

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 6, No. 1

January 2010

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:

January 14, 2010
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

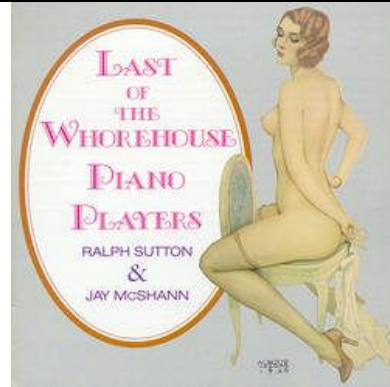
Special Officers		Phone Number
Chief of the Boat	Rick Wise	843-875-5559
Public Affairs	Ed Stank	843- 569-6012
Veterans Affairs	Jim Morrison	843-832-9716
Chaplain	John Nichols	843-873-5897
Membership	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Holland Club	John Lookabill	843-797-2991
Scholarship	Jim Yates	843-873-0246
Newsletter	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Storekeeper	Ken Fuhr	803-413-3657
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



Minutes of the December 2009 meeting

Charleston Base annual Christmas Party was held on 5 December at Gatherings in Dorchester. There were approximately 175 attendees. Everyone had a good time; the food was great as usual. The depth charge drawing was held. The winner was Judy Hutchison. Judy donated \$100 to the scholarship fund! Thanks Judy!



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



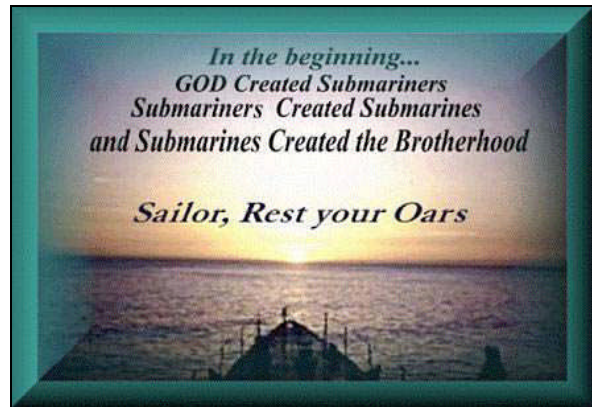
Barnette, R	Beach	Betz	Brown
Coutu	Farr	Farrell	Hansen
Isaman	Kay	Kirk	Lewis
Moore	Owen	Pasnak	Scott
Simokat	Stank	Welch	

January Submarines Lost:

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

January happenings!

- January 14 – General Meeting; social hour 1800, meeting starts 1900
- January 24 – Ceremony at Pinewood Preparatory School details TBA



Eternal Patrol

The following Charleston Base members departed on Eternal Patrol during the months of November and December:

TMC(SS)	Wells, George	11/1/2009
CAPT(SS)	Lisle, George	11/6/2009
LCDR(SS)	Eckles, James	11/12/2009
ENC(SS)	Heber, Benjamin	11/23/2009
TM1(SS)	Stuffle, Michael	12/21/2009
QM2(SS)	Yates, William	12/23/2009



Membership and Dues Information:

Your 2010 dues were payable by 1 October 2009. The following members were dropped from the Sailing List as of 1 January 2010:

Attaway, Edwin	Cahall, Gene
Campbell, Gary	Clark, Jeffery
Cowman, Joseph	Davis, Christopher
Edwards, Kyle	Fletcher, Stephen
Griggs, Dewey	Hensarling, Wayne
Hudgins, James	McMullin, Atha "Mac"
Novak, Mark	Peterson, Thomas
Riley, Thomas	Upchurch, Walter
Votta, Alan	Wardean, John
Williams, Richard	

Members may be reinstated with payment of dues. Send dues (payable to USSVI) to:

Carl Chinn
217 Brailsford Rd
Summerville, SC 29485-5405

A Toast To The Forgotten

Here's to the men of the briny deep;
Here's to their blood and guts;
Here's to those heroes who never sleep;
Here's to those glorious nuts.

