

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 7, No. 11

November 2011

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

USSVI Creed

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



Base Meeting:

November 10, 2011 Social hour 1800, General Meeting 1900

Location:

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

Special Officers Phone Number

Chief of the Boat	Rick Sparger	843-553-5594
Public Affairs	Larry Starland	843 863-8474
Veterans Affairs	Jim Morrison	843-832-9716
Chaplain	John "Nick" Nichols	843-452-3189
Membership	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Holland Club	John Lookabill	843-797-2991
Scholarship	Julian Villegas	843-871-6135
Newsletter	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Storekeeper	Ken Hutchison	843-553-0935
Webmaster	John "Nick" Nichols	843-452-3189
Historian	George Scharf	843 873-3318

Base Officers Phone Number

Commander	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Vice Commander	Marty Sessler	843-871-1536
Secretary		
Treasurer	Terry Trump	843-873-9563

Minutes of the October 2011 meeting

Attendance for the October, 2011 meeting was 86

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

Introductions: One new person, Ben Trapp, was introduced. Welcome aboard.

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

Treasurer: Terry Trump gave a Base financial report for September 2011.

Vice Commander: No report

Newsletter: No report

Membership: Dues were due by 1 Oct 2011, pay your dues.

Storekeeper: New Storekeeper Ken Hutchison said if you have ordered something please pick it up.

Scholarship: No report

Public Affairs: Summerville NJROTC will be using WWII vets in halftime of game on 28 Oct. Lee Allison will represent the Navy.

Chaplain: Ken Curtis made the Chaplain's report in Nick's absence.

Ed Stank and wife, Pauline are home and she is weak, but recovering one day at a time.

John Houck, son of Curly Houck, passed away on 18 September.

Jim Yates had kidney surgery on early September and is ready to go back to work. Pathology report came back cancer free.

Ken Curtis and his wife are recovering from upper respiratory problems.

Rick Collins' wife Colleen had hysterectomy surgery and is at home recovering.

Rodney McKanna is recovering from the infection in his leg.

Larry Rosselot had back surgery on 4 October and is home recovering.

Please have your pictures taken for the web site and also go there to complete your Page 2 for the Chaplain. Several follow-ups were made on those who've had surgery or illnesses in the last couple of months along with the base sending additional cards.

If you know of shipmates or spouses from other bases who are having a difficult time, had surgery, etc. and would like for USSVI Charleston Base to send them a card please send their name and address to the Chaplain via email or phone call.

Webmaster: No report

Veteran's Affairs: No report

Little David: No report

Holland Club: No report

SUBVETS WWII: Lee reported that he has reconnected with 2 WWII vets, Bruce Wright and Ray Murphy. Calendars are still for sale, \$8 each. Meeting on Thursday, 20 October at Ryan's in Summerville. WWII vets will be at Summerville stadium on 28 October during half time. Panama Jack is to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on 9 November about 1000.

Historian: No report

District Commander: Sub Vets WWII Memorial 2-6 November in King's Bay. 2012 National convention in Norfolk. He was asked about the Southeast Regional Convention and said it will held in Mobile, AL.

Nuclear Historian: Rick told us about God's sense of humor and gave us his opinion on changes.

Fleet Reserve: 16 October is the Taste of the Fleet 1330-1630. Indoor picnic on Veterans Day.

Chief of the Boat: Congratulations to new Storekeeper Ken Hutchison.

Hog roast 22 October. Need small working party around noon to help set up.

Need a couple of guys to help with chairs and equipment for the Stimson reunion Boat Tolling on 15 October, early morning.

Christmas party on 3 December I have tickets tonight.

Navy birthday cake (and cupcakes for the Nucs) provided by the Fleet, available tonight, help yourselves.

Base Commander: Veterans Day service on 11 November starts at 1030; muster at 1000; County Services building on Main St. in Summerville.

Old Business: Float work completed by Hill Tire Center on Rivers Ave. at a cost of \$575.50 for 6 new tires, replaced outer bearings, repacked inner bearings, brakes cleaned and inspected and all labor. Thank you letter sent and an appreciation plaque will be presented.

New Business:

Further repairs to the float are being reviewed.

Good Of The Order: Rick Sparger's hearing aid ordeal was let out of the bag by John Lookabill.

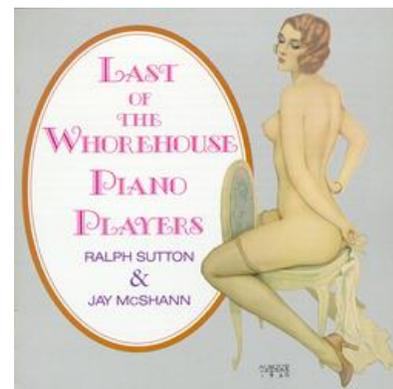
Rusty Pickett reported the Sam Houston bench will be installed at the Cold War Memorial on 21 October at 1000. Next bench going in is the Sandlance.

Mike Emerson reports Small Honor Flight from Savannah next weekend returning about 2100 Saturday night, 22 October.

Theron Irving reports that the Ft. Jacson Exchange is now selling firearms.

Depth Charge drawing winner Bill Roup donated \$50 to the Scholarship Fund.

Meeting Adjourned: The Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 1955.



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

2012 USSVI Dues Are Past Due

2012 dues were due on 1 October 2011. Please pay your dues ASAP.

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

You can submit by mail (payable to USSVI):
Membership Chairman
217 Brailsford Rd.
Summerville, SC 29485-5405

Dink List:

Acton	Leal
Andersen, D	Litzenberger
Baker	Londergan
Bates	Lowe
Beach	McFarland
Bolin	Miller, M
Bonow	Mook
Brown	Mulkey
Cline	Murray
Comp	Narowski
Curtis	Neufeld
Dasch	Oser
Daschle	Ougourlian
Davis, D	Peters
Davis, P	Phillips
Donofrio	Rohrssen
Dygert	Rothfusz
Erickson	Schaffer
Farr, C	Sickle
Fenton	Simokat
Forbes	Sites
Gibson, J	Skinner
Graham	Slattery
Hayes, L	Smith, M
Helton	Spear
Holycross	Steffen
Horton	Taylor
Johnson, D	Tolbert
Johnson, E	Veres
Jones, W	Weir
Karriker	Wickenhoffer
Kay	Wilson, M
Kimzey	Yingling
Langley	Young, N



November Birthdays!

