

# TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 5, No. 1

January 2009

## 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 of America and its Constitution"*



Base web page: [www.ussvicb.org](http://www.ussvicb.org)

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

#### Base Meeting:

January 8, 2009

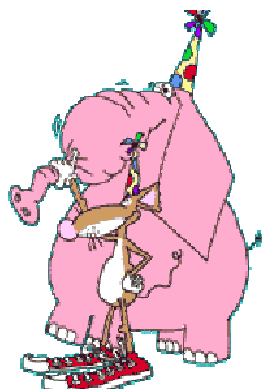
Social hour 1800, General Meeting 1900

#### Location:

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

Special Officers		Phone Number
Chief of the Boat	Marty Sessler	843-871-1536
Public Affairs	Richard Cleeve	843-899-4563
Sub Vets WWII	Sy Mabie	843-871-9713
Nuclear Historian	Rick Carlson	843-875-4030
Veterans Affairs	Jim Morrison	843-832-9716
Chaplain	John Nichols	843-873-5897
Membership	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Holland Club	Terry Trump	843-873-9563
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
Webmaster	John Nichols	843-863-8474

Base Officers		Phone Number
Commander	Steve Nelms	843-563-7115
Vice Commander	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Secretary	Rick Collins	843-851-3490
Treasurer	George Lisle	843-559-4242

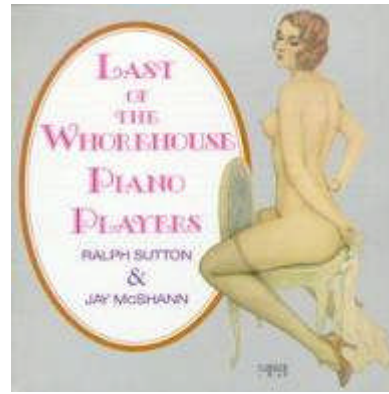


## Minutes of the December 2008 meeting

Charleston Base annual Christmas Party was held on 6 December at Gatherings in Dorchester. There were approximately 175 attendees.

Everyone had a good time; the food was great as usual.

The depth charge drawing was held. The winner (\$480) was Connie Roup. Connie donated \$80 to the scholarship fund! Thanks Connie!



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

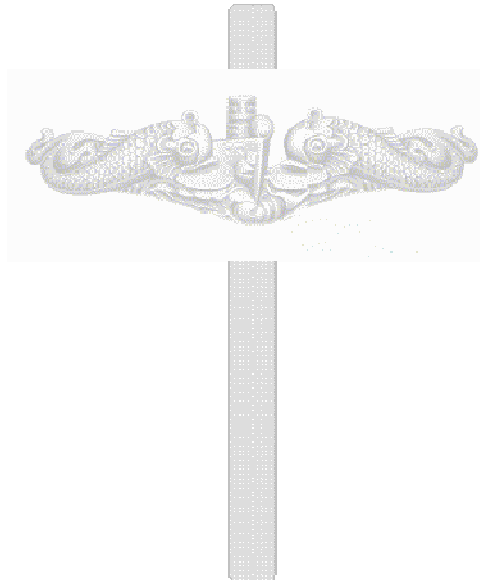


Barnette, R	Beach	Betz	Coutu
Crookston	Edwards	Farr	Farrell
Finch	Fletcher	Gleason	Hansen
Hensarlin	Isaman	Kay	Kirk
g			
Lewis	Mabie	McMullin	Moore
Nuzum	Owen	Pasnak	Shipman
Simokat	Stank	Welch	

### January happenings!

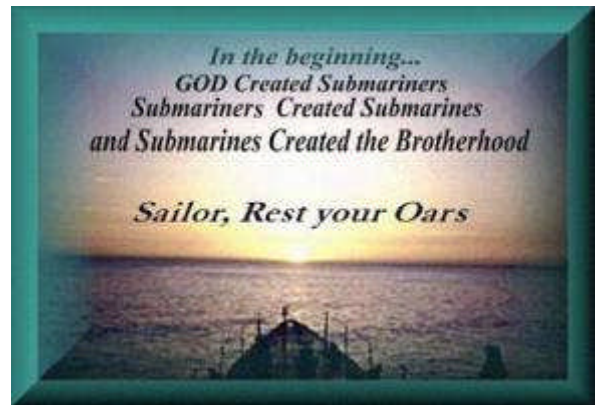
January 8 – General Meeting; social hour 1800, meeting starts 1900

### Eternal Patrol



### January Submarines Lost:

USS S 36	SS 141	January 20, 1942
USS S 26	SS 131	January 24, 1942
USS Argonaut	SS 166	January 10, 1943
USS Scorpion	SS 278	January 5, 1944
USS Swordfish	SS 193	January 12, 1945



### Membership and Dues Information:

Your 2009 dues were payable by 1 October 2008. 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 22

December and **will be dropped from the rolls on 1 January 2009:**

Barber, B	Barber, W	Campbell, G	Corcoran
Crookston	Daschle	Douglas	Edwards
Gleason	Grassman	Hines	Hodges
Horton	Hunter	Lavergne	Mathis
Medert	Miller, C	Morgart	Naert
Neufeld	Ougourlian	Rice	Robinson
Shipman	Spotts	Vacher	Weiland
Van Swearingen		Wright	Yates, G

Send dues (payable to USSVI) to:  
 Carl Chinn  
 217 Brailsford Rd  
 Summerville, SC 29485-5405

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CHINN, Robert Master Chief Robert Wayne Chinn, US Navy (Ret.) husband of Billie Easterling Chinn passed away Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at Trident Medical Center. A memorial service will be held Friday, December 12, 2008 at 4 o'clock at James A. Dyal Funeral Home Chapel, Summerville. Friends may call at the funeral home from 3 until the hour of service on Friday. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: Charleston Natural History Society, PO Box 504, Charleston, SC 29402. Bob was born in Denver, Colorado on August 3, 1943 to Virgie Parsons Chinn of Denver, Colorado and the late Howard Chinn. He worked at the Charleston Air Force Base Commissary. He was a member of the Charleston Base Submarine Veterans. He was a former President of the Charleston Auburn Society. He was an avid Gardener to which his family and friends looked forward to. Bob was preceded in death by his father, Howard Chinn and two children, Randy Lane and Ronny Lane. Surviving in addition to his wife and mother are one brother, Carl Chinn and his wife Connie of Summerville; one sister, Sharon Allen and her husband Al of Bluffton, SC; two children, Dani Medlin and her husband "D" of California and Ricky Lane and his wife Chellene of Clarksville, TN; special niece, Sherrie Taylor Hall of Moncks Corner; seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren and many wonderful in-laws, nieces and nephews. A memorial message may be written to the family by visiting our website at [www.jamesadyal.com](http://www.jamesadyal.com). 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)

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### **The Seabag** (*this also fits Submariners...*)

There was a time when everything you owned had to fit in your seabag. Remember those nasty rascals? Fully packed, one of the suckers weighed more than the poor devil hauling it.

The damn things weighed a ton and some idiot with an off-center sense of humor sewed a carry handle on it to help you haul it. Hell, you could bolt a handle on a Greyhound bus but it wouldn't make the damn thing portable.

The Army, Marines and Air Force got footlockers and we got a big ole' canvas bag.

