

# TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 11, No.10

Oct. 2015

## Newsletter of Charleston Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

**Base Meeting:**

BOD: 1 Oct. 1800

Membership: 8 Oct. 1900

**Location:**

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 26

Low Country Home

99 Wisteria Rd.



Base Commander	Rick Wise	843.875.5559
Vice Commander	Rick Sparger	843.553.5594
Secretary	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011
Treasurer	Mike Welch	843.300.9022

Chief of the Boat	Ken Hutchison	843.553.0935
Veterans Affairs	Ken Curtis	843.797.1268
Membership	Rick Sparger	843.553.5594
Scholarship	George Scharf	843.873.3318
Storekeeper	Ron Chambers	843.821.2268
Historian	George Scharf	843.873.3318
Public Affairs	Vacant	
Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.553.1115
Newsletter	George Fuchs	941.580.2333
Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Kaps for Kids	Vacant	



## Submarines Lost in October

Boat Name	Hull Nr.		Date Lost	Souls Lost
USS Sea Wolf	SS-197	15th War Patrol	03 Oct 1944	100 Officers & Men
USS S-44	SS-155	5th War Patrol	07 Oct 1944	56 Officers & Men 2 men became POW Survived the war
USS Wahoo	SS-238	7th War Patrol	11 Oct 1943	80 Officers & Men
USS Dorado	SS-248	New—Training	12 Oct 1943	77 Officers & Men
USS Escobar	SS-294	1st War Patrol	17 Oct 1944	82 Officers & Men
USS Shark	SS-314	3rd War Patrol	24 Oct 1944	87 Officers & Men
USS Darter	SS-227	4th War Patrol	24 Oct 1944	No loss of life
USS Tang	SS-306	5th War Patrol	25 Oct 1944	78 Officers & Men 9 Crew taken POW & survived the war
USS O-5	SS-66	Near Panama Canal	29 Oct 1923	3 souls lost

**Total of 9 Boats and 563 Souls Lost**

### THE POWER OF WORDS

*No rotten talk should come from your mouth, but only what is good for the building up of someone in need, in order to give grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4:29 HCSB*

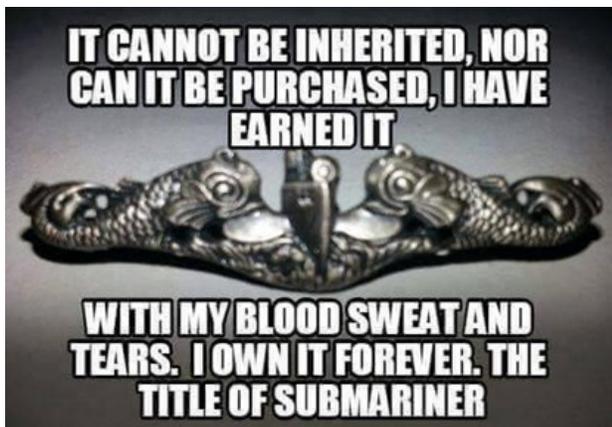
The words that we speak have the power to do great good or great harm. If we speak words of encouragement and hope, we can lift others up. And that's exactly what God commands us to do!

Sometimes, when we feel uplifted and secure, it is easy to speak kind words. Other times, when we are discouraged or tired, we can scarcely summon the energy to uplift ourselves much less anyone else. God intends that we speak words of kindness, wisdom, and truth, no matter our circumstances, no matter our emotions. When we do, we share a priceless gift with the world, and we give glory to our God.

*The truest help we can render an afflicted man is not to take his burden from him, but to call out his best energy, that he may be able to bear the burden himself. Phillips Brooks*

--A Prayer for Today--

Lord, make me mindful of my words. Make me a powerful source of encouragement to those in need, and let my words and deeds be worthy of You who gives me courage and strength for this day and for all eternity. Amen.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
USSVI CHARLESTON BASE CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2015

1800 – SOCIAL HOUR 1900 – DINNER

AT THE FRA HOME, GOOSE CREEK

ENTERTAINMENT: SALTY DOGS BAND

FOOD

SOCIAL HOUR: APPETIZERS

DINNER: HAM, TURKEY, ETC. AND DESSERT

DOOR PRIZES THROUGHOUT THE EVENING

DEPTH CHARGE DRAWING

TICKETS

\$15.00 PER PERSON FOR USSVI MEMBERS/SPOUSES

(WW II SUBVETS – FREE)

\$25.00 PER PERSON FOR OUTSIDE GUESTS

## USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the September 2015 meeting was 97.

**Opening Ceremonies:** The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Rick Wise. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1900. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in September was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Secretary Vice Commander Rick Sparger. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

**Introductions:** The following men introduced themselves at the meeting: FTG3(SS) Chuck Mayer, Qual Boat: USS Scamp SSN-588; RM3(SS) John Wilkinson, Qual Boat: USS Henry Clay SSBN 625; MMC(SS) Dennis E. Potvin, Qual Boat: Nathan Hale SSBN 623; MMC(SS) Stanley Westhoff Qual Boat: USS Sea Dragon SSN 584; MM1(SS) Terry Romig, Qual Boat: Nathan Hale SSBN 623; IC1(SS) Richard Baker, Qual Boat: USS Raton SS 270; RMCS(SS) Mike Klien, Qual Boat: USS Tirante SS 420; STS2 (SS) Roland (Rollie) Crandall, Qual Boat: USS Nathan Hale SSBN 623; YNC(SS) Wayne Weninger, Qual Boat: USS Nathan Hale SSBN 623.

**Secretary:** Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the August meeting minutes had been published in the newsletter and on the base website. Mike asked the group for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Nick Nichols made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Jimmy Legg.

**Treasurer:** Base Treasurer Mike Welch gave a report on the Charleston Base finances. The base financial report is now located as a password protected file on the base website under Documents and Resources. The password is the same as needed for the Sailing List.

**Vice Commander:** Gave us a heads up about the See Saw Days parade 0930 11 September. The Float will be implemented.

As soon as the Vice Commander finds out about availability for the picnic he will turn over to the rec committee.

The FRA is holding a Navy breakfast on October 4<sup>th</sup> \$5 all you can eat all the usual great food. 0900 to 1130.

The FRA Bar lounge now has Trivia on Wednesdays from 6 to 9pm.

**Chaplain and Webmaster:** Base Chaplain and Webmaster Nick Nichols gave the following report:

**Interior Communications Electrician Third Class, Submarines,  
Henry Neville Gilmer, Jr.,  
United States Veteran  
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Master Chief Torpedoman's Mate, Submarines,  
Robert Deschaine,**

**United States Navy Retired  
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Seaman, Submarines, Monty Silvers,  
United States Navy Veteran  
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015**

**Lieutenant Commander, Submarines, Patrick Jude Murphy  
United States Navy Reserve  
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol at the Pentagon –  
September 11, 2001**

**Tomorrow is Patriot Day and the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
9.11.2001. This is a day to remember those who lost  
their lives on this terrible day.**

**The President of the United States of America has declared  
September 11 each year a day of national mourning, to be  
honored with all American flags at half-staff from sunrise to  
sunset on that day.**

### **August Report:**

#### **Highlighted boat of the month:**

Grayling was lost on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1943, with the loss of all hands, 76 crew members near the Tablas Strait. Grayling was on her 8th war patrol and sank two ships before being lost.

- **TMCMS(SS) Robert 'Bob' Deschaine** departed on Eternal Patrol on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Bob was a life member of USSVI National, Charleston Base, Holland Club and USS Robert E. Lee Association SSBN-601. He enlisted in the Navy in 1958 and retired in 1975. He qualified on CARP SS 338 in 1959. The family will hold a memorial service in the spring and the base will be requested to participate.
- **SN(SS) Monty Silvers** departed on Eternal Patrol on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Monty was a member of USSVI National, Charleston Base and Holland Club. He qualified on USS Requin (SS-481) in 1959. The family did not notify nor request participation of Charleston Base.
- **IC3(SS) Henry 'Skip' Gilmer, Jr.** departed on Eternal Patrol in Anderson on Saturday, August 15, 2015, Bob was a member of USSVI National, Golden Corner and Charleston Bases, and Holland Club. He enlisted in the Navy in 1956 and left the Navy in 1961. He qualified on DARTER SS 576. Skip was one of the earliest members of Charleston Base. Robby Roberts attended Skip's memorial service in Anderson on behalf of Charleston Base.
- **Darlene Graham, James' wife**, had neck surgery on August 28<sup>th</sup>. The surgery went well and her recovery is doing well.
- **Becky Roberts, Bill's wife**, had knee surgery on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

She is doing well with her recovery.

