From: "Newsletter Editor, Charleston Base" <newsletter@ussvicb.org>
To: <newsletter@ussvicb.org>
Subject: Charleston Base March Newsletter

Vol. 5, No. 3
March 2009

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

USSVI Creed

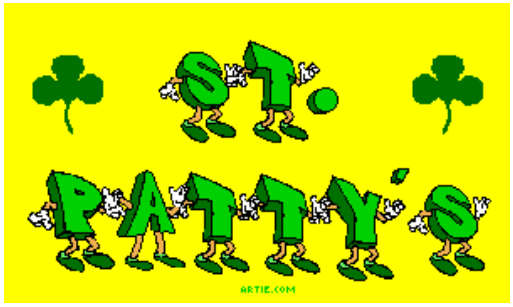
"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America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

Base web page: http://www.ussvicb.org/
National web page: www.ussvi.org

Base Meeting:
March 12, 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

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

Special Officers		Phone Number
Chief of the Boat	Marty Sessler	843-871-1536
Public Affairs	Richard Cleeve	843-899-4563
Sub Vets WWII	Lee Allison	843-832-8787
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



Minutes of the February 2009 meeting

Attendance for the February meeting was 121

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

Introductions: New people were introduced;

Vice Commander Report: No report

Sub Vets WWII: Next meeting in February at Ryan's. We want and need your help.

Scholarship: The committee will meet soon to select this year's winners.

Public Affairs: No report

David Clark, J.D. Pickett, Stephen Foster, Bob Lewin, John Moody, John Glave Jr, Joshual Swain, Bob Langley, Pete Daycast ICC(SS), Dave Stark. Welcome aboard.

Secretary: Secretary Rick Collins 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 and reported the year end financial report was sent to National.

Storekeeper: We now have Gold and Silver Dolphin ties for $25. We also have hats.

Chaplain: On January 17th, we conducted a bell tolling memorial service for Sy Mabie. USSSVI Charleston Base and SubVets WWII had a very good crew mustered to give Sy a Sailor's farewell. A flag folding ceremony was also held at graveside and the flag presented to Sy's son, David. The flag folding was done extremely well and with great dignity.
We have received a card from Bob Chinn's mother which reads "Sub Vets, I would like to thank you each and everyone for such a nice service for my Bob Chinn. It was really nice. Again, thank you. His mother, Virgie R. Chinn.

On February 8th our shipmate Glen 'Curly' Houck departed on Eternal Patrol. He will be buried at Beaufort National Cemetery. On Sunday, March 1st, there will be a Memorial Service at the VFW Post in Ladson. More information will follow by email when known.
Cards were sent as follows:
Connie Mabie and family of Sy Mabie who departed on Eternal Patrol on January 13th.
Ben Heber on receiving the news that the doctors cannot find any sign of his cancer. Now he needs to regain his appetite and weight.
Bonnie Campbell and family of RADM Arlington Campbell who departed on Eternal Patrol on January 27th and was buried at the Navy Academy on February 6th.
Shirley Houck and family of EMC (SS) Glen 'Curly' Houck, who departed on Eternal Patrol on February 8th.
Frank Carroll who is home recovering from prostrate cancer and hernia surgeries. He is up and walking around and is doing well.
Ben Heber as he recovers from his time in the hospital and in rehab.
Frenchy Fuqua as he recovers from his quadruple bypass surgery in December. Frenchy is now undergoing rehab.
Ken Fuhr as he continues his recovery from the motorcycle accident. He is feeling back to normal except for his war scars.
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.
If you know of shipmates or spouses from other bases who are having a difficult time, had surgery, etc. and would like for USSVI Charleston Base to

Webmaster: No report

Veteran's Affairs: No report

District Commander: No report

Fleet Reserve: No report

Holland Club: No report

Membership: An Honorary membership was presented to Chaplin Keith E. Wooster for all he has done for Charleston Base.

Little David: No report

Newsletter: No report

Alcohol & Gaming: No report

Chief of the Boat: Oyster Roast Feb 28
Dedication for the Blue Star Highway memorial is 1100 Sat 28 Feb. Wear your vest if you have one.

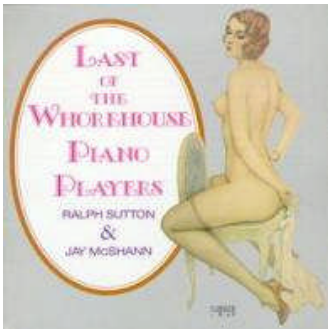
Base Commander: Base Election in May, Stand up and be counted!
The Commander turned floor over to General Hugh Tant, US Army (Ret.). The General gave a presentation about the money needed for upkeep and preservation of the ships at Patriots Point.

Nuclear Historian: No report

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good Of The Order: Depth Charge drawing $350 to winner. The winner was George Dale who donated $100 to the scholarship fund.
The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2015.



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

send them a card please send their name and address to the Chaplain via email or phone call.

Allegretto	Allen	Anderson	Baciocco
Dale	Hix	Johnson, D	Kopacka
Luther	McLuskey	O'Saben	Przyborowski
Riley	Rosselot	Sessler	Sites
Smith, M	Snyder, R J	Spear	Wieland

Happenings!

