

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 11, No.4

April 2015

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

Base Meeting:

BOD: 2 April, 1800

Membership: 9 April, 1900

Location:

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 26

Low Country Home

99 Wisteria Rd.



Base Commander	<u>Ed Stank</u>	843-568-2148
Vice Commander	<u>Don Mook</u>	843.499.5727
Secretary	<u>Mike Ciesielko</u>	
Treasurer	<u>Steven Morawiec</u>	360.473.8883

Chief of the Boat	<u>Rick Sparger</u>	843.553.5594
Veterans Affairs	<u>Ken Curtis</u>	843.797.1268
Membership	<u>Don Mook</u>	843.499.5727
Scholarship	<u>Julian Villegas</u>	843.871.6135
Storekeeper	<u>Ken Hutchison</u>	843.553.0935
Historian	<u>George Scharfe</u>	843.873.3318
Public Affairs	Tom Clark	843.871.8923
Chaplain	<u>Nick Nichols</u>	843.452.3189
Holland Club	<u>Bill Freligh</u>	843.553.1115
Newsletter	<u>George Fuchs</u>	941.580.2333
Webmaster	<u>Nick Nichols</u>	843.452.3189
Kaps for Kids	<u>Walt Deal</u>	843.871.4143



BOATS LOST IN APRIL

BOAT NAME	HULL NR.	DATE LOST	SOULS LOST
USS Pickerel	(SS-127)	3 Apr. 1943 7th War Patrol	All Hands 74 Souls lost
USS Snook	(SS-279)	8 Apr. 1945 9th War Patrol	All Hands 84 Souls lost
USS Thresher	(SS-593)	10 Apr. 1963 Sea Trials	All Hands 129 Souls Lost
USS Gudgeon	(SS-211)	18 Apr. 1944 11th War Patrol	All Hands 79 Souls Lost
USS Grenadier	(SS210)	22 Apr. 1943 6th War Patrol	61 POWs 57 Survived War

5 Boats, 370 Souls Lost

Chaplain's Corner—Acknowledging your blessings

The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you. And be gracious to you. Numbers 6:24-25

When the demands of life leave us rushing from place to place with hardly a minute to spare, we may fail to pause and thank our Creator for His gifts. But, whenever we neglect to give proper thanks to the Father, we suffer because of our misplaced priorities.

Today, begin making a list of your blessings. You most certainly will not be able to make a complete list, but take a few moments and jot down as many blessings as you can. Then, give thanks to the Giver of all good things: God. His love for you is eternal, as are His gifts. And it's never too soon – or too late – to offer Him thanks.

--A Prayer for Today--

Lord, I have more blessings than I can count, and I praise You for Your gifts. Let me use my talents and my possessions for Your glory Amen.

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the March 2015 meeting was 98.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Ed Stank. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1902. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in March was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Vice-Commander Don Mook. Ed welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions: The following men introduced themselves at the meeting: FT1(SS) Bill Romlin, Qual Boat: USS Gato SSN 615; YN(SS) Ernest Culbreath Qual Boat USS Simon Bolivar SSBN 641; ET(SS) Richard Cox, Qual Boat USS Carbonero SS 337; ETC(SS) Bobby Soto, Qual Boat USS Rhode Island SSBN 740; TM(SS) Tom McGuire, Qual Boat: USS ; EM(SS) Wayne Neufield, Qual Boat USS New Mexico SSN 779; Brian Perry, Qual Boat USS Jefferson City SSN 759

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko called for a motion on the February Base Meeting minutes. Stacy Powers made a motion to accept the minutes as published. The motion was seconded and

passed on a voice vote.

Treasurer: Base Commander Ed Stank gave the financial report for base Treasurer Steve Morawiec who was unable to attend. The report is available on the Charleston Base website www.ussvicb.org.

Vice-Commander/Membership Chairman: Base Vice-Commander Don Mook had no report but as Membership Chairman reported that there are now 324 members of Charleston Base. He will be available to take dues for 30 minutes after the meeting. Dues can also be paid on-line at the base website, www.ussvicb.org.

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

March Report:

Highlighted boat of the month:

USS H-1 (SS-28) was lost on March 12, 1920, 95 years ago today, with the loss of 4 men as they tried to swim to shore after grounding on a shoal off Santa Margarita Island, off the coast of Baja California, Mexico. USS Vestal (AR-4), pulled H-1 off the rocks in the morning of 24 March, only to have her sink 45 minutes later in some 50 feet of water. She was originally named the USS Seawolf before becoming H-1.

- **Jack Harden's** sister passed away in mid-February.
- **Julian Villegas'** mother passed away at the end of February.
- **Bill Freligh's** father passed away the first of this month.
- **Bill Allen** has been diagnosed with kidney failure.
- **Gene Weir** is being treated for lymphoma and reports that his blood work has been very good and everything is going well
- **Jim Yates** is recovering from his surgery. He is home and is ready for visitors and phone calls. 873.0246. He thanks everyone for their prayers and thoughts.
- **Joe LaRose** had a defibrillator installed in late February to help with his afib. I talked to him yesterday and he is doing well.
- **Bob Turner** has a bad shoulder and will be having surgery sometime this month.

Steve Everett has been in and out of hospital with heart issues. They are trying to get his meds right.

- **Bill Roberts** had a stent inserted and is doing well just limited in his activity for a while.

Jimmy Kimbrell has been in the hospital with some fluid buildup but is doing better. He has a heart procedure scheduled for next week.

- **Glenn Fleming** is has lung cancer and is at home with hospice. He would really like some phone calls and visits if possible. He is a little hard to understand on the phone but if you listen close you can make out most of it.
- **Ray Bryant** has been diagnosed with water around his lungs and treated with antibiotics. He is having problems with his feet and legs and has trouble walking.

Bob Hubert has been diagnosed with mesothelioma. No surgery will be done but he has had radiation and the chemo begins in two weeks. He has joined the class action suit against a group who manufactured asbestos materials that were used in submarines and would be willing to talk to anyone who wants to know more about the class action.

Mike Knaub's leg is not healing properly.

David Knaub, Mike's son, is still fighting infections from 2x lung transplant. He now has his feeding tube.

Sonny Rash is doing well in his recovery and may not have to have anything done to his legs since the aneurism surgery might had opened his arteries enough to provide blood flow.

Art Hance will be having a heart procedure on Monday, March 16th.

Marvin Miller is still recovering from breaking his ankle in mid-January.

Anne Snyder, Ron's wife, had knee surgery mid-February. The surgery went great and Anne is at home and doing very well.

The SCP (Shipmate Contact Program) seems to be going well with about a half dozen of you letting me know you made contacts this past month. All voluntary and very simple program guidelines:

- Loosely structured – no reports to make unless you want to let me know about the contact. Be sure to get the members permission to share whatever they tell you with me.
- I'm asking each member here to take a look at the Sailing List and contact at least 4 shipmates during this coming month (1 per week).
- Contact can be by email but phone is preferred. Contact someone outside your table of friends; someone you don't see at the meeting.

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 NOTES: Website is updated constantly. The Charleston Base website is www.ussvicb.org.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis had nothing to report.

Newsletter: Newsletter Editor George Fuchs had nothing to report.

Public Affairs: Tom Clark had nothing to report.

Storekeeper/Election Coordinator: Base Storekeeper Ken Hutchison stated that if you need anything from the ships store, email him or call him and he will have to you next week. As Election Coordinator he reported that the election this May is for Base Commander and Base Treasurer. Both incumbents are not running. So far the only candidate is Rick Wise running for Base Commander and Mike Walsh for Base Treasurer.

FRA: Larry Cox reported that the FRA will have Corned Beef and Cabbage for Saint Patrick's Day.

The FRA Brach meeting will be 3/19/15 @1900.

Holland Club: Bill Freligh Holland Club Chairman reported that the Holland club Indoctrination is next Month.

Ed Stank pointed out that the USSVICB will be providing a free buffet before the Holland Club indoctrination.

Submarine Veterans of World War II/Scholarship Committee: Swamp Fox President George Scharf reported that this month nothing was going on with WWII

The next Swamp Fox meeting will be on the 16th April at the Golden Corral near Tanger Outlets at 2468 Centre Pointe Drive, North Charleston.

George ensured that all WWII veterans received their Polaris Magazines

A skimmer from Boston came down to get into better weather and ended up being here when we had the coldest temperatures.

The Scholarship Chairman is looking into holding a Car Show to raise money for the Scholarship Fund. Update will probably be in May or June maybe July.

Scholarship applications due 15 April. As of right now we don't have any.

Ed Stank pointed out that he has not seen any Lamborghini's in the parking lot we need members to get kids to enter for the Scholarship Fund.

Kap's for Kids: Walt Deal had nothing to Report. Ed Stank commented that it never really got off the ground. GW corrected him and stated that MUSC stated that they didn't want us to come anymore and they went down every quarter. The Base Commander will defer this to the New Base Commander.

CRAMA: Director of Restoration and Maintenance Butch Bryar was not in attendance. Rick Wise reported that this is a new year and that we need members. The membership fee is \$20.

