

# TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 5, No. 7

July 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 site: [www.ussvicb.org](http://www.ussvicb.org)  
National web site: [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org)

### Base Meeting:

July 9, 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	Paul Viering	843-797-2623
Vice Commander	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Secretary	Rick Collins	843-851-3490
Treasurer	Terry Trump	843-873-9563



Special Officers		Phone Number
Chief of the Boat	Rick Wise	843-875-5559
Public Affairs	Ken Hutchison	843-553-0935
Veterans Affairs	Jim Morrison	843-832-9716
Chaplain	John Nichols	843-873-5897
Membership	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Holland Club	John Lookabill	843 797-2991
Scholarship	Jim Yates	843-873-0246
Newsletter	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Storekeeper	Ken Fuhr	803-749-6077
Webmaster	John Nichols	843-863-8474



## Minutes of the June 2009 meeting

Attendance for the May meeting was 95

**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; Larry Crump and Howard "Moose" Frey. 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:** Terry Trump gave the treasurer's.

**Storekeeper:** Can order new Tee shirts and if there is anything on the "Sub Ships Store" website you want he can get it for you and it will not cost you shipping.

**Chaplain:** On June 5th, we conducted a bell tolling memorial service for Bill Hyatt at Dorchester Memory Gardens. There were 8 members of USSSVI Charleston Base mustered to give Bill a Sailor's farewell. The Navy provided a chaplain, flag folding detail and rifle honor guard. This was the COB's first funeral and he did a great job pulling everything and everyone together. The service was done with great dignity.

Cards were sent as follows to:

**Harry Plank** has an incurable, non-operable cancer and had to receive blood transfusions in order to get his O2 level up in his blood. At that point he can continue his cancer treatments in order to allow the cancer to go into remission.

**Frank Carroll** 3 month cancer test came back negative and he has a clean bill of health.

**Clyde Peters** had the devices hooked up for the brain stimulation to control the symptoms of his Parkinson's disease. His jerky motions have diminished and he is hopeful that he will be off the medication for the Parkinson's soon.

**Anetha Standrich.** She was in the hospital with pneumonia but is doing well at present.

Larry Sims. Larry's CAT scan results show his condition has stabilized. He will continue with chemotherapy. Larry wants to thank everyone for their prayers. It looks like they sure worked so keep them coming.

**Dorothy Hyatt and family.** William Hyatt Jr departed on Eternal Patrol on 31 May 2009. His funeral was on June 5, 2009. Bill was a life member of USSVICB.

**Rosemary Archer and family.** Captain Robert Archer departed on Eternal Patrol on 2 June 2009 in Florida. His remains will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery. Bob was a TM before he was commissioned and served in Charleston on the Clay and at POMFLANT in the early '70s. Bob was not a member of USSVICB.

**Scholarship:** We have a print of the Hunley titled "The Final Mission". It will be raffled off with proceeds going to the scholarship fund. The drawing will be at the Christmas party. Nick Nichols has a discount booklet for sale for \$5. It is good for restaurants in the Summerville area; any additional money will go to the scholarship fund.

**Public Affairs:** Looking for a new PAO.

**Webmaster:** Website is updated three times a week with any news that we have. We have the menu from "The After Battery", pictures of various functions, V.A news and information, WW@ newsletters, and a store keeper page. Any thing you need.

**Veteran's Affairs:** Cat 8 eligibility requirements have changed, please sign up.

**District Commander:** Swore in the new base officers.

**Holland Club:** No report

**Membership:** We have 319 members; 2010 dues are payable by 1 Oct. You can pay at any time.

**Little David:** Books are on sale for \$6 for base members. Tractor show 13 and 14 Sept.

**Newsletter:** No report

**Alcohol & Gaming:** Gave \$50 to Subvets from the After Battery for the hog roast. He also has hats for sale with what ever you want on it, within reason. He also would like to see us bring our young people to all memorial events to let them see what our "Greatest Generation" was all about before it is too late.

**Chief of the Boat:** Introduced himself and already has a working party scheduled to re-stow the gas station on 19 June.

Hog Roast 3 Oct.

**Base Commander:** My agenda as your base commander is the best interest of Charleston Base and Charleston base only.

We had 36 base members at the Memorial Day ceremony and George Sharf is the new base historian.

**Nuclear Historian:** Told a joke but was confused on how to properly hold the microphone, better known as "the Nuc training aid".

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Good Of The Order:**

Budda gave a report on Panama Jack and how he is doing.