March 12 – General Meeting; social hour 1800, meeting starts 1900

March 21 – Amberjack Memorial Service starts at 1100, White Point Garden Charleston

Submarine life circa 1911

Harpers Weekly, May 6, 1911

"The first impressions on descending into the hold of a submarine are those of discomfort and suffocation. The accommodations for a crew of 30 seem about right for a half a dozen.

One is in too close proximity to whirling machinery, too, to enjoy the sensation. "When under way on the surface, the submarine hums and trembles. The fumes of gasoline are about suffocating. Some of the men contract what is called 'gasoline heart'. If underwater too long the fumes make one sick and dizzy.

A novice cannot remain in a submarine underwater for any great length of time without suffering excruciating torture - it is when the submarine dives that the most unpleasant symptoms come. There is a tingling sensation all over the body, a pounding of the eardrums, and possibly a sense of nausea.

"Sometimes when the engines are running to charge the batteries the fumes of the gasoline become so strong that some of the men are rendered unconscious. They must be taken up on deck then to get a whiff of fresh air. For this reason the batteries are only charged when above water. But in time of war it might be necessary to charge them while running below.

"When caught in a storm in a submarine, life is really not worth living. It consists of a series of intense struggles to prevent death by being battered against steel walls or to keep from

March Submarines Lost:

USS Perch	SS 176	March 3, 1942
USS Grampus	SS 207	March 5, 1943
USS Triton	SS 201	March 15, 1943
USS Tullibee	SS 284	March 26, 1944
USS Kete	SS 369	March 20, 1945
USS Trigger	SS 237	March 26, 1945
USS F-4	SS 21	March 25, 1915
USS H-1	SS 28	March 12, 1920

Run silent, run deep
For freedom we fought to keep
How we spent so many days
Beneath the shimmering waves
A terrible foe we fought
And gave our lives; and freedom bought
Now our souls forever lie
Restlessly beneath the waves
So silent now, so deep
For it is not enough for you to weep
For we shall not have died in vain
Lest you forget for what we gave
We gave our lives, freedom to save
For if you forget our deeds
Then we shall never sleep
Though we lie so silent, so deep

Al Alessandra, 2005

San Diego Board Approves 52 Boats Memorial

This artist's rendition aerial view of the 52 Boats Memorial shows the layout of the memorial, including the 52 American Liberty Elm trees.

On Thursday, January 15, 2009 the Board of Directors of the San Diego Park & Recreation Dept. met and gave final approval to the 52 Boats Memorial at Liberty Station (formerly Naval Training Center San Diego). This was the culmination of a 13-year effort on the part of the San Diego Chapter, U.S. Submarine Veterans of WW II to create the memorial.

On Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009, 52 American Liberty Elm trees, now 25 feet tall and valued at over $60,000 were delivered to the park site. These

becoming involved in whirring wheels and dynamos. If you survive the ordeal, you conclude that it is not necessary to wait for war to find hell. It is with you all the time.
Well, it has improved a LITTLE in the last 98 years.

VA-111 Shkval underwater rocket
In 1995 it was revealed that Russia had developed an exceptionally high-speed unguided underwater missile which has no equivalent in the West. Code-named the Shkval (Squall), this new weapon travels at a velocity that would give a targeted vessel very little chance to perform evasive action. The missile has been characterized as a "revenge" weapon, which would be fired along the bearing of an incoming enemy torpedo. The Shkval may be considered a follow-on to the Russian BGT class of evasion torpedoes, which are fired in the direction of an incoming torpedo to try to force an attacking sub to evade (and hopefully snap the torpedo's guidance wires). The weapon was deployed in the early 1990s, and had been in service for years when the fact of its existence was disclosed.
Development began in the 1960s, when the Research Institute NII-24 involved in the artillery ammunition research was instructed to launch the development of underwater high-speed missile to fight nuclear-powered submarines.
On 14 May 1969, pursuant to a government resolution, NII-24 and GSKB-47 merged into the Research Institute of Applied Hydromechanics (NII PGM), which formed the basis of the present day 'Region' Scientific Production Association.
Advances in the development of jet engines and fuel technologies, as well as outstanding results in the research of body motion under cavitation made it possible to design a unique missile with a dived speed much greater than that of conventional torpedoes.
When the suction on the low-pressure side of the propeller blade dips below ambient pressure (atmospheric plus hydrostatic head) the propeller blade cavitates a vacuum cavity forms. There is water vapor in the cavity, and the pressure is not a true vacuum, but equal to the vapor pressure of the water.
High-speed propellers are often designed to operate in a fully-cavitating (supercavitating) mode. A high speed supercavitating projectile, while

trees were to be planted within the next week to 10 days.
The San Diego Chapter has raised an additional $105,000 for black granite monuments to go with the trees, but still needs to raise approximately $30,000 more for other items such as flags and flag poles, and to provide a fund for the ongoing maintenance of the memorial. For details on how you can be a part of this great endeavor and "Leave Your Mark On History," or for more information on the memorial, visit the group's web site at http://home.roadrunner.com/~eternalpatrol.

