

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 3, No. 10

October 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: <http://www.ussvich.org/>
National web page: www.ussvi.org
Base Meeting:

Thursday, October 11, 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	843-875-4030
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



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Minutes of the September 2007 meeting

Attendance for the September 13, 2007 meeting was 85

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

Introductions: Tim Esch, Thomas Timm, Bob Shipman, Bobby Grassman. 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: No report

Chaplain: Nick Nichols presented the binnacle list and said, "Thank ya'll, this month." (another slow month)

Mike Smith has radical prostate surgery scheduled for November 2 and as he told us will be in dry-dock for roughly 3 weeks. The base sent a card wishing him well in his surgery.

Alcohol & Gaming: No report

Vice Commander Report: No report

Fleet Reserve: No report

District Commander: Jerry Stout was not present. Bob Isaman gave the following report for Jerry. Columbia area is starting a base in Lexington. Coco Beach get together on 21-23, just chartered a base in Baton Rouge, Kings Bay social this Saturday at the restaurant near the sub museum. See Bob for details.

Chief of the Boat: Marty gave the following report: The newsletter is very informative, please read. We had a Seesaw Days parade up in Harleyville last Saturday, 9 people showed up out of a base of 280 people. We had a very enjoyable time at the after battery following the parade. Please join us if you can, it 's fun.

Mike Emerson and Ben Heber need help on the float committee. Give the COB your name if you can serve on this committee (keep the float in running order, make upgrades, change some carpeting, etc) we need some more help. We also need some indoor/outdoor carpet preferably a gray color for the deck of the parade float. Buddha mentioned that we have 280 members; we need some help with the float, 2 can't do it all themselves. We

Arthur O'Meally had brain surgery in January and now he has shingles he is trying to get rid of. The base sent a get-well card (No one had previously reported this).

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.

Let Nick know if anything happens. If you know of someone who needs help let us know. Preferably contact the Chaplain, the COB may be busy with other matters.

Dates to remember:

World War II Began September 1, 1939

Pease Treaty signed aboard
USS Missouri September 2, 1945

Patriot Day September 11

POW/MIA Day September 21

Scholarship: Jim Yates was not here. Julian Villegas and Carl Chinn from the committee were present. Carl said that we will have a fun raiser that will probably start next meeting that I think everyone will like. It is something that will benefit everyone and also add some money to our scholarship fund. We are kind of keeping it a little bit in secrecy right now because that is the way we want to do it.

Holland Club: No report

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 the next Swamp Fox Chapter meeting at Ryan's Family Steak House 1314 North Main Street in Summerville on Thursday October 18th, 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 passed out papers for navy.togetherweserved.com / usn website.

The Pentagon is phasing out social security numbers on ID cards, VA pension for vets for in-home care or nursing home care for vets or surviving spouse, this is very underused. Information will be posted on the website as soon as Richard Cleeve gets back from the cruise with national.

John Wall is the VA affairs officer for Dorchester County, if you need help with claims and help with the VA John is a good contact.

For those registered with VA there is now a vaccination for shingles.

Publix now offers a good deal for some prescriptions.

VA local access on the web article (yellow pages directory for VA services).

More information on the website or you can contact Nick for information.

Retiree COLA increase will probably be in the region of 2.3%.

Membership: Carl reports Charleston Base now has 280 members, same as last month because this is the time of the year that membership slows down because we are getting toward the next year. Anyone that signs up after the first of October it goes toward 2008. I have 5 or 6 applications that will go in in two weeks, so we are growing. That will give us 285 (assuming everyone renews their dues). Charleston Base is still #3 in the number of members of any base in the country. We are still only 50 members away from San Diego (the #2 slot). We signed up between 50 and 60 new members in 2007, and should be able to top San Diego in 2008. Pay your dues by 1 October if you have not done so, we have 8-15 people lost every year because they did not renew their dues.

want to look good for the Veterans Day parade and not fall on our face like we did for the Seesaw Days parade and walk out there and find 2 flat tires because nobody paid any attention to it. We are getting the missing Thresher nameplates and periscope from John Glave III of the Aiken Base for the float.

Marty noted that Veterans Day is coming up, and there are a lot of events in Charleston. The Charleston Base Pig Roast is Saturday 27 October, tell the COB if you are going to come tonight or e-mail , or call Marty Sessler with your name and number of guests so that we can plan for the food. Cost is \$5 per head, bring a side dish or dessert. We need a good head count, 19 October is the cut off date to RSVP.

Thanks to Tom Lufkin for laying out the cap presentation down at MUSC (Caps4Kids). It is eye opening to see these kids and this facility that we have in Charleston. Thanks to Tom for all your time and Larry Starland for the pictures. We were in the local newspapers down there.

