

# TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 7, No. 7

July 2011

## 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 Meeting:**

July 14, 2011 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	843-452-3189
Membership	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Holland Club	John Lookabill	843-797-2991
Scholarship	Julian Villegas	843-871-6135
Newsletter	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Storekeeper	Don Mook	843-245-2005
Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843-452-3189
Historian	George Scharf	843 873-3318

#### **Base Officers**

#### **Phone Number**

Commander	Paul Viering	843-797-2623
Vice Commander	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Secretary	Ed Stank	843- 569-6012
Treasurer	Terry Trump	843-873-9563

#### **Minutes of the June 2011 meeting**

Attendance for the June 9, 2011 meeting was 105

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

**Introductions:** New people introduced. Matthew Cabana, Dennis Keane, Ray Stanfield, Alan Dempster, and Roy Kimzey. Welcome aboard.

**Secretary:** Secretary asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from last month. A motion was made and seconded. Minutes approved.

**Treasurer:** Terry Trump gave a combined Base financial report for May 2011.

**Vice Commander:** No report

**Newsletter:** No report

**Membership:** No report

**Storekeeper:** Go to the website [www.ussvicb.org](http://www.ussvicb.org) and let Don know if you need something -- shoot him an email.

**Chaplain:** Nick Nichols presented the May report. Chaplain discussed Page 2 and Emergency Contact Info with personal papers.

- Mike Emerson was hospitalized in Aiken on May 27<sup>th</sup>. He spent several days there and is now home recovering.
- Harry Nettle's mother, Barbara, passed away on May 27<sup>th</sup>. The funeral was in GA on May 29<sup>th</sup>.
- LCDR Swede Hansen departed on Eternal Patrol on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Swede was one of our Swamp Fox WWII Veterans and he will be greatly missed. His viewing and funeral service was well attended by our base and the family was very appreciative of our attendance and participation. The flag was presented to the family by Lee Allison and George Scharf. The family told me how great it was to have another WWII Submarine present the flag to them. Also would like to thank Stacy Power for ensuring Swede's son had my phone number to call me.
- Ed Stank's wife, Pauline, received her lung transplant on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Latest email from Ed: Hi everyone, we were released from the hospital today (May 29<sup>th</sup>) and are back at our apartment in Durham, NC. Pauline is doing well and happy to be out of the hospital after almost two weeks. She starts rehab next week and is going back for her first checkup on the 1st of June. Thanks for your prayers and kind thoughts during this remarkable event. Duke hospital and their staff are truly remarkable. Pauline is good to drink liquids but nothing solid yet as her stomach has not reset from the surgery. We are looking to return home by mid-July (hopefully). Talk to you soon. Ed Stank
- Keith Schnebel fell and broke 2 bones in his ankle. He had surgery on June 1<sup>st</sup> to have a rod placed in to help heal the break. He is recovering at home.
- Charlie Snyder went into Trident Hospital on May 26<sup>th</sup> and was put on dialysis due to his diabetes. While there he had a triple heart bypass. He is still in Trident in room 350A recovering.
- Harry Brown, HMC(SS) FMF, departed on Eternal Patrol on May 31<sup>st</sup>. He was a Corpsman during WWII with the Fleet Marine Force, China Marines and served on the USS ODAX SS-484 and USS SENNET SS-408. Harry was a member of the Snug Harbor Base. A message from Charleston Base was placed on the Funeral Home website.
- Marty Sessler is recovering nicely from his total knee replacement. On Wednesday he had an aneurysm repaired in the other knee. He is now in ICU and should be moved to a regular room tomorrow. He expects to be in home sometime during the weekend.
- Don Heinle's wife, Barbara, has completed her first of three chemo treatments. She begins her second one next week. Don reports that she is doing well and now has her appetite back.  
Found out tonight:
- John Hill had a procedure yesterday and his son had surgery today.
- Ralph Rohrssen had cataract surgery today.

- Tom Lawson had hernia surgery today.
- Clyde Peters is in White Oak Manor, Rm 404.

Please have your pictures taken for the web site and also go there to complete your Page 2 for the Chaplain.

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.

**After Battery Rep:** Rick Carlson has after battery patches, cozies and hats for sale after the meeting. The After Battery will be closed next Wednesday 15 June 2011.

**Public Affairs:** No report

**Scholarship:** The Charleston Base scholarship committee, Julian Villegas, Carl Chinn and Rick Collins, presented the 2011 Admiral Osborne scholarship awards to three young ladies. Harriet Boatwright, from The Academic Magnet HS, (Clemson University), Sponsor: Burrell Boatwright (father) - \$500  
Hannah Lowder, James Island Charter HS (Charleston Southern), Sponsor: Harry Feller (great grandfather) - \$500  
Daniel Esch, Summerville HS, (Mary Black School of Nursing, USC upstate), sponsor: Timothy Esch (father) - \$1000

Julian thanked everyone for their donations and continued support of the scholarship program.

**Veteran's Affairs:** No report

**Little David:** There will be a dedication of a confederate memorial at the Berkeley County Museum on 25 June @ 10:00. Rick Wise needs a couple of hands to present the Little David at this event.

**Holland Club:** If you are eligible and were not at the induction meeting, see John Lookabill.

**SUBVETS WWII:** WWII dues are renewable now; associate members see Mike Emerson. Next WWII Swamp Fox chapter lunch meeting will be Thursday, 16 June @ Ryan's in Summerville at noon. Lee says that 1 Sept 2012 is the ending date for the national WWII organization. 2012 WWII calendars will be sold. These profits will help maintain the lost boat memorial at Patriots Point.

**Historian:** No report

**Recreation Committee:** No report

**District Commander:** No report

**Base Commander:** Paul voiced his personal concern over the elections that were held last month. Irregularities discussed were: some members may have voted twice (by raising both hands), reports of some members voting for more than one candidate, not getting a good count and the role of candidates in the voting process. A motion was made, seconded and approved that the base nullify (throw out) the election results from the 12 May 2011 monthly meeting. Candidates for the position of Base Commander can submit names to John Lookabill. The voting will take place at the July monthly meeting. The base bylaws are being revised to strengthen future elections.

**Nuclear Historian:** The monkey and the RO story-- Rick Carlson educated us on how nuclear trained personnel were taught to protect their derriere.

**Fleet Reserve:** 19 Jun – Father’s Day breakfast at the Lowcountry Home 0900 – 1200, 25 Jun – Dinner with entertainment 1800 – 2000, 4 Jul – indoor picnic starts at noon, please stop by. Any Subvet can join the Fleet Reserve, Larry Cox has plenty of forms.

**Chief of the Boat:** Parade float will be in the Moncks Corner Independence Day Parade on Saturday 2 July. Line up at 0930.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Carl Chinn conducted the election for the SE Region District 2 Commander.

**Good Of The Order:** Theron Irving won the depth charge drawing and donated \$100 to the scholarship fund and \$20 to the building fund.

Matthew Cabana ([cabanamd@gmail.com](mailto:cabanamd@gmail.com)) has tickets for the Submarine Birthday Ball to be held 18 June 2011 at Trident Tech. Cocktails start at 18:00. Tickets are \$30/person.

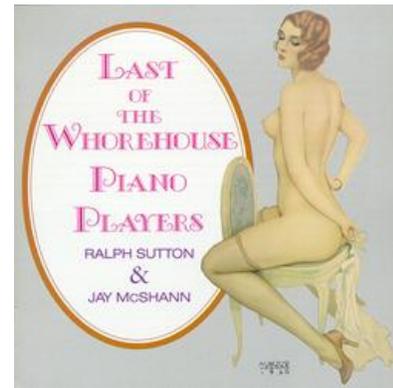
Rusty Picket presented a check from the L Mendel Rivers reunion to the base scholarship fund for \$500.

Nick Nichols reported that the Old Fort Baptist Church will present their annual patriotic service on 3 July 2011. The theme is “In God we still trust”. Services are 0900, and 1100. Please wear your vest.

The 655 reunion committee will meet directly after the meeting.

