

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 4, No. 1

January 2008

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



USSVI Creed

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States Government"



Base web page: <http://www.ussvich.org/>

National web page: www.ussvi.org

Base Meeting:

Thursday, January 10, 2007

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		Phone Number
Commander	Steve Nelms	843-563-7115
Vice Commander	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Secretary	Ronnie Kerstetter	843-367-1026
Treasurer	George Lisle	843-559-4242

Special Officers

Special Officers	Phone Number
Chief of the Boat	Marty Sessler 843-871-1536
Public Affairs	Richard Cleeve 843-899-4563
Sub Vets WWII	Barnwell Chaplin 843-762-6945
Nuclear Historian	Ed Simokat 843-873-1709
Veterans Affairs	John Nichols 843-873-5897
Chaplain	John Nichols 843-875-3109
Membership	Carl Chinn 843-875-3098
Holland Club	Bob Lowe 843-573-9045
Little David Project	Rick Wise 843-875-5559
Roving Reporter	Rick Wise 843-875-5559
Scholarship	Jim Yates 843-873-0246
Newsletter	Carl Chinn 843-875-3098
Storekeeper	Paul Viering 843-797-2623
Alcohol & Gaming	Dave Mueller 843-553-2775

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Minutes of the December 2007 meeting

Carl Chinn and Paul Viering, Masters of Ceremonies welcomed all Submarine Veterans, spouses and guests to the annual Sub Vets Christmas Party. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and we tolled the boats for December.

Numerous door prizes were awarded. Thank you to all who donated some of the door prizes!

Tom Skorepa won the depth charge drawing of \$523. He immediately donated \$160 back to Charleston Base.

Thanks Tom!

The food was great, the camaraderie was better and a good time was had by all!

**** End of the minutes for December 2007 ****

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



Barnette, R	Beach	Coutu	Crookston
Farr	Farrell	Finch	Fletcher
Fuller	Gleason	Hansen	Hensarling
Isaman	Kay	Kirk	Lewis
Mabie	Moore	Nuzum	Owen
Shipman	Simokat	Stank	Tischler

January Submarines Lost:

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

"I can assure you that they went down fighting and that their brothers who survived them took a grim toll of our savage enemy to avenge their deaths."

Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, USN

Velez

Welch

Membership and Dues Information:

If you have any changes to your membership info (address, phone, e-mail, etc.) you can now make those changes directly on-line in the Sub Vets national database. If you want, I can make the changes for you...just let me know. If you have changes, please let me know at chasbasemembernews@sc.rr.com or carlc@sc.rr.com or call 875-3098. We need to keep the national database and our local information current and accurate. I update the COB, Chaplain and Base Commander with contact/personal information.

The following annual members will be dropped for non-payment of dues:

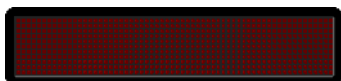
Chollet	\$35.00	Miller, R	\$35.00
Coy	\$35.00	Poole	\$35.00
Drentlaw	\$35.00	Rummans	\$35.00
Fuller	\$35.00	Sanders	\$35.00
Gallagher, G	\$35.00	Schirmer	\$35.00
Giddens	\$35.00	Siebert	\$35.00
Gleason	\$35.00	Stevenson, T	\$35.00
Hubert	\$35.00	Tischler	\$35.00
Lavergne	\$35.00	Velez	\$35.00
Martinson	\$35.00	Willis, D	\$35.00

The following National Life members or previous national dues paid members will be dropped from Charleston Base and transferred to the Member-At-Large list:

Camp	\$15.00	Fulton	\$15.00
Cates	\$15.00	Gallagher, R	\$15.00
Cline, R	\$15.00	Gawronski	\$15.00
Dentzman	\$15.00	Mulkey	\$15.00
Deschaine	\$15.00	Snyder, R	\$15.00

The following Charleston Base Life Member will be dropped for non-payment of National dues:

Jenkins \$20.00



January 10 – Regular meeting

January 19 – Republican Presidential Primary

January 29 – Democratic Presidential Primary

**Annual Elections**

Charleston Base officers are elected at the regular meeting in May each year. If you desire to run for or have a nomination for one of these positions: Commander, Vice-Commander, Treasurer or Secretary, please get your nomination to Stan

"It's hard sometimes, but as long as we remember them around the campfire, they will live forever."

Anonymous

Eastern Region Districts 4 and 6 Combined Conference

This year's conference will be held April 23 through 26 in King's Bay, GA., at the Ramada Inn.

