

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 5, No. 5

May 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

National web page: www.ussvi.org

Base Meeting:

May 14, 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	Stacy Power	843-556-6369
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	843-873-5897

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 April 2009 meeting

Attendance for the April 9, 2009 meeting was 93

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

Presentation: Jim Yates presented to the winners of the ADMIRAL OSBORNE Scholarship their checks. The winners were well qualified and represented their schools well.

Introductions: New people were introduced; Wayne Skinner, Thomas Scott, Jimmy Legg, Charlie Snyder, Louis Goehring, Lon Watson. 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.

Storekeeper: Please pick up what you have ordered.

Chaplain: Monthly Report: -Cards sent:

- Jim Lewis as he recovers from leg surgery in mid-March.
- William Kopaacka who fell and broke his hip and 3 ribs in mid-March. He also has a heart problem. William is a WWII Subvet and a life member of Charleston Base.
- Chuck Coker and family. Chuck has been diagnosed with stage 4 brain cancer. Chuck is not a member of USSVI.
- Roberta Gardner and family of MSC(SS) Tim Gardner who departed on Eternal Patrol on December 7th 2008. Tim was not a member of USSVI.
- Mary Hickman and family of Jerry Hickman who departed on Eternal Patrol on March 5th 2008.
- Carol Hix who had hip replacement on Monday, March 23rd. Carol is now out of the hospital and in the Oakbrook Healthcare Center on Traveler's Blvd completing his rehab.
- Dave Huckabee who had his prostrate removed on Tuesday, 31 March. Dave served with me on the STIMSON in our early days in the Navy. He is not a member of USSVI.
- June Kennedy and family on the death of her father, Carl Albaugh on March 28th.
- Terry Sickle who went into the hospital to have his heart rhythm reset. He is doing well.
- Buck Owens as he deals with some prostrate issues.

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

District Commander: April 29 thru 2 May is the combined district meeting in St Augustine, Fl. The District election is in June. Anyone can run. We are opening a new base in the upstate. There are 10 people whose next meeting is in Anderson.

Vice Commander Report: No report

Holland Club: We had a presentation to three people who were present with two more not able to make it. The newest Holland Club inductees are; Ernest Barwick, Ralph Comp, Thomas O'brien, Walter Job, and John Spear. Congratuatuons!

Membership: No report

Little David: Working party on the 15th of April at 1000. We only need a small amount of painting.

Newsletter: No report

Alcohol & Gaming: Not present but he has "After Battery" ball caps, blue, white, and tan. He can order more but they have to be in lots of 15.

Chief of the Boat: No report

Base Commander: We have been donated a diving alarm. We have enough for us we need to come up with a plan on what to do with it. Grits parade Sat. 18th of April. We will leave the After Battery at around 0930 going to St. George, Parade starts at 11:00. We are #3 in the line up. Next month is the base elections, PUT your name in the hat.

Thanks to Larry Starland for donation of a Hunley picture to the After Battery.

We have been requested to bring our float to the convention. Ken Hutchinson will drive it down and trip navigated by Big Ed Simokat.

Nuclear Historian: Gave a nice oration about "cleaning up our speech". Instead of using those 4 letters words of ours we should substitute another word in its place. The word "Pelosi" was suggested.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good Of The Order: Depth Charge drawing with \$281 to winner. The winner was Larry Starland. He donated \$50 to the scholarship fund. The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2000.

** End of the minutes for April 2009 **

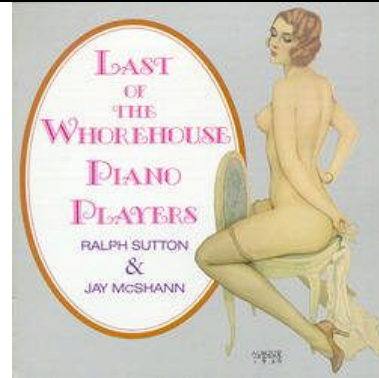
are having a difficult time, had surgery, etc. and would like for USSVI Charleston Base to send them a card please send their name and address to the Chaplain via email or phone call.