Ken Hutchinson said the Sandlance reunion will be at the Holliday Inn, Mt. Pleasant 23 to 25 June.

Meeting Adjourned: The Base Commander adjourned the meeting.



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



Bognar	Dasch	Daschle	Deal
Donofrio	Farr	Freshour	Gunnis
Hazard	Higgins	Jenkins	Jones, R
Keller	Kennedy	Leal	Menefee
Owens	Petersen	Scott, W.C.	Simpo
Smith, Pinckney	Snyder, Ron	Stanfield	Stoll
Whatley			

#### 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*

### **Eternal Patrol**

**LCDR Swede Hansen** departed on Eternal Patrol on May 28 2011

Lt. Commander Philip V. "Swede" Hansen, US Navy, Ret., of Bonneau, SC, died Saturday in a Charleston hospital.

His funeral will be 11:30 AM Wednesday morning, June 1, 2011, in the CHAPEL OF DIAL-MURRAY FUNERAL HOME, MONCKS CORNER. Interment will follow in Carolina Memorial Park, N. Charleston. Friends may call at the funeral home from 6:00 until 8:00 PM Tuesday evening.

Commander Hansen was born Jan. 28, 1927, in Chicago, IL, a son of Philip Edward Hansen and Lillian Gunderson Hansen. He was a Shriner, a member of Mt. Hope Lodge #128 AFM, and a member of the SubVets WWII. While he was in the Navy, he served aboard the USS Charr, USS Pogy, USS Cusk, USS Pomfrey, USS Blackfin, USS Barbero, USS Everglades, and the USS Shangri-LA. He served in both W.W. II and Vietnam receiving numerous awards and medals, including, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, Submarine Combat Pin, and the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm. He also formerly worked for both Braswell and Detyens Shipyards. Commander Hansen was formerly married to Doris Crawford and was the widower of Frances M. Hansen. Surviving are, a daughter, Linda D. Jones and her husband, Brian, of Ft. Mill; two sons, Patrick L. Hansen and his wife, Faith, of Columbia, and Michael D. Hansen and his wife, Joyce, of Louisville, KY; eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

### **Eternal Patrol**

**MMCM(SS) Larry Sims**

Larry Charles Sims, 70, of 132 Hutto Street, Harleyville, SC, husband of Bettye Jo Sims, entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at Hospice of Charleston. Larry was born on September 30, 1940 in Grundy, Virginia a son of the late Carl and Dorothy Breeding Sims.

Larry Qualified in submarines on the USS Seahorse (SSN-669) in 1976, was a MMCM(SS) when he left the Navy and served as Chief of the Boat on The John Adams Gold crew, did two tours in Vietnam receiving many awards and medals.

He later retired from Dorchester School District #2 from the Maintenance department. He was a member of the Summerville Masonic Lodge #234 AFM, Submarine Veterans Association and served as a pallbearer for the H.L. Hunley Crew, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Gordon Capers Camp #123, member and Past Chairman of the Upper Dorchester County Ducks Unlimited and served as a Town Councilman for Harleyville.

Surviving is his wife, Bettye Jo Metts Sims; children, David (Lisa) Lomenick, Deborah R. Manen, and Douglas Lomenick; a sister, Virginia (Pat) Gurr, Ocala, Florida; grandchildren, Nikki (Charles) McGinnis, Megan, Joey, and Chelsea Lomenick, a nephew, Ty (Heidi) Gurr and his best buddies first great-grandson Caleb McGinnis and his faithful companion, Syme.



### **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



# July Happenings!

www.btc2pic.com

July 2 – Moncks Corner Parade. Line up 0930; starts 1000

July 14– Monthly meeting

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## Base Commander Election

At the June meeting, the Base Commander called for a new election for Base Commander due to irregularities in the manner in which the original election was held. I was selected to head a nomination/election committee. The committee consists of myself and two other base members. The election will be held by secret ballot at the regular July meeting.

Nominations are now open. At the present time, I have two nominees who are: Carl Chinn and Jerry Stout.

Additional nominations may be made at any time prior to, and at the July meeting by contacting me via email at johnd2501@aol.com or by phone at 843 870-2238. A list of candidates will be published in the July newsletter.

I urge each and every one of you to attend the July meeting and vote for the candidate of your choice.

John Lookabill

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## Cold War Museum Covert Submarine Operations

The work is progressing along on the Cold War Museum Covert Submarine Operations exhibit and it is slated to be dedicated on Jun 18th 2011 at the Washington Navy Yard. All are invited and the details to follow.

Many of our fellow Submariners have stepped forward to join us in completing the display so that it looks like it is a sea with us. Some cleaning and preparation has been left to the SubVets to put our mark on the display. We still have some openings if you would like to join us?

Link to the museum is below:

[http://www.navyhistory.org/coldwar\\_gallery/gallery.html](http://www.navyhistory.org/coldwar_gallery/gallery.html)



## Who Will Receive Your Final Pay Check?

Retired pay earned but not paid in the final month of your life goes to whoever is listed as your Arrears of Pay (AOP) beneficiary. Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) will also contact this person for help with closing your account.

You can choose anyone, from family members to friends to associates, to be your AOP beneficiary. But if you don't designate someone, it could cause undue stress and financial hardship for your survivors during an already difficult time. It can take many months to locate your survivors, identify who is legally entitled to your pay, and then make the payment.

Fortunately, this situation is easy to prevent. You can establish or change your beneficiary at any time.

### *How To Designate Or Change A Beneficiary*

To designate or change your Arrears of Pay (AOP) beneficiary, all you have to do is follow these simple steps:

1. Complete a Designation of Beneficiary Information form (DD 2894). You can find this form at [www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2894.pdf](http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2894.pdf)
2. Sign and date the form. (Unsigned and undated forms will not be processed.)
3. Mail or fax the form to:  
DFAS U.S. Military Retired Pay  
P.O. Box 7130  
London, KY 40742-7130  
Fax: 800-469-6559

It is vital to notify DFAS of any changes in your AOP beneficiary's contact information. Otherwise all correspondence will be sent to the wrong address, further delaying closure of your account. Please use the steps above to notify DFAS if your beneficiaries name or contact information changes.

For more information about AOP, please visit

<http://www.dfas.mil/dfas/retiredmilitary/provide/aop.html>

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## USS Scorpion Memorial Service Held

By MC1(SW) Todd Schaffer, Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic Public Affairs, June 2, 2011

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – The annual USS Scorpion (SSN 589) Memorial Service was held May 29, 2011 at the Virginia War Museum in Newport News, Va. Hosted and organized by the Knights of Columbus Council 5480 of Newport News, the service honored the 99 men lost aboard the USS Scorpion while it was conducting operations in the Atlantic, May 22, 1968. Lt. Cmdr. Craig Hemepeck, the executive officer onboard the Pre-Commissioning Unit Minnesota (SSN 783) was the guest speaker.

“It’s a true honor and blessing for the newest crew of the newest submarine in the force to take part in passing the

legacy of the Scorpion,” said Hemepeck. “On May 22, 1968, the submarine force did not just lose a submarine, the Navy lost 99 cherished, national treasures. They were a hard working, dedicated, and closely-knit group of men who charted the course and laid the foundation for today’s premiere undersea force.”

Hemepeck noted the distinguished careers that spawned from the men who served aboard. In less than eight years of commissioned service, Scorpion’s crewmembers included those who continued on to become a Chief of Naval Operations, an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, a Commander of the Submarine Force, two vice admirals and six rear admirals.

Along with Hemepeck, 12 other Minnesota crewmembers volunteered to attend the ceremony. As members from the Knights of Columbus conducted a roll call for the ship, a bell was tolled following the announcement of each service member lost aboard.

“In performing your day-to-day activities, it is real easy sometimes to lose sight and forget about all the sacrifices and hard work everybody puts into submarines,” said MM1(SS) Johnathan F. Bentley, Minnesota’s current Sailor of the Quarter. “It makes me proud to be able to give just a small part back to those who gave their lives and to honor their memories.” Among those in attendance was Joan Cowan, whose husband, Robert Cowan, was a machinist’s mate first class aboard the Scorpion when it was lost.

