

# TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 8, No. 12

December 2012

## United States Submarine Veterans - Charleston Base Newsletter

### 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:

January 10 2013 Social hour 1800 General Meeting 1900

#### Location:

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

Base Officers	Click to email	Phone Number
Commander	<a href="#">Carl Chinn</a>	843-875-3098
Vice Commander	<a href="#">Jerry Stout</a>	843-871-9533
Secretary	Vacant	
Treasurer	<a href="#">Terry Trump</a>	843-873-9563

Appointed Officers	Click to email	Phone Number
Chief of the Boat	<a href="#">Rick Sparger</a>	843-553-5594
Public Affairs	<a href="#">Ed Stank</a>	843 863-8474
Veterans Affairs	<a href="#">Jim Morrison</a>	843-832-9716
Chaplain	<a href="#">John Nichols</a>	843-452-3189
Membership	<a href="#">Carl Chinn</a>	843-875-3098
Holland Club	Vacant	
Scholarship	<a href="#">Julian Villegas</a>	843-871-6135
Newsletter	<a href="#">Steve Morawiec</a>	843-410-0131
Storekeeper	<a href="#">Ken Hutchison</a>	843-553-0935
Webmaster	<a href="#">John Nichols</a>	843-452-3189
Historian	<a href="#">George Scharf</a>	843 873-3318

### Minutes of the November 2012 meeting

**Opening Ceremony:** Base Commander Carl Chin called the meeting to order. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1900. Presentation by Edmund (Fred) Lesinski from the VA medical hospital, director of Volunteer Services summary: part 1 of volunteer services is volunteering and part 2 is accepting donations of monetary and items that can be used by veterans. After presentation, regular meeting followed.

**Introductions:** EMCS(SS) Don Lockhart qualified on USS Pasadena SSN 752 in 1994. Don is retired and expects to join the base. He was the guest of Steve Morawiec.

IC1(SS) John Welsh qualified on Henry Stimson SSBN 655. John also desires to join the base.

**Secretary:** (Jerry Stout) Minutes recommended for acceptance and approval, seconded, no discussion and voted yea by all members.

**Treasurer:** Report given - summary available through the executive board.

**Vice Commander:** No report.

**Storekeeper:** Calendars now available for \$10.00. Please purchase before they are gone.

**Scholarship:** Philippine Wooden Dolphin to be raffled off at annual Christmas Party.

**Public Affairs:** Gave updates on recent newspaper articles.

**Chaplain:** There will be a funeral/memorial service for HMCS(SS) Raymond L. Murphy in Orangeburg one week from tomorrow. Ray passed away while living in Oregon with his daughter. He specifically requested Charleston Base to participate in his funeral and military honors. The funeral will be at 1300 followed by burial in the church cemetery. Charleston Base SUBVETS have been requested to conduct Military Honors. Uniform will be Vest Uniform with cover. There will be a bus that can carry 14 passengers leaving from Old Fort Baptist Church at 1045 and stopping at Ryan's in Summerville to pick up the WWII SUBVETS who would like to attend. If you want to ride please contact me soonest. Several people (Ken Hutchison, George Scharf, COB) have said they can take someone with them so contact them to ride also. I must say that I'm overwhelmed at the quick response from the Board of Directors when I asked them if this was doable for the base. No hesitation.

- HMCS(SS) Raymond Lee Murphy departed on Eternal Patrol on Monday, November 5th. His funeral will be held in Orangeburg on Friday, November 16th at 1300. Charleston Base has been asked to participate by conducting the Military Honors and being pall bearers.
- TCMC(SS) Barry A. Wilson departed on Eternal Patrol on Sunday morning, November 4th. His funeral will be held in North Carolina. The family has been offered the opportunity to have a memorial service at some point.
- Soupy Campbell had total knee replacement on Nov. 6th. He is doing well and expects to be home this evening.
- Colleen Collins, Rick's wife, had hand surgery on Sept. 18th. Had some pins put into her hand. Surgery on October 23rd removed the pins. She will have intensive therapy for six weeks.
- Bill Hall had hip surgery Sept. 28th. He's now home and is doing well.
- Ben McDonald had 3x bypass on Oct. 4th. He is doing well and is here tonight.
- Tom Yingling's 90 year old mother had 3 stints put in on October 14th. She is home and doing well.
- Bill Buxton has been diagnosed with liver cancer. He is making decisions on the type of treatment.
- Mike Emerson had a minor growth removed from his bladder on October 24th and is doing well.
- Carol Hix was in and out of the hospital a couple of times since our last meeting. His stomach ulcer is nearly healed and he is doing well.
- Johnny Sparger, the COB's son, was in ICU on October 22nd with pneumonia. He is doing better but is on O2 constantly.
- Clyde Peters is still in Mt. Pleasant Manor Nursing Home, 921 Bowman Rd, Rm 323. He made it to the pig roast and had a great time.
- Lee Allison is doing some better. He is really working hard at rehab and is here with us tonight.

The following shipmates departed on Eternal Patrol this past month. None were members of Charleston Base. Online memorial entries were made if possible.

- WWII Submarine Qualified Shipmate LTJG Edwin P. Ernst, departed on Eternal Patrol on October 10th, 2012 in Laurens, SC. He served on the USS BREAM and other submarines during WWII. It does not appear he was a member of WWII SUBVETS or of USSVI.
- SK3(SS) Glenn Athearn, departed on Eternal Patrol on October 17, 2012. He served on the USS TUNNY. He was not a member of USSVI.
- Philip Douglas Moore, departed on Eternal Patrol on October 28, 2012 at Trident Medical Center, Charleston. He was in the Navy for 13 years serving on the USS BATFISH as a Radioman. He was not a member of USSVI. Charles Wood represented Charleston Base at Philip's Celebration of Life.

**Webmaster:** Updated members on new additions to the pages. If any member would like to post data, please send to Web Master.

**Veteran's Affairs:** Jimmy Morrison was present, however no report given. Jimmy is retiring soon. DAV information is available at va.org.

**Little David:** No report

**SUBVETS WWII:** Christmas Party scheduled for 6 December 2012 at Ryan's. Be there early. If you are an associate member and wish to continue your membership, dues are only \$15.00 this year. You will continue to receive the Polaris newsletter and, as always, have great fellowship at the luncheons.

**Kaps For Kids:** Held presentation at MUSC on November 5th.

**Historian:** No report.

**Membership:** As of November 22, 2012 - 48 members still have not paid. Please pay ASAP.

**Fleet Reserve:** A new plaque is on display for WWII Veterans at FRA. Invited new members to join the FRA.

**Newsletter:** No report.

**District Commander:** No report.

**Public Events:** Several Events are scheduled. Veterans day Parade in Andrews, SC. was held. Also, after the Veterans Day Ceremony in Summerville, the float will be at Carolina Coffee Roasters. All members are welcomed. Food is provided and donations will be accepted. 1100-1430

29 November Harleyville Parade  
1 December Christmas Parade in Goose Creek  
8 December Ridgeville Christmas Parade  
9 December Summerville Christmas Parade

**Chief of the Boat:** Hog (Butt) roast held on 13 October 2012 at 1030 was a great success. COB thanked all of those members that assisted in organizing, cooking and cleaning up afterwards. This event was well under budget and all of those that attended enjoyed the fellowship, entertainment and food. Members are needed to take veterans to the voting polls for the upcoming election on November 6th, 2012. Christmas party scheduled for December 1st, 2012. Tickets are available from Steven Morawiec and Ray Sparks. Get them soon as they will not be available at the door. Map is provided on USSVICB.ORG. Crayons are also requested for Caps for Kids. Thank you for the donations for Pappy Henderson dues. Pappy can now have a two bell ceremony with his dues up-to-date.