We are still waiting for the registration forms. If we get any information it will be immediately passed on to the troops.

Problems Discovered With Submarine Welds

December 11, 2007

NEWPORT NEWS - Northrop Grumman Newport News and the U.S. Navy are inspecting welds on all Virginia-class submarines after finding problems with welds in the internal piping sections of those vessels, the Navy and the yard confirmed Monday.

An investigation by the Navy, Northrop Grumman and its shipbuilding partner, Groton, Conn.-based General Dynamics Electric Boat, revealed that inadequate processes at the Newport News shipyard allowed the improper use of a weld material that could lead to cracking of joints and result in leaks, according to a Navy statement.

The Navy and the two yards late last week began a detailed assessment of completed welds through record reviews, additional inspections and testing, said Katie Dunnigan, a Naval Sea Systems Command spokeswoman.

That assessment involves each of the four Virginia-class submarines, and it contributes to delays in the sea trials and delivery of the North Carolina, a submarine Northrop Grumman planned to hand over to the Navy at the end of the month. The boat's delivery has been pushed back to at least January, a yard spokeswoman said.

All Northrop Grumman Newport News-made non-nuclear piping systems are potentially affected, said Edward R. O'Connor, spokesman in Washington for the Navy's submarine program.

Inspections also have delayed operational testing of the Virginia by a few days, according to the Navy and the Newport News shipyard. The other two Virginia-class subs, the Hawaii and the Texas, are not at sea.

Based on initial findings, at least one joint on both the Virginia and Texas subs was deficient, O'Connor said in an e-mail.

The Navy and the shipyard learned about some of the problems during routine testing in August, but the Navy didn't initiate a large-scale investigation until recently. The assessment is due to be finished this week.

Once the investigation is completed, the Navy "will establish processes to address long-term effects of this problem," the statement said. "The Navy is committed to ensuring that our ships and submarines are built to the highest technical and safety standards."

Northrop Grumman Newport News spokeswoman Jennifer Dellapenta said the company already has taken a series of corrective actions to remedy the problem.

"We have a rigorous program in place that includes inspecting and evaluating our work to ensure it adheres to the Navy's strict requirements," she said. "When issues arise, it's something we address in an immediate and methodical way."

The problems stem from potential weaknesses where interior portions of the subs were welded together. Those welds, the Navy and the yard said, were not on any nuclear component or external portion of the ships.

Some welders and fitters used different welding materials than prescribed to hold portions of the boats together.

Standrich soon so your name will be on the ballot!

Terminology Trivia "Port and Starboard"

Port and starboard are shipboard terms for left and right, respectively. Confusing those two could cause a ship wreck. In Old England, the starboard was the steering paddle or rudder, and ships were always steered from the right side on the back of the vessel. Larboard referred to the left side, the side on which the ship was loaded. So how did larboard become port? Shouted over the noise of the wind and the waves, larboard and starboard sounded too much alike. The word port means the opening in the "left" side of the ship from which cargo was unloaded. Sailors eventually started using the term to refer to that side of the ship. Use of the term "port" was officially adopted by the U.S. Navy by General Order, 18 February 1846.



Reunion News

If you have information about a boat reunion that you want posted in the newsletter, please give me the details.

Veterans' Victory House: Home of the Greatest Generations

On December 19, Charleston Base donated numerous items including various clothing items (men & women), books, tapes, CDs, movies, caps, puzzles, etc., for the Veteran's Victory House located in Walterboro, SC. In addition, over \$700 in cash was donated. This included \$150 from Charleston Base directly and \$100 from the Christmas party Depth Charge drawing. Julian Villegas, nursing home liaison, delivered all items and made the presentation.



(l. to r.) Executive Director LeeAnne Newton, Julian Villegas (USSVI) and an unidentified worker with gifts and cash donated by USSVI Charleston Base.

12 Myths of 21st-Century War

Unaware of the cost of freedom and served by leaders without military expertise, Americans have started to believe whatever's comfortable

By Ralph Peters

We're in trouble. We're in danger of losing more wars. Our troops haven't forgotten how to fight. We've never had better men and women in uniform. But our leaders

Welding is a process that joins together materials, in this case steel and other metals, by heating a filler substance to form a pool of molten material that cools to produce a strong joint.

Using incorrect filler material, which included trace amounts of copper alloy welded into steel joints, can lead to cracking of the joints, and eventually, leaks, according to the Navy.