Andrews	Barnette, G	Bergamo	Betz
Buxton	Gallagher, R	Gomez	Lawson
Lehmann	Hubert	Kerstetter	LaForce
Langley	Leonhardt	Litzenberger	McKanna
McLochlin	Miller, M	Morrison	Mueller
Munoz	Narowski	O'Brien	Pease
Power	Rader	Seal	Skinner
Starland	Viering	Wilson, M	Wolfe
Wright			

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

November Submarines Lost:

USS Corvina	SS 226	November 16, 1943
USS Sculpin	SS 191	November 19, 1943
USS Capelin	SS 289	November 23, 1943
USS Albacore	SS 218	November 7, 1944
USS Growler	SS 215	November 8, 1944
USS Scamp	SS 277	November 9, 1944

"If you listen closely, you can hear the rumbling of the diesels and the roar of the Klaxon. Then, in a swirl of bubble, and a whisper of foam, he disappears beneath the waves on his eternal patrol..."

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS!

November 10 – Regular Monthly Meeting

November 11 – Veterans Day Ceremony, Dorchester County Services building on Main Street in Summerville. Starts at 1030; muster 1000

"Again I ask, who really are our Hero's? They are the men who have, since the first day of our great country, left their families and friends and gone to war asking for nothing and giving all."

SOME GAVE ALL.

Annual Christmas Party



The Charleston Base Christmas Party will be on 3 December 2011. It will be held at the same location as the past several years; **Gatherings** in beautiful downtown Dorchester, SC.



Same rules as always...

you must have a ticket to attend and **THERE WILL BE NO TICKET SALES AT THE DOOR!**

Cocktails at 1700, Dinner at 1830

Dress is not prescribed, come comfortable, as you desire.

Coat and tie, slacks and shirt, etc.

Tickets will be available starting October meeting. **Last day to buy tickets is 10 November meeting.** Buy early!

Also available at the hog roast. Ticket price: \$15 per person for member and spouse/girlfriend. \$20 per person for all other guests.

Recognizing Our Most Valuable Weapon - The Submariner

Commander, Submarine Forces Blog, September 26

I received some good news Friday that I wanted to share and highlight.

Almost every time I get to speak, I reinforce that the success of our undersea forces depends on our people - dedicated, technically skilled and engaged warriors.

These words are taken directly from the Design for Undersea Warfare.

Their technical abilities and years of Submarining are key to the success of our Force as a whole. Our Senior Chiefs and Master Chiefs are peerless leaders, mentors and technical experts. We could not do what we do without them. We need these experienced Submariners in order to accomplish our mission, and we need them at sea.

While no monetary value can truly compensate these Submariners for what they bring to our Force, the Navy recently demonstrated how much they value the service of our senior enlisted leaders. A Submarine Duty Incentive Pay (SUBPAY) increase was approved on August 30 for Senior Chief and Master Chief Petty Officers with over 18 years of service. The increase, written about in this Chief of Naval Personnel article, only underscores the value the Navy places on its

Submarine Force and our enlisted leadership. This SUBPAY increase is designed to encourage our senior enlisted leaders to return to sea, where their knowledge and expertise are critical to our success. I'm encouraged and pleased with this news which will take effect on 1 October of this year.

Another example of making the Design for Undersea Warfare real.

Semper Procinctum

VADM John M. Richardson

Commander, U.S. Submarine Force

Iran Says It Could Deploy Submarines Near U.S. Coast

sanfranciscosentinel.com, Sept 27, 2011

Iran on Tuesday raised the prospect of sending military ships close to the United States' Atlantic coast, in what would be a major escalation of tensions between the long-standing adversaries.

"Like the arrogant powers that are present near our marine borders, we will also have a powerful presence close to American marine borders," Navy Chief Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said, according to the official IRNA news agency.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the 31st anniversary of the start of Iran's 1980-1988 war with Iraq, Sayyari gave no details of when such a deployment could happen or the number or type of vessels to be used.

The declaration comes just weeks after Turkey said it would host a NATO early warning radar system which will help spot missile threats from outside Europe, including potentially from Iran. The decision has angered Tehran which had enjoyed close relations with Ankara.

And it comes a few months after Iran sent warships through the Suez Canal, after the fall of former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the first time the Islamic Republic had deployed navy vessels in the Mediterranean.

The United States and Israel have not ruled out military action against Iran if diplomacy fails to stop it getting nuclear weapons. Tehran denies it is developing nuclear arms, saying its atomic program is for purely peaceful purposes.

Iran has dismissed the threats, warning that it will respond by hitting US interests in the Gulf and Israel if any such attack happened.

Analysts say Tehran could retaliate by launching hit-and-run strikes in the Gulf and by closing the Strait of Hormuz, the waterway where about 40% of all traded oil passes.

The Islamic state often launches military drills in the country to display its military capabilities amid persistent speculation about a possible US or Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear facilities.

Computer Virus Hits U.S. Drone Fleet

A computer virus has infected the cockpits of America's Predator and Reaper drones, logging pilots' every keystroke as they remotely fly missions over Afghanistan and other warzones.

The virus, first detected nearly two weeks ago by the military's Host-Based Security System, has not prevented pilots at Creech Air Force Base in Nevada from flying their missions overseas. Nor have there been any confirmed incidents of classified information being lost or sent to an outside source. But the virus has resisted multiple efforts to remove it from Creech's computers, network security specialists say. And the infection underscores the ongoing security risks in what has become the U.S. military's most important weapons system.

"We keep wiping it off, and it keeps coming back," says a source familiar with the network infection, one of three that told Danger Room about the virus. "We think it's benign. But we just don't know."

Military network security specialists aren't sure whether the virus and its so-called "keylogger" payload were introduced intentionally or by accident; it may be a common piece of malware that just happened to make its way into these sensitive networks. The specialists don't know exactly how far the virus has spread. But they're sure that the infection has hit both classified and unclassified machines at Creech. That raises the possibility, at least, that secret data may have been captured by the keylogger, and then transmitted over the public internet to someone outside the military chain of command.

Drones have become America's tool of choice in both its conventional and shadow wars, allowing U.S. forces to attack targets and spy on its foes without risking American lives. Since President Obama assumed office, a fleet of approximately 30 CIA-directed drones have hit targets in Pakistan more than 230 times; all told, these drones have killed more than 2,000 suspected militants and civilians, according to the Washington Post. More than 150 additional Predator and Reaper drones, under U.S. Air Force control, watch over the fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq. American military drones struck 92 times in Libya between mid-April and late August. And late last month, an American drone killed top terrorist Anwar al-Awlaki -- part of an escalating unmanned air assault in the Horn of Africa and southern Arabian peninsula.