If you have not been up to the after battery lately, we will have a Grand Opening, come out and see what has been done. Marty asked everyone if they noticed anything different about the group of new people here tonight. "Not a TM in the group."

Base Commander: Buddha reminded everyone about the National Veterans Day Celebration that will be held in the greater Charleston, SC region from November 8-11, 2007 (schedule of events has been sent out via e-mail).

Buddha encouraged everyone to come out to The After Battery and said, "You would be surprised at the work that has been going on." Buddha noted that Roger Gibson always seems to be on a ladder when his neighbor Robert comes out. It takes a lot of work to make the place nice. Check out The After Battery when you can.

Charleston Base received a thank-you letter concerning Fran Josephson (the code talker lady) from her son Capt. James Suddeth Jr. We made a donation in her name to the US Navy Memorial foundation on behalf of US Submarines Veterans, Charleston Base. Also received a thank-you note from the US Navy Memorial foundation for our donation in memoriam for Fran.

Nuclear Historian: Richard Carlson presented a story from the Sunday newspaper of two weeks ago about Hyman Rickover and the Nuke's insignia.

Old Business: Carl Chinn mentioned the Charleston Base Christmas party on December 15th at Gatherings in Dorchester, \$15 per person for member and one other person, any other guest beyond that are \$20 a piece. Paul Vierung and Carl Chinn are selling the tickets. November 8th is the cutoff date for ticket sales. No tickets will be sold at the door. Fully catered all you can drink and eat, traditional Christmas fare.

New Business: None

Good Of The Order:

The depth charge drawing was held. The winner was Dennis Lanier.

Mike Slattery commented on the together we served website, for current and former serving members of the United States Navy. Together We Served (<http://navy.togetherweserved.com/usn>) is a unique, feature-rich resource enabling naval personnel to re-connect with lost shipmates and share memories and tell their Navy story. Mike says that over 270,000 are registered so far and it is free for 30 days, after that the cost is \$30/year. If you invite people to join up you may receive 6 months free for every 5 people that you sign up.

Ben Heber reports that the replacement sign is back up for the Little David project at the museum in Moncks Corner.

Stacy Power will hold flag folding practice after the meeting tonight.

Forward any ideas to Rodney McKanna for the submarine birthday.

George Lisle entertained us with a joke and reports that he now

The executive board recommends that all members of Charleston Base that are Sub Vets WWII be granted gratis life members into Charleston Base Sub Vets, Inc. We can't do anything about national. Motion was made, seconded and approved to grant lifetime membership gratis to Sub Vets WWII into Charleston Base as lifetime members.

Newsletter: Give Carl Chinn all the updates on your address, phone number, e-mail so he can keep you updated with the national database and local base happenings. If you have anything to submit to the newsletter let Carl know.



Alfano	Alkire	Bailey, W.	Barber
Britton	Camp	Campbell, N.	Forbes
Gnodde	Griggs	Harden	Hines
Holzel	Hostetter	Johnson, E.	Lindberg
Lisle	Lookabill	Lord	Nathan
Peters	Robinson	Roup	Skorepa
Wilson, B	Yingling		

Membership and Dues Information:

Your 2008 dues are payable by 1 October 2007. 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.

The following are on the dink list as of 1 October:

Andersen, D	Anderson, H	Bailey, W	Camp
Cates	Chollet	Cline	Coy
Crookston	Dale	Dasch	Dentzman
Deschaine	Detwiler	Douglas	Drentlaw
Dygert	Erickson	Farrell	Fletcher
Forbes	Fuller	Fulton	Gallagher, G
Gallagher, R	Gawronski	Giddens	Gleason
Gomez	Grabowski	Gravley	Griggs
Gunnis	Habegger	Hazard	Hines
Hodges	Holzel	Horton	Hubert
Ianuzzi	Johnson, E.	Jones	Kay
Kennedy	LaForce	LaRose	Lavergne
Lehmann	Lookabill	Martinson	
Miller, R	Minaudo	Moore	Mulkey
Narowski	Nathan	O'Saben	Oser
Peters	Poole	Roup	Rummans
Samples	Sanders	Schirmer	Schnebel
Seal	Siebert		Snyder
Spotts	Stevenson, T	Stuffle	Stump
Suddeth	Tischler	Upchurch	Vacher
Velez	Wardean	Werley	Wickenhoffer
Williams, B	Williams, R	Willis, D	Willis, R
Wilson, L	Yates, G		

Send dues (payable to USSVI) to:

Carl Chinn

217 Brailsford Rd

Summerville, SC 29485-5405



OCTOBER HAPPENINGS!

October 6 – The After Battery Renovated Open House, starts at 1200, ladies welcome!, \$5 per person

October 11 – Regular meeting, FRA, Goose Creek.

