

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 5, No. 10

October 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 Government”



Base web page: www.ussvich.org
 National web page: www.ussvi.org

Base Meeting:

October 8, 2009
 Social hour 1800, General Meeting 1900

Location:

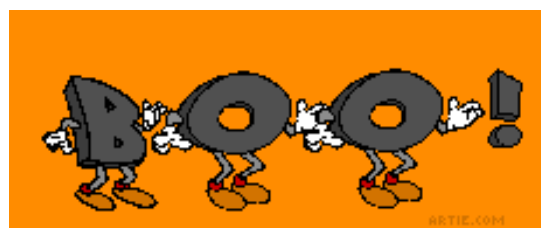
Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269, Low Country Home
 99 Wisteria Rd.
 Goose Creek, South Carolina. Phone 843-569-2962

Special Officers		Phone Number
Chief of the Boat	Rick Wise	843-875-5559
Public Affairs	Ed Stank	843- 569-6012
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
Historian	George Scharf	843 873-3318

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



HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Minutes of the September 2009 meeting

Attendance for the September 10, 2009 meeting was 113

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

The Edward Jones representative, Randy Myers, gave an update on our investments and answered questions about same.

Introductions: New people were introduced; Talmage L. Hughston YNCSS, Nathaniel Ranck, Randy Vandiver MM1SS. 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: No report

Chaplain: September Report: On September 4th, we conducted a bell tolling memorial service for Bob Finch. USSSVI Charleston Base and SubVets WWII had over 30 members mustered to give Bob a Sailor's farewell. The Navy provided a rifle team, bugler and flag folding detail. The VFW and FRA participated along with Charleston Base. The entire service was done extremely well and with great dignity.

Cards were sent as follows to:

Richard Alfano who is recovering from extensive back surgery.

Family of Carl 'Gene' Ritchie. Gene departed on Eternal Patrol on August 15th in North Carolina. He was a retired RMC qualified in Submarines and served on the Simon Bolivar. He was not a member of Charleston Base.

Family of Kenneth Russ 'Pappy' Cline. Pappy departed on Eternal Patrol on August 25th in Orangeburg. He was a retired MMC qualified in Submarines and served on several boats. He was a life member of USSVI, a past member of Charleston Base and a current member of Palmetto Base.

Family of Angelia Cleeve. Angelia, the daughter-in-law of Richard Cleeve, a Charleston Base member, passed away on August 30th after a long illness.

Family of Robert D. 'Bob' Finch. Bob departed on Eternal Patrol on September 1st. He was a retired TMC qualified in Submarines. He was a member of USSVI Charleston Base.

Family of Billy Alexander Franklin. Billy departed on Eternal Patrol on September 4th. Billy was a Quartermaster qualified in Submarines. He qualified on the USS THORNBAC SS 418 and rode her between 1951-1958 out of SUBRON 4. He then worked at the CNSY for 28 years retiring as Shop 11 Foreman. Billy was not a member of Charleston Base.

Sub Vets WWII: Next meeting is at Ryan's on the 15th of Oct. Come out and join us.

The Amberjack Memorial dedication is tentatively set for Nov. 11 at Patriots Point.

Scholarship: We are selling raffle tickets for a framed print of the H.L. Hunley. The tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be at the Christmas party. The print was donated and we bought a very nice frame for it. See Carl Chinn, Julian Villegas, or Rick Collins for tickets. We also have Charleston Base challenge coins.

Public Affairs: 1. A story has been submitted to the "American Submariner" about our donation of a flat screen TV to the Victory House in Walterboro.

2. We have Panama Jack's written story about the USS Barb's fire. If anyone wants a copy see Ed Stank.

3. Ed Stank donated \$60 from coffee cup sales to the Victory flight. Good Job.

Webmaster: No report

Veteran's Affairs: No report

District Commander: No report

Fleet Reserve: No report

Holland Club: John D. Hill was inducted into the Holland Club. He qualified in 1943. John Lookabill has Holland Club challenge coins for sale.

Membership: Currently 321 members. Pay your dues!

Little David: No report

Newsletter: No report

Base Historian: Looking for names of Charleston Base plank owners. He has the names of the base officers but needs the list on regular members.