But despite their widespread use, the drone systems are known to have security flaws. Many Reapers and Predators don't encrypt the video they transmit to American troops on the ground. In the summer of 2009, U.S. forces discovered "days and days and hours and hours" of the drone footage on the laptops of Iraqi insurgents. A \$26 piece of software allowed the militants to capture the video.

The lion's share of U.S. drone missions are flown by Air Force pilots stationed at Creech, a tiny outpost in the barren Nevada desert, 20 miles north of a state prison and adjacent to a one-story casino. In a nondescript building, down a largely unmarked hallway, is a series of rooms, each with a rack of servers and a "ground control station," or GCS. There, a drone pilot and a sensor operator sit in their flight suits in front of a series of screens. In the pilot's hand is the joystick, guiding the drone as it soars above Afghanistan, Iraq, or some other battlefield.

Some of the GCSs are classified secret, and used for conventional warzone surveillance duty. The GCSs handling more exotic operations are top secret. None of the remote cockpits are supposed to be connected to the public internet. Which means they are supposed to be largely immune to viruses and other network security threats. But time and time again, the so-called "air gaps" between classified and public networks have been bridged, largely through the use of discs and removable drives. In late 2008, for example, the drives helped introduce the agent.btz worm to hundreds of thousands of Defense Department computers. The Pentagon is still disinfecting machines, three years later.

Use of the drives is now severely restricted throughout the military. But the base at Creech was one of the exceptions, until the virus hit. Predator and Reaper crews use removable hard drives to load map updates and transport mission videos from one computer to another. The virus is believed to have spread through these removable drives. Drone units at other Air Force bases worldwide have now been ordered to stop their use. In the meantime, technicians at Creech are trying to get the virus off the GCS machines. It has not been easy. At first, they followed removal instructions posted on the website of the Kaspersky security firm. "But the virus kept coming back," a source familiar with the infection says. Eventually, the technicians had to use a software tool called BCWipe to completely erase the GCS' internal hard drives. "That meant rebuilding them from scratch" -- a time-consuming effort.

The Air Force declined to comment directly on the virus. "We generally do not discuss specific vulnerabilities, threats, or responses to our computer networks, since that helps people looking to exploit or attack our systems to refine their approach," says Lt. Col. Tadd Sholtis, a spokesman for Air Combat Command, which oversees the drones and all other Air Force tactical aircraft. "We invest a lot in protecting and monitoring our systems to counter threats and ensure security, which includes a comprehensive response to viruses, worms, and other malware we discover."

However, insiders say that senior officers at Creech are being briefed daily on the virus.

"It's getting a lot of attention," the source says. "But no one's panicking. Yet."



Subs May Serve Attack, Guided-Missile Functions *By Christopher P. Cavas, Navy Times, Oct 15, 2011*

In only eight years, the Navy will need to begin building a new class of ballistic-missile submarines. Not long after that, in the mid-2020s, a new attack submarine class is scheduled to be developed. And by the back half of the 2020s, the fleet's four guided-missile submarines will be worn out and need replacement — and with them will go nearly two-thirds of the sub fleet's cruise-missile tubes.

With money tight and resources increasingly stretched thin, the submarine force continues to consider a merger of the attack and guided-missile concepts, an option that would retain the impressive missile-carrying and special operations abilities of the four SSGNs, only spread out over as many as 20 new attack subs.

According to a briefing from the Navy's Submarine Warfare Division, or N87, "this design option has been technically studied and is feasible."

The idea would be to insert a new hull section with large missile tubes into the existing Virginia-class design. The exact number of missile tubes has yet to be agreed on, although most studies indicate four tubes would be optimal. The new section would be about 94 feet long and increase the length of the submarines, which today stretch 377 feet, by about 25 percent.

Two of the tubes, known as Virginia Payload Tubes, are being installed in the bows of Block III Virginia-class submarines, beginning with North Dakota, which is under construction. The bow VPTs are able to carry six Tomahawk cruise missiles apiece and replace 12 single-tube missile launchers of the original design. Although the VPTs are able to carry a larger variety of payloads, including vehicles and other gear, the bow location prevents dry access when the sub is submerged.

The new hull section, known as the Virginia Payload Module, would feature four in-line, 87-inch-diameter missile tubes able to carry a range of payloads, from Tomahawks — seven apiece, for a total of 28 — to other items that could be floated out. The VPM tubes are configured with access hatches and connectors to enable their use by special operations forces.

The concept continues to be studied and refined by the submarine force and its submarine builders, General Dynamics Electric Boat and Huntington Ingalls Industries Newport News.

With the VPM, the resulting total of 40 cruise missiles per stretched submarine would not equal the 154-missile payload of the SSGNs, but, if carried out over 20 submarines representing Blocks 5, 6 and 7, the new submarines would make up much of the missile capacity of the four SSGNs.

The 10 Block 5 submarines that are being considered for the VPM begin with the SSNs to be funded in 2019. Block 6, beginning in 2024, and Block 7, beginning in 2029, would each contain five boats, a limit set by Congress.

N87 estimates the VPM would add \$400 million to \$500 million to the roughly \$2.6 billion cost of each new submarine.

"This may seem like a lot of money," N87's briefing said about the increase, "until you consider that you can stretch ten Virginias for the cost of one new SSGN."

A decision on whether to incorporate the stretch into the Block 5 submarines and delay a new attack submarine until 2034 rests first with Navy leaders.

"It needs to be a decision by the chief of naval operations as to what the [revised] 30-year shipbuilding plan will look like," said John Padgett, a retired rear admiral who heads the Naval Submarine League.

To complete the change, the Navy would need to make a business and operational case for the redesign. The Pentagon would then need to approve the cost changes, and ultimately Congress would decide whether to go forward.

If the first stretched submarine is to be ordered in 2019, a decision would have to be made several years in advance to allow time for redesign work.

The stretched Virginias represent a solution to one of the four top priorities listed by the submarine force:

- Develop the Ohio-class replacement.
- Add two attack submarines to the 30-year construction plan to meet a shortfall between available submarines and requirements. The submarines would be added in 2018 and 2023, where current plans call for only one boat.
- Delay the Virginia-class follow-on until after completion of the Ohio replacement program.
- Add the VPM to at least 20 Virginias, a move that would delay the need to begin a follow-on design until at least 2034, or after production of the Ohio replacement.

Expanding payloads

The submarine force also is looking to develop new payloads for its submarines.