After you warped your spine jackassing the goofy thing through a bus or train station, sat on it waiting for connecting transportation and made folks mad because it was too damn big to fit in any overhead rack on any bus, train and airplane ever made, the contents looked like hell. All your gear appeared to

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### **Jack Stevenson Has Moved**

Panama Jack has recently moved to be near his son in Colorful Colorado.

His new address is:

Jack W. Stevenson, Sr.

300 N. 3rd St., #N-2

Gunnison, CO 81230

Drop him a card or a note and keep I touch!

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### **The Wet Cold War**

It was an eerie throwback to the Cold War. On April 4, 1997, a Russian cargo ship spying on the USS OHIO off Washington's Puget Sound fired a laser beam at a Canadian helicopter. The new Russia was relying on an old Soviet tactic -- trawlers known as AGIs for Auxiliary General Intelligence.

When the Cold War supposedly ended in 1991, the U.S. Submarine Force numbered 61,000 sailors, 34 missile subs and 89 attack subs.

"The U.S. and Soviet Union had fought a vast, undeclared and sometimes chillingly violent Cold War under the sea," wrote Chris Drew and Michael Millenson in the Chicago Tribune.

Movies like *The Hunt for Red October* brought that war home to unsuspecting Americans, but few knew how real the deep-sea struggle actually was.

It was "the struggle for domination of the hydroscape of the world -- the Wet Cold War -- a war within a war that may well be the most significant theater of all," wrote Thomas S. Burns in *The Secret War for the Ocean Depths*, where "the ultimate naval weapon" was the submarine: "King of the Seas."

The undersea conflict was waged beneath the ice floes of the North Atlantic, in the shallow waters of the Mediterranean and through the deepest canyons of the Pacific. It was carried on under the Arctic ice cap where U.S. attack subs stalked Soviet ballistic missile subs. It reached the coastlines of the U.S. and Soviet Union.

Submarines sometimes snuck into harbors or lurked as they waited to shadow an adversary's boat.

On the seafloor both sides positioned sophisticated listening devices. The more advanced U.S. system, called Sound Surveillance System (SOSUS), consisted of strings of hydrophones planted at strategic spots on ocean bottoms. SOSUS was so sensitive that the Navy tracked Soviet subs thousands of miles from U.S. shores.

#### *'Pigboats' to Nukes*

The undersea Cold War began not long after WWII as hostility increased between the U.S. and Soviet Union. The Navy's subs were nothing more than upgraded WWII "Pigboats" -- their speed was as minimal as was their diving depth.

As the Cold War intensified, the design and propulsion systems of U.S. subs changed radically. First came the nuclear sub, USS NAUTILUS, in 1954. Nuclear power

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have come from bums who slept on park benches. Traveling with a seabag was something left over from the "Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum" sailing ship days. Sailors used to sleep in hammocks. So you stowed your issue in a big canvas bag and lashed your hammock to it, hoisted it on your shoulder and in effect moved your entire home and complete inventory of earthly possessions from ship to ship. I wouldn't say you traveled light because with one strap it was a one-shoulder load that could torque your skeletal frame and bust your ankles. It was like hauling a dead linebacker.

They wasted a lot of time in boot camp telling you how to pack one of the suckers. There was an officially sanctioned method of organization that you forgot after ten minutes on the other side of the gate at Great Lakes or San Diego.

You got rid of a lot of issue gear when you went to the ship. Did you ever know a tin-can sailor who had a raincoat? A flat hat? One of those nut hugger knit swimsuits? How about those roll your own neckerchiefs. The ones the girls in a good Naval tailor shop would cut down and sew into a 'greasy snake' for two bucks?

Within six months, every fleet sailor was down to one set of dress blues, port and starboard undress blues and whites, a couple of whitehats, boots, shoes, assorted skivvies a pea coat and three sets of bleached out dungarees. The rest of your original issue was either in the pea coat locker, lucky bag or had been reduced to wipe down rags in the engine room. Underway ships were not ships that allowed vast accumulation of private gear.

Hobos who lived in discarded refrigerator crates could amass greater loads of pack rat crap than fleetsailors. The confines of a canvas back rack, side locker and a couple of bunk bags did not allow one to live a Donald Trump existence.

Space and the going pay scale combined to make us envy the lifestyle of a mud hut Ethiopian. We were the global equivalents of nomadic Mongols without ponies to haul our stuff.

And after the rigid routine of boot camp we learned the skill of random compression packing. Known by mother's world-wide as 'cramming'. It is amazing what you can jam into a space no bigger than a breadbox if you pull a watch cap over a boot and push it in with your foot. Of course it looks kinda weird when you pull it out but they never hold fashion shows at sea and wrinkles added character to a salty appearance. There was a four-hundred mile gap between the images on recruiting posters and the actual appearance of sailors at sea. It was not without justifiable reason that we were called the tin-can Navy.

was combined with a hydrodynamic, cigar-shaped hull design that revolutionized submarine warfare. American subs now cruised for months at depths of hundreds of feet at speeds sometimes faster than surface vessels. In 1960, the U.S. revolutionized warfare by introducing "boomers," guided missile subs (SSBNs) that replaced cruise missile boats (SSGNs). The first of the SSBNs, the GEORGE WASHINGTON, was a Skipjack class sub converted to carry 16 Polaris missiles.

It was followed by the improved Lafayette class of Poseidon missile boats. The Ohio class subs, with Trident missiles, are reputed to be the quietest subs to ever go to sea.

U.S. attack subs (SSNs) combined speed with quiet running. They were assigned to defend carrier battle groups, maintain the nation's sea lanes and to target Soviet SSBNs and attack subs. Skipjack, Permit and Sturgeon classes of the 1960s and 1970s were followed by the Los Angeles class subs of the 1980s-90s.

The Los Angeles boats are "the greatest nuclear predator, Soviet or American, ever to take to the seas," wrote the editors of the Time-Life book, *Hunters of the Deep*. The improved Seawolf class will take the Navy into the 21st century.

The Soviet Union's sub fleet was developed to counter the U.S. threat. The Russians struggled for decades to match the quietness and speed of U.S. subs. They ran through a series of classes, Novembers, Alfas, Victors, Akulas and Sierras. By the late 1980s, the Soviets had reached near parity with U.S. boats.

Aggressive U.S. patrolling was necessary particularly since the Soviets maintained a fleet of some 350 boats of all types. The U.S. had about 123 subs.

#### *Intelligence-Gathering*

Once both nations fielded SSBNs, assuring mutual annihilation, intelligence-gathering was paramount. Ascertaining the characteristics and capabilities of each country's submarines became crucial to national security.

U.S. subs began spying on the Soviets in May 1948, when the USS SEA DOG conducted reconnaissance patrols along the Siberian coast. The USS BLACKFIN picked up where SEA DOG left off.

A decade later these missions were more daring and essential.

In 1957, the USS GUDGEON, the first sub to circumnavigate the globe, was caught snooping around the Soviet naval base at Vladivostok inside Russian territorial waters. For 30 hours the sub was cornered and depth-charged by Russian destroyers. GUDGEON finally was forced to surface to restore its air supply. It came up ready to fight, but was allowed to withdraw. Soviet actions in the Atlantic and Mediterranean gave impetus to operations to collect electronic communications and photographic intelligence. Soviet subs began patrolling in the Mediterranean in 1958-59. (By 1967, 13 Russian boats were on patrol duty there.) In May 1959, the USS GRENADIER, off Iceland, detected, tracked and held down a Soviet sub until she was forced to surface.