**Base Commander:** No report.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None

**Good Of The Order:** Christmas Party, full dinner, open bar, all welcomed. WWII vets and spouses are free. Auctioned off Carrier Classic Tickets to Marty. A 50.00 dollar donation was made to the scholarship fund.

**Depth Charge:** We had one – but nobody seems to remember who won (CRS).

**Meeting Adjourned:** The Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 1952.

### December Submarines Lost

USS Sealion	SS 195	December 10, 1941
USS F-1	SS 20	December 17, 1917
USS S-4	SS 109	December 17, 1927

Bailey	Baker	Chinn	Christiansen
Clift	Cline	Collins	Curtis
Davis	Dygert	Emerson	Evans
Hayes	Helton	Hopkins	Humbertson
Lanier	Morawiec	Ougourlian	Rackley
Samples	Scharf	Schnebel	Trump
Vandiver	Werley	Williams	Woodley

### December Birthdays

## Submarine News

### Man accused of setting fire to Navy sub considers deal

PORTLAND — Federal prosecutors have submitted a "substantive proposal" to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard worker accused of setting fire to a nuclear submarine, according to a court document. Casey James Fury, of Portsmouth, N.H., is charged with two counts of arson in the May 23 and June 16 fires at the shipyard. The May 23 fire caused an estimated \$400 million worth of damage to the USS Miami, which was at the Kittery shipyard for a 20-month overhaul. Federal Defender David Beneman wrote in the document that significant progress has been made in discussions about reaching a resolution to the case without an indictment. "An additional period of time is needed to review the proposal," he wrote in a motion about Fury's speed trial rights.

### Navy Gets New Nuclear Propulsion Boss

The Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program held a change-of-command ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard on Nov. 2. Adm. John M. Richardson relieved Adm. Kirkland H. Donald as Director, Naval Reactors in a ceremony attended by several hundred distinguished guests.

Adm. Donald, a submarine officer and a 1975 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, assumed command of U.S. Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program in November of 2004. In his eight-year tenure, Donald led the command with a focus on maintaining the highest standards of integrity and excellence in the program and ensuring that Naval Reactors provides the United States Navy unmatched capability in endurance, responsiveness, and tactical flexibility

to support missions all over the world. Donald thanked all of the people who supported Naval Reactors throughout his tenure and spoke fondly of the quality of those he worked with at the command.

"For those here today and for those here in spirit, please know that I am profoundly grateful and deeply in your debt for your sustained friendship," said Donald. "I have had the great good fortune to work for and alongside a group of professionals without equal in the business of nuclear power and I dare say in the whole of the engineering discipline." During his distinguished nearly 37 years of naval service as a commissioned officer, Donald served in a variety of sea and shore billets including Commander, Submarine Forces, Commander, Submarine Group Eight, and Commanding Officer of USS Key West (SSN 772).

Secretary of Energy, Dr. Steven Chu, spoke of the many accomplishments during Donald's tenure and presented him with a Department of Energy award for exceptional service. Under Admiral Donald's outstanding leadership, the Naval Reactors program has been responsible for the safe and successful operation of our country's naval nuclear propulsion systems," said Secretary Chu. "On behalf of the Department of Energy, I thank him for his 37 years of dedicated service to this country."

Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, highlighted the importance of nuclear propulsion capability to the Navy and presented Admiral Donald with a Distinguished Service Medal. "Today, all of our aircraft carriers and submarines are nuclear powered and provide the United States with a technological and war fighting edge that helps our national security and global stability." said Mabus.

Adm. Richardson, a submariner and 1982 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, becomes the 6th Director, Naval Reactors. He has served in a variety of command positions afloat and ashore, including most recently as Commander, Submarine Forces. Prior to that he served as Commander, Submarine Group Eight and also commanded USS Honolulu (SSN 718). Richardson spoke of the storied history of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program and his dedication to leading Naval Reactors into the future.

"The Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program has a rich 64-year history of safety and success while executing a wide range of missions around the globe. Founded on the vision and hard work of Admiral Rickover and others who went before us, this legacy is now entrusted to us," said Richardson. "I am totally committed. I am confident in our team and I am privileged and proud to stand with you as we press forward."

The Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program is a joint Department of Energy and Department of Navy organization responsible for all aspects of the Navy's nuclear propulsion, including research, design, construction, testing, operation, maintenance and ultimate disposition of naval nuclear propulsion plants. The program's responsibility includes all related facilities, radiological controls, environmental safety and health matters, as well as the selection, training, and assignment of personnel. Naval Reactors maintains an outstanding record of over 150 million miles safely steamed on nuclear power. The program currently operates 104 reactors and has accumulated of 6400 reactor-years of operation.

## **US Navy Faces \$12 Billion in Possible Budget Cuts**

The Navy stands to lose \$12 billion next year in across-the-board cuts if Congress can't agree to a deficit-reduction plan by the end of the year. Adm. Mark Ferguson, vice chief of naval operations, wrote Sept. 23 that the reductions, through a mechanism called sequestration, would mean fewer flying hours for Navy aircrews, fewer training days for ships and submarines, and less fleet maintenance.

"Potential cuts or reductions beyond those already taken in this year's proposed budget will result over time in a smaller force with less presence, longer response times and reduced ability to provide surge forces in support of our major war plans and other emergent needs," Ferguson, the second highest-ranking officer in the Navy, wrote in a blog post summarizing remarks he made before the House Armed Services Committee. Ferguson said there would be "difficult choices" regarding fleet maintenance, ship purchases and base support services.

The Department of Defense will lose \$487 billion over the next 10 years as part of the Budget Control Act of 2011 that seeks to harness a \$17 trillion national debt. Sequestration would add \$500 million on top of the \$487 billion. Sequestration was never meant to be implemented. It was intended to scare the congressional Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction into proposing how to reduce the deficit by \$1.2 trillion, but the Republicans and Democrats couldn't reach a compromise.

The president was required to submit a report to Congress on potential sequestration cuts. The White House Office of Management and Budget released the report Sept. 14. It breaks down what accounts are exempt and nonexempt, and estimates required funding reductions. Sequestration would result in a 9.4 percent reduction in defense funding, the report says. The president specifically exempted veterans and personnel accounts from cuts.

"The report leaves no question that the sequestration would be deeply destructive to national security," it reads. "While the Department of Defense would be able to shift funds to ensure war fighting and critical military readiness capabilities were not degraded, sequestration would result in a reduction in readiness of many nondeployed units, delays in investments in new equipment and facilities, cutbacks in equipment repairs, declines in military research and development efforts, and reductions in base services for military families," the report states.

The Navy's largest sequestration cuts in fiscal year 2013 would be \$4.3 billion for operations and maintenance, \$2.2 billion to buy aircraft, \$2.1 billion to build ships and \$1.8 billion for research and development. Total military cuts next year would be \$54.7 billion, according to the 394-page report.