- **This month** has seen the passing of many of our shipmates family members:
    - Randy Bognar's father, Roy on August 8<sup>th</sup>.
    - Fred Woodley's brother-in-law, Roland Peach on August 25<sup>th</sup>.
    - Jerry Farr's 99 year old sister, Edna Moss on August 25<sup>th</sup>.
    - Jerry Farr's 70 year old niece and Edna's daughter, Margie, on August 28<sup>th</sup>.
    - Jerry Farr's 93 year old sister, Berinda on August 31<sup>st</sup>.
    - Jay Pierce's mother, Lucille King on August 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Steve Everett** is battling breast cancer. Please remember Steve in your prayers and thoughts.
  - **Ray Bryant** has many health issues that he is dealing with. Please remember him in your prayers and thoughts.
- Clemon Cager 'CC'** is still recovering from his motorcycle accident in June. He will be in his neck brace for another month or so.

#### **WEBMASTER:**

- Updated constantly
- Windows 10: I have had many comments from base members after what I said about Windows 10 at the last meeting. If you want to install 10 and are currently running 8.1 you should have no problems. If you're running 7 you could have many issues. If you do install 10 you can roll-back to your original version within 30 days if you want to.
- If you are using COMCAST/Bellsouth/ATT for your internet/email provider and you are not receiving info from the base officers please contact your provider and ask them to remove you from the blocking list for ussvicb.org. We now have two advertisers on the website. If anyone else is interested please contact me at my webmaster email address which is listed on our website. Cost is \$25.00 for 12 months.

**Newsletter:** George Fuchs had nothing to report.

**Public Affairs:** Rick Wise once again asked the members present for a volunteer for Public affairs.

**Storekeeper:** Ron Chambers reported that if you're looking for patches he will not have until after the Convention.

He is going to pre order only 50 calendars this year if you want one he is going to ask you to pre pay. The Calendars will be \$10 each.

**Veterans Affairs:** Ken Curtis informed us that the Last Friday of every month the Legal Clinic Provided by South Carolina Legal Services will provide Pro Bono legal services to Veterans from 130 to 430 PM 843-297-0019. They provide a Myriad of free legal services.

March 4<sup>th</sup> 2015 Representative Jeff Fortenbury from Nebraska introduced a Bill HR 1292 that would authorize Compensability disabled service connected Veterans and their dependents access to the department of defense exchange commissary. They would have benefits as if they were retired.

It is in the works and is coming.

There is a Tri Care Mail scam that is in progress that is designed to steal money from your bank. It authorizes Tri Care Members to work as secret shoppers. It Is a SCAM. Don't do it.

**FRA:** Larry Cox was not present. The red ticket drawing was won by John Wilkinson He won the 1 Year FRA membership.

**Scholarship:** George Scharf reported that we will hold an Auction for 3 Viet Nam Veterans License plates at the Good of the order.

**Submarine Veterans of World War II:** George Scharf reminded the base that Swamp Fox will have a meeting on Thursday, 15 September at 1130 at Golden Corral in North Charleston. \$12 per person.

**CRAMA:** Butch put out that Joe Danning and Representative Crosby are putting together a Proviso that puts the Clamagore up on land to turn into a Museum for 1 Million Dollars to accomplish this.

Butch and George are going around to the local representatives to generate the money to get the Proviso off the ground.

**Rec Committee:** Al Dempster reported that the Christmas Party will be the Fifth of December. Social hour will be 1800 dinner served at 1900. We will have Turkey and Ham for Dinner. Tickets will be \$15 each for Subvets and \$25 each for non subvets.

**Nuclear Historian:** Rick Carlson was not in attendance.

**District Commander:** District Commander reported that the southeast regional convention is in Mobile Alabama from 20<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. The Convention hotel rates are very good.

WWII 4<sup>th</sup> Nov to 8<sup>th</sup> Nov in Kings Bay.

Ed announced that he will be visiting the Victory House Tuesday 15 September. He will leave at 10am on Bellwright road.

**Membership:** Ed Stank reported that base membership is now 329 members.

Membership dues are going up \$5 for National on Oct 1. Ed will be out of town after Sept 18th

**The After Battery:** Steve "Buddha" let us know that the "after battery" Will be open Saturday for a Reunion. Hats and T shirts are for sale.

**Chief of the Boat:** Wanted us to recognize we had 4 WWII vets in attendance.911 ceremony will be at Rickover Circle 9 AM

The Chief CPO Pinning Ceremony 10 AM Wed September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Rickover Center.

There is a Flag Disposal Ceremony 1800 September 11<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion at Howe Hall Road.

The Rink Roast is at the Elks Lodge on Savannah Highway on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

Any piece of equipment can be borrowed by any subvet. But not for an Eternity.

**Base Commander:** Rick Wise announced that the Meeting in October we will have a Holland Club Induction Ceremony. A Buffet will be provided at the meeting.

The October meeting we will present a budget to the base. If you have suggestions to the budget get them into a board member.

**Old Business:** Ed has challenge coins that we need to sell 10 dollars each.

**New Business:** None

**Good of the Order:**

The Scholarship committee auctioned off 3 Viet Nam License Plates. The first went to Bill Neff for \$20.00. The second was auctioned to Jimmy Legg for \$20.00 and the third went to Jimmy Legg for \$40.00. Overall \$80.00 was raised for the scholarship fund.

The depth charge was won by Ed Stank. He donated \$100 to the Scholarship fund.

**Benediction:** Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2017.

## FRA News

### **President Cuts Annual Active Duty Pay Increase**

President Obama sent a letter to House and Senate leaders to notify them that he will cap military pay raises at 1.3 percent next year as a way to reduce defense spending. In the letter, he called the reduction as “unfortunate but necessary.” The president noted that administration officials do not believe smaller pay increase (1.3 percent vs. 2.3 percent) will hinder recruitment and retention.

If it stands, the 1.3 percent raise will be the third consecutive year of increases that fall short of estimated private-sector wage growth, and will widen the gap between military and civilian salaries. For an E-4 with three years of service, the difference between the two potential pay raises would total about \$268 a year. A 1.3 percent raise would follow in the wake of 1 percent raises in both 2014 and 2015; the lowest annual military pay increases in the all-volunteer era that began in 1973.

The House version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA-H.R. 1735) provides a 2.3 percent pay raise for troops—

equal to a private-sector pay increase—but the Senate NDAA (S. 1376) accepted the Administration’s request for a lower 1.3 percent hike. FRA has urged legislators who are reconciling differences between the two bills to accept the House increase and to suspend the President’s authority to change the pay increase by regulation for one-year.

As it has for the past 15 years, FRA continues to fight hard to get Congress to reduce the gap between private sector and military pay and keep military pay raises at least in line with civilian pay growth. To give Shipmates an opportunity to urge their legislators to support an adequate pay increase for our military, this issue will be listed on the FRA Action Center ([action.fra.org/action-center](http://action.fra.org/action-center)) until the NDAA passes.

### **Beware of TRICARE Mail Scam**

The Defense Health Agency (DHA) has issued an alert to TRICARE beneficiaries about an intricate mail scam from “Tricare Survey Inc.,” a counterfeit business offering them a chance to be “secret shoppers.” The letter asks TRICARE beneficiaries to cash enclosed checks for \$3,775 at their banks, keep a percentage of the money for themselves and use the rest to buy six \$500 shopping cards to be used at retail stores for “secret shopping” excursions. But when beneficiaries report the card numbers to the company, as instructed in the letters, the fraudsters use the numbers to transfer the amount to their own accounts. In the DHA alert, it states that “Tricare will identify the checks as counterfeit... and return them to the bank from which they were drawn as non-cashable. Potential exists for the beneficiary to be personally liable for the entire \$3775.00.”

### **Annual TRICARE Enrollment Fee Adjustment**

Beginning October 1, 2015, some TRICARE beneficiaries will see a small increase in their enrollment fees as part of the annual adjustment. The yearly increase is based on the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for retired military pay.

TRICARE Prime beneficiaries with single coverage will pay \$4.68 more for their annual enrollment fee in fiscal 2016—the current fee will increase from \$277.92 to \$282.60. Those who have family coverage will see an annual increase of \$9.36, from the current fee of \$555.84 to \$565.20 in fiscal 2016.

Currently-serving military and their dependents do not pay for health care under TRICARE Prime. Surviving family members of those who died on active duty, and medically-retired service members and their dependents are exempt from enrollment fee increases. TRICARE for Life (TFL) beneficiaries also do not pay annual enrollment fees.