After Battery: Donated \$50 for the hog roast. I also failed to report a \$50 donation last month by the After Battery for the hog roast. The After Battery has donated \$600 to the base for our annual hog roast since last year. This is not counting the money given for the victory flight and other purposes. Good Job! * And if you can believe it Neck says he will no longer say bad things about his nuclear trained brothers.

Chief of the Boat: No report

Base Commander: We will be taking donations for the Victory House like we have done in the past. We will have a list of requested items.

A motion was made and seconded for the Charleston Base to donate \$500 to the WW2 victory flight.

The FRA has special 2 for 1 membership drive. You pay 1 year and the Post pays for the 2nd.

The Christmas is the 5th of Dec. Tickets are on sale for

Family of Kathy Vandiver. Kathy, the wife of Ronnie Vandiver, a Charleston Base member, passed away on September 6th.

Ken Hutchinson. Ken had a CT scan of his chest at the end of August. It revealed a spot on his lung which the doctor believes might be cancer. He is having more tests run.

Ben Heber. It was reported to me that Ben is on oxygen and is very weak.

Found out tonight:

Ben McDonald is having knee replacement on Tuesday, 15 September.

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

members \$15 and significant others and \$20 for other guest.

Nuclear Historian: Went to the CPO selectee breakfast where I shared some wisdom.

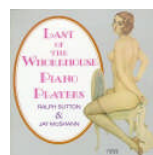
Old Business: Nov. 8th we will be at the Summerville Azalea Park for the festivities as we were last Veterans Day.

New Business: None

Good Of The Order: .

Depth Charge drawing \$314 to winner Richard Barnette who donated \$100 back to scholarship fund. Thanks Richard!

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2000.



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



Alfano	Alkire	Bailey, W	Bonow
Britton	Camp	Campbell, N	Esch
Forbes	Gnodle	Griggs	Hall
Harden	Hayes	Holzel	Hostetter
Johnson, E	Lindberg	Lisle	Lookabill
Lord	Nathan	Palenchar	Peters
Roup	Skorepa	Wilson, B	Yingling

October Submarines Lost:

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

The Final Patrol

Lord, these departed shipmates with dolphins on their chest,

Are a part of an outfit known as the very best.

Make them welcome and take them by the hand,

You'll find without a doubt they were the best in all the land.

So, heavenly Father, add their names to the roll, Of our departed shipmates still on patrol.

Let them know that we who survive,

Will always keep their memories alive.

OCTOBER HAPPENINGS!

October 8 – Regular Monthly Meeting

October 15 -- Sub Vets of WWII Meeting, at Ryan's on 17A in Summerville; 1200

October 24 – Hog Roast at The After Battery, starts 1300, \$5 each



Membership Dues

2010 membership dues are payable on 1 October 2008.

You can pay anytime. Let's make this easy and everyone pay on time or early!

If you're not sure what you owe, contact Carl Chinn at carlc@sc.rr.com or 875-3098.

There will be a list at the meetings starting in July.

2009 Distinguished Submariner Award



This year's recipient of this Charleston Base award is BMC(SS), Ret. Jack W. Stevenson. As everyone is aware, Jack moved to Colorado and is living in Palisade, a small town near Grand Junction on the western slope. His son, Jack Jr., and family live nearby in Gunnison, Colorado.

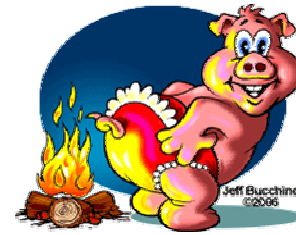
The members of USSVI Thunder Mountain Base, led by base commander Terry Heers, were gracious enough to present Jack's award on Saturday, September 26, 2009, at a base luncheon and memorial service. A quote from Terry: "We had Jack at our Luncheon & Memorial on Saturday and had a great time with him. He's like a living history book."



"Congratulations Jack!"