Many, including the military, which hasn't begun planning for the cuts, don't believe sequestration will happen. President Barack Obama said in a presidential debate that it won't. The OMB instructed agencies in July to continue normal spending and operations. But Congress, which is on a seven-week break for the November elections, won't be returning to work until the week of Nov. 10 and will have only a short time to reach a deal before the end of the year. Ferguson, the vice chief, said Oct. 22 that the Navy will start planning for across-the-board sequestration cuts in late November or early December if Congress hasn't acted. They would go into effect on Jan. 2. Spending will continue normally until then, at which time cuts would hit each account evenly. He said there's little planning that can be done. Mary Anne Mascianica, spokeswoman for Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, said the command hasn't received any guidance from headquarters about dealing with sequestration. Neither has Navy Region Northwest, said spokesman Sean Hughes.

"We're all working to the budgets we know," he said. "They've been established for fiscal year '13 and we're looking at '14 as we understand it now." U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Belfair, said he's going to stop sequestration if it's the last thing he does, in Washington, D.C. He's retiring at the end of the year after 36 years in the job. "This is kind of my last hurrah," he said. "I'm doing everything I can to try to work with Democrats and Republicans to see how we avoid this thing."

There's bipartisan agreement that sequestration would be a catastrophic mistake, Dicks said, but there's a problem with them agreeing how to avoid it. The Congressional Budget Office has said sequestration would send the country back into recession, Dicks said.

The Center for Security Policy, a nonprofit, nonpartisan national security organization, released a report Oct. 8 showing estimated local economic impacts from defense budget cuts under sequestration. It listed cuts by contracting office and by product or service.

Work and services contracted out of Kitsap County in fiscal year 2011 totaled \$708.7 million, according to the report. A 9 percent sequestration cut would be \$63.8 million. The largest reductions would be to Engineering Field Activity (\$28.0 million), Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (\$10.8 million), Fleet Industrial Supply Center Puget Sound (\$5.3 million) and Naval Undersea Warfare Center (\$3.7 million). The major types of work would be non-nuclear ship repair (\$10.1 million), facilities operations support services (\$6.4 million), aircraft carriers (\$2.7 million) and architect-engineering services (\$2.6 million). Guy Stitt, president of AMI International, a Bremerton-based naval market analysis and advisory firm, said the military cuts could result in the loss of half a million jobs, including PSNS & IMF workers. An inability to keep up on maintenance could affect deployment schedules.

"Right now we have an operating tempo in our submarine force that's really high," he said. "To cut back on maintenance for them right now would be very rough." Submarine procurement could be canceled, and the replacement of Trident ballistic missile subs delayed. There's also a psychological effect.

"What does this tell our military leadership and our troops, that we as national leaders don't have the respect for what they're doing to give them a defense budget," he said. "This is a slap in the face of our military that this is the process they're going to take to save money because they can't meet in the middle, they can't find consensus."

## **Cape's Navy Missile Site Will Expand**

CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION — Planning and discussion took about 16 years. But it was the push of local and state officials that persuaded the Navy to start refurbishing and updating a 1950s-era missile test complex at Naval Ordnance Test Unit into the new Strategic Weapons System Ashore facility that prompted action.

Work is under way on what will be a large missile test facility that consolidates work currently conducted by defense contractors from at least four sites around the country. It also initially will bring dozens of military and civilian jobs to the Space Coast — some estimates saying as many as 100 within three years — and then possibly more.



The construction is taking place over an existing underground structure at launch complexes 25 and 29, where Fleet Ballistic Missile test launches were fired in the 1950s. "We're finally going to get it done," said Carlo Ferrari, head of Platform Modernization and Test Evaluation Programs for the Navy's Strategic System Program. "The build starts now and it will continue through 2021." Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll, chairwoman of Space Florida's board, is expected to join senior U.S. Navy and British Royal Navy leaders and Florida officials today for the formal groundbreaking on what Ferrari said will be a \$185 million facility.

He said the facility will allow for the testing of fire control, launch systems and navigation to all come together at one facility instead of being done by contractors in different locations. All missile tests for U.S. and United Kingdom submarines systems will be done at NOTU. The complex will support testing systems found on the current Ohio class submarines, which are nuclear-powered, and later test systems under development for the Ohio replacement submarines set to begin construction in the early 2020s.

Stationary, inert missiles outfitted with electronic monitoring equipment will be run through the tests. While full-size missiles will be used, the test facility is not intended to fire live launches. "The combination of this area's workforce and infrastructure capabilities lend itself perfectly to the testing needs of NOTU at this time," said Capt. J.P. Heatherington, commander of NOTU. "We look forward to working with the state of Florida to build out this capability at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station."

In August, Gov. Rick Scott announced a \$5 million state contribution that helped propel the start of construction. Lockheed Martin Space Systems will be responsible for the facility design and construction. The complex will use refurbished tubes already in place from the 1950s for testing current missiles, such as the Trident, and build one tube to test next-generation systems. "This is for new and old," Ferrari said. "The Trident (missile) will be around for another 20 years."

SWS Ashore will be connected to other facilities at NOTU via fiber optics. It will have an operational control center, a safety and security monitoring area, and systems and structure that simulate missile storage on a submarine. The Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast sees the project as a triumph that will have long-term economic impact on the area, from the construction to the long-term permanent payroll. The EDC's leadership, which led the fight to keep NOTU in place during the Base Realignment and Closure of 2005, has said it wanted to continue to strengthen the Navy presence locally. "We've had a long-term relationship with the Naval Ordnance Test Unit," said Lynda Weatherman, EDC president and chief operating officer.

"We've always said from the beginning once we saved NOTU, we wanted to build on it.

"This is truly something we worked on so long," Weatherman said. "It's a significant enhancement."

Space Florida and EDC anticipate 100 jobs may be created within three years as a result of the project.

Ferrari said that NOTU is the ideal place to have the facility because of the testing that is already done there.

In addition to support for submarines, the base also supports the Fleet Ballistic Missile program of the United Kingdom.

The unit receives more than 200 visits a year by submarines and surface ships of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet and foreign navies. The command has 80 active duty personnel, 60 civilian employees and more than 600 contractors.

"We're building on what's already here," Ferrari said. "It was very logical for us to come here. It was a no-brainer."

## **China Submarines To Soon Carry Nuclear Weapons, Draft U.S. Report Says**

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - China appears to be within two years of deploying submarine-launched nuclear weapons, adding a new leg to its nuclear arsenal that should lead to arms-reduction talks, a draft report by a congressionally mandated U.S. commission says. China in the meantime remains "the most threatening" power in cyberspace and presents the largest challenge to U.S. supply chain integrity, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission said in a draft of its 2012 report to the U.S. Congress.

China is alone among the original nuclear weapons states to be expanding its nuclear forces, the report said. The others are the United States, Russia, Britain and France. Beijing is "on the cusp of attaining a credible nuclear triad of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles, and air-dropped nuclear bombs," the report says. China has had a largely symbolic ballistic missile submarine capability for decades but is only now set to establish a "near-continuous at-sea strategic deterrent," the draft said.

Chinese President Hu Jintao has made it a priority to modernise the country's navy. China launched its first aircraft carrier, purchased from Ukraine and then refurbished, in September. "Building strong national defence and powerful armed forces that are commensurate with China's international standing and meet the needs of its security and development interests is a strategic task of China's modernisation drive," Hu said in a speech on Thursday at the opening of the Chinese Communist Party's once-every-five-years congress.

To address a wide variety of security threats, "we must make major progress in modernising national defence and the armed forces," Hu said. That means China must "complete military mechanisation and make major progress in full military IT (information technology) application by 2020," he said.