Little David: Base Member Rick Wise, reported that he would go out to Little David, Inspect it, and see what needs to be done. He will then send an email to the COB asking for a working party if

need be.

Rick also informed all the new members that the Little David project is a Replica of the CSS David which was a low profile submerged torpedo boat used in defense of Charleston during the Civil War. It sits in front of the Berkley County Museum. In 2004 USSVICB restored the replica and we have been maintaining it.

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson made the following report:

A Nautical Public Service Announcement :

The NUC's have always been known to be on watch (or kept in the dark).

Port and Starboard or worse, so I wanted to let them know on March 8th

Last Sunday was the start of Daylight Savings Time. So turn your clocks ahead

.....if you desire to remain in the darkTurn your clocks back, one hour or more.

Just as a separate note this applies to wrist watches also.

DOD BUZZ of Military.com reports that China now has more attack submarines than the U.S. China's are Diesel and Nuclear and not of the same quality as the U.S. Submarines.

It also is reported that China still has Torpedomen, Quartermasters, Radiomen, IC Men and Enginemen. Some things just never change.

The Commanding Officer of the Virginia class Submarine, USS Mississippi was relieved of Command. Initially I could not find the cause, but it is believed he was carrying on with an Auxilliarymen. Do they have women yet ????? More details when the presumed truth is known.

The After Battery: Steve "Buddha" Nelms was unable to attend and give a report. Tom Clark reminded the base that the Annual After Battery Hog Roast will be on Saturday April 11. People will start arriving on Sunday April 5. This is also the birthday of the US Submarine Force so the theme is "Going Down for 115 years." The After Battery has a website, www.theafterbattery.com.

Chief of the Boat: COB Rick Sparger reported about local Oyster roasts since we were not having one this year.

14th March 2015 Santee Canal State Park. You can bring coolers but no pets.

21st March Ladson VFW.

Holiday Inn reception. Mr. Mack Burdette was the speaker Ed and Rick gave him a piece of their minds. There are wanted posters around the Holiday inn barring them from further receptions.

Rick commented on a great job of the SCP program, Bravo Zulu.

Float repair Charlie Hudson said the repairs shouldn't be too long.

The combined Charleston Base – FRA Picnic will be Saturday,

May 16 at the Cooper River Partners Picnic Area at Bushy Park.

More information will be put out later. We will have Hamburgers, Hot dogs and Chicken quarters. Cost and Profits will be 50/50.

Rick informed us the Submariners ball will be on April 10th. We have ten free tickets. He wanted to find out who from WWII sub-

vets were going and what they were eating to get their orders in. Rick also Introduced Steve Kellar. He is willing to auction off His Stingrays Hockey tickets for the scholarship fund. They are to be auctioned off before the depth charge drawing.

Base Commander: Ed Stank pointed out that he has not seen any Lamborghini's in the parking lot we need members to get kids to enter for the Scholarship Fund. Ed Stank told the base that he will be making a trip to the Veteran's Victory House in Walterboro on Tuesday, March 17. He will leave from the VFW on Bellwright Road in Ladson at 1000. If you would like to go give Ed your name so he can let the Victory House know since they want the group to have lunch with the veterans. Ed plans to keep doing this on the Tuesday following base meetings.

The Victory House veterans requested DVD's instead of VCR tapes and Large print books.

The Submarine Birthday Ball will be on April 10 at the Charleston Marriot Hotel. The tentative cost is \$35 a ticket with WWII Sub-Vets and their spouses free. ETC Soto donated 10 tickets for auction. Five were donated to the WWII Subvets. The money will go to the Scholarship committee.

On Tuesday 24th of March at 4 PM the Parkinson's disease support group is gathering at the VA Hospital downtown.

The Southeast Regional Convention is scheduled 20th to the 24th of April in Cape Canaveral Fla. If you have anything you like addressed send Ed Stank an email.

The National Convention is in Pittsburgh PA from September 7th to the 10th.

Ed reported that you may see in the news that the Chaplain was relieved of his duties at Nuclear power school.

National reward submissions are due this month. Last year the Base won the newsletter award.

The massing of the colors was impressive. Seven Subvets attended.

Old Business: Ed asked Charlie Hudson to report on the float. Charlie reported that the float was dropped off to Dickie Fields and is being worked on.

Charlie also reported that there is a fish Fry at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church on St James. \$8 on the 20th and 27th of March.

New Business: By Law Changes.

Ken Hutchinson made a motion that all the changes are accepted as written and the motion was seconded.

John Lookabill: said that the Subvet commander can go to A subvet meeting anywhere for two nights. He suggested

After a lengthy discussion, a point of order was called and Ken Hutchinson recalled His Motion

A ye or nay vote was called on the motion. The motion failed.

The base commander called for the Amendments to be voted on individually.

Article III – Policy Section 2 to add the word external so that the paragraph will read:

No member shall initiate any project that obligates the Charleston Base or any of its members without proposing said external undertaking or project to the Board of Directors for approval and receiving a majority vote at a regular or special base meeting attended by the membership.

This is an editorial change to clarify the meaning of the paragraph. There are no financial repercussions of this change.

There was a motion to accept this Amendment as written by Rick Wise. The motion was passed.

Article V Membership Section 1 General C from

Dues are due and payable effective on the first day of October. After October 1st a non-renewed member is considered delinquent in arrears. Members Whose national dues and/or Charleston Base dues are in arrears on January 1st of the current year will be dropped from the rolls of the organization. Members are considered to be in good standing, if National and Local dues have been paid for the current year. As of January 1 of the current year, members not paid shall be considered terminated from USSVI and/or Charleston Base.

Dues for the upcoming year are due and payable prior to December 31 of the current year.

Members whose national dues and/or Charleston Base dues are in arrears on the following

January 1st will be dropped from the rolls of the organization. Members are considered to be in good standing, if National and Local dues have been paid for the current year. As of January 1 members not paid shall be considered terminated from USSVI and/or Charleston Base. A terminated member will be restored without penalty once dues are paid.

There was a motion to accept this Amendment as written by Rick Wise. The motion was passed.

Article VII – Officers Section 1 – Elected Part B from

The term of office for all base officers shall be two (2) years or until a successor has been elected, to:

The term of office for all base officers shall be two (2) years. The way it is written now is unmanageable. There are no financial repercussions of this change.

There was a motion to accept this Amendment as written by Rick Wise. The motion was passed.

Article VIII – Duties of Officers Section 1 Base Commander Part D change from:

When possible, represent the base at South East (SE) Regional. Two nights lodging will be authorized from the general fund, to:

When possible, represent the base at official USSVI functions. Two nights lodging will be authorized from the general fund.

There was a motion by Rick Sparger to table this Amendment. The motion was passed.

Article VIII – Duties of Officers Section 1 Base Commander add new Part H. Review and approve the Annual Base Financial Report to the national office.

There was a motion by Rick Wise to accept as written. The motion was passed.

Article VIII – Duties of Officers Section 2 Base Vice-Commander Part C from When possible, and in the event the Base Commander is unavailable, represent the Base at SE Regional conventions. Two nights lodging will be authorized from the general fund, to:

When possible, in the event the Base Commander is unavailable, represent the Base at official USSVI functions. Two nights lodging will be authorized from the general fund. There will be financial repercussions from this change.

This Amendment was tabled until the next Meeting.

Article VIII – Duties of Officers Section 3 Base Secretary Part E from Maintain a Description of Duties binder for all elected and appointed officers, to:

Maintain a Description of Duties binder for all elected and appointed officers and posted on the USSVICB website.

This gives base members a place to find who is responsible for the various functions of the base. There are no financial repercussions of this change.

There was a Motion by Rick Wise to accept the Amendment as written. The Motion passed.

Article VIII – Duties of Officers Section 4 Base Treasurer Part A. from Accepts and records all income and base assets, to:

Accepts and records all base income and expenditures.

This is an administrative change to reflect the Treasurers actual duties. There are no financial repercussions of this change.

This Amendment was tabled until the next meeting.

Article VIII – Duties of Officers Section 4 Base Treasurer Part D from Renders at each meeting, and as required by the Base Commander, the financial standing of Charleston Base.

to

Provides a report at each meeting.

This is an administrative change to reflect the Treasurers actual duties. There are no financial repercussions of this change.

There was a motion by Rick Wise to accept the amendment as written. The motion was passed.

Good of the Order:

The last Honor flight will be September 12th. They are taking Korean and WWII Veterans.

Nick Nichols reported the Henry L Stimson reunion 2016 meeting will be right after this meeting.

American Legion Goose Creek is having a flag burning ceremony on Saturday 14th of March.

Auction for Hockey Tickets:

Bill Roberts won 2 for \$22.00

GW won 2 for \$25.00

Tom Beach won 2 for \$20.00

The Sub Ball Tickets were auctioned off:

Rick Wise won 2 for \$50.00

Don Mook won 2 for \$50.00

Ed Stank won 2 for \$50.00

Rodney McKinna won 2 for \$40.00

Charlie Hudson won 2 for \$35.00

Depth Charge: The depth charge was won by Dave Hanson. Dave made a donation of \$100 to the Scholarship Fund.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2050.