“I’ve loved attending the ceremony during the years I could make it,” said Cowan, a resident of Knotts Island, N.C. “Hearing Taps and Eternal Father is always hard, but it’s a blessing to see that our young people have remembered what happened. My husband was also young, and he loved his country. I’m sure he would be proud that they remember what he gave for his country.” Cowan’s sister-in-law, Margaret Cowan, traveled from Detroit, Mich., to observe the ceremony and visit her in-laws.

“The most important thing to me is that these 99 men are not forgotten,” said Cowan. “Family members greatly appreciate the Navy and all the others who put forth the effort to host the memorial service.”

Retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Tom Degnon, Cub Master, Cub Scout Pack 242 in Newport News, had his scouts lead the guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

“I feel it’s very important to try and include some of the Cub Scouts in my pack,” said Degnon, “This is just one way we can pay tribute to the Scorpion submarine and the men who lost their lives.”

At the close of the ceremony, USS Scorpion family members presented a memorial wreath to Hemepeck, who accepted on behalf of the Navy and submarine force. Hemepeck will deliver the wreath to next submarine that departs Norfolk, which will release the wreath at sea to honor the 99 Scorpion Sailors on eternal patrol.

## **Retired WWII Master Chief Reflects on Battle of Midway**

By Lt. Jennifer Cragg, Submarine Group 2 Public Affairs, June 3, 2011

GROTON, Conn. (NNS) -- A retired U.S. Navy master chief petty officer who served in the Battle of Midway shared his experience and reflected on the battle's place in history during a Battle of Midway commemoration ceremony held at Naval Submarine Base New London, June 3.

Master Chief Deen Brown was a radioman while serving aboard the Tambor-class submarine USS Trout (SS-202) during the Battle of Midway. He related not only how the submarine force played a key role in the watershed battle, but also the monumental contributions the force had during World War II.

"The Battle of Midway was indeed the turning point for the war," said Brown. "The Japanese were the aggressors before the battle, but afterward the tide had turned. Their prime concern [after the battle] was to defend their outposts, which ultimately they couldn't defend in the end."

Brown described his experience aboard Trout and the overall submarine mission during the battle. While the Japanese force had deployed 16 submarines, the U.S. had a little more on station to help defend the Island of Midway.

"We deployed 19 submarines, but 11 were positioned in the semi-circle southwest of Midway," said Brown while emphasizing their positioning was the key in protecting the island from Japanese invasion. "We had to hold that line, the semi-circle around Midway to ensure the loaded troop transport couldn't gain access."

Brown was introduced during the ceremony by Rear Adm. Michael McLaughlin, commander, Submarine Group 2; and Capt. Marc Denno, the 49th commanding officer of Naval Submarine Base New London, who provided the opening remarks.

"By the spring of 1942, the outcome of the war was very much in doubt as Americans began to think that the Japanese military was invincible," said McLaughlin. "But the Japanese didn't factor in one key important element, the American spirit."

According to Naval History and Heritage Command, Trout was one of many submarines sent to take part in the Battle of Midway, but her contribution was limited to picking up Japanese survivors days after the battle began.

During World War II the submarine force comprised less than two percent of the Navy's fleet but sank more than 30 percent of Japan's navy, including eight aircraft carriers. More importantly, U.S. submarines virtually strangled the Japanese economy by sinking almost 5 billion tons of shipping, more than 60 percent of

Japanese merchant marine, according to congressional records.

The Battle of Midway is an important marker in the naval heritage of our nation because it changed the course of the war in the Pacific and world history, within just a few short minutes June 4, 1942.

Battle of Midway commemoration ceremonies will be held around the world, to include wreath laying ceremonies at all Navy regions and at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., June 3.

For Battle of Midway resources, visit [www.navy.mil/midway/resources.html](http://www.navy.mil/midway/resources.html) and Naval History & Heritage Command.

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### **Discovery Could Make Submarines Twice As Fast** DefenceWeb.co.za, 31 May 2011

Scientists have made a discovery that could lead to submarines and other vessels to travel twice as fast as currently possible in and under water.

The Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) reports that a team at the Swinburne University showed that the drag on hot bodies moving through a liquid can be reduced by up to 85%, doubling their speed.

The physics journal Physical Review Letters reported that the findings could help submarines double their speed under water.

Swinburne researchers Ivan Vakarelski and Professor Derek Chan observed that a heated ball can fall through liquid more than twice as fast as a colder, 'control' ball, according to a Swinburne statement.

The discovery exploits the drag-reducing properties of a vapour layer formed between a hot body and surrounding liquid, known as the Leidenfrost effect.

The Leidenfrost effect can be observed by pouring drops of water onto a hot plate - the drops roll and dance around on the plate instead of staying in one place or spreading out.

"A very hot body - hot enough to vaporise the thin layer of liquid in contact with it - can drastically reduce energy-sapping drag forces when such bodies travel at high speed through the liquid," Chan said.

The research, partly funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC), was theoretical in nature, but may have potential military applications.

Chan - an already distinguished ARC principal investigator working in the area of surface science at the nano-scale - stressed the genesis of the discovery was motivated by novel science.

"This is a novel use of an idea that has been around for over 200 years. We did not set out to do the research with any particular application in mind. We were just curious about a new possibility. But we welcome technologists taking it on and developing it further."

He conceded it could have military applications, such as helping to make submarines, torpedoes and even sea-launched missiles drastically swifter for short periods. "But this is really very fundamental research and I see the possibility of broader applications in efficient energy usage. For example allowing marine vehicles to travel faster and further for the same amount of energy or power, and ultimately contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions," he said.

Chan was part of the discovery team that published the paper, 'Drag Reduction by Leidenfrost Vapor Layers,' with researchers Dr Ivan Vakarelski, Professor Sigurdur Thoroddsen and Dr Jeremy Marston from the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia.

Another method of making underwater objects faster is through supercavitation. This occurs when water pressure is lowered and, since water boils faster/at a lower temperature at lower pressure, creates vapour. Typically, small bubbles of water vapour form, and implode when they come in contact with the more highly pressurised water around them. Supercavitation usually forms around objects moving at high speed (such as propeller blades) and is usually harmful.

The upshot is that objects travel much faster whilst inside a large cavitation bubble. To date, only torpedoes have been able to make use of the supercavitation effect to travel at 400 km/h under water - the typical torpedo travels at only 60-80 km/h.

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### **Norfolk Hosts World War II SUBVETS Memorial Service**

By Mass Communication Specialist Peter Taylor, Submarine Learning Facility Public Affairs, June 6, 2011

NORFOLK (NNS) -- The annual Submarine Veterans of World War II Memorial Service was held at the Submarine Learning Facility (SUBLRN FAC), Naval Station Norfolk, May 26.

The event was hosted by SUBLRN FAC, and is held each year prior to Memorial Day.

The service honored the 52 submarines and their Sailors lost during World War II, and the losses of the USS Thresher (SSN 593), April 10, 1963, and USS Scorpion (SSN 589), May 22, 1968.

Cmdr. Albert Onley, SUBLRN FAC commanding officer, welcomed the more than 100 veterans, active duty Sailors, spouses, and visitors.

"The veterans here today and their families have personified the fighting spirit of the Navy and our core values of honor, courage and commitment," said Onley.

"You have shared your stories to help us, the submariners, who follow in your footsteps to understand the sacrifices required to defend freedom and democracy, and to remember those who made the

ultimate sacrifice. We cannot thank you enough for your service and continued contribution to our nation." Vice Adm. John M. Richardson, commander, Submarine Forces Atlantic; served as the guest speaker for the event.

"It's just so terrific to be involved with the Subvets in so many ways," said Richardson. "The examples you provided on active duty are the examples we continue everyday to live up to. The examples you continue to serve as the nation gets ready to mark Memorial Day remind us that this day has a higher meaning, and it is completely appropriate to come together today and remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our nation."

Following the ceremony, USS Halibut (SS-232), became the 14th submarine to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Selection is merited by the submarine's contribution to national security, and selection is conducted by the Hampton Roads Chapter of the U.S. Submarine Veterans organization.