EARNING YOUR DOLPHINS
Sent in by Bob Hopkins

It takes a heap o learnin for a qualifyin' gob
Thats the story I was told by one ol Navy COB
He sez you gotta learn to put a boat together
Then tear it down and fix it in most ever kinda weather.
There aint no rest or pleasure for a guy whos NQP
And a lowly DINK is good as dead, or so the COB tells me.
You gotta get ten sigs a week, or maybe it is twenty,
I cant recall just how it wuz but I know thet it wuz plenty.
You gotta learn bout pressure air and when you got that done,
You answer questions by the score or is it by the ton?
If you're late in getting' sigs, you muster with the Chief An he has DINKS for breakfast, he's tough beyond belief.
Next you study ships control, electrical, an scopes,
Your situations critical, you're almost outa hopes.
An don't forget hydraulics, radar and sonar, too,
Propulsion next you gotta learn cause that's whut turns the screw.
Emergency equipment, explain and demonstrate,
If you're in port, you stay aboard, no time to celebrate.
Finally there comes a day when you stand to take your test
Before the board you prove to all that you're the very best.
The Captain pins a badge on you, this is your crowning glory
You've earned your Dolphins fair and square, the end of one proud story,
Next mornin', bright an early, you're awakened with this quip,
Come on, sailor, rise and shine, its time to learn the ship!

moving in the forward direction, rotates inside the cavity. This rotation leads to a series of impacts between the projectile tail and the cavity wall. The impacts affect the trajectory as well as the stability of motion of the projectile. Despite the impacts with the cavity wall, the projectile nearly follows a straight line path. The frequency of the impacts between the projectile tail and cavity boundary increases initially, reaches a maximum, and then decreases gradually. The frequency of impacts decreases with the projectile's moment of inertia. Apparently fired from standard 533mm torpedo tubes, Shkval has a range of about 7,500 yards. The weapon clears the tube at fifty knots, upon which its rocket fires, propelling the missile through the water at 360 kph (about 100 m/ sec / 230 mph / 200-knots), three or four times as fast as conventional torpedoes.

The solid-rocket propelled "torpedo" achieves high speeds by producing a high-pressure stream of bubbles from its nose and skin, which coats the torpedo in a thin layer of gas and forms a local "envelope" of supercavitating bubbles. Carrying a tactical nuclear warhead initiated by a timer, it would destroy the hostile submarine and the torpedo it fired. The Shkval high-speed underwater missile is guided by an auto-pilot rather than by a homing head as on most torpedoes.

There are no evident countermeasures to such a weapon; its employment could put adversary naval forces as a considerable disadvantage. One such scenario is a rapid attack situation wherein a sudden detection of a threat submarine is made, perhaps at relatively short range, requiring an immediate response to achieve weapon on target and to ensure survival. Apparently guidance is a problem, and the initial version of the Shkval was unguided. However, the Russians have been advertising a homing version, which runs out at very high speed, then slows to search.

A prototype of the modernized Shkval, which was exhibited at the 1995 international armaments show in Abu Dhabi, was discarded. An improved model was designed with a conventional (non-nuclear) warhead and a guided targeting system, which substantially enhances its combat effectiveness. The first tests of the modernized Shkval torpedo were held by the Russian Pacific Fleet in the spring of 1998.

The Region Scientific Production Association has developed an export modification of the missile, 'Shkval-E.' Russia began marketing this conventionally armed version of the Shkval high-speed underwater rocket at the IDEX 99 exhibition in Abu Dhabi in early 1999. The concept of operations for this missile requires the crew of a submarine, ship or the coast guard defines the target's parameters -- speed, distance, and vector -- and feeds the data to the missile's automatic pilot. The missile is fired, achieves its optimum depth,

Oyster Roast

Charleston Base annual Oyster Roast will be held 28 February starting at 1300. Only $5.00 per person and bring a side dish or dessert.

In addition to oysters, there will be chicken, fish stew and chili.

Lots of fun with live entertainment by The Salty Dogs!

TRICARE User Fee Update 29

Rep. Chet Edwards (D-TX-17th) has reintroduced legislation that would freeze Tricare fees for military retirees, a preemptive strike in case the Defense Department tries again to raise deductibles, copayments and enrollment fees in an effort to hold down its health care costs. The Military Retirees' Healthcare Protection Act (H.R.816), introduced 3 FEB, is important because of its chief sponsor and because of the timing. Edwards, an ally of President Barack Obama who had been discussed as a possible vice presidential running mate, is chairman of the House appropriations subcommittee responsible for military quality of life programs and veterans health care. Overcoming Edwards' opposition would be difficult. Additionally, Edwards' move to drop a bill even before the Obama administration has announced its plans for military health care is a warning sign to the White House and Defense Department that it might be a mistake to assume that Tricare fee increases could be used to help cover health care costs in the 2010 defense budget. For three consecutive years, the Defense Department has asked Congress to increase Tricare fees for retirees and to revise pharmacy copayments for active-duty families and retirees in order to reduce costs. Congress has rejected the idea every time.

Defense officials estimate fee increases would cut $1.6 billion in defense health care costs, partly from the fees and partly from discouraging working-age retirees who have other health care options from enrolling in the military health benefits plan. Edwards, who estimates that higher fees would apply to 3 million people, made clear that discouraging the Obama administration is part of his strategy. "I hope the new administration will not request the same premium increases as the last, but this legislation will allow us to remove any temptation," he said in a statement. "I believe that keeping our promise of quality, affordable health care for military retirees is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do," Edwards said. "It is right because our nation has a moral obligation to keep our promises to those who have kept their promise to defend our nation. It is the smart thing to do because we cannot attract the best and brightest to fight our war on terrorism in the years ahead if they see us breaking faith with those who served in years

and switches on its engines. The missile does not have a homing warhead and follows a computer-generated program.