October 27 – Hog Roast at The After Battery, starts at 1300, \$5 per person pay at the gate

owns a computer.

Gary Becker discussed that the term “shipmate” is going out of usage in the Navy.

Buddha thanked Gary for all the plumbing work completed at The After Battery.

The COB has directions to The After Battery for anyone that needs them.

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2000.

**** End of the minutes for September 2007 ****

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

October Submarines Lost:

USS S 44	SS 155	October 7, 1943
USS Wahoo	SS 238	October 11, 1943
USS Dorado	SS 248	October 12, 1943
USS Seawolf	SS 197	October 3, 1944
USS Escolar	SS 294	October 17, 1944
USS Darter	SS 227	October 24, 1944
USS Shark II	SS 314	October 24, 1944
USS Tang	SS 306	October 24, 1944
USS O-5	SS 66	October 11, 1923

*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.*



Hog Roast

The Charleston Base annual hog roast will be held on October 27, starting at 1300.

\$5.00 each, pay at the gate. PLEASE RSVP the COB no later than 19 October so we can be sure to have enough meat and drinks.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share with all.



From Richard Cleeve, Public Affairs

My new computer has arrived and am working to get all the programs I had on the old one restored, should be in the next week. I will show a DVD at our next meeting of the 2007 Convention aboard the Oosterdam. Also have lots of pictures of the cruise and Alaska. Web site is running and I'll update it as needed.

Russia Developing Top-Secret Submarine

Paper Javno (Russia), September 12, 2007

Russia could be developing a top-secret new type of submarine capable of patrolling underwater longer than existing diesel-powered submarines, a Russian newspaper said on Wednesday. The project -- codenamed 20120 -- came to light when details were inadvertently posted on the Internet site of a provincial town, Kommersant newspaper reported. The posting has now been taken down and the navy denied any knowledge of the project.

Russia is boosting military spending to back up its increasingly assertive foreign policy. That has allowed it to resume work



Member Assistance

One of our members, Lee Rackley, would like a little help. Lee lives in Goose Creek and would like to attend meetings and go to The After Battery on a Wednesday. Lee is in a wheel chair and needs some help getting there.

Anyone who lives in the Goose Creek area and can help Lee, he sure will appreciate it!

Terminology Trivia

“Ballbuster”

(1) Something difficult. (2) A sexually teasing woman

“Batten Down”

Make fast, secure, or shut. Originally, deck hatches did not have hinged, attached covers. Hatch covers were separate pieces which were laid over the hatch opening, then made fast with battens (pieces of timber)



Christmas Party

Charleston Base annual Christmas Party will be December 15. Cocktails at 1700, dinner served at 1830.

Party will again be at Gatherings in Dorchester, SC.

You must have a ticket to attend. Tickets are available from Paul Viering or Carl Chinn. They will be on sale until November 8.

Cost: \$15 each for member and 1 guest, \$20 each for all other guests.

No ticket sales after November 8...No exceptions!

If you can't make the meetings or Wednesday social, contact Paul or Carl.

No ticket sales at the door.



Show Seeks Answers To Sub Disaster

Naval historians are fond of euphemism, employing phrases both poetic (“on eternal patrol”) and gentle (“lost at sea”) to sanitize disasters. They are convenient paint jobs that cloak the true horror of a ship's sudden, inexplicable disappearance.

Those phrases don't have enough gloss to cover up Capt. John McNish's memories. He was stationed in West Milton, N.Y., when word arrived that the USS Thresher had gone down 220 miles off the Massachusetts coast. For his former submarine, the nuclear vessel he helped ready for sea, a training exercise had turned catastrophic.

"At first there was very little information, other than the ship was in trouble," McNish said. "And as more and more was revealed, it was clear the ship was lost."

McNish rushed to Portsmouth, N.H., where he would help identify fragments of the sub that made their way to the surface. By the time he arrived, the rescue operation was all but over. The final death toll was 129 officers, enlisted men, observers and civilians. It is considered one of the worst disasters in U.S. military history.

At 9 p.m. Monday, 44 years after those chilling moments occurred, PBS will devote an episode of "History Detectives" to the disaster. Host Gwen Wright visited both the New Jersey Naval Museum in Hackensack and the Fort Lee Museum earlier this year. Her goal

developing new hardware that was shelved because of a lack of cash after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Earlier this year, Russia launched the Yuri Dologruky nuclear submarine, its first new-generation submarine since the end of Soviet rule.

Kommersant said the specifications for the 20120 and the secrecy around it suggested it contained technology that was radically different from any submarines in service.

It said the new design may involve installing a small nuclear reactor on a diesel-powered submarine to extend the time it can operate without surfacing.

Contacted on Wednesday, a spokesman for Russia's navy said the details cited by Kommersant did not come from it. "We are not going to make any comment," he said.