Public Affairs: No report

Sub Vets WWII: 16th of April at Ryan's is the next meeting. Come out and join us.

Scholarship: Thank You all for your support through the year. It is best to remember who this scholarship honors, Admiral Osborne, and the emphasis he put on education. One of his greatest accomplishments was every crewmember for a couple years that was eligible for advancement made rate. That shows you how much he valued education.

Veteran's Affairs: No report



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



Bailey, M	Birdwhistell	Carol	Clarkin
Conrey	Copeland	Fenton	Fuhr
Fuqua	Habegger	Heber	Houston
Job	Kozlowski	Lufkin	McCollem
Mullins	Nichols	O'Meally	Paris
Pickett	Sparks	Steffen	Strickland
Sutton	Upchurch	Wieda	



April 29-May 3 – Southeast Region Convention in St. Augustine, FL

May 14 – Monthly meeting

May 25 – Memorial Day Service, starts at 1030 Parks Cemetery Summerville

May 30 – Memorial Day (actual)

Don't Forget Your Mom!
Mother's Day...May 12, 2009

May Submarines Lost:

USS Runner	SS 275	May 28, 1943
USS Lagarto	SS 371	May 3, 1945
USS Squalus	SS 192	May 23, 1939
USS Stickleback	SS 415	May 29, 1958

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

Eternal Patrol

Donald Lester (Don) Nuzum
NUZUM, Don Entered into eternal rest on the morning of April 15, 2009 MCPO Donald (Don) Lester Nuzum, USN (Retired), husband of Jeannie Smith Nuzum. Residence, Charleston, South Carolina. Memorial Services aboard the USS Yorktown at a time to be announced. The family will receive friends at J. HENRY STUHR, INC., WEST ASHLEY CHAPEL (3360 Glenn McConnell Pkwy.) Friday afternoon, April 17, 2009 from five until seven o'clock. In lieu of



**From Ron Harter, Cavalla Historical Foundation
Public Information Officer**

From Ron Harter, Cavalla Historical Foundation Public
Information Officer

rharter@ealanta.com (mailto:rharter@ealanta.com) 40
for freedom, 1 for training

I got the following e-mail about the loss of USS Thresher
from Zeb Alford, retired Navy captain and Cavalla
Historical Foundation board member.

Your remembrance of the loss of USS THRESHER
brought back many poignant memories of mine. I was CO
USS SHARK at that time and on a special op. I couldn't
believe the msg. we received. The CO USS THRESHER,
Wes Harvey, was a close friend and one of the most
qualified nuclear engineers I ever had the honor to serve
with. We put the TULLIBEE nuclear prototype and USS
TULLIBEE, our first nuclear SSK, in commission. Wes
was the engineer for both, Dick Jortberg was CO, and I
was XO. I never served on any nuclear submarine with a
more qualified wardroom and crew than TULLIBEE--
that's saying something!

In November Admiral Rickover had me ordered to the
pentagon to OP 31. Admiral Dennis Wilkerson was my
boss there. The task he assigned me, among others, was to
get together all the information pertinent to the loss of
THRESHER, and write the presentation to Congress by
Admiral Red Ramage (OP 03) concerning loss of
THRESHER. I was also assigned project manager for the
SUBSAFE program for CNO. My saddest memory was
listening to the tapes of the underwater phone
conversations between Wes and the submarine rescue
vessel, which was his escort for his sea trials, after a major
overhaul at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Wes had relieved
as CO while the sub was in the shipyard. The first
conversation that I remember well was Wes telling the sub
rescue vessel "stand clear, emergency surfacing from test
depth, flooding in the engine room". His voice was calm,