Ed Stank has coffee cups for ordering.

Depth Charge drawing was held with \$290 to winner.

**Bob Isaman** will be going in to Roper Hospital tomorrow for heart cauterization and a stint placement. An overnight hospital stay is planned.

**Stacy Power** went into MUSC yesterday for a replacement of his left knee and expects to be out of there tomorrow.

**Joe Giannetto** is recuperating from surgery on his right eye last week and went back to MUSC yesterday for surgery on the left eye.

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.

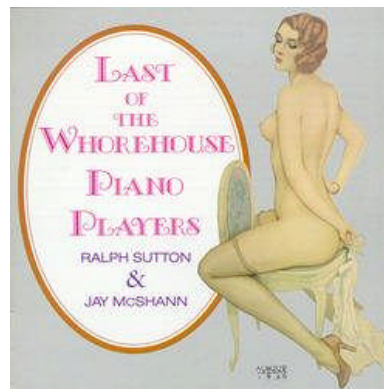
If you know of shipmates or spouses from other bases who are having a difficult time, had surgery, etc. and would like for USSVI Charleston Base to send them a card please send their name and address to the Chaplain via email or phone call.

**Vice Commander Report:** No report

**Sub Vets WWII:** 18<sup>th</sup> of June at Ryan's is the next meeting. Come out and join us. We have 19 WW11 Subvets left in the state of South Carolina and 5 were at our meeting. Come and meet them. Lee Allison has WW11 calendars for sale.

The winner was John Paul Pardo. He donated \$100 to the scholarship fund.

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2000.



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



Becker	Brown, A.	Burton	Grabowski
Hance	Heinle	Jones, W.	Kirtley
Kratz	Loveday	Lowe	McDonald, B.
Morris	Murphy	Rein	Schaffer
Smith, P.M.	Suddeth	Williams, J.	Yates, J.

## July Happenings!

July 4 – Independence Day



July 9 – General Meeting; social hour 1800, meeting starts 1900

### July Submarines Lost:

USS S 28	SS 133	July 4, 1944
USS Robalo	SS 273	July 26, 1944

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*

### Membership and Dues Information:

2010 dues will be payable by 1 October 2009. Contact your shipmates to get them to pay their dues. Send dues (payable to USSVI) to:  
Carl Chinn  
217 Brailsford Rd  
Summerville, SC 29485-5405

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## The Diving Alarm Ballet

by Mike Hemming

As I pass between the Controllermen, the oogah, oogah, "Dive!", "Dive!" comes over the speakers and they leap to their sticks and rheostats. The engine shut down air lever is hit, rheostats spun down, sticks are thrown, as the ballet begins. Generator electricity wanes as the huge storage batteries are called on for power. Sticks pulled to new positions and rheostats spun back up to keep the motors turning. The flurry of intense activity over, minor adjustments made and times logged while listening, always for the sound of water doing something it shouldn't.

As I walk forward at the same time into the engineroom, the two men in each one do the shutdown dance. Throttles are slapped down, hydraulic levers pulled to the closed position to shut exhaust valves and drains opened by the Throttleman. As his Oiler spins the inboard exhaust valves the 32 turns to shut it, either the Oiler or the Throttleman (depending on who is closer) will have yanked the pin holding the great intake air valve open so it falls shut with a loud clang. His inboard exhaust valves shut, the oiler drops below to secure the sea valves that allow the seawater to cool the engines. Then, the Throttleman checks everything secure one more time.

In the control room, the other area of great activity on a dive, lookouts almost free fall to their diving stations on the bow and stern planes. Quickly the bow Planesman rigs out his planes and both he and the stern Planesman set their charges to the prescribed angles for the dive. Arriving soon after the Planesmen, the OOD, now the diving officer, gives the ordered depth to reach and the angle to do it. Then he checks that all is well and will watch the Planesmen to learn if the trim needs changing. The Chief of the Watch having closed the huge main air induction valve, will watch the Christmas Tree to see that all hull openings are closed. Then he pulls the vents to flood the main ballast tanks and watches the depth to signal the Auxillaryman on the air manifold when to blow negative tank to the mark to stop our descent into the depths. The manifold operator will hammer open the valve and then close off the roaring rush of compressed air, as needed.

By this time, the trim manifold operator will have arrived from the engine room. After climbing over the stern Planesman he will be ready to pump and flood seawater to the tanks. This will trim up the boat to neutral buoyancy. In the Conn, the helmsman will have rung up standard speed so the boat will be driven under by the screws. The QM of the watch will dog the conning tower hatch when the OOD, the last man down from the bridge, pulls the lanyard to close it.