Details of the submarine were released by the town of Sarov, north-east of Moscow, in a press release on a visit by a naval captain who commands a submarine named after the town.

Concept Submarine, Stealth Technologies

technologynewsdaily.com, September 12, 2007

A 'concept submarine' on the BAE Systems stand at DSEi 2007 showcases the advanced technologies which will help submarines become more stealthy.

The latest technologies include improved modeling and assessment techniques to determine the effect of an external shock on the submarine, techniques to more accurately predict its acoustic signature, ways of controlling vibration resonance at sea and modular cast cladding to produce a seam-free continuous 'stealth' skin on the submarine.

Displays on the stand include a model of a new closed cycle diesel (CCD) design which aims to deliver an ultra-quiet and highly cost-effective alternative to conventional diesel power units or fuel cells. A typical CCD solution for an SSK (conventionally powered submarine) can deliver between 180kW and 300kW output while allowing the submarine to operate underwater for up to 15 days without "snorting" – surfacing or coming close to the surface to expel fumes and take in air for the diesel.

The CCD solution integrates an advanced mounting system to significantly reduce the radiated noise signature, and also controls the individual engine speeds to "randomize" the frequencies generated into the surrounding ocean, making the submarine more difficult to identify and track.

CCD shares many of the technical characteristics of a conventional diesel engine which simplifies training requirements, and the hardware, fuel and air products employed by the system are available worldwide, which means the vessel can use the established supply base and infrastructure.

Consequences of Losing the Middle East

No matter what your feelings for George W. Bush are, and this guy is not all that crazy about him, read this and give it some thought. Don't let your intense hatred for Bush blind you to the bigger picture of what we are up against. The coming primaries and general election could very well be the most important we have ever had. They could very well define the success or destruction of our Republic. We need to think long and hard about what the end result of who we send to Congress and the Presidency will be for the nation. It is up to the citizens of the United States to force the politicians to do the right thing. The politicians are not going to do it on their own, they are too obsessed with keeping or getting political power.

If you think General Cash's message is worth while, send it on. If you think he is full of it, start packing your bags for the trip back to the seventh century.

Middle East Imperative

By JIM CASH, Brig. Gen., USAF, Ret.

I wrote recently about the war in Iraq and the larger war against radical Islam, eliciting a number of responses. Let me try and put this conflict in proper perspective.

Understand, the current battle we are engaged in is much bigger than just Iraq. What happens in the next year will affect this country and how our kids and grand kids live throughout their lifetime, and beyond. Radical Islam has been attacking the West since the seventh century. They have been defeated in the past

was to shed some light on the incident, to find the reasons why this nuclear sub never made it home.

"This was not by any means an effort to be accusatory or an effort to not be thoughtful about the families of the men who went down with the ship," Wright said. "But it's very hard for any group to talk about things that are still fairly recent, especially if there was a problem."

The trigger for this story was a collection of drawings a man happened upon in Chicopee, Mass., part of his great-uncle's estate. These were not ordinary drawings, but blueprints of a nuclear sub. Using those documents as a jumping-off point, Wright went looking for answers. There were some people who needed reassurance before they agreed to answer her questions.

"I had never seen the program before," McNish said. "I didn't know what sort of a flavor there was to it. I was immediately hostile about the idea that someone's going to try to pin this one on somebody or make an accusation about somebody on the ship."

Wright talked to McNish about his memories of the sub. She talked to a woman who lost her father when the ship went down. And she extended invitations to the Navy, but found the United States government reluctant to discuss what went wrong. So Wright reached out to retired Navy officials and other experts who had a working knowledge of the submarine.

"My main goal with the show is to encourage Americans to ask questions to think about things that are unclear," Wright said.

"Sometimes things are made unclear. How do we look at evidence? How do I share things I do as a historian?"

And how does she provide those answers while maintaining some semblance of sensitivity? There are hundreds of living Americans with ties to that sub who will watch the program on Monday. Bob Miller, one of the Thresher's original crew members, left the sub for a new assignment only 16 days before the disaster.

"We had just gotten out of class," Miller said. "There were four of us staying in some Army reserve base housing out by Pleasanton, Calif., 50 miles from Treasure Island. I was driving that day. I heard it on the radio. I almost lost control of the vehicle.

"Someone else drove the rest of the way."

In the Bronx, the news clocked a 6-year-old girl who lost her brother, Edward Christiansen, on the sub.

"All I remember is we were watching the news and my mother is screaming," said Claudia Richie. "I kind of looked over at her. They were showing the news, and then after that it was like reporter city coming to the house interviewing my mom, Western Union telegrams arriving from all over. I still have some of them in a box of keepsakes."

Miller said he knew 87 of the 129 men on the sub. He watched movies with them. He played cards with them.