On 5 April 2000, the Russian Federal Security Service [FSB] in Moscow arrested an American businessman, Edmond Pope, and a Russian accomplice, on charges of stealing scientific secrets. A FSB statement said it confiscated "technical drawings of various equipment, recordings of his conversations with Russian citizens relating to their work in the Russian defense industry, and receipts for American dollars received by them." Pope, a retired US Navy captain who spent much of his career working in naval intelligence, was at the time of his arrest the head of a private security firm. On 20 April 2000, the FSB revealed that Pope had been seeking plans the Shkval underwater missile. Pope was detained during an informal contact with a Russian scientist who had participated in the Shkval's creation.

The arrest of Daniel Howard Kiely, deputy head of the Applied Research Laboratory at Pennsylvania State University, came almost simultaneously. The laboratory led by Mr. Kiely has for many years been developing torpedoes for US warships and submarines. Professor Kiely had joined Pope in Moscow to offer technical advice and determine the tasks for Pope's further activity. Kiely was interrogated as a witness. His testimony and objects confiscated during the search proved his involvement in Pope's activities. Later the 68-year-old professor was released and allowed to return to the United States.

The objective of the High-Speed Undersea Weaponry project at the US Office of Naval Research is to develop the vehicle guidance, control, and maneuvering capabilities for the quick reaction weapons. High-speed weapons could offer an advantage for Anti Submarine Warfare (ASW) close encounter scenarios. The overall system response of a high-speed weapon for breaking off engagements with enemy submarines would be measured in seconds, rather than minutes.

The High-Speed Undersea Weapons project has three tasks; Vehicle Guidance, Vehicle Control, and Test Bed Development. Vehicle Guidance deals with homing sensors, signal processing, waveform design, and autopilot commands that are used to guide (either autonomously or with external interaction) the weapon to its target. Vehicle control deals with control and maneuvering of the high-speed weapon with emphasis on stabilizing the supercavitating bubble cavity, and optimizing the flow for low drag. Technical issues include instability due to vehicle planning and tail slap, interaction between cavity with propulsion exhaust, and propulsion system transients, including startup. Test Bed Development is an ongoing effort that develops a test platform to test and evaluate S&T candidate systems such as homing systems,

past. To win the war on terrorism, we must keep faith with our warriors." Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC-03rd), is an original cosponsor of the bill, which last year had more than 215 cosponsors. Supporters of The Military Retirees' Healthcare Protection Act (H.R.816) are encouraged to contact their legislators and request they sign on as cosponsors to this bill. At http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=12591151&queueid=%5Bcapwiz:queue_id] can be found an USDR action alert letter that can be forwarded (as is or edited) to your legislators. All that is required is for you to enter your zip code if you have previously sent action alerts via USDR in the past. If not, you will be required to enter your contact data prior to forwarding. Alternate letters for transmission are available at MOAA's Legislative Action http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=12603596 and FRAS's Legislative Action Center http://capwiz.com/fra/issues/alert/?alertid=12589421 .

TRICARE User Fee Update 30

A Senate committee wrestling with ways to get the federal deficit under control is weighing recommendations from a nonpartisan arm of Congress that include increases in health care fees for retirees and their families, as well as limits on veterans' health care benefits. At a Senate Budget Committee hearing 10 FEB, Sen. Kent Conrad (D-ND), committee chairman, said the $11.6 trillion national debt is expected to more than double by 2019, with federal health care costs a key factor. Conrad said he thinks even that forecast is overly optimistic and that the debt will be larger. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a nonpartisan arm of Congress, has compiled a list of 115 options for changes in medical care programs, mostly ways to cut federal funding, that Conrad's committee is considering as it tries to prepare a 2010 federal spending guide. The options include raising enrollment fees, copayments and deductibles for military retirees younger than age 65 and their families using the Tricare health benefits program; requiring some veterans to pay copayments when being treated for medical issues not related to military service; and a novel idea of allowing active-duty families to pocket money — up to $500 each year — if they don't use health benefits.

Also included is a cost-sharing idea for Medicare-eligible military retirees under which the government would not cover the first $525 of health care costs each year and provide limited reimbursement of the next $4,725 in costs, all in an effort to discourage unnecessary medical treatment. That aim also is the basis for the CBO proposal to give $500 to active-duty families in a

vehicle control, and propulsion systems.

Obama's Nuclear War

By Mark Thompson, Time Magazine, Jan. 26, 2009

The latest U.S. nuclear showdown doesn't involve any foreign enemy. Instead, it pits President Barack Obama against his Defense Secretary, Robert Gates, and concerns the question of whether America needs a new generation of nuclear warheads. While serving under former President Bush, Gates had repeatedly called for the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program to be put into operation, because the nation's current nukes – mostly produced in the 1970s and 1980s – are growing so old that their destructive power may be in question.