N87, which is headed by Rear Adm. Barry Bruner, declined numerous requests for an interview for this story, but according to recent briefings, the force is looking for new or improved payloads to:

- Boost intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance abilities with unmanned, underwater vehicles.
- Provide better decoy devices.
- Develop a defensive anti-air warfare weapon.
- Add "long-reach" weapons.
- Beef up anti-surface warfare capabilities and develop a nonlethal anti-surface warfare weapon.
- Create a new strike torpedo.
- Improve "time-critical strike" weapons that can respond within minutes to an unexpected target.

• Improve special operations forces capabilities. Submarines with these capabilities, coupled with the wide range of weapons already fielded, “provide operational ambiguity that is difficult to counter,” according to the brief.
“Imagine having to defend against every possible SSN capability because you cannot determine through imagery or observation its payload mix or mission.”

Navy Changing Enlisted Retention Pay Rules

Military.com, October 18

WASHINGTON -- Beginning Jan. 1, the Navy will restructure the Enlisted Supervisor Retention Pay (ESRP) policy to provide incentive for senior enlisted Sailors to serve as a submarine engineering department master chief (EDMC), CVN leading chief petty officer (LCPO) or reactor department master chief (RDMC). NAVADMIN 308/11, released Oct. 14, provides ESRP to qualified Sailors with 10 to 23 years of service by restructuring Zones C and D to create Zones 1, 2 and 3. "The ESRP program is a dynamic force management tool modeled after the Selective Reenlistment Bonus and is designed to retain our senior nuclear supervisors," said Rear Adm. Tony Kurta, director, military personnel plans and policy. "We continually scrutinize all our bonus programs to make sure we are effectively using these incentives to ensure we meet the Fleet's requirement for Sailors with critical skills for mission success."

Zone 1 will include Sailors with a supervisory Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) from completion of 10 years of service through completion of 14 years of service. Zone 1 will allow payment through 16 years of additional obligated service.

Zone 2 will include E7-E9 Sailors (including E6s selected for advancement to E7) from completion of 14 years of service through completion of 18 years of service. Submarine Sailors in Zone 2 must also hold a 3302 secondary NEC (EDMC qualified) to be eligible. Zone 3 has been created for E8 and E9 Sailors (including E7s selected for advancement to E8) from completion of 18 years of service through completion of 23 years of service. Zone 3 requires previous or current service as an EDMC, CVN LCPO, or CVN RDMC.

Qualified Sailors in Zone A (less than six years of service) and Zone B (six to 10 years of service) are eligible for Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB), but are not eligible for ESRP.

Complete eligibility requirements, reenlistment procedures and pay formula are contained in NAVADMIN 308/11 at www.npc.navy.mil.

“Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of readiness to die”
G.K. Chesterton

Admiral Osborne Scholarship Fund

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



Could The Nuclear Triad Become A ‘Bi-Ad?’

National Defense Magazine, October 18

Now is not the time to discuss removing one leg from the three-legged stool known as the nuclear triad, the head of U.S. Strategic Command said Oct. 18.

“I continue to stand by a need for a triad,” Air Force Gen. C. Robert Kehler, Stratcom commander, told reporters in Washington, D.C.

The prospects for budget cuts have prompted some pundits to question the need to fund all three parts of the nation’s methods of delivering nuclear weapons — land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, bombers and submarines armed with sea-launched missiles.

Wouldn’t it be better to do away with one of the three and make the remaining two more robust rather than to trying to sustain all three? Kehler was asked.

“I will tell you that in the near term that we can sustain a triad. I think there will be interesting questions about both the scope and pace of modernization as we go forward,” he said.

“In that structure, I believe that a triad of force makes the most strategic sense, makes the most operational sense and ultimately is the right way to go forward today,” he said.

Modernizing the forces may include a long-range bomber to replace the aging B-52, he said. But it must include an attack submarine to replace the Ohio-class submarines, which will need to be replaced starting in the late 2020s, he said. Research and development needs to continue, so a replacement is ready by the time the first Ohio-class submarine is ready to retire, he said. Unlike the B-52, which is entering its sixth decade of service, submarines are subject to extreme pressures underneath the ocean. The metal that encapsulates the crew simply wears out, he noted.

In the distant future, there could be a discussion about eliminating one of the three legs. It will depend on new treaties, the strategic situation the nation finds itself in, “and of course, there is a budgetary dimension to this,” he added.

The question remains whether budget pressures will allow the Defense Department to continue with plans to modernize new platforms such as submarines and long-range bombers.

“Can we in fact spend the resources to modernize all of the triad? Those are not all questions for today,” he said. He warned about making budgetary decisions that would leave the military less capable of carrying out its nuclear mission. “We can have a hollow nuclear force and we need to be very careful about that. You can have a hollow nuclear force in the industrial base that supports the weapons,” he said.

The Air Force found itself in trouble “a few years back” because it made some budgetary decisions to fund conventional forces over nuclear forces, Kehler said, referring to an incident where cruise missiles with their warheads still attached were flown on a routine logistics flight over the continental United States.

“You can have a hollow nuclear force just like you can have a hollow conventional force,” Kehler said.

Tomorrow’s Missile Subs: Smaller, Cheaper, With Lots Of Robot Pals

Wired, October 20

On March 19, the guided-missile submarine Florida fired more than 90 of the roughly 120 Tomahawk cruise missiles that took down Libyan air defenses, clearing the way for NATO strike planes. It was the major-combat debut for America’s fleet of “SSGN” subs. Each of the four vessels packs up to 154 Tomahawks, making them some of the world’s most powerful warships.

But there’s a problem. The SSGNs, commissioned in the last five years, are actually modified ballistic-missile submarines dating from the 1980s. Around 2026, their nuclear power cores will wear out. At that point, the Navy must replace the subs ... or lose a huge portion of its missile firepower. But building new submarines the size of the SSGNs could cost up to \$8 billion apiece, nearly half what the Navy spends on ships every year. In other words, way too much.

Fortunately, Electric Boat in Connecticut, the Navy’s main submarine-builder, has a plan. Instead of designing new SSGNs from scratch, Electric Boat intends to pack the current Virginia-class attack submarines with extra missiles — and give them new eyes and ears in the form of sophisticated underwater and flying robots. The meaner, smarter Virginias wouldn’t carry as many missiles as today’s SSGNs, but at just \$2 billion a pop, the Navy could afford many more of them.