flowers, memorials may be made to Ashley River Fire
Department, 8045 Dorchester Road, North Charleston,
SC 29418. Mr. Nuzum was born on January 5, 1940 in
Clarksburg, West Virginia, son of the late Lester Nuzum
and Margaret Zirkle Nuzum. He was a retired Master
Chief Petty Officer with the US Navy with 20 years of
service to his country and worked at the Charleston
Museum for 25 years. He served on Submarines and
was a member of the SubVets, member of the Fleet
Reserve and was a volunteer on the USS Yorktown. In
addition to his wife Jean of Charleston, surviving are his
mother of Shinnston, WV; two sons, Donald Nuzum of
Summerville, Stan Nuzum of Mt. Pleasant; a daughter,
Heather Roberts of Camden, SC; a sister, Joyce
Ladanye of Shinnston, WV; and six grandchildren,
Michael Nuzum, Catherine Nuzum, Rachael Nuzum,
Erich Nuzum, Sophia Roberts, and Noah Roberts. A
memorial message may be written to the family by
visiting our website, www.jhenrystuhr.com. Visit our
guestbook at www.postandcourier.com/deaths.

Drinking Your Dolphins

It is a fine tradition among Royal Navy submariners.
Recruits down a glass of rum containing a coveted silver
badge, catching it in their teeth.

But the 'bonding' ritual may be banned on health and
safety grounds after a young sailor swallowed the
13/4inch-long emblem and was lucky not to choke to
death.

Horrified crewmates and officers in the mess at the
Clyde Naval Base, in Faslane near Glasgow, realised the
sailor – who has not been named – was in trouble.



An X-ray shows the Dolphins badge (below) in the sailor's gullet
He was taken to hospital, where an X-ray showed the
Dolphins badge was halfway down his gullet, heading
for his stomach. The sailor was kept in hospital for two
days but the Navy is refusing to say whether the badge
emerged naturally or if there was an operation to
remove it.

A source said: 'The boy appeared to be quite drunk

and easily recognized. I could hear the air blow start and the screw speeding up. In less than a minute, the emergency blow trailed off and the screw started slowing down. Wes's last report was "attempting to blow" . Wes knew and I knew that were no orders that started with "attempting". His voice was still calm even though he knew by then his sub was lost. I believe till this day that he was telling us something was wrong with the air blow system. Even someone as good an engineer as Wes couldn't figure out why the air blow stopped. The next thing on the tape some minutes later was the collapse of the first bulkhead, followed shortly after with the others collapsing. Calculations later estimated the sub reached 300-400 feet depth before the flooding stopped her ascent. Six weeks later when she was located, the bow was buried about thirty feet deep at 12000 feet depth. Calculations show she was going over 100 knots when she bottomed. The front half of the sub was vertical. The sub broke in two at the reactor compartment. I could read the name of the next to last reactor watch officer on the log sheet on the bottom of the ocean from the hundreds of pics made. Before I had arrived in the pentagon, the submarine force had conducted alongside blowing of the air blow system on sister subs. All the valves froze from adiabatic expansion causing freezing of the small amount of moisture in the compressed air. Other subs had samples taken from their saltwater engine room cooling system. The silver brazing joints were destructively tested and the bonding ranged from 100 %(few) down to 10%. The reactor safety systems had shut down the reactor from the flooding and spray in the engine room. We knew what the problems were, and the fixes were quickly decided on and implemented. By pass systems were installed on the reactor safety systems within months on all the operating and building nuclear subs. To get the other fixes, the subs had to get shipyard availabilities or overhauls as the designs and equipment became available.

When I left the pentagon in 1965, I requested to be assigned to the first submarine that would get the complete SUBSAFE FIX during its overhaul at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. That submarine was USS SAM HOUSTON. I had one Polaris patrol before going through a year and a half overhaul at Portsmouth. This involved a core replacement as well as the SUBSAFE FIX. I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT EVERYTHING WORKED. I'm still here and we have never lost a sub that had the SUBSAFE FIX installed.

