

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 7, No. 9

September 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:

September 8, 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 Sparger	843-553-5594
Public Affairs	Larry Starland	843 863-8474
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	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Vice Commander	Marty Sessler	843-871-1536
Secretary		
Treasurer	Terry Trump	843-873-9563

Minutes of the August 2011 meeting

Attendance for the August 11, 2011 meeting was 95

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

Introductions: Six new people were introduced. Ervin Chase, Kelly Price, Jacob Christiansen, Tom Czulewicz, Harold Crawford, and Brandon Johnson. 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 Base financial report for June 2011.

Vice Commander: Marty said that he is here to give away stuff tonight. Marty had a list of the excess ship plaques and also some cups with the Sennet, Pulaski, and Threadfin boat logos. Anyone wanting something could sign up alongside the listed item. Marty will bring the requested items to the monthly meeting in September.

Newsletter: No report

Membership: Annual membership dues are due by 1 October. Pay your dues for next year as soon as possible to Carl Chinn.

Storekeeper: Don has patches that have been ordered and not picked up.

Scholarship: No report

Public Affairs: Larry Starland introduced himself as the new base PAO.

Chaplain: Discussion of Page 2 and Emergency Contact Info with personal papers.

- Fred Woodley's 10 month old grandson, Matthew, was in the hospital in July after inhaling some plastic wrap on baby food. He recovered quickly and is doing very well.
- QMC(SS) Joe Beasenburg departed on Eternal Patrol on July 9^h. Joe was not a member of Charleston Base.
- Roger Rader had surgery on July 20^h for blockages due to scar tissue buildup in his colon. He has been released from the hospital and is at home recovering.
- Walt Deal had back surgery on August 3rd at Roper. Surgery went well and he is at home recovering.
- Rich Alkire was to have lung surgery on August 5th for the removal of a tumor and biopsy from his lung. During a heart cath test, he was found to have several bad blockages. The surgery turned in to a quadruple bypass. He did well and was released today. He's at home recovering. BZs to Tom Lawson and Ralph Rohrsen for keeping me so well updated on Rich's condition.
- Pauline Stank, Ed's wife, is back home from Duke. She is still not able to eat anything and has difficulty speaking. Lungs are doing well and no sign of rejection. They were in Duke this week for a 3 month checkup which if it goes well she will be able to begin eating.
- Richard Cleeve is the care-giver for his wife, Erma. He would like everyone to know that she is doing OK and would be happy to be in your prayers. If you live in the Bonneau area or plan on being up that way give Richard a call and see if you can get by to see him. He is a long time member and initiated the base website.
- Barry Wilson finished his second chemo treatment today. He has been diagnosed with Stage IV pancreatic and colon cancer. He is doing well but wants us to know he will not be around for some meetings. However he does plan on being at the Hog Roast in October and is very glad it is scheduled for his birthday.
- Jim Yates has informed me that he has been diagnosed with a cancerous mass on one of his bad kidneys. At an earlier age Jim had a kidney transplant so he now has three kidneys, 1 good and 2 bad. He had a doctor's appointment on Monday and is now scheduled for August 26th for surgery to remove the cancerous kidney. The doctor believes they will be able to remove it through laparoscopic surgery.
- George Scharf had some minor surgery on his face and is at home recovering.

• Rodney McKanna will be having surgery on August 30th to redo the stump and close an open wound. It is planned as an outpatient surgery in MUSC but he may have to stay overnight.

• Joe Civiletti is a Stimson shipmate of mine had some major hand surgery today. He will also possibly have cancer surgery in November.

• EMCM(SS) Retired James Gilmore, of Hanahan, departed on eternal patrol on Sunday, August 7^h the COB served with him on the Trigger in the early 60's. James was not a member of Charleston Base.

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.

Veteran's Affairs: DAV (Disabled American Veterans) will have their service van at the VFW on Bellwright Road on 31 August from 0800 until 1600. Vets can apply/file for VA claims.

Little David: Rick Wise, Beetle Bailey and several other CB subvets participated at a dedication by the Berkeley County War Veterans at the Berkeley County Museum on 25 June.

Holland Club: No report

SUBVETS WWII: Lee Allison introduced the WWII subvets that were present. John Hill, Willie Jones, Stacy Power, Bill Weaver and himself. Bill's nephew Byron Benson was also visiting with us tonight. Byron just graduated first in his class at EMA School. Lee has 2012 WWII calendars for sale @ \$8. The profits will benefit the future upkeep of the Amberjack memorial. (This is the lost boat memorial located at Patriots Point in Mt. Pleasant). The Swamp Fox Chapter will meet at Ryan's in Summerville next Thursday, 18Aug2011, f

Historian: No report

Recreation Committee: No report

District Commander: No report

Fleet Reserve: 13 Aug (Saturday night) @ 1900 hours - mortgage burning party. Any subvet can join the Fleet Reserve and are encouraged to do so, Larry Cox has plenty of forms.

Chief of the Boat: Rick said that he is known for two things. Number 1, he is loud and Number 2, he is a stew burner. He then thanked everyone for allowing him to be COB. TMC(SS) Retired Sparger told of qualifying on

the Trigger in 1965. He went on to ride 3 nuke boats before serving at the FTC training center in Charleston. Rick spent 14 years in the regular Navy and retired out of the reserves. The COB can be reached by phone or e-mail, but requests that you call before 9 at night. Rick also would like to be able to draw on the experienced guys from CB as we go forward. The COB remarked that Charleston Base might be #2 in the nation in the number of members but Charleston is the BEST base. All base equipment has been moved out of the after battery with the exception of the ice machine, Amberjack bell and the solar battery charger. Bill Roberts is now storing the parade float at his place. Rick needs help with moving the ice machine next week. See him after the meeting if you are available to help with this task.