The Virginia missile-boat plan is key to preserving the Navy’s overwhelming firepower advantage. It’s also the subject of my latest feature for AOL Defense.

The four current SSGNs were still being modified when, in 2003, Navy officials approached Electric Boat with the germ of an idea. The brass had crunched the numbers and knew it would have a submarine missile gap in the

2020s. Could Electric Boat tweak the Virginia boats then in production to duplicate some of the SSGNs’ capabilities?

Electric Boat took a hard look at the Virginia design and concluded that the 377-foot submarine could be “stretched” to carry more than its standard loadout of 12 Tomahawks. “We looked at a variety of length plugs to see how much the ship can take without changing its performance,” program manager John Biederka said. Ninety-four feet was the optimal extension. With the additional space, the Virginia design could accommodate the same seven-foot-diameter missile tubes as on the SSGN — though only four of them, compared to 22 on the older sub. Each tube packs seven Tomahawks, potentially boosting the Virginia’s missile arsenal to 40.

That’s a far cry from the SSGNs’ 154 Tomahawks. But with at least 10 Virginias tentatively slated to get the hull extension starting around 2019, the Navy will have what Electric Boat vice president John Holmänder called a “more distributed” missile-sub fleet, rather than the capacious but concentrated four-boat force it has today. Plus, the Navy plans to equip the Virginias with new robots that can help the smaller missile boats make better use of their weapons.

First up: the so-called “large-diameter Unmanned Underwater Vehicle,” projected to enter service in 2020. Three feet across and torpedo-shaped, this UUV will carry sensors and, eventually, its own weapons. The large UUV “will gain access to places that manned platforms cannot — minefields, shallow water, the sea floor,” said Capt. Duane Ashton, head of the Navy’s underwater robot development.

The step after that is adding an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle that can launch from a Virginia’s large-diameter tubes and spot targets for the vessel’s Tomahawks. “Combined with a submarine’s traditional ability to provide a stealthy and persistent source of weapons in even the most access-constrained littoral environment, an organic [Unmanned Aerial System] will provide submarines a fully organic capability to detect, identify, precisely locate and quickly strike modern [Surface-to-Air Missile] engagement radars,” wrote Owen Cote (.pdf), an analyst at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Virginia hull-extension is firmly in the Navy’s planning but hasn’t been funded yet. The undersea robot is funded but its development has barely begun. The sub-launched aerial drone is still just a concept. It could take all three to effectively replace today’s SSGNs.

*“But fame is theirs - and future days
On pillar’d brass shall tell their praise;
Shall tell - when cold neglect is dead -
“These for their country fought and bled.”
~Philip Freneau*

The Navy's Next Boomer

DOD Buzz, October 20

The Navy's top submarine planners are confident they can build a new class of ballistic missile boats on time and on cost, without swallowing up the service's entire shipbuilding budget. But to get there, they admit, everything has to go perfectly.

Capt. Dave Bishop, program manager for what the bubblehead community now calls "the Ohio-replacement," – not "SSBN(X)," – gave the Naval Submarine League a detailed brief on his long-term plans on Thursday outside Washington. Although surface-dwellers still debate whether the Navy should "stretch" its Virginia-class attack submarines to build a new class of boomers, the sub force treats it as a done deal, and Bishop's work has been quietly progressing underneath the surface.

In fact, for Bishop's purposes, almost everything is settled: He is planning a class of 12 newly designed, newly built ballistic missile subs equipped with 16 tubes apiece, down from the 24 aboard current Ohio class. The new boomers' tubes will be able to accommodate the Navy's existing arsenal of Trident D-5 nuclear world-enders, augmented down the road with a life-extension program. The new subs also would be able to handle a theoretical new missile of tomorrow. (More on that later.)

The detailed design work for the lead ship will begin in 2015; construction would get underway in 2017, with the start of assembly of the missile compartment; then major work on the boat itself would begin in 2019.

Figure about seven years for full assembly, then add time for a shakedown availability, test missile shots for both Gold and Blue crews, and the first Ohio-replacement boomer could take its first deterrent patrol in around 2029, Bishop said.

During the construction phase, Bishop said the Navy wants to build the first boat in about 84 months, as compared to the 86 months it took to build the first-in-class fast attack sub USS Virginia.

"That means we need to get everything right," Bishop said. "We can't afford to over-expend on anything."

So he wants to borrow as much as possible from the Virginias and have as much design work finished as possible before the serious work gets underway – sounds like common-sense ideas, but the Navy does not always adhere to them. Specifically, Bishop wants engineers to finish about 60 percent of design work before major construction.

"We have to get that right, now," he said. "There is no more room to slip funding or schedule and not impact my 2019 start. So we have to stay on target."

What does it all mean? Same as always: Money. The Navy hasn't designed a new submarine class in decades, and it hasn't designed a new ballistic missile submarine since the 1970s. That means a lot of "non-recurring

engineering costs" for the original work to design and build the first ship, plus the costs to build the next 11 and operate and sustain them all.

Naval observers worry it could cost so much money the Navy might not have any left over to build the other ships it wants – and will need as its 1980s-vintage cruisers and destroyers begin to leave the fleet in large numbers. The Navy's top logistics officer, Vice Adm. Bill Burke, acknowledged it's still a common fear, and also that there are voices inside the Building that want to delay or even cancel a new boomer to afford other ships. "It's a bitter pill because none of us want to see the Navy get any smaller," he said. "There are people telling me, 'Hey Bill, that's a great idea.' There are still people out there who believe we're going to wreck the shipbuilding plan with the Ohio replacement."

Burke said he doesn't agree; he thinks the Navy can prioritize and balance all its programs. Service officials and some congressional allies tried for a time to pay for a new boomer with another part of the federal budget, arguing that the new SSBN was a national strategic asset, not just a Navy toy. But that case does not seem to have won many converts.

Bishop's numbers tell the story: He anticipates the first ship will cost \$4.5 billion to plan and design, then \$6.8 billion to build, for a total overall cost of about \$11.3 billion. He believes the follow-on boats will cost about \$5.6 billion apiece. But Bishop thinks he can use "government improvements" and "shipbuilder improvements" to get that follow-on cost down, to around \$4.9 billion per copy.

Add up that roughly \$700 million per-ship reduction over all the follow-on submarines, and Bishop's goal is to reduce the overall cost of the program from about \$62 billion to around \$54 billion, in fiscal 2010 dollars.