In conclusion I was lucky to play a small part in a major effort where the Navy made a complex military system work. Admirals Ramage, Rickover, and Moorer had the complete confidence of the Secretary of the Navy and the Congress. They reported the findings of the Board of Investigation to the Congress as soon as it was completed. They reported all the things the Navy planned to do to make sure that problem wouldn't happen again, and finally

before he took the rum and seemed to hiccup as he swallowed it. He was lucky not to choke to death.' The sailor serves aboard HMS Sceptre, a nuclear-powered submarine that carries Tomahawk cruise missiles and has a complement of 116.

Admiralty top brass are now investigating whether to ban the near 40-year-old ceremony.

Another source added: 'On health and safety grounds it may well be a ban. Everyone is talking about it along the waterfront at Faslane. To my knowledge nothing like this has happened before, and thousands of sailors have gone through rum dolphins. But this could have been so much more serious. Times have now changed. It could leave the Ministry of Defence open to legal action.'

The badge was introduced in 1972 and quickly became revered. It features two dolphins along with a crown and anchor.

All submariners who pass the final part of their training are presented with it in a glass of rum, the Navy's spirit of choice. Sailors used to get a daily rum ration until it was abolished in 1970.

Last night, Jimmy Sleith, a Scottish Area Secretary of the Royal Naval Association, said: 'It is harmless and is a tradition that helps enormously with bonding. There are too many health and safety fuddy-duddies and I hope sense prevails.'

A Navy spokesman said: 'This incident is subject to an investigation.'

TRICARE BENEFICIARY WEBSITE

Users should find the Tricare Beneficiary Web site to be easy and simple to use. With so much important information available, its goal is to provide it to you clearly and conveniently. The site is organized into seven sections, to make it easy for you to find the information you need:

- Overview - A high-level summary of Tricare's organization, plans, eligibility requirements, enrollment options and special programs.
- Medical - Details about what's covered, finding a provider, getting care, costs, filing claims and more.
- Dental - Information about your dental options.
- Vision - Information about your vision coverage including eye exams and corrective lenses.
- Prescriptions - Details about filling prescriptions, covered medications, prescription costs, pharmacy claims and more.
- Mental Health and Behavior - Information about your mental/behavioral health coverage and how to get care based on your health plan option. You'll also learn about the types of mental health providers, types of covered treatments and symptoms for certain conditions.

they reported what the costs would be--several billions of dollars. The Congress accepted their reports and approved the money for the program. The rest is history. I believe the loss of THRESHER will be remembered as long as there are submariners.

Social Security Administration (SSA) Predicts No Social Security COLA for 2010

The Social Security Administration predicted that under their present system of setting COLAs for social security benefits (which is also used for military retiree pay and military survivors' benefits (SBP and DIC) there will be no increase next year.

The COLA is calculated by comparing the annual change in the consumer price index (CPI) for "urban wage earners" through the third quarter of the calendar year. As I am sure you all remember this year's COLA was 5.8%. They say that from the 3rd quarter of 2008 through the first quarter of 2009 the CPI-W has fallen by 4%. (due, they say, to a drop in the "historically high energy prices" in 2008.)

They then predict that the CPI-W will rise some in the next few months it will not reach the level of the third quarter of 2008. The law states that the Social Security benefits are unchanged in years that the CPI-W since the previous adjustment is zero or less than zero. The obvious next question will be how this will affect Medicare Part B premiums under present law. If you pay your Medicare Part B premium by having it withheld from your monthly Social Security benefit you are in a good position.

There is a "hold-harmless" provision in the statute that means a rise in the Medicare Part B premium cannot lower your social security payment from what it presently is. So, if the law remains the same, most of you will not see an increase in the Part B premiums from this year. However, 25% of those enrolled in Medicare Part B will not have that protection.