HOG ROAST - Rick held up the flier for the annual base hog roast (graphics by Carl Chinn) which will be held 22 October at Short Stay. There will be a large playground for all you nukes. Wrist bands will be supplied showing that you paid. Cost is \$5, kids under 14 are free. The reason that we are using Short Stay is that we are allowed to stay all night to cook. Neither Marrington nor the Air Base would let us stay overnight. There is a campground, bring your camper, or you can rent one of the villa's if you would like to camp. Bring a side dish, but no beans, rice, slaw, or hash. These will be provided by the base.

OYSTER ROAST AND PICNIC – will probably be held at Marrington (down the road from the nuke school).

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE – Ken Hutchinson has agreed to pull the parade float to Savannah.

EVENT HELP – We do not have a recreation committee. Help us with set up and give us a hand when asked.

Undersea Warfare News - information for a free electronic subscription will be forwarded by the COB.

Base Commander: The BC recognized Danielle Stout as the recipient of a USSVI national scholarship for \$950. Danielle is the daughter of member Jerry Stout. Jerry's other daughter, Rebecca, is a past recipient of both national and base scholarships. Carl asked about CB member Al Hansen and was told that Al had moved to Colorado and was not coming back.

A few members attended the memorial for submarine veteran EMCM(SS) James Gilmore (not a base member) to pay final respects. CB was asked to act as pallbearers by his son but this was covered by active duty navy. Our PA system is now being stored here at the Fleet Reserve, this is better for the electronics to be stored in a climate controlled environment. The base charter will be hung on the wall by Larry Cox and Larry Starland in this room where we hold our monthly meetings. The base access policy for borrowing of base equipment will remain the same. These items can be checked out from

any elected base officer or the COB and can be used for family reunions, etc. by base members.

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson explained that the Navy has gone smokeless. They do not smoke on the boats anymore. And just like second hand smoke, second hand nuclear radiation has its effects on non-nukes. Rick proved his point by asking the board members to remove their hats.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. The base has rented a storage facility (10' x 23') for base equipment @ Mini Warehouses of Summerville at a discount cost of \$85 per month. The board recommends covering these costs with a quarterly billing to the base treasurer. Motion was made, seconded and approved.
2. The base has excess equipment that is not being used. The board of directors recommends donating to a church/scraping whichever is feasible. This includes five heavy 6' round tables that were hung in the pole barn, an electric comb binding machine that was given to the base by Lee Allison, old desktop copy machine. Motion was made, seconded and approved.
3. Parade float is in need of maintenance. We need to get it ready for the parade season and to be able to pull it safely to Savannah. This will require 6 new tires (3 axles); work on the brakes, bearings, etc. We have an estimate from Hill tire of \$428 for six new tires. We will also submit a charity form and may get some funds for these repairs. The board recommends that the base approve a motion to send float to a qualified shop to determine what it needs and perform the safety checks and work, cost NTE \$1,500. We will try to use the box of new bearings, seals, races, etc. that we already have. Motion made, seconded and approved.
4. We currently have 51 old metal folding chairs, of which 40 are in bad shape. These chairs are used for base events and loaned for boat reunions/ functions in the Charleston area. They are in many cases rusty and not suitable anymore for family and guests to use. The board has researched a good quality, heavy duty, plastic folding chair made by Lifetime products that will last and recommends that the base approve monies, NTE \$1,500, for this purchase. Discussion followed about chair costs. Several members asked time to research chairs and to go get bids. It was strongly recommended by the BC that we need a good heavy duty, lightweight chair and not necessarily the cheapest chair. The motion to approve money for this expense, NTE \$1,500 was made, seconded and approved with the agreement that we will allow the folks who desire to get additional bids before ordering.

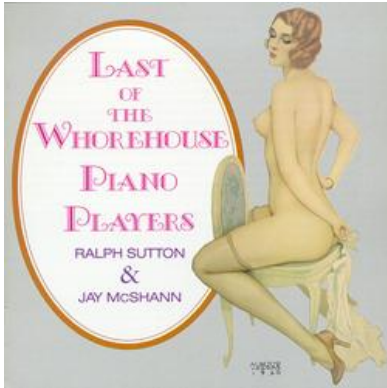
Good Of The Order: Chris LaForce won the depth charge drawing and donated \$100 to the building fund.

Ed Stank talked about Duke University Hospital and the good care that his wife Pauline is receiving as a lung transplant patient.

Larry Starland requested that the new BC sit in the proper chair position at the board table.

Nick Nichols made a pitch for completing page 2 forms and noted the advantages on the back of the form for survivors and those left the task of handling end of life matters.

Meeting Adjourned: The Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2008.



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



September Birthdays!

Binkley	Bolin	Bowles	Carswell
Clark	Cousino	Curtis	Gravley
Hartley	Hunter	Hutchison	Ingebretson
Karriker	Katen	Knutson	Kopczynski
Lanier	McRae	Moody	Morrow, R
Neufeld	Stump	Sumner	Villegas
Wilson, L	Wilson, W		

August Submarines Lost:

USS	SS 209	September 9, 1943
USS Cisco	SS 290	September 28, 1943
USS S-5	SS 110	September 1, 1920
USS S-51	SS 162	September 25, 1925

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



September 8 – General Meeting; social hour 1800, meeting starts 1900

2012 USSVI Dues Are Due Soon

2012 dues are due on 1 October 2011. Please pay your dues on or before 1 October.

Make checks payable to USSVI. Amount owed list will be at the meetings.

“This Guy Was A Real Hero”

Rear Adm. Rindskopf sank 15 enemy ships, served community

The Capital Gazette, July 31

Best known for being the youngest officer in history to command a submarine, Annapolis resident and retired Navy Rear Adm. Maurice Rindskopf died Wednesday after a short illness.

He was 93.

Rindskopf is remembered for his leadership and his contributions to the community long after he retired from the Navy. In 2007, he received the elite honor of being named a Naval Academy Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate, placing him among ranks that include a president, a Super Bowl champion quarterback and an astronaut.

"This guy was a real hero," said Retired Adm. Leighton W. Smith Jr., who was honored as a distinguished graduate the same year Rindskopf received the honor.