### **Military Families need to give DEERS Social Security Numbers or Pay IRS Fine**

Since August 13, the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) has been notifying more than 430,000 service members that DEERS needs their Social Security numbers and those of their dependents by January 1, 2016, or they will be subject to paying fines to the Internal Revenue System (IRS).

The Defense Department (DoD) is required to report healthcare coverage given to service members and their dependents as part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) beginning this year. But in order to do so, the letter said, they need to have each dependent's SSN verified in the system.

The notification letter states: "The IRS will collect fees from individuals who don't have minimum essential coverage... status [is] based on DEERS records." Social Security numbers are not required for DEERS registration. For example, military child dependents often do not have their Social Security numbers in DEERS because their parents register them in the system as infants before the card is issued. Parents must return to DEERS later with the Social Security number to update the system—a chore that is frequently ignored.

### **911 Anniversary**

Today marks the 14th anniversary of the 2001 attacks on the United States. The coordinated suicide attack on 9/11/2001 was launched by a terrorist organization with no real military objective, and hit our nation's largest city and our capital. The only goal was to kill as many Americans as possible. We should take time today to remember those ordinary citizens and first responders who rose to the challenge and responded with extraordinary acts of courage, and also pay tribute to the men and women in uniform fighting terrorism around the world.

### **Fiscal Year Deadline Approaches**

With less than two weeks until the start of the fiscal year, lawmakers have yet to unveil a Continuing Resolution (CR). This temporary measure to prevent a government shutdown will be necessary since House-Senate conference negotiations have not created a final FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Further, none of the spending bills have been approved and sent to the President to be signed into law. Deputy Defense Secretary Bob Work said this week that the Defense Department is prepared to accept a short-term CR to keep the government operating until December. There is the real possibility, however, that there will be no budget agreement, resulting in a year-long CR keeping Pentagon spending at FY 2015 levels. Defense budget experts indicate that a long-term CR would exacerbate an already poor budget situation for the Pentagon. FRA believes that FY 2016 sequestration (automatic, across the board budget cuts) for Defense would be disastrous for national security and would adversely impact pay and benefits. Members are urged to use the FRA Action Center ([action.fra.org/action-center](http://action.fra.org/action-center)) to ask their legislators to exclude Defense from sequestration.

### **Affected Vietnam Veterans should consider Filing Reconsideration of Claim**

As reported in the May 1, 2015 issue of NewsBytes, the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims has ruled that veterans who served aboard ships in the harbors of Vietnam more than 40 years ago should not be arbitrarily excluded from Agent Or-

ange claims—a significant step forward for these veterans. Former Navy seaman Robert Gray has been denied multiple disability claims by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) based on the fact that he was aboard a ship—not on land—during the Vietnam War, when the herbicide Agent Orange was liberally sprayed by American forces to remove foliage and eliminate enemy cover. The chemical was later found to cause numerous health problems for service members who were exposed, but the VA has denied disability claims to U.S. Navy sailors under the argument that the seamen were offshore and were not directly exposed. Veterans who served on ships off the coast of Vietnam who later developed specific health problems tied to exposure to Agent Orange should consider filing a claim for VA benefits or filing for reconsideration of previously denied claims.

In related news, FRA is supporting the "Agent Orange Extension Act," (H.R. 3423) which would extend by two years the original sunset deadline of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 and ensure that Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange receive just compensation and care. The Act expires on September 30, 2015, and the legislation would extend it to September 30, 2017.

In addition, FRA supports the "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act," (H.R. 969/S. 681) which would clarify a presumption for filing disability claims with the VA for ailments associated with exposure to Agent Orange herbicide during the Vietnam War. Congress should recognize that so-called "Blue Water" veterans who served off the coast of Vietnam were exposed to Agent Orange herbicide. The bill authorizes presumptive status for VA disability claims associated with this exposure for this group of veterans. Members can weigh in on these proposals through the FRA Action Center ([action.fra.org/action-center](http://action.fra.org/action-center)).

### **TMC Awards**

FRA is a member of The Military Coalition (TMC), a group of 31 military, uniformed service, and veterans' groups that represent approximately 5.5 million individuals who serve or have served in our country's military and uniformed services. The TMC recently presented its highest leadership awards to two U.S. Senators, one member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and one Congressional staffer.

Senators recognized at the event were James Inhofe (Okla.) and Barbara Mikulski (Md.). The Senators were lauded for leading the fight against privatization of the military commissary system. The two members were praised for introducing a bipartisan amendment to the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act which prevented the Pentagon from privatizing five commissaries at major installations during the next year. Instead, it requires the Defense Department to first conduct an assessment of the privatization effort and report the potential costs and benefits of commissary privatization to Congress. In addition, Senator Mikulski used her clout as Ranking Member on the Senate Appropriations Committee to

reject a proposed commissary funding cut of \$322 million.

Rep. Joe Heck (Nev.) was honored for his work in fending off Pentagon cost-cutting proposals that would have eroded the pay and benefits of those in uniform. Specifically, Heck led the fight to prevent a reduction in the commissary benefit and an increase in health care fees. Heck is a physician and brigadier general in the Army Reserve, and served in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Coalition also honored the work of Anthony J. “Lazer” Lazarski, a retired Air Force colonel and senior advisor to Senator Inhofe. Lazarski worked with TMC members to gather support for the Inhofe-Mikulski amendment to stop commissary privatization. He was presented with the 2015 Freedom Award by TMC.

Commissary funding is still an unresolved issue. The House and Senate have each passed their versions of the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), and now the House and Senate must resolve the differences in the two bills. The Senate bill (S. 1376) reduces commissary benefits and the House NDAA (H.R. 1735) does not. Please use the FRA Action Center ([action.fra.org/action-center](http://action.fra.org/action-center)) to ask your U.S. Representative to oppose the Senate Commissary provision (section 604).

### **Agent Orange Act Extension Stalls**

Congressman Tim Walz (Minn.) recently introduced the FRA-supported “Agent Orange Extension Act,” (H.R. 3423) which would extend the original sunset deadline of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 by two years. The extension would ensure that Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange receive just compensation and care. The 1991 Act expires on September 30, 2015; the legislation would extend its sunset to September 30, 2017. FRA warned the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees regarding the sunset of the Act during its March 18, 2015 testimony.

The Agent Orange Act of 1991 (AOA) established a presumption of service connection for diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure, relieving Vietnam veterans from the burden of providing evidence that their illness was a result of military service. This law directs the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to periodically research and review diseases that might be associated with Agent Orange exposure. The VA is required to add diseases the NAS finds to have a positive association to Agent Orange exposure to the VA’s list of presumptive service-connected diseases. Since the enactment of the AOA, the NAS has issued reports that have led to the presumption of service connection for diseases such as Parkinson’s, B-cell leukemia and early onset peripheral neuropathy. Without these studies, thousands of Vietnam era veterans would have gone without the benefits they greatly deserve.

If the AOA expires, the VA would no longer be obligated to review the NAS report or add any new diseases to the presumption of service list, which could result in denying thou-

sands of veterans their right to compensation. The bill has stalled in the House Veterans Affairs Committee Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee. Members are urged to use the FRA Action Center ([www.fra.org/action-center](http://www.fra.org/action-center)) and can call the Subcommittee Chairman, Rep. Ralph Abraham (La.) Capitol Hill office (202-225-8490) to explain that the AOA expires September 30, 2015 and ask that the bill be approved immediately.

### **Senate CR to Keep Government Open Fails**

The Senate failed to pass SJR 61, a Continuing Resolution (CR) that would have kept the government operating at FY 2015 spending levels until December 11, 2015. The measure included a provision to defund Planned Parenthood and failed to get the required 60 votes (47-52) on a motion to stop debate (cloture motion). House Leadership has indicated they will move next week to approve a “clean” CR to avoid a government shutdown—but only after they also vote on a CR that includes a prohibition of federal funding for Planned Parenthood. The House and Senate have to pass a CR before October 1, 2015—the start of the new fiscal year—to avoid a (partial) government shutdown.

### **2016 COLA Increase Looks Doubtful**

It is becoming increasingly unlikely that federal retirees, including military and Social Security retirees, will receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2016.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics recently released the second of three very important numbers that will determine whether retirees get a COLA in 2016. Based on the current trends in the data, there won’t be a COLA boost next year, although things might change this month.

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) fell 0.2 percent in August, after staying flat in July. The CPI-W, upon which the annual COLA for all retirees is based, decreased by 0.3 percent over the last 12 months. The CPI-W measures price changes in food, housing, gas, and other goods and services. The September 2015 numbers could change all that, but it is unlikely based on the trend. The exact COLA for next year will not be known until October 15, when all the numbers are in.