"The Reliable Replacement Warhead is not about new capabilities, but about safety, reliability and security," Gates said in a speech in the week before last November's election. And in an article in the current issue of Foreign Affairs, released in early December after Gates had been tapped by Obama to stay on at the Pentagon, Gates repeated that refrain. "Even though the days of hair-trigger superpower confrontation are over, as long as other nations possess the bomb and the means to deliver it, the United States must maintain a credible strategic deterrent," he wrote. "Congress needs to do its part by funding the Reliable Replacement Warhead Program – for safety, for security, and for a more reliable deterrent." The RRW basically trades away explosive force for greater assurance that the new warheads would work predictably in the absence of tests, which the U.S. has refrained from conducting for nearly two decades to help advance non-proliferation goals. (View graphics of the global nuclear arms balance)

But Obama doesn't buy that logic. Shortly after taking the oath of office on Tuesday, he turned what had been a campaign promise into an official presidential commitment: The new Administration "will stop the development of new nuclear weapons," the White House declared flatly on its website, with no equivocation, asterisks or caveats. Obama and Gates are "at loggerheads on this," says Michael O'Hanlon, a military expert at the Brookings Institution who has specialized in nuclear issues. A senior Pentagon official said that discussing any resolution is "premature", because he doesn't believe Gates and Obama have discussed the matter.

The plutonium pit of a nuclear weapon – the heart of its extraordinary power – suffers radioactive decay, losing power and building up impurities, over time. Built with precise tolerances, there is concern that aging pits may fail to detonate properly, or perhaps at all.

O'Hanlon and other nuclear thinkers have suggested retooling existing weapons to improve reliability as an option. But the Energy Department's National Nuclear Security

tax-free allowance that would be used to cover new out-of-pocket expenses for Tricare. It could be used to pay for insurance from other sources, such as a spouse's employer-provided health care plan, or it could be pocketed if the family doesn't spend it. It was clear from the hearing that the costs of military and veterans health care programs are NOT the primary focus of lawmakers, who are more worried about spiraling costs for the Medicare and Medicaid programs. However, the fact that Tricare fees have not increased since that program was created in the mid-1990s — despite constant calls by the Defense Department to raise deductibles, copayments and enrollment fees to cut military health care costs — is likely to get attention because other Americans are paying more for their health care.

Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) noted that between 2001 and 2007, health care premiums for average Americans increased by 78%, which he called an "unsustainable" and "unhealthy" trend. The budget committee does not have the power to increase Tricare fees or change veterans' health care benefits. Instead, its influence is in making recommendations on federal spending by preparing annual revenue and spending plan that, if approved by Congress, sets limits for various programs. A recommendation in the budget guide to cap military or veterans health care funding could force lawmakers on other committees to devise ways to reduce spending

TRICARE User Fee Update 31

In recent weeks there have been rumors going around the internet among military retirees that President Obama has proposed to cut the Tricare benefits by raising various fees. It is important to understand that is not true at this time. The rumors have centered on a report put out by the Congressional Budget Office that says one option for Congress is to raise Tricare fees. However, that is not a proposal. It is a report that is issued every two years that contains possible options for Congress regarding spending and/or reductions in the entire federal budget. TREA Legislative Director Larry Madison met in FEB with top officials from the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. They stated directly that no decision on what DoD will propose to Congress regarding Tricare has been made and they did not know for certain when they would be making a final decision. The officials did express concern about the long-term viability of the military health care system, and when questioned by Madison, they acknowledged one option they are looking at is to encourage military retirees to use MTF's in the future. However, this is only in the talking stage and any decision on that will not be made anytime soon. The officials also stated that they are exploring options that would lower

Administration, which develops America's nuclear weapons, has said it cannot meet the goals set for the RRW program by modifying existing weapons. Obama's position has backing in Congress, which has repeatedly refused to fund the program. Obama would have a difficult time reversing course on what is now a stated policy of his Administration rather than simply a campaign promise. And any move to produce new U.S. nuclear weapons will also be read in other nations as a new American push for nuclear supremacy even as Washington urges the rest of the world – Tehran, are you listening? – to do without them. Russia would very likely respond by upgrading its own arsenal.

But Gates argues that building a new generation of more reliable nuclear warheads would give the U.S. the confidence to shrink its overall nuclear arsenal. After all, if you have only a 50 percent level of confidence that a nuclear weapon is going to perform as advertised, you need twice as many. The U.S., under a self-imposed moratorium, has not conducted nuclear tests to assure the reliability and potency of its weapons since 1992. But it does spend more than $5 billion a year conducting analyses and computerized tests to monitor the health of the weapons. (The RRW program is estimated to cost at least $100 billion).

Military officers have also expressed concern over relying on the aging atomic arsenal. (Skeptics note that U.S. policy tends to embrace the notion that all nuclear weapons possessed by adversaries would work, while those possessed by the U.S. won't.) "The path of inaction is a path leading toward nuclear disarmament," Air Force General Kevin Chilton, head of the U.S. Strategic Command, warned last month. "The time to act is now."

Nuclear weapons have tended to prevent or contain conflicts between those nations that possess them. Today's nuclear nightmare tends to focus less on a doomsday exchange with similarly armed rival states, than on the nightmare of "loose nukes" falling into the hands of terrorists unaligned with any state and therefore beyond the reach of deterrence. A new batch of nuclear weapons, unfortunately, isn't going to change that.