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We operated on the premise that if 'Cleanliness was next to Godliness', we must be next to the other end of that spectrum. We looked like our clothing had been pressed with a waffle iron and packed by a bulldozer.

But what in the hell did they expect from a bunch of jerks that lived in the crews hole of a 2100 Fletcher Class can.

After a while you got used to it... You got used to everything you owned picking up and retraining that distinctive aroma. You got used to old ladies on busses taking a couple of wrinkled nose sniffs of your peacoat then getting up and finding another seat. Do they still issue seabags? Can you still make five bucks sitting up half the night drawing a ships picture on the side of one of the damn things with black and white marking pens that drive old master-at-arms into a 'rig for heart attack' frenzy? Make their faces red... The veins on their neck bulge out... And yell, "Jeezus H. Christ! What in god's name is that all over your seabag?" "Artwork, Chief... It's like the work of Michelangelo... My ship... Great huh?" "Looks like some damn comic book..."

Here was a man with cobras tattooed on his arms... A skull with a dagger through one eye and a ribbon reading 'DEATH BEFORE SHORE DUTY' on his shoulder... Crossed anchors with 'Subic Bay 1945' on the other shoulder... An eagle on his chest and a full blown Chinese dragon peeking out between the cheeks of his butt. If anyone was an authority on stuff that looked like a comic book, it had to be this E-7 sucker.

Sometimes I look at all the crap stacked in my garage, close my eyes and smile, remembering a time when everything I owned could be crammed into a canvas bag. Maturity is hell.

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### **For DBF Sailors**

They say we have it easy, and maybe they are right. We've never felt a depth charge, we've never seen a fight.

We don't stink of deisel, we wash our clothes each week.

The nukes will make us tons of water, our hull it doesn't leak.

The smokeboat sailors have their fun, they say no boomer's cool,

"Hey squid can I come on your boat and swim around your pool?"

They say we're soft, we'll never know, just what their boats went through

to end a war they didn't start and wish they never knew.

Yes it's true, our fish stay dry, none pass the outer

Operation Holystone, also known as Pinnacle, Bollard and Barnacle, was launched that same year. Its focus was intelligence-gathering. Sub commanders sometimes took extraordinary risks to obtain information on Soviet naval developments.

USS HARDER in 1961 sailed into the channel at Severomorsk Soviet naval base on the Barents Sea. "It seemed like forever," recalled one crewman, "but the run was probably less than an hour."

In 1963, the USS SWORDFISH slipped into the middle of a Soviet anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise in the North Pacific. The Soviets depth-charged SWORDFISH for two days. But SWORDFISH was nuclear-powered and did not have to surface for air. SWORDFISH survived and the mission provided the U.S. with an intelligence bonanza as the Navy recorded the Soviet's radio chatter and plotted their radar search patterns.

For special operations conducted between 1963-65, SWORDFISH crewmen were awarded Navy unit commendations and the captain received the Legion of Merit.

### *On Station Near the USSR*

U.S. subs regularly took up station off Soviet ports to learn as much as possible about Soviet movements and capabilities. A favorite American tactic was to secretly shadow Soviet boats as they left port on a mission.

"Some [subs] have passed less than 50 feet below the hulls of Soviet vessels to take photos of their propellers and tape the sound of the blades churning," the Chicago Tribune reported.

In 1969, the USS LAPON tailed a Soviet sub in the North Atlantic for 40 days without being detected. LAPON's sonar operators became well acquainted with the daily sounds and habits on board the Soviet sub. They assigned nicknames to various Russian duty officers and could hear wrenches being dropped. Such close encounters occasionally became deadly. In June 1970, the attack submarine USS TAUTOG was shadowing a Soviet missile sub in the northern Pacific. The Russian commander became suspicious and made a looping turn to check for a trailing American.

"All of a sudden Ivan was coming screaming at us," recalls one TAUTOG crew member. The Soviet boat's propellers struck the American sub as she streaked over TAUTOG's sail. The 4,800-ton TAUTOG's hull withstood the blow, but the Russian sub wasn't so lucky. The collision probably ruptured the propeller shaft seals and seawater gushed into the hull. TAUTOG's sonar operators listened to the ghastly sounds as the Russian boat broke apart and sank.

Rumors persist that the USS SCORPION, lost near the Azores in May 1968, went down after colliding with a Soviet sub that may have been tailing the U.S. boat. In 1986, USS AUGUSTA, an attack sub, ran into a Soviet nuclear sub in the North Atlantic while testing a new sonar system. In 1992, the USS BATON ROUGE, collided off northern Russia's Kola Inlet with another Soviet nuclear sub.

"We knew the Soviets were out there, probably

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doors.

But wasn't that the final goal of The War to End All Wars?

So listen now, and listen well, we stand our watches well

and if the time should ever come, we too, will face our hell.

You did your job, you've earned our thanks, and the lessons that you taught are passed to each and every every nub that thinks that he's so hot.

His qual's will be as tough as when you first filled out your card.

No sleazy sigs will sully what was meant to be damned hard.

For when those dolphins are tacked on, you know he'll beam with pride.

And pass on those traditions of the men who fought and died.

We share the tales we've heard from you, sometimes we change the names.

But don't you ever start to think, we're out here playing games.

We might not have to close and shoot, a ship that's in our scope.

Our mission differs from what you had, and so, you'd better hope,

that in our life, your children's too, in fact, for long past that,

that we will never get flash traffic with a message that

cause birds, not fish, to swim away and bring their judgement down

on an enemy that we've not seen, nor pinged with sonar sound.

For if we ever fire those shots and bring the fury of the sun

to those who threaten you and yours, then our hell has just begun.

You came back heroes to your homes, maybe greeted with a band.

But we'll come back to nothing, no homes, no kids, no land.

For our war will be the one that really is the end.

It started with the fires of hell that we were told to send.

So go ahead and have your fun, we'll take on your best shot,

but then go home, and go to sleep, our job is finished not.

We'll just go on making more patrols, not much to do

sometimes right beside us as we patrolled the vast areas of the Pacific," says James Crenshaw who served on the SSBN JOHN MARSHALL from 1976-80.

*'Special Ops'*

By 1970, the U.S. developed submarines designed for complex espionage operations. USS HALIBUT, USS SEAWOLF and USS PARCHE were refitted to perform "special ops" missions in and around the Soviet Union.

The missions were so secret and sensitive, said one former crewmember, that crews of the subs were segregated from each other on base and curtains were placed around the vessels while in port.

To this day, sailors on those cruises are not allowed to speak about them. "I signed a paper that forbids me to talk about it for 80 years," said one sub vet.

Details of the PARCHE's operations are classified, but special operations have earned the sub five Presidential Unit Citations and three Navy Unit Citations.

But some aspects of the special ops missions are known.

One of the most successful of these missions, code-named Ivy Bells, was the tapping of a vital Soviet undersea communications cable. The mission was carried out by USS HALIBUT, which crept into the Sea of Okhotsk, the bay separating the Kamchatka Peninsula from the Soviet mainland. Divers descended to the sea floor 400 feet below the surface to install a recording pod.