"We had one poker game on the Thresher that went on for 37 days without stopping," he said. "Someone would have to go on watch. Someone coming off watch would pick up his seat at the table. There were seven guys in the game at all times for 37 days. A lot of money changed hands. You could make a lot of money and go broke all in the same game."

Miller is convinced the "shock trials" the Navy conducted off the coast of Florida caused the problem. McNish suspects a pipe in the engine room brought down the Thresher.

"It was hard on me for a long time," Miller said. "I kept thinking, if I had been there, maybe I could have done something that would have saved her. But that's totally false. Those guys that were there were really, really well-qualified people. They knew that boat really, really well. If they couldn't do it, I wasn't going to be able to do it."

Wright will comb history for answers Monday night, exploring a submarine whose men are on eternal patrol, a submarine lost at sea.

District Commander

Your District Four Commander has been in all five states in the South over the summer. In Georgia, I attended a King's Bay meeting, discussing the upcoming SVWWII Memorial that starts on October 31st and the District 4/6 combined convention that will be at the end of April 2008. Planning for the District 4/6 convention will be held October 13th in the Goat Locker on Kings Bay Base.

In Atlanta, I visited Grayback Base celebrating their 10th anniversary of chartering. This base is very active in the area and participates in Memorial services throughout the Atlanta Area.

and decimated to the point of taking hundreds of years to recover. But they can never be totally defeated. Their birth rates are so far beyond civilized world rates that in time they recover and attempt to dominate again.

There are eight terror-sponsoring countries that make up the grand threat to the West. Two, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, just need firm pressure from the West to make major reforms. They need to decide who they are really going to support and commit to that support. That answer is simple. They both will support who they think will hang in there until the end, and win. We are not sending very good signals in that direction right now, thanks to the Democrats.

The other six, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Syria, North Korea and Libya will require regime change or a major policy shift. Now, let's look more closely.

Afghanistan and Iraq have both had regime changes, but are being fueled by outsiders from Syria and Iran. We have scared Gaddafi's pants off, and he has given up his quest for nuclear weapons, so I don't think Libya is now a threat. North Korea (the non-Islamic threat) can be handled diplomatically by buying them off. They are starving. That leaves Syria and Iran. Syria is like a frightened puppy. Without the support of Iran they will join the stronger side. So where does that leave us? Sooner, or later, we are going to be forced to confront Iran, and it better be before they gain nuclear capability.

In 1989 I served as a Command Director inside the Cheyenne Mountain complex located in Colorado Springs, Colorado for almost three years. My job there was to observe (through classified means) every missile shot anywhere in the world and assess if it was a threat to the US or Canada. If any shot was threatening to either nation I had only minutes to advise the President, as he had only minutes to respond. I watched Iran and Iraq shoot missiles at each other every day, and all day long, for months. They killed hundreds of thousand of their people. Know why? They were fighting for control of the Middle East and that enormous oil supply.

At that time, they were preoccupied with their internal problems and could care less about toppling the west. Oil prices were fairly stable and we could not see an immediate threat. Well, the worst part of what we have done as a nation in Iraq is to do away with the military capability of one of those nations. Now, Iran has a clear field to dominate the Middle East, since Iraq is no longer a threat to them. They have turned their attention to the only other threat to their dominance, the United States. They are convinced they will win, because the United States is so divided, and the Democrats (who now control Congress and may control the Presidency in 2008) have openly said we are pulling out.

Do you have any idea what will happen if the entire Middle East turns their support to Iran, which they will obviously do if we pull out? It is not the price of oil we will have to worry about. Oil will not be made available to this country at any price. I personally would vote for any presidential candidate who did what JFK did with the space program---declare a goal to bring this country to total energy independence in a decade.

Yes, it is about oil. The economy in this country will totally die if that Middle East supply is cut off right now. It will not be a recession. It will be a depression that will make 1929 look like the 'good-old-days'.

The bottom line here is simple. If Iran is forced to fall in line, the fighting in Iraq will end over night, and the nightmare will be over. One way or another, Iran must be forced to join modern times and the global community. It may mean a real war---if so, now is the time, before we face a nuclear Iran with the capacity to destroy Israel and begin a new ice age. I urge you to read the book "END GAME" by two of our best Middle East experts, true American patriots and retired military generals, Paul Vallely and Tom McInerney. They are our finest, and totally honest in their assessment of why victory in the Middle East is so important, and how it can be won. Proceeds for the book go directly to memorial fund for our fallen soldiers who served the country during the war on terror. You can find that book by going to the Internet through Stand-up America at www.ospreyradio.us or www.righttalk.com

On the other hand, we have several very angry retired generals

Passing through Alabama and Mississippi, I visited Redfish Base in Ponchatoula, LA and chartered a new base in Baton Rouge, LA. In both events, there was a great turnout of Sub Vets, including several WWII members. Buck Wallace from LA was also in attendance. Here in our own state of South Carolina, a new base is forming in Columbia. The name is Palmetto Base. They meet on the third Thursday at 7:00pm. There are a few members that currently live in Columbia, Orangeburg and Camden that will be pledging their alliance to this new base.