"You can't say enough about him as an officer, as a gentleman, as a businessman, as a friend, as a person who contributed and who had such a love for the Naval Academy."

Rindskopf came to the Naval Academy as a 16-year-old in 1934. After being commissioned four years later, he soon was assigned to the USS Drum, a submarine stationed in the Pacific Ocean.

He was soon at war.

And when the submarine's commanding officer suffered an attack of gallstones, Rindskopf found himself commander of the sub at age 26.

He led patrols in the Pacific and was responsible for sinking 15 enemy ships and damaging 11 others. He later was a leader in antisubmarine warfare during the Cold War and eventually became the director of Naval Intelligence.

After retiring in 1972, Rindskopf and his wife, Sylvia, moved to Severna Park and he began working as an international marketing manager for Westinghouse. He also became active on county and state library boards. He put so much preparation and dedication into activities such as the Anne Arundel County Public Library Board of Trustees that president Joan Beck said she had no idea how distinguished a background he had.

Beck said she was floored when she learned what he'd accomplished during his Naval career.

"I guess the troubles you'd face on the library budget committee are quite small compared to commanding a submarine," Beck said.

Rindskopf was never one to boast about his record, but dedicated time trying to positively influence young people and give back to his community, Smith said. He was instrumental in creating a Class of 1938 endowment to support an annual forum to train midshipmen about being leaders in the military and the civilian world.

"The way he lived his life, he was such a balanced individual that really made him a role model for others," Smith said. "We may never know how many lives he influenced. That's his legacy."

Sylvia, his wife of 68 years, died last March. Together, they'd traveled throughout his career to duty stations in Washington, Long Beach, Calif., and New London, Conn., and overseas to Panama, Hawaii and Naples, Italy. Friends say Rindskopf was heartbroken by the loss of his wife.

Rindskopf's only granddaughter, Amy Rindskopf, remembers well the stories she'd hear from her grandfather.

"I remember as a kid, he'd take me to the Naval Academy to skate there or to a basketball game," she said.

He'd tell stories about commanding "the Drum" and how it was the first submarine to reach Pearl Harbor after it was attacked by the Japanese in 1941, she said.

Just this past winter, Amy Rindskopf said she was her grandfather's date to the annual Submarine Ball. He energetically introduced her to handfuls of people. "He just loved to be involved," she said.

She was in Annapolis last week and said she was struck by a common theme about her grandfather as she went through what people wrote in some of his old yearbooks. "Everyone said he was well-liked, easy to get along with. It's a very special gift he had," she said. "He really believed if you are going to do something, you should do it right."

A funeral service will be held at 9 a.m. tomorrow at the Levy Chapel of the Naval Academy. A reception will follow from noon to 2:30 p.m. at BayWoods of Annapolis.

Rindskopf's ashes will be scattered from a submarine in the Pacific Ocean.

“Fluid Cloak” To Help Submarines Leave No Wake

New Scientist, July 29

SUPER-STEALTHY submarines may one day glide through the water without creating a wake, if a plan to channel fluid intelligently around objects can be made to work.

A vehicle moving through a fluid normally disturbs the medium in two ways. First, some of the fluid gets dragged along with the vehicle, sapping its energy and slowing it down. Second, a turbulent wake forms behind it where fluid rushes in to fill the vacant space. The

churning fluid in the wake in turn creates noise that reveals the vehicle's presence.

But channelling the fluid around the object in just the right way could solve both problems at once.

To do this, Yaroslav Urzhumov and David Smith of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, propose encasing it in a mesh shell.

Crucially, the permeability of this mesh casing should vary from place to place to alter the speed of fluid flowing through it. This means that the shell and the object it contains would leave no lasting impression in the fluid - the fluid would exit the shell at exactly the same speed and in the same direction as it entered.

They modelled the pattern of permeability needed to make a sphere undetectable in fluid. The pattern was complex, with some spots having to accelerate the fluid flowing through it. To do that, the researchers propose embedding tiny pumps in the material to boost the flow rate. Pumps that are mere millimetres across already exist for biomedical devices.

The overall effect of their pattern is to initially accelerate the incoming fluid near the front of the shell, then to let it slow back down to its original speed at the back of the shell before it exits (Physical Review Letters, in press). Since there is no net change to the motion of the fluid when the vehicle passes through it, there is no drag and no turbulent wake. The fluid closes seamlessly around the vehicle, as if it had never been there. "It's possible to have this structure glide through the fluid without disturbing it at all," says Urzhumov.

For the pattern in the mesh to work, there is a trade-off between the sphere's size and its speed. Steven Ceccio of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor cautions that the "fluid cloaking" is only complete for small and slow-moving objects. For example, a vehicle 1-centimetre across could only stay drag and wake-free at speeds of less than 1 centimetre per second, he says: "If the object gets bigger, the [limiting] speed goes down even more." But Urzhumov says it might be possible to develop mesh patterns that will work for larger objects or different shapes. And he argues that the fluid-cloaking pattern in this study could still reduce drag and weaken the wakes of larger and faster vehicles, even if it does not completely eliminate them.

Activists, Lawmakers Renew Push To End Military's Ban On Women In Combat Roles

Washington Post Blog, July 29

After 10 years of war, the work of women in the military is increasingly equal with that of men and yet, under a Defense Department policy, they are still technically barred from combat roles. That, some lawmakers, activists and service members fear, has meant their absence in the higher echelons of the force.

On Thursday, an overwhelmingly female group of lawmakers, activists and service members gathered on Capitol Hill as the Caucus on Women in the Military called for the removal of the policy, which states that women may not operate on the front lines of combat — "well forward on the battlefield" — or in places where they cannot be accommodated, long taken to mean environments like submarines.

The policy is based on a directive issued in 1994 by then-Defense Secretary Leslie Aspin. But times have changed, argued three congresswomen led by Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-Calif.), and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan no longer have front lines.

A woman patrolling in Basra or helping Afghan children learn the alphabet as part of an engagement tactic is as much in harm's way as anyone. Insurgencies can make every street and house part of the front line.