These are those that are just enrolling in Medicare Part B (and thus have not had premiums withheld in prior years), those who don't pay Part B premiums by withholding from their Social Security monthly benefit and those who are higher income enrollees and pay a income related monthly premiums. We will keep track of what is going on with the COLA as the year goes on.

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.

- Life Events - What you need to do and how Tricare may change when you experience different life events. Topics include activating/becoming Medicare-eligible, having a baby, divorcing, retiring, moving and much more. Relevant topics appear based on your profile.

With the magnitude and complexity of the Tricare program there are a few shortcuts to quickly find what you need to obtain maximum benefits:

- 1.) Enter your profile: Once you've entered your profile, you'll get a tailored list of your most popular topics on your home page. Entering your profile first also ensures the site is tailored to you. If you click through the site without a profile, you'll be asked to enter it at some point once you look for detailed content.
 - 2.) Need a phone number? All the toll-free numbers are found on the "Tricare Contacts" page found in the horizontal navigation at the top of every page.
 - 3.) Need a form? Find enrollment forms, claim forms and other common Tricare forms in PDF format for download on the "Forms" page found in the horizontal navigation at the top of every page.
 - 4.) Use Google Custom Search: The Google Custom Search feature is quick and easy. Just enter a keyword and off you go.
-

DFAS Puts Out Its Retired Pay Newsletter

This week DFAS issued its first newsletter of the year.

To read the full newsletter go to

[http://www.dfas.mil/rna-](http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/march2009/directorscorner.html)

[news/march2009/directorscorner.html](http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/march2009/directorscorner.html) for the Directors introduction and then hit rna news. If you want the newsletter in pdf form go to: <http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/march2009/RetirdPayNewsletterMar09.pdf>

This issue includes explanations of how the stimulus package will affect you, the methods for calculating the Chapter 61 retirees Combat Related Special Compensation and Retiree Pay, and explanations of the new paid-up provisions of SBP and how to challenge DFAS's decision that you do not yet qualify for the paid-up provision. There are many additional articles of interest in the full newsletter.

More on the "Economic Stimulus" Tax

The recent stimulus plan reduces federal income taxes up to \$400 for working individuals and \$800 for couples via smaller tax withholding from their paychecks. Non-working military retirees or survivors are not eligible for the tax reduction, but will see the reduced withholding in their retired pay or survivor annuities.

That's because DFAS is required to use the new tax withholding tables published by the IRS for retired paychecks or annuities arriving in bank accounts on May 1.

Make sure you have one for “when you get challenged”!
Buy several for great gifts!



**Message from Rear Admiral Patrick H. Brady
Deputy Commander for Undersea Warfare (SEA 07)**

On the 46th Anniversary of the Loss of the USS THRESHER (SSN-593)
Forty-six years ago today, on April 10, 1963, while engaged in a deep test dive, USS THRESHER (SSN 593) was lost at sea with 129 Officers and men on board. Based on the findings of a Court of Inquiry and the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy hearings into the loss, it was concluded that a flooding casualty in the engine room, resulting from a piping failure in one of the seawater systems, was the most probable cause of the loss. From this tragic event, the Submarine Safety (SUBSAFE) Program was established on December 20, 1963 to ensure implementation of recommendations resulting from findings of the THRESHER Court of Inquiry and THRESHER Design Appraisal Board. Today, the technical and administrative requirements of the SUBSAFE Program continue to evolve, and the most current are contained in the Submarine Safety Requirements Manual, NAVSEA 0924-062-0010 Revision C.