FRA News

FRA Scholarships March 26, 2015

FRA believes that educating our service members, veterans and their families is a matter of critical importance. Each year, FRA's Education Foundation awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to help students achieve their educational goals. Scholarships are available to all Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard personnel and families, and several more are exclusively available to FRA members, their spouses, and their children and grandchildren.

We want to help the students in your life succeed in their pursuit of a college degree! Please visit the links below to learn more about

FRA's scholarship programs and how to submit an application.

The deadline for applications to our 2015 scholarship program is fast approaching—**April 15!** Please pass this message along to friends, family members, and others you know who may have eligible family members or be eligible in their own right—especially fellow shipmates who do not use email.

[2015 FRA scholarship applications and instructions](#)

If you have questions about FRA Education Foundation scholarships, please email our scholarship team at scholars@fra.org or call 1-800-FRA-1924.

Stop Reductions to the Commissary Budget

FRA wants to ensure adequate funding for the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) in order to preserve the value of the current benefit for active duty members and retirees.

The Association opposes the Department of Defense (DoD) FY 2016 budget provision that slashes funding for stateside commissaries by \$1 billion over three years as a cost saving measure. DoD currently provides \$1.3 billion annually for the commissary benefit.

Commissary funding was already cut by \$100 million last year. Further cuts to funding would be reflected in higher prices paid by active duty personnel who simultaneously see annual pay increases capped. Thousands of junior enlisted personnel with families, who already have to use food stamps, would be forced to pay higher prices as well. Currently, profits generated from stateside commissaries are used to offset the operating costs at overseas locations where they are needed most.

Members are urged to use the Action Center (action.fra.org/action-center) on the FRA website to ask their legislators to oppose further cuts to the Commissary budget.

House Passes Permanent “Doc Fix”

The House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a bipartisan bill (HR 2) to make the so-called “Doc Fix” permanent. The “doc fix” replaces the current Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) pricing methodology, which would mandate a 22 percent cut to reimbursements to doctors who see Medicare/TRICARE patients. This reduction would likely cause doctors to leave the Medicare and TRICARE programs and reduce TRICARE/Medicare beneficiaries' access to care. The House measure also provides funding for a children's health insurance program (SCHIP) for two more years. The provisions were negotiated by House Speaker John Boehner (Ohio) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (Calif.).

The bill was approved 392-37; it scraps SGR and phases in a new pricing methodology meant to reward doctors who provide high-value care, not just high-volume care. “We've patched this prob-

lem 17 times over the last 11 years,” Boehner said. “I decided about a year ago that I had had enough of it.”

The bill now goes to the Senate, where opposition appears to be evaporating with the help of support from a wide array of health care and children’s groups for the SCHIP provision. President Barack Obama said on Wednesday that he also backs the legislation. The Senate did not address the measure before lawmakers began a two-week recess on Friday. The latest temporary “Doc Fix” is due to expire on April 1, but the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services has informed legislators that they can delay the physicians’ payment cut until April 14. Members are urged to use the FRA Action Center (action.fra.org/action-center) to ask their senators to support the resolution when they return from recess.

VA Expands Choice Program Eligibility

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that it will change the geographic calculation used to determine the distance between a veteran’s home and the nearest VA medical facility for purposes of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act (VACAA), which took effect on November 5, 2014. The VA will make a regulatory change from straight line distance to driving distance to help ensure veterans have more access to care.

VACAA was signed into law by the president last year; the new law provides a \$10 billion fund to pay for non-VA care for veterans who live 40 or more miles from a VA facility or have been experiencing wait times for care of more than 30 days. VA mailed “Choice Cards” to veterans who were enrolled in VA health care as of August 1, 2014, and to recently-discharged combat veterans who enroll within the five-year window of eligibility.

The FRA-supported legislation was passed in the wake of a nationwide audit of the VA that indicated 57,000 veterans have waited more than 90 days for an appointment at VA medical facilities, and more than 64,000 veterans have requested medical care, but did not even get placed on a waiting list. The audit also found that 13 percent of schedulers were told to falsify appointment requests to make the wait times appear to be shorter than they actually were.

Veterans seeking to use the Veterans Choice Program should call 1-866-606-8198 to confirm their eligibility and to schedule an appointment.

Budget Resolution

The House passed a budget resolution for FY 2016 which, in effect, excludes Defense from mandatory budget cuts and represents the first step in excluding Defense from sequestration altogether. The House voted on six different budgets; the prevailing budget (219-208) frees up additional funding for Defense without requiring offsets elsewhere in the budget. The House-passed budget increases spending on Defense above the level requested by President Obama’s budget request, which authorized \$38 billion for Defense above sequestration caps. The Senate plan that passed late Thursday night maintains the statutory cap on base discretionary defense spending created by the 2011 budget law (PL 112-25). Now that both chambers have passed their budget resolutions, they will have to reconcile the differences in a conference committee and then that agreement must be approved by both chambers. Members are urged to use the FRA Action Center (action.fra.org/action-center) to urge their legislators to exclude Defense from sequestration.

Bill to Expand the VA Caregiver Program is Introduced

Senator Dick Durbin (Ill.) recently introduced the “Caregiver Expansion and Improvement Act” (S. 657), which would expand the current Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Caregiver program to include all caregivers who care for service-connected severely disabled veterans. Currently, the program only applies to veterans who have been severely disabled since September 11, 2001. FRA supports expansion of this program; the 5.5 million volunteer caregivers to America’s wounded warriors shoulder the responsibility of bathing, feeding, dressing, managing medication and injections, arranging for rehabilitation, and more, all while many are raising a family. A recent RAND study commissioned by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation estimates the services they provide save our nation \$13.6 billion annually, yet these caregivers too often pay a price, suffering physical and emotional stress and illnesses; difficulty maintaining employment; financial, legal and family strains; and isolation. Expanding the VA Caregiver program will help all of America’s military and veteran caregivers, and members are strongly urged to use the Action Center (action.fra.org/action-center) to ask their senators to support this bill.

The Government’s Thought Process...

Good example of governmental thinking.

The federal government, which has Tomahawk cruise missiles and Apache and Lakota helicopters, used the code name "Geronimo" in the attack that killed Osama bin Laden, officially objects to the name of the *Washington Redskins*.

[In The Eye Of The Beholder](#)

[Mark D. Faram, Navy Times, March 9](#)

MCPON Says Chief Induction is Not a Tradition, and He Has Research to Back Him

Mike Stevens knows what it’s like to be accused of breaking traditions. As the 13th master chief petty officer of the Navy, he has faced outrage and dismay over his decision two years ago to “respectfully sundown” the practice of chief’s induction – and all the inappropriate behavior and the drinking that often came with it – in favor of tough, professional training that marks a sailor’s entrance into the fleet’s most coveted ranks

“Tradition is a word that’s thrown around a lot, but not many really take the time to fully understand what it means and put it in the proper context,” Stevens told Navy Times. “It all goes to how you choose to understand and define what tradition really is.”

But Stevens has spent time doing just that. Two years ago, he asked Master Chief Information Systems Technician Jim Leuci, a drilling reservist with the Naval History and Heritage Command, to scour the history books and find the origins of chief’s induction.

His report, "A Tradition of Change – CPO Initiations to CPO-365," is the first official research of the history of CPO rites, and charts changes from the days of tossing selectees off the pier to the more elaborate and frat-house like rituals of recent decades.

"One of the things I learned from the research ... is that many of our traditions are those things we have experienced during our time of service," Stevens said. "It's strongly based on what we have experienced."

The Navy is full of formal traditions – rendering honors to the flag and to individuals by ringing a set number of bells, or a specific call on a bosun's whistle – and many of these have long been laid down in Navy edicts and instructions. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines tradition as "a way of thinking, behaving, or doing something that has been used by the people in a particular group, family, society, etc., for a long time."

"There's a definition of tradition, but how you interpret that is really all about your service and your time," Stevens said. "You came in the Navy and we were doing X while you were in, and then we stopped doing it. We then view that as a break in tradition – regardless of how long that perceived tradition has been around."

Given the facts in the new report, to be released April 1 in honor of the observed CPO birthday, Stevens says chief's initiation doesn't quite fit the mold of a tradition, though he realizes some chiefs will disagree.

"I know CPOs didn't come into existence until 1893, but in the now nearly 122 years since then, initiation has only been around for roughly half that time," Stevens said.

It's never been formally mandated by the Navy or consistent, Stevens added.

"When you look at the historical record and the facts, it's pretty obvious that much of the initiation process was essentially entertainment for the genuine chiefs of the day," Leuci said. "But when you step back and look at it over time, the process has grown much more difficult – and often forcibly mandated reform – it has grown and made the transition itself into a tough professional training program designed to prepare first classes to be effective chiefs."

Stevens says he's comfortable with the ending of the initiation and said the professional training is tough, meaningful and beneficial to the selectee, their commands and the service.

Evolving Roles

One of the most popular arguments in favor of chief petty officer initiations is that chiefs are considered separate and distinct from the rest of the enlisted ranks and therefore need a rite of passage.

This wasn't always the case.

"The role of the chief petty officer has evolved [from] one that fits between the officers and the rest of the enlisted ranks," said Leuci. "Really, it's a role that has evolved over time."