Women have been kept out of combat roles in part because of reservations about whether they would be able to perform as well as men physically — say, pull a dead or wounded 250-pound colleague in full body armor off the battlefield, or serve with Navy SEALs. But because women are technically barred from combat, they are often denied recognition — from medals to benefits to psychiatric care -- of their work. This fall, noted Lory Manning of the Women's Research & Education Institute, a veteran herself, the first female submarine officers will go on their first missions.

"It's widely known," added Manning, "that women in Iraq and Afghanistan have been attached to units rather than assigned to them, in many combat roles originally only done by men." Pointing out that much has changed since women officially joined the armed services — as an all-female nursing corps in the early 1900s — she called for the bureaucratic fudges currently seeing women serving in harm's way to be formalized. Earlier this year, the congressionally appointed Military Leadership Diversity Commission produced a report calling for the exclusion of women from combat to end, with the aim of allowing women to be better represented at in senior ranks.

Currently, there is only one female four-star general — Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, who heads the Army's supply arm — and despite her responsibility for getting everything, "from beans to bullets to Band-aids" to the battlefield, she is unlikely to make chief of staff because she has never held a combat role, Greg Jacob of the Service Women's Action Network said Thursday. In the campaign to end the ban on women in combat roles, female service members are oftentimes not the loudest voices.

Jacob, who spent 10 years as a Marine, many of them as a trainer, sought to debunk some myths about women serving alongside men. Training female Marines made him realize that there was no reason all jobs should not be open to them, and that there was no evidence that

they were more emotionally fragile or that they affected the performance of men.
“Men complain less [when working with women]” he said, “because they don’t want to appear weak in front of them.”

Buzz Creates A US Navy Solid-State Lighting Initiative

Defense Industry Daily, August 8

In August 2011, Energy Focus, Inc. in Solon, OH received a \$23.1 million firm-fixed-price contract to design and manufacture “energy efficient, solid state lighting for general illumination on Navy ships to upgrade all the legacy lighting systems with new energy efficient, solid state lighting as part of the Navy’s green initiative.” Work on this first delivery order will be performed in Solon, OH, and is expected to be completed by Dec 1/11, while \$1.2 million will expire at the end of the current fiscal year, on Sept 30/11. This contract was competitively awarded on a best-value basis, with 3 offers received by the US Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, Ship System Engineering Station in Philadelphia, PA (N65540-11-D-0009).

The SSL program actually began when a submarine sonar technician, irritated by the constant buzz of his LED bunk lamp, asked if the Navy could find an LED replacement...

The US Office of Naval Research’s TechSolutions program took up the challenge, funding development and certification of a suite of LED fixtures that are direct form-fit-function replacements for all the T8W5 light fixtures currently used by the Navy, and can handle Navy shock tests and non-interference requirements. Energy Focus worked with ONR on the project, which offers a number of benefits beyond noise. Power consumption is just 50% of fluorescents’ for the same lighting, the need to dispose of bulbs containing mercury is removed, and maintenance requirements are expected to be near zero for the lights’ expected decade of service.

Initial test installs included the Virginia Class submarine USS New Hampshire [SSN 778], the Harper’s Ferry Class amphibious ship USS Pearl Harbor [LSD 52], and the Arleigh Burke Flt IIA Class destroyers USS Preble [DDG 88] and USS Chafee [DDG 90].

Deep-Diving Submarine ‘Triton’ Introduced

The News International, August 10

NEW YORK: An American manufacturer has created a submarine which is capable of reaching the deepest point of the ocean. The Triton 36,000 is capable of descending at a rate of 500 feet per minute which allows it to reach those parts of the ocean which have never been seen by man.

The submarine is capable of reaching depths of 35,800 feet which allows adventure seekers to see something they have never experienced before.

VIDEO: WWII Veteran Honors Fellow Lost Submarine Men With Genealogy Research

Paul Wittmer, Manchester resident and WWII Veteran, shares his passion for restoring the records of those lost in submarine battles.

By Carlos Restrepo, townandcountry-manchester.patch.com, August 10, 2011

World War II veteran, cancer survivor, author and Manchester resident, Paul Wittmer just released another book on genealogy in July. Wittmer has a passion for tracing family history. In the above video, he tells Town and Country-Manchester Patch why he feels it's important to keep alive the memories of those lost during WWII.

The 87-year-old WWII submariner shares his motivation in this day-in-the-life photo slideshow.

Through his research, Wittmer has compiled records on more than 3,000 men lost in battle. Wittmer published his findings in several books available for purchase on his website.

Besides restoring the records of his fellow submariners, Wittmer also writes about his adventures during the war. His most recent book, *Spyron*, deals with a spy submarine squadron in southeast Asia during WWII.

Video link:

<http://townandcountry-manchester.patch.com/articles/video-wwii-veteran-honors-fellow-lost-submarine-men-with-genealogy-research#video-7280966>

Patton Cologne

The U.S. Army has released a cologne named for the World War II hero Gen. George S. Patton. The scent, dubbed simply "Patton," is the Army's licensed, official fragrance. The cologne was not initiated by anyone in the Patton family, but they took the news with good humor. Daughter-in-law Joanne Patton said, "It was a surprise to me. We'll wait to see how and why," she said, chuckling. "... I was surprised that a perfume for General Patton wouldn't be smelling like diesel fuel." Gen. Patton, who died in 1945, owned what is now Green Meadows Farm in Hamilton. His son, also a general named George, lived there until his death in 2004, and his widow, Joanne, still lives on the Asbury Street property. Patton cologne is made by California-based Parfumologie. A portion of proceeds from sales of Patton, and the scents Parfumologie has created for each branch of the armed forces (Riptide for the Coast Guard, Devil Dogs for the Marines and Stealth for the Air Force), are donated to the Veterans Administration. The line of colognes was first released in 2009, but made

news in AUG after the Patton cologne was mentioned on the Military Times news website. Patton is advertised as a woody blend of lavender, citrus, coconut, cedar, sage, tonka bean, bergamot and lime.