Once those errors were identified, the yard went to work repairing them, Dellapenta said.

In perhaps the most sweeping yard action, all welders and welding foremen will be required to attend a mandatory, eight-hour training session over the next few weeks. The training session will be followed by an examination, Dellapenta said.

The yard also has since prohibited welders from carrying multiple filler materials to reduce mistakes, and it now forbids them from correcting their errors without supervision.

The yard will take "appropriate actions" against welders found to have made errors, Dellapenta said. She didn't specify what those actions would be.

Shipyards workers told the Daily Press that they've known about the problems since at least October.

"It's something everyone is talking about, so it's no secret," said Brian Ribblett, a 30-year shipyard veteran welder who works on submarines. "It's really grating on people. We've never gone through anything like this. I mean, we've had problems here and there, but nothing to this scale."

Alton H. Glass Sr., president of Steelworkers Local 8888, the union that represents many of the yard's workers, said both Navy and Northrop Grumman officials are involved with the ongoing welding inspections on the North Carolina.

"This is not a small deal," Glass said. "Once the investigation is over, we'll know just how big a deal it is."

Father Joins Navy To Honor Fallen Son

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - Bill Krissoff never figured to be in a position to look President Bush in the eye and ask a favor.

But there he was, sitting in a room in Reno, Nev., with Bush and several other families who had lost soldiers in Iraq or Afghanistan.

His son, Marine Lt. Nathan Krissoff, 25, had been killed in a December 2006 roadside bomb explosion in Iraq.

Months later, Krissoff came to a carefully considered decision: He would honor his son by leaving a flourishing orthopedic practice, a comfortable life, to join the Navy as a combat surgeon.

But his application for an age waiver was mired in paperwork.

So, on that August day in Reno, when Bush went around the room and asked if there was anything he could do, Krissoff spoke up.

"I said, 'Yeah, there is one thing. I want to join the Navy medical corps and I gotta get some help here,'" recalled Krissoff, 61, a 1964 graduate of East Grand Rapids High School in Michigan who now lives in California, near Reno.

Three days after that meeting, the Navy called.

His waiver had been granted.

Krissoff was commissioned as a lieutenant commander Nov. 18, and he expects to attend officer development school in January. Attached to the 4th Medical Battalion, he plans to join a combat surgical team and hopes to serve in Iraq.

It is a story of loss and sacrifice being told on national

and many of our fellow Americans no longer grasp what war means or what it takes to win.

Thanks to those who have served in uniform, we've lived in such safety and comfort for so long that for many Americans sacrifice means little more than skipping a second trip to the buffet table. Two trends over the past four decades contributed to our national ignorance of the cost, and necessity, of victory. First, the most privileged Americans used the Vietnam War as an excuse to break their tradition of uniformed service. Ivy League universities once produced heroes. Now they resist Reserve Officer Training Corps representation on their campuses.

Yet, our leading universities still produce a disproportionate number of U.S. political leaders. The men and women destined to lead us in wartime dismiss military service as a waste of their time and talents. Delighted to pose for campaign photos with our troops, elected officials in private disdain the military. Only one serious presidential aspirant in either party is a veteran, while another presidential hopeful pays as much for a single haircut as I took home in a month as an Army private.

Second, we've stripped in-depth U.S. history classes out of our schools. Since the 1960s, one history course after another has been cut, while the content of those remaining focuses on social issues and our alleged misdeeds. Dumbed-down textbooks minimize the wars that kept us free. As a result, ignorance of the terrible price our troops had to pay for freedom in the past creates absurd expectations about our present conflicts. When the media offer flawed or biased analyses, the public lacks the knowledge to make informed judgments.

This combination of national leadership with no military expertise and a population that hasn't been taught the cost of freedom leaves us with a government that does whatever seems expedient and a citizenry that believes whatever's comfortable. Thus, myths about war thrive.

Myth No. 1: War doesn't change anything.

This campus slogan contradicts all of human history. Over thousands of years, war has been the last resort - and all too frequently the first resort - of tribes, religions, dynasties, empires, states and demagogues driven by grievance, greed or a heartless quest for glory. No one believes that war is a good thing, but it is sometimes necessary. We need not agree in our politics or on the manner in which a given war is prosecuted, but we can't pretend that if only we laid down our arms all others would do the same.