USS Halibut was commissioned January 4, 1960 at Mare Island Naval Shipyard as the world's first submarine designed and built from the keel up to launch guided missiles.

"She was commissioned in what I call a 'magic' period of time. The United States was bursting with creativity and we were confronting a tremendous threat from the Soviet Union when the Cold War really was just taking shape," said Richardson. "She too inherited from those submariners who went before her. She sunk her teeth in the Cold War, very deeply, in ways that we can only speculate. She took a tremendous toll on the enemy in the special way that the Cold War was fought," said Richardson. Halibut is the pivot point to describe that continuing honor we have to honor the submarine force and the work they did in the wars.

The ship was decommissioned on June 30, 1976 at Mare Island. She completed 1,232 dives and 32 Regulus missile test launches.

Distinguished visitors included Vice Adm. John M. Richardson, Commander, Submarine Forces, and Cmdr. Gary T. Smith, USN (Ret).

For more news from Submarine Learning Facility, visit [www.navy.mil/local/slf/](http://www.navy.mil/local/slf/)



### **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. Buy several for great gifts! To get your coin(s) see Julian Villegas or Carl Chinn. Make sure you have one for "when you get challenged"!



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### **USS Connecticut CO Relieved**

From Commander Submarine Group 9 Public Affairs, June 7, 2011

BANGOR, Wash. (NNS) -- The commanding officer of USS Connecticut (SSN 22) was relieved of command June 6, by Commander, Submarine Development Squadron (SUBDEVRON) 5, due to a loss of confidence in his ability to command.

Capt. Brian Howes relieved Cmdr. Michael S. Varney as a result of an investigation into the mishandling of classified information.

Varney was awarded non-judicial punishment for violations of UCMJ Article 92 (violation of a lawful general order), Article 107 (making a false official statement), and Article 134 (wrongful interference in an adverse administrative proceeding) June 6.

Varney, who took command of Connecticut in February 2009, has been administratively reassigned to the staff of Commander, Navy Region Northwest.

Capt. Benjamin Pearson, deputy commander, SUBDEVRON 5, has assumed command of Connecticut until a permanent replacement is named. Pearson previously commanded the Gold Crew of Trident ballistic missile submarine USS Kentucky SSBN 737

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### **June 8, 1959: They'll Never Complain About Slow Postal Service Again**

By Tony Long, Wired, June 8, 2011

1959: "Rocket mail" becomes "missile mail" when 3,000 pieces of mail are delivered by a cruise missile fired from a U.S. Navy submarine.

Experiments in delivering mail by rocket had met with mixed success since the first rocket mail was sent between two Austrian villages in 1931. The first successful delivery by this method in the United States

occurred in 1936, when two rockets fired from Greenwood Lake, New Jersey, landed on the New York shore about a thousand feet away.

The 1959 attempt, however, was something entirely new, because the mail was not packed in rockets built for the purpose but stowed in mail containers that replaced a nuclear warhead on top of a missile built for war. Because this was strictly an experiment, the mail consisted entirely of commemorative postal covers addressed to a host of government officials, including President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The missile was fired shortly before noon from a launcher aboard the submarine USS Barbero, cruising off the coast of Virginia. Twenty-two minutes after launch, the missile struck its target at the Naval Auxiliary Air Station in Mayport, Florida.

The mail was retrieved, sorted and routed in the usual way from a post office in nearby Jacksonville.

Rocket mail, which has a whiff of theatrics to it, still exists and still has advocates around the world. Since the end of the Cold War, a number of surplus missiles culled from the Soviet nuclear arsenal have been used to fire mail around Russia, including a few experimental launches from nuclear subs.

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### 2011 Admiral Oz Scholarship winners!



left to right: Harriet Boatwright, Hannah Lowder, Danielle Esch. Committee behind.

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### U.S. Navy Needs Diesel Submarines

By Gary Schmitt, Defense News, June 12, 2011

The U.S. Navy faces a fundamental dilemma: It needs more submarines, but the overall defense budget required to build those submarines is headed south. How should it square this circle?

The answer is that the Navy should procure a fleet of diesel-powered subs. Not only are diesels cheaper than nuclear-powered subs, but they have the advantage of being better platforms for many of the tasks the Navy faces today.

The demand for attack submarines is both quantitative and qualitative. Over the past two decades, for example, China has added more than 40 new submarines.

Although they are not equivalent to ours, they still need to be tracked - and that takes numbers. Meanwhile, the list of actual and potential submarine missions, including close-in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, special operations, and blockade and mining, continues to grow.

These growing operational demands are coupled with the exigencies of new undersea requirements. In addition to the deep-sea dives and prolonged blue-water missions that became the staple of submarine operations during the Cold War, there are a number of scenarios today that are focused on the littoral areas, the green water within 100 miles of land, be they in the strait of Hormuz or Malacca, off the shores of Taiwan or in the South China Sea.

It is these missions that often favor diesel submarines. Diesel subs are smaller, stealthier and more maneuverable in tight spaces than nuclear submarines. For example, unlike a nuclear submarine's power plant, a diesel's primary engine can be turned off when submerged, reducing noise emission. Indeed, unlike a nuclear-powered submarine, a modern diesel can hide on the ocean's floor, deadly silent, while monitoring whatever passes over and around it.

And with the advent of Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) technology, today's diesel subs can remain submerged for weeks at a time. When deployed to bases in the Far East or Middle East, the range and reach of today's AIP-equipped diesels would put them well within striking distance of critical choke points.

And, using the recent sale price of Germany's Type 212 subs to Turkey as a point of reference - approximately \$500 million versus the \$2 billion for a Virginia-class nuclear attack submarine - the Navy would be able to ramp up submarine production without breaking the bank.

The U.S. Navy is not ignorant of the advantages of diesel subs. Time and again, American naval crews have struggled to detect their diesel-electric "foes" at sea. Over the past two years, for example, Peruvian and Chilean diesels have made life extremely tough for the U.S. in naval exercises.

Nor is this new; in a joint training exercise in 2005, a Swedish AIP-outfitted Götland-class sub scored a "strike" on the carrier Ronald Reagan. And, most famously, in 2006 a Chinese Song-class diesel submarine surfaced undetected within striking distance of the carrier Kitty Hawk off Japanese waters. Building diesel submarines in the U.S. has other advantages as well. There is a growing global market for diesel submarines among allies and partners and it's work U.S. shipyards certainly could use. In addition, having diesels in the fleet provides an in-house training

tool for anti-submarine warfare efforts against other nations' diesels. It is useful to remember that Russia and China have successfully incorporated both diesel and nuclear submarines into their force structure.

Of course, the U.S. Navy has been dead set against building anything but nuclear-powered submarines for a half-century now. Indeed, one reason the offer of a sale of eight diesel submarines to Taiwan made by President George W. Bush in 2001 has never gotten off the ground is because the Navy brass has feared that any diesel construction in the U.S., even if strictly for foreign sales, might open the door to Congress asking, "Why not for our own fleet?"

In addition to the decades-old, Rickover-induced inertia, the new excuse for not building diesels is the claim that the missions that diesels might usefully perform can be handled with unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs). Why build a new class of submarine when UUVs attached to nuclear submarines can carry out those tasks? But while UUVs are a promising idea, "promising" is the key here. Significant questions pertaining to speed, payload, sensors and communication remain.

In what was billed as Defense Secretary Robert Gates' valedictory policy speech at the American Enterprise Institute on May 24, he noted that "more and more money is consumed by fewer and fewer platforms," and that, in the future, the department's "guiding principle ... must be to develop technology and field weapons that are affordable, versatile, and relevant to the most likely and lethal threats in the decades to come."

That's a spot-on assessment as to why the U.S. Navy needs diesel submarines.

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## **Second Group Of Women Chosen For Submarine Service**

By Jennifer McDermott, The Day, June 10, 2011

The Navy has selected the second group of women to serve on submarines and plans to assign female officers to the crews of two more submarines.