### **National Prescription Take-back Day**

The Defense Health Agency (DHA) wants TRICARE beneficiaries to have a safe and easy way to dispose of their expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. The DHA has issued notice that the Drug Enforcement Agency’s (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take-back Day is tomorrow, September 26. Sites will be open from 10 am to 2 pm for people to bring excess prescription drugs that otherwise could be abused or contaminate the environment. Many military installations will participate in this event, including Portsmouth Naval Hospital Pharmacy in Norfolk, Virginia; the U.S. Air Force Academy Commissary in Colorado

Springs, Colorado; and the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. To find the nearest site go to: [https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/NTBI/NTBI-PUB.pub;jsessionid=4041EC9DC4BA3DBC0F127561037F9013?flowExecutionKey=c40420EEE-13CE-2AE5-646D-807CC940AFED\\_k4228ED4E-94A6-5140-8E5D-57A603E3DDBA](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/NTBI/NTBI-PUB.pub;jsessionid=4041EC9DC4BA3DBC0F127561037F9013?flowExecutionKey=c40420EEE-13CE-2AE5-646D-807CC940AFED_k4228ED4E-94A6-5140-8E5D-57A603E3DDBA).

## USWN Arts. For Sep. 2015

### Local "Spook" Tells Tales of Time as Naval Cryptologist *Julia Bergman, NEW LONDON DAY, 7 SEP 15*

It was the winter of 1963 and George Cassidy was in the midst of the Navy's boot camp in Great Lakes, Mich., when he was told to go see the psychiatrist.

"This knocked the socks off of me," Cassidy said recently from his home in Stonington. "I didn't think I was stupid or crazy or something. ... You think all sorts of things."

The psychiatrist asked him personal questions and more broad ones about communications and whether he could keep secrets. He left the meeting with the psychiatrist still unsure of why he'd been ordered there in the first place.

Cassidy joined the Navy in October of 1962 right around the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

After the meeting with the psychiatrist, an officer approached Cassidy and told him the Navy wanted him to be a "CT."

"And I said 'what's a CT?,' and they said 'we can't tell you it's classified.' So I'm going OK why do I want to be something that nobody is going to let me know what it is," Cassidy recalled.

"And it's going around and around. "What's a CT?" And nobody would tell me," he said. Finally one of the chiefs told him "it's something like a radioman."

Cassidy didn't want to be a radioman but he found out the training school for CTs, which he would later learn stood for cryptologic technician, was in Pensacola, Fla.

"This is in January 1963 in Great Lakes where it was 32 degrees below zero. I would've gone down there just to be a cook, you know?" he said.

He spent nine months at CT school in Pensacola, where his notebooks "and everything" we're kept in a safe. None of the materials could leave the classroom. He graduated in September 1963.

In those days, Cassidy explained, there were several different areas of CTs. He was a "T brancher," meaning the technical branch that dealt with radar reception, microwave reception, direction finding and signals.

Up until that point, the "rule on the street" was that CTs didn't go to sea. So when Cassidy received a set of orders to report to the USS Oxford, he paused.

"I said wait a minute, CTs don't go to sea and they said 'oh yeah, they do now. This is the Navy's first spy ship,'" Cassidy recalled. He was among the first cadre, or experimental bunch as he puts it, of CTs to be assigned to sea duty.

A World War II ship, the Oxford was converted in 1961 to a spy ship, Cassidy said. He first came aboard in 1963. What first stuck out to him was "all these antennas.' The antennas, he explained, were "not for transmitting but for receiving."

"We would receive microwave transmissions and to receive it you had to get in between the transmitting and the receiving antenna which meant we would go to into base in Cuba or South America (for example) and pretend we were broken down so we could receive it and then get the hell out," Cassidy said.

He described how one room of the ship was lined with tape recorders, espionage equipment and receivers.

Cassidy was on the ship for 18 months, the best 18 months of his life so far, he said.

"We were spooks," Cassidy said. "We were spying. We were getting stuff that nobody else had ever received before."

The Oxford was the first vessel to successfully bounce a signal off the moon and have it received in Washington, D.C. This was to prevent anyone, including the Russian electronic intelligence trawlers that were always around the Oxford, according to Cassidy, from intercepting communications.

"We could send signals and nobody would even know," Cassidy said.

Cassidy said he feels comfortable talking about some of his experiences as a CT because of his appearance in a few chapters of James Bamford's book *Body of Secrets*, which Cassidy said went through about 18 different lawyers for the author and the Navy. The movie "The Imitation Game" brought renewed interest to the cryptology field. Though the movie has received criticism for taking too much liberty with history.

Fifty years later, Cassidy sat in an ornate room and read the orders, which list him having a top secret security clearance, he received in 1965. "George Cassidy, report aboard the USS Classified. Then in parentheses it said 'a U.S. submarine,'" he said.

The USS Classified was a diesel submarine called the USS Halfbeak. Cassidy wore a radioman patch on his uniform to hide their mission even from the crew itself.

In August 1965, Cassidy was part of a top secret briefing with various military "brass" detailing his new assign-

ment. At the time, there was concern about advances in Soviet ballistic missile capabilities.

When he got back to the base, Cassidy said he "looked up on a National Geographic map" where they were going "and I said Oh (expletive). It was way north in the Barents Sea."

More specifically, it was an island where the Russians tested their missile and satellite radar.

"Our mission was to go up there and we knew from other intelligence that they were going to be testing in the month of October and November of 1965," Cassidy. "In all the history that you'll find online of the Halfbeak there's nothing mentioned about this because it's been wiped clean."

To keep the boat quiet, the transmitting tubes and radio communications were taken out.

"So when we left we really had no way to communicate with the outside world," Cassidy said.

The numbers on the outside of the boat identifying it as American were also painted over by Cassidy and other crew members.

The job was to record all the electronic counter measures off of other submarines, Russian submarines and aircraft, he said. And record all the telemetry they could receive from the Russian tracking station.

The first night they arrived in the area, they were able to get "some stuff," Cassidy said, but the crew figured it'd be more active in the daytime. "And it was," he said.

That next day they killed the diesel engines to "go down a little deeper," and just keep the electronic counter measures mast up. They could only go about three or four knots otherwise the ECM mast would create a wake.

"We got some pretty good stuff," Cassidy said.

One night while Cassidy was listening on the equipment and he heard a radar that he was able to identify as TU 95 Bear Bomber, the Russians long-range surveillance aircraft at the time. The CTs compiled a book that said "if you were listening on such and such a frequency and you heard a radar signal with a specific sweep sound and a sweep rotation rate, it might be this," Cassidy explained of how he was able to identify the aircraft.

"So I call the captain, I say "Hey, I got this TU-95. Strength is really, really weak though," Cassidy recalled.

The captain asked him to find out where the aircraft was coming from.

All of a sudden the radar strength hit the strongest level. The aircraft was right over the Halfbeak, which promptly pulled its mast down and dove down.

"We didn't find out until later, until these tapes went back to NSA (the National Security Agency), that the Russians had a way of reducing the power of their radar but still keeping all the parameters that they could to sweep out further," Cassidy said.

The crew went back the next night to go in closer. The guy on the periscope noticed something bizarre floating all around in the water. It was logs. Cassidy said the crew suspected the Russians dumped the logs in the water "so we couldn't raise anything."

"So we played up there for a while and then sonar says I've got two vessels with four high speed screws approaching us. Only one thing that could be, it was a Cruckley-class destroyer. ... We heard this noise and sonar says drop the depth charge. We had stuff broken," Cassidy said, but he said he couldn't say anything further.

Halfbeak returned home with "a lot of good intelligence," he said.

**US Builds Up Arctic Spy Network as Russia, China Increase Presence *Brian Bennett and W.J. Hennigan,* TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU, 7 SEP 15**

As China and Russia boost their military presence in the resource-rich far north, U.S. intelligence agencies are scrambling to study potential threats in the Arctic for the first time since the Cold War, a sign of the region's growing strategic importance.

Over the last 14 months, most of the 16 U.S. intelligence agencies have assigned analysts to work full time on the Arctic. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence recently convened a "strategy board" to bring the analysts together to share their findings.

In addition to relying on U.S. spy satellites orbiting overhead and Navy sensors deep in the frigid waters, the analysts process raw intelligence from a recently overhauled Canadian listening post near the North Pole and a Norwegian surveillance ship called the Marjata, which is now being upgraded at a U.S. Navy shipyard in southern Virginia.

The administration's growing concern was dramatized Wednesday when the Pentagon confirmed it was tracking five Chinese warships in the Bering Sea, between Alaska and Russia, for the first time. Officials said the Chinese ships were steaming in international waters toward the Aleutian Islands but posed no threat.