New War Game Examines Future Undersea Warfare Concepts

The Navy has begun a new war game series that focuses on developing concepts for the use of autonomous systems and conducting warfare in the undersea environment, according to the office of the chief of naval operations. The CNO's 2010 Guidance, released earlier this month, discussed the Title 10 war game series and noted that the service had conducted a war game known as "Leveraging



Hog Roast

The Charleston Base annual hog roast will be held on October 24, starting at 1300. \$5.00 each, pay at the gate.

Cole Slaw and Baked Beans provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share with all.



Annual Christmas Party



The Charleston Base Christmas Party will be on 5 December 2009. It will be held at the same location as the past 3 years; *Gatherings* in beautiful downtown Dorchester, SC.



Same rules as always...

you must have a ticket to attend and THERE WILL BE NO TICKET SALES AT THE DOOR!

Cocktails at 1700, Dinner at 1830

Dress is not prescribed, come comfortable, as you desire. Coat and tie, slacks and shirt, etc.

Tickets will be available starting September meeting.

Last day to buy tickets is 12 November meeting. Buy early! Ticket price: \$15 per person for member and spouse/girlfriend. \$20 per person for all other guests.

Navy Taps Lasers for Sub-Sea Telegraph

Communicating with submarines while they prowl the seas has been one of the longstanding challenges for the military. Now, naval researchers say they have made

the Undersea Environment" to "assess undersea capabilities and concepts." The purpose of the war game, which took place in February, is to encourage "forward thinking," said Lt. Jessica Gandy, spokeswoman for the CNO.

"Specifically, this war game explored the use of autonomous distributed systems and undersea warfare in light of current and future undersea concepts," Gandy said in an e-mail response to questions from Inside the Navy. "Recommendations and learning from this effort is helping to frame not only work in the undersea environment, but is a springboard for institutionalizing key processes used to develop concepts."

The war game was a CNO-directed "concept generation and concept development" (CGCD) event that is designed to create an environment "free from institutional bias in order to stimulate innovative and conceptual forward thinking and drive cultural change," Gandy said.

"The participants were junior officers carefully selected from across the Navy's communities and commands," she continued. "The outcomes of the war game were not intended to validate any proposed future systems, but rather drive conceptual thinking, cultural change and provide lessons for innovation in the Navy."

Those lessons will inform research and development and future Title 10 war games, she said.

The Leveraging the Undersea Environment war game was "somewhat of a departure" from traditional wargaming methods, Gandy said.

"It was part of a pilot for the CNO's CGCD program," she said. "The Navy expects to do more of these innovation war games."

Country's First Submarine Fully Operational By Mid October

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues: KD Tunku Abdul Rahman (KD TAR), the country's first submarine, will be in full operation by the middle of next month, Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) Chief Admiral Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Jaafar said today.

He said the navy would also propose some incentives for the submarine crew to the Armed Forces Council.

Among the incentives was to double the service tenure of all the KD TAR crew after retirement, besides several benefits similar to those offered by the submarine forces of other countries.

"When the crew members retire after 10 years, they will be recognised as having served the RMN for 20 years," he told reporters after opening the KD Sri Gombak Administration Centre here today.

Abdul Aziz said the crew would also need time to be with their families and get use to the submarine before it starts full operation.

KD TAR is expected to be at the Teluk Sepanggar base in Sabah on Thursday.

headway on an innovative way to use undersea laser that could be used to communicate with submarines.

The idea is to use lasers beams to create sound through mini-explosions. "One of the peculiar effects of high-intensity laser beams is that they can actually focus themselves when passing through some materials, like water," reports the BBC. "As the laser focuses, it rips electrons off water molecules, which then become superheated and create a powerful 'pop'."

The "pop," according to naval researchers, is actually an explosion of steam creating a 220 dB sound pulse. The laser pulses could originate from either a submarine under the water or an aircraft above.

During the Cold War, communicating with submerged submarines was critical in case of a nuclear exchange. Radio waves don't propagate well through sea water, so scientists looked to other methods, like very low frequency and extremely low frequency radio waves. The idea is to pass on messages to submarines, without the need for them to surface (and thus potentially giving away their location). Although this requirement is not as critical as it once was, the U.S. Navy clearly remains interested in the underwater communications challenge.