Wars, in fact, often change everything. Who would argue that the American Revolution, our Civil War or World War II changed nothing? Would the world be better today if we had been pacifists in the face of Nazi Germany and imperial Japan?

Certainly, not all of the changes warfare has wrought through the centuries have been positive. Even a just war may generate undesirable results, such as Soviet tyranny over half of Europe after 1945. But of one thing we may be certain: a U.S. defeat in any war is a defeat not only for freedom, but for civilization. Our enemies

media outlets from People Magazine to "The Early Show" on CBS.

But Krissoff considers himself anything but a hero. He reserves words like that for people such as his son.

"The loss of a son puts a certain perspective on things.

"It's my turn to serve. I'm honored and privileged that the Navy will have me in the medical corps," Krissoff said.

His brother, East Grand Rapids resident Joel Krissoff, 64, said the decision is very much in character.

"I think it's something he wanted and needed to do. He and Nate were extremely close. It helps him deal with Nate's being gone to get into this," Joel Krissoff said.

That's also the way Grand Rapids resident Kay Hammond, 59, a first cousin to Krissoff, sees it.

"I just think there is a poignant symmetry to the decision. Nathan loved the Marines so and was so dedicated to them. He gave his life to them."

The younger Krissoff joined the Marines in 2004 with a background that might not have predicted a military career. He wrote poetry as a youngster and was an accomplished pianist.

Before graduating from Williams College in Williamstown, Mass., he was captain of the swim team, in addition to being a whitewater kayaker and alpine skier.

The outdoor activities were a joy shared by Nathan, his father, and his younger brother, Austin, 24, who joined the Marines shortly before Nathan died.

The family kept word of Nathan's death from Austin until after he graduated from the same Marine Corps officer school in Quantico, Va.

"Nate was an extraordinary man in a lot of ways," Bill Krissoff said.

He realizes that by some perspectives, his decision might be viewed as sacrifice. He and his wife, Christine, plan to sell their house and move to San Diego. They see it as another chapter in their life, perhaps a way to ease the grief they have shared for nearly a year.

"Really, I'm just inspired by the dedication to service of both my sons," Krissoff said.

Christine Krissoff, 56, has made peace with his choice as well. But it doesn't mean she won't miss her husband.

"I am not fine with the amount of time he's gone. But none of the wives of the military people who serve are going to be fine with it.

"That's just part of the deal."

His mother, East Grand Rapids resident Sylvia Krissoff, 88, said she was "shocked" when she learned what he planned to do. Then it started to make sense to her.

"I think, for him, it really is great. It's really an extension of his love for Nate and, in some ways, carrying on for what Nate would have done.

"Nate would have been so proud of him."

Typical Navy Chief

Harold was an old Retired Navy Chief Engineman. He was sick and was in the VA hospital. Anyway, there was this one young nurse that just drove him crazy. Every time she came in, she would talk to him like he was a little child. She would say in a patronizing tone of voice, 'And how are we doing this morning, or are we ready for our bath, or are we hungry?'

Old Harold had had enough of this particular nurse.

One day, Old Harold had received breakfast, and pulled the juice off the tray, and put it on his bed side stand. He had just been given a urine bottle to fill for testing. The juice was apple juice. So...you know where the juice went.

Well, the nurse came in a little later and picked up the urine bottle. She looks at it. 'My, but it seems we are a little

believe that war can change the world. And they won't be deterred by bumper stickers.

Myth No. 2: Victory is impossible today.

Victory is always possible, if our nation is willing to do what it takes to win. But victory is, indeed, impossible if U.S. troops are placed under impossible restrictions, if their leaders refuse to act boldly, if every target must be approved by lawyers, and if the American people are disheartened by a constant barrage of negativity from the media. We don't need generals who pop up behind microphones to apologize for every mistake our soldiers make. We need generals who win.

And you can't win if you won't fight. We're at the start of a violent struggle that will ebb and flow for decades, yet our current generation of leaders, in and out of uniform, worries about hurting the enemy's feelings. One of the tragedies of our involvement in Iraq is that while we did a great thing by removing Saddam Hussein, we tried to do it on the cheap. It's an iron law of warfare that those unwilling to pay the butcher's bill up front will pay it with compound interest in the end. We not only didn't want to pay that bill, but our leaders imagined that we could make friends with our enemies even before they were fully defeated. Killing a few hundred violent actors like Moqtada al-Sadr in 2003 would have prevented thousands of subsequent American deaths and tens of thousands of Iraqi deaths. We started something our national leadership lacked the guts to finish.