There is no music to guide this dance except calm orders given and acknowledged. Started in a flurry of activity, it will end by winding down quietly to a state of relaxed vigilance by men practiced and confident of themselves and each other. They have done this many times, this

## Vice Adm. James F. Calvert Dies At 88

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 04 JUN 09) ... Brian Witte

ANNAPOLIS, Md. - Retired Vice Adm. James F. Calvert, a submarine pioneer and author who served in the Navy during World War II before going on to be superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy where he made innovations to the curriculum, has died, family members said Thursday.

Calvert, who was 88, died of heart failure Wednesday in Bryn Mawr, Pa., said Kemp Battle, his stepson.

"He was a wonderful man and did a lot of dangerous things," his wife, Peggy, said in a telephone interview.

After graduating from Annapolis in 1942, Calvert went straight to work on submarines.

"A career submarine officer who began his service during World War II, he completed nine wartime patrols and later served an instrumental role in the development of modern submarine operations," the academy said in a statement.

He served on the USS Jack for eight war patrols and another on the USS Haddo during World War II. The USS Jack, on which Calvert helped aim the torpedoes, is credited with sinking 15 Japanese ships.

Calvert wrote several books. In his 1995 memoir "Silent Running," Calvert described his experiences in submarine operations in the Pacific during World War II, chasing and sinking enemy ships.

Calvert was the commanding officer of the nuclear-powered USS Skate from December 1957 to September 1959. The submarine became the first to surface at the North Pole in February 1959. Calvert wrote about the experience in a book titled "Surface At The Pole." The trip had been made to test how well a submarine could operate in the Arctic Ocean.

Battle said deciding when to surface through the Arctic ice was "a very tricky moment," because it was unclear what kind of damage the move would cause the submarine.

"It was a very dramatic moment when he decided to pick the spot and go for it," Battle said. "At the time, it was a major feat."

Calvert served as the 46th Naval Academy superintendent from 1968 to 1972.

For all of his adventures and accomplishments at sea, Battle said he believes Calvert was even prouder of his work at the helm of the academy.

During his tenure, he put an emphasis on increasing the academy's ability to recruit top civilian faculty members.

"He felt very strongly that the education of young men demanded balance, so he fought for civilian teachers and was very proud of that," Battle said. "He was very proud of that legacy."

He also implemented the academy's academic majors program, which broadened the academy's curriculum beyond engineering to include other majors such as

graceful and awkward descent into the depths. They do it as fast as is safely possible. This is where they belong, with many feet of sea hiding the strong steel of the hull. Men asleep in bunks half-awakened by the raucous alarm and noisy ballet, drift back to deep sleep, confident they are at home where they should be.

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### **Old Navy Chiefs**

- Chiefs know that no sailor is completely worthless, because worst case, they serve as a good bad example.
- Chiefs know that there's no help program like a self-help program.
- Chiefs will tell you that, "If you are going to do something stupid, at least be smart about it."
- Chiefs can write up anyone they want.
- Chiefs are the ultimate paradox. On the one hand they don't give a crap, but on the other hand, Real Chiefs are very careful and precise.
- Chiefs can find the best bar in any port by dead reckoning.
- Chiefs paint their houses Navy Grey with their addresses taken from their favorite hull number.
- Chiefs have a red and green buoy at the end of their driveways .
- Chiefs eat lightning and crap thunder.
- Chiefs consider a hurricane to be good sea trials.
- Chiefs are the Navy.
- Chiefs think that Ensigns, like diapers, should be changed often and for the same reason.
- Chiefs know that once a job is fouled up, anything done to improve it only makes it worse.
- Chiefs assume nothing is so simple that it cannot be misunderstood and they act accordingly.
- Chiefs view land as a mere hazard to navigation.
- Chiefs never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity.
- Chiefs never take the advice of someone who has not had their kind of trouble.
- Chiefs know that if it is stupid but works, it is not stupid.
- Chiefs will tell you that you can survive on charm for about 5 minutes, after that, you'd better know something.
- Chiefs know that assumption is the mother of all screw-ups.
- Chiefs never assume they get the facts.
- Chiefs do not confuse efforts with results.
- Chiefs will give you three choices in any situation; change, accept, or leave the Navy.
- Chiefs think multi-tasking is done in the shipyard head

political science.