April 1, 1893, is commemorated as the chief petty officer birthday and celebrated by khaki balls and other events, but at the time, the service didn't announce the arrival of "the chief" with much fanfare.

A Navy circular – an early equivalent to today's NavAdmin messages – was sent out to commands announcing the establishment of a "chief petty officer classification" effective April 1.

Leuci says there were 57 sailors advanced to that rank when that day arrived.

"However, the appointment of the first chief petty officers was not a major event of the day," Leuci wrote in the soon to be released report. "The first chief petty officers of 1893 were not immediately elevated to a higher enlisted status as a result of their appointments."

Chief's messes weren't immediately established, nor did chiefs get new uniforms either – they didn't even get paid differently right away, Leuci found.

"After April 1, 1893, chief, first, and second class petty officers shared the same mess," he wrote. "For nearly ten years, chief petty officers continued to mess and berth with first and second class petty officers."

That all changed in 1902, however, when Navy regulations formally established a separate mess for chief petty officers. All other enlisted men were consolidated into one general mess. It was the first time all enlisted didn't mess and berth together as they had since the Navy's founding.

Going Overboard

For those who hold up chief initiations as long standing traditions, Leuci says they need to look at the historical record.

For six decades after the establishment of the CPO rank, there still was no such thing as chief initiations.

"There is really no record of initiation before World War II," Leuci said. "When you talk to those who made chief during this time, you can see the beginnings start to evolve, though it was more of a jovial and social event – there was no formal training – nothing like it has evolved to today."

During his research, Leuci said he talked to WWII and Korean War chiefs. They either didn't recall an initiation or said it was relatively simple – they went swimming.

Consider the story of Chief Yeoman (SS) Albert Dempster. He joined the Navy in 1940, signing on for an initial six-year hitch. He served on submarines before and during the war, making four war patrols on the submarine Crevalle in the Pacific, operating out of Fremantle, Australia. It was during one of these patrols that he got word that he and one of his shipmates had advanced to chief.

"There was no CPO initiation while they were underway in the South China Sea," Leuci wrote. "When Crevalle returned to Fremantle, Australia, the two new chiefs were initiated. Their initi-

ation consisted of being thrown over the side of the boat, followed by drinking at a local bar. Dempster remained in the Navy after the war and retired as a chief yeoman in 1960.” “Though they were called initiations at the time, they weren’t secret events, though they generally happened behind closed doors in the chief’s mess,” Leuci said.

The fact that chiefs existed for so long before the emergence of induction rites after WWII cast doubt on the oft-heard arguments that chief initiations are a sacred right or intrinsic to the role of CPO, said Stevens.

“By definition, traditions are long standing things, over time,” he said. “So based on the historical record, one could argue that establishing the process of initiation in the first place was a departure from the long standing tradition of the day.”

Traditions Of Convenience

Today, when new chief selectees go through the Phase II of CPO-365, which begins after the Navy announces who’s been selected for chief each summer, they are given charge books to carry during their final stages. When they are pinned, the book is put inside an ornate wooden box or “vessel” as a keepsake of their transition.

“There are lot of myths about these and where they came from,” Leuci said. “The going story is charge books were carried by petty officers in World War I and chiefs would often write advice in them, and though this is a nice story, there’s really not a lot of evidence to back it up.”

What the evidence shows, he said, is that they started appearing in the 1960s.

Then as today, the book was a green Navy log book that often was fixed to a chain or rope and worn around the selectee’s neck.

“It was simply a place to document the transgressions of the chief select so they could be read by the judge at their initiation,” he said.

Far from the hallowed objects of today, Leuci writes that these logbooks often were fouled by initiation rites run amok.

Former MCPON Duane Bushey said he threw his charge book away after he finished his initiation in 1974.

“Bushey had a charge book that was stolen a few days after he got it,” Leuci wrote. “It wasn’t returned until a week before initiation.”

“The book had been spit on, ejaculated on, defecated on, and was full of profanity ridden comments. After initiation he threw the book away.”

Other traditions and keepsakes have been added over the years, many taken from crossing the line ceremonies known for forcing the uninitiated wogs to eat or crawl through food.

“There are other official Navy photographs dating from

the mid-1950s that show new chief petty officers in wash khaki or dress uniforms participating in various events such as eating their first meal in the CPO mess from a wooden trough,” Leuci said.

Selects would build the troughs and on their initiation day would eat from it either with a large spoon – or with no utensils at all and their hands tied behind their back. These were traditions of convenience, borrowed from other rites, and not intrinsic to the role or the training to be a chief. They were simply disgusting and often degrading.

“But it doesn’t appear that they ate anything different than the other chief’s in the mess in those troughs,” Leuci said, “unlike many initiations in later years where many inedible things were required to be eaten. At my own initiation I was required to eat raw eggs through a condom.”

Borrowed Traditions

The old saying that there’s nothing new under the sun could apply to initiation day, when the selectee faces a judge who lists a litany of transgressions and shortcomings.

Defenders of these events say that what is endured during initiation hammers home the idea that chiefs must work together as a group – as a mess – to accomplish things. They can’t do it alone, and they need to listen to the experience and wisdom of those who came before if they hope to be successful.

Others disagree and believe that shenanigans are degrading and lack training value.

The facts show that much of what became chief initiations in the 1960s and lasted for decades was borrowed from other naval ceremonies – especially those from the rite of crossing the equator and becoming a “shellback.”

“Some of the rituals seen in crossing the line ceremonies, such as eating distasteful concoctions of food products and drinking ‘truth serum,’ were adopted for CPO initiations,” Leuci said. “Some of the props used in crossing the line ceremonies such as stocks and ice-filled coffins began to be seen in CPO initiations. Characters like the ‘judge,’ ‘defense attorney,’ and ‘sheriff’ became fixtures as CPO initiations essentially became mock trials or kangaroo courts.”

Other induction rites borrowed from “tacking” on crows for junior sailors or “blood pinning,” where shipmates puncture a sailor’s skin with newly awarded military pins and qualification insignia.

These rituals all made it into chief initiations, Leuci said, adding that the “practices and events were in direct conflict with Navy regulations relating to hazing, bullying, and harassment – especially when viewed by today’s standards,” he said. “However, the attitudes of senior enlisted and officer leadership of the 1960s and 1970s were often tolerant of questionable practices as long as there were no serious injuries and no serious complaints.” In the 1990s as Navy leadership sought to rein in the initiation antics, some chiefs fought back and offered voluntary alternatives, away from the Navy’s prying eyes and rules.

“There were reports that some CPO messes offered ‘traditional’ initiations to interested selectees that were not sanctioned by the Navy and were held off-base,” Leuci said. “It seems almost ludicrous.”

Shenanigans And Controversy

Nearly every MCPON has had to deal with some sort of initiation controversy during his time wearing the three-starred crow that is the symbol of the office.

That started with Master Chief Gunner’s Mate Del Black, the first MCPON. Black had to respond to chiefs outraged that a 1967 instruction prohibited “hazardous or detrimental” rites, or that involved “unbecoming conduct.” That was widely interpreted to mean that informal initiations would be replaced by formal ones, with none of the fun and games.

But in what became the first ever initiation guidance issued by the Navy, Black wrote in the January 1968 issue of All Hands Magazine that it just wasn’t so.

“There is no objection to CPO initiations conducted in a humorous vein, but at the same time, they should not be hazardous,” Black wrote. “Proper supervision and planning can ensure that the honor and pride that go with making chief are not overshadowed by fun and games. We should not force the initiates to eat or drink against their wishes, nor should we do anything that could lead to bodily injury.”

Black went on to say that the chiefs conducting the ceremonies should “avoid any humiliation to the initiate.”

Despite Black’s prohibitions, Leuci wrote, initiations went on unabated.

“Many provisions of SECNAVINST 5060 were generally ignored,” Leuci wrote in the report. “Alcohol abuse, the consumption of food concoctions, unsafe events and the humiliation of CPO selectees remained the norm.”

Sometimes things got so bad that the chief of naval operations tried to shut down initiations.

“Every MCPON, starting with [William] Plackett through Scott, was confronted with concerns about, or actual orders to end, CPO initiations from the Chief of Naval Operations,” Leuci wrote. “Discussions to eliminate CPO initiations were generally kept out of the media and were not common knowledge within the fleet.”

Such was the case during the time Duane Bushy was MCPON in the early 1990s. Nearly every year there were reports of alcohol fueled misconduct at initiations.

In 1988, then-CNO Adm. Carlisle Trost and members of Congress were drawn into the debate by “reports of lewd, crude, and disgusting behavior during initiations” which were reported directly to them, according to the report.

The straw that broke the CNO’s back was a complaint of

a lewd incident in Groton, Conn. Nine newly minted chiefs came down with strep throat after being forced to put a plastic facsimile of a penis in their mouths, one after another. The disease was then transmitted to family members, according to accounts told to Navy Times by sources close to the discussions.

Leuci mentions the incident, but not does not describe what spread the disease, citing only unsanitary conditions during the initiation were the cause.

This led to a crackdown. Alcohol use by selectees was banned from the events. Promises were made to hold command master chiefs accountable for degrading or hazardous conduct at inductions. Officials expanded the rules to ban selectees from performing any acts against their will.