What if he can't? What if, as in some Navy shipbuilding programs, there are delays and overruns in the class until about the third or fourth hull? What if congressional dysfunction means the Doomsday Device is triggered, or lawmakers allow the U.S. to default on its debt? Well, that's not allowed to happen. And it's just best not to think about the state of the surface force in the 2020s. Bishop was not glum about his prospects – he talked eagerly about the plan to use modular construction to build the new submarines, which he said would save time and money. Robots will do a lot of the welding and assembly of the Ohio replacement's missile tubes, for example. By comparison, when human welders built the USS Ohio's missile tubes, the work was so hot and dangerous that they couldn't stay on the job for more than 30 minutes at a stretch, Bishop said.

All this time, money and effort will be worth it because it will yield the best ballistic-missile sub in the world, Bishop said. The boats will have 159 racks for 155 planned crew members, meaning sailors won't have to share. And they'll have a comparatively spacious boat,

about the same length as the Ohio — some 560 feet — despite its eight fewer missile tubes, and bigger: Planners want the Ohio replacement to displace some 19,700 tons, according to Bishop's presentation, as compared with the Ohio's 18,700-ton submerged displacement.

"It's becoming a real life submarine," Bishop said, promising another update at a future sub conference. "Hopefully next time we'll have a little bit more detail along the way."

United States Submarines

The book, *United States Submarines*, by author David Randall Hinkle is recommended by Base member Bill Roberts.

It is available new and used on-line at various sites. One is:

http://www.amazon.com/gp/offer-listing/0760762198/ref=dp_olp_0?ie=UTF8&redirect=true&condition=all

It may also be available on ebay.com



2012 COLA Rate Announced

It's official, military and federal civilian retirees, survivor benefit annuitants, disabled veterans and Social Security recipients will see a 3.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment in January, their first since 2009. The 3.6% COLA will be effective Dec 1 and will be reflected in January retired pay, SBP, Social Security, and VA disability compensation checks.

The Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2012 is 3.6%.

COLA is calculated by comparing the average inflation (as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index (CPI)) from 3rd quarter 2011 (223.2) to the baseline of 3rd quarter 2008 (215.5). The 2008 baseline must be used because the baselines for 2009 and 2010 were below that figure, and the law doesn't allow a negative COLA.

For the month of September, the CPI figure is 223.688 -- a 0.2 percent increase from August.

For the Jul-Sep 2011 baseline period, the average CPI was 223.2. That is 3.59% above the 2008 baseline of 215.5, which rounds to 3.6% under the COLA law.

The 3.6% COLA will be effective Dec 1 and will be reflected in January retired pay, SBP, Social Security, and VA disability compensation checks.

But there are two categories of military retirees who won't receive a 3.6% COLA

2011 Retirees: Servicemembers who retired during calendar year 2011 will receive a somewhat smaller, partial COLA for this year only, because they already received a January military pay raise (which also raised their 2011 retired pay).

Members who retired between Jan. 1, 2011, and Sept. 30, 2011, will receive a partial COLA based on the calendar quarter in which they retired. Jan.-Mar. retirees will receive 3.6%; Apr.-Jun. retirees, 2.4%; and Jul.-Sept. retirees 0.4%. Those who retire after Oct. 1, 2011, will see no COLA this year. Members retired during 2011 will receive full-year COLAs in future years.

REDUX Retirees: Servicemembers who entered service on or after Aug. 1, 1986 and elected to accept a \$30,000 career retention bonus at 15 years of service agreed to accept reduced retired pay and COLAs as a trade-off for the bonus. REDUX retirees' COLAs are depressed 1% below the normal COLA rate, so they'll see a 2.6% COLA.

Reminder: ID Card Changes

As of June 1, 2011, Social Security numbers are no longer printed on new ID cards issued to members of the Uniformed Services, retirees and family members. The new cards will have a unique DoD Identification number in place of the Social Security number. For those eligible for benefits, such as health care, a DoD benefits number will be on the back. Beneficiaries using the Military Health System and TRICARE should be prepared to state their Social Security number (or their sponsor's) when accessing health care or pharmacy benefits. TRICARE beneficiaries and providers can get more information, see ID card samples and view frequently asked questions at the TRICARE website at www.tricare.mil/ssn. General information about the removal of SSN from ID cards can be found at www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard.

"A Nation of Sheep Will Beget a Government of wolves"
-- Edward R. Murrow --

Navy Crackdown: 19th Skipper Relieved of Command

In yet another measure of the Navy's crackdown on commanders who don't meet standards, the service relieved its 19th CO from duty for alleged "inappropriate conduct."

Capt. David Geisler, commander of Command Task Force 53 in Bahrain, which provides fuel and supplies to U.S. Navy and coalition ships in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility, became the 19th commander since January to be canned. Geisler was removed by Adm. Mark Fox for "loss of confidence" in his ability to command, officials said in a press statement.

"An investigation into alleged inappropriate conduct continues," the statement said.

The Navy is not providing information on the investigation. Geisler has been reassigned to other unspecified duties at NSA Bahrain until the investigation is finished.

He has been replaced by his deputy, Capt. Jesus Cantu, until a new skipper is assigned.

[Click here to find out more!](#)

Geisler took charge of CTF 53 in February. The role also put him in command of logistics for U.S. Naval Forces Central, responsible for coordinating the air and sea delivery of personnel, mail, cargo, fuel, ammunition and provisions to more than 40 U.S. and coalition ships operating in the CentCom AOR.

So far the Navy has fired the most commanders since 2006, when 26 skippers lost command.

Last month the Navy fired Cmdr. Mark Olson, commander of the USS The Sullivans, for failing to follow proper procedures that resulted in his ship firing inert rounds at a civilian fishing vessel instead of a target hulk.

The round did not hit the vessel and no one was injured by the exercise gone awry, but it made Olson the year's record-breaking 18th firing.

The high number appears to be evidence that Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead has been following through on a declaration made earlier this year that commanders would be held to the highest standards of professional and personal conduct.

Some have questioned if the Navy is going too far in some instances.

Longtime naval affairs analyst Norman Polmar told Military.com in July – when the Navy had already fired 15 commanders – that it could end up ending careers of strong, capable officers who would continue to serve well with a second chance.

Chester Nimitz is now a U.S. Navy legend, but as a young ensign he ran a destroyer aground. He was found guilty of neglect of duty, reprimanded and relieved of command. But, Polmar said, Nimitz went on to a brilliant Navy career.

More recently former Navy Secretary John Lehman hit the Navy brass in Proceedings, the official journal of the U.S. Naval Institute, on the same issue. He said the Navy's drive for political correctness is creating a generation of naval leaders who will fail as warfighters if and when the time comes.

