely will be awarded next year, take effect in March 2009 and run for six years.

To learn more go to WWW.MILITARY.COM and then go to the Legislative Center section. You can insert your pertinent info and they will automatically generate correspondence to the appropriate elected officials.

"This sail will forever be a tangible and enduring monument which will be used to share [with] our friends and families for all generations," said Will Longman, chairman of the Parche Association. "This monument will continue to be part of our lives and it is important to preserve naval history."

The dedication ceremony was sponsored by the Parche Association to preserve the sail and establish the museum exhibit.

Retired Rear Adm. Richard Buchanan, former Parche commanding officer and current CEO and president of the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation, said the sail is a way to pay tribute to the officers and Sailors who have served on board the submarine.

"This sail is a valuable memorabilia of a submarine that represents the Navy's history," said Buchanan. "I am proud of what the Navy [service members] continue to do for this country."

During its 30 years in commission, Parche earned an unprecedented nine Presidential Unit Citations, 10 Navy Unit Citations and 13 Naval Expeditionary Medal awards, making it the most highly decorated naval vessel in U.S. history.

For many Sailors, the sail dedication was a way to keep history alive.

"I think it's important to continue to educate the community about U.S. Navy history," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Brian Sandam, Naval Hospital Bremerton (NHB) Ophthalmology Department. "We can learn from the past and respect those who served before us. This monument will always be a physical reminder to many of us and it will help keep their history alive for future generations."

Some current Sailors believe participating in events such as this pays homage to the legacy of their shipmates.

"It's important to remember the sacrifices of those who have gone before us," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Terrell Stephens, NHB. "Saving this piece of history shows an appreciation to the past submariners. This sail shows a milestone that was set forth in the past to make history what it is today."



Navy Revolutionizes Chiefs Pinning

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa has told the chiefs' messes that he will not tolerate traditional hazing ceremonies of newly selected chief petty officers. Instead, of transition or initiation, they will be inducted by chiefs' messes as part of Chiefs Mess Training. Components include a Chief Petty Officer Selectee Leadership Course, with three days of intensive instruction; Chief Selectee Training, to be taught twice weekly throughout the rest of the induction period; Chiefs Mess Training, for 10 months after induction; and CPO Academies, if feasible. In addition Campa expects group PT to be a regular part of the induction process up to the pinning ceremony, but warns that PT will not be used as punishment.

Editor's note:

I received the above for dissemination to the troops and decided to look into it further. The Navy is obviously VERY different from when we grew up! Take a look at these links to get even more information on the process of becoming a Chief in today's Navy. You really need to read all of this "stuff":

[MCPON's 2007 CPO Induction Guidance](#)

[Fleet Master Chief amplifying guidance for Chief Petty Officer Induction](#)

[MCPON to mess: Get serious](#)

[The Fleet & Family Support Center is standing by to assist commands with their CPO Induction Program](#)