Despite our missteps, victory looked a great deal less likely in the early months of 1942 than it does against our enemies today. Should we have surrendered after the fall of the Philippines? Today's opinion makers and elected officials have lost their grip on what it takes to win. In the timeless words of Nathan Bedford Forrest, "War means fighting, and fighting means killing."

And in the words of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, "It is fatal to enter any war without the will to win it."

Myth No. 3: Insurgencies can never be defeated.

Historically, fewer than one in 20 major insurgencies succeeded. Virtually no minor ones survived. In the mid-20th century, insurgencies scored more wins than previously had been the case, but that was because the European colonial powers against which they rebelled had already decided to rid themselves of their imperial possessions. Even so, more insurgencies were defeated than not, from the Philippines to Kenya to Greece. In the entire 18th century, our war of independence was the only insurgency that defeated a major foreign power and drove it out for good.

The insurgencies we face today are, in fact, more lethal than the insurrections of the past century. We now face an international terrorist insurgency as well as local rebellions, all motivated by religious passion or ethnicity or a fatal compound of both. The good news is that in over 3,000 years of recorded history, insurgencies motivated by faith and blood overwhelmingly failed. The bad news is that they had to be put down with remorseless bloodshed.

Myth No. 4: There's no military solution; only negotiations can solve our problems.

cloudy today...'

At this, Old Harold snatched the bottle out of her hand, pops off the top, and drinks it down, saying, 'Well, I'll run it through again, and maybe I can filter it better this time.'

The nurse fainted...

Old Harold just smiled...

Typical Chief!

From Richard Cleeve

Updated the web site by adding pictures from Christmas party and a link for upcoming boat reunions in the Charleston area.

From The Storekeeper

2008 USSVI calendars are \$8.00 and they are going fast. Check out the store, I have new Patches, Pins and Hats. Get out of that Christmas slump order your vest or jacket at the January meeting. As a reminder the store is only open at the meetings, but if you have a question or need to inquire about something my phone is 797-2623 and the email for the store is cb.sk@comcast.net. Hope all enjoyed the Christmas Party and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

For DBF Sailors

They say we have it easy, and maybe they are right. We've never felt a depth charge, we've never seen a fight.

We don't stink of deisel, we wash our clothes each week.

The nukes will make us tons of water, our hull it doesn't leak.

The smokeboat sailors have their fun, they say no boomer's cool,

"Hey squid can I come on your boat and swim around your pool?"

They say we're soft, we'll never know, just what their boats went through

to end a war they didn't start and wish they never knew.

Yes it's true, our fish stay dry, none pass the outer doors.

But wasn't that the final goal of The War to End All Wars?

So listen now, and listen well, we stand our watches well

and if the time should ever come, we too, will face our hell.

You did your job, you've earned our thanks, and the lessons that you taught

are passed to each and every every nub that thinks that he's so hot.

His quals will be as tough as when you first filled out your card.

No sleazy sigs will sully what was meant to be damned hard.

For when those dolphins are tacked on, you know he'll beam with pride.

And pass on those traditions of the men who fought and died.

We share the tales we've heard from you, sometimes we change the names.

But don't you ever start to think, we're out here playing games.

In most cases, the reverse is true. Negotiations solve nothing until a military decision has been reached and one side recognizes a peace agreement as its only hope of survival. It would be a welcome development if negotiations fixed the problems we face in Iraq, but we're the only side interested in a negotiated solution. Every other faction - the terrorists, Sunni insurgents, Shia militias, Iran and Syria - is convinced it can win. The only negotiations that produce lasting results are those conducted from positions of indisputable strength.

Myth No. 5: When we fight back, we only provoke our enemies.

When dealing with bullies, either in the schoolyard or in a global war, the opposite is true: if you don't fight back, you encourage your enemy to behave more viciously. Passive resistance only works when directed against rule-of-law states, such as the core English-speaking nations. It doesn't work where silent protest is answered with a bayonet in the belly or a one-way trip to a political prison. We've allowed far too many myths about the "innate goodness of humanity" to creep up on us. Certainly, many humans would rather be good than bad. But if we're unwilling to fight the fraction of humanity that's evil, armed and determined to subjugate the rest, we'll face even grimmer conflicts.

Myth No. 6: Killing terrorists only turns them into martyrs.