TRICARE PRIME Update 06

If you are enrolled in Tricare Prime at an MTF and live at least 30 minute drive from the MTF you should have received, or will be receiving soon, a letter from the MTF command concerning a travel waiver. If you want to remain enrolled in the MTF you will need to send back a form saying you wish to waive the Tricare Prime distance requirement that all enrollees live within a 30 minute drive of the Primary Care Provider (PCP). If you don't get a waiver you will need either to be assigned a PCP in the civilian network (if possible), move into the allowed Tricare Prime distance requirement, or disenroll from Prime and start using Tricare Standard/TFL. Only approximately 30% of enrollees who have been sent the waiver letter have replied. If you have received a letter you need to answer it (whatever the answer is). If you have not received one and live at least 30 minutes driving time from your PCP make sure to call your MTF and ask them for one.

Secnav, CNO: Women Should Serve On Subs

Women should be allowed to serve aboard submarines, and the Navy is "moving out aggressively" to make it happen, according to the service's top civilian.

"I believe women should have every opportunity to serve at sea, and that includes aboard submarines," Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said Thursday in a statement to Navy Times.

His comment comes one week after Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen told congressional lawmakers that he thought it was time to end the ban

COLA 2010 Update 07

Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) introduced 8 SEP 09 legislation that, if passed, ensures retirees will receive a cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) in 2010. Under the current guidelines, social security recipients are not scheduled to receive any COLA next year. The Social Security COLA Fix for 2010 Act (H.R.3536) will help seniors offset the rising costs that they face by providing them with a one-time \$150 payment in lieu of the Social Security COLA. Social Security COLAs are based on inflation, and since inflation did not increase in 2009, Social Security payments are expected to remain at the same levels in 2010 as they have been in 2009. While inflation may not have gone up since last year, costs for seniors, especially their healthcare costs, are increasing. According to McCarthy's office, Medicare Part B costs, for example, have gone up by an average of 7.8% over the last five years and are projected to rise in 2010 by as much as 9%. Seniors also largely live off investment income, many of which have seen staggering hits as a result of the economic downturn.

The lack of a Social Security COLA increase in 2010 would affect over 50 million individuals who receive Social Security checks, says McCormick's office. The 2010 Social Security projections represent the first year without a COLA increase since the automatic Social Security COLA adjustments began in 1975. "I have been hearing from many seniors in my district who are concerned about not getting a COLA in 2010. Seniors rely on these payments and with the increasing costs of healthcare coupled with hits to their investments, America's seniors are being shortchanged. This bill will help provide some relief to millions of Americans," said Rep. McCarthy. While most federal retirees and their survivors who receive Social Security would benefit from the bill -- if it passes -- about 200,000 federal annuitants, covered by CSRS and other systems, who are not eligible to receive Social Security benefits would not, according to the National Archive and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE).

ID CARD NUMBERS Update 03

In response to an increasing awareness of the growing need to protect the safety of service members, retirees and their families' identity information, the Department of Defense is beginning to remove Social Security numbers from its identification cards. The removal is being done in phases as computer software is modified. Phase One is under way and involves removing the family member's number and replacing it with "XXX-XX-XXXX" on the card. The sponsor's number will remain visible for now. Phase Two involves removing all printed Social Security numbers beginning later this year. Both the sponsor and cardholder numbers will be replaced with "XXX-XX-XXXX." Phase Three, set to begin in 2012, will involve

against women on submarines.

Mullen's successor, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead, also said he is "very comfortable" addressing the crewing policy.

"There are some particular issues with integrating women into the submarine force; issues we must work through in order to achieve what is best for the Navy and our submarine force," Roughead said in a statement. "Accommodations are a factor, but not insurmountable."

Navy Times requested responses from Mabus and Roughead after Mullen called for ending the ban, which was part of submitted answers to written questions posed by the Senate Armed Services Committee. Mullen was responding to a question on women in combat and whether any policy changes are needed. He zeroed in on women serving aboard submarines. "As an advocate for improving the diversity of our force, I believe we should continue to broaden opportunities for women," Mullen wrote. "One policy I would like to see changed is the one barring their service aboard submarines."

Roughead, in his statement, stopped short of announcing any major policy changes.