Anechoic Tiles

Anechoic tiles are rubber or Sorbothane-like tiles containing thousands of tiny voids, applied to the outer hulls of military ships and submarines, as well as anechoic chambers. Their function is twofold:

1. To absorb the sonar sound waves of active sonar, reducing and distorting the return signal thereby reducing its effective range
2. To attenuate the sounds emitted from the vessel, typically its engines, to reduce the range at which it can be detected by passive sonar

The technology of anechoic tiles was developed by Germany in the Second World War. Code named Alberich, it was a 4 mm thick coating of rubber for submarines that attenuated sound in the 10 kHz to

co-pays for the best drugs available to treat a specific condition. Again, no decision on this has been made. While there is no harm in contacting members of Congress with your concerns about possible increases in Tricare fees, TREA suggests waiting until the Administration submits its proposal so we know exactly what we are dealing with. Be assured that TREA's Washington office and the RAO will let you know as soon as we hear what the proposals will be.

Trees going to memorial to 52 submarines lost in WWII

POINT LOMA, Calif. – A group of World War II submarine veterans gathered at Chicago and Edison streets in Bay Park yesterday morning to witness the removal of 52 American Liberty elm trees from a yard where they had been stored for more than two years.

The trees were taken to the grounds of the former Naval Training Center in Point Loma, where they will become part of a planned memorial to 52 U.S. submarines that were lost during the global conflict that raged between 1939 and 1945.

"It means paying tribute to all of the people who weren't as fortunate as we were," said retired submariner Bob Oswald, 85, of San Diego. "We were the lucky ones."

Leaning on a cane, submarine veteran Art Carter, 89, watched workers muscle containers holding the trees to the street and load them onto a truck. "It's something we've been looking forward to, to honor the guys who never got back," said Carter, president of the San Diego chapter of the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II. "San Diego is one of the oldest sub bases in the country."

The 52 Boats Memorial will be incorporated into a plaza at the 40-acre NTC Park at Liberty Station, a mixed-use development taking shape on the grounds of the former training center, said submarine veteran Douglas Smay, 66. The trees will line two parallel walkways, separated by a wide lawn.

Beneath each tree, the veterans group plans to place a granite monument to a submarine. Each will include a picture of the sub and tell its story, including the names of the missing crewmen. More than 3,500 U.S. submariners lost their lives during World War II.

Smay, who has been leading the fundraising campaign for the memorial, had been keeping the trees in the yard of his Bay Park home. Since 2006, the trees' height has increased from about 12 feet to about 25 feet, he said. The drive to raise money continues.

"We have paid for the trees and we have about $110,000 in the bank," Smay said. "We need another $20,000 to $30,000 to set up a trust to maintain the memorial."

Smay said the effort to build the memorial has

18 kHz range to 15% of its normal strength. This frequency range matched the operating range of the early ASDIC active sonar used by the allies. ASDIC's operating range would have been correspondingly reduced from its optimal range of 2,000 meters to somewhere around 300 meters.
The rubber contained a series of small voids, which helped to break up sound waves. The problem was that the material performed differently at different depths, due the voids being compressed by water pressure. The first tests were conducted in 1940, but it was not operational until 1944.
After the war it was not used until the 1970s when the Soviet Union began coating its submarines in rubber tiles. These were initially prone to falling off, but as the technology matured it was apparent that the tiles were having a dramatic effect in reducing the submarines' acoustic signatures. Modern Russian tiles are about 100 mm thick, and apparently reduced the acoustic signature of Akula class submarines by between 10 and 20 decibels (10% to 1% of its original strength).
The modern materials consist of a number of layers and many different sized voids, each targeted at a specific sound frequency range at different depths. Different materials are sometimes used in different areas of the submarine to better absorb specific frequencies associated with machinery at that location inside the hull.
The US Navy began applying a similar coating to its submarines in 1988, and navies around the world quickly followed suit.

Unterseeboot 234

Unterseeboot 234 (U-234) was a WWII German Type XB submarine (U-boat), designed as a mine-layer, whose first and only mission into enemy territory consisted of the attempted delivery of uranium and other German advanced weapons technology to the Empire of Japan. The submarine surrendered to the United States after Germany's unconditional surrender on 14 May 1945.
Originally constructed as a mine laying submarine, U-234 was damaged during construction at Kiel in 1942. Following the loss of U-233 in July 1944 it was decided not to use U-234 as a mine layer and she was instead completed as a long-range cargo

been going on for 13 years. The project is reaching the end of the government-approval process.
Since the project began, many local submariners from World War II have died, Smay said. His goal is to get the memorial finished in time for those who remain to attend the opening ceremony – among them his 90-year-old father, Howard C. Smay of National City.
"These are the guys it is all about," Douglas Smay said. "They are my heroes."
Clay Bingham, a deputy director of community parks for the city of San Diego, said the memorial is expected to open in the fall. The work will be completed by the Corky McMillin Companies, which has developed Liberty Station.