Salute with pride,
Jerry K. Stout, ERD4

Young Boy Lives His Navy Dream

Fleet Public Affairs Center Pacific Staff Navy Compass (Cal.),
September 14, 2007

Bobby Carpenter of Savannah, Ga. has always been interested in the Navy. But, being only eight years old, he still has to wait 10 more years before he can enlist. In the meantime, his wish to walk aboard a Navy ship was granted Aug. 31 when he visited several commands, talked to special warfare Sailors and even sat in the captain's chair aboard a nuclear submarine.

The Navy, in cooperation with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, allowed Carpenter aboard the submarine USS Jefferson City (SSN 759), Arleigh-Burke class destroyer USS Kidd (DDG 100) and aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Carpenter, who has Hodgkin's Lymphoma, is a Savannah, Ga., native, and could barely wait to begin his tour. From the start, Carpenter was very inquisitive about his surroundings.

"Are there windows on the submarine? How do you steer it?" he asked as he climbed down a ladder well and into the Jefferson City. "Those are good questions," replied Jefferson City Commanding Officer Cmdr. John D. Zimmerman. Zimmerman let Bobby and his family see through a periscope, a big object to handle for an eight-year-old's small hands. Zimmerman helped the boy to grasp and maneuver the heavy instrument to hunt for a target in the cross-hairs.

After peeking inside the galley, Carpenter said: "This is a small kitchen." He ate a donut and drank juice while crewmembers described for him what meals are like aboard a submarine. Zimmerman also guided Carpenter through crew quarters, all while explaining daily life in the Silent Service. Just before he left, he was allowed to sit in the captain's chair.

"Now you're in charge of the entire ship," said Zimmerman as Carpenter sat in his chair and enjoyed some cookies. "I've never sat in that chair," Weapons Officer Lt. Michael Bogie told Carpenter, as he listened to the tour. "You should feel lucky, Bobby," he said.

Carpenter, who had recently undergone five rounds of chemotherapy, seemed to have energy to spare at every location he was taken to. After stepping aboard Kidd, Carpenter saw the commanding officer's quarters, the wardroom, the bridge and the weapons magazine for the five-inch gun.

After leaving the waterfront, the tour moved to Naval Special Warfare Center at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado. Bobby was given the opportunity to see the small firearms that BUD/S (Basic Underwater Demolition SEAL school) personnel use once they complete their training and become SEALs (Sea Air Land).

"These weapons give the SEALs an advantage," said Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Vecchione to Carpenter, who was anxious to handle a Walther PPK. "We even have a 'flashlight' here that can temporarily blind someone," continued Vecchione as Carpenter closely viewed each weapon.

"This is how the green Army men look. They stand like this," said Carpenter as he held the weapon and posed.

After the weapons training, the young boy met with Naval Special Warfare Center Commanding Officer Capt. Roger Herbert, commanding officer for SEALs/BUD/S training. He told Herbert about his busy day, his experience looking through the periscope, and meeting "LT" from the San Diego Chargers. He also told Herbert that if he joined the Navy, it would be as an officer on an aircraft carrier, instead of the risk of having the oxygen mask pulled from him underwater during SEAL training.

"Bobby is a very special boy," said Herbert, after his interactions with Bobby. "I want Bobby back here when he turns 18. I want him to be a SEAL."

today, who evidently have not achieved their lofty goals, and insist on ranting and raving about the war. They are wrong, and doing the country great harm by giving a certain political party reason to use them as experts to back their anti-war claims. You may be one of those who believe nothing could ever be terrible enough to support our going to war. If that is the case I should stop here, as that level of thinking approaches mental disability in this day and age. It is right up there with alien abductions and high altitude seeding through government aircraft contrails. I helped produce those contrails for almost 30 years, and I can assure you we were not seeding the atmosphere. The human race is a war-like population, and if a country is not willing to protect itself, it deserves the consequences.