Calvert also created the academy's James Forrestal Lecture in 1970, which focuses on leadership and has been given by prominent political, athletic and military leaders, including former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, football coach Dick Vermeil and Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

"He really was interested in the development of the minds of leaders," Battle said.

After retiring from the Navy, Calvert worked as an assistant to the chairman of Texaco. He also was a senior executive at Combustion Engineering in Stamford, Conn.

Calvert is survived by his wife of 41 years, Peggy, and their four sons Craig, David, John and Kemp Battle. He also is survived by two sons Jim and Charles from his previous marriage to his first wife Nancy, who died in 1965.

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### **HEALTH CARE REFORM Update 01**

A discussion draft of a possible health care reform bill was distributed by the House Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor in late June. The plan would create a Health Insurance Exchange (HIE) to provide health care options to individuals without coverage and small employers. Anyone would be eligible to obtain coverage under the HIE unless they are enrolled in another qualified health benefits plan or have other acceptable coverage (which would include Tricare, Tricare For Life, Medicare, and VA care enrollment). The draft envisions imposing a tax on individuals who don't obtain qualifying coverage. Some other changes to Medicare that may affect military beneficiaries are:

- Changes to the payment structure of skilled nursing facilities and freezing 2010 payments at the 2009 level.
  - Upgrading physician reimbursements to preclude the 21% payment cut scheduled for January 2010 unless the law is changed .
  - Extra payments to providers in "efficient areas".
  - Extension of Medicare therapy cap exceptions through 31 DEC 11.
  - Exclusion of proceeds from the sale of a primary residence from income used to compute Medicare part B premiums.
  - Allowing a 12-month period for TRICARE beneficiaries to enroll in Part B without a Part B premium penalty (retroactive to cover those who have incurred penalties since JAN 05)
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### **VA Category 8 Care Update 12**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which now has nearly 8 million Veterans enrolled in its health care system, is poised to welcome nearly 266,000 more Veterans into its medical centers and clinics across the

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reading a newspaper.

- Chiefs know that prior proper planning prevents piss poor performance.
  - Chiefs know that every part of the Chief's initiation is an important part of becoming a Chief and don't need to question it.
  - Chiefs refer to their wives as ComNavSoapSuds.
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### **VA Clothing Allowance Update 01**

In accordance with PL 110-111 Veterans, who because of a service-connected disability, wear or use a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance (including a wheelchair) which tends to wear out or tear clothing, and veterans, who because of a service-connected skin condition use a medication that causes irreparable damage to outer garments, are eligible for payment of an annual clothing allowance. Qualifying appliances/medications include:

1. An artificial limb, rigid extremity brace, rigid spinal or cervical brace, wheelchair, crutches or other appliance prescribed for the claimant's service-connected disability. Soft and flexible devices, such as an elastic stocking are not included.
2. Any medication, prescribed by a physician for a service-connected skin condition, that causes permanent stains or otherwise damages the veteran's clothing.

The allowance as of 1 DEC 08 for 2009 was \$716 per year. The clothing allowance increase, while effective the date of the law, is not payable until the following August 1st. (Example: PL 97-306 effective October 1, 1982, increased the clothing allowance to \$327.00. This rate was payable August 1, 1983.) It is recommended that you mark your calendar and apply for your 2009 allowance by 1 JUN 09 to allow ample time for VA to process it and avoid missing the 1 AUG cutoff date. To qualify for annual payment, eligibility must be established as of 1 AUG of the year for which payment is claimed. If you have previously submitted a claim for disability compensation, send your application on VA FORM 21-8678 May 03 to the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service (121), at your local VA Medical Center. If you have not made application for disability compensation, send the form to the VA regional office nearest your home. The form can be downloaded from [www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/vha-10-8678-fill.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/vha-10-8678-fill.pdf), you can ask VA to send you one, or you can pick one up at your VA clinic. If your support device wasn't issued by VA, you will need to get your VA doctor to do a certification for you that the support is necessary for you.

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### **TriCare User Fee Update 39**

A key lawmaker who has helped derail past Pentagon plans for big increases in Tricare fees for military retirees warns that the day is coming when enrollment costs, deductibles and co-payments will have to go up. Rep.