“The reforms were not popular among all CPO messes,” Leuci wrote. “However, even though some CPO messes were slow to accept or simply ignored the MCPON’s guidance, the reforms had begun.”

A few years later, Leuci said, in the wake of the Tailhook scandal, MCPON John Hagan saved initiations from the scrap heap by instituting reforms.

Nearly every MCPON since has issued some sort of reform, instituting formal leadership training and other more acceptable and arguably more beneficial ways of welcoming in new chiefs each year.

It was Stevens in 2013 who took the final step, and moved the process to one that mandated a professional transition, eliminating alcohol from any formal events and ending chief’s initiation and the sophomoric antics that had so long gone with it.

Frocking, Boards And Chief’s Season

The current practice of having a “chief’s season,” where newly selected chief petty officers are promoted or frocked to their new paygrade on Sept. 16, has only been in practice since 1980.

And it’s only been since 1974 that the Navy has held a selection board for advancement to chief.

Before that time, advancement to chief was a year-round affair, with advancements – and initiations – being held nearly every month as a new crop of chiefs earned their anchors.

As with petty officers today, there were twice-annual chief exams.

And these exams were graded and a final multiple score based on that test score and the sailor’s annual evaluations ranked the candidates. Those on the list were promoted in their order of ranking.

These lists, according to Leuci’s research, were mailed to commands.

“A posted advancement list was the way that most sailors found out they were selected for chief,” Leuci wrote. “CPO pro-

motion lists promulgated by naval message did not become common until the late 1960s.”

Frocking – the practice of allowing someone to wear the rank and assume the rights and responsibilities of the next pay grade – wasn’t authorized, yet.

Once the selection board was established in 1974, the twice a year lists went away and a single annual list was published.

Advancements and initiations continued monthly until 1980 when frocking was authorized for all enlisted paygrades.

So, when the selection boards met that year and the results were released in July, the Navy held its first “chief’s season,” where all those selected were either advanced or frocked in September – a practice that continues today.

Covers And Khakis

The last tradition in a pinning ceremony is also the oldest: the donning of the chief’s cover.

Today, it’s considered tradition that chiefs and officers wear combination covers and khakis, but that wasn’t always the case.

From the start, chiefs wore a separate dress uniform, but the day to day working uniform for all enlisted was dungarees. The only way to recognize a chief was by his or her hat.

Khaki working uniforms were authorized only for aviation chiefs who were qualified pilots in 1929. It wasn’t until 1941 that the Navy authorized khaki as a working uniform for chiefs and officers.

The chief’s fouled anchor first appeared in 1897 as a cap device only – collar devices were still almost 60 years away. Since then, it’s been reworked. Initially the anchor was just pinned to the cloth of the cap, but later it was put on a background, like the officer insignia.

Today, chiefs are taught an alternate meaning for the USN on their covers, that it stands for unity, service and navigation.

“It’s a nice tradition that someone made up,” Leuci said.

Even the practice of pinning was created as the process went along. Until 1959, 55 years ago, collar devices weren’t worn. They were added after the creation of the E-8 and E-9 pay grades in 1958.

Initially, all three paygrades wore the same fouled anchor without the stars we know today. Separate collar devices for each paygrade came in 1961.

“When you step back and look at it all, it’s not so much tradition as it is an evolution, a process of constant change,” Leuci said. “But no matter what the evidence says, there will always be those who think that any change is bad.”

Response from the Editor: I agree in part with the points made in this lengthy article, in that there have been some excesses, brought to light by the Tail Hook Scandal, by inap-

propriate actions of a few young naval aviation officers, which caused a backlash for all sorts of conduct of what some folks disapproved of. However, those criticisms do not measure up to dismantling the Tradition of CPO Initiations altogether. The excesses could easily be corrected internally, within each Command’s Leadership structure, particularly within the CPO ranks. For instance, as a judge in several CPO Initiations, I set a standard that the Initiates were forbidden to consume any alcohol until after his collar devices had been installed, usually by the C.O. and the Senior CPO or the new Chief’s wife. That alone cut down on a lot of excesses as well as helping the new Chief remember his initiation ceremony. The leaders of the ceremony can also use good sense in planning the events used in the initiation process by weeding out those that may get out of hand and go too far. That, then, is where my agreement with the article ends.

MCPON Stevens argues that CLPO Initiations are not a Tradition, since, by his definition, haven’t been around for a significantly long time, a mere 75 or so years. But he also admits that CPOs have only been around for some 60 years longer, which means that CPO Initiations have been around 15 years longer than not.

Upcoming Events for April 2015

Sunday, 5 April – Saturday, April 11th,

Hog Roast in The Swamp, held at the After Battery. Hog Roast on Saturday April 11th. Festivities all during the week. All events are free, donations accepted. Card games going 24-7.

Thursday, April 9th,

Charleston Base monthly meeting at the FRA, 99 Wisteria Road, Goose Creek. Kitchen opens at 1700. Social hour starts at 1800. Meeting starts at 1900. Holland Club Induction Ceremony. There will also be a FREE food spread put on by Charleston Base. More details later. Hope to see everyone there.

Saturday, April 11th,

Tolling of the bell for the lost boats and the Amberjack Memorial. Ceremony stars at 1000. More details to follow.

Tuesday, April 14th

Victory House Veterans Home visit. Meet at VFW on Bellwright Road at 1000. Will return about 1300.

Thursday, April 16th ,

Swamp Fox Chapter WWII Vets Bi- Monthly meeting at The Golden Corral by Tanger Mall. Meeting starts at 1200. Please be there by 1130 to get a good seat and tell some Sea Stories.

Monday, April 20th – Thursday, April 23rd

SubVets SE Regional Conference to be held at Cape Canaveral, FL. More details to follow.

Ladies' News...Save the Date!!

SubVet Wives' Luncheon is on 15 April 2015, 1130-1330
At Logan's Roadhouse, Azalea Square in Summerville.

Retired Admirals Reveal Plan To Use Australian Submarines To Defend Japan *Staff, news.com.au, Mar. 9*

Buying a Japanese submarine has more to do with the US alliance and protecting Japan from China than jobs or capability, according to two former Japanese admirals.

In a document obtained by News Corp, former Japanese Navy chief Vice-Admiral Yoji Koda and former submarine fleet commander Vice Admiral Masao Kobayashi argue that the "north-south cooperation" between Australia and Japan would provide "strategic and operational flexibility to the USA's rebalancing policy".

"This strategic relationship is a thing which no other nation can replace," the document says.

The former admirals will tell a Royal United Services Institute conference in Adelaide later this month that cooperation between Australia and Japan on submarines would "support and enhance military capabilities of US forces deployed in this area, which, along with Japan and Australia will jointly face the same challenges."

Japan has been building one submarine a year for the past 60 years and Prime Minister Tony Abbott was late last year reportedly close to announcing that Japan would build the navy's future submarine under a deal with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and with the blessing of Washington.

However Japan has never exported any military technology let alone its most sensitive submarine technology.

Under pressure over a possible "secret deal" with Japan the Abbott Government has announced a competitive evaluation process involving Japan, Germany and France.

The designer of the Collins Class boats, Swedish firm Kockums now owned by Saab, was excluded from the deal despite its leading edge technology and 100-year history.

"A submarine's ability to ambush and intercept surface and sub-surface shipping in narrow waters will be an ideal capability to meet Japan's strategic objectives and JMSDF's (Japan Maritime Self Defence Force) mission of controlling choke points in the south-western Island chain in the future," the Admirals say.

"At the same time an enhanced submarine capability of the RAN (Royal Australian Navy) will firmly support showing Australia's strategic intent to deter illegal or aggressive actions by any one nation against neighbouring nations, as well as deter potential adversaries."

A retired American submariner, who asked to remain anonymous, told News Corp Australia that buying a Japanese sub would create a risk for Australia in terms of possible "mistaken identity" given the identical "signatures" of the boats.

Without mentioning China by name the ex-admirals go on to say that Australia's "determined strategic signals" would have a

strong and stabilising influence on the complicated situations in the South China Sea.

China has been flexing its military muscles in this disputed region for several years.

"These independent effects will support and enhance military capabilities of US forces deployed in this area, which along with Japan and Australia will jointly face the same challenges," they say.

The admirals say that close security coordination reinforced by possible industrial cooperation between the two US allies would accelerate the US push to the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

"And eventually help to deter a potential adversary's adventurism."

Virginia Class Submarines *Staff, Next Big Future, Mar 14*

US Navy's total requirement is for 30 Virginia Class Attack Submarines. The Navy placed a bulk-buy contract for the first five ships and, in January 2004, placed a multiyear contract for the following five.

The Virginia-class of attack submarines surpasses the performance of any current projected threat submarine. They were designed as a cheaper alternative to the Cold War era Seawolf-class attack submarines, and are slated to replace aging Los Angeles class subs, seventeen of which have already been decommissioned.

Innovations

The Virginias incorporate several innovations. Instead of periscopes, the subs have a pair of extendable "photonics masts" outside the pressure hull. Each contains several high-resolution cameras with light-intensification and infrared sensors, an infrared laser rangefinder, and an integrated Electronic Support Measures (ESM) array. Signals from the masts' sensors are transmitted through fiber optic data lines through signal processors to the control center. The subs also make use of pump-jet propulsors for quieter operations.