Admiral Osborne Scholarship Fund

We are offering a Charleston Base Challenge Coin for sale. ALL proceeds go into the scholarship fund. Coins only cost \$7 each for an additional \$1 is a protective plastic capsule. To get your coin(s) see Julian Villegas or Carl Chinn.



Tricare Nursing Home Coverage Update 03

At some point in your life, you or a family member may need skilled nursing care, long-term care or both. You should understand what each term means and how they affect you. Under TRICARE, a skilled nursing facility is a facility with the staff and equipment to provide 28 skilled nursing, skilled rehabilitation or other medically necessary healthcare services, including prescription medications. Skilled nursing care isn't typically provided in a nursing home or a patient's home. For TRICARE to cover your skilled nursing facility admission you must meet the following criteria:

- You must be treated in a hospital for at least three consecutive days, not including the day of discharge;
- You must be admitted within 30 days of your hospital discharge (with some exceptions) to a skilled nursing facility;
- Your doctor's treatment plan must demonstrate your need for medically-necessary rehabilitation and skilled services; and
- The facility must be Medicare-certified and a participating provider.

Under skilled nursing care, TRICARE typically covers Medically-necessary skilled nursing care; Rehabilitative (physical, occupational, and speech) therapies; Room and board; Prescribed drugs and laboratory work; Supplies; Appliances; and Medical-equipment. The amount you pay varies, depending on your eligibility status and TRICARE option. Your costs are different depending on who you are and which health plan option you are using. To determine your cost refer to the chart at <http://www.tricare.mil/costs>. Medicare and TRICARE

have the same benefits, skilled nursing facility decision process and payment calculation method, except TRICARE doesn't limit the benefit to 100 days (after obtaining a Medicare claim denial). If you are Medicare and TRICARE eligible:

- For days 1 to 20, Medicare pays 100 percent;
- For days 21 to 100, Medicare covers all costs, except for the required Medicare copayment. TRICARE covers the copayment; and
- After day 100, TRICARE is the primary payer and you pay TRICARE beneficiary cost shares.

TRICARE covers medically necessary equipment costing more than \$100, such as wheelchairs, hospital beds, and respirators. You may buy or rent the equipment (whichever costs less). Send your doctor's prescription with your claim, specifying the type of equipment, why you need it and for how long. TRICARE won't cover general use equipment, such as air cleaners or whirlpool baths. Before getting durable medical equipment, check with your region's toll-free call center about rules and coverage limitations. TRICARE and Medicare will not pay for Long-term care. This includes support services for patients with a degenerative condition (Parkinson's, stroke, etc.), a prolonged illness (cancer) or cognitive disorder (Alzheimer's). A trained professional doesn't have to provide long term care and it may be given in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult day care centers or in your home. Long-term care services include help with the following: Walking; Personal hygiene; Sleeping; Using the bathroom; Dressing; Cooking/feeding; Medication; and Moving from a bed to a chair. All such care is your financial responsibility. So ask the facility whether you are getting skilled nursing care or long-term care. Ask your regional contractor or case manager about exceptions or partial exceptions to the "no coverage" guidance. For skilled nursing care and long-term care issues contact your TRICARE Service Center or your regional contractor.

Hospice care is available for terminally ill patients expected to live six months or less if the illness runs its normal course. A Medicare-approved program must provide the hospice care, which may include: Physician services; Nursing care; Counseling; Inpatient respite care; Medical supplies; Medications; Home health aide services; and Short-term acute patient care. TRICARE Standard pays the full cost of covered hospice care services, except for small cost-share amounts the hospice may collect for drugs and inpatient respite care. Check with your regional contractor for details. For more information, visit the TRICARE website

<http://www.tricare.mil/Factsheets/viewfactsheet.cfm?id=258>

Veterans Can Get Extra Social Security Earnings Credits

Edward A. Zurndorfer, Certified Financial Planner
Earnings for active duty military service or active duty training have been covered under Social Security since 1957. Active duty military service means an individual served on Active Duty, Active Duty for Training (ADUTRA) or was in the Reserves for any of the following United States military organizations: (1) Air Force; (2) Army; (3) Coast Guard; (4) Coast and Geodetic Survey (CGS); (5) Marines; (6) National Guard; (7) Navy; and (8) Commissioned Officer in the Public Health Service (PHS).

Social Security has covered inactive duty service in the armed forces reserves --- for example, weekend drills --- since 1988.

An individual who served in the military before 1957 --- for example, during World War II or the Korean War --- did not pay Social Security taxes on their military service compensation. But the Social Security Administration (SSA) gave special earnings credits to these individuals including those who attended a service academy. In particular, an individual who served in the military on active duty or who attended a service academy between Sept. 6, 1940 and Dec. 31, 1956 may be credited with \$160 a month in earnings for military service under the following circumstances:

- The individual was honorably discharged after 90 or more days of service, or was released because of a disability or injury received in the line of duty; or
- The individual is still on active duty; or
- The individual is applying for survivor's benefits and the veteran died while on active duty.

Extra Earnings

An individual's Social Security retirement benefit depends on his or her Social Security earnings (wages or salary that are subject to Social Security payroll tax) averaged over his or her working lifetime. In general, the higher one's earnings, the higher the Social Security benefit. Under certain circumstances, special earnings can be credited to one's military pay record for Social Security purposes. The extra earnings are for periods of active duty or active duty for training. These extra earnings may help an individual qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of one's Social Security benefit.

Note that members of the military have paid Social Security taxes on their military compensation (base pay and bonuses, if any) since Jan. 1, 1957. Since 1988, inactive duty in the Armed Forces reserves such as weekend drills has also been covered by Social Security. Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for periods of active duty from 1957 through 2001 can also be credited to an individual's Social Security earnings record for benefit purposes. The following is a summary

as to how the extra earnings for periods of active duty between 1957 and 2001 are applied:

- Any individual who served in the military between Jan. 1, 1957 and Dec. 31, 1967 will have the extra credits added when he or she applies for Social Security benefits. In particular, an individual will be credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which the individual received active duty basic pay -- a maximum of \$1,200 per calendar year of active duty.
- Any individual who served in the military between Jan. 1, 1968 and Dec. 31, 2001 automatically had \$100 in earnings added to his or her Social Security earnings for every \$300 in earned active duty pay up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. But any individual who enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980 and who did not complete at least 24 months of active duty or a full tour of duty may not be able to receive the additional earnings. These individuals should check with the Social Security Administration for more details.