Simply stated, the purpose of the SUBSAFE Program is to provide maximum reasonable assurance that seawater is kept out of the submarine and that the submarine and crew can recover if there is a seawater casualty. Our challenge today, forty-six years after the loss of USS THRESHER, is to maintain the standards established by the SUBSAFE Program and to avoid ignorance, arrogance, and complacency. The culture of the SUBSAFE Program needs to be continually reinforced at all levels of our community. The rigorous compliance with SUBSAFE requirements and attention to detail begin with design and extend through every aspect of construction, maintenance, and operations. The ability of our submarines to continue to operate successfully and return home depends on the vigilance and integrity of each one of us who works in this community. The ability of USS NEWPORT NEWS (SSN 750), USS SAN FRANCISCO (SSN 711) and USS HARTFORD (SSN 768) to survive collisions at sea and to return home is

To add to the confusion, the stimulus bill also provides a \$250 payment to those drawing Social Security or VA disability compensation. So if a retiree or survivor draws VA disability or Social Security, he/she will get the \$250 payment on top of the reduced income tax withholding.

A working retiree who also draws Social Security or VA disability compensation will get the \$250 payment and will also have the additional \$400 (\$800 married filing jointly) withheld from BOTH military retired pay AND employer pay.

There will be some rude awakenings next year when retirees or survivors discover they've been “under-withheld” and owe an unexpectedly large tax bill on their 2009 taxes.

2009 Scholarship Winners Announced!

The recipients of the 2009 Admiral Osborne Scholarship are as follows:

Rebecca Stout	\$1,000
Heather Woodward	\$500
Hailey Watson	\$500
Mary Caudle	\$500
Laura Lanier	\$500
Morgan Crouse	\$500



Congratulations to these fine students!

(No, Jim, you can't get any money just by being in the picture!)

USS Texas

As a boy, I went aboard the WW I battleship U.S.S. Texas, which is now a museum near Galveston. A few days ago, I came into possession of a photo of the Texas taken in 1919. You'll note at the top of the superstructure, where the tower framework begins, is a clock with only ten numerals, rather than the normal 12. I'd wondered why the clock had only 10 numbers and tonight I found out why.

testimony to the success of the SUBSAFE Program and the training of the personnel who operate our ships. Our outstanding submarine safety record since THRESHER is a direct result of rigorous compliance with the technical and administrative requirements of the SUBSAFE Program. This success has not gone unnoticed. The Columbia Accident Investigation Board used the SUBSAFE Program as a model of an organization that successfully operates a high-risk program. We must continue to maintain our vigilance, intensity, and integrity in all matters involving the SUBSAFE Program. The supreme sacrifice of those lost with USS THRESHER can best be remembered by never letting it happen again.
- RDML Patrick H. Brady

“We are experiencing minor difficulties; we have a positive up angle, and are attempting to blow. Will keep you informed.” USS THRESHER (SSN-593), 10 April 1963.
SUBSAFE - A Requirement; An Attitude; A Responsibility

46th Anniversary of the Loss of the USS THRESHER (SSN-593)

“Responsibility is a unique concept: it can only reside and inhere in a single individual. You may share it with others, but your portion is not diminished. You may delegate it, but it is still with you. You may disclaim it, but you cannot divest yourself of it. Even if you do not recognize it or admit its presence, you cannot escape it. If responsibility is rightfully yours, no evasion, or ignorance, or passing the blame can shift the burden to someone else.”

Testimony of Admiral Rickover

Joint Committee on Atomic Energy June 15, 1961

In addition to her 12 officers and 96 enlisted men, the submarine carried 4 Naval officers and 17 civilian technicians to observe her performance during the sea trials and deep-diving tests. Of the 17 civilian technicians, 13 were from Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

With the development of the SUBSAFE program, the existing ships in service were back fitted with critical systems now required by the SUBSAFE program during scheduled overhauls. Ships under construction received new required systems as a result of design modifications to comply with the SUBSAFE program. The Los Angeles (SSN-688) class was the first submarine class designed after implementation of the SUBSAFE Program. On January 7, 2005 the USS San Francisco (SSN-711), a SSN-688 Class submarine, collided with an undersea mountain while traveling submerged at high speed with 137 men on board. The ship surfaced and returned to port, recovering from the casualty, a SUBSAFE success story. In October of 2008 Norfolk Naval Shipyard welcomed Mr. Al Ford, Deputy Director Submarine Safety and