The first female submarine officers, currently in training, are scheduled to report to their submarines at the end of this year. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus said the second group was recently chosen because integrating women into the submarine force is a continuous process, "not a one-shot thing."

Women in the new group will be assigned to two submarines in addition to the initial four that will have women serving on them by the end of 2011. In an interview Wednesday, Mabus said, "these things are moving at a pretty rapid rate" because the Navy was not going to make a big announcement about putting women on submarines, assign a few women to submarine crews and then forget about it.

"We're going to do the same thing we did with surface ships, which is fully integrate women into the crews of

all classes," he said after speaking this week at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

The Navy officially lifted its ban last year and began preparing to bring female officers aboard ballistic-missile and guided-missile submarines - the USS Wyoming (SSBN 742) and USS Georgia (SSGN 729), both in Kings Bay, Ga., and the USS Maine (SSBN 741), and USS Ohio (SSGN 726), both in Bangor, Wash. Two of the women chosen for submarine duty decided to pursue graduate studies, while one other was medically disqualified, leaving 18 in training today. Eight are currently in Groton for the 10-week officer basic course. Attrition was expected since the training is a long process, Mabus said, with six months of Nuclear Power School, six months of Naval Nuclear Prototype Training and the officer course. And, he said, the women still in the program "seem to be doing great," with no unexpected challenges in the training so far.

He attributed the seamless transition to the fact that the Navy has been doing "nuclear and sub training for so long" and "there's no gender difference to nuclear power."

The second group is made up of 18 women, with close to half coming from the Naval Academy and four from the Reserve Officers Training Corps. The rest are from other commissioning programs.

They will serve on four crews for the two submarines.

The Navy plans to assign four female supply corps officers to fill department head roles and serve as mentors, as it is doing for the initial four submarines.

The two submarines have not yet been identified, nor have the supply corps officers been selected.

Women still are not allowed on the smaller fast-attack boats, the only type of submarine homeported in Groton, and enlisted women currently can't serve on submarines.

Mabus said that while the Navy has begun with female officers on ballistic-missile and guided-missile submarines, "that's going to be expanded."

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## **Revealing The H.L. Hunley's Hidden Side**

By Octavia Mitchell, WCBD NBC CHARLESTON, June 13, 2011

The historic confederate submarine, the H.L. Hunley is about to reach a major turning point. After more than a century at a 45-degree angle, scientists will raise the sub to begin shifting it to an upright position.

The H.L. Hunley has rested on it's side at a 45 degree angle since 1864. Now, she will have a new position, revealing her right side for the first time since she went down. State Senator Glenn McConnell, chair of the Hunley Commission says they will replace the sub's sling system, then begin the rotation. The process will take place over two weeks. McConnell says, "It's significant from a technological stand point. No one has ever done something like this. This Wednesday, we will

raise the Hunley up about three feet. That will be the beginning of the process toward rotating the Hunley. next week... they will begin the process probably at half an inch at a time begin rotating the submarine up.. after rotated up ..it will be capsulated in Support pads then we will be able to drop away all of the straps, the super structure will be lifted out of the tank, and for the first time, people will be able to see the Hunley as people saw her on the night she left on her final voyage."

Dr. Michael Drews, director of Clemson University's Warren Lasch Conservation Center, says rotating the 10 ton 40 foot sub will be a delicate task, and the sub's safety is a top priority. Dr. Drews says, "We're also going to have literally a three dimensional image that will check every 30 minutes or an hour, and that will tell us if any part of the submarine is deforming. We also have a laser on it to help us monitor that."

The H.L. Hunley, now on the threshold of continuing the story. Senator McConnell says, "This is an opportunity to see what time has hidden from us, and what technology will reveal to us. We will begin looking for those final clues, that we hope will put together the final pieces of the jigsaw puzzle, why the Hunley did not come home and complete her journey."

The Hunley will be lifted in the tank to begin it's rotation Wednesday morning at 10 a-m, that should take an hour. This is the beginning of a two week process. Scientists will not rotate the sub until next week Wednesday or Thursday. The project costs around 50-thousand dollars, money from private donations.

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## Memorial Day Concert



Published: May 30, 2011

Photo by Dave Munday

Retired Navy submariner Jack Harden of North Charleston salutes during the National Anthem at the Piccolo Spoleto joint Charleston and Columbia community band Memorial Day concert in Marion Square on Sunday afternoon, May 30, 2011.

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## Retiree Checklist: What Survivors Should Know

Shift Colors periodically provides a checklist for retirees and their surviving family members. This checklist is designed to provide retirees and their loved ones with some help in preparing for the future.

\_ Create a military file that includes a copy of retirement orders, separation papers, DD Form 214, medical records, and any other pertinent military paperwork.

Make sure your spouse knows the location and telephone number of the nearest military installation.

\_ Create a military retired pay file that includes the following contact information for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) and Navy Personnel Command:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U S Military Retirement Pay

Post Office Box 7130

London , KY 40742-7130

(800) 321-1080 or (216) 522-5955/(800) 269-

5170 (for issues regarding deceased members)

Navy Personnel Command

(N135C)

Retired Activities Branch

5720 Integrity Drive

Millington , TN 38055-6220

(This file should also include the number of any pending VA claim as well as the address of the local VA office; a list of deductions currently being made from retired pay or VA benefits. Also include the name, relationship and address of the person you have designated to any unpaid retired pay at the time of death. This designation is located on the back of your Retiree Account Statement)

\_ Create an annuities file. This file should information about the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP), or any applicable Civil Service annuity, etc. Additional information regarding SBP, RCSBP and RSFPP annuity claims can be obtained from DFAS office at (800) 321-1080.

\_ Create a personal document file that has copies of marriage certificates, divorce decrees, adoptions and naturalization papers.

\_ Create an income tax file. Include copies of both of your state and federal income tax returns.

\_ Create a property tax file. Include copies of tax bills, deeds and any other related documents/information.

\_ Create an insurance policy file. Include life, property, accident, liability and hospitalization policies.

\_ in a secure location, maintain a list of all bank accounts (joint or individual). Include the location of all deposit boxes, savings bonds, stocks, bonds and any securities owned.

\_ in a secure location, maintain a list of all charge accounts and credit cards. Include account numbers and mailing addresses.

\_ Maintain a list of all associations and organizations of which you are a member. Some of them could be helpful to your spouse.

\_ Maintain a list of all friends and business associates who may be helpful. Include name, address and telephone number.

\_ Discuss your plans/desires with respect to the type and location of your funeral service. You should decide about cremation, which cemetery, ground burial, etc. If your spouse knows your desires, it will resolve some of the questions that might arise at a later date.

\_ Visit a local funeral home and pre-arrange your services. Many states will allow you to pre-pay for services.

\_ Investigate the decisions that you and your family have agreed upon. Many states have specific laws and guidelines regulating cremation and burials at sea. Some states require a letter of authority signed by the deceased in order to authorize a cremation. Know the laws in your specific area and how they may affect your decisions. Information regarding Burials at Sea can be obtained by phoning the Mortuary Affairs Division at (866) 787-0081.

\_ Once your decisions have been made and you're comfortable with them, have a will drawn up outlining all your wishes and store it in a secure location with your other paperwork.

\_ When all the decision-making and documenting is completed, sit back and continue to enjoy life.

Who should be notified in the event of my death?

1. Defense Finance and Accounting Service (800) 321-1080 or (216) 522-5955
2. Social Security Administration (for death benefits) - (800) 772-1213
3. Department of Veterans Affairs (if applicable) (800) 827-1000
4. Office of Personnel and Management (if applicable) - (724) 794-8690
5. Any fraternal group that you have membership with such as MOOA, FRA, NCOA, VFW, AL, TREA, USSVI NATIONAL OFFICE notify when a shipmate goes on Eternal Patrol. Provide Name, Base and date of death and obituary if available.
6. Any previous employer that provides pension or benefits.

The above information is not all-inclusive and should be used with other estate planning tools to lessen trauma to your loved ones.