The deployment of a hard-to-track, submarine-launched leg of China's nuclear arsenal could have significant consequences in East Asia and beyond. It also could add to tensions between the United States and China, the world's two biggest economies.

Any Chinese effort to ensure a retaliatory capability against a U.S. nuclear strike "would necessarily affect Indian and Russian perceptions about the potency of their own deterrent capabilities vis-à-vis China," the report said, for instance.

#### ARMS CONTROL TALKS URGED

China is party to many major international pacts and regimes regarding nuclear weapons and materials. But it remains outside of key arms limitation and control conventions, such as the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty signed in April 2010 and the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. The United States historically has approached these bilaterally with Russia.

The U.S. Congress should require the U.S. State Department to spell out efforts to integrate China into nuclear arms reduction, limitation, and control discussions and agreements, the draft said. In addition, Congress should "treat with caution" any proposal to unilaterally reduce operational U.S. nuclear forces without clearer information being made available to the public about China's nuclear stockpile and force posture, it said.

China is estimated by the Arms Control Association, a private nonpartisan group in Washington, to have 240 nuclear warheads. The United States, by contrast, has some 5,113, including tactical, strategic and nondeployed weapons.

#### CHINA DEPLOYING NEW CLASS OF SUBS

Beijing already has deployed two of as many as five of a new class of nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine. The JIN-class boat is due to carry the JL-2 submarine-launched ballistic missile with an estimated range of about 7,400 km (4,600 miles).

The new submarines and the JL-2 missile will give Chinese forces its "first credible sea-based nuclear capability," the U.S. Defense Department said in its own 2012 annual report to Congress on military and security developments involving China.

The JL-2 program has faced repeated delays but may reach an initial operating capability within the next two years, according to the Pentagon report, released in May.

The Pentagon declined to comment directly on China's march toward creating a credible nuclear "triad" involving strategic bombers, intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles. The final version of the report is to be released next Wednesday by the U.S.-China commission, a 12-member bipartisan group set up in 2000 to report to U.S. lawmakers on security implications of U.S.-China trade.

The draft, in its section on cyber-related issues, called on the Congress to develop a sanctions regime to penalize specific companies found to engage in, or otherwise benefit from, industrial espionage. Congress should define industrial espionage as an illegal subsidy subject to countervailing duties, it added. Lawmakers also should craft legislation to boost the security of critical supply chains, "particularly in the context of U.S. government and military procurement," the draft said.

## **Ex-Worker Pleads Guilty To Setting Fire On Submarine**

PORTLAND, Maine - A former shipyard worker who set a fire that caused about \$450 million in damage to a nuclear-powered submarine pleaded guilty Thursday under an agreement that could send him to prison for nearly 20 years. Casey James Fury admitted setting the fire inside the sub on May 23, as well as a second fire outside the sub on June 16. The defense and prosecutors agreed to recommend a sentence that ranges roughly between 15 years and 19 years. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service said Fury, a painter and sandblaster, confessed to setting the fires to get out of work. Fury, 24, formerly of Portsmouth, N.H., pleaded guilty to two counts of arson in U.S. District Court. Fury's attorney, David Beneman, said he expected sentencing would be in March. He declined to discuss the plea agreement.

It took more than 100 firefighters to save the submarine Miami after the fire quickly spread through forward compartments while the sub was in dry dock at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine. Seven people were hurt

while putting it out, the Navy has said. The Navy intends to repair the Los Angeles-class attack sub, which is based in Groton, Conn., with a goal of returning it to sea in 2015.

Federal prosecutors said the plea agreement takes into account a number of factors, including Fury's lack of a criminal record and the fact he probably never envisioned such catastrophic damage when he set a small fire on a bunk, as well as the seriousness of the crime and the extensive damage to the submarine.

U.S. District Judge George Singal isn't bound by the plea agreement. But if he imposes a sentence greater than 235 months (about 19-1/2 years), then Fury would be allowed to withdraw his guilty pleas. The fire caused heavy damage to forward compartments including living quarters, a command and control center, and the torpedo room. It did not reach the rear of the submarine, where the nuclear propulsion components are located. All weapons had been removed from the submarine during the overhaul. Two crew members, three shipyard firefighters and two civilian firefighters were hurt as they fought the blaze, the Navy said.

U.S. Attorney Thomas Delahanty II said the firefighters and the submarine crew were put in a dangerous situation, with heavy smoke and extreme heat. "There were physical and emotional injuries to... first-responders who risked their lives going into what had to be the equivalent of a roaring blast furnace," he told reporters at a news conference. Fury told the NCIS that he set the fires because he was feeling anxiety and wanted to go home, according to prosecutors. The second fire, on June 16, was set outside the submarine and was quickly doused with no damage. The submarine was undergoing a 20-month overhaul, and about 50 sailors and shipyard workers were onboard when the first fire started.

The damage was so severe that there was speculation that the sub would have to be scrapped. But the Navy said its tests indicated the fire didn't damage the hull, which must withstand extreme pressure as the vessel travels deep underwater. An earlier estimate put the damage to the 22-year-old submarine at \$400 million. Navy Adm. Jonathan Greenert, chief of naval operations, said the Navy is confident the Miami can be returned to service for \$450 million, plus or minus \$50 million.

## **Chinese Sub-Launched Nuclear Deterrent At Hand**

For the first time China is close to reaching a "credible" nuclear deterrent based on land-based, submarine-launched and air-dropped nuclear weapons, a draft US report warned Friday. The report by the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission said China's military, the People's Liberation Army, "continues to modernize and expand its nuclear stockpile." "China is now on the cusp of attaining a credible nuclear triad of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles, and air-dropped nuclear bombs."

AFP obtained a draft of the annual report, scheduled to be delivered to the US Congress on Wednesday. China has had "a symbolic ballistic missile submarine capability" for decades, based on a single aging submarine, but it is now close to having its first "credible, near-continuous at-sea strategic deterrent," the report said. Two JIN-class submarines capable of launching missiles have already been deployed and three more are planned. They will be equipped with JL-2 intercontinental ballistic missiles -- a program still in development that "may reach initial operating capability within the next two years," the report said, quoting the US Department of Defense. China has been a nuclear power since 1964, and the country currently has between 50 and 75 land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles.

China also has some 20 long-distance aircraft able to deliver nuclear bombs, according to the Federation of American Scientists (FAS), also cited in the report. The report cautioned that the Asian giant "has disclosed little information about the size, composition, and disposition of its nuclear forces, which yields uncertainties about the size and characteristics of its warhead inventory." "Outside assessments from western observers, which generally range from about 100 to 500 warheads, but cluster around 240, rely heavily upon assumption," the report said.

Likewise, China's process of authorizing the use of a nuclear weapon also remains obscure. "Questions remain about whether China has a 'two-man rule' or other provisions in place to ensure that, with emerging mobile platforms, launches can take place only with authorization," the report said. Also worrisome to US officials is the relationship between China's civilians and their military. "What worries me most are the disconnects that tend to occur between (China's) government and their military," said former US Joint Chiefs of Staff vice chairman James Cartwright in testimony to the commission. The report pointed to China's 2007 anti-satellite demonstration, and the 2011 test flight of its J-20 fighter aircraft that took place as US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates was visiting China, "both of which may have caught China's civilian leadership off guard."