Prior to WW II, the practice was for battleships to line up, bow to stern, and fire their guns broadside at a common target. These "clocks" were actually indicators of range. When a battleship found the range to the target, it would set its range clocks--one on the front of the superstructure and one on the aft. One hand indicated ten thousands of yards and the other hand indicated thousands of yards, so if both hands were set at 1, the clock was showing that the range to the target was 11,000 yards. Each ship would use binoculars to read its neighbor's clock and set its clocks to match the clock of the ship which had found the range. In that manner, prior to the use of radio, the range information was silently passed down the line of ships and all ships could set their guns to fire the same distance. By the time that the Texas was put up as a museum at the San Jacinto battlefield, the range clock had been removed because the Navy no longer needed it. But I had that photo which made me curious and now we know a little something new, er, old.



Sub Support Center Improves its IA Deployment Process

GROTON, Conn. (NNS) -- Sailors say Naval Submarine Support Center (NSSC) New London's Individual Augmentee (IA) Support Initiative is proving to be a valuable resource for deploying personnel and their families.

When Religious Programs Specialist 1st Class Chastity Morales arrived at the NSSC New London last year, she was given a unique challenge – to create a program to streamline the IA procedure for the command. Morales, a former IA with the Marine Corps, used her personal knowledge and feedback from local IAs to create the NSSC IA Support Initiative, which was implemented in November 2007.

Before this initiative was developed, she said, that some IAs perceived a "here's your orders, see you in a year" mentality. This was the most common feedback the command received from IAs, and some added said that

Quality Assurance Naval Sea Systems Command NAVSEA 07Q for a presentation on the SUBSAFE program. Mr. Ford's "SUBSAFE Awareness Training" highlights an important part of the culture we must maintain, the culture of the SUBSAFE program requires that we take the time to review and remind ourselves of our failures. The importance of the work you do and the service and responsibility to our submarine sailors, officers and families cannot be stressed enough.

We Have But One Life!

Some words by Erma Bombeck, entitled *If I had my Life to Live Over*. They were written for women after she discovered that she was dying from cancer. Let's see if we can modify those words to influence us in the years we have remaining.

- When we are sick, we'll hit the sack or otherwise answer sick call instead of pretending that the earth will go into a holding pattern if we aren't there for the day.
- We will talk less and listen more.
- We will share the fellowship of a Butterbean coffee or breakfast rather than riding the sheets for another hour.
- We will take the time to tell our children and/or grandchildren some of our tamer sea stories (and also to listen to some of their at-school adventures).
- We will share more of the responsibility now carried by our spouse (You knew that would creep in).
- We will agree to leave the car windows rolled up on a summer's day because "her" hair had just been teased and sprayed.
- We will cry and laugh less while watching TV and more while watching life.
- We'll find something within our capabilities that needs doing and volunteer (yes, volunteer) to do the job.
- We will never buy anything just because it is practical, won't show soil, or is guaranteed to last a lifetime.
- We will seize every minute of life ahead of us, look at it, and really see it, live it, and never give it back. We will stop sweating the small stuff.
- We won't worry about who doesn't like us, who has more than we have, or who's doing what. Instead, we'll cherish the relationships we have.

Those are just a few of Erma's thoughts in terms we can understand. Adlib some others that are more important to those who are important to us.

The Old Paths

I liked the old paths, when
Moms were at home.
Dads were at work.
Brothers went into the army.
And sisters got married BEFORE having children!

Crime did not pay;

this type of thinking caused extra stress to both the Sailors and their families.