HALIBUT and her sister special ops subs also carried robots that could explore the ocean floor. "We had capabilities similar to those used to find the TITANIC," one crewmember said.

USS SEAWOLF and USS PARCHE also participated in recovering and replacing the recording device.

According to one crewman, the subs would remain submerged on station for 30 days to record real time conversations, then leave the recording device behind for several months.

The missions were so sensitive that at least one sub, SEAWOLF, was reportedly fitted with demolition charges fore and aft. If caught the crew would be given the option to leave the vessel before it was scuttled. "But with the water temperature at 28 degrees you're not going to live very long, so you might as well stay with the ship and go down," one crewman said.

On one cruise, SEAWOLF released fouled air that bubbled to the surface. A Soviet cruiser streaked by the next day. "Everyone was sweating bullets, but we remained pretty well masked," the crewmember recalled.

Ivy Bells continued until 1981 when its cover was blown by a U.S. spy.

The Russians also attempted to tap a U.S. undersea communication cable, apparently unsuccessfully. In 1985, U.S. spy satellites detected a Soviet sub loitering in a shallow part of the Atlantic. The Navy dispatched the attack sub USS BALTIMORE to secretly observe.

The Russian sub launched a sled and divers who probed the seafloor 300 feet below. The waters were too murky for the Americans to determine the Soviets mission, but they were digging and drilling, presumably to locate an

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out here.

Four knots to nowhere, punching holes in an ocean, without fear.

John Eckard

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**Correction to the article in American Submariner magazine entitled, "The Two Million Dollar Bush".**

The subject article was written by Edward Monroe-Jones from information provided by Jerry Drumm and an officer in the control room of the Guardfish at the time of the boat's grounding. The article was checked for accuracy by both parties. It was subsequently submitted to American Submariner and appeared in the most recent issue.

Both Mike Bircumshaw, editor of the American Submariner, and I subsequently received several complaints about the accuracy of the article. I solicited each person making a complaint to set the record straight by emailing to me any information that might help in correcting the story. Mr. Richard Armstrong responded with the correction email that is attached to this email.

I am most appreciative of Mr. Armstrong's time and effort in writing an account of the grounding that stands as a contradiction to the original article in many respects. I have apologized to the crew members who have emailed me their views of the matter and I take this opportunity to express my regret in having offended any of the officers and men of the Guardfish.

Your story about Guardfish going aground is pure fiction.

Guardfish was launched in May of 1965. True. As a historian, you would know that there is quite a bit of construction still to be done and many sea trials before the submarine is even commissioned.

On a snowy day in December 1966, the hull at Camden officially became USS Guardfish (SSN-612). It is the last ship completed by New York Shipbuilding Corporation (NYS).

USS Pogy is on the ways and NYS goes bankrupt in a political payback because of the contributions to the Nixon campaign of 1960. NYS never got another contract from the Navy. USS Pogy is later towed to Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula and is not completed until 1970.

Guardfish performs several weeks of trials, training runs, and stops in Puerto Rico on the way to various ports on the west coast before arriving in Pearl Harbor, her new home port. By now, several months have passed bringing up the time line to roughly August 1967. I come on board in September 1967.

undersea cable. The mission was believed to have ended in failure and tragedy when the sled and divers failed to return to the Soviet boat.

The most publicized U.S. intelligence-gathering action -- secret for many years -- was the raising of a Soviet missile firing sub that sank in the mid-Pacific on March 8, 1968. SOSUS picked up the sounds of the sub exploding and later USS HALIBUT, specially fitted with thrusters to enable it to sit motionless, located the wreckage using special cameras.

Roger C. Dunham, a second class petty officer aboard the HALIBUT during the operation, wrote a fictionalized account in his book, *Spy Sub*. Cmdr.

Clarence E. Moore, who skippered it, received the Distinguished Service Medal for his work.

The deep sea salvage ship GLOMAR EXPLORER recovered all or part of the sub for evaluation by the Navy. It says the sub broke apart and only portions of its hull were raised. Some observers claim the entire vessel was retrieved. "Rumor is the Navy got what it wanted," said one former submariner.

*'Still on Patrol'*

The U.S. lost three subs during the Cold War. A fourth, USS STICKLEBACK, sank after being rammed by destroyer SILVERSTEIN May 30, 1958, southeast of Pearl Harbor. All 82 crewmembers survived.

The first Cold War-era loss was the diesel boat USS COCHINO, which sank in the Greenland Sea off Norway in August 1949 following a battery explosion. COCHINO had been on a reconnaissance patrol. The Soviet publication Red Fleet subsequently claimed it sank "not far from Murmansk."

One crewman was lost on COCHINO and six others from the sub USS TUSK were swept overboard in the frigid waters while attempting to save COCHINO in an "epic of incomparable heroism."

USS THRESHER went down 220 miles east of Boston in 8,400 feet of water with 112 crewmembers and 17 civilian workers aboard in April 1963. During search operations, Soviet "trawlers" passed through the area electronically sniffing for information.

While THRESHER's loss was devastating to the Navy, her sinking led to a thorough investigation uncovering numerous flaws in the sub construction program.

Reforms may have saved other U.S. undersea vessels and their crews.

SCORPION, with 99 men aboard, was lost 460 miles southwest of the Azores in 10,000 feet of water five years later. She had been assigned to Submarine Squadron 6, Division 62, with the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea.

At least 16 other U.S. crewmembers aboard submarines were lost to accidents during Cold War operations. No comprehensive figures, however, are available dating back to the end of WWII.

Some six Soviet subs are believed to have been lost. These include S-117, Dec. 15, 1952; K-129, March 8, 1968; K-8, April 12, 1974; and KOMSOMOLET (42 died), April 7, 1989. An unidentified nuclear sub is believed to have been scuttled in April 1970, and a

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In your story, Guardfish goes into over two years of conversion at Mare Island, bringing up the time-line to the fall of 1969. Do you see a disparity here? Pure bullshit. Why put something so flagrantly stupid in your story?. "Three days later Guardfish departed for an extensive training cruise. " Bullshit. Nobody would take a ship right out of a shipyard, and go on "an extensive training cruise" which truthfully was a "Northern run". There was no conversion. It was simply fabricated. In fact, after a few weekly ops, we were outfitted with some special electronic equipment, and in mid October, we went on a "Spec Op."

During the run, we did some events that were of great importance to the defense of the Government of the United States, and we were all fairly confident that we were all due for a NUC, a PUC, and a LOM. That was about to be taken away through a series of small and insignificant events that added up to a disaster, the grounding, and the loss of our medals and recognition.

On our run home, nothing happened. The story about "the bridge hatch sprung a leak." is pure fiction.

Bullshit again. There was no leak. The fact is that we had not opened that hatch in over two months, and it was simply stuck shut. Upon our surfacing outside of Pearl Harbor, we found out just how stuck that hatch was. Tom Ponder FTG1(SS) was the burliest guy in ops, so he was sent up the trunk to open the hatch bending a big steel bar in the process. This took quite a bit of time, and as the tide was coming in, we drifted (at all stop or slow) toward the beach which did not show up on the MK-II plotter because it was getting it's speed from the EM log forward movement through the water.