## Ready Reference Contact Information

**Air Force Retiree Services:** (800) 531-7502;

[www.retirees.af.mil/](http://www.retirees.af.mil/)

**Arlington National Cemetery:** (703) 607-8000;

[www.arlingtoncemetery.org](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org)

org

**Armed Forces Retirement Home:** (800) 422-9988;

[www.afrh.gov](http://www.afrh.gov)

**Army & Air Force Exchange Service:** (214) 312-2011;

[www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com)

aafes.com

**Army Retired Services:** (703)325-9158;

[www.armyg1.army.mil/retire](http://www.armyg1.army.mil/retire)

retire

**Burial at Sea Information:** (866) 787-0081;

[www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil)

**Combat Related Special Compensation:**

[www.donhq.navy.mil/corb/crseb/crscmainpage.htm](http://www.donhq.navy.mil/corb/crseb/crscmainpage.htm)

**DEERS:** (800)-538-9552, Fax: (831) 655-8317;

[www.tricare.osd.mil/deers](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deers)

**Defense Commissary Agency:** [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com)

**DFAS Casualty Assistance Branch:** (800) 269-5170;

(For Report -

ing a Retiree's death, press 2)

**Fleet Reserve Association:** (703) 683-1400;

[www.fra.org](http://www.fra.org)

**Gulf War homepage:**

(866) 827-5672;

[www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/PayPersSupport/ID](http://www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/PayPersSupport/ID)

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**Internal Revenue Service:** (800) 829-1040;

[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

**Marine Corps Retired Affairs:** (800) 336-4649;

[www.usmc.mil](http://www.usmc.mil)

(Hover over "Marine Services" then click on "Retired Services")

**Medicare:** (800) 633-4227. TTY: (877) 486-2048;

[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

(800) 234-6622; [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

**National Burial Services:** (800) 697-6940

**NPCNavyReservePersonnelManagement (PERS9):**

(866) 827-5672,

[www.npc.navy.mil/CareerInfo/ReservePersonnelManagement/](http://www.npc.navy.mil/CareerInfo/ReservePersonnelManagement/)

ement/

**Navy Casualty Assistance:** (800) 368-3202

(866) U-ASK-NPC (866-827-

5672);

[MILLRetiredActivities@navy.mil](mailto:MILLRetiredActivities@navy.mil);

[www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/RetiredActivities](http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/RetiredActivities)

**Navy Uniform Shop:** (800) 368-4088; [www.navy-nex.com/uniform](http://www.navy-nex.com/uniform)

nex.com/uniform

**Navy Worldwide Locator:** (901) 874-3388;

[www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/NavyWorldWide](http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/NavyWorldWideLocator)

Locator

**Reserve Component SBP:** (877) 807-8199

**Retiree Dental — Delta Dental:** (888) 838-8737;  
www.trdp.org  
**Servicemembers Group Insurance (SGLI):** (800) 419-1473;  
www.insurance.va.gov  
**Naval Historical Center:** (202) 433-2210;  
www.history.navy.mil  
**Social Security Administration:** (800) 772-1213;  
www.ssa.gov  
**Pay/SBP Questions:** www.dfas.mil  
**Pay inquiries and update of pay or SBP records in case of death, divorce or remarriage:**  
**Retiree:**  
Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Retirement Pay  
PO Box 7130  
London KY 40742-7130  
(800) 321-1080, (216) 522-5955  
**SBP/RSFPP annuitant:**  
Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U.S. military Annuitant Pay  
PO Box 7131  
London KY 40742-7131  
(800) 321-1080, (216) 522-5955  
**TRICARE:** www.tricare.mil  
**TRICARE North:** (877) TRICARE (874-2273);  
www.hnfs.net/  
CT, DC, DE, IL, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, NC, NH,  
NJ, NY, OH,  
PA, RI, VT, VA, WI, WV, some zips in IA, MO, TN  
**TRICARE South:** (800) 444-5445; www.humana-military.com:  
AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, OK, SC, TN (except 35 TN zips near Fort Campbell), and TX (except the extreme SW El Paso area)  
**TRICARE West:** (888) TRIWEST (874-9378);  
www.triwest.com:  
AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, IA (except 82 zips near Rock Island),  
KS, MO (except St. Louis area), MN, MT, ND, NE,  
NM, NV, OR,  
DE, SW TX, UT, WA, WY  
**TRICARE Overseas:** (888) 777-8343; www.tricare.mil  
**TRICARE For Life:** (866) 773-0404;  
**TRICARE mail order pharmacy:** (866) 363-8667;  
www.tricare.mil/pharmacy  
**TRICARE retail pharmacy:** (866) 363-8779;  
www.express-scripts.com  
**VA:** www.va.gov  
(800) 827-1000 (overseas retirees should contact the American Embassy/consulate), TDD (800) 829-4833  
**Insurance:**  
PO Box 7208 (claims inquiries) -ORPO

Box 7327 (loans) -ORPO  
Box 7787 (payments)  
Philadelphia PA 19101  
(800) 669-8477; www.insurance.va.gov  
**Burial information:** (800) 827-1000; www.cem.va.gov  
**GI Bill:** (888) 442-4551; www.gibill.va.gov/  
**Records:**  
**award information:**  
www.vetrecs.archives.gov  
Navy Personnel Command  
PERS-312E  
5720 Integrity Drive  
Millington, Tn 38055-3120  
Fax requests to: (901) 874-2664  
**Gray-area reservists:** (866) 827-5672  
**Navy recreation:** www.mwr.navy.mil/  
**Navy Gateway Inns & Suites:** http://dodlodging.net  
**ITT:**  
http://www.mwr.navy.mil/mwrprgms/itt\_military\_special.htm

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### **Through the Looking Glass - Submarine History 1900 to 1940**

To think, I thought we were tough ol' bastards on the fleet boats! "wooden ships and iron men"  
Do you remember TMC(SS) Red Brown COB in Queenfish? He wore WW2 Combat Dolphins. He told us about some old salts he knew who rode O boats, R boats, and S boats. They used R boats for training early in WW2, and actually used S boats in combat.  
I wish that there were some of those old Pig Boats to visit and go through. I wonder if somewhere there are some very old sailors from those old boats still alive and full of sea stories!...

Check out all the classes of boats. Read some of the qualifying notes also-especially about the blow-down shitters!

<http://www.pigboats.com/subs/o-boats.html>

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### **Unisex Bedrooms For Submarines**

The Sydney Morning Herald, June 15, 2011

Separate sleeping quarters for men and women on submarines have been scrapped - a move the federal government says should offer women more career opportunities.

Both sexes will now bunk together on all three of Australia's operational submarines, doing away with the usual female-only six-berth cabins.

Defence Science and Personnel Minister Warren Snowdon said the old setup meant that women sometimes missed out on postings because of a lack of bed space.

"This move will ensure that our female submariners access the same training and career progression opportunities as their male crew mates," he said in a statement on Wednesday.

Women, who began working onboard the navy's submarines in 1998, were previously restricted to working on only two Australian navy submarines which had female cabins.

He said officers and senior sailors had completed successful trials of the new system.

Strict rules will apply to privacy.

Mr. Snowdon said new rules relating to women will also be brought in, preventing women from being posted where they are the only female onboard, or where there are no senior female officers.

If there are only two women serving on a submarine and one is posted elsewhere, she will be replaced by another female.

The first unisex bedrooms for junior sailors will open in July, shortly after a community forum is held in Rockingham, Western Australia on June 23 to seek feedback on implementation.

It's considered a first for the defence force, which usually provides separate accommodation for men and women.

There are currently 560 submariners, and 44 of them are women, a spokeswoman from Mr. Snowdon's office said.

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Check these ball caps out!



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### **Submarine Electronics Technician Communications Rating and System Requirements Reviewed**

By Bill Kenny, Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs, June 23, 2011

GROTON, Conn. (NNS) -- Naval Education and Training Command's (NETC), Submarine Learning

Center (SLC) concluded a Human Performance Requirements Review (HPRR) for Electronics Technician (Submarines) Communications (ET) training, in Groton, Conn., June 16.

The review was held to ensure the training SLC meets current and future fleet requirements, and to give Sailors the opportunity to voice concerns regarding individual rate training, and the enlisted community's health by allowing direct access to community managers and system experts.