## Rescue Of Indian Submarines Demonstrated At Naval Exercise

Four Indian naval submarines, from both Sindhughosh (EKM) and Shishumar (HDW) classes, took part in the Indo-U.S. exercise, Indiaex-2012, held off Goa early this month where the compatibility of the submarine rescue system of the U.S. Navy with Indian Navy submarines was tested for the first time. The fortnight-long exercise, meant to demonstrate the rescue of personnel from a disabled submarine, held special significance for the Indian Navy, which operates an ageing fleet of submarines but does not have a Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV) of its own. During the sea phase of the exercise, the Submarine Rescue Diving and Recompression System (SRDRS) of the U.S. Navy's Undersea Rescue Command was pressed into action to bring to safety Indian submariners holed up in Indian submarines simulating various distress scenarios. In all, four Indian submarines took the dive, one daily, during the mock-up.

Responding to the distress alert, a pressurised rescue module from the launch and recovery system fitted on board a non-military vessel was launched and manoeuvred to the required depth to mate with the forward hatches of the submarine in distress. Pressure inside the submarine and the rescue system was equalised before opening the hatch to effect the safe transfer of personnel. The Indian submarines that took part in the exercise underwent minor modifications to be able to pair off with the pressurised module, which can secure up to two dozen personnel at a time.

INS Nireekshak, Indian Navy's deep sea diving support vessel with an on-board submersible capsule called 'Bell', assisted in the conduct of the exercise providing safety back-up. It also documented the procedures key to developing interoperability with the U.S. Navy in submarine rescue operations.

Commander S.S. Sarna, Commanding Officer of Nireekshak that is based in the Southern Naval Command in Kochi, termed the interaction with the U.S. Navy in the niche field of submarine rescue a professionally satisfying experience. While it has been toying with the idea of buying a couple of DSRVs for sometime now, the Indian Navy still has a lot of ground to cover in possessing a failsafe submarine rescue capability. At present, it relies a great deal on Russian-made pressurised escape suits in the Sindhughosh-class submarines and rescue spheres that can be punched out during trouble (as in fighter aircraft) in Shishumar-class submarines. Nireekshak's clearance divers operating out of 'Bell' could also be of help at limited depths.

## Undersea Tech Goes Civilian

Over the last two decades, luxury boat builders have begun building recreational submarines in large quantities. There are now hundreds of them in use, some built by hobbyists. All this is the result of decades of new developments in materials and engineering techniques that make constructing effective subs cheaper and easier.

At the low end you have hobbyist home-builts that cost less than \$50,000 for components, plus over a thousand hours of labor by the do-it-yourself submarine builders. Commercial subs starts at a \$100,000 or so for small one, two and three seaters. Some of these low cost subs can do down 1,000 meters (3,100 feet) and are sometimes used by ocean researchers. So far, no one has been killed using recreational subs, and over ten million people have travelled underwater (usually short distances as part of a tourist activity) in them. There is also a growing second-hand market. Submarine construction technology has come a long way in the past century, and it's possible to build these boats at an affordable cost, although some of the luxury models cost over \$100 million.

They are safe, and there are a growing number of them out there. This is driven, in part by the demand by ocean researchers, oil companies and other underwater commercial operators who need small, affordable submarines. A few companies have gained a lot of experience building subs for non-military underwater operations which has created a cadre of information and technicians who can build these recreational subs.

Some of these submersible pleasure craft look like streamlined yachts while on the surface. The upper deck, including the bridge, is outside the pressure hull. When submerging, everyone goes below, and the upper deck gets flooded. If you get close to one of these yachts, it becomes obvious that they are built to dive. Military subs are still not used to encountering this civilian traffic underwater. The military boats have the right of way, but military boats are now warned to exercise extra care when approaching coastal areas used by civilian subs.

Owners of these luxury subs tend to be secretive, and the builders have agreed to some government oversight, especially to make sure militarized subs, that can carry torpedoes or mines, are not built using the civilian technology. But there is no law against anyone owning one of these submarines, and it's feared that it's only a matter of time before drug dealers, gun runners, or even terrorists, get their hands on some of them. Some police officials believe this has already happened, but no one is saying much. In South America there is already an illegal submarine construction industry turning out boats for transporting cocaine.

Most civilian subs don't dive as deep as military subs, and are not built for combat. They have staterooms and large windows. But they do have carrying capacity, and that could be put to criminal uses. Already, Colombian gangs have

been caught trying to build subs, using Russian advisors. And at least one submersible (a sub that travels just below the surface) was caught carrying cocaine.

## **Submarine brings war to Canadian shores**

The German submarine that sank the Newfoundland ferry S.S. Caribou, on a dark October night back in 1942, was actually the first of a new class of U-boat that was designed to operate off the east coast of the United States and Canada. With its extended range of more than 8,000 miles, it could bring the European war to the shores of the New World, and it did.

U-69 was built in the city of Kiel, located at the northern tip of Germany on the Baltic Sea. Launched in October of 1940, she underwent extensive training exercises in the Baltic, before slipping into the Atlantic Ocean in February of 1941. On her first patrol she sank three ships, and over the next two years would go on to sink 13 more, for a grand total of more than 70,000 tons of Allied shipping.

U-69, like the rest of her new class, was about 220 feet long and only 20 feet wide. She could travel at a speed of about 18 mph while on the surface, but was only capable of about seven or eight mph when submerged. She could safely dive to a depth of more than 700 feet, which would come in very handy when trying to evade depth charges. However, if for some reason she went below 800 feet, then the pressure of the water would crush her hull like an eggshell. She usually went to sea with a crew of 46 officers and men.

Although U-69 was a new class of submarine, designed to travel farther and stay at sea longer than the older subs, the comfort of the crew was not a top priority in the German submarine service. (The same was true in the Allied submarine forces.)

There were no showers or bathtubs, and only two tiny toilets, one of which often could not be used, as it became a storage space for extra food when leaving on a long patrol. During these patrols, which would often last three or four months, the crew could not wash, shave, or even change their clothes. (The men were, however, allowed one change of underwear and one change of socks.)

At the start of each patrol fresh food and vegetables were stuffed (literally) into every nook and cranny of the submarine. After little more than a week, however, what fresh food was left over would usually start to go bad. Then it was basically tinned rations for the rest of the trip. The crew also had to contend with the constant presence of noxious fumes from the diesel engines, or from the huge batteries which were used when travelling underwater.

When the Caribou was sunk by U-69, which was travelling on the surface, the naval escort HMCS Grandmere dropped three sets of depth charges over the spot where the submarine was last seen submerging in the darkness. However, under the command of Captain Ulrich Graf, the sub was successful in evading the underwater explosions, and later escaped into the open ocean. Three weeks later U-69 returned to its base at St. Nazaire in occupied France. In early January, 1943, U-69 left for a combined patrol (wolf pack) in the middle of the North Atlantic.

This time, however, her luck ran out, and she was depth charged off the east coast of Newfoundland by the Royal Navy destroyer HMS Fame. Damaged and forced to the surface, the submarine that sank the Caribou was rammed by the escort vessel, and sank into the depths with the loss of all 46 officers and crew.

## **USS Frank Cable Completes Weapons Transfer**

(What's the big deal? Ed.)

POLARIS POINT, Guam (NNS) -- The submarine tender USS Frank Cable (AS 40) completed weapons transfers with the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Oklahoma City (SSN 723) while moored outboard, Nov. 16. Frank Cable's executive officer, Capt. Timothy Sparks, was impressed by how well the Sailors and civilian mariners (CIVMARS) worked together to complete the evolution.