Geopolitical Diary: A Sign of Russia's Renewed Confidence

Russia's ballistic missile submarines conducted more patrols in 2008 than in any other year since 1998, according to U.S. Naval Intelligence estimates obtained by the Federation of American Scientists under the Freedom of Information Act. According to the estimates, which were published Tuesday, the Russian navy sustained a slightly lower rate of other submarine patrols from 2007. This is an important reversal of recent trends in Russian submarine activity.
"Patrol" is an internal U.S. Naval Intelligence metric that the Pentagon declines to define, but in the case of ballistic missile submarines, probably entails strategic deterrent deployments. These patrols - conducted continuously by the United States, United Kingdom, France and possibly Israel - are intended to overlap so at least one submarine (or, in the U.S. case, four) is underway at extremely low speeds in a designated patrol area. During patrols, these vessels are extremely difficult to detect and are on alert to launch a retaliatory salvo of submarine-launched ballistic missiles.
Ballistic missile submarines have become the most important platform for a nuclear deterrent because they cannot be targeted directly by an adversary's arsenal (unlike fixed concrete silos, which the world's most modern nuclear warheads can target). And with U.S. space-based sensors improving, even land-based mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles are thought to be increasingly vulnerable. Since no one is keeping rotations of nuclear-armed bombers on continuous patrols anymore, this makes ballistic missile submarines (if they are quiet enough) the most survivable leg of a nuclear deterrent.
Consequently, we took note when the 2007 U.S. Naval Intelligence estimates showed a downturn in what had been an extremely slow but steady rise in Russian ballistic missile submarine patrol rates, following what had been essentially a halt in Russian submarine activity in the wake of the

submarine with Japan missions in mind.
Wartime service On 25 March, 1945 U-234 departed Kiel for Kristiansand, Norway, commanded by Johann-Heinrich Fehler. She was carrying a cargo that comprised technical drawings, examples of the newest electric torpedoes, two Me 262 jet fighters in crates, a Henschel Hs 293 glide bomb, and 560 kg of uranium oxide which was stored in her mine shafts, contained in about 50 9 inches (230 mm) lead cubes, with "U-235" painted on each. The exact characteristics of the uranium remain unknown but it is thought that it was not weapons-grade material and was intended for use as a catalyst in the production of synthetic methanol to be used for aviation fuel.
U-234 was also carrying twelve passengers, including a German general and his staff, four German naval officers, civilian engineers and scientists, and two Japanese naval officers. The German personnel included General Ulrich Kessler of the Luftwaffe, who was to take over Luftwaffe liaison duties in Tokyo; Kai Nieschling, a Naval Fleet Judge Advocate who was to rid the German diplomatic corps in Japan of the remnants of the Richard Sorge spy ring; Dr. Heinz Schlicke, a specialist in radar, infrared, and countermeasures and director of the Naval Test Fields in Kiel (later recruited by the USA in Operation Paperclip); and August Bringewalde, who was in charge of Me 262 production at Messerschmitt.
The Japanese passengers were Lieutenant Commander Hideo Tomonaga of the Imperial Japanese Navy, a naval aviator and submarine specialist who had come to Germany in 1943 on Japanese submarine I-29, and Lieutenant Commander Genzo Shoji, an aircraft specialist and former naval attaché.
She had suffered an accidental collision with another U-boat while submerged in the Baltic, so had to undergo repairs before she could continue her voyage, and on 16 April, 1945 departed Norway for Japan.
On 4 May 1945, Fehler heard of the surrender of German forces in Europe. The following day, May 5, Dönitz ordered all U-boats to cease offensive operations and return to their bases or surrender themselves to the nearest Allied authorities. They were to surface, fly a black flag, and report their position to the Allies. Fehler suspected a trick and contacted another U-boat (U-873) who convinced him that the message was authentic. Fehler decided that he would surrender to US forces, but radioed on 12 May that he would sail for Halifax, Nova Scotia to surrender to ensure that Canadian units would not reach him first. In reality, U-234 set course for Newport News, Virginia. The two Japanese passengers, upon learning that the U-boat was to surrender, took an overdose of Luminal (a barbiturate sleeping pill), died in their sleep, and were buried at sea.

2000 Kursk disaster. That incident had profound and lasting implications for the submarine fleet. The 2008 numbers show that Russian strategic deterrent patrol rates jumped from three in 2007 to 10 in 2008 - as many as were reportedly conducted in 1998.
This number could be sufficient to sustain one submarine on alert on a continuous basis, laying at least a foundation for re-establishing the third leg of the Russian nuclear deterrent.
Equally significant, this is the sharpest year-on-year rise in any Russian submarine patrol rates since the collapse of the Soviet Union. It demonstrates a resurgence of confidence in the proficiency of Russian officers and crews, despite a serious incident with the Akula I-class Nerpa (K-152) during sea trials in November 2008, when 20 crew members and civilian shipyard personnel were killed. Indeed, one of the 10 patrols was the transfer of the Delta III-class Ryazan (K-44) after an overhaul from the North Sea Fleet to the Pacific Fleet by way of the Arctic Ocean (under-ice operations require an especially noteworthy degree of confidence).
Even more important, the 1998 patrols were carried out at a time when officers and senior enlisted personnel on the submarines were much more familiar with heavier Soviet patrol tempos. Though serious decay was already evident in the Russian navy, these men received training that was the product of more rigorous and extensive Soviet drills and operations. In other words, the 1998 patrols were essentially a last gasp of much higher Soviet patrol rates. The return to that rate in 2008 is strong evidence of a marked revival in Russian submarine capability.
That Russia has achieved that level again - including such a dramatic year-on-year expansion - is noteworthy, especially in the context of a wider Russian resurgence. A revitalized sea-based deterrent strengthens Moscow's hand as it comes to the table for disarmament talks with the Obama administration. It also increases the pressure on the shrinking U.S. attack submarine fleet to monitor that activity. But most importantly, it evinces a renewed confidence in the crews and equipment of Russia's submarine fleet - which includes some of the Kremlin's most potent military assets and tools of strategic power projection.