Finally, this is the configuration:

R.P. Richards, Torpedoman was on the Rudder; Chief Barnes QMC(SS) was the Diving Officer; Lt. Lowe was the Navigator; Gerry Morse was the IC-man on watch, Sam Higa was the ET on watch, and I was with him in SINS/IC Switchboard alley. The XO was James Ransom II, and he was in the wardroom. QM1(SS) Carl Blanton was the quartermaster on duty. The officer going to the bridge was Lt. "Wild Bill" McGonegal. Dennis LaHines was one of the lookouts on the starboard plane.

At some point, Wild Bill has to go take a wizz, and asks for a relief. In your story, you say the XO identifies one of the channel markers with the periscope. Bullshit. He was in the wardroom. You also say that some Security Lt was in the control room... bullshit. That's the last guy we wanted in the control room. His job was with people who weren't there, anyway.

We got the relief for Wild Bill, and that was the

Charlie class boat sank off Kamchatka in September 1983.

More Soviet subs may have been lost, unknown to U.S. intelligence or kept secret by both the Soviets and Americans. No one knows the number of Soviet submariners who lost their lives, but the presumed number is greater than U.S. losses.

*Overdue Recognition*

Only now are deserving submariners receiving medals for their service.

Wylie Miller served on classified missions between 1958 and 1962. "People on subs can't talk about where they've been - half of us didn't even know where we were anyway," he said after receiving an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal 30 years after the fact.

"Now that information is available [through recent declassification], the Navy's catching up with us. Many present and former submariners stand to benefit by receiving awards for previously classified military operations."

Along with their prized Dolphin submariner insignia, since 1969 they also have earned SSBN Deterrent Patrol pins. These patrols lasted 90-105 days, with 60-70 days continually submerged.

The Navy Expeditionary Medal is also awarded to sailors who "operated under circumstances which after full consideration shall be deemed to merit special recognition." This is the classic definition of sub intelligence-gathering operations.

Individual decorations are even more guarded. Some received a "black" award: a medal that appears in the recipient's service file folder but which he is unable to wear on his uniform.

Sub missions have always been fraught with danger. In fact, President Theodore Roosevelt, after going down in the PLUNGER in Long Island Sound in 1905, ordered that enlisted men detailed to submarines be granted an extra \$10 a month in hazardous duty pay.

"Life aboard Cold War-era subs was austere," remembers Senior Chief Sonarman Bob von Allmen, who served on the USS GROWLER, 1950-62. "Crews of 100 were crammed into small spaces for extended periods. Patrol lengths normally ran around 82 or 87 days.

"The HALIBUT was nuclear-powered and it carried five missiles, but the other missile boats were diesel-electric with all the accompanying hardships. Diesel boat sailors were required to take sponge baths from a bucket." VonAllmen justifiably remains proud of his special service.

Richard Smith, a sub vet of many Arctic patrols between 1952 and 1961, related what WWII Medal of Honor recipient Adm. Gene Fluckey wrote to him. He congratulated Smith for being a veteran of "the most important war since men first stood on hind legs -- the Cold War."

*"In this game of cat-and-mouse, the often narrow margin of victory goes to the proficient and the careful. A mistake -- the clang of a dropped wrench, the swish of*



skipper, "Bud" Hines. Carl Blanton (QM) took a round of bearings from #2 scope which resulted in an unusually larger-than normal triangle on the plotter, so he said, "I would recommend changing course to (and gave the angle)." The periscope had an error which instead of getting a good fix point, it resulted in a triangle. This information was not relayed to the bridge. Dendo LaHines is looking for the buoy marker to starboard, because that's where they thought it should be...little did they know it drifted past the port side, unnoticed. In your story, you said there was a squall that was so bad it made the radar ineffective. Bullshit again. First of all, we didn't have the radar lit off, and second, it was a clear night. You again said, "The rain settled to a drizzle. " Bullshit once again! It was a clear night. We were going along at about 12 knots. We were late, and we wanted to get home. We were out of food, cigarettes, and we hadn't seen anything fresh in over two months. The Navigator, Lt. Lowe says, "I think we should take another round." It was only seconds later that we hit the reef. Lowe put his head in his hands, knowing that was the end of his Naval career... Chief Barnes jumped up from the diving stand and quickly rolled up the chart in use, and got another chart for the plotter. Capt Hines said, "Back FULL" and a few seconds went by then he ordered "Back EMERGENCY" which we did for several minutes. The radioman on duty was Terry Mikkelsen, and he quickly relayed the information to the radioman on duty at Pearl, "We are aground, we are aground". Shortly after that, he was given the order to send the message, which was already sent. Just about the time we started grinding the coral, Herb Edmonds EM1(SS) was at the throttles, and shut the forward throttle with lightning speed, and opened up the reverse wheel at the same time, setting off alarm bells in maneuvering. Leo Wright LCDR was the Ship's Engineer, and on watch, managed to pull 115% power from the reactor for a good 15 minutes by manipulating the controls. Finally we went all stop, ballasted the ship, and waited for the tugs the next day, and that effort did not work. We broke off the lower half of the rudder because RP kept playing with the thing, and it kept shifting in and out of emergency control, and snapped it off. We were hard aground; the people who weren't there go off in a helicopter. We got some fresh fruit, milk, and cigarettes at the request of Jay Ramsom II (XO) and we later got a bill for those items. On the 26th, we got more horsepower, and a huge chain wrapped through the aft escape hatches, and they pulled us off Ahua Reef at high tide. If I remember correctly, Ahua reef is only one of the

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*cavitation made by the propeller's accelerating too fast, the pop of a light bulb can trigger an enemy torpedo. On these battlefields, warriors whisper."*  
Vice Adm. R.Y. Kaufman, U.S.N. (Ret.)

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## **Veteran Web Links Update 02**

### Appeals

[http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21\\_1/mr/part1/ch05.doc](http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch05.doc)

### Board of Veteran's Appeals

<http://www.va.gov/vbs/bva/>

CARES Commission [www.va.gov/vbs/bva/](http://www.va.gov/vbs/bva/)

### CARES Draft National Plan

<http://www.va.gov/caresdecision/page.cfm?pg=105>

### Center for Minority Veterans

<http://www.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/>

### Center for Women Veterans

<http://www.va.gov/womenvet/>

### Center for Veterans Enterprise

[www.vetbiz.gov/default2.htm](http://www.vetbiz.gov/default2.htm)

### Clarification on the changes in VA healthcare for Gulf War Veterans

[www.gulfwarvets.com/ubb/Forum1/HTML/000016.html](http://www.gulfwarvets.com/ubb/Forum1/HTML/000016.html)

### Classified Records - American Gulf War Veterans Assn

[www.gulfwarvets.com/ubb/Forum18/HTML/000011.html](http://www.gulfwarvets.com/ubb/Forum18/HTML/000011.html)

### Compensation Rate Tables, 12-1-03

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates/comp01.htm>

### Department of Veterans Affairs Home Page

[www.va.gov/](http://www.va.gov/)

### Directory of Veterans Service Organizations

<http://www.va.gov/vso/>

### Disability Examination Worksheets Index, Comp

[www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/exams/index.htm](http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/exams/index.htm)

### Electronic Code of Federal Regulations

[www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr/](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr/)

### Environmental Agents

<http://www.va.gov/environagents/>

### Environmental Agents M10

[http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1002](http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1002)

### Establishing Combat Veteran Eligibility

[http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=315](http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=315)

### Evaluation Protocol for Gulf War & Iraqi Freedom Veterans with Potential Exposure to Depleted

Uranium (DU)

<http://www.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/DUHandbook1303122304.DOC>

### Evaluation Protocol For Non-Gulf War Veterans With Potential Exposure To Depleted Uranium (Du)

<http://www.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/DUHANDBOOK>

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reefs south of Oahu, and I don't think it surrounds the channel on both sides.