Now, my last comments will get to the nerve. They will be on politics. I am not a Republican. And, George Bush has made enough mistakes as President to insure my feelings about that for the rest of my life. However, the Democratic Party has moved so far left, they have made me support those farther to the right. I am a conservative who totally supports the Constitution of this country. The only difference between the United States and the South American, third world, dictator infested and ever-changing South American governments, is our US Constitution. This Republic (note I did not say Democracy) is the longest standing the world has ever known, but it is vulnerable. It would take so little to change it through economic upheaval. There was a time when politicians could disagree, but still work together. We are past that time, and that is the initial step toward the downfall of our form of government. I think that many view Bush-hating as payback time. The Republicans hated the Clintons and now the Democrats hate Bush. So, both parties are putting their hate toward willingness to do anything for political dominance to include lying and always taking the opposite stand just for the sake of being opposed. *Just how good is that for our country?*

In my lifetime, after serving in uniform for President's Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush I have a pretty good feel for which party supported our military, and what military life was like under each of their terms. And, let me assure you that times were best under the Republicans. Service under Jimmy Carter was devastating for all branches of the military. And, Ronald Regan was truly a salvation. You can choose to listen to enriched newscasters, and foolish people like John Murtha (he is no war hero), Nancy Pelosi, John Kerry, Michael Moore, Jane Fonda, Harry Reid, Russ Feingold, Hillary Clinton, Ted Kennedy, and on-and-on to include the true fools in Hollywood if you like. If you do, your conclusions will be totally wrong.

The reason that I write, appear on radio talk shows, and do everything I can to denounce those people is simple. THEY ARE PUTTING THEIR THIRST FOR POLITICAL POWER AND QUEST FOR VICTORY IN 2008 ABOVE WHAT IS BEST FOR THIS COUNTRY. I cannot abide that.

Pelosi clearly defied the Logan Act by going to Syria, which should have lead to imprisonment of three years and a heavy fine. Jane Fonda did more to prolong the Vietnam war longer than any other human being (as acknowledged by Ho Chi Minh in his writing before he died). She truly should have been indicted for treason, along with her radical husband Tom Hayden, and forced to pay the consequences.

This country has started to soften by not enforcing its laws, which is another indication of a Republic about to fall. Many Democrats, along with the Hollywood elite, are sending us headlong into a total defeat in the Middle East, which will finally give Iran total dominance in the region. A lack of oil in the near future will be the final straw that dooms this Republic. However, if we refuse to let this happen and really get serious about an energy self-sufficiency program, this can be avoided.

I am afraid, however, that we are going in the opposite direction. If we elect Hillary Clinton and a Democrat controlled congress, and they carry through with allowing Iran to take control of the Middle East, continue to refuse development of nuclear energy, refuse to allow drilling for new oil, and continue to do nothing but oppose everything Bush, it will be over in terms of what we view as the good life in the USA.

Bobby concluded his tour of the Navy in San Diego with a ride on a patrol boat and a tour of USS Ronald Reagan.

SUBRON 22 Disestablished

LA MADDALENA, Italy (Sept. 21, 2007) - Rear Adm. Charles J. Leidig Jr., commander of Submarine Group 8, delivered a speech during the disestablishment ceremony for Commander Submarine Squadron (COMSUBRON) 22, on Santo Stefano Island. COMSUBRON 22 was established in 1983, and provided operational training and logistics support to assigned units and operating forces in the La Maddalena area.

Never Tease a Torpedoman

The Submarine Research Center recently conducted a straw pole of submarine rates to determine which rate was the most troublesome and which the most amiable. The rate coming in first on the amicability list was that of radioman. Those behind the closed door of the radio shack were judged to be quiet, efficient and amenable to the routine of the wardroom. At the other end of the spectrum were the torpedo men who were regarded as cantankerous, clandestine and, at times, devious. Those contributing to this survey were unable to give a reason for this phenomenon of human behavior, other to say that it seemed to be a tradition. Poking fun at fellow enlisted men was the daily diet of torpedo men who were often to be found drinking coffee in the crew's mess. This mundane diversion was punctuated from time to time by pranks played on officers. Of course, the captain and XO were out-of-bounds as were the ops officer and engineer. These were senior lieutenants who wore gold dolphins and thereby commanded a respect that even torpedo man honored. Occasionally, the submarine might carry midshipmen and these poor souls had overflowing plates of curiosity and admiration for every submariner, even torpedoman. These also were immune from the torpedoman's skulduggery. This left the junior officers who resided in boys' town in the starboard side of the forward battery. Without dolphins nor any knowledge beyond basic submarine school, they were fair game for the inventive minds of torpedo men. Three examples will be sufficient to make the point:

On Sir ago (SS-485) a torpedoman striker had been assigned to chip and paint the sail. The young man knew his weekend was shot and so dawdled at chipping rust spots and red-leading the exposed spots. For reasons that escaped his fellow crewmembers he painted a giant red-lead swastika on the outboard side of the sail. Another crewmember with considerable authority saw the Nazi emblem and immediately put the man on report. The swastika was obliterated and the seaman went before the captain who restricted the man to the boat for a month. But that wasn't the end of the affair, because the torpedoman striker vowed to get even. When the senior petty officer who had put him on report came aboard drunk the following Sunday the seaman had the topside watch. The petty officer left with a case of frozen steaks and was picked up by marines at the gate. No one knew who had tipped off the marines, and no one waved to the petty officer as he left the boat for the last time, accompanied by a marine guard.