The growing focus shows how the United States and other polar powers are adjusting as global warming opens new sea lanes and sets off a scramble for largely untapped reserves of oil, natural gas and minerals. The United States, Russia, Canada, Denmark and Norway are pursuing jurisdiction over the Arctic seabed.

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, known as the NGA, has spent two years drawing new maps and charts of waterways and territories in the vast region. In

a statement, Director Robert Cardillo said his agency intends to “broaden and accelerate” that work, while other agencies help chart the Bering, Chukchi and Beaufort seas.

“There are a lot of things we can see now that we couldn’t see 10 years ago,” said a U.S. intelligence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the new interest in the Arctic.

Some of the transformation is visible on detailed digital maps that the NGA made public last week, while President Barack Obama was on a three-day visit to Alaska and became the first U.S. president to visit a community above the Arctic Circle.

The maps show airstrips, oil drilling areas, ports, maritime boundaries and sea routes. The NGA plans to make public 3-D maps of all of Alaska by 2016 and the entire Arctic by 2017 to help track melting sea ice and receding glaciers.

The U.S. intelligence focus is chiefly aimed at Russia’s military buildup in the far north under President Vladimir Putin. The country’s Northern Fleet is based above the Arctic Circle at Murmansk.

The Russian government announced plans in March 2014 to reopen 10 former Soviet-era military bases along the Arctic seaboard, including 14 airfields, that were closed after the end of the Cold War. A shipyard in northern Russia also is constructing four nuclear-powered submarines.

Alaska Gov. Bill Walker complained that the Pentagon is closing bases and shedding troops while Moscow has begun rebuilding a military force that was eviscerated after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

“It’s the biggest buildup of the Russian military since the Cold War,” Walker told reporters during Obama’s visit to his state. “They’re reopening 10 bases and building four more, and they’re all in the Arctic, so here we are in the middle of the pond, feeling a little bit uncomfortable with the military drawdown.”

To help keep watch, Canada has refurbished a listening post called CFS Alert at the northern tip of Ellesmere Island, about 500 miles from the North Pole. It was once part of the Distant Early Warning line, a system of radar stations that watched for incoming Russian bombers or missiles.

“It was thought to be a relic of the Cold War,” said Rob Huebert, a professor in Arctic affairs at the University of Calgary. “Now it is a critical element of an intelligence system that monitors a part of the world that few have access to.”

About 100 intelligence officers stationed at CFS Alert, which stands for Canadian Forces Station, try to intercept Russian aircraft and submarine communications and other signals intelligence. Canada shares the take with U.S. intelligence agencies.

Norway also cooperates closely with U.S. intelligence agencies.

The Marjata, an advanced spy ship specifically built to collect electronic intelligence, has been getting new equipment and systems since April at U.S. Naval Weapons Station Yorktown in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. Camp Peary, the CIA’s training base for clandestine operatives, is adjacent to the facility.

The Marjata, which is operated by the Norwegian Intelligence Service, is scheduled to leave in November, U.S. officials said. It will patrol the Barents Sea, on the Atlantic side of the Arctic, to eavesdrop on Russian military activities.

Under pressure to track growing environmental threats in the Arctic, the White House issued an 11-page national strategy in May 2013. It challenged federal agencies to “improve our awareness of activities, conditions and trends in the Arctic region that may affect our safety, security, environmental or commercial interests.”

Officials said that was a wake-up call to intelligence officials to pay more heed to potential problems in the Arctic.

The Navy already was paying attention. It had largely abandoned research in the Arctic after the Cold War, but the Office of Naval Research began charting Arctic waterways again in 2009. Now ships drop underwater drones that track temperatures and use upward-looking radar to chart ice thickness.

“We’re not storming into the Arctic or anything; it’s not a crisis,” said Scott Harper, head of the office’s Arctic Program. “But we’re doing research that will determine how our systems will work properly if and when we do.”

### **Russia’s Deadliest Nuclear Sub Heading To Kamchatka Staff, Turkish Weekly, Sept 8**

Russian Borei-class nuclear-powered ballistic submarine Alexander Nevsky is set to join the Russian Navy’s Pacific Fleet in late September, a senior Navy representative said on Tuesday.

Alexander Nevsky, the first nuclear submarine of the Borei-class, started a subglacial passage in mid-August from the Northern Fleet to the Pacific Fleet for permanent combat duty. It was expected to arrive at its base in the settlement of Rybachiy in Kamchatka during the first ten-day period of September.

However, its arrival was postponed due to complex weather and ice conditions and a number of other reasons.

Another Borei-class submarine, Vladimir Monomakh, is scheduled to arrive in Kamchatka late this year or early next, depending on weather, the official said.

Alexander Nevsky carries 16 Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles with 6-10 nuclear warheads per missile and an effective range of over 5,000 miles.

Russia’s first Borei-class submarine, Yuri Dolgoruky, was inducted into the Northern Fleet in January

2013. Russia plans to build eight Borei-class nuclear submarines by 2020.

## **Navy Nudging Sailors Toward A Healthier Lifestyle**

***Julia Bergman, Day.com, Sept 9***

"There are certain things that the Navy doesn't want to let go of like burger days," said Lt. Jonathan Bradshaw, food service officer, while sitting in the Cross Hall Galley at Naval Submarine Base.

While the juicy food option likely isn't going away, the Navy is trying to nudge sailors to put down the hamburger for a healthier option.

In June, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus released an ALNAV, or "All Navy," message detailing personnel policy changes.

"The ultimate goal of all of these changes is to promote a healthy, agile, and innovative organization capable of attracting, growing, and keeping the talent needed to address the national security challenges of the future," Mabus said in the message.

"A well-balanced diet is the foundation of a healthy lifestyle. So we must provide nutritious food options for Sailors and Marines at sea and ashore," Mabus said.

A month before the message, Mabus discussed deep fryers being replaced by state-of-the-art ovens in chow halls, and the Department of Defense's "Go Green" nutrition program.

At Naval Submarine Base's Cross Hall Galley, staff are using the special ovens in lieu of fryers and the "Go for Green" program is in place.

The program categorizes food into three categories: "green," meaning eat often; "yellow," meaning eat occasionally; and "red" meaning eat rarely.

Most of the people eating at the galley are new sailors who are coming through sub school. The sailors are usually between the ages of 17 and 20, and as Bradshaw put it, "a lot of them are chicken nuggets kind of fans."

The idea is to try to change their eating habits by making it easier for them, by giving them healthy options to choose from. Bradshaw said the galley serves about 1,100 to 1,200 meals per day.

The changes are perhaps subtle, but hopefully significant. There are more items at the salad bar.

When going through the line, sailors have a healthy entrée option to choose from and can see whether the foods they are choosing fall under the "red," "yellow" or "green" categories of the "Go for Green" program.

Pamphlets detailing the various categories are also at each table in the galley. The ladles that galley staff use to serve the food measure out proper portion sizes.

At the soda machines, there are more fitness water and diet soda options. Galley staff has done menu substitutions, switching out items that are high in sodium and fat.

The staff will host vendor rodeos, where vendors bring in items that coincide with the galley menu and other healthier options, and sailors sample the items and provide feedback.

Bradshaw says the staff solicits feedback as much as possible. Comment cards are available in the galley for sailors to fill out. Those comments go "unvetted" up to Capt. Carl Lahti, commanding officer at sub base.

"We've always had healthy choices; the problem is convincing sailors to make the healthy choice," Lahti said. He also noted the challenge in measuring whether healthy initiatives such as this are successful or not.

Bradshaw said he and others keep track of what's eaten and what's left over so they're able to get a picture of what sailors are eating and not. So in that way they can examine what healthy options, if any, the sailors are choosing.

The food at the galley now is better than when Cmdr. Kurt Stronach, executive officer at the base, went through sub school in the 1980s, even though, he said "we were the best fed."

By best fed, Stronach meant fed the most.

He described meals high in fat, and lots of meat. Lobster, steak or surf and turf was "like a thing every week," he said. "Spices were unheard of."

Staff would plop food down on a sailor's plate "like the movies," Stronach said. "Next!"

Beyond the galley, the base as a whole, under the Department of Defense's Healthy Base Initiative, has been taking a number of steps affecting food choices.

The base was one of more than 10 sites selected a few years ago to participate in the initiative.

The overall goal, Lahti said, is to reduce DOD health costs.

"We know if you have a healthier lifestyle, you don't smoke cigarettes, you're not obese," he said.

As part of the initiative, the Morale, Wellness and Recreation program has developed programs targeted at improving physical fitness and the importance of a healthy diet.