"Having commanded a mixed gender surface combatant, I am very comfortable addressing integrating women into the submarine force. I am familiar with the issues as well as the value of diverse crews," he said. "The Navy has examined the feasibility of assigning women to submarines over the years, and I have been personally engaged on this."

Roughead said the Navy must "manage the community as a whole, such as force growth and retention within a small warfare community."

"The size of the submarine force is much smaller than the surface and aviation forces and personnel management is more exacting," he continued. "This has had and will continue to have my personal attention as we work toward increasing the diversity of our Navy afloat and ashore."

Mullen, who became chairman two years ago, had shown interest in a policy change during his 2½ years as CNO, and had asked the submarine community to look at the issue, said Capt. John Kirby, Mullen's spokesman then and now.

That "look" was not complete by the time he was elevated to his present job, Kirby said, but opening the submarine community to women "is something he has maintained an interest in."

Women, who make up about 12 percent of the 1.2 million U.S. service members on active duty, are by policy excluded from traditional front-line combat jobs. But combat roles have become blurred during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, in which irregular warfare marked by insurgent roadside bombs and a lack of the frontlines evident in traditional warfare have brought

removing Social Security numbers embedded in barcodes. In JAN 2010, retirees with an indefinite expiration date on their card can begin requesting a new card without a printed Social Security number. Family member ID cards will change when the cardholders' expired cards are renewed. There are more than 1,500 ID card centers worldwide. To find the nearest center, visit the RAPIDS site locator at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home. People must present two forms of identification and one must be an unexpired federal- or state-issued photo ID. Specific guidance is published in the Air Force Instruction 36-3026-IP, June 17, 2009.

Postal Clerks and Storekeepers Merge to Become Logistics Specialists

The U.S. Navy Postal Clerk (PC) and Storekeeper (SK) ratings will merge Oct. 1 to form the new Logistics Specialist (LS) rating.

"This merger is a step in our efforts to define the supply enlisted workforce that will support the Navy in the twenty-first century," said Rear Adm. Mike Lyden, commander, Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) and chief of Supply Corps. "Our work processes in the future will require a more broadly trained Sailor who can provide a unique skill set to both our Navy warfighters, and the joint warfighters. By combining these two ratings, we lay the groundwork for future readiness and greatly enhance career opportunities for all Sailors in the LS rating."

According to NAVSUP Command Master Chief Jim Collins, merging these two ratings will give the PCs a viable career path, broader skill sets, and increased advancement opportunities. The LS rating will also benefit Sailors with greater diversity in both sea and shore assignments.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead approved the ratings merger on Nov. 17, 2008. Since the LS rating was approved, a new rating manual, mobile training teams, and online training programs were developed to educate PCs and SKs in their new roles as LSs.

Admiral Osborne Scholarship Fund

How about helping out the scholarship fund? We are offering a Charleston Base Challenge Coin for sale. ALL proceeds go into the scholarship fund.

Coins only cost \$7 each. Available for an additional \$1 is a protective plastic capsule.

To get your coin(s) see Jim Yates, Julian Villegas or Carl Chinn.

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

Buy several for great gifts!

women assigned to jobs as corpsmen, military police and other "combat enabler" jobs into harm's way, much as their combat brethren.

The Navy as of May had 7,900 female officers and 44,000 female sailors, comprising about 15 percent of officers and sailors in the 330,500-strong active component. But while women have been assigned to surface warships since 1993, they remain banned from submarine crews, naval special warfare teams and conventional riverine boat crews. Female officers and sailors can get qualified to work on nuclear reactors but are restricted to serving on nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, not on any of the Navy's 71 nuclear-powered submarines.

Submariners live in exceptionally close quarters, even taking turns sleeping in the same bunks on attack submarines. Officials have said the lack of privacy and the cost of reconfiguring subs already tightly packed with gear and crew members make it difficult to introduce female crew.

Mullen thinks those issues can be resolved.

"He believes that the physical barriers ... can be overcome, as they have been overcome on surface combatants," Kirby said.