Take your glass and raise it high...
Drink to their nerve and daring.
Don't be ashamed of the tear in your eye,
There are others who'll never stop caring.

Remember your husband, your buddy your friend...
The proud man with head held high;
Though young in years, you know at the end
His courage did not die.

Here's to the men with story untold;
You all know those I mean.
Here's to the men who never grow old...
The men in a submarine.

By Bob Milford

Navy Set To Lift Ban On Women In Submarines

By Michael Smith and Isabel Oakeshott, London Times,
Jan. 3, 2010

Women may be allowed to serve on submarines for the first time in the Royal Navy's history under plans being drawn up by defence chiefs.

The change would follow more than a decade of pressure from senior Labour figures for full equal opportunities for women in the armed forces.

A review of the ban on women on submarines was ordered last year, to run alongside a separate review into whether women should be permitted to serve as frontline infantry. Both are expected to conclude within weeks, with the decisions to be announced to parliament later this month. Defence chiefs will veto moves to allow women to serve as frontline infantry, but a change to the submarine ban is seen as a potential sop to ministers.

Such a change was rejected by naval chiefs eight years ago and could still be derailed by opposition from senior officers.

The original refusal was justified on the basis of the cramped living conditions on board and concerns over the dangers posed by fumes inside the submarine to a foetus if a woman is pregnant.

Continuing pressure from ministers has led to a rethink, however. A Ministry of Defence (MoD) source said: "It looks likely that women will be allowed to serve on submarines."

The source said the proposal was contained in a draft of the review, but added: "There are people in the navy opposed to women on submarines so there is a chance it might not make the final cut."

The new Astute attack submarines could easily be adapted

The Great Geek Shortage At Sea

The U.S. Navy is now paying some junior engineering (they are in charge of keeping the engines, and associated gear, operational) officers, bonuses of \$50,000, if they will sign up for another five years. Only 58 officers are involved with this particular bonus program, but it's feared that the problem will grow. That's because many navies are finding that they cannot recruit, or retain, enough technical officers to keep their ships operational. In Australia, nearly half of their submarines are unable to go to sea because of a shortage of technical specialists. This situation is common in many navies.

Actually, the American Navy has long had a problem keeping nuclear engineering specialists in uniform. Earlier this year it was announced that fifteen of the 350 sailors, who that maintain the nuclear power plant on the carrier USS George Washington, had re-enlisted, and received bonuses of about \$90,000 each (for agreeing to stay in uniform another 4-5 years). Carrier and submarine crews tend to agree that the nuclear power plant personnel are the hardest working sailors on board. A large part of the workload is paperwork. Twice in the last three years, the U.S. Navy has had to discipline sailors who maintain nuclear power plants for messing with their paperwork or training efforts. Back in 2007, several members of the nuclear power department on a nuclear submarine were disciplined for not maintaining logs properly. These sailors were worked hard, as is often the case on a nuclear sub, and they sometimes cut corners. A similar situation arose recently in the nuclear power department of the carrier Eisenhower. There, seventeen senior NCOs and a junior officer were punished for cheating on a requalification examination. Some of these exams are administered monthly, to insure that all those who work on the nuclear power plant are maintaining their skills. For the last few years, the U.S. Navy now has had to pay more to keep experienced people with certain skills. Some types of submarine and nuclear power technicians can now get a bonus of up to \$125,000 if they reenlist for three years. This came about because, next to the SEAL commandos, the submarine service, and nuclear power specialists, are the most selective, and candidates require nearly as much training. These specialists have an easy time getting good civilian jobs if they get out. Now it's happening with non-nuclear engineering officers. But the biggest attraction to leaving the Navy is no more going to sea for up to six months at a time. This is tough on family life, and most sailors are married. The war on terror has meant more work for U.S. nuclear subs, which are very popular for staking out coastal areas where terrorists are operating. The problem also applies

to accommodate women and the MoD said last week that in the design of the new Trident nuclear boats, "consideration will be given to the possibility of women serving in future".

The Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, Australian and Canadian navies already allow women on submarines. US defence chiefs have said they no longer see any reason for subs to remain all-male.

Such a move in Britain would give women almost full equality in the navy. Only mine-clearance diving units and the Royal Marines, whose main role is as frontline infantry, would remain closed.

No concession is likely by the army, however.

The review of infantry and tank crews was handed to commanders last month. It is understood to conclude women have neither the upper-body strength nor the physical resilience to withstand intensive combat.

Women have operated on the front line in a series of roles in Iraq and Afghanistan — as medics, intelligence officers and with the artillery. There are also female pilots and navigators in the RAF.

Last November, Kate Nesbitt, a Royal Navy medic, was awarded the Military Cross after saving the life of a marine under enemy fire in Afghanistan.

Despite the blurring of the front line, tests in 2000 found women were eight times more likely than men to sustain injuries other than wounds in action.

There are also concerns based on Israeli studies that infantrymen's first instinct may be to defend the women in their ranks rather than to fight the enemy.

Army tank crews are closed to women because of the cramped conditions and lack of privacy.

Geoff Hoon, who as defence secretary from 1999 to 2005 tried to push through more measures to allow women on the front line, said change had to come.

"The starting point must be in principle, in the modern world, that women should be free to do the same jobs as men," he said.

"The way the rules have evolved appears inconsistent. We have to be more consistent."

Trident II D5 Missile Successfully Completes 130th Test-Flight

CALIFORNIA – Trident II D5 Fleet Ballistic Missile (FBM) recently achieved its successful 130th test-flight conducted by the US Navy.

The US Navy launched the ballistic missile from submarine USS ALASKA in the Atlantic Ocean.

According to a news report by the PR Newswire, US Navy launched the Trident II D5 missile as part of a Demonstration and Shakedown Operation (DASO) to certify submarine USS ALASKA for deployment.

The missile, developed by Lockheed Martin, has now undergone 130 consecutive successful trials setting up a record of test launches.

to those that staff the nuclear power plant on aircraft carriers. The Navy will not lower standards for nuclear power specialists.

Those high standards are the main reason there has never been an accident with nuclear power plants used on hundreds of U.S. submarines and surface ships since the 1950s. This admirable safety record has not been easy to achieve, as the two cheating incidents, and the retention problems attest. Moreover, the Navy sees the situation getting worse in the future. Rising oil prices have the United States building nuclear power plants again, and those with nuclear power plant experience will receive tempting offers to jump ship and settle down near one of the new power stations. The Navy "nukes" will be particularly sought after because of the discipline and high training levels the Navy maintains for those who run nuclear power plants. While some nukes will leave the Navy, others will remain because of even larger bonuses.

Flag Officer Announcement

WASHINGTON – Chief of Naval Operations Adm.

Gary Roughead announced Dec. 28 the following assignments:

Rear Adm. (lower half) Terry J. Benedict will be assigned as director for strategic systems programs, Arlington, Va. Benedict is currently serving as program executive officer for integrated warfare systems, Washington, D.C.

Rear Adm. Julius S. Caesar will be assigned as vice director, joint concept development and experimentation, J9, U.S. Joint Forces Command, Suffolk, Va. Caesar previously served as deputy commander, Navy Installations Command, Washington, D.C.

Rear Adm. (lower half) James D. Cloyd will be assigned as commander, Carrier Strike Group Five, Yokosuka, Japan. Cloyd previously served as associate director, Assessment Division, N81D, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington.

Rear Adm. (lower half) Edward S. Hebner will be assigned as commander, Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command, San Diego, Calif.

Hebner is currently serving as commander, Carrier Strike Group Seven, San Diego.