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country by expanding access to health care enrollment for certain Veterans who had been excluded due to their income. Dr. Gerald Cross, VA's Acting Under Secretary for Health, said, "This incremental approach to expanding enrollment ensures that access to VA health care for a greater number of beneficiaries does not sacrifice timely access or quality medical care for those Veterans already enrolled in VA's health care system. Over the next four years, we hope to provide enrollment to more than 500,000 Veterans." Under a new regulation effective 15 JUN, VA will enroll Veterans whose income exceeds current means-tested thresholds by up to 10%. These Veterans were excluded from VA health care enrollment when income limits were imposed in 2003 on Veterans with no service-connected disabilities or other special eligibility for care. There is no income limit for Veterans with compensable service-connected disabilities or for Veterans being seen for their service-connected disabilities.

Veterans who have applied for VA health care but were rejected due to income at any point in 2009 will have their applications reconsidered under the new income threshold formula. Those who applied before 2009, but were rejected due to income, must reapply. VA will contact these Veterans through a direct-mail campaign, Veterans service organizations, and a national and regional marketing campaign. Information about enrollment and an income and assets calculator are available at [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility). The calculator provides a format in which Veterans enter their household income, number of dependents, and zip codes to see if they may qualify for VA health care enrollment. In addition to applying online, Veterans may also contact VA's Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222 VETS (1-877-222-8387). Each VA medical center across the country has an enrollment coordinator available to provide Veterans with enrollment and eligibility information.

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### **Cellphone Discounts**

Military veterans and active-duty personnel are eligible for significant discounts on cellphone plans - if they know to ask. There are over 23 million veterans in the U.S. of which many are unaware of the potential savings on their monthly cellphone bills. Monthly military discounts range from 15% on Verizon Wireless plans to 10% off - and no activation fee - on T-Mobile agreements. Alltel, Sprint and AT&T offer similar discounts. While not everyone knows about the discounts, those who do say that getting the companies to register them for the cheaper plans is no easy task. Phoenix Arizona resident Janis Johnson said she called her cellphone company to register her husband, an Air Force veteran. At first, a customer service representative said no veteran discount existed. "Then she said we should get the 15 percent discount, but we were supposed to go to the Web site," she said. Johnson

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Susan Davis (D-CA), who chairs the House Armed Services Committee's military personnel panel, said that after three consecutive years in which lawmakers inserted specific language in the annual defense authorization bill prohibiting Tricare fee increases, the House version of the 2010 bill does not have any such provision — because the Pentagon did not ask for such increases in its budget request. The Obama administration and Defense Secretary Robert Gates agreed to a one-year moratorium on their quest for substantial fee hikes in order to work with Congress on finding other ways to hold down health care costs. As the armed services committee met 16 JUN to consider H.R.2647, the 2010 defense policy bill, Davis said she and other lawmakers share the Pentagon's concerns that rising health care costs are squeezing money for other defense programs, but they don't want to make rash changes. "Any changes to the health care benefit require careful and deliberate consideration," she said. Davis also said discussion about options will not be limited to the Pentagon and Congress. She pledged to include military associations that represent troops and families in seeking a "fair and equitable solution" to controlling health care costs. The Senate Armed Services Committee will start writing its version of the defense bill in late June. That committee also has not supported fee hikes pushed by the Pentagon to make up for the fact that Tricare fees have not changed since the plan started in 1994. Senators tend to favor limiting Tricare fee hikes to the size of the modest cost-of-living adjustment made each Dec. 1 in military retired pay.

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### **In The Words Of A Sole Survivor**

The four "Ticknor Kids" are now grown up and have spread out across the county, but this week, they came together in Wichita Falls to meet a man they have always considered a hero.

They never imagined they would get to know the long-ago gunner's mate whose own story is the only reason they know their father's fate.

The four grew up hearing stories their mother, Marvel, told about Clifford Kuykendall, the only sailor aboard the 80-man USS Tullibee who survived when an erratic torpedo — one of their own, he said — circled back and struck the boat, sinking it in the Pacific Ocean in late March, 1944.

The children's father, George Oran Ticknor, was chief electrician's mate, making him a chief petty officer on the USS Tullibee. He was on board that fateful day. He was 33, older than many of the crew members. He had built his career in the Navy.

His widow, Marvel, and their four children, Duane, Rosemary, Joie and Ruthie, would never have known what happened had it not been for a letter that arrived in a Christmas card from Kuykendall, who lives in Wichita Falls.

Kuykendall remembers sitting down at his sister's kitchen table after he returned from the World War II. He wrote

eventually gave up when she could find no place online to register.