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How about helping out the scholarship fund? We are offering a Charleston Base Challenge Coin for sale. ALL proceeds go into the scholarship fund.
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The difference between Fehler's reported course to Halifax and his true course was soon realized by US authorities who dispatched two destroyers to intercept U-234 and on 14 May 1945 she was intercepted south of the Grand Banks by the USS Sutton. Members of the Sutton's crew took command of the U-boat and sailed her to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, where U-805, U-873, and U−1228 had already surrendered.

News of the U-234's surrender with her high-ranking German passengers made the surrender a major news event, and reporters swarmed over the Navy Yard and went to sea in a small boat for a view of the submarine. However, the fact that she had a half ton of uranium oxide on board was covered up and remained classified for the duration of the Cold War.

Dr. Velma Hunt, a retired Penn State University environmental health professor, has suggested that the U-234 may have put into two ports between her surrender and her arrival at the Portsmouth Navy Yard: once in Newfoundland, to put ashore an American sailor who had been accidentally shot in the buttocks, and once again at Casco Bay, Maine. The US Navy reportedly unloaded about 1,200 pounds (540 kg) of uranium oxide from U-234 at Portsmouth, but the two dismantled Me 262 jet fighters were not listed at Portsmouth, suggesting that they had previously been unloaded elsewhere. However, other accounts do mention the Me 262s at Portsmouth.

U-234 was sunk off Cape Cod as a torpedo target, by a torpedo from USS Greenfish, on 20 November 1947.

From The Storekeeper

Any one that purchased a Sport Coat Pocket Emblem from the base store that the patch has come off, please return it to the Storekeeper at the next meeting, and it will be replaced.

WW II Submarine War Patrol Reports Online

The entire collection of Submarine War Patrol Reports are now available online via the HNSA web site: http://hnsa.org/doc/subreports.htm

At the end of each war patrol of WW II, submarine commanders created a report on the patrol. These reports were used as the raw material to inform

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Influential Navy Panel Examines 'Unmanned Opportunity'

By Jason Sherman, Inside the Navy, Jan. 26, 2009

An influential advisory panel chartered by the chief of naval operations to tackle big issues facing the Navy plans a "holistic" assessment of how the sea service might leverage unmanned technologies – in the air as well as under and on the sea – across the fleet.

James Hogg, director of the chief of naval operations' strategic studies group and a retired Navy admiral, on Jan. 9 set forth a new plan for a seven-month examination that is intended to produce recommendations on how unmanned technologies can best be incorporated across the service.

“The increased use of unmanned vehicles appears to be a natural, desirable progression of current trends,” Hogg writes in an 11-page report – marked “for official use only” – that establishes five teams to study the issue and sets a goal of producing finds for the chief of naval operations by July.

Indeed, commanders in the ground-centric operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have such an insatiable appetite for information and imagery provided by unmanned systems that the Defense Department has had to supplement its unmanned fleets with manned aircraft that are acting as surrogate UAVs.

The promise of unmanned technologies to deliver greater benefits to the future force suggest that the Navy “should procure and employ more unmanned systems,” a supposition Hogg says the study will examine. This view, Hogg believes, “if unguided by overarching concepts of unmanned integration, has serious flaws.”

This assessment, known formally as Strategic Study Group XXVIII, proposes that “manned and unmanned force structures merge in a cohesive and seamless fashion” and offers up eight hypotheses for testing, including: the “Navy must adapt to evolving mission sets”; “integrated and netted manned-unmanned force structure will be a force multiplier”; “resilience will be a centerpiece principle of the integrated force”; and

intelligence, improve tactics, evaluate commanders, etc. During WW II, over 1,550 patrol reports containing approximately 63,000 pages were generated. During the 1970s these were photographed and reproduced on microfilm to make them more easly accessible and easily reproduced (approx. 250 rolls). During 2008 a copy of this microfilm was scanned into digital format (110 GB), and in 2009 it was made available online here (14 GB).

HNSA thanks John Clear EMC (SS) USN Ret. and Dan Martini EMCM(SS) USN Ret. for their generous donation of the digital copies of these war patrol reports used to create this online version. We also wish to thank the Naval Undersea Museum for loaning their microfilm copies of the war patrol reports for the project. The online versions have been compressed and optimized for online reading, higher resolutions versions on DVD that may print or OCR better may be purchased from http://www.usssealion.com/ (unrelated to HNSA). Many of the original documents without any reproduction artifacts many be found at the US National Archives and Record Administration in College Park, Maryland.

Interesting Fun Fact!

Did you know that gerbils know how to play poker?

Any questions...ask Rick "Tunnel Rat" Wise...

"survivable networks and exchange of information will be vital to success."

The study, to be conducted in large part by faculty and staff at the Naval War College in Newport, RI, will also size up institutional resistance in the Navy against unmanned systems. "Given that the Navy's current institutional structure has not yet fully integrated manned and unmanned entities into a coherent framework, true integration will likely involve cultural, doctrinal, personnel, and organizational revolutions," Hogg writes, describing another point the study panel will address.

"Our initial focus is on determining what can be accomplished by 2020," states the memo.

Five concepts teams, each with a different topical emphasis, will carry out the work of the assessment. They are: "missions and roles"; "innovative capability and technology"; "command, knowledge, networking and control"; "culture, organization and process" ; and "methodology, metrics, roadmaps, and research synthesis."