"A HPRR looks at how our Sailors are performing and how that performance aligns with what we're training them to do," said Joseph Baldi, SLC director of training.

"A HPRR is held at least once every three years at a minimum or, in this case, as an acknowledgement of changes and conditions, either the performance standards change, requirements from the fleet change or the equipment the Sailors is operating changes."

"It's a dynamic situation that requires we evaluate the jobs, duties and tasks our Sailors perform and how that aligns to the curriculum to teach them their jobs or determine where and how we need to tweak the courses," Baldi continued.

According to Baldi, a key factor to maximizing the success of these reviews is to include a wide range of stakeholders as participants in the process.

"What helps is when everyone is willing to speak with one another," Baldi said. "We had experts from the Undersea Integration Program Offices, Common Submarine Radio Room program, and the Automated Digital Networking System (ADNS) in the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Program Executive Office Tactical Networks program, who joined us to make sure the training, is right for the equipment."

"On the other side of the coin, we had representatives from the Atlantic and Pacific Submarine Forces to make sure the Sailors can operate and maintain the equipment. We're all working toward the same ends, and sometimes there is some tension. But that is all right, because we need friction to get traction."

According to Baldi, it was also important to have the rate community manager involved.

"We also had the detailer participating," explained Baldi.

"Sometimes in human performance, it's not clear if we have manning and manpower challenges or if we have training challenges. We sometimes are faced with, 'are we spreading too much work across too few Sailors', which can come up as a performance issue that could be alleviated with manpower or manning changes. We try to get down to the root causes of an issue and then see how to solve it."

Solutions from the HPRR are shared with the fleet.

"At the end of the review, Navy messages are sent to training and fleet commands with actions to be taken in both quick win areas as well as long term approaches

with courses," said Baldi. "The results of the review are also posted on Navy Knowledge Online (NKO)." The blended learning solution practiced at SLC which combines instructor-led classes, hands-on labs, simulation, interactive course ware, and computer-based training continuously evolves through the HPPR process. At the conclusion of the HPPR, remedies were identified and proposed, and are currently being reviewed as to what changes or updates will be made to the training. The results of the review will be shared with the fleet on Navy Knowledge Online in the near future.

The Submarine Learning Center (SLC) provides undersea war fighting training for the submarine force. This includes specialized skills training for enlisted and officers required to tactically operate, maintain and employ the weapons, navigational, and operational systems found onboard Navy submarines. SLC conducts training for six enlisted ratings Electronics Technician (SS), Electronics Technician (SW), Fire Control Technician, Machinist's Mate (SS), Missile Technician, and Sonar Technician. The curriculum is a balance of blended learning including standard classrooms, hands-on labs, simulations and computer-based training.

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### **Navy Has A Problem: Too Many Personnel**

By Jennifer McDermott, The Day, June 23, 2011

So many sailors are choosing to stay in the Navy rather than take their chances in a struggling economy that now the Navy will decide who gets to stay.

Sailors completing their first enlistment are staying in the Navy at a rate of 72 percent. There is no room for them to move through the ranks because not enough people are leaving.

This summer, the Navy will convene a retention board to review roughly 16,000 records and choose 3,000 sailors to leave the service earlier than they had planned. With more than 270,000 enlisted sailors serving today, that means 6 percent of the force will be evaluated and 1 percent separated.

Sailors with nuclear training will be spared because the Navy needs to retain their technical skills and because the number of these sailors is generally in line with the number of submarine jobs the Navy has to fill.

Officers, however, may not be spared.

The Navy will convene a second board in August to choose about 240 commanders and captains for early retirement, possibly including some submarine warfare officers. The Navy cited high retention and low attrition as the reason for this review as well.

"The reason that we are letting people go is because they are not leaving the Navy on the projected rate that they normally do," Adm. Gary Roughead, chief of naval operations, said earlier this month at a military strategy

forum. "People are in the Navy to fill specific jobs. So it's not as if I can keep people just because I want to." Personnel costs have the highest inflation rate because of pay and benefits. The service has to live within its means, Roughead added.

The Navy is overmanned in 31 of its 84 ratings, or jobs for enlisted sailors. The retention board will consider selected third class petty officers through senior chief petty officers in the 31 specialties, who have more than seven but fewer than 15 years of service as of Oct. 1. One-third will be in aviation jobs.

None of the 31 specialties is submarine specific. Lt. Cmdr. Kyung Choi, spokesman for the commander of the Submarine Force, said the personnel requirements for the submarine force have not changed.

But some of the sailors serving on shore at submarine bases, either assisting the chaplain or providing career counseling and maintaining personnel records, could be affected. Both kinds of specialists are assigned to the Naval Submarine Base in Groton.

This is the first time sailors with lower levels of experience have been reviewed by a retention board, although some more senior sailors were previously considered by a board.

Some in Congress question the Navy's plan. The House Armed Services Committee said in its recent report on the defense authorization act that it was concerned by the Navy's request to reduce its ranks.

"The Navy has been challenged over the past several years as sailors deployed as individual augmentees to overseas contingency operations to execute non-traditional Navy missions, which has drained needed manpower from the fleet," the report said, adding that the committee would "closely monitor" the Navy's reduction of manpower and the impact on operations and requirements.

U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, D-2nd District, and a committee member, said the impact to southeastern Connecticut should be lessened by the fact that nuclear-trained sailors are exempt.

He said there is "obviously an economic backdrop" to the retention issue since both recruitment and retention numbers went up after the financial collapse.

The board will first look for any indicators of poor performance, such as past punishments for disciplinary offenses, then base decisions on the Navy's quotas for each job, said Lt. Matthew Allen, spokesman for the chief of naval personnel.

Sailors in the crowded jobs were given the chance to apply for other Navy jobs that are short-staffed. Those who are told to leave the Navy this summer must do so by June 30, 2012. They will be eligible for benefits and pay for people who are involuntarily separated, such as employment assistance and help relocating for those stationed overseas.

## **COOL VIDEO: Recovered Civil War Submarine Rotated**

CBS12.com, June 27, 2011

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. -- Scientists at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center completed the rotation of the Hunley on Thursday.

The world's first successful combat submarine has rested on her side at a 45-degree angle since she was lost in 1864. The sub was recovered from the ocean floor in that exact position in 2000 and has remained that way, until now.

After a challenging and risky few days, the 7-ton, 40-foot vessel will now be able to undergo complete preservation treatment, officials said.

The team spent two years planning the rotation and tested various simulations in advance on a 3D model. Officials said the process was at times slow and tedious and sometimes nerve-racking. It took 3 days in all to complete the rotation.

At one point, they said the bow started to dip too much toward the ground and scientists had to make modifications to get the submarine level again. Officials said they anticipated the potential of this occurring though had hoped it would not affect the rotation.

Also, a laser monitoring system – critical to detecting any potential warping or damage that scientists were desperately trying to avoid – had to be adjusted one morning, causing a delay of a few hours for rotation work to start.

Scientists will now remove the straps and overhead truss that have safely held the Hunley since it was taken from the ocean.

Link to video:

<http://www.cbs12.com/news/conservation-4733394-video-rotated.html>

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## **Newspaper Article from the '70s**

Navy Sub Duty Can Hurt Wives

Wives of men serving long tours on nuclear submarines suffer from depression and grief the Navy neither recognizes nor deals with adequately, a psychological study reports.

While the Navy is concerned with effects on seaman of their three-months-at-sea, three-months-at-home rotation, it doesn't deal with the severe stress this pattern poses for wives, the University of Hawaii at Manoa study says.

The researchers said the Navy provides counseling services, but informal social pressures make wives reluctant to use them. Moreover, the counseling doesn't adequately address the problem's seriousness, says the report published in the American Journal of Psychiatry' April issue.

“The wife seeking help may be labeled ‘dependent’ or ‘weak’ by other wives, her husband’s superiors or even her own husband,” said the report.

Facing constant pressure to be a sacrificing “good military wife”, a woman is often forced to hide her feelings and grief, the report said.