The hull size is length 377ft by beam 34ft and the displacement is 7,300t dived, which is smaller than the more expensive Seawolf attack submarine with displacement 9,137t dived.

The submarine is fitted with modular isolated deck structures, for example the submarine's command centre will be installed as one single unit resting on cushioned mounting points. The submarine's control suite is equipped with computer touch screens.

Weapon systems

The submarine is equipped with 12 vertical missile launch tubes and four 533mm torpedo tubes. The vertical launching system has the capacity to launch 16 Tomahawk submarine-launched cruise missiles (SLCM) in a single salvo. There is capacity for up to 26 mk48 ADCAP mod 6 heavyweight torpedoes and sub harpoon anti-ship missiles to be fired from the 21in torpedo tubes. Mk60 CAPTOR mines may also be fitted.

An integral lock-out / lock-in chamber is incorporated into the hull for special operations. The chamber can host a mini-submarine, such as Northrop Grumman's Oceanic and Naval Systems advanced SEAL delivery system (ASDS), to deliver special

warfare forces such as navy sea air land (SEAL) teams or Marine reconnaissance units for counter-terrorism or localised conflict operations.

Countermeasures

Virginia is fitted with the AN/WLY-1 acoustic countermeasures system being developed by Northrop Grumman, which provides range and bearing data, along with the mast-mounted AN/BLQ-10 electronic support measures (ESM) system from Lockheed Martin Integrated Systems.

AN/BLQ-10 provides full spectrum radar processing, automatic threat warning and situation assessment.

Technology barriers

Because of the low rate of Virginia production, the Navy entered into a program with DARPA to overcome technology barriers to lower the cost of attack submarines so that more could be built, to maintain the size of the fleet.

These include:

- Propulsion concepts not constrained by a centerline shaft.
- Externally stowed and launched weapons (especially torpedoes).
- Conformal alternatives to the existing spherical sonar array.
- Technologies that eliminate or substantially simplify existing submarine hull, mechanical and electrical systems.
- Automation to reduce crew workload for standard tasks

Block I

- USS Virginia (SSN-774), commissioned and in service.
- USS Texas (SSN-775), commissioned and in service.
- USS Hawaii (SSN-776), commissioned and in service.
- USS North Carolina (SSN-777), commissioned and in service.

Block II

- USS New Hampshire (SSN-778), commissioned and in service.
- USS New Mexico (SSN-779), commissioned and in service.
- USS Missouri (SSN-780), commissioned and in service.
- USS California (SSN-781), commissioned and in service.
- USS Mississippi (SSN-782), commissioned and in service.
- USS Minnesota (SSN-783), commissioned and in service.

Block III

- PCU North Dakota (SSN-784), named July 15, 2008, expected to be delivered in October 25, 2014.

PCU John Warner (SSN-785), named January 8, 2009, expected to be delivered April 30, 2015.

Poland Eyes Cruise Missiles for Subs Jaroslav Adamowski, Defense News, Mar 14

The Polish Defense Ministry has unveiled plans to acquire cruise missiles for the three submarines it aims to purchase by 2023, amid concerns over Russia's increased military presence in Eastern Europe, local analysts say.

Warsaw is in talks with Washington and Paris over a potential military deal that would be carried out as part of the Defense Ministry's Polish Claws program, designed to significantly improve the country's deterrence capacity.

"Indeed, we have asked the French and the Americans on the possibility of acquiring cruise missiles for our future submarines," Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Tomasz Siemonek tweeted on March 12.

The announcement by the Polish official came following a report by local daily Dziennik Gazeta Prawna, which learned that Warsaw has launched negotiations on acquiring Tomahawk cruise missiles from the US. To date, only the US and UK have the missiles. The long-range Tomahawk is manufactured by Raytheon.

In an interview with Polish broadcaster Polskie Radio on March 13, Siemonek confirmed the report, and said Poland could become one of the few NATO countries to possess such weapons.

"We are currently preparing a tender for a modern submarine, and one of the capabilities we want it to be fitted with is the cruise missile. As we are aiming to extend the scope of potential bidders, we have submitted requests to various countries, asking whether they are ready to provide us with such weapons. This weapon is so advanced that [its sale] requires the approval [of respective governments]," Siemonek said. "After a thorough analysis, I decided that Polish submarines should have such a capability, and we have asked all [the countries] which could supply such weapons to us, also our American partners."

The planned deal is reportedly to be signed by the ministry in 2017.

Russia blasts Poland's Tomahawk Plans

Meanwhile, the announcement by Siemonek has been bashed by Russian officials and representatives of the country's military circles who perceive the planned missile acquisition as directed against Moscow.

Col. Gen. Leonid Ivashov, the former head of the Russian Defense Ministry's Department of International Cooperation, told local news agency Interfax that the acquisition by Poland "is clearly an anti-Russian gesture" that demonstrates "Warsaw's complete dependency on Washington." The official said that, should the missiles be supplied to the Polish military, Russia would have to take "countermeasures."

However, local analysts say Russia's fierce opposition to Poland's ongoing military modernization plan could be played by Poland as another reason for pushing forward the designed acquisition.

"The ministry is hoping that Russia's presence [in Ukraine] will give impetus to the deal, and the Congress will approve such a foreign military sale so this technology can be shared with Poland," said an analyst with a Polish government-run think tank. "The con-

flict in Ukraine is driving increased military cooperation [between Eastern European countries], and Lithuania recently announced it wants to . join the joint military brigade Poland will establish with Ukraine."

Poland is planning to launch the submarine tender in the fourth quarter of this year, according to senior ministry officials. Two submarines are scheduled to be delivered by 2022, and a third one by 2023, as indicated by the country's Military Modernization Plan for 2013-2022.

The ministry says it does not want to disclose the estimated value of the purchase, as it fears this could influence its negotiating position with prospective bidders. Under the planned deal, a service and maintenance center for the submarines is to be also established in Poland.

The Tomahawk could be yet another major military deal resulting from increased fears over Russia's intensified military activities in Eastern Europe. Last year, Moscow's intervention in Ukraine, and its subsequent occupation of the Crimean peninsula, has intensified Poland's efforts to acquire AGM-158 joint air-to-surface standoff missiles (JASSMs) for its fleet of F-16 Block 52+ fighter jets. The US Congress agreed to the foreign military sale in the third quarter of 2014, and last December, Poland's Defense Ministry inked a deal with Lockheed Martin to acquire the missiles under a contract worth about US \$250 million.

The latest deal will allow Poland to join Australia and Finland as the third non-US country to use the JASSM, which is a long-range, semi-autonomously guided, conventional, air-to-ground, precision standoff missile, designed to destroy high-value, well-defended targets, according to its manufacturer.

"We have never had as modern weapons as those that we will acquire through this contract," Siemoniak said at the signing ceremony last December.

[New Attack Submarine Could be Stationed on Guam](#) **[Ken Quintanilla, KUOM News, Mar 16](#)**

It's called "A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower: Forward, Engaged, Ready" and it was released over the weekend. The new maritime strategy describes how the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard will design, organize and employ naval forces in support of national security interests and homeland security objectives.

Under the new strategy it would increase the Navy's forward presence to 120 ships by 2020, up from 97 today. This includes forward basing four ballistic missile defense destroyers in Spain and stationing another attack submarine in Guam by the end of this year.

[India Should Play Bigger Role In South China Sea, Says Singapore](#) **[Sharon Chen, Bloomberg News, Mar 16](#)**

Singapore said it wants India to play a bigger role in the South China Sea as China hastens land reclamation in the disputed waters that carry some of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

Singapore has been a strong supporter of India's increased engagement in the region through security forums, Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen said in an interview on Monday after a meeting

with Southeast Asian counterparts in Langkawi, an island in Malaysia. The group declared its commitment to the principle of no first use of force, he said.

"We hope that their presence and participation will increase – that really adds up to engagement and confidence building and mutual understanding," Ng said, referring to Asia's third-biggest economy. "India is a big country and it's an influential country."

India's involvement in the region could give Southeast Asian nations a further buffer against China as that country seeks to enforce its claims to the majority of the South China Sea and push back against decades of U.S. military dominance in the Pacific. China is also looking to build a maritime trade route linking a network of ports through the Indian Ocean with Europe via the Suez Canal, a prospect that has unnerved India.

Ng's comments follow calls for Japan to separately play an enhanced role in the South China Sea. Vice-Admiral Robert Thomas, commander of the Navy's Seventh Fleet, said in January the U.S. would welcome an extension of Japan's air surveillance into the area, while Defense Minister Gen Nakatani said last month that Japan would consider conducting air and sea patrols. Japan and China are separately embroiled in a territorial dispute in the East China Sea.

Nine-Dash Line

China says it's entitled to about four-fifths of the South China Sea, based on a nine-dash line drawn on a 1940s map that loops down like a cow's tongue to a point about 1,800 kilometers (1,119 miles) south from China's Hainan island. The area overlaps claims from Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan.