Any military service starting Jan. 1, 2002 will not result in earnings added to an individual's Social Security record.

What is the effect of this additional earnings credit for individuals who service in the Armed Forces between 1957 and 2001? Given that: (1) the maximum earnings credit per year is \$1,200; (2) an individual's averaged indexed monthly earnings (AIME) is based on an individual's 35 highest years of Social Security earnings; and (3) the primary insurance amount (PIA) - the amount of a Social Security monthly retirement benefit at full retirement age - is calculated based on the first 90 percent of an individual's AIME. The result: For every three years of military service between 1957 and 2001 an individual will receive an extra \$90 of monthly Social Security retirement benefits. For example, if an individual serves six years in the Armed Forces, the monthly benefit increases by \$180.

Finally, it is important to note that in addition to retirement benefits, Social Security also pays survivor benefits to eligible family members -- spouses, former spouses, children and dependent parents. The amount of the survivor benefit is determined by the deceased family member's PIA. Therefore, if the deceased family member's PIA was increased as a result of military service, family members will also benefit as a result of the deceased's military service and increased PIA. When applying for Social Security benefits, those individuals who served in the military may be asked for proof of their military service. DD Form 214 will suffice, or specific information about one's reserve time or National Guard service should be sufficient.

Military Retirement System Update 05

- A sweeping new plan to overhaul the Pentagon's retirement system would give some benefits to all troops and phase out the 20-year cliff vesting system that has defined military careers for generations. In a massive change that could affect today's troops, the plan calls for a corporate-style benefits program that would contribute money to troops' retirement savings account rather than the promise of a future monthly pension, according to a new proposal from an influential Pentagon advisory board. All troops would receive the yearly retirement contributions, regardless of whether they stay for 20 years. Those contributions might amount to about 16.5 percent of a member's annual pay and would be deposited into a mandatory version of the Thrift Savings Plan, the military's existing 401(k)-style account that now does not include government matching contributions. A critical new feature would adjust those contributions to give more money to troops who deploy frequently, accept hardship assignments or serve in high-demand jobs. It would also give the services a new lever to incentivize some troops to leave or stay on active duty longer. The new proposal was unveiled 21 JUL by the Defense Business Board, the wellspring for many cost-saving initiatives adopted by the Defense Department in recent years. The new retirement plan would mark the biggest change in military retirement in more than 60 years and require approval from Congress. —The current system is unfair, unaffordable and inflexible, said Richard Spencer, a former finance executive and Marine Corps pilot who led the board's eight-month retirement study. This alternative plan would —enhance the ability of the service member to build a meaningful retirement asset [with] complete flexibility for their lifestyle or desires, Spencer said. It's unclear whether troops would have immediate access to all the retirement money or whether it would be partially or completely withheld until a traditional retirement age, such as 65. Under the current TSP, troops cannot withdraw money until age 59½ without incurring a significant penalty, except in certain specified circumstances. Fairness is a key factor, Spencer said. Along with saving the Pentagon money, the new plan offer significant retirement benefits to the roughly 83 percent of troops who leave service before reaching 20 years. Unlike other proposals to overhaul military retirement that would grandfather current troops, the board suggests that DoD could make an —immediate transition to the new system, which would affect current troops quite differently depending on their years of service:
- Recruits. The newest troops out of boot camp after the proposed change would have no direct incentive to stay for 20 years and would not get a fixed-benefit pension. Instead, they would receive annual

contributions to a Thrift Savings Plan account and could leave service with that money at any time — although under current rules, they can't withdraw the money until age 59½ without paying a penalty, except in certain specified circumstances.

- Five years of service. Troops would immediately begin accruing new benefits in a TSP account. If they remained in service until the —old vesting date — the 20-year mark — they also would get one-fourth of the —old plan benefit, or about 12 percent of their pay at retirement, as an annuity. If they separated, for example, after 10 years, they would walk away with no fixed-pension benefit but would have a TSP account with five years of contributions.
- 10 years of service. Troops would immediately begin accruing new benefits in a TSP account. If they remained in service for 10 more years, they would receive half of the —old plan benefit, about 25 percent of their pay at retirement, as an annuity. If they separated after 15 years, they would walk away with no fixed-pension benefit but would have a TSP account with five years of contributions.
- 15 years of service. Troops would immediately begin accruing new benefits in a TSP account. If they remained in service for five more years, they would receive three-fourths of the —old plan benefit, about 37.5 percent of their pay at retirement, as an annuity.
- 20 years and beyond. Troops who stayed in past 20 years would continue to receive annual TSP contributions.

The far-reaching proposal comes at a time of immense pressure on the military to cut spending and help reduce the national debt. President Obama has talked about cutting \$400 billion over the next 12 years, while some proposals gaining support on Capitol Hill would call for cutting more than \$800 billion over the same period. Military retirement costs have soared in recent years because of rising life expectancy. If not contained, they will eventually —undermine future war-fighting capabilities, Spencer said. A new system may allow the military to make rapid changes in the size and structure of the force. For example, troops with 15 years of experience are likely targets for downsizing, and this plan would provide them with a significant retirement benefit, Spencer said. The proposed change would have no affect on current retirees or disabled veterans. Most private-sector companies contribute 4 percent to 12 percent of base pay into an employee's retirement savings account. By comparison, the current military retirement benefit, for those who ultimately get it, amounts to a 75 percent contribution each year, the board said. The board considered keeping the current system with some major changes, but concluded that those changes would not save enough money or fix the fairness and flexibility issues. Those changes included withholding pension payments until a traditional

retirement age; reducing pensions to 40 percent of regular pay rather than the current 50 percent; or calculating retirement pay based on the average pay over a member's last five years in uniform, rather than the three years under the current system. Those changes would save about \$254 billion over 20 years, the board said.