Kenneth James Madetzke, 60, of Phoenix, had better luck. The Vietnam War veteran was able to sign up for AT&T's discounted plan and saves about \$8 a month. "It makes me feel good to have the money savings and be recognized as a veteran," Madetzke said. "The disappointment was that there was no advertisement. I had to pull it out of them." While waiting for doctor's appointments at the VA hospital, Madetzke often tells fellow veterans about the discount. Most, he said, know nothing about the deals. Bill Messer, president of Vietnam Veterans of America's Arizona State Council, said he used Verizon and hadn't heard of the discount. Verizon spokeswoman Jenny Weaver said the firm makes an effort to inform veterans of the savings, with in-store posters and military-magazine ads. "There aren't any posters up in the Phoenix metro area right now, because of some of the other promotions we have going on," Weaver said. Most services require a military identification card, veteran identification card or military discharge papers as proof of veteran status. Some companies require online registration to get the discount. Many companies, including Verizon, also offer discounted plans for customers 65 and older.

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### **Obituary...John A. Borchardt**

CHESAPEAKE, Va. – Retired U.S. Navy Capt. John Andrew "Andy" Borchardt, 56, of Eagle Pointe, died June 26, 2009, peacefully in his sleep.

He is survived by his high school sweetheart and loving wife of 34 years, Debra Lynn Borchardt; sons, Eric Walter Calise Borchardt and Brian Andrew Borchardt and his wife Hollie Michele Borchardt; and by too many friends and family members to ever possibly recount.

Andy was born in San Pedro, Calif., to the late Walter and Dolores Borchardt. After growing up in San Pedro, Andy went on to attend the U.S. Naval Academy and 30 years of service to his country as a career submariner. He served all over the globe with homeports ranging from Connecticut to Hawaii to Yokosuka, Japan. His tours included five submarines of which he commanded USS Aspro (SSN 648) and multiple shore facilities of which he commanded the Submarine Intermediate Maintenance Facility.

He was a highly decorated veteran and an honors graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School and National War College. After retiring from the U.S. Navy, Andy commenced a second career with the TSM Corporation where he spearheaded the conversion of USS Georgia (SSBN 729) and USS Florida (SSBN 728) from ballistic to tomahawk missile submarines. He also created and facilitated the Submarine Maintenance Course for the chief petty officers and officers of ships slated for shipyard maintenance periods.

Andy's professional accomplishments pale in

letters to 79 families, telling them what happened to the crew of the Tullibee.

“That’s the least I could do,” Kuykendall said Saturday, sitting at a table surrounded by George Ticknor’s children, Duane Ticknor of Otis, Ore., Rosemary Snyder of Ft. Collins, Colo., Joie Heller of Glendale, Ariz., and Ruthie Joyce of Philadelphia, Penn.

Decades ago when he sat down to write, he had a list of the crew members and their next of kin, and made sure each family knew the story.

“I’d write them, and fold them, and put them in an envelope,” he said. At 3 cents a stamp back then, “I could afford that.”

The letter meant the difference between knowing the truth and a lifetime of mystery for the Ticknor family.

“For our mother, he was a hero,” Ruthie Joyce said. “Otherwise, she wouldn’t have known what happened.”

Throughout their lives, Marvel Ticknor, who never remarried after the death of her husband, talked to the children about “Cliff.”

Only Rosemary, the oldest, who was 8 when their father died, really remembers George Ticknor.

She remembered him coming home on his last furlough.

“He was just real happy,” she said. “We were just thrilled to death to get to see him.”

He planned to put in his 20 years in the Navy, and he and his wife dreamed of buying a ranch together in Montana. They know he got to meet Duane, but he never saw Ruthie, the baby. She was born in December 1943 and was only a few months old when the Tullibee went down. Each of the siblings has been part of the American WWII Orphans Network. When Joyce got a suggestion that she do a Google search of Kuykendall’s name, she entered the information and was stunned when she came across a July 2008 Times Record News article on his service and his memories of the USS Tullibee.

“I never dreamed we could find him,” Joyce said. “I opened it up, and there he was. I sat at that computer with goosebumps from the top of my head to the bottoms of my feet.”

She learned he had an unlisted phone number, so Duane Ticknor wrote a letter to Wichita Falls’ chief of police, explaining the situation, in hopes of letting Kuykendall know the family would like to reach him.

The letter arrived at the Wichita Falls Police Department and made it to the hands of the manager of the apartment building where Kuykendall lives.