It's an anomaly of today's Western world that privileged individuals feel more sympathy for dictators, mass murderers and terrorists - consider the irrational protests against Guantanamo - than they do for their victims. We were told, over and over, that killing Osama bin Laden or Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, hanging Saddam Hussein or targeting the Taliban's Mullah Omar would only unite their followers. Well, we haven't yet gotten Osama or Omar, but Zarqawi's dead and forgotten by his own movement, whose members never invoke that butcher's memory. And no one is fighting to avenge Saddam. The harsh truth is that when faced with true fanatics, killing them is the only way to end their influence. Imprisoned, they galvanize protests, kidnappings, bombings and attacks that seek to free them. Want to make a terrorist a martyr? Just lock him up. Attempts to try such monsters in a court of law turn into mockeries that only provide public platforms for their hate speech, which the global media is delighted to broadcast. Dead, they're dead. And killing them is the ultimate proof that they lack divine protection. Dead terrorists don't kill.

Myth No. 7: If we fight as fiercely as our enemies, we're no better than them.

Did the bombing campaign against Germany turn us into Nazis? Did dropping atomic bombs on Japan to end the war and save hundreds of thousands of American lives, as well as millions of Japanese lives, turn us into the beasts who conducted the Bataan Death March? The greatest immorality is for the United States to lose a war. While we seek to be as humane as the path to victory permits, we cannot shrink from doing what it takes to win. At present, the media and influential elements of our society are obsessed with the small immoralities that are inevitable in wartime. Soldiers are

We might not have to close and shoot, a ship that's in our scope.
Our mission differs from what you had, and so, you'd better hope,
that in our life, your children's too, in fact, for long past that,
that we will never get flash traffic with a message that cause birds, not fish, to swim away and bring their judgement down
on an enemy that we've not seen, nor pinged with sonar sound.

For if we ever fire those shots and bring the fury of the sun
to those who threaten you and yours, then our hell has just begun.

You came back heroes to your homes, maybe greeted with a band.

But we'll come back to nothing, no homes, no kids, no land.

For our war will be the one that really is the end.

It started with the fires of hell that we were told to send.

So go ahead and have your fun, we'll take on your best shot,

but then go home, and go to sleep, our job is finished not.

We'll just go on making more patrols, not much to do out here.

Four knots to nowhere, punching holes in an ocean, without fear.

John Eckard

myPay And The Unknown Capabilities

While most retirees use myPay to retrieve their Retiree Account Statement (RAS) and 1099R Tax Statement, many may not be aware of the other features offered in their myPay account. myPay provides the customer with the access and capability to input desired or needed changes at their convenience.

The following questions and answers, based on topics raised during the Retiree Conference held in Cleveland on October 6, 2007, address some of these ways myPay helps customers keep their accounts secure and up-to-date.

Did you know you need to register/update your e-mail address using your myPay account?

If you wish to receive the DFAS Smartdoc e-mail notices announcing the availability of various pay products or notices affecting your pay account, you must register your e-mail address in myPay .

On your myPay main menu, you will find an option for e-mail Address. If you have not registered your e-mail address or you need to update your e-mail address, select this option and enter your new e-mail address under the Secure Personal E-mail. You will need to enter your new e-mail address twice to confirm it. Next, click on the radio button to mark it Primary. Click on Accept/Submit to send your transaction to DFAS.

Registering your e-mail address allows DFAS to communicate with you directly by providing system generated e-mail notifications when a new pay product

human, and no matter how rigorous their training, a miniscule fraction of our troops will do vicious things and must be punished as a consequence. Not everyone in uniform will turn out to be a saint, and not every chain of command will do its job with equal effectiveness. But obsessing on tragic incidents - of which there have been remarkably few in Iraq or Afghanistan - obscures the greater moral issue: the need to defeat enemies who revel in butchering the innocent, who celebrate atrocities, and who claim their god wants blood.

Myth No. 8: The United States is more hated today than ever before.

Those who served in Europe during the Cold War remember enormous, often-violent protests against U.S. policy that dwarfed today's let's-have-fun-on-a-Sunday-afternoon rallies. Older readers recall the huge ban-the-bomb, pro-communist demonstrations of the 1950s and the vast seas of demonstrators filling the streets of Paris, Rome and Berlin to protest our commitment to Vietnam. Imagine if we'd had 24/7 news coverage of those rallies. I well remember serving in Germany in the wake of our withdrawal from Saigon, when U.S. soldiers were despised by the locals - who nonetheless were willing to take our money - and terrorists tried to assassinate U.S. generals.