"Before this initiative was in place, preparing for an IA was extremely difficult," said Yeoman 2nd Class Andrew Brown, who deployed on his IA tour in early 2007. "There was little to no guidance on what to do beyond your orders and a quick checklist. I had to do all the research and identify who I needed to see." That has changed, and the new process provides better customer service. To improve the process, Morales, as the command IA coordinator (CIAC), gathered all the information and created a folder that includes a detailed checkout sheet, additional information for the spouse and children, contact information for the command and a list of specific items that are needed to check in for the initial IA training

"We want to provide the same care to our IAs as we do to our deployed submarine crews," she said. "That's why our information package includes command contact information for families as well as information on other support programs in the area."

In addition, she contacts the selected Sailors and explains the contents of the folder.

"We wanted to ensure that no one fell through the cracks," she said. "They are still part of our command, and we wanted to make sure they felt that it was the truth."

Another aspect of the initiative encourages the Sailor and their families to meet with the commanding officer, executive officer and command master chief prior to deploying.

"We feel it is vitally important that the command meets with any Sailor and their family prior to a deployment," said NSSC's Command Master Chief Al Atkinson. "The face-to-face contact is the best way to open the lines of communication and let them know we are here to support them throughout the deployment."

Once the Sailor is deployed, Morales stays in contact with the Sailor by monthly e-mails and an occasional care package.

"One of the things in the package is a page with their personal information on it," she said. "I ask that they leave a valid personal e-mail address so I can contact them. I send the first e-mail about 30 days after they have arrived in theater, just to make sure they have my address and to let them know we have not forgotten them."

Culinary Specialist 1st Class Mark Shipley, an IA selected to deploy in June, commented on the initiative. "It definitely helps," he said. "There's a lot of useful information that makes the transition easier, since I'm fighting in a sandbox instead of on board a submarine. This will be my longest deployment so far, and the information will be beneficial for my wife as well." NSSC is working to do more for IAs when their

Hard work did;
And people knew the difference.

Moms could cook;
Dads would work;
Children would behave.

Husbands were loving; Wives were supportive;
And children were polite.

Women wore the jewelry;
And Men wore the pants.
Women looked like ladies;
Men looked like gentlemen;
And children looked decent.

People loved the truth,
And hated a lie;
They came to church to get IN,
Not to get OUT!

Hymns sounded Godly;
Sermons sounded helpful;
Rejoicing sounded normal;
And crying sounded sincere.

Cursing was wicked;
Drugs were for illness;
And divorce was unthinkable.

The flag was honored;
America was beautiful;
And God was welcome!

We read the Bible in public;
Prayed in school;
And preached from house to house
To be called an American was worth dying for;
To be called a Christian was worth living for;
To be called a traitor was a shame!

Preachers preached because they had a message;
And Christians rejoiced because they had the VICTORY!
Preachers preached from the Bible;
Singers sang from the heart;
And sinners turned to the Lord to be SAVED!

A new birth meant a new life;
Salvation meant a changed life;
Following Christ led to eternal life.

Being a preacher meant you proclaimed the word of God;
Being an officer meant you would serve the Lord;
Being a Christian meant you would live for Jesus;
And being a sinner meant someone was praying for you!

Laws were based on the Bible;
Homes read the Bible;
And churches taught the Bible.

deployment ends as well. Currently, members of the NSSC team meet returning IAs at the airport to welcome them home. They also encourage returning IAs to speak with the command chaplain during the first several week they are home.

"We set them up an appointment with our chaplain just to make sure they are coping with the transition process," Morales said.

The command is also looking into additional ways to ease the transition upon the conclusion of a deployment, she said.

Memorial Day Service

Service will be held 25 May at Parks Cemetery on Highway 17A in Summerville. Starts at 1030. Please show up by 1000. Uniform is blue shirt, khaki pants, vest and ball cap. Please attend even if you do not have a vest.



Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service.

To all that have served or are now in service....a heartfelt "Thank You" on this Memorial Day!



God was worshiped;
Christ was exalted;
And the Holy Spirit was respected.

Church was where you found Christians
on the Lord's day, rather than in the garden,
on the creek bank, on the golf course,
Or being entertained somewhere else.