There are more healthy "grab-n-go" options at the MWR Liberty Center, where sailors go to play video games, use computers and hang out.

The Navy Exchange has filled its vending machines with more, healthier options, and have placed stickers on items that feature 250 calories or less and that are high in protein.

The Commissary, where many sailors and their families do their grocery shopping, features a much larger produce section, and offers more, healthier options in the "grab-n-go" section.

Even the youth center has started an outside garden, using produce grown in the garden to make meals in cooking classes.

The youth center is now in the midst of starting a hydroponic garden, which uses water but no soil.

Most recently, a farmers market was established at the Balfour Beatty Community Center, the base's public-private venture housing area.

### **SUBASE Lightens up**

**Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Erin Hamilton, Dolphin-News.com, Sept 10 GROTON, Conn.**

Naval Submarine Base New London (SUBASE) is getting a little brighter thanks to new light-emitting diode (LED) light fixtures around base.

The SUBASE Lighting Energy Reduction Project started in spring of 2014, with a completion goal for the end of 2015, and will improve lighting areas that were previously poorly illuminated.

"This project replaces approximately 1,500 parking lot, street, and building mounted lighting fixtures with LED fixtures," said Phil Damcicis, SUBASE Public Works Facilities Engineering and Acquisition Division Project Manager. "The new fixtures will use about one third of the energy of existing fixtures."

Benefits of LED lightbulbs include improved efficiency and durability, and mercury-free construction. LED lightbulbs are significantly brighter than fluorescent lighting, and last much longer, saving the Navy money and man-hours.

"The LED project will save over 1.2 megawatt-hours of electricity per year," said Damcicis. "This will result in \$180,000 of cost savings for the Navy."

Companies involved in the design, management, and construction of the fixtures include SUBASE Public Works, Martinez Couch & Associates of Rocky Neck, Conn., and LaRosa Building Group of Meriden, Conn.

"The LED lamps should not need to be replaced for over 10 years," said Damcicis. "This will achieve additional savings due to reduced operations and maintenance costs."

LEDs are a type of Solid State Lighting (SSL) that produce light by passing electrical current through semicon-

ductor material. LEDs use approximately 50 percent less energy and last up to five times as long as conventional fluorescent lights, between 40,000 and 50,000 hours, according to a Naval Sea Systems Command Business Case Analysis.

"Navy ships have been using mercury-free LED lightbulbs, making replacement of bulbs easier to handle and dispose of," said Lt. Cmdr. Gareth Montgomery, action officer for Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) energy branch. "There are significant safety and efficiency advantages, since fluorescent bulbs are regularly replaced."

The Navy remains committed to supporting LED lighting development. In 2007, the first LED lighting was installed on Navy ships, and in 2011, the Navy ordered \$23 million worth of LED products. In 2013, National Shipbuilders Research Program (NSRP) and the Navy funded next generation LED lighting fixtures, and by 2014, LED products were used on more than 126 ships and subs of the 249 vessel fleet.

This project will help achieve the Navy's policy to annually reduce energy intensity and comply with the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007.

"In addition to being energy efficient, the fixtures will provide a better quality of light that naturally resembles sunlight and will reduce glare," said Damcicis.

### **Navy Curtails Sonar In Key Habitat Tony Perry, Los Angeles Times, Sept 15**

*Navy agrees to restrict offshore training to protect marine mammals*

The Navy has agreed to curtail its use of sonar and underwater explosives during training exercises in key marine mammal habitat off Southern California and Hawaii.

The settlement brings an end to legal challenges against the government from environmentalists – led by the Natural Resources Defense Council and Earthjustice. It was signed Monday by U.S. District Judge Susan Oki Mollway in Honolulu.

In April, Mollway ruled that the National Marine Fisheries Service had violated federal environmental laws when it decided the Navy's training would have a "negligible impact" on whales, dolphins, seals, sea lions and sea turtles.

That set off months of negotiations between the Navy, the fisheries service and the environmental groups.

"By agreeing to this settlement, the Navy acknowledges that it doesn't need to train in every square inch of the ocean and that it can take reasonable steps to reduce the deadly toll of its activities," said Earthjustice attorney David Henkin.

The Navy's testing plan could have proved disruptive to feeding areas, migratory corridors and places where the animals reside, he said.

A spokesman said the Navy agreed to the settlement because it faced “the real possibility that the court would stop critically important training and testing.” Lt. Cmdr. Matt Knight, spokesman for the U.S. Pacific Fleet, said that “the Navy has been, and will continue to be, good environmental stewards as we prepare for and conduct missions in support of our national security.”

The litigation centered on a disagreement about how many marine mammals might be harmed by the Navy’s training regimen. Mollway ruled that the Navy had vastly underestimated the threat.

According to the environmentalists, the settlement calls for a ban on mid-frequency sonar and explosives on the eastern side of the Big Island and north of Molokai and Maui, in an effort to protect whales and Hawaiian monk seals. Surface ships would be required to use “extreme caution” to avoid hitting humpback whales.

Off Southern California, the Navy is banned from using mid-frequency sonar between Santa Catalina Island and San Nicolas Island, also near blue whale habitat off San Diego, the environmental groups said. The same extreme caution would be required for ships in the feeding habitat and migratory corridors for blue, fin and gray whales.

The Navy asserted its training could kill 155 whales over five years. Environmentalists said the number of those killed or injured would be much higher.

Among other things, the Navy uses sonar to teach sailors how to detect “super quiet” submarines that can operate in relatively shallow near-shore areas.

Though the military would have preferred a less-restrictive agreement, Knight said, “this ... preserves critically important testing and training.”

Bill Rossiter, executive director for advocacy, science and grants at Cetacean Society International, said the agreement means “beaked whale populations in Southern California that have been suffering from the Navy’s use of sonar will be able to find areas of refuge where sonar will be off-limits.”

The new restrictions will be applied under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

### **Explanation Demanded from Navy After Submarine Dragged Fishing Trawler Out to Sea**

**Lesley-Anne McKeown, The Independent, Sept 14** The Royal Navy must fully explain how a submarine dragged a fishing trawler out to sea, Northern Ireland's Agriculture Minister has warned.

Michelle O'Neill is demanding answers about the incident which happened off the Co Down coast in April.

She said: "We need answers, we need a full report and we need guarantees that it is not going to happen again."

The Karen was carried at 10 knots after the sub snagged in its fishing nets 18 miles from Ardglass - one of the region's main fishing ports. The trawler, which was sent careering backwards through the water, was badly damaged but the four crew escaped unharmed.

Part of the ship's deck had to be lifted and another section was ripped off.

Initially, Ministry of Defence (MoD) minister Penny Mordaunt said she was confident a British submarine was not involved but in a statement released earlier this month admitted the Royal Navy had caused the damage.

Ms O'Neill said she was "appalled" at the time lapse and called for the fishermen to be compensated.

She told MLAs during Question Time at the Stormont Assembly: "The fishermen involved were very fortunate to survive that incident.

"After such strong, initial denials by the British Navy I am appalled that it has taken them five months to actually admit that it was their responsibility.

"I have severe questions for the British MoD in terms of their approach to this and why they left our fishing industry susceptible to this happening again and potentially a fatality.

"I think there are questions to be asked. I am certainly determined to ask those questions and to get to the bottom of this and make sure it doesn't happen again."

### **A Special Day For Our Navy Vice Adm. Bill Moran, Navy Live Blog, Sept 16**

Today is a special day in the Navy. For approximately 4,700 active and reserve Sailors, it is a time for reflection, family celebration and excitement for the opportunities that lie ahead. It is also a day of transformation. Today we pin anchors on our newly-minted Chiefs.

Chief's anchors are a symbol of expertise, trust, partnership and above all ... leadership. From this day forward, these new Chief Petty Officers will immediately be seen through a different lens by seniors and juniors alike.

This past week, Fleet Master Chief April Beldo and I visited Bahrain and met with Sailors on the Navy's front lines in the Arabian Gulf.

We visited a number of commands to hear what was on their minds and listen to their concerns. We also met with leaders at all levels and visited the Chief's mess at every stop; their insights, humility, and honesty are invaluable to me. You can tell a lot about a command walking into the Chief's mess ... you can feel the energy or sense any anxiety. In effect, you quickly cut to the core of the ship.

Along the way, we came across Chief-selects from each command one week before their pinning. We saw young selectees, and we saw seasoned ones. We saw fire in their eyes. But more than anything, we saw a group of men and women who were anxious to become part of the conscious of our Navy – to always do what’s right.