Navy: Sub Crew Was Encouraged to Cheat

Associated Press|by Michael Melia

HARTFORD, Conn. -- When the Navy discovered an exam-cheating ring aboard one of its submarines, it swiftly fired the commanding officer and kicked off 10 percent of the crew.

Navy officials describe the case aboard the USS Memphis as a rare lapse in integrity, but some former officers say the shortcuts exposed by the scandal are hardly unique to a single vessel.

The former submariners tell The Associated Press it is not uncommon for Sailors to receive answer keys or other hints before training exams. They say Sailors know how to handle the nuclear technology, but commanders competing with one another to show proficiency have made tests so difficult -- and so detached from the skills Sailors actually need -- that crew members sometimes bend the rules.

An investigation report obtained by the AP through a Freedom of Information Act request describes an atmosphere aboard the USS Memphis that tolerated and even encouraged cheating: Sailors were emailed the answers before qualification exams, took tests outside the presence of proctors and openly asked officers for answer keys. One Sailor told investigators that test-takers were encouraged to "use their time wisely" during breaks, insinuating that they should look up answers to exam questions.

A submarine force spokeswoman, Navy Cmdr. Monica Rousselow, said the Navy holds its officers and crew to very high standards and denied that cheating is rampant. "The evidence we have shows that it's very rare," said Rousselow, who is based in Norfolk, Va.

But three former officers said the episode aboard the Groton, Conn.-based Memphis was an extreme example of shortcuts that occur aboard many of the roughly 70 American submarines in service.

One of the former officers, Christopher Brownfield, wrote in a book published last year that his superiors aboard the USS Hartford urged him to accept an answer key to pass a nuclear qualification exam. He said other crew members received answers by email, and the sub's leadership ignored him when he complained about cheating.

"It was almost universal," Brownfield said in an interview. "I don't know anybody on the ship who could have passed that exam without cheating on the first try."

As an instructor at the Navy's submarine school in Groton in 2005, Brownfield said he heard from members of roughly a dozen other crews that cheating also took place on their boats. He blamed pressure to hit ever-higher performance targets.

"They've expected more and more paperwork, with higher levels of compliance, and over time those expectations diverged from what people are actually doing," said Brownfield, who is now researching nuclear sustainability as a graduate student at Columbia University. "In the nuclear department, the test became so difficult it really had no bearing on what people were doing on a daily basis."

Two other former submarine officers who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity for fear of losing connections to the Navy said that cheating is pervasive. "Most people have great integrity except in this one area. On a lot of boats, they'll bend the rules and try to juice the results," said one former officer. He said it was not unusual for crew members on his submarine to receive hints to study particular areas before exams. As an instructor at the submarine school, he said he learned of similar practices on other subs.

Submariners have to make it through rigorous, highly technical training and testing before going to sea. Once deployed, they face more exams to test their knowledge and preparedness for worst-case scenarios. Low scores can lead to consequences up to removal from a sub, and hurt the overall rating of the crew.

The scandal aboard the Memphis broke in November when Navy brass learned that an answer key to one such test had been discovered in a junior officer's email. The sub's commanding officer, Cmdr. Charles Maher, was relieved of duty within two weeks. He wasn't accused being involved in the cheating, but the Navy said he fostered an environment that failed to uphold the expected standards of integrity. He did not respond to messages left by the AP.

Of the 13 crew members who were punished, only three returned to the Memphis for its final deployment. The other crew members were reassigned, kicked out of the Navy or are awaiting possible dismissal, said Navy Lt. Jennifer Cragg, a submarine group spokeswoman at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton. The 33-year-old submarine was decommissioned in April. John Fischer, a former officer who used to help oversee exams from a Navy base in Washington state, said the tests are about much more than the knowledge displayed by individual test-takers. Officers aboard each sub create their answer keys, and the process is meant to sharpen the superiors' skills as well. He said the exams are supposed to be difficult, with a certain number of failures designed in to identify areas for improvement. He said the collegial atmosphere aboard a submarine, where exams are administered by fellow shipmates and even friends, could be a factor in the cheating.

"If you get one guy in there who doesn't have the integrity to do the right thing, then it can progress really easily," said Fischer, who now works as a manufacturing engineer.

Like the other ex-officers interviewed for the story, Fischer said the safety of the reactors is not in question. A spokesman for Naval Reactors, the agency that oversees the Navy's nuclear propulsion program, said the Navy works diligently to understand the root causes of any cheating case and to make changes. Spokesman Thomas Dougan said that out of 16,000 nuclear-trained officers and enlisted Sailors taking several exams annually, there are on average one or two cheating cases per year that result in the removal of nuclear qualifications. Most cases involve only a few Sailors, he said.

Dougan said the written exams are one of several measures used to assess the effectiveness of a continuing training program, and the kind of cheating that occurred on the Memphis would not put the ship or reactor plant at risk.

He said commanders use other measures, including supervisors' observations, drills and oral exams, to assess how well-trained crews are.

On the Memphis, the Navy investigation concluded that some of the mechanical operators decided to cheat partly because problems with the exam's design prevented questions from lining up with the expected answers. Five of eight Sailors stopped using the answer keys after the problems with the exams were addressed, the report said. It suggested that the exam program could be improved by requiring that all qualification exams be proctored. In light of the scandal, Rousselow said squadron commanders and commanding officers have been encouraged to make any changes that might be necessary to prevent such cheating. She said the Navy was leaving it up to commanders to determine what steps if any should be taken to implement lessons learned from the Memphis.

No Changes to Military Retirement Anytime Soon, Officials Say

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By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15, 2011 - The military retirement isn't going to change any time soon, Defense Department officials said. "There's no immediate plan to affect retirement," Navy Adm. Mike Mullen told service members at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, July 31. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said any changes to military retirement should be studied carefully and should be "grandfathered" so the military doesn't break faith with those in the service.