Southeast Asian nations are worried about China building multistory mall-like structures on the Cuarteron and Gaven reefs, Philippine Defense spokesman Peter Paul Galvez told reporters in Manila last week. The Philippines is relying on diplomatic protests and arbitration to address China's "blatant disregard" of a 2002 non-binding declaration of conduct in the waters, he said.

China has reclaimed land around Fiery Cross Reef to create an island large enough to enable its first airstrip in the Spratly Islands, IHS Jane's reported Nov. 20, citing satellite pictures. The Spratlys are a collection of more than 100 islands or reefs that dot the southern South China Sea.

Explain Actions

China will have to explain its actions and how they comply with the 2002 agreement, Ng said. The declaration between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations calls on parties to refrain from "inhabiting on the presently uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, cays and other features."

China has every right to carry out construction on its territory and won't accept criticism from others about its "legal and reasonable" work, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on March 8. "We are not comparable to some countries that like to build illegal houses on others' territory."

The U.S. has urged China to stop reclaiming land, while the Philippines and China have frequently traded accusations over their territorial claims and encounters between fishing and military vessels.

Presence, Voice

Greater Indian involvement in the South China Sea would risk raising tensions with China and complicate its efforts to assert control of the Indian Ocean, waters that carry most of the world's oil trade. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is starting to bulk up his naval forces to assert control in the waters and prevent China from establishing a military foothold.

India last month increased its defense budget by 11 percent to \$40 billion and approved the building of six nuclear-powered submarines, triple what it currently has in service, as well as seven new frigates. Modi is concerned that China wants to expand its military presence in the region by establishing naval bases in Indian Ocean ports, a theory first expounded by U.S. consultant Booz Allen Hamilton in a 2005 report for Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

"We've said so to our Indian counterparts, we feel that we benefit from their presence, from their voice, and we'll continue to take that line," said Ng. "How they respond to their own interpretation of events in the Indian Ocean is up to them."

Russian Submarine Seen Near Latvian Waters

Aiswarya Lakshmi, MarineLink.com, Mar 18

The Latvian armed forces spotted a Russian submarine in the exclusive economic zone of Latvia on March 16, reports BBC.

The warship was seen at a distance of 27 nautical miles from the territorial waters of the country. The vessel was a Russian Project 877 Paltus submarine, the National Assembly of Latvia said.

The Armed forces confirmed that there were two Russian Kilo-class submarines and a research vessel outside the country's territorial waters.

The Kilo-class vessels, to use their NATO classification, have been deployed by the Soviet, and then the Russian navy since the early 1980s. Nimble and quiet, they have traditionally been named "black holes" for their stealth capabilities.

Last year, Riga alleged that Russian vessels were spotted 50 times off the coast of Latvia, and planes flew around its airspace 200 times. At no point did they violate Latvian borders, but the three Baltic states scrambled their jets 112 times last year, to escort Russian planes out of their territory.

In November 2014 and February 2015 submarines and corvettes of the Russian navy appeared in the exclusive economic zone of Latvia. Unlike territorial waters, exclusive economic zones are not closed to warships of other states.

Russia has been stepping up naval and aerial activities in recent months, with military aircraft frequently spotted close to, or even briefly crossing into, the airspace of other countries, including Estonia and the UK.

Baltic countries have become increasingly concerned about their own sovereignty since Russia annexed Crimea in March 2014, fearing that a precedent of annexation during Soviet times and their geographical location on Russia's doorstep could see them sucked into a wider regional conflict.

Submariners Lost In Line Of Duty In 65 Subma-

rines To Be Honored April 18 Staff, Chattanooga.com, Mar 19

Members of the USS Carbonero Base, U.S. Submarine Veterans, will honor the memories of over 4,000 submariners lost

in the line of duty in a formal public ceremony to recognize their service on April 18 at 11 a.m. at the Southern Belle Riverboat.

Since the founding of the U.S. Submarine force in 1900, 65 submarines and over 4,000 men have given up their lives. The great majority of these young lives were lost during WWII when 52 submarines were lost.

It is the duty of the members of United States Submarine Veterans to publicly honor submariners so that their service and sacrifice is never forgotten. The general public is invited to join in honoring these fallen heroes of the U.S. Submarine force.

United States Submarine Veterans is a National Veterans Fraternal Organization chartered in 1964 and recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(19) entity. With over 13,000 members and 150 chapters (bases) nationwide, it is the largest organization of submarine qualified veterans in the world. Visit www.ussvi.org or call 360.337-2978 for additional information.

Fast Attack Submarine To Become Moored Training Ship

Staff, Marine Log, Mar 19

Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) recently welcomed USS La Jolla (SSN 701) for conversion from an operational fast-attack submarine into a Moored Training Ship (MTS). The submarine was built by General Dynamics Electric Boat and commissioned in October 1981;

MTSs are nuclear training platforms used to qualify new nuclear operators. La Jolla and USS San Francisco (SSN 711) are the next-generation MTSs for the Nuclear Power Training Unit in Charleston, SC.

La Jolla's conversion process will require two complete hull cuts, separating the ship into three pieces, recycling a portion of the hull, and adding three new hull sections. The new hull sections will arrive from Electric Boat (EB) via barge and then be craned into the dock. The Navy says the work will include Virginia Class new construction philosophies and methods with a major depot-level overhaul. EB's new construction techniques and expertise are also being used in the handling and installing of the new hull modules.

"The biggest challenge for this project is coordinating the unprecedented volume of work on a submarine availability with overlapping planning effort while staying within aggressive schedule and budget constraints," said Steve Seligman, deputy project superintendent "To mitigate these challenges, the project team personnel actively participated in design development to minimize execution challenges during the conversion."

NNSY is also leveraging best practices and lessons learned provided by Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility Inactivation, Reactor Compartment Disposal, Recycling (IRR), because the conversion will dispose of or recycle a substantial portion of La Jolla.

"The Navy is depending on the timely delivery of the next generation of Moored Training Ships to ensure the contingent of highly trained, nuclear officers and sailors meets demands from the fleet to support its nuclear powered carriers and submarines," said Chrystal Brady, project superintendent. "This is a unique project which is crucial to ensuring fleet readiness in support of the Navy's primary mission.

"Proud And Inspired By USS New Hampshire

Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Seacoast Online, Mar 22

Two weeks ago, diving deep in the Atlantic aboard the nuclear-powered attack submarine USS New Hampshire, I witnessed firsthand how the United States Navy – more powerful than all other navies combined – dominates the world’s oceans. And I better understood why stealthy, lethal, multi-mission Virginia Class subs will be at the heart of US military strategy for decades to come.

Granite Staters can take special pride in the New Hampshire, nicknamed the Granite Ghost. When I introduced myself to a sailor as Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, he said “welcome home.” Our state’s motto, “Live Free or Die,” is also the ship’s motto, proudly displayed on sailors’ gear. The boat’s sponsor, Cheryl McGuinness of Portsmouth, commissioned it at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in 2008; her initials are welded on a hull plate in the mess hall. In the course of the day, the commanding officer, Cmdr. Sean D. Fujimoto, and many crew members praised the excellence of teams from our shipyard who keep the New Hampshire and every other Virginia Class sub in peak condition.

As a senior member of the Senate’s Armed Services Committee, I have been a strong supporter of the Virginia Class submarine program, and successfully fought to reverse cuts to the program in 2012. These remarkable boats are equipped for a full array of 21st century military missions. They are designed to enter coastal waters unseen for covert intelligence gathering, surveillance, and reconnaissance. They can insert and recover special operations forces for secret ground missions. In counter-terrorism missions, they can launch pinpoint conventional strikes on land targets using Tomahawk cruise missiles. And, of course, they also perform traditional missions such as anti-submarine, anti-surface ship, and mine warfare.

Virginia Class subs perform their missions out of sight, cloaked by stealth technology, submerged for months at a time if necessary. Potential adversaries hope to counter US superiority in surface warships by overwhelming them with thousands of anti-ship missiles or swarms of fast-attack boats. But there is no effective defense against Virginia Class subs. That’s why many military strategists believe that submarines will define future naval warfare in the same way that battleships and aircraft carriers dominated 20th century naval combat.

In an era of tight Pentagon budgets, Virginia Class subs offer the Navy more capabilities at lower costs. The newest boats — less than half the cost of Cold War-era Seawolf subs — are designed and built on the principles of “FIRE” – fast, inexpensive, restrained, and elegant. The New Hampshire was delivered months ahead of schedule and well under budget.

It has been said that building a Virginia Class submarine is more akin to making a spacecraft than a typical warship. Cmdr. Fujimoto and his crew of nearly 130 work as an elite, seamless team to operate and maintain every system and piece of technology on board. To earn the right to wear the coveted “dolphin” submarine warfare insignia, crew members spend nearly a year in rigorous training to learn how everything on the ship works and how to respond in emergencies. When I asked a senior officer on the New Hampshire a technical question about the ballast system, he used it as an opportunity to demonstrate the crew’s expertise; he turned to a cook, who promptly gave the correct answer.

In budget battles that lie ahead in Washington, I am determined to defend both the Virginia Class submarine program and the award-winning Portsmouth Naval Shipyard that keeps these vessels in fighting form. I will oppose the deep, indiscriminate cuts to these critical national security programs that would result from so-called budget “sequestration” in coming years.