"Those attributes of naval aviators -- willingness to take intelligent calculated risk, self-confidence, even a certain swagger -- that are invaluable in wartime are the very ones that make them particularly vulnerable in today's zero-tolerance Navy," Lehman wrote. "The political correctness thought police, like Inspector Javert in Les Misérables, are out to get them and are relentless."

Overseas Holiday Mail 2011

The Naval Supply Systems Command's (NAVSUP) Postal Policy Division mail-by dates for pre-Dec. 25 delivery of holiday cards, letters, and packages were announced 27 SEP. The dates are as follows:

Shore APO/FPO/DPO AE zips 090-098 (except 093);
AA zips 340; AP zips 962-966

- Express Mail: Dec. 17
- First-Class Mail (letters/cards/priority mail): Dec. 10
- Parcel Airlift Mail: Dec. 3
- Space Available Mail: Nov 26
- Parcel Post: Nov. 12

Shore APO/FPO/DPO AE ZIP 093

- Express mail Military Service: N/A
- First-Class Letters/Cards/Priority Mail: Dec. 3
- Parcel Airlift Mail: Dec. 1
- Space Available Mail: Nov. 26
- Parcel Post: Nov. 12

For mail addressed from all shore FPOs (except 093):

- Express Mail Military Service: Dec. 17
- First-Class Mail (Letters/cards, priority mail): Dec. 10
- Parcel Airlift Mail: Dec. 3
- Space Available Mail: Nov. 26

1) Express Mail Military Service (EMMS) is available from selected military post offices. If mailing to an APO/FPO address, check with your local post office to determine if this service is available.

2) Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL) is a service that provides air transportation for parcels on a space-available basis. It is available for Parcel Post items not exceeding 30 pounds in weight or 60 inches in length and girth combined. The applicable PAL fee must be paid in addition to the regular surface rate of postage for each addressed piece sent by PAL service.

3) Space Available Mail (SAM) refers to parcels mailed to APO/FPO addresses at parcel post rates that are first transported domestically by surface and then to overseas destinations by air on a space available basis. The maximum weight and size limits are 15 pounds and 60 inches in length and girth combined. From overseas locations, items mailed at Parcel Post rates are sent to CONUS by air on a space available basis. The maximum weight and size limit are 70 pounds and 130 inches in length and girth combined.

It is also recommended that customers check with their local civilian or military post office for information on size restrictions and possible need for customs declaration forms. Additionally, customers are advised that certain mail restrictions apply and some items can not be mailed. Examples are: switchblade knives, pornography, controlled substances, and explosive or incendiary devices. If in doubt as to what can or cannot be sent through the mail, contact your local civilian or military post office. As a final note, customers are cautioned that packages must not be mailed in boxes that have markings related to any type of hazardous material, such as bleach, alcohol, or cleaning fluids. Parcels found by the U.S. Postal Service with such markings or labels on the outside of the box will not be processed.

Veterans Day 2011 Update 02

A new campaign is working to put the "veteran" back into Veterans Day and to rally public awareness of the sacrifices made by injured veterans and their caregivers. The Wounded Warrior Project kicked off "Believe in Heroes," which focuses primarily on wounded veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan and their caregivers, on the 10th anniversary of 9/11 terror attacks. The campaign will continue through Nov. 11, Veterans Day, said Jonathan Sullivan, executive vice president of the nonprofit organization. "Veterans Day has become a national holiday that most Americans give a cursory moment of thought to before going on with their day," said Steve Nardizzi, the Wounded Warrior Project's executive director. Veterans will be recognized at NASCAR races, NCAA and NFL games as part of the campaign, Sullivan said. Two recent 8-kilometer events sponsored through the campaign drew 1,245 people in Jacksonville, Fla., and 65 in Seattle, he added, and the next 8k walk or run will take place Oct. 15 in Charlotte, N.C. Regardless of how people show support, he added, the intent of the campaign is clear. "Believe in Heroes is a call to action," he said, to recognize the meaning of Veterans Day, and to support the needs of wounded warriors and their caregivers. From the earliest stages of the Wounded Warrior Project, Sullivan said, there was concern about the sacrifices caregivers would make to care for their wounded warriors. "Once the most traumatic of injured warriors are out of the hospital and

back home," he added, "the caregiver can be in for a long road ahead." Engaging families and caregivers is essential to helping warriors make the transition back to life after they're injured, Sullivan said, noting that combat injuries affect both the warrior and the family. The idea for the campaign stemmed from what Sullivan said seemed to be dwindling public interest in the significance of Veterans Day. "Very few people pause Nov. 11 and reflect on the sacrifices our vets made on behalf of us," he said, and he expressed the hope that the two-month campaign to raise support and awareness of the wounded, their caregivers and all U.S. veterans would create a groundswell of interest that will repeat year after year, every Veterans Day. But Sullivan said he won't stop there. Like the year-round campaign for breast cancer awareness that intensifies with National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, Sullivan said, he envisions year-round "Believe in Heroes" awareness that culminates in a campaign from Sept. 11 to Nov. 11 each year. "The public would be reminded of how much our wounded warriors sacrificed on the battlefield for us," he said.



Tricare Prime Update 09

Military retirees enrolling in the TRICARE Prime health plan after 1 OCT will begin paying slightly higher annual fees. The fee change for fiscal 2012 means the plan will cost \$260 per year for members and \$520 per year for members and family. The increase amounts to an additional \$2.50 per month for individual members and \$5 per month for members and family, officials said. Active duty service members receive health care with no out-of-pocket costs. Annual fees for retirees enrolled in TRICARE Prime prior to the 1 OCT change will remain at \$230 and \$460 until 1 OCT, 2012, officials said. Retirees in Tricare PRIME have a catastrophic cap of \$3,000, and TRICARE Prime co-pays are not changing, they added. "We are committed to offering the best possible health care system for our entire military family," said Dr. Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary

of defense for health affairs. "This modest annual fee increase allows us to responsibly manage our costs in line with other secretary of defense initiatives announced earlier this year."

Survivors of active duty deceased sponsors and medically retired services members and their dependents will be exempt from an annual increase, effective from the time they renew their enrollment or first enroll in TRICARE Prime, officials said, noting that the TRICARE benefit is among the nation's most affordable health care plans. All service members, military retirees and their eligible family members have TRICARE benefits regardless of prior health conditions. "The department is committed to maintaining the same unique health care protection we have always offered our warriors, both current and retired," Woodson said. "To sustain our military health system we are working hard to streamline, become more efficient, and achieve cost savings. Together, we can manage our costs responsibly and continue to provide care for our service members, retirees and their families."