Pentagon officials are reviewing all areas of the defense budget, and the goal of the review is to "inform the decisions and strategies that we have to make," Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta said Aug. 4. "So that's going to be key to what decisions we make and what areas we look to for savings," the secretary added.

In support of the department's efficiency initiatives, a small group of Defense Business Board members was tasked to develop alternative plans to the current military retirement system. The group briefed its findings and draft recommendations to the full board during their July 21 quarterly meeting. The full board approved the recommendations, and the group will issue a final report by the end of this month.

The Defense Business Board provides DOD's senior leaders independent advice and recommendations "on effective strategies for the implementation of best business practices on matters of interest to the Department of Defense," according to Pentagon officials.

Meanwhile, a Pentagon spokeswoman said, officials are reviewing the board's recommendations.

"Any recommendation to change the military retirement system must be approached with thoughtful analysis, to include considerations of impacts to recruiting and retention," Eileen Lainez said. "While the military retirement system, as with all other compensation, is a fair subject of review for effectiveness and efficiency, no changes to the current retirement system have been approved, and no changes will be made without careful consideration for both the current force and the future force."

Richardson: Navy Considering SSGN Payload Module On Virginia-Class Subs

By Dan Taylor, Inside Defense, Aug 25, 2011

The Navy could place a guided-missile payload module aboard a Virginia-class attack submarine hull as a way to replace the four modified Ohio-class SSGN subs when they go out of service, Vice Adm. John Richardson, commander of submarine forces, told reporters today. While the Navy wouldn't be able to put an entire SSGN payload on the smaller Virginia-class hull, "a smaller version of that would be this payload module, and then you recover the volume by stretching the number of Virginias or something like that," Richardson said at a Pentagon briefing.

He cautioned that such a payload is not a program of record, and no formal decision had been made yet. The Navy will need to figure out what to do about the SSGNs in the next five to 10 years, however, he said. "The payload volume is something we'd like to have," he said. "How we get that, there's a number of different options right now."

The previous commander of submarine forces, Vice Adm. Jay Donnelly, told Inside the Navy in late 2009 that the Navy was considering modifying a Virginia-class sub to replace the SSGNs, as the guided-missile subs had proved their worth in the fleet and the Navy was interested in keeping the capability.

"In a budget-constrained environment, it may be difficult to find the money to modify the SSBNs and SSGNs," he said at the time, cautioning that it was one of many options under consideration. "It was \$1 billion a copy when we did it last time, but that's certainly an option." Richardson today cited the payload module option as an alternative, "rather than trying to build a dedicated SSGN."

TRICARE Expands Program

Week of August 29, 2011

TRICARE officials are expanding the number of preventive vaccines covered at retail network pharmacies. The expanded program covers immunizations for measles, mumps, shingles and many other preventable diseases. To see the expanded list of vaccines available from authorized TRICARE retail pharmacies visit the TRICARE Vaccines webpage at www.tricare.mil/vaccines. Beneficiaries check ahead before making a trip to their pharmacy to make sure the pharmacy is part of the TRICARE network and authorized to offer the vaccines. Ensuring that the pharmacy has the needed vaccine in-stock is also recommended.

Mosquitoes

1. The first buzz of a mosquito is an unpleasant reminder that summer fun comes with a pesky price. Examining the science behind common mosquito myths reveals that while some have a basis in reality, many are plain bunk. Mosquitoes are more than a nuisance -- they carry harmful diseases such as encephalitis and malaria. Here's what you need to know about this most unwanted guest: Lemon dish soap and Listerine repel mosquitoes. Fiction: This myth has been widely circulated around the Internet. According to the Florida Medical Entomology Lab at the University of Florida, these household products do not work to thwart mosquitoes. One of the most effective repellents is DEET. The Centers for Disease Control also recommends repellents with Picaridin and oil of lemon eucalyptus. If you use a product containing DEET, read the label and do not over-apply. DEET is a powerful chemical that can be harmful if used incorrectly. Make sure the repellent has an EPA-approved label and registration number. Use caution with small children and stick with a formulation that is made for kids.

2. Ultrasonic devices repel mosquitoes. Fiction: Save your money. According to the Department of Entomology at Purdue, these gadgets don't work. Bug zappers do kill mosquitoes, but they also electrocute many beneficial insects including those that eat mosquitoes, so the scientists at Purdue recommend against using them.
3. Taking B vitamins repels mosquitoes. Maybe: According to the Mayo Clinic, B vitamins change a person's odor, which may indeed make them less attractive to mosquitoes.
4. Eating garlic repels mosquitoes. Fiction: According to current research, consuming large amounts of garlic only works against vampires and bad dates.
5. Skin-So-Soft products repel mosquitoes. Fact: BUT, buyer beware: According to a study by the University of Florida, Skin-So-Soft and other products containing Citronella oil are only effective for between 3 and 10 minutes after application.
6. Creating a bat or insect-eating bird habitat will rid your yard of mosquitoes. Fiction: While these species do eat mosquitoes, they probably won't eat enough to make a noticeable difference at your next garden party.
7. Meat tenderizer calms an itchy bite. Fact: The Mayo Clinic recommends mixing a tablespoon of water with a tablespoon of meat tenderizer and forming a paste to apply to a bite. Using an ice pack can ease discomfort as well. OTC remedies to try: hydrocortisone cream and calamine lotion.
8. Mosquitoes die after feeding. Fiction: Unfortunately, the female mosquito (males don't eat blood, they feed on nectar) can live to bite again. Females will die if they don't get their first blood meal, which they require in order to lay eggs.
9. Mosquitoes transmit the HIV virus. Fiction: According to scientists at the Centers for Disease Control, Rutgers University, and others, mosquitoes cannot transmit the HIV virus from human to human. They do carry the West Nile virus and other serious diseases. Nearly one million people die each year from malaria, mainly children under the age of 5.