"It is a great honor to watch the CIVMAR and MILPERS crewmembers come together to execute these vital core capabilities of the tender," said Sparks. "Weapon movements outboard of the ship, with the cranes and by the tender Weapons Department handling team have not been exercised for several years."

The integration of military and civilian personnel aboard Frank Cable played a vital role in the crane operations and provided a well-rounded team to carry out the assignment without delay. "This is a MSC (Military Sealift Command) (operated) ship, and they are the crane operators, but we are still an integrated group" said Chief Machinist's Mate Anthony Tapia. "Working together makes them proficient, it makes us proficient, and it brings other elements to the command and to the Navy."

Along with proving how effective Frank Cable crew members perform together, the Sailors and CIVMARS also demonstrated their ability to efficiently carry out the ship's mission of supporting submarines in the U.S. 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility. "We have proven our capability to replenish submarine Advance Capability (ADCAP) Torpedoes and Tomahawk Cruise missiles from the tender which is very exciting," said Sparks. "The tender provides the unique capability of being a mobile weapons magazine that can perform these weapon load outs in any port in the Western Pacific as directed by Commander Submarine Group Seven."

Capt. Pete Hildreth, Frank Cable's commanding officer, commended the crew on their abilities to perform ordnance handling outboard the ship. "It was an impressive sight and demonstrated the restoration of our weapons handling capabilities after completing an extensive seven month overhaul," said Hildreth. "Well done to all members of the Frank Cable team who made this evolution a safe and successful weapons handling event." Frank Cable conducts maintenance and support of submarines and surface vessels deployed in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

## **Navy to stop training military dolphins in San Diego**

The Navy plans to shut down a program it has long run at Point Loma to train dolphins to detect underwater mines and keep enemy swimmers away from warships, mainly because the mammals are no longer needed. The effort to identify such threats is "moving forward on newer, high-tech anti-mine capabilities," said Lt. Commander Chris Servello, a spokesman for the Navy.

The program will be closed within the next five years, but the Navy will continue to care for the roughly 24 bottlenose dolphins that are part of the Navy Marine Mammal Program. The Navy's decision was first reported Nov. 19 on NavyTimes.com, and was confirmed Saturday by Servello. The Navy formally began using dolphins in 1960, studying the animal's sonar and deep-diving physiology. Researchers believed that such studies could lead to improvements in the design of torpedoes and other underwater weapons. The Navy also saw the potential of using dolphins to detect and mark mines and watch for human swimmers who might try to attack warships. The program was initially centered at Point Mugu, but was moved to Point Loma in 1967.

An official Navy history of the program says, "Dolphins are used for these tasks because their extraordinary natural biological sonar capabilities enable them to find objects in waters where hardware sonars do not work well due to poor acoustic environmental conditions. The swimmer defense system was deployed to Vietnam in 1970-71 and to the Persian Gulf in 1987-88."

Military dolphins also were used during the Iraq war in 2003. The Humane Society of the United States said at the time that it opposed the use of marine mammals by the military but that it would not second guess the Navy during a period of conflict. Mine-detection equipment and systems have become steadily better in recent years. As Defense News pointed out recently, some U.S. ships, including mine-sweepers from San Diego, are replacing older detection equipment with the more sophisticated SeaFox mine neutralization system. The Navy also is increasing its use of the Mark 18 Mod 2 Kingfish, an unmanned underwater vehicle that's currently being operated in the Persian G

## **Defence Chief Liang Guanglie In Talks With U.S. Navy Boss**

Defence Minister General Liang Guanglie said yesterday that China's military build-up poses no threat to the world and called for closer military co-operation with Washington as he had talks with U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus. The talks, in which both sides discussed maritime security and Washington's move to bolster its military presence in the Asia-Pacific region, came on the heels of Beijing's leadership change and successful landing tests on the country's first aircraft carrier.

The sensitive timing of the talks indicated that both militaries wanted to cement bilateral ties, which have been strained by Washington's involvement in territorial disputes between the mainland and its neighbours. Some in the region have expressed concern about Beijing's double-digit increases in defence spending. "The Chinese military must develop, but there's no 'worry' or 'fear' as the outside world says," Liang said on the sidelines of the meeting. Beijing has expressed frustrations over Washington's "pivot" to Asia, saying the strategy would create a disturbance in the region. Beijing has also told Washington not to get involved in territorial disputes between China and its neighbours. However, Liang told Mabus that a "new type of military ties between two big nations" should be established, according to a report by Xinhua.

"The two militaries should seek co-operation in areas that [they] have common interest, but contain areas that have disputes and conflicts," he said. For his part, Mabus said the U.S. Navy would continue to co-operate with China in areas such as anti-piracy patrols. He said the U.S. is committed to developing a partnership with China. During his four-day stay, Mabus will travel to Ningbo, Zhejiang province, to visit a new frigate and a conventionally powered submarine.

Military analysts said the visit by Mabus indicated that neither side wanted territorial disputes and the desire to achieve a dominant position in the region would hamper ties between the two countries. "It shows that the two militaries can still engage themselves in talks," said Antony Wong Dong, president of the Macau-based International Military Association. "Beijing apparently believes that improving military ties with the U.S. is a tactic to prevent Washington from meddling too much into Asia," he said. Ni Lexiong, director of a defence policy research institute at the Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, said Beijing believes Washington "has not gone too far" in backing Japan, even though it has said that disputed East China Sea islands were covered by its security treaty with Tokyo. "Both countries want to keep the territorial disputes in the region from escalating," he said.

## **New Era Of Sub Training Ahead With Opening Of Groton Facility**

Groton - From his post at the top of the submarine's sail, Lt. Andrew Pyle looked out Wednesday at the buoys that mark the entrance to New London Harbor. He saw New London Ledge Light to his right. Sailboats darted in front of the submarine, and Pyle had to react. It began to snow, and the sea grew rougher. But Pyle was not in a submarine returning to the Naval Submarine Base. He was in a building at the Naval Submarine School. The school now has a full-size replica of a submarine bridge so officers can train to stand at the top of the sail and navigate during the transit in and out of ports.

The trainer can simulate U.S. ports and foreign ports where submarines are likely to stop during a deployment. If the submarine was supposed to be in the Gulf, Pyle would have seen traditional sailing vessels, or dhows. A prototype is at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, R.I. This is the first in the fleet; a ribbon-cutting will be held Friday. On Wednesday, students in the Submarine Officer Advanced Course practiced pulling into Groton.

The trainer is inside a dome where fans mimic the wind and 16 projectors produce a 360-degree image of the world's harbors and oceans. The students use binoculars to zoom in on the image. The trainer doesn't move, but the rolling waves are so realistic that even experienced submariners sometimes feel a little queasy. Pyle said he's not prone to seasickness, but he holds onto the railings even though he knows there's no need to. He's getting ready for his next assignment on the blue crew of the USS Wyoming. After more than two years at an assignment on shore in Naples, Italy, Pyle said he needed to hone his skills.

"Being able to do this over and over boosts my confidence about going back to sea and stepping into a position where I'll have more responsibility," he said. In another room that was set up like the control room of a submarine, the rest of the students gathered data, looked at charts and performed the jobs that any piloting team would be doing in a control room when pulling into port. Lt. Cmdr. Angel Rodriguez, the course director, said the instructors do try to surprise the students with unexpected problems to see how they react. There could be a man overboard or malfunctioning navigation equipment. "It's not a gloom-and-doom scenario, but close to it," he said. "We want to build their confidence that they don't need computers. They can look at raw data to safely navigate the ship. We prove that by taking away a lot of their equipment."