Now, with a little effort, I could quickly get in touch with EVERYBODY, including the people who secured the chain, etc., but I figured that my account was so comprehensive, that would temporarily suffice... unless you want a minute-by-minute countdown... such as the cook's names... which were Paul Gardner, and "Squirrel" Madigan.

Now, admittedly, it's been over forty years, and this is only my recollection. You see, I have lived the life of Guardfish almost every day since 1996, and I talk to EVERYbody on our mailing list, especially the guys I sailed with. I have located virtually everybody from the commissioning crew, everybody I served with, and a few hundred other Guardfish crew. Once your story hit the presses, it was only a matter of a day or so before many of us were trading our versions of what happened because WE WERE THERE, and besides, you just don't forget things like this.

SO... I figured that if your story had all that wrong with it, then the rest of it is bullshit as well.

Quite frankly, after reading your fairy-tale about the grounding, I wouldn't believe you if you wrote that there was darkness after daylight.

Richard "Twig" Armstrong  
Reunion Coordinator  
USS Guardfish (SSN-612)  
twiggy@guardfish.org  
<http://guardfish.org>

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## VA Benefits

Too many veterans are unaware of the benefits and services that are available to them. Many of those veterans have health issues and need medical care. Others may be eligible for benefits, but they don't know how to go about getting them. The sad fact is, there are millions of veterans who have little, or no, medical insurance and are paying for care that our Department of Veterans Affairs should be offering them for little or no cost. There are veterans in America today that are suffering from illnesses directly related to their service who are not aware there is help out there. Needless to say, this is a national disgrace. The VA has established a listing of "presumptive illnesses or disabilities" that provide a direct link to where and when a veteran served. The problem is getting that word out. For example, the majority of "in-country" Vietnam veterans who have survived prostate cancer, or have died, had no clue that it was related to their service. The reasons that information like this doesn't get to veterans are as varied as the cancers and other ailments that are now

[NONGW130340304.DOC](#)

Fee Basis, Priority For Outpatient Medical Services & Inpatient Hospital Care

[www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=206](http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=206)

Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents 2005  
[www.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf](http://www.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf)

Forms and Records Request [www.va.gov/vaforms/GeriatricsandExtendedCare](http://www.va.gov/vaforms/GeriatricsandExtendedCare)  
[www.va.gov/geriatricsshg/](http://www.va.gov/geriatricsshg/)

Guideline for Chronic Pain and Fatigue MUS-CPG  
[www.oqp.med.va.gov/cpg/cpgn/mus/mus\\_base.htm](http://www.oqp.med.va.gov/cpg/cpgn/mus/mus_base.htm)

Guide to Gulf War Veterans' Health  
[www.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/VHIGulfwar.pdf](http://www.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/VHIGulfwar.pdf)

Gulf War Registry  
[www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1003](http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1003)

Gulf War Registry Referral Centers  
[www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1006](http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1006)

Gulf War Subject Index  
[www.va.gov/GulfWar/page.cfm?pg=7&template=main&letter=A](http://www.va.gov/GulfWar/page.cfm?pg=7&template=main&letter=A)

Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Q&As  
[www.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/GWIllnessesQandAsIB1041.pdf](http://www.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/GWIllnessesQandAsIB1041.pdf)

Homeless Veterans [www.va.gov/homeless/](http://www.va.gov/homeless/)  
HSR&D Home [www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/](http://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/)

Ionizing Radiation [www.va.gov/irad/](http://www.va.gov/irad/)  
Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom Veterans VBA  
[www.vba.va.gov/EFIF/](http://www.vba.va.gov/EFIF/)

M10 for spouses and children  
[www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1007](http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1007)

M10 Part III Change 1  
[www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1008](http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1008)

M21-1 Table of Contents  
[www.warms.vba.va.gov/M21\\_1.html](http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/M21_1.html)

Mental Health Program Guidelines  
[www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1094](http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1094)

Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Centers [www.mirecc.med.va.gov/](http://www.mirecc.med.va.gov/)  
MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Centers of Excellence  
[www.va.gov/ms/about.asp](http://www.va.gov/ms/about.asp)

My Health e Vet [www.myhealth.va.gov/](http://www.myhealth.va.gov/)  
NASDVA.COM Ë National Association of State Directors [www.nasdva.com/](http://www.nasdva.com/)

National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention  
[www.nchpdp.med.va.gov/postdeploymentlinks.asp](http://www.nchpdp.med.va.gov/postdeploymentlinks.asp)

OMI (Office of Medical Inspector)  
[www.omi.cio.med.va.gov/](http://www.omi.cio.med.va.gov/)

Online VA Form 10-10EZ

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recognized by the VA. The bottom line is, the VA is doing a crappy job of informing veterans of their rights, even though they are required to do so by law! Veterans dating back to World War II have been identified as being higher risk groups for all forms of leukemia (with the exception of chronic lymphocytic leukemia). Cancers of the thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, bile ducts, gall bladder, salivary gland, urinary tract, brain, bone, lung, colon and ovaries are recognized as service-connected. Bronchiolo-alveola carcinoma, multiple myelomas, lymphomas, and primary liver cancer (with the exception of cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated) are also on the list. Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations during the Gulf War have been showing signs of medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses defined by a cluster of signs or symptoms that have existed for six months or more. The signs are chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, irritable bowel syndrome, and any undiagnosed illness that the secretary of Veterans Affairs determines warrants a presumptive of service connection. All of the mentioned have at least a 10% rating. How many veterans are aware that within one year of their release from active duty, those chronic diseases (such as arthritis, diabetes, or hypertension) can be linked to their time in the military? How many veterans know that if they spent 90 days or more active duty, and were diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS -- Lou Gehrig's disease), they may have it because of time they spent in the military?