“The chief of police was looking for you,” The manager told Kuykendall when he delivered the letter. “I’m a law-abiding citizen,” Kuykendall laughed. “It has something to do with a submarine,” the manager told him.

Kuykendall agreed to let the family have his phone number, and Joyce made one of what would turn out to be the first of many calls. There were also exchanges of letters and pictures.

Kuykendall, who was 19 in 1944, didn’t know George Ticknor well, but he did remember him and recognized his

comparison to those in his personal life. He created friends and adopted family everywhere he went. He was the life of the party once he walked into the room and he had the ability to bring a smile to even the dourest person. His intelligence and wisdom were something that allowed him to talk sports, politics, economics or military policy with the greatest of ease. His legacy to all of us is that you need to live life to the fullest and to love what you do, because that was how he tackled everything he ever did. He was the greatest man that many of us ever knew, and he will be remembered and loved by all who knew him.

Memorial services will be held at Naval Air Station Oceana, Chapel of the Good Shepherd, 803 D St., Building 330, Virginia Beach, VA 23460 at noon Thursday, July 2. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org) . Condolences may be expressed to the family at [www.twifordfh.com](http://www.twifordfh.com) .

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### **Navy Has Begun Early Tech Development Of Next-Gen SSBN**

The Navy is in the “early stages” of technology development for the next-generation ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) and the primary challenge will be building new missile compartments, as that sector of the industry has been dormant for four decades, Rear Adm. Stephen Johnson, director of the sea service’s strategic systems programs, said last week.

“The first work will be on the missile compartment,”

Johnson said during a June 23 presentation at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington. “It has been four decades since we have designed or built items such as seagoing ballistic missile hatches or heavy missile tubes. This part of the industry must be revitalized.”

The Navy plans to start construction in 2019 on the next-generation SSBN, which will begin replacing the sea service’s 14 Ohio-class SSBNs in 2028. The submarines, which fire Trident missiles with nuclear warheads, make up the sea-based arm of the U.S. military’s nuclear triad.

Navy officials are still determining what form the next-generation SSBN will take. The new Virginia-class attack submarines are too small to carry the massive missile tubes required to fire a Trident missile.

However, officials plan to “leverage the success” of the Virginia-class cost reduction effort, Johnson said.

Early design studies on the SSBN will answer questions that arise from the nuclear posture review, which the Defense Department will complete later this year.

“The NPR will not determine the design of the submarine, but rather the number of weapons and targets,” Johnson said. “A reduction in weapons may change the number of missile tubes required per submarine. However, the total number of submarines is primarily derived from the number required at sea at any given time to provide a survivable deterrent.”

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face in his pictures.

When Joyce asked in March whether she and her siblings could come visit him, he agreed; and they spent several days in town this month, talking with Kuykendall and listening to his memories of the USS Tullibee and his captivity at the hands of the Japanese after he was pulled from the water.

“The only reason they plucked me out of the ocean was for intelligence,” he said.

Kuykendall felt at home with the siblings; he had three sisters, himself.

“They brought me up,” he said.

After he returned to Wichita Falls and wrote to the families of the 79 men who lost their lives, he heard back from many of the families. In many cases, pictures, introductions and even marriage proposals came back with the replies. Since many of the men were young, their closest relatives were mothers and sisters, not wives and children. Some of the letters were returned unread.

This is only the second visit he has had.

When he was on leave from the hospital in Norman, Okla., in the fall of 1945, the wife of an electrician’s mate first class traveled with her aunt to see him and find out about what happened to her husband.

He answered a lot of questions about that over the years. The Japanese forces were the first to want to know, but he didn’t tell them what he told the families.

“The Japs never did claim credit for it,” Kuykendall said. He said the Japanese forces saw the explosion and asked him about what had happened. He said one of their own torpedoes traveled erratically, making a circle back and striking the boat, which is what they called the submarine. Early on, Kuykendall used to lie awake at night thinking about the USS Tullibee; after a while, he knew the thoughts would consume him if he didn’t force them to the back of his mind, and that’s what he had to do.

But the memories of his service haven’t disappeared, and he delved into books and pointed out pictures as he talked about his experiences. At 84, he still has vivid memories of his service, which also included a tour in the Korean War.

His memories and stories have been a treasure to Ticknor’s family.

“There are quite a few war orphans who still don’t know what happened to their dads,” Duane Ticknor said.

“In all the services,” Kuykendall added.

Kuykendall worked hard to survive so he would be able to come back and share the truth with the other families, Joyce said.