The researchers tested 24 wives of nuclear submarine personnel based in Hawaii to assess their depression when their husbands are at sea and at home.

“The wives had significantly higher depression scores under conditions of husband absence,” the report said. The researchers — Karen Beckman and Drs. Anthony J. Marsella and Ruth Finney — said wives’ problems were linked both to repetitive grief whenever husbands leave and to constant shifting of role patterns.

“During the husband’s absence the wife often has complete responsibility for home and family,” the study said. “When the husband returns this role generally shifts back to him.”

“The Navy is missing the point of what it means to be a military wife,” Marsella said in a telephone interview Friday. “These women are left without adequate resources or praise and expected to cope.”

Marsella said many of the wives develop alcohol problems and some drift in and out of promiscuous sexual relationships. While researchers have no access to divorce data, “it is our feeling that divorce is high,” he added.

The report quoted one wife: “I can take all of this. I can even grow as a result of being on my own with all the responsibility. But, ...just once I would like some recognition for the support I do give the Navy. And perhaps some recognition for being one hell of a woman to put up with this.”

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## **From a Charleston Base Member**

Shipmates:

I would like to invite you read and watch a story written for *Guidepost Magazine* by my son, Raymond Kimbrell, who was an officer in the USMC. I'm sure those of you with children will enjoy. To open the story, go to <http://www.guideposts.org/>, put “Kimbrell” in the search block and select the link, A Marine Dad’s Most Important Duty or copy and paste the following in your browser: <http://www.guideposts.org/hope-and-faith/faith-helped-marine-father-learn-raise-his-son-cerebral-palsy-father-son-story>

Be sure to watch the video at end of article.

Thanks Shipmates,  
Jimmy Kimbrell ET1 (SS) Ret.

## Foul-Mouthed Russian Submarine Captain Gets Desk Job

Mangalorean.com, June 28, 2011

Vladivostok, June 27 (IANS/RIA Novosti) Russian Pacific Fleet authorities have transferred a submarine captain, who violated the officer's code of conduct by swearing at another officer, to a desk job at the headquarters, the fleet's spokesman said Monday.

Captain Roman Shchuriya was given a suspension notice last year after bawling and howling abuse at a senior officer over his cell phone for failing to congratulate the crew of his Samara nuclear-powered submarine on Fleet Day.

The video of the event, posted in summer 2010, went viral over the internet.

"A transfer from a commanding post to headquarters is a normal procedure in the military and there is no need to attempt to find foul play here," Capt. First Rank Roman Martov said.

Martov said Shchuriya agreed to be transferred to a position that corresponds to his rank, and the move cannot be considered a form of punishment.

Naval prosecutors earlier concluded that Shchuriya had breached disciplinary regulations and must be reprimanded.

## Political Ad

I am running as I believe it to be important that the members have a choice that they may choose to lead them as Commander. I consider the position of Base Commander very important to the very basics of why Sub Vets was started. Submarine Veterans exists for us, those that qualified as "Brothers of the Phin". This would be my priority to continue this common thread.

Yes, I support the other activities that we do locally and Nationally, including the Scholarship program, Caps for Kids, and Boat Sponsorship, however it would be my direction to keep Charleston Base on track in the District, Regional and National that every decision made by me and the executive committee would support the very reason for our existence - and to support the USSVI Creed.

I appreciate the opportunity to be considered as Charleston Base Commander.

Franterally yours,  
Jerry Stout

Remember this advertisement in the old comic books?

**POLARIS NUCLEAR SUB**  
OVER 7 FEET LONG  
BIG ENOUGH FOR 2 KIDS  
**\$6.98**

**FEATURES**

- Over 7 feet long
- Seats 2 kids
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Now proud you will be as commander of your own POLARIS SUB — the most powerful ship in the sea! What hours of imaginative play and fun as you and your friends dive, surface, maneuver, watch the enemy through the periscope and release nuclear missiles and torpedoes! Thrill as you hunt sunken treasures in pirate waters and explore the strange and mysterious ocean floor!

**HOURS AND HOURS OF ADVENTURE**  
Sturdily constructed of 200 lb. test material. Comes complete with easy assembly instructions. Costs only \$6.98 for this giant of fun, adventure, and science. (Because of the POLARIS SUB'S giant size we must ask for 75c shipping charges.)

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Order today and we will rush your POLARIS NUCLEAR SUB to you. Use it for 10 full days. If you don't think it is the greatest ever — the best toy you ever had — just send it back for full purchase price refund.

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Rush me my POLARIS SUB. I can use it for 10 days and if I am not delighted return it for the full purchase price refund.

— SEND IT PREPAID. I enclose \$5.98 plus 75c to help cover shipping charges.  
— SEND IT O.O.D. I enclose \$1 good-will deposit and I will pay postman \$5.98 on delivery plus C.O.D. postage.

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— N.Y. State Residents please add Sales Tax —

## Today's Navy At Sea



Aboard the Navy's newest aircraft carrier the USS George W. Bush CVN-77. On deployment, cruising in the Mediterranean Sea with the Rock of Gibraltar in the background, heading for the Persian Gulf.

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**Celebrate the Fourth of July!**  
*You have a choice...America, what a country!*



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## Getting Older

Many of us have reached the age where we have lost more shipmates than we have had.

We are growing old and yet the wars we tried so hard to stop continue. It is unfortunately, the nature of man that he likes to fight and often for the least worthy of causes.

In reflection, it is easy to say we fought to answer a higher calling, for service to our country and for the principles that our Flag represents.

Truth be told, most of us went to sea because, we had become a family, and no one was going to let his family go to sea without him. We made the difference in getting home safely. At any given time, one of us had a brain and one of us had a guardian angel. Together, they got us to sea and home.

God bless and keep those who tread where we once tread and always keep faith with those who sleep in the deep.

### The Old Salt

One day when all the Navy  
to a goodly crowd was host  
when it's gates were opened widely  
at each Navy Yard and Post.

When crowds of friends-civilians  
came from places far and near  
to view the mighty warships  
that were tied to every pier.

There passed before the sentry  
and sergeant of the guard  
an old and gray-haired fellow  
who came hobbling in the yard.

Whose gait was slow-unsteady  
whose frame was bent and frail  
whose eyes were red and weary  
whose face was wrinkled and pale.

His withered hand held tightly  
a small and wilted bouquet  
of flowers that he's gathered  
on that Decoration Day.

Who, once inside the gateway  
forsook the milling throng.  
He had no time for cruisers  
or the battleships so strong.

Instead he sought a vessel  
that had laid for many years;  
neglected and forgotten  
'mid deserted, crumbling piers.

He trudged for what seemed ages  
'til he finally found the slip  
and his eager gaze had centered  
on a very ancient ship.

The sides of which were rusty  
and who's decks were rotted through  
her periscope bent and twisted  
and her rail was broken too.

His eyes grew dim and misty  
as he gazed upon the boat  
He cried, "Old pal I've found you"  
then a lump came in his throat.

He moved close to the sub  
'til he touched its barren side  
its presence seemed to stir him  
and unto the boat he cried.

"We've had our times old fellow"  
in our younger days we both  
have weathered storms together  
and sailed pleasant seas, my oath.

We've served our nation nobly  
with ne'er a thought of self  
but now we're both forgotten  
and we've landed on the shelf.

We're like the fabled bridegroom  
who's tiring of his bride  
found greater use in others  
then cast his bride aside.

But still we share between us  
the memories of the past  
and these will serve to cheer us  
for the short time that we last.

To me you were a mother  
and a friend and home in one,  
when tired I've often slumbered  
on you just like a son.

That's why I've paid this visit  
on this Decoration Day  
and why I've brought this token  
and he held out the bouquet.

Before I take my parting  
I will rest my body sore  
in the old and tender embrace  
that I knew in days of yore.

Then without further prattle  
he climbed over the sub's side  
he laid down to slumber  
but ere the morning came, he died.

They found his body later  
and tho' the old man's race was done  
the old sub still guarded  
her beloved sailor son.

Poem written by Dan Mack in the 1920's when Memorial Day was called Decoration Day