When I hear the old refrain from the VA that they do not have the resources to inform our veterans of these options for treatment and help, my blood boils. There is absolutely no reason that the VA can't work more closely with the traditional media such as television, radio, and newspapers to get this important information out to the vast veteran population in our country. In this new age, all avenues should be explored to get the word out. The VA should work the Web to provide easy-access blogs that give medical updates, and a more friendly service approach than the traditional VA Web site which is like navigating through a maze. I support the good things the VA does, such as the recently implemented Veterans Suicide Hotline. For the record, that hotline was in response to the orders of the federal court to inform veterans of their options and to help them regardless of where they were in the country. Without information, veterans have no hope when they become ill and wonder where to turn. Getting information to them is a matter of life and death. Especially, if a veteran dies and his/her family are left paying crushing private medical bills that should

<https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>  
VA Annual Report To Congress, Persian Gulf Veterans' Illnesses Research 1999  
[www.va.gov/resdev/1999\\_Gulf\\_War\\_Veterans'\\_Illnesses\\_Appendices.doc](http://www.va.gov/resdev/1999_Gulf_War_Veterans'_Illnesses_Appendices.doc)  
VA Annual Report To Congress, Persian Gulf Veterans' Illnesses Research 2002  
[www.va.gov/resdev/prt/gulf\\_war\\_2002/GulfWarRpt02.pdf](http://www.va.gov/resdev/prt/gulf_war_2002/GulfWarRpt02.pdf)  
Phase I PGR  
[http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1004](http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1004)  
Phase II PGR  
[www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1005](http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1005)  
Policy Manual Index  
[www.va.gov/publ/direc/eds/edsmps.htm](http://www.va.gov/publ/direc/eds/edsmps.htm)  
Project 112 (Including Project SHAD)  
[www.va.gov/shad/](http://www.va.gov/shad/)  
Prosthetics Eligibility  
[www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=337](http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=337)  
Public Health and Environmental Hazards Home Page  
<http://www.vethealth.cio.med.va.gov/>  
Public Health/SARS  
[www.publichealth.va.gov/SARS/](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/SARS/)  
Publications: Manuals  
[www.va.gov/vhapublications/publications.cfm?Pub=4](http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/publications.cfm?Pub=4)  
Publications and Reports  
[www.va.gov/resdev/prt/pubs\\_individual.cfm?webpage=gulf\\_war.htm](http://www.va.gov/resdev/prt/pubs_individual.cfm?webpage=gulf_war.htm)  
Records Center and Vault Homepage  
[www.aac.va.gov/vault/default.html](http://www.aac.va.gov/vault/default.html)  
Records Center and Vault Site Map  
[www.aac.va.gov/vault/sitemap.html](http://www.aac.va.gov/vault/sitemap.html)  
Request For And Consent To Release Of Information From Claimant's Records  
[www.forms.va.gov/va/Internet/VARF/getformharness.asp?formName=3288-form.xft](http://www.forms.va.gov/va/Internet/VARF/getformharness.asp?formName=3288-form.xft)  
Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses April 11, 2002  
[www.va.gov/rac-gwvi/docs/Minutes\\_April112002.doc](http://www.va.gov/rac-gwvi/docs/Minutes_April112002.doc)  
Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses  
[www.va.gov/rac-gwvi/docs/ReportandRecommendations\\_2004.pdf](http://www.va.gov/rac-gwvi/docs/ReportandRecommendations_2004.pdf)  
The Service Officers Corner  
[www.geocities.com/veteransadvocate](http://www.geocities.com/veteransadvocate)  
Title 38 4.16 Total disability ratings for compensation based on unemployability of the individual. PART 4: schedule FOR RATING DISABILITIES Subpart A: General Policy in Rating  
<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/textidx?c=ecfr&sid=1b7e1c80768900fe79b3126a180a3da6&rgn=div8&view=text&node=38:1.0.1.1.5.1.9>

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have been handled by the VA.

Despite talk of caring for veterans, the VA is not walking the walk when it comes to informing them of their rights and medical benefits. VA clinics nationally need to step up and have handouts available (where they can be easily seen) for veterans whose lives may depend upon the knowledge in them. By not making more of an effort than it is to get this valuable information out to all veterans, the VA is failing in its mission to us. Men and women who have served their country honorably are now being dishonored by this lack of attention to something so vital. The theme of the 75th anniversary of the VA was to outreach to every living veteran to inform them of what services were available to them. Veterans are still waiting for that grand claim to come true. Let's not make them wait another 75 years before action is actually taken. For further information, contact the Humboldt County Veterans Service office at 445-7341, the VA at 1-800-827-1000 or the VA's Web page, [www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets/serviceconnected/Presumpreg\\_0307.doc](http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets/serviceconnected/Presumpreg_0307.doc)

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### **HELOC Fraud**

Have you checked your home equity line of credit lately? If not, you probably should. Even if you've never used a home equity line of credit (HELOC), it's a good idea to check your three credit reports (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) to make sure identity thieves haven't opened one in your name. According to the FBI, canny con artists are increasingly draining the equity of unsuspecting homeowners by tapping into their home equity lines of credit. The more equity you have in your home, and the less vigilant you are about monitoring your finances, the greater the risk that thieves could drain the equity from your home -- or worse, sell it out from under you. In its annual mortgage fraud report, the FBI identified HELOC fraud as an "emerging scheme" that adds further insult to an already injured real estate and mortgage market. The report calls the current housing bust the "ideal climate" for HELOC fraud and other fast-buck mortgage schemes associated with builder bailouts, seller-assisted financing, short sales and foreclosure rescue. Identity thieves have traditionally targeted those with poor credit. In the past, by posing as homeowners, they could easily obtain subprime loans with little documentation. But now that the door to subprime lending has slammed shut, thieves have set their sights on those with good credit and substantial equity in their homes -- deep pools of cash that can be easily tapped via a HELOC.

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### 8.11&idno=38

Title 38 Index Parts 0-17

[http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?sid=5601440f9a028e2b353f1be27d4535d2&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfrv1\\_02.tpl](http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?sid=5601440f9a028e2b353f1be27d4535d2&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfrv1_02.tpl)

Title 38 Part 18

[http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?sid=e7f228f056f66128a3cf40196efa0323&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfrv2\\_02.tpl](http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?sid=e7f228f056f66128a3cf40196efa0323&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfrv2_02.tpl)

Title 38 Part 3: Adjudication Subpart A Pension, Compensation, and DIC Compensation

<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/textidx?c=ecfr;sid=0a5cc4e74c654c10874b651cc99ff1b4;rgn=div5;view=text;node=38%3A1.0.1.1.4;idno=38;cc=ecfr>

Title 38 Pensions, Bonuses & Veterans' Relief (also 3.317 Compensation for certain disabilities due to undiagnosed illnesses found here)

<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?type=simple;c=ecfr;cc=ecfr;sid=89bb312d6d613680e34d4df4625d7f3b;region=DIV1;q1=gulf%20war;rgn=div8;view=text;idno=38;node=38%3A1>

U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims  
[www.vetapp.gov/](http://www.vetapp.gov/)

VA Annual Report To Congress, Persian Gulf Veterans' Illnesses Research 1999

[www.va.gov/resdev/1999\\_Gulf\\_War\\_Veterans'\\_Illnesses\\_Appendices.doc](http://www.va.gov/resdev/1999_Gulf_War_Veterans'_Illnesses_Appendices.doc)

VA Annual Report To Congress, Persian Gulf Veterans' Illnesses Research 2002

[www.va.gov/resdev/prt/gulf\\_war\\_2002/GulfWarRpt02.pdf](http://www.va.gov/resdev/prt/gulf_war_2002/GulfWarRpt02.pdf)

VA Fact Sheet [www.va.gov/opa/fact/gwfs.html](http://www.va.gov/opa/fact/gwfs.html)

VA Health Care Eligibility

[www.va.gov/healtheligibility/home/hecmain.asp](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/home/hecmain.asp)

Veterans Legal and Benefits Information

<http://valaw.org/>

VA Life Insurance Handbook: Chap 3

[www.insurance.va.gov/inForceGliSite/GLIhandbook/glibookletch3.htm#310](http://www.insurance.va.gov/inForceGliSite/GLIhandbook/glibookletch3.htm#310)