Military Trivia

See if you can answer the following related to the Cold War:

1. In the late 1950s, the United States government was fed up with losing the Space Race. The Air Force decided the best way to prove American dominance to the world would be to demonstrate the potential of their military might – by detonating a nuclear bomb in space, where everyone would see. What exactly did they want to nuke?

- a. Sputnik
- b. The sun
- c. The moon
- d. A comet

2. The nuclear space project dubbed "Project A119" envisioned creating a nuclear mushroom cloud clearly visible to all. Despite the arguments of the US Air Force, the government decided instead to simply send astronauts to the moon before the Soviets to prove their dominance. What obvious flaw did the Air Force's plan have?

- a) A mushroom cloud would not form in space.
- b) If anyone was actually watching the explosion they would be blinded.
- c) The bomb would explode so close to Earth that everyone that saw it would die or be seriously injured.
- d) Nothing, the plan seemed reasonable

3. Biological attacks are nothing new to the world, but the United States' "Operation Big Buzz" in 1955 was a step towards the insane. The operation was a test to see

the feasibility of attacking an enemy using yellow fever to infect a large population. How was the virus to be delivered to the target area?

- a) Infected mosquitoes would be released upwind of the target area.
- b) Several people would be infected and then sent to the target area.
- c) An aerosol attack would be conducted upwind of the target area.
- d) Local wildlife would be infected hoping that people in the target area would eat some and become infected

4. Operation Big Buzz was conducted in May 1955 by releasing over 300,000 uninfected carriers over United States territory to determine their dispersal patterns.

Where did this test take place?

The Panama Canal Zone | The state of Georgia | The territory of Guam | The city of Washington, D.C.

5. The threat of nuclear war was ever-present during the Cold War, and both the United States and Soviet Union were looking for any advantages. The US Army Corps of Engineers constructed the underground facility Camp Century in 1960, and it was possibly going to be the home of "Project Iceworm." Where was Camp Century built?

- a. Iceland
- b. Alaska
- c. Canada
- d. Greenland

6. Project Iceworm was supposed to be an extension of the underground Camp Century. The plan proposed building a system of tunnels underneath the ice totaling around 4,000 kilometers. What exactly did the US plan on doing with these tunnels?

- a) They were to house hundreds of mobile nuclear missile launch sites.
- b) They were trying to eventually tunnel straight to Russia.
- c) They were to connect to the ocean as an underwater submarine base near the Arctic Ocean.
- d) They were creating a massive sonar system to detect Russian submarines in the Arctic Ocean

7. In the event of World War III, Britain was not going to be left in the dust. The British created "Blue Peacock" – the use of land mines to be placed in Germany in order to stop a Soviet invasion. What was special about these land mines?

- a) They incorporated a sarin gas dispenser.
- b) They were 10-kiloton nuclear mines.
- c) They were mobile mines that actively sought targets once activated.
- d) They included an electromagnetic pulse to destroy any nearby electronics

8. The Blue Peacock mines would be set to an eight-day timer (unless triggered), but during winter the temperature could cause electrical failures. This led to the craziest part of Blue Peacock, and it was the reason the project was later nicknamed "the chicken-powered nuclear bomb." What exactly were the chickens supposed to do?

- a) Their body heat would keep the bomb at acceptable temperatures.
- b) They would run on a small treadmill inside the bomb to create energy for a heater.
- c) They would be trained to set off the bomb if activated.
- d) The mine would be placed inside the chicken and then released into advancing troops .

9. In the 1970s, the Aral and Caspian Seas were shrinking. The Soviet Union depended on the use of these bodies of water for transporting food, oil, and other supplies, so they made a plan to fill the seas back up. How exactly did they plan on doing that?

- a) Diverting the flow of multiple rivers that normally flow into the Arctic Ocean through new canals.
- b) Digging canals from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea and from the Caspian Sea to the Aral Sea.
- c) Diverting rivers that normally flow into the Black Sea through new canals.
- d) Digging a new canal to flow directly from the Mediterranean into the Caspian Sea

10. The Caspian/Aral plan would require massive amounts of manpower in order to finish, but there were always easier ways to handle that. Instead of having thousands of people dig for endless hours in order to finish the project, what method did the Soviet Union plan to use to accelerate the digging of the necessary canals?

- a) Releasing hordes of groundhogs to honeycomb the ground, and later sink the weak surface.
- b) Battalions of corkscrew tanks going back and forth over the area.
- c) Small nuclear bombs placed hundreds of meters apart.
- d) Controlled flooding to lower the land naturally.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



Rumbles and Scuttlebutt

Rumor has it that there are some beer and beer refrigerator thieves causing pandemonium and malfeasance in the Summerville area. All submariners, when they are in their house watching television at night, should be vigilant and watchful. They should be cognizant of and thoroughly investigate any and all strange noises they hear, even if it just sounds like the dogs in the garage. If you see, know or have knowledge of the perpetrators of this horrendous crime against our submariner brethren, please report it to the proper authorities immediately!



Alleged perps



Scene of the crime

FOR OUR VETERANS

In Remembrance of Veterans Day, November 11, 2011

We have a lot of holidays that that come up every year
Some are just for fun, but some we hold quite dear.
But we've left off a certain day that should be set aside to pray,
A day to honor all the Veterans who have given so very much
A group that we're indebted to and need to keep in touch.

I'm thinking of our Veterans who have served so many years

Their devotion is so very strong ~ sometimes it brings a tear
These men have given everything and usually in Harm's Way
They're called to serve and be on guard, at night and then all day.
They put their family life on hold, sometimes for quite a while
Also travel far away, with no complaining (not their style)

When signing up they knew right then that there will be lots of change
And things will never be the same
"not like good old home on the range"
Sometime they got the news ~ 'you're going to a far off place
And it may be a long time till the kids will see Daddy's face!

Our Mom is left with a bigger job, being mom and dad
And giving up the special times that all the family had.
They may be gone a short time, but sometimes it's a year
(But what a sweet homecoming when that Dad does finally appear)

For each one of our Veterans is special ~ different jobs they have to do
And one thing is our safety for all ~ like me and you!
So let's give our Vets the glory and honor that they share
For always being ready to show America that they care
So we'll pray for you and miss you when you are far away
And ask our Lord to keep you all safe day after day.

By Doris Callahan