Rear Adm. Christopher J. Mossey will be assigned as commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command and chief of civil engineers, Washington, D.C. Mossey is currently serving as director, Ashore Readiness Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and vice commander, Navy Installations Command, Washington.

Rear Adm. Michael S. O'Bryan will be assigned as commander, Navy Air and Missile Defense Command, Dahlgren, Va. O'Bryan is currently serving as director,

Trident II D-5 is the latest version of the missile which is more advanced in terms of technology and has greater payload capability making it a potent weapon system. Trident II D5 is US Navy's submarine-launched FBM. The missile, being evaluated since 1989, has a nominal range of 4000 nautical miles and it can carry multiple independently targeted re-entry vehicles.

The US Navy began deploying Trident II D-5 in 1990s. It is carried by Ohio class submarines and British Vanguard class submarines.

Navy Solicits Two Lightweight Autonomous Underwater Vehicles

The Navy has announced that it plans to issue a solicitation for the development and delivery of two lightweight autonomous underwater vehicles.

According to technical specifications posted on the Federal Business Opportunities Web site, the vehicles would be used for search and rapid environmental assessment. They would be designed for one-man deployment, should be capable of carrying out missions along the coast, and would be retrieved afloat or ashore. The Navy is looking for vehicles that are under 60 pounds in weight, including all components, that can operate at a depth of 60 meters, and can travel at two knots of speed for up to eight hours.

In addition to the vehicles themselves, the solicitation will include software development and integration, hardware development and integration, services and documentation, according to an FedBizOps posting.

The statement of work requires that the AUV be equipped with a dual-frequency side scan sonar that can perform bottom-object imaging up to 100 meters below the surface of the ocean, an Imagenex Delta T multi-beam sonar, two-way Iridium satellite communications, an acoustic doppler current profiler or doppler velocity log navigator, an attitude heading and reference system, and a Neil Brown conductivity and temperature sensor.

The AUVs will also be required to have mission planning and review software, as well as on-screen data visualization.

The company that wins the contract will be required to carry out a mid-project demonstration of its work by March 1, 2010, to demonstrate that all of the included software and hardware functions during multiple data-collection and image-gathering missions. A pre-delivery operational evaluation will be start on June 23, 2010 to verify that the vehicles are fully operational, and final delivery of the hardware, software and documentation is expected by Sept. 30.

Please, Please, Please!

Whatever you do, DO NOT play your harmonica while

Navy Maritime Domain Awareness, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington.

For more news from the Navy, visit www.navy.mil.

U.S. Navy Leaves eBay For Best Buy

The U.S. Navy has completed a program to upgrade the sonar systems on all of its nuclear submarines. The A-RCI (Acoustic Rapid COTS Insertion) program involved more than installing faster computers and more memory. That's because COTS stands for "Commercial off-The-Shelf". That means the sonar gear was modified so that it can more easily take advantage of new processors and memory developments. Since these items have been doubling in power, every 18-24 months, for over 40 years, it's about time. In the past, submarines often had sonar systems powered by decade old CPUs, and memory chips that were no longer manufactured. Fortunately, the navy is not alone in running ancient gear, so there were suppliers who bought up old CPUs and memory SIMMs, and sold the stuff to the navy. Sometimes, however, particularly old components could only be found on eBay.

The navy began the A-RCI program in 1998, but it has taken over a decade to debug the system and get the gear into 44 subs, as such major modifications could only be done when the boats came in for refueling (usually halfway through their careers) or for some other major repairs or maintenance. The new Virginia class boats have A-RCI built in.

Sonar, particularly the passive (just listening) type, depends heavily on computer processing power to detect and identify anything out there.

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!



traveling on Interstate 26 or sitting in traffic on Interstate 26. Someone might call the cops!

You could find yourself in handcuffs, kneeling on the side of the road amongst police officers with real guns!



Of course everyone knows the picture below looks exactly like a Sig Sauer 9mm pistol.



A bit confused?

Make your inquiries to Jim Yates.