As a young, green, junior officer, I was fortunate to have several great Chiefs who guided me, picked me up when I needed it, had my back when I needed it, whispered in my ear when I really needed it – they showed me the ropes, taught me, mentored me, helped me become a better leader. Throughout my career, and especially as CNP, I’ve had the privilege of serving with many exceptional Chiefs. Their honest feedback has helped me immensely as we navigate through challenging times and new initiatives designed to positively impact Sailors’ lives every day.

Commanders and junior enlisted Sailors rely on Chiefs for their technical and professional expertise and deck plate leadership. They lead best with humility at their core. They motivate by example, with optimism and energy, to develop more effective young leaders at every level ... and their smallest of actions help shape and influence lives and careers.

To today’s new chiefs, forge ahead with purpose, lift your heads high, and serve your Sailors, your Mess, your Navy, and your nation with pride.

Be courageous. Be humble. Lead with purpose.  
See you in the Fleet,  
Vice Adm. Bill Moran is Chief of Naval Personnel.

**Sunken Civil War Submarine Sheds Crusty Image**  
**Michael E. Ruane, Washington Post, Sept 18**

For more than a century, the CSS Hunley rested at the bottom of the ocean just outside Charleston harbor, its crew entombed, its hull gradually encased in hardening encrustations. When it was raised 15 years ago off South Carolina, it looked more like a barnacled sea monster than the world’s first combat submarine to sink an enemy warship. The Hunley sunk in battle during the winter of 1864. The remains of its eight sailors were removed in 2001, but research has continued and Thursday a conservation team announced that experts have now removed more than half a ton of the encrustations. The result: The Hunley has much of the look and menace of a modern sub, and is clearly the ancestor of the U-boat and the nuclear submarine of today. The work also revealed damage to the bow, from an explosion or a collision, but a conservator said that, by itself, did not solve the mystery of why the Hunley sank.

“I don’t think it’s a single event ... that led to the sinking,” said Johanna Rivera, the Clemson University conservator and collections manager overseeing the project. “I think it’s a combination of factors and things that happened.

“Maybe they took in water, maybe they were unconscious, plus the torpedo explosion,” she said Thursday. “We haven’t found the smoking gun.”

On the night of Feb. 17, 1864, the crude Confederate vessel – which was made from a boiler, had no extra air supply and was powered by a hand crank – rammed a torpedo into a Union warship anchored off Charleston.

The Yankee ship, the USS Housatonic, went down, but so did the 14-ton Hunley with its captain and crew.

The Hunley had sunk twice before, killing part of one crew and all of another, when it set out on what was to be its final mission in the midst of the Civil War. Even its namesake, Louisiana planter Horace L. Hunley, who had helped fund its construction, had perished at the helm in the second sinking.

After each disaster, the sub was located and raised. The bodies were removed through the vessel’s two narrow hatches, and the befouled interior was scoured clean. Despite the sub’s grim track record, the Confederacy, with its weak Navy, remained eager for some way to break the Union coastal blockade that was strangling the rebellion in the closing months of the war.

The Hunley was much like a modern submarine, with a sleek, cigar-shape hull, diving fins to help it submerge and surface, and two stubby conning towers. But underwater, the crew had only the air in the sealed hull to breathe. Light was provided by candles. And the sub’s barbed torpedo, at the end of a pole attached to the prow, had to be jabbed like a harpoon into the hull of a ship. The sub would then release the torpedo, back up and detonate the explosive with a rope.

On its last mission, the Hunley torpedoed the 12-gun Housatonic, which quickly sank, killing a handful of the Yankee crew. The Hunley failed to return, and later research showed that the torpedo exploded while still attached to the sub. Searches after the attack failed to locate the Hunley, and it remained lost until 1995, when a team financed by adventure novelist Clive Cussler found it using sophisticated electronic gear. After the Hunley was raised in 2000, a special conservation lab was built in North Charleston. There, the process of preserving and studying the boat, with help from, among others, the Navy and the Smithsonian Institution, has been underway.

Within the last year, Clemson's conservators have painstakingly chiseled away 1,200 pounds of rock-hard concretion, being careful not to damage the cast and wrought iron underneath. The removal of the encrustation allows experts to get at the hull and start removing the salts that help corrode the metal, Rivera said in a telephone interview. She said cleaning began in August 2014 and ended about two weeks ago. They are now starting to clean encrustations from the interior. Rivera said she found it extraordinary that the crew would serve on the Hunley, knowing that others had previously drowned inside. "Getting into a narrow machine underwater," she said. "It's so small inside and cramped and you get claustrophobic ... whenever they closed those hatches, that's what is amazing to me."

**CNO Greenert's Farewell Message Adm. Jonathan Greenert, Navy Live Blog, Sept 1**

As I complete my tenure as the Chief of Naval Operations, I want to thank you for your inspiring efforts that ensured the Navy operated where it mattered, when it mattered – while laying the foundation of our future fleet. You are our greatest strength and asymmetric advantage. Families that support you are essential to our success.

Tomorrow I will be relieved by Adm. John Richardson, an exceptional leader. You are in excellent hands.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve you and serve with you, over the last four years. Darleen and I send our sincere wishes for happiness, safety and success to you and your families.

**Undersea Warfighting Development Center Holds Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**  
**Kevin Copeland, Submarine Force Atlantic Public Affairs, Sept 21**



GROTON, Conn. - (Sep. 21, 2015) Vice Adm. Joseph Tofalo, Commander, Submarine Forces, U.S Representative Joe Courtney (2nd-Conn.), and Rear Adm. Jeffrey Trussler, Commander, Undersea Warfighting Development Center (UWDC) participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking

the grand opening of the facility, Sep. 21. The UWDC will be responsible for training the submarine force in advanced tactics, techniques, and procedures for Anti-Submarine Warfare. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Bill Larned)

**GROTON, Conn. (NNS)** -- The ceremonial opening of the Undersea Warfighting Development Center (UWDC) occurred during a ribbon cutting ceremony, Sept. 21, at U. S. Naval Submarine Base New London.

Under the command of Rear Adm. Jeffrey E. Trussler, the UWDC became operational, Sept. 1.

Featured speakers were Vice Adm. Joseph E. Tofalo, Commander, Submarine Forces, and Rear Adm. Trussler.

"The Undersea Warfighting Development Center will integrate our "undersea concept of operations and tactics, techniques and procedures in support of theater, anti-submarine warfare forces; prepare submarine crews to conduct all combat missions; and prepare carrier strike groups and independently deploying surface ships to perform integrated anti-submarine warfare," said Tofalo. "Our undersea forces have always been about being first: first to the fight and first to come to grips with the enemy. RAdm Trussler and his people will ensure we stay poised to do that. This is crucial work and UWDC are the right people to do it."

UWDC will be responsible for training the submarine force in advanced tactics, techniques, and procedures for Anti-Submarine Warfare. The center has assumed the training missions, tasks, and functions for Theater and Integrated Strike Group Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) from the Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command (NMAWC), based in San Diego.

"The establishments of Warfighting Development Centers have been several years in the making," said Trussler. "The stand-up of the UWDC is one of the last pieces of that puzzle to come together. As we move forward to support the undersea forces and undersea effort, our organization will be committed to being innovative, adaptive, and responsive."

In calendar year 2014 the Chief of Naval Operations ordered the establishment of Warfighting Development Centers (WDCs). The CNO approved Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces and Commander, Pacific Fleet in establishing WDCs for air, undersea, surface, and expeditionary forces. WDCs will conduct integrated advanced tactical training under the administrative control of supported Type Commanders now assigned responsibility for theater-to tactical-level warfare mission areas.

WDCs will provide advanced warfighting tactical training across air, sea, and space domains. This will enhance warfighting effectiveness by creating cohesiveness across all warfare communities.

**NAVSUP FLC Pearl Harbor Hosts 'Top Chef' Competition Paula Dunn, NAVSUP Global Logistics Support, Corporate Communication, Navy News Service, Sept 21**

**PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii** – The Navy Food Management Team (NFMT) from Navy Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) Fleet Logistics Center (FLC) Pearl Harbor hosted a 'Top Chef' competition for area Navy culinary specialists at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), Sept. 17.

Six commands participated in the competition which was designed to promote camaraderie within the culinary specialist (CS) community and showcase the teams' talent and expertise while also highlighting the available prime vendor products that can be used by Navy ships, submarines and shore dining facilities.

This event was held in conjunction with a food and product show where more than 150 civilian and military attendees sampled food products by vendors while watching the competition.

USS Chosin (CG 65), USS Port Royal (CG 73), USS Chung Hoon (DDG 93), USS Hopper (DDG 70), USS Halsey (DDG 97) and JBPHH Submarine Base Galley (Silver Dolphin Bistro) all sent culinary teams to the event.