Most of the time, submariners are submerged, so there aren't a lot of opportunities to handle the ship on the surface, Rodriguez said. And, he said, the "seas are getting more congested, so it's more incumbent on us to make sure we're proficient on the surface." Students used to train by looking at the ocean through a headset. Now, they can manipulate the equipment and an entire team can work together on the bridge, Rodriguez said. When they graduate in March, these students will become navigators, weapons officers and engineers on submarines.

Lt. Will Villarreal, a student, said the training is the best he has ever had. He said "submarining is a perishable skill" and the school is where "the growing pains happen." "It is stressful," Villarreal said. "But we learn how to function under that stress because, quite literally, we're going to be in the same boat as everyone we're supposed to be keeping safe." The USS Hartford collided with a Navy amphibious ship in the Strait of Hormuz in 2009, and the Navy paid about \$120 million to repair the Los Angeles-class submarine. The Navy bought the equipment for the school's trainer while the state, through the unique partnership it has with the Navy to upgrade the base, paid for the addition to Nimitz Hall to house the trainer. The state legislature authorized \$40 million in 2007 to strengthen the base's military value in order to guarantee its future. Before the ribbon-cutting, there will be a brief ceremony to transfer money from the state to Groton and Ledyard. The towns will buy land around the base to prevent development from encroaching on base operations.

## **Pakistan Test-Fires Medium-Range Ballistic Missile**

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan test-fired its Ghauri/Hatf-V (Vengeance V) medium-range ballistic missile Nov. 28, a liquid-fueled missile that some observers say is not well-suited to Pakistan's needs. According to the military's Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) media branch, the Ghauri/Hatf-V was test-fired "by a Strategic Missile Group of the Army Strategic Force Command on the culmination of a field training exercise that was aimed at testing the operational readiness of the Army Strategic Force Command."

The test was monitored at the National Command Center by the National Command Authority's fully automated Strategic Command and Control Support System (SCCSS). "The SCCSS enables robust command and control capability of all strategic assets, with round-the-clock situational awareness in a digitized, network-centric environment to decision-makers at the National Command Centre," the ISRP said.

Analysts claim the Ghauri, with a range of 1,300 kilometers, is based on the North Korean Nodong-1 ballistic missile, but it is not Pakistan's most capable delivery asset. They doubt its continuing suitability for Pakistan's needs. Mansoor Ahmed, a lecturer in the Department of Defence and Strategic Studies at Quaid-e-Azam University here, said the Ghauri is not a particularly effective weapon or suited to Pakistan's operational requirement.

"Unlike solid-fueled missiles, liquid-fueled ballistic missiles cannot store the fuel for long periods and have to be refueled prior to launch, which takes several hours, thus making them vulnerable to first strikes," said Ahmed, an expert on Pakistan's nuclear program and its delivery systems. "Given the relative lack of Pakistan's strategic depth, such systems are not the first choice in missile systems for nuclear warhead delivery, which explains why the Ghauri remains the only liquid-fueled system in its missile inventory."

Ahmed said he agrees the launch was more a test of the readiness of the Army Strategic Force Command and the SCCSS than of the missile itself. He also highlighted the missile's checkered history. Despite being announced as a success, the first test of the missile on April 6, 1998, was a failure, with the missile burning up on re-entry. It had to be heavily redesigned and improved by the National Engineering and Scientific Commission, and the National Defense Complex, before it could enter service again.

"However, the missile's range has remained constant at 1,300 kilometers over the years, indicating that Pakistan has only one Ghauri system with eight other solid-fueled missile systems," Ahmed said. "Moreover, a solid-fueled alternate system in the form of Shaheen-1A was recently tested." But the Ghauri is cheaper than solid-fueled missiles, and therefore more expendable when testing launch and control systems, Ahmed said, and it may offer Pakistan a "possible springboard for a space launch vehicle," akin to the British Blue Streak ballistic missile.

## **SUBVETS NEWS & VIEWS**

### **Submarine vets call for USS Scorpion investigation**

11:04AM EST November 10. 2012 - The saga of the USS Scorpion continues as a submarine veterans group calls for a new investigation of the unexplained accident that sank the U.S. nuclear attack sub more than 40 years ago.

The Scorpion went down May 22, 1968, killing 99 men and foundering 11,220 feet underwater in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. The sub carried two nuclear torpedoes and a nuclear reactor. Read more at this link:

<http://www.thespectrum.com/usatoday/article/1692343?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7Cfrontpage%7Cs>

### **USS Thresher Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Project**

USS Thresher Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Project Supporter's Letter Writing Campaign

Fellow USSVI Members,

As we approach the 50th anniversary of the USS Thresher tragedy, your help is needed to gain approval to place a commemorative memorial to the men lost aboard USS Thresher in Arlington National Cemetery.

Simply download the pre-written template letter from the webpage:

<http://threshermemorial.org/template-letters.html>

or directly using one of the two links below:

PDF version:

[http://threshermemorial.org/assets/uss\\_thresher\\_anc\\_memorial\\_project\\_supporter\\_template\\_letter.pdf](http://threshermemorial.org/assets/uss_thresher_anc_memorial_project_supporter_template_letter.pdf)

Microsoft Word version:

[http://threshermemorial.org/assets/uss\\_thresher\\_anc\\_memorial\\_project\\_supporter\\_template\\_letter.docx](http://threshermemorial.org/assets/uss_thresher_anc_memorial_project_supporter_template_letter.docx)



Sign and mail the letter to:

Ms. Kathryn A. Condon  
Executive Director,  
Army National Military Cemeteries  
Arlington, VA 22211-503

Please send an email with your name to [ThresherMemorial@gmail.com](mailto:ThresherMemorial@gmail.com) indicating you have sent a project supporters letter to Ms. Condon.

Kevin Galeaz  
Project Director  
USS Thresher Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Project  
<http://threshermemorial.org/>  
ThresherMemorial@gmail.com  
P.O. Box 4811  
Manchester, NH 03108  
603-268-0420

## **SUBVETS THANKSGIVING, THANK YOU GROTON BASE**

Shipmates this Post Thanksgiving recap is provided to all of you in the USSVI organization because of all of the wonderful USSVI Bases and members across the country who supported this effort.

Back in July SUBVETS Groton Base started planning our annual Thanksgiving Celebration. Letters of Appeal were sent to Bases and Members across the country. And many of you responded and supported this effort. Your support helped to make this a great family celebration for those that we served.

Our Thanksgiving dinner went great. We served close to 800 meals on Thanksgiving day. 491 meals were meals on wheels to area police Departments, Submarine Crews, Duty Personnel on SUBASE and at EB, SUBVETS and other Veterans who are shut-ins and can't get out. And we served a little over 300 meals to people who walked in the doors.

As anticipated the day was a long but extremely gratifying day. Those who volunteered at the SUBVETS Thanksgiving Dinner felt a bit tired and achy like me, but it's still a nice feeling knowing that we made a difference in making the Thanksgiving Holiday just a little bit brighter for so many people. For many of our guests it was their first holiday away from home for them. And we filled a void and made them part of OUR SUBVETS Family. For many people being part of this as volunteers was important for being part of a much bigger family. And it was especially nice to give back. It also gave us the opportunity to reach out and show our appreciation to some First Line Defenders on the Groton SUBASE Waterfront, and also to many police officers on duty serving our community.