Mullen Wants Females on Subs

Women should be allowed to serve aboard America's fleet of nuclear submarines, the nation's top military officer, Adm. Michael Mullen, quietly has told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

If the Navy agrees to it, this would be a huge policy change and potentially a significant expansion of career opportunities for female officers and sailors.

Women have been barred by Navy policy from submarines, even as the sea service began 15 years ago to integrate females into other seagoing combat roles including aboard surface warships and in fighter jets. Mullen, former chief of naval operations and a career surface warfare officer, made his position on submarines known in written responses to questions from the committee to prepare for Mullen's confirmation hearing to serve a second two-year term as chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

"As an advocate for improving the diversity of our force, I believe we should continue to broaden opportunities for women. One policy I would like to see changed is the one barring their service aboard submarines," Mullen told senators.

Opponents of lifting the ban have argued for decades that space is at a premium on submarines. To accommodate privacy needs of females, including separate berthing and "heads" or toilet/shower facilities, would be "prohibitively expensive," Navy has argued. Watch duty, bunk management, extra supplies and incidents of fraternization and harassment would complicate submarine life, according to one study done



Underwater Lasers Change Everything

Finally, there are lasers that can be used communicating underwater. This is done by using a laser pulse tuned to ionize water, and generate an acoustic pulse. Thus surface ships or aircraft could communicate with suitably equipped subs. This stuff is still in the lab, but given the need for underwater communications, there's lots of incentive to get it into service. If this survives development and testing, it will revolutionize submarine operations.

For years, researchers have been trying to find ways to use lasers to detect submarines, or to enable underwater communications. So far, it's been found that blue-green lasers can reach some ten meters beneath the surface, and be used for detection and communication. Not terribly useful for subs (which typically stay farther down than ten meters), although work continues on using this capability to search for bottom mines in shallow waters.

Two years ago, the U.S. Navy completed development of this system, which enabled nuclear subs to communicate with the rest of the world that, normally, could not be done until the boat came close to the surface and poked a radio antenna above the surface. The Deep Siren, or "tactical paging system", provided a practical solution to the problem of communicating with a submerged sub. The system consists of a disposable buoy that is dropped in the water, by an aircraft or over the side of a ship, in the general area (within about 90 kilometers) where the sub is believed to be. The buoy sends out an acoustic signal that U.S. subs are equipped to automatically pick up. This coded message either orders the sub to get a radio antenna above water and call home, or simply delivers a brief message. The buoy also has a satellite telephone capability, so that additional messages can be sent from anywhere, to the sub. The sub cannot send messages to the buoy (because powerful sensors are required to pick up the signals). In the past, the only way to "page" submerged subs was via a large, shore based, low frequency, transmission system. This system was less reliable than the new one, although it had a much longer range.

The navy recently successfully tested the other end of the system. To do this, the sub releases a similar buoy through its garbage chute. The buoy hovers for a while (so the sub can move away), then rises to the surface and sends its

for the Navy in 1994.

No senator actually raised the female submariner issue with Mullen during his Sept. 15 confirmation hearing. The focus was Afghanistan and Iraq. And Navy officials had no immediate comment on Mullen's position. Mullen's spokesman, Navy Capt. John Kirby, said the chairman did tell Adm. Gary Roughead, current chief of naval operations, what position Mullen was going to take on women submariners in comments back to committee.

Mullen had focused some attention on this issue in the past, Kirby explained. While serving as CNO, Mullen had asked Adm. Kirkland H. Donald, director of naval nuclear propulsion, and other submarine community leaders to "take a look" at ending the ban on women in the "silent service." That review was still underway when Mullen stepped down in 2007 to become chairman and, as such, senior military adviser to the president.

Allowing women on submarines, Kirby said, "was something he always had in his mind and still believes in."

But Mullen doesn't intend to hold "meetings or discussions with the Navy on this," Kirby added. "As a former CNO, he understands the Title 10 responsibilities that the CNO has. I don't think he is keen to be too deeply involved in what is clearly the Navy's responsibility to manage the force."

As to why Mullen even raised the issue, Kirby said, "He was answering a question honestly about women in combat, and that's how he really feels."