On Wahoo (SS-565) boys' town had a lieutenant, a j.g. and an ensign. The lieutenant was qualified, but the ensign and j.g. were fair game. As it turned out, the ensign was so dumb, tricks and pranks sank into him like forks in mush. On the other hand the j.g., being full of starch from his academy days was prime meat for the torpedomen. When the j.g. relieved the OD on the bridge for the mid-watch his bunk was removed and placed in the freeze locker. Five minutes before the officer turned into his bunk at 0400 it was replaced. This required a good deal of stealth and the dumb ensign in the lower bunk slept through the maneuver. The j.g.'s fingers stuck to the frozen bunk rail and the sheets were as solid as wood. He cursed and spent the morning hours stretched out in the wardroom until awakened by stewards. Nothing was said of the incident. For the officer it was humiliating and for the suspected torpedomen it was too delicious to speak of in public.

A torpedoman who served aboard an early nuclear powered submarine said that the favorite target of pranks was a j.g. named Jimmy Carter. This officer spent all his time peering into every nook and cranny as he learned the details of his submarine for the qualification process. He hardly spoke to fellow officers and never stooped to converse with torpedomen who respected his brilliance,

Now, do I think that all who do not support the war are un-American---of course not. They just do not understand the importance of total victory in that region. Another failure of George Bush is his inability to explain to the American people why we are there, and why we MUST win. By the way, it is not a war. The war was won four years ago. It is martial law that is under attack by Iranian and Syrian outside influences, and there is a difference.

So, what do I believe? What is the bottom line? I will simply say that the Democratic Party has fielded the foulest, most power hungry, anti-country, self absorbed group of individuals that I have observed in my lifetime. Our educational system is partially to blame for allowing the mass of America to be taken in by this group. George Bush has done the best he can with the disabilities that he possesses. A President must communicate with the people. And, I would tell you that Desert Storm spoiled the people. Bush Senior's 100-hour war convinced the people that technology has progressed to the point that wars could be fought with no casualties and won in very short periods of time. I remember feeling at the time, that this was a tragedy for the US military. To win wars, you must put boots on the ground. When you put boots on the ground, soldiers are going to die. A President must make the war decision wisely, and insure that the cause is right before using his last political option. However, *controlling Iran and democratizing the middle east is the only choice if we are hell-bent on depending on them for our future energy needs.*

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The After Battery Open House

October 6, starts at 1200, ladies welcome!

Grilled steaks, salad and garlic bread

\$5.00 each, cash bar

Come see all the improvements! Enjoy the camaraderie, have a drink, play cards, etc.



Who Said Torpedomen Don't Play With Dolls?

Although it has been speculated for years, the proof has numerous times slipped through the fingers of the investigative, sly, and yes, sometimes even devious ET, QM, MT, RM and other various sundry ratings.

It seems that recently during a quiet, casual get together of some of Charleston Base members over spaghetti, wine, rum, beer, etc., that the truth was finally unveiled! What happened is that an

but detested his arrogance. Try as they might, the officer sidestepped every planned piece of skullduggery cooked up by the most innovative of the torpedomen. At last the torpedomen gave up and turned their attention on someone else.

The j.g. on Wahoo not only qualified in submarines, but went on to become a vice admiral. The Wahoo torpedomen like to think they had something to do with teaching the young officer about life, namely, that respect is earned, in part, from humility. To this day that officer is regarded with warm affection as a regular guy by every veteran Wahoo torpedoman. Of course, the nuclear powered officer went on to become president and this may also have been due in part to the lessons learned in out-maneuvering the wily torpedomen. Never Tease a Torpedoman.



actual retired Master Chief Torpedoman gave himself up, with no coaxing, harassment or provocation on anyone else's part. I don't like to name names, so I will only give his initials: Rick Carlson!

While several of us former (read: old) submariners were sipping, cussing, discussing, etc., with some of those of the other persuasion, out of the blue comes a question gushing from his pie hole, "Does anyone know what Barbie's full name is?"

Well, *even* this NavET was utterly taken aback! I couldn't believe my ears and stated the same! "WTF? Who in the world besides a girl would know more information about this subject than any good submariner needs to hear?"

Yep, sure enough here it comes...

"Her full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts", he says with glee. Then he went on to expound on the subject, which even made his fellow Torpedoman cringe, cower and drink more rum. "She is from Willows, Wisconsin and went to Willows High School. Her boyfriend's name is Ken Carson."

*And somebody says we should **never** tease a Torpedoman!*