The day started at 0600. The first turkeys hit the hot oil by about 0615ish. Everything went like clockwork. The first meals on wheels went out the door by 0745. An hour and 15 minutes ahead of schedule. By the time that the last OF THE 491 meals left out the door it was 0950. OVER TWO HOURS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. We have never been that far ahead of schedule, but it gave us a nice 2.5 hour break before our first guests arrived.

Then we fed our guests. Single Sailors from the base, Some Sailors with families who were visiting, SUBVETS and their families When it was all over with all of the to-go meals, guests, volunteers, and take out meals our best guess is that we fed close to 800 people.

So you can see that all of your donations were a huge part of our success.

But it doesn't end with the dinner that we provided.

Left over food was donated to a local church who will use it for a community Christmas Dinner, and also to a local Soup Kitchen. With the left over funds that you and others donated, it will be split between the SUBASE Caring and Sharing Program, the USSVCF Brotherhood Fund and it's Caring and Sharing Program and the local Navy Relief Food Bank. The two Caring and Sharing programs will provide meals to needy Navy and Submarine Force Families in all of the Submarine Homeports through the COMSUBLANT and COMSUBPAC Force Master Chiefs.

I wanted you to know that on behalf of all of us on the SUBVETS Groton Base Thanksgiving/Caring and Sharing Committee, our sincere thanks to you for your support. I can not tell you how much you have helped make a positive impact on so many people for this holiday and how many more people your support will help at Christmas time. The bottom line about this program is that this is all about helping Sailors and their families, and although many of you

are distant from Groton CT, you are all part of this successful program.

I personally salute you, and we all thank you for all of your support through your donations. Here in Groton CT the Submarine Capitol of the world the members of SUBVETS Groton Base hope you and your families have a wonderful Christmas. Please provide this recap to your members to let them know they helped make a difference.

If any one should have any additional questions please feel free to contact me at either the tel # of email address provided.

Sincerely,  
John J. Carcioppolo Groton Base Commander

## **Navy & Veteran News and Other Gouge**

### **Happy Birthday, USMC!**

FRA salutes the U.S. Marine Corps as it marks its 237th birthday on Saturday, November 10, 2012. On that date in 1775, the Second Continental Congress resolved to raise two battalions of Continental Marines. Since then, the Marine Corps has been engaged in every American armed conflict, demonstrating its capability and resolve around the globe. "From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli;" from the deserts of Iraq to the hills of Afghanistan - wherever their special abilities are needed - today's Marine Corps is America's expeditionary force, ready to rapidly respond to crises at a moment's notice.

General John A. Lejeune, the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, gave orders to formally commemorate the Corps' birthday in 1921 and ceremonies and celebrations have been a service-wide tradition ever since. Commandant Lejeune's original birthday message, Marine Corps Order 47, is read aloud and the oldest and youngest Marines in attendance share the honor of cutting the cake in a time-honored ceremony. The first piece of cake is presented to the oldest Marine, who then offers it to the youngest.

### **CBO Report: Cut Military Pay and Benefits**

Congress returned to Capitol Hill this week for a post-election, lame duck session and lawmakers are working to find alternatives to the mandated \$1.2 trillion in budget cuts (sequestration) scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2013. Related to this, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a "Costs of Military Pay and Benefits in the Defense Budget" report that suggests reducing military pay and benefits may be key to cutting total Defense spending. Since DoD has had no difficulty in recruiting and retaining service members in recent years, the report contends the cuts would have no negative impact and, if problems develop, CBO suggests increasing enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses, which would provide additional long-term savings since such bonuses are excluded from retirement pay calculations.

The Administration's long-term plan to reduce annual active duty pay raises beginning in FY 2015 is also cited in the publication and, consistent with DoD's budget request for 2013, CBO also recommends shifting more health care costs to military retirees and their families.

The report further suggests budget savings by replacing the current military retirement benefit with a pre-tax Thrift Savings Plan to, in effect, "civilianize" benefits for future retirees.

The full report is available at [www.cbo.gov](http://www.cbo.gov), along with another recent deficit-reduction report entitled "Choices for Deficit Reduction." There are significant threats to compensation, health care and benefit programs and FRA is closely tracking budget negotiations, Senate work on the FY 2013 Defense Authorization bill and other legislative issues and will alert our membership as action on Capitol Hill warrants.

### **Veterans COLA Bill Passes**

The Senate passed the "Veterans Cost-of-Living-Adjustment Act" (H.R. 4114) this week, which authorizes a cost-of-living increase in benefits for veterans with service-related disabilities and their survivors. The House passed the bill, sponsored by Rep. Jon Runyan (N.J.), in early July and President Obama is expected to sign the bill into law shortly. The measure will provide an estimated 1.7-percent increase in benefits for 3.9 million veterans and their families and will take effect December 1, 2012, and will be reflected in January benefit checks.

## Senate NDAA Debated

After months of delay, the Senate began debate on its version of the FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA-S.3254) this week and continues on the Senate floor today. As NewsBytes is prepared for distribution, lawmakers are considering more than 400 floor amendments. Key amendments approved so far include one requiring a report on TRICARE Prime availability in conjunction with implementation of new TRICARE contract provisions sponsored by Sen. Dean Heller (Nev.); an amendment sponsored by Sen. John Cornyn (Texas) requiring the VA to provide Congress with a plan to reduce the claims backlog; and an amendment expanding TRICARE coverage for health services for military children with autism sponsored by Sen. Kristen Gillibrand (N.Y.). Unfortunately, an amendment sponsored by Sen. Bill Nelson (Fla.) addressing the Survivor Benefit/Dependency Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) offset was defeated because it exceeded spending limits set by the Budget Control Act of 2011. FRA is closely tracking consideration of other amendments related to FRA's legislative agenda and will report on these next week.

## House Panel Wants Better Oversight of VA

Members of the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) expressed frustration at a hearing this week regarding delays and inaccuracies in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reports regarding VA employee conferences and foreign travel.

"Lengthy delays or not responding to requests at all has become the norm," stated Rep. Jeff Miller, (Fla.) HVAC Chairman. In an effort to stem excess spending, the House passed a bill (H.R. 2302) last year, which VA opposed, to increase accountability and oversight of VA conference spending. The provisions of the bill became law earlier this year (P.L. 112-154).

## DFAS Tax Statements Available Soon

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) recently announced that retiree and annuitant pay customers will receive their 2012 tax statements between mid-December and the end of January. Most 1099 forms will also be available a week earlier via the online myPay pay account management system (<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>).

Bad addresses create significant delays in receiving end-of-year documents and maintaining accurate contact information is important. According to DFAS officials, incorrect address information is the top reason retirees or annuitants don't receive their 1099-Rs.

Individuals without active myPay accounts should call, mail or fax a written request to DFAS-Cleveland, and the processing of a change of address and reissuing a new 1099-R takes at least 30 days. Changes made via myPay accounts take effect in three to five business days, and a copy of their 1099-R can be printed directly from myPay.

For more information, visit the DFAS website at <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html> or call DFAS at 800-321-1080.

## On The Web

Some Websites and Blogs of Interest to USSVICB Members

[Newest Polish Submarine](#)

[Funny Submarines](#)

[More Funny Submarines](#)

[Funny Submarine Video](#)

[Sh\\*\\* You Don't Say If You're A Submariner Group](#)

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