Among the dozens of written questions posed to Mullen was this: "Does the Department of Defense have sufficient flexibility under current law to make changes to assignment policy for women when needed?" Mullen answered that the department has all the flexibility it needs. But he referenced military women's "tremendous contributions to our national defense. They are an integral part of the force and are proven performers in the operational environment and under fire."

He noted too that DoD policies "fully recognize that women are assigned to units and positions that are not immune from the threats present in a combat environment. In fact, women are assigned to units and positions that may necessitate combat actions -- actions for which they are fully trained and prepared to respond and to succeed."

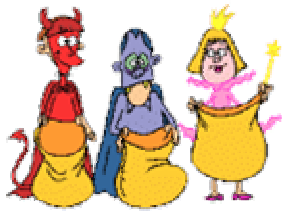
More than 100 U.S. service women have been killed since 2001 while serving in Iraq, Afghanistan or Kuwait.

One Capitol Hill source said he was told by a submarine community officer that the Navy had readied plans at one point to allow women to serve aboard Ohio-class strategic missile submarines. Kirby was asked if Mullen had these larger boats, nicknamed "boomers," in mind

messages. Thus the buoy signal will not give away the exact location of the boat. The buoy then receives messages (short ones) and uses a sonar type device to send the data acoustically, for up to 90 kilometers, to the sub. Outgoing messages, which are sent via satellite, can be longer, and even include outgoing email from the crew to family. But the acoustically transmitted messages are much shorter, and include orders from the surface ships, or anyone in the chain of command, to the sub commander.

Deep Siren can also be useful for American carrier task forces, which are usually accompanied by at least one SSN (nuclear attack sub.) Because thermal layers make underwater transmissions vary a great deal in range, the buoy sends the command messages several times to insure at least one gets through. The buoy from the sub can stay active for several days, if the sub is remaining in the area. But eventually, the buoy sinks itself.

The U.S. Navy has spent about \$10 million on Deep Siren so far, mainly to install it in some subs and test it. These tests continue, to see how reliable it would be under realistic conditions. Raytheon apparently believes the Deep Siren isn't ready for prime time yet, but for security reasons, isn't discussing what the problems are.



Submariner Awarded Bronze Star for IA Service

A submariner was awarded Bronze Star for combat operations while serving an individual augmentee during a ceremony held at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga., Sept. 17.

Lt.j.g. Warren Bowman, who has been in the Navy for 19 years, served as an individual augmentee at Camp Hit, Iraq from September 2008-April 2009. He was an electronic warfare officer with the Joint Counter Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Electronic Warfare Composition Squadron 1, Multi-National Corps-Iraq in direct support of 3rd Battalion 7th Marines and 2nd Battalion 1st Marines.

Rear Adm. Barry Bruner, commander Submarine Group 10, presented Bowman the Bronze Star on behalf of Lt. Gen. Charles Jacoby Jr., USA, commanding general Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

The narrative accompanying the award stated, Bowman

for gender integration as opposed to the smaller attack submarines.

"I don't believe he's made that distinction in his mind yet," Kirby said.

The Navy was under enormous pressure a decade ago from the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) to open the submarine community to women. DACOWITS at the time was an influential 34-member advisory group to the secretary of defense.

In 1999, the Navy allowed several members of this group aboard different classes of submarines while underway. For a few days they lived aboard. But they returned to shore unconvinced that the gender ban was appropriate. That fall DACOWITS unanimously recommended that the Navy secretary and the CNO "commit to the integration of women in the submarine community and develop an implementation plan." Given that submarines are built to last 40 years, the group suggested it was unrealistic to assume women wouldn't serve aboard these platforms at some point. So, long term, the group wanted new Virginia-class attack submarines to be redesigned to accommodate mixed crews. Short term, DACOWITS wanted women assigned soon to the larger missile boats.

If there were plans drafted to begin gender integration, they were shelved after the Bush administration arrived in 2001. With the Pentagon under new management, the number of DACOWITS members was cut to 15, their charter was watered down and their influence waned. Gender integration on submarines fell from the group's agenda by April 2001.

With a single sentence in a 72-page packet returned to senators, Mullen has restored and elevated the issue to new heights.