The fashionable anti-Americanism of the chattering classes hasn't stopped the world from seeking one big green card. As I've traveled around the globe since 9/11, I've found that below the government-spokesman/professional-radical level, the United States remains the great dream for university graduates from Berlin to Bangalore to Bogota.

On the domestic front, we hear ludicrous claims that our country has never been so divided. Well, that leaves out our Civil War. Our historical amnesia also erases the violent protests of the late 1960s and early 1970s, the mass confrontations, rioting and deaths. Is today's America really more fractured than it was in 1968?

Myth No. 9: Our invasion of Iraq created our terrorist problems.

This claim rearranges the order of events, as if the attacks of 9/11 happened after Baghdad fell. Our terrorist problems have been created by the catastrophic failure of Middle Eastern civilization to compete on any front and were exacerbated by the determination of successive U.S. administrations, Democrat and Republican, to pretend that Islamist terrorism was a brief aberration. Refusing to respond to attacks, from the bombings in Beirut to Khobar Towers, from the first attack on the Twin Towers to the near-sinking of the USS Cole, we allowed our enemies to believe that we were weak and cowardly. Their unchallenged successes served as a powerful recruiting tool.

Did our mistakes on the ground in Iraq radicalize some new recruits for terror? Yes. But imagine how many more recruits there might have been and the damage they might have inflicted on our homeland had we not responded militarily in Afghanistan and then carried the fight to Iraq. Now Iraq is al-Qaeda's Vietnam, not ours.

Myth No. 10: If we just leave, the Iraqis will patch up their differences on their own.

(1099R, Retiree newsletters, etc.) is available for your view, save and print. Share this information with other military retirees you know.

Did you know you can create an Alternate ID to use in place of your Social Security Number (SSN) to access your myPay account?

This function allows you to create a unique User ID to use as your Log-In ID vice your SSN. In today's world, many people are concerned about using their SSN, especially when they use common access or shared computers (libraries, work, schools or Internet cafes, etc.).

To create an Alternate LOGIN ID, select the Personal Settings Page option from the myPay main menu. From the Personal Settings Page Menu, select the Change LOGIN ID option. Review the available HELP info located on that page before creating your LOGIN ID to find the criteria for creating your Alternate ID.

Did you know you can create a Restricted Access Pin? What is it?

This function allows our customers to share their personal finance information with another person. The Restricted Access PIN allows READ ONLY access to your Retiree Account Statement (RAS) and your 1099R Tax Statement. This means they can only view your information and cannot submit or make any changes to your account. One example where you might want to create a Restricted Access PIN is for your tax accountant or a family member that assists you in preparing your taxes. They can access your 1099R tax information without you being present. You may delete the Restricted Access PIN anytime.

To create a Restricted Access PIN, select the Personal Settings Page option from the myPay main menu. From the Personal Settings Page Menu, select the Restricted Access PIN option. Review the available HELP info located on that page before creating your Restricted Access PIN. Restricted Access PINs contain 4-8 characters and must start with an ALPHA character (A-Z) and have between 3-7 numbers.

Did you know myPay has implemented a Virtual Keyboard you must use to LOGIN?

A Virtual Keyboard was implemented to help further protect your personal information. myPay customers must use the Virtual Keyboard to enter their myPay PIN. You must use your mouse (or other pointing device) to enter your myPay PIN and then click on the GO button. This Virtual Keyboard helps prevent key logging and other malicious software from capturing your myPay PIN. Future security enhancements are continuing to be developed to protect your personal information. Security is myPay's number one priority.

Annual Retiree Account Statements

Military retirees and annuitants paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) can expect to receive their tax statements and end-of-year statements beginning mid-December on myPay . DFAS will be sending a combined mailing to those retirees who do not have access to myPay and to those

The point may come at which we have to accept that Iraqis are so determined to destroy their own future that there's nothing more we can do. But we're not there yet, and leaving immediately would guarantee not just one massacre but a series of slaughters and the delivery of a massive victory to the forces of terrorism. We must be open-minded about practical measures, from changes in strategy to troop reductions, if that's what the developing situation warrants. But it's grossly irresponsible to claim that our presence is the primary cause of the violence in Iraq - an allegation that ignores history.