Each team comprised of three culinary specialists had 90 minutes to prepare five portions of one appetizer and one main entree and were required to use ingredients from the September issue of "Navy Food Service, NAVSUP P-476," the quarterly publication which includes menu planning guidance, nutritional information, training, food preparation hints and guidance for record keeping.

"All of the teams did exceptionally well," said Capt. Ken Epps, commanding officer, NAVSUP FLC Pearl Harbor, "They really demonstrated the depth and breadth of talent in the Navy's culinary specialist community."

Dishes were judged based on three criteria: creativity and teamwork, taste and wholesomeness and plate presentation.

The team from Chosin won the competition with shrimp avocado salad, appetizer and roasted Sonoma chicken, a main course. Silver Dolphin Bistro came in second place and third place was awarded to Port Royal.

Judges for the event included Rear Adm. John

Fuller, commander, Navy Region Hawaii; Capt. Eric Weilenman, chief of staff, Commander, Naval Surface Group Mid-Pacific; Capt. Stanley Keeve, commander, JBPHH and Kevin Dugan, chef at the Hale Koa Hotel.

The Navy's more than 7,000 culinary specialists, deployed around the globe, feed an average of more than 92 million meals per year, ensuring the Navy's fighting forces operate at peak performance and are ready to respond to threats worldwide.

**China's Growing Submarine Strength Worries U.S. Vikas Shukla, Value Walk, Sept 21**

In February, Vice Admiral Joseph Mulloy admitted that China had more diesel- and nuclear-powered submarines than the United States. The U.S. Navy currently has 71 submarines. Santa Clara-based think tank Rand Corp said in its latest report that the U.S. should reduce its focus on giant aircraft carriers in the Pacific Ocean and instead focus on submarines and space warfare.

Two scenarios that could lead to a China vs. U.S. conflict

Rand Corp studied the military capabilities of China and the United States. They compared two countries using ten "scorecards" in maritime, cyber, space, nuclear, and air strengths. The think tank projected capabilities of China and the U.S. through 2017. According to Military.com, two scenarios could lead to a major conflict between the two countries: Beijing invading Taiwan, and second, forcibly occupying the Spratly Islands.

China is currently building a third airstrip in the Spratly Islands even as Washington has denounced Chinese militarization of the archipelago. China is nowhere close to the United States in terms of military capability. But it doesn't need to match the U.S. to take control of the South China Sea, which is at the doorstep of China and thousands of miles away from the U.S.

Can U.S. challenge China in the South China Sea?

Lead author of the report, Eric Heginbotham, said neither country wants war, but the balance of power will directly affect calculations of each country. China's ability to challenge the U.S. Navy's surface fleet has grown manifold in the last two decades. Beijing has deployed sophisticated cruise missiles, developed long-range surveillance systems, built stealth submarines equipped with cruise missiles, and acquired strike aircraft with long ranges.

China could seriously damage U.S. aircraft carriers, especially in the first stages of a conflict. In the event China invades Taiwan in 2017, the U.S. carriers would be at high

risk. They will also face a lesser degree of risk in case of a conflict in the Spratly Islands. The number of diesel submarines in Chinese Navy (PLAN) rose from just four in 1996 to 37 today. And almost all of them are armed with cruise missiles and torpedoes.

### **Navy Demos Submarine Mine-Deployment Capability** *Richard Tomkins, UPI, Sept 22*

The U.S. Navy reports that its Pacific Submarine Force has successfully demonstrated its capability at clandestinely deploying mines.

The mines used in the exercise off the coast of Kauai, Hawaii, were Mk-67 submarine-launched mobile mines, which are launched like a torpedo.

The Mk-67 SLMM consists of a Mk-37 torpedo body with a modified warhead and trigger so the submarine doesn't have to pass over the area to be mined. The Mk-37 has an effective firing range of 23,000 yards.

For the testing conducted by the submarine USS Buffalo, inert SLMM exercise mines were used

"The Pacific Submarine Force once again demonstrated successfully its continued ability to conduct submarine-launched clandestine mining operations," Capt. Harry Ganteaume, director of tactics and training for Submarine Force Pacific said. "With growing interest in Pacific maritime activities, SLMM-Ex helps to ensure that the U.S. Navy can protect American interests and assist our allies when asked.

"These exercises help to ensure that the Pacific Submarine Force is prepared to meet the emerging challenges in the years ahead."

Submarine Force Pacific provides anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, precision land strike, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and early warning and special warfare capabilities to U.S. Pacific Command.

### **A New Standard For Negotiation With N. Korea** *Chuck Downs, Defense News, Sept 22*

South Korean President Park Geun-hye achieved a landmark success in the simple six-point agreement reached on Aug. 25 between North Korea and South Korea.

For over 60 years, North Korea has consistently followed a negotiating pattern that obtains benefits from manipulating crises that it creates, inspiring a demand for talks by instigating provocations, then delaying talks, ratcheting up provocations and rhetoric.

Calculated acceleration of risk has been the cornerstone of North Korea's negotiating strategy. This method of kick-starting negotiations has included such provocations as a 1968 attack on South Korea's presidential residence in Seoul; ax murders in the DMZ in 1976; a bomb attack on the South Korean Cabinet in 1983; the downing of a South Korean air-

liner in 1987; and more recently, the bombardment of Yeonpyeong Island in 2010 and the sinking of a South Korean Navy vessel.

All of these were done before the reign of the current leader of North Korea, Kim Jong-un. Not counting a nuclear test and two missile launches, the DMZ mining incident is the first such provocation under Kim Jong-un.

Robert Collins, US Forces Korea's long-time analyst of North Korean military behavior, suggests that the latest provocation was an attempt by the North Korean military to train the new leader in the benefits of North Korea's longstanding strategy.

Frustrated by their inability to lecture or advise the tempestuous young leader, they may have thought that placing mines where South Korean patrols would step on them would result in deaths that would make South Korea beg for talks. If so, the masterminds behind this act failed miserably.

When land mines ripped the legs and feet from two South Korean soldiers on Aug. 9, the public outcry against the North was joined by all political parties, and demanded a response; the soldiers, who survived, became national heroes.

In a brilliant move, President Park Geun-hye reinstated a practice that had been halted as a result of previous South-North negotiations: she started broadcasting the truth about North Korea through loudspeakers that can be heard by the North's soldiers and citizens along the DMZ. We tend to undervalue the effects of these broadcasts, but North Korea takes them very seriously.

Much of what then happened seemed to follow the course of past crises. North Korea's Supreme Leader told his people they were in a state of "near-war;" he moved troops and artillery to new locations; and some 50 of North Korea's 70 submarines went to sea. On Aug. 20, North Korea fired an anti-aircraft shell at the loudspeakers and South Korea retaliated within minutes. South Korea and the US talked of deploying strategic (nuclear) bombers to the Korean peninsula. China not only sent troops and tanks to the border with North Korea, but briefed the South Korean government on these troop movements.

Unlike past situations, however, the government of South Korea did not let North Korea determine who would lead the talks, or yield on questions of venue. Kim Jong-un had made the mistake of giving South Korea an ultimatum, a factor that weighed more heavily on his own negotiators.

North Korea's coordinator for North-South relations reportedly sought talks with his counterpart, the Minister of National Unification, but President Park insisted on higher level talks. She designated her national security adviser and North Korea sent Gen. Hwang Pyong-so, arguably the North's No. 2, and the man who probably persuaded Kim Jong-un to execute his own uncle.

South Korea won the North's agreement on the site of the talks — both the building and its communications system were under complete control of South Korea. American

starting at Kaesong in 1951. This time, North Korea came to an agreement uncommonly swiftly by its standards, and released an accurate text of the agreement even before the South did. Often in the past, the South or the US have announced agreements that North Korea denied or modified in its own state-run media.

Everyone outside North Korea would welcome a change in its modus operandi. We cannot conclude from one set of talks that North Korea has turned a new leaf, but there is clearly something unusual happening, and very mixed messages are emerging from Pyongyang. Hwang Pyong-so said the talks taught the South a lesson not to create "groundless cases" and "provoke the other side."

But his colleague at the talks, Kim Yang-gon, said, "We must work to ensure that the North and the South do not get entangled in mysterious incidents as we did this time and worsen the political situation."

"As we mark the 70th year of our nation's independence this year, our view to creating a great change, a great revolution in North-South ties and opening a grand path to autonomous reunification is consistent."

Kim Jong-un's North Korea is apparently not his father's North Korea. North Korea's handling of these talks may reflect the South's cleverness, Kim Jong-un's weakness, or a new strategy. We can only hope this mix portends well for the future.