Shooting Down Aircraft With Torpedoes

Once more, developers are working on weapons that enable submerged submarines to attack aircraft overhead. There was recent successful test of the U.S. Tomahawk Capsule Launching System (TCLS) releasing a AIM-9X Sidewinder air-to-air heat seeking missile. This is all part of an effort that began during the Cold War, particularly for non-nuclear subs. While most of this work halted when the Cold War ended in 1991, it has since been resumed.

Last year, for example, Germany successfully tested launching anti-aircraft missile from a submerged submarine (U-33, a Type 212 equipped with Air Independent Propulsion). The IDAS (Interactive Defense and Attack system for Submarines) missile used is 7.6 feet long, 180mm in diameter and weighs 260 pounds. It has a 29 pound warhead and a range of at least 15 kilometers. The main targets are ASW (Anti-Submarine) helicopters and low flying ASW aircraft. Two IDAS missiles fit into a metal frame that in turn

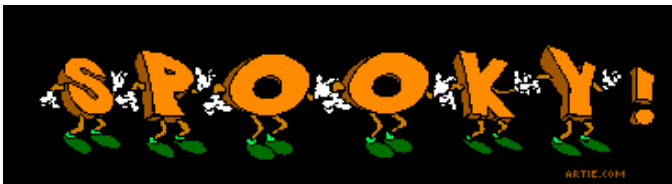
"directed the fielding, sustainment, and upgrades of 360 complex high-powered crew systems, directly contributing to a significant reduction of radio-controlled improvised explosive device threats. He expertly maintained and upgraded a varied \$20.5 million inventory of 360 crew systems and volunteered to assist with critical infrastructure and economic projects in the Hit, Kubaysa, and Baghdad areas, totaling over \$250,000 that directly improved the quality of life for the residents of these areas and made significant contributions to counter-insurgency efforts in Al Anbar province."

"Lieutenant Bowman's award of the Bronze Star is indicative of his significant impact in Iraq as the award says "for exceptionally meritorious service in a combat zone with exposure to hostile action," said Bruner.

"Lieutenant Bowman had the opportunity and jumped at it! And I'm very proud of him."

"This has been overwhelming," said Bowman, who is currently assigned to Submarine Squadron 20. "I'm grateful that everyone that was with us in Iraq came home alive! And anyone is thinking about doing an IA, do it! It is definitely worth while!"

"Lieutenant Bowman has been an outstanding addition to the Submarine Squadron 20 team since his return from Iraq and is already one of my top performing Officers," said Capt. Kevin Brenton, commodore of Submarine Squadron 20. "Having seen his enthusiasm, dedication and technical expertise in action here in Kings Bay, it doesn't surprise me at all that Lieutenant Bowman is being awarded the Bronze Star for his volunteer service in Iraq. I'm very privileged to have Lieutenant Bowman on our team. He should be justifiably proud of his accomplishments – I know we are!"



fits into a torpedo tube. The IDAS missiles take about a minute to reach the surface, ignite its rocket motor, spot any target within range and go after it. If the IDAS misses, an air bubble from the torpedo tube launch of the missile, will reach the surface, indicating where the sub is. At that point, the helicopter or aircraft can drop a torpedo. The sub has countermeasures for these torpedoes, but these devices are not guaranteed to work every time, or against every type of torpedo (some are better at detecting, and getting around, countermeasures.) So using something like IDAS, or TCLS, is a gamble.

The sub commander would use IDAS if he calculated that a helicopter was likely to spot him with active sonar sonobouys or dipping sonar. IDAS can also be aimed at a surface ship (as in the bridge or a helicopter sitting on the platform at the rear of the ship. This is done using the fiber optic link, which can use used to designate a target. Otherwise, the missile uses its heat seeking sensor.

IDAS is a year or two away from availability, but it's uncertain if any navy will buy them. A similar system to IDAS (Triton), was developed in the 1990s, but never entered service. IDAS is a continuation of this. The concept of anti-aircraft missiles for subs is several decades old, and never actually used. But it's possible, so new models keep showing up.

Remember,

If you haven't got a smile on your face

And laughter in your heart,

Then you're just a sour old fart!