Myth No. 11: It's all Israel's fault. Or the popular Washington corollary: "The Saudis are our friends." Israel is the Muslim world's excuse for failure, not a reason for it. Even if we didn't support Israel, Islamist extremists would blame us for countless other imagined wrongs, since they fear our freedoms and our culture even more than they do our military. All men and women of conscience must recognize the core difference between Israel and its neighbors: Israel genuinely wants to live in peace, while its genocidal neighbors want Israel erased from the map.

As for the mad belief that the Saudis are our friends, it endures only because the Saudis have spent so much money on both sides of the aisle in Washington. Saudi money continues to subsidize anti-Western extremism, to divide fragile societies, and encourage hatred between Muslims and all others. Saudi extremism has done far more damage to the Middle East than Israel ever did. The Saudis are our enemies.

Myth No. 12: The Middle East's problems are all America's fault.

Muslim extremists would like everyone to believe this, but it just isn't true. The collapse of once great Middle Eastern civilizations has been under way for more than five centuries, and the region became a backwater before the United States became a country. For the first century and a half of our national existence, our relations with the people of the Middle East were largely beneficent and protective, notwithstanding our conflict with the Barbary Pirates in North Africa. But Islamic civilization was on a downward trajectory that could not be arrested. Its social and economic structures, its values, its neglect of education, its lack of scientific curiosity, the indolence of its ruling classes and its inability to produce a single modern state that served its people all guaranteed that, as the West's progress accelerated, the Middle East would fall ever farther behind. The Middle East has itself to blame for its problems.

None of us knows what our strategic future holds, but we have no excuse for not knowing our own past. We need to challenge inaccurate assertions about our policies, about our past and about war itself. And we need to work within our community and state education systems to return balanced, comprehensive history programs to our schools. The unprecedented wealth and power of the United States allows us to afford many things denied to human beings throughout history. But we, the people, cannot afford ignorance.

Ralph Peters is a retired Army officer, strategist and author of 22 books, including the recent "Wars of Blood

retirees who have requested a hardcopy of a Retired Account Statement (RAS) or a 1099R. All annuitants will receive a combined mailing of both the Annuity Account Statement (AAS) and the 1099R.

Legacy Submariner



Rear Adm. John Bird, Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, U.S. Pacific Fleet presents "dolphins" to Lt. j.g. Tyler McDonald during a pinning ceremony aboard the Los Angeles-class submarine, USS Bremerton (SSN 698). McDonald continued a family legacy by becoming a third-generation submariner, following in the footsteps of his grandfather and father, both career submariners. The special dolphins McDonald now wears are engraved with the dates his grandfather and father were pinned.

PEARL HARBOR (NNS) – A distinguished moment in any submariner's career is the day he pins on his dolphins. The submarine warfare pin signifies that Sailor has completed the rigorous and challenging training required to be a qualified Navy submariner. In a very unique ceremony at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on board USS Bremerton (SSN 698), Dec. 18, Lt. j.g. Tyler McDonald joined the proud ranks of those sailors when his own dolphins were pinned to his uniform.

These dolphins, however, have a legacy much more personal, as they are the same dolphins pinned on McDonald's father, a 1977 Naval Academy graduate, and his grandfather, a 1949 Naval Academy graduate, both men career naval submariners.

McDonald continued the proud family tradition and put on these dolphins, which have been engraved with the dates his father and grandfather were pinned.

Rear Adm. John Bird, Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, United States Pacific Fleet, pinned on McDonald's dolphins. Bird, an Academy classmate of McDonald's father and close friend of his grandfather, said that it was, "a real great honor and distinct pleasure to participate in this special event."

"Every time I think about the day I got my own dolphins, I feel a bond with the rich history of submarining," said Bird.

McDonald himself remained humble regarding the proceedings. "Thanks to everyone who has helped me out along the way," McDonald said. "I promise to keep doing my best and to pass on the knowledge I have gained to all new submariners throughout my career."

and Faith: The Conflicts That Will Shape the 21st Century.”

Don't Forget To Vote!

Being able to vote in a democratic society is a great privilege AND right!

Regardless of your party affiliation, opinions or ideals, make sure you make your voice heard and your vote count in the upcoming 2008 primaries and subsequent national election for president.

Not only do we have the right to vote, we have a responsibility to make our desires known and heard.

Special thank you for donation

Charleston Base extends a hearty "Thank You" to an anonymous donor to our Admiral Osborne Scholarship Fund.

This anonymous guy donated \$1,000.00 to the scholarship fund. What a guy!

Thanks, Mr. I-don't-want-anyone-to-know-who-I-am!!