“His memory is just wonderful,” Heller said. “It’s fabulous, wonderful — what a blessing,” she said of meeting him after so many years of hearing his story.

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Johnson said the timing for the redesign was “near perfect” due to the ongoing NPR and Quadrennial Defense Review.

“To ensure there is no gap in strategic coverage when the Ohio-class SSBNs begin to retire, we plan to start concept and system-definition studies for the Ohio-class replacement in FY-10,” he said.

Capt. Daniel Mack, commander of submarine squadron 16, told Inside the Navy in February that the Navy’s choice of a platform would be dependent on whether the sea service intends to continue using the 130,000-pound Trident missiles 20 years from now.

“Is it going to be the Trident missile or is it going to be a brand-new missile?” he said. “How about the circumference of the tubes? Is the next one going to be bigger than the Trident, same size or smaller? How many boats do we need? Do we need 16 tubes or 24? How many warheads?”

“I don’t know what the right answer is, but I know there’s a lot of smart people that will figure that out,” he added.

Officials have noted that the Navy has not even committed to a submarine as the platform for the next-generation sea-based strategic deterrent.

Vice Adm. Jay Donnelly, submarine forces commander, told ITN in October that the goal was to have a new platform that is fully operational and delivered in about 2025.

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### **Don't Ignore Growing Threat From China**

*Joe Buff, The Day, June 28, 2009*

A Chinese Navy nuclear-powered submarine sails during an international fleet review to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of People’s Liberation Army Navy April 23 off Qingdao, China.

Some pundits use current force comparisons between the two countries to reason that China would have to be crazy to ever intentionally start a war with the United States: If they did, they would certainly lose, very quickly and badly. But sloughing over or garbling the differences between the time frames of the data (“current”), and of the conclusion (“ever”), produces an analysis that is seductive yet potentially flawed. Military power compilations for 2009 do not necessarily accurately predict relative strengths and weaknesses between 2025 and 2040. This is especially true when the year-to-year moving parts of those compilations could propel cash-rich China and budget-strapped America in opposite directions when it comes to military spending. China’s aggregate table of organization and equipment may very well swell impressively in years to come, while America’s could hold steady or even decline.

Those who believe that Beijing’s intentions are and will always remain non-aggressive should take note of the Pentagon’s “Annual Report to Congress on the Military Power of the People’s Republic of China, 2009.” As this report makes clear, the danger of a war breaking out

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inadvertently, rather than by desire or design, due to a “misunderstanding or miscalculation,” is real, significant, and increasing.

To try to minimize this risk simply by America disarming unilaterally would raise the probability that Beijing could be tempted to wage war on purpose. Washington needs to rely on a flexible blend of engagement through diplomatic dialogue and deterrence through robust defense, not blind optimism and fudged numbers.

I grew concerned recently when evidence that China is unlikely to have an operational supercarrier before 2016 was used to imply that America's long-term, steady-state 11-ship supercarrier fleet will always be numerically superior to China's. This ignores the possibility that China's carrier fleet could grow constantly starting in 2017.

I also encountered a downplaying of Chinese submarine capabilities based on a muddled time horizon. That argument pointed to the small number of operational patrols in 2009 (reportedly 12), but ignored the exponential growth of this undersea activity compared to levels earlier in the decade – very few, if any, reported Chinese sub patrols each year. The analysis also discounted China's announced plans for buying or building more diesel and nuclear subs.

Taking a snapshot in time approach to Chinese submarine activity is not a sound way to quantify how many submarines the U.S. Navy will need in the 2030s. Adequate preparation demands ongoing funding and construction of two Virginia fast-attacks a year, beginning now.

The United States must strike the proper balance between today's “Long War on Terror” and adequate preparation to dissuade or, if necessary, win a hypothetical future “Big War” with China or Russia, or whomever. The U.S. Navy's New Maritime Strategy explicitly recognizes that such a big war would be severely destructive, and thus deserves to be planned against now.

The doctrine for striking this now-versus-later balance is at present in a formative stage and making the right choices depends on avoiding wrong assumptions or outright rhetorical blunders.

America's 2010 fiscal-year Pentagon budget, to be finalized by Congress later this year, will set a lasting tone regarding two critical things. One is how much money America will be spending soon on defense. The other, much more fundamental, is how rationally or irrationally we will develop our annual national security budgets for a generation to come. This hard work needs to be driven by top-down global strategy, not bottom-up partisan bean-counting, with an emphasis on crisp intellectual rigor.