VA Loan Lending Limits and Jumbo Loans

[http://valoans.com/va\\_facts\\_limits.cfm](http://valoans.com/va_facts_limits.cfm)

VA MS Research [www.va.gov/ms/about.asp](http://www.va.gov/ms/about.asp)

VA National Hepatitis C Program

[www.hepatitis.va.gov/](http://www.hepatitis.va.gov/)

VA Office of Research and Development

[www.va.gov/resdev/](http://www.va.gov/resdev/)

VA WMD EMSHG [www.va.gov/emshg/](http://www.va.gov/emshg/)

VA WRIISC-DC [www.va.gov/WRIISC-DC/](http://www.va.gov/WRIISC-DC/)

VAOIG Hotline Telephone Number and Address

[www.va.gov/oig/hotline/hotline3.htm](http://www.va.gov/oig/hotline/hotline3.htm)

Vet Center Eligibility - Readjustment Counseling

Service [www.va.gov/rcs/Eligibility.htm](http://www.va.gov/rcs/Eligibility.htm)

Veterans Benefits Administration Main Web Page

[www.vba.va.gov/](http://www.vba.va.gov/)

VHA Forms, Publications, Manuals

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The FBI says HELOC thieves typically use stolen identification to apply online for a line of credit in your name. Then they instruct the bank to wire the funds to their accounts, providing their own contact information in place of yours. That way, the bank unwittingly contacts the thief to verify the electronic funds transfer. Although the FBI does not track the dollar amount lost each year to mortgage fraud, incidents reported by financial institutions jumped a whopping 31% (from 35,617 to 46,717) in fiscal 2007, over the previous year. Jay Foley, executive director of the San Diego-based Identity Theft Resource Center, echoes the FBI's findings that some HELOC fraud, especially schemes aimed at selling the home without the homeowner's knowledge or consent, originates from within the mortgage industry itself. "It depends on the depth of the scam," he says. "In the recent mortgage bust by the FBI, these are all people who actually work in the industry; this is what I could classify as an inside job. An outsider would have to find a less-than-scrupulous Realtor, a less-than-scrupulous mortgage broker, and probably have to come up with somebody to do the inspections and all the other things."

Now that anti-fraud software has shored up credit card accounts, HELOCs have become the next tempting target for theft. Thieves gain access to your home equity pool either through an existing HELOC or by opening one in your name at the bank of their choice. Ironically, you may have more trouble opening a HELOC than identity thieves, who can manipulate the loan documents to suit their purposes. Once accessed, a line of credit can be tapped as easily and directly as a debit card account. And don't expect the thief to stay under the limit on your account. "The HELOC thief won't stop at your line of credit; they'll go into overdraft big time, and each one of those overdrafts is going to bean you for a few dozen dollars and launch your interest rate sky-high," Foley says. Foley says seniors may be particularly at risk of HELOC fraud for four reasons:

- 1) They often own their home outright (translation: 100 percent equity).
- 2) They may not be as vigilant of their finances.
- 3) They may not be living in their home.
- 4) They may be more trusting and forthcoming with personal information when approached by a friendly official-sounding caller.

"If your place is worth \$300,000, I'm sure I could tempt a bank into loaning me \$100,000 against it without any problem," Foley says. In extreme cases, con artists could even sell your home out from under you. Here's how: One poses as the buyer, obtains a mortgage to purchase your home from a partner posing as you, the seller. Upon closing, they split the

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[www.va.gov/vhi\\_ind\\_study/gulfwar/istudy/index.asp](http://www.va.gov/vhi_ind_study/gulfwar/istudy/index.asp)

Vocational Rehabilitation [www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/VONAPP](http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/VONAPP) online

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War-Related Illness and Injury Study Center - New Jersey [www.wri.med.va.gov/](http://www.wri.med.va.gov/)

Welcome to the GI Bill Web Site

[www.gibill.va.gov/](http://www.gibill.va.gov/)

What VA Social Workers Do

[www.va.gov/socialwork/page.cfm?pg=3](http://www.va.gov/socialwork/page.cfm?pg=3)

WRIISC Patient Eligibility

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### Admiral Osborne Scholarship Fund

How about helping out the scholarship fund? We are offering a Charleston Base Challenge Coin for sale. ALL proceeds go into the scholarship fund. Coins only cost \$7 each. Available for an additional \$1 is a protective plastic capsule. To get your coin(s) see Jim Yates, Julian Villegas or Carl Chinn.

Make sure you have one for "when you get challenged"!

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mortgage money and disappear. Victims of HELOC theft and mortgage-jacking typically are reimbursed by the lender when fraud is proven. However, the process can be lengthy, and often the identity theft doesn't stop there. While you can arrange for credit monitoring from the three credit bureaus and various vendors, it's often too little, too late, Foley says.

"Between the time that line of credit is opened and you get the notice that it's open, it is entirely possible that that entire line of credit would be spent," he says. For additional assurance freeze your credit with each of the three credit reporting bureaus. This prevents them from releasing your credit report for anything (credit cards, auto loans, HELOCs, etc.) until you "thaw" your credit, thereby stopping mortgage fraud at its source. It's a somewhat lengthy process but can be well worth it if you have no plans to obtain credit in the near future.

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### **Cancer Vitamin Study**

Vitamin C or E pills do not help prevent cancer in men, concludes the same big study that last week found these supplements ineffective for warding off heart disease. The public has been whipsawed by good and bad news about vitamins, much of it from test-tube or animal studies and hyped manufacturer claims. Even when researchers compare people's diets and find that a vitamin seems to help, the benefit may not translate when that nutrient is obtained a different way, such as a pill.

"Antioxidants, which include vitamin C and vitamin E, have been shown as a group to have potential benefit," but have not been tested individually for a long enough time to know, said Howard Sesso of Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. The Physicians Health Study, which he helped lead, was designed to do that. It involved 14,641 male doctors, 50 or older, including 1,274 who had cancer when or before the study started in 1997. They were included so scientists could see whether the vitamins could prevent a second cancer. Participants were put into four groups and given vitamin E, vitamin C, both, or dummy pills. The dose of E was 400 international units every other day; C was 500 milligrams daily. After an average of eight years, there were 1,929 cases of cancer, including 1,013 cases of prostate cancer, which many had hoped vitamin E would prevent. However, rates of prostate cancer and of total cancer were similar among all four groups.

The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health and several vitamin makers. Results were being reported 16 NOV at an American Association for Cancer Research conference in Washington.

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"Well-conducted clinical trials such as this are rapidly closing the door on the hope that common vitamin supplements may protect against cancer," said Marji McCullough, nutrition chief at the American Cancer Society. "It's still possible that some benefit exists for subgroups that couldn't be measured, but the overall results are certainly discouraging. "The American Cancer Society recommends getting these and other nutrients by eating a mostly plant-based diet with a variety of vegetables, fruits and whole grains. A bonus is that this type of diet helps to prevent obesity, which increases the risk of several cancers." About 12% of Americans take supplements of C and E. The new study does not mean these vitamins have no value, just that they didn't prevent cancer in this group of doctors, who may be healthier than the general population, said Dr. Peter Shields, deputy director of Georgetown University's Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. The best bet, he said, is to do things that are known to prevent the disease \_ eat right, maintain a healthy weight, and exercise.

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