America’s submarine fleet is called the Silent Service, quietly keeping the peace – and ready, if necessary, to fight and win at war. Most Americans will never see one of these magnificent Virginia Class submarines, though Granite Staters might catch a glimpse of one at the Portsmouth shipyard. But the superb professionals who design, build, maintain, and serve on the New Hampshire and her sister subs deserve our respect and gratitude.

Trawler 'May Have Snagged Submarine'

Staff, BBC News, Mar 21

A skipper has claimed a submarine may have snagged itself on his trawler as it fished off the Outer Hebrides.

Angus Macleod said he and his four crew were “extremely lucky” after his net was continually dragged in front of his 62ft boat.

The Royal Navy has said there were no British or Nato submarines in the area at the time.

There has been speculation in recent months that Russian subs have been operating off the Scottish coast.

Mr Macleod's wooden Aquarius boat was fishing for haddock, monkfish and skate about 10 miles east of the Butt of Lewis in 360ft of water on Tuesday evening.

The boat had two nets out when the port net suddenly moved in front of the boat, while the other continued to lay astern.

Mr Macleod, 46, said he was baffled by what was happening and had to “up the revs” on the engine to try to keep ahead of the net for fear of it being entangled on the propeller.

He said: “It kept going forward and we had to repeat the maneuver four times to stay ahead.

“The winch became increasingly under strain as we tried to haul the rope. There was no way the net was snagged on the bottom - we were fishing well off the bottom. It only ended when the dog rope, which attaches the top and bottom ends of the net, was cut by the propeller.

“I have been at sea for 30 years - and between the five of us there is 110 years experience - and in our collective times we have never experienced anything like that.

“The sea conditions were good. We were mystified - we just couldn't explain it.”

Mr Macleod, from Barra, believes his boat suffered about £10,000 of damage in the incident, with his trawler having to be towed back to port by the Stornoway lifeboat when its steering developed a fault.

He said he had lodged an incident report with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Marine Accident Investigation Branch.

He asked: “Is it possible a non-Nato submarine could be involved? It was not a whale - we have had whales in the nets before and the net is all twisted afterwards. Whatever it was was human powered, of that we are convinced.

“I think that something got hold of the dog rope and the trawl wire. The only explanation I can think of is it's a submarine. It missed the nets, which is just as well. All five of us are extreme-

ly lucky. I don't even want to think of the consequences of what could have happened.

"I would like to get to the bottom of it. It was a very worrying experience - it shook us all up especially when we thought about it afterwards. Whatever happened involved a moving object in mid-stream."

Reported sighting

A Royal Navy spokesman told BBC Scotland that there were no UK or Nato submarines in the area at the time.

He declined to speculate on whether a foreign submarine may have caused the incident, but said the Navy always took seriously and tried to investigate allegations that foreign submarines may be in British waters.

Four fishermen died in the Firth of Clyde in 1990 when the Scottish trawler Antares was dragged under by the nuclear-powered HMS Trenchant submarine.

In November, the UK called on the help of aircraft from Nato allies after a reported sighting of a submarine periscope off the west of Scotland.

The search continued for several weeks, with planes from the US, France and Canada flying out of RAF Lossiemouth.

The MoD would not confirm it was looking for a foreign submarine, but there has been an increase of Russian military activity in recent months.

[This Camouflage Coating Hides Submarines From Sonar](#) *William Herkewitz, Popular Mechanics, Mar 27*

Imagine a material that wicks sound across its surface like water droplets sliding over a windowpane. For submarines, such a coating would mean an entirely new way to slip past sonar without detection as sound waves pass harmlessly around the vessel.

Physicist Baile Zhang and his colleagues at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore think they may have found a way to design such a coating, which could work for any 3D shape—sharp corners included. In a new research paper published in the journal *Physical Review Letters*, he describes why this theoretical material could work and what you'd need to make it.

How it works

Zhang says that when sound waves like sonar hit his proposed coating, they strike an acoustically tuned material called a phononic crystal. That crystal bends the waves so that when they bounce off the hull, they loop around—smacking right back onto the surface to bounce over and over again. Zhang likens the process to a professional soccer player curving the ball.

Theoretically, the shape of the material you've coated doesn't matter. As you can see above, the curving sound waves will bounce past sharp corners and flat surfaces alike.

Zhang says that while this new surface is still just a theoretical prospect, he sees no reason why he and his colleagues can't build and begin experimenting on the coating within the next few months.

As for the future promise it might hold for sonar camouflage: "In principle, if a sound wave can be smoothly guided around the submarine without reflection, it can escape detection from sonar, because the sonar works by detecting deflected signals," he says.

Many ways to hide a sub

Avoiding sonar detection is just a game of making sure you don't let incoming sound-waves bounce back to where they came from, Zhang says. That means there are plenty of other (at least theoretical) cloaking methods that also could do the job. So how does Zhang's approach compare?

Valentine Leroy, a physicist at Paris Diderot University in France, has developed a different method of sub camouflage. He's proposed a way to almost perfectly sound-proof a submersible. "The general idea goes back to Germany during WWII," Leroy says, "the idea then was to use some coating material like rubber to dampen the sonar [bounce-back]," making a submarine harder to detect, he says.

Rather than rubber, Leroy found that a thin sheet of bubble-filled material (think of it like Bubble Wrap) works even better. Why? When the sonar wave smacks the bubbly coating, the energy of the wave is transformed into the vibration of the tiny bubbles, which soaks up and disperses sound. In practice, a 4-millimeter film of such a material could dampen a sonar signal by as much as 99 percent, Leroy says.

There are other even crazier sounding ideas for acoustic camouflage. One concept would use an array of underwater speakers blast back a synchronized sound wave (with the exact opposite amplitude) whenever sonar hits a ship. In theory, the deflected sonar would be cancelled out into silence.

The undersea cat-and-mouse game continues.

[A Navy Diving Suit That Recycles Wasted Oxygen And Helium](#) *Nick Stockton, Wired.com, Mar 26*

The Hindenburg wasn't brought down by lightning, static, or sabotage. History's most famous airship was destroyed by helium. Or rather, the lack thereof. The zeppelin's Nazi builders balked at the price of this rare, lighter-than-air gas. So instead, they filled the blimp with hydrogen, which is much less expensive, just as buoyant, but way more explosive. So no matter what chain of events led up to the explosion, it was helium's scarcity that killed the airship. And today, the same gas – rare as ever – is putting a major cramp in deep sea diving operations.

The U.S. Navy's divers are responsible for a wide variety of salvage and rescue tasks, from prying sunken wrecks off the sea floor to bringing distressed submarines to the surface. But every one of those divers needs oxygen that's cut with expensive helium (rather than nitrogen, which makes up most of the atmospheric cocktail we breathe on the surface). So to reduce costs – an enable more missions – the Navy has developed a new diving apparatus that rescues the helium from a diver's exhalations.

For shallow diving, a mixture of oxygen and nitrogen is fine. But nitrogen is bad for deep divers, because it's impractical for them to ascend slowly enough to prevent the gas from causing the bends and other agonizing physiological conditions. So for deep operations, divers get pumped a mixture of oxygen and helium from the surface. "But metabolically, the diver's only used about 5 percent of the helium gas in each breath," says John Camperman, the senior diving and life support scientist at the Naval Experimental Diving Unit in Panama Beach, Fl. A lot of oxygen gets wasted this way, too, bubbling away to the surface with

every exhale.

Divers could re-use that exhaled air, using up the rest of the oxygen and helium, if only for all the carbon dioxide that comes with it. The solution? A suit that recycles the air back into a breathable composition. "Instead of exhaling your entire breath into the sea, you now are exhaling into a carbon dioxide scrubber," says Camperman, whose lab developed the technology. The scrubber, carried in a backpack, is actually a canister full of granular calcium hydroxide. This material chemically binds to carbon dioxide molecules, pulling them out of the diver's dirty breath. Now, instead of flooding the diver with fresh air, the supply from the surface is a measured trickle. "It operates on the principle of injecting just the right amount of helium and oxygen to maintain the balance of gases," says Camperman. He says the rebreather saves about 80 percent of the helium from each breath.

This pack won't just slash the Navy's helium budget. "It also reduces the size of our logistical footprint," says Warrant Officer Coy Everage, the diving officer at the Navy's Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit based in Little Creek, Va. (The explosive ordnance groups handle the Navy's salvage and rescue operations.) This is because cylinders of oxygen and helium take up a lot of space, and cutting down on that load will help put divers where they need to be a lot quicker. "Figuratively speaking, it's a lot easier get on Delta Airlines with a suitcase as a carry-on rather than bringing aboard a whole truck," says Everage. (Figuratively, because trying to bring even a shampoo-bottle sized container of compressed gas on a commercial airliner would get you put on the TSA's naughty list. Navy divers move their compressed gases around the world – carefully! – using Navy planes and ships.)

Reducing helium costs could also give the Navy reason to reconsider salvage operations that had been sidelined, says Camperman. And unlike the Hindenburg, cutting down on helium probably isn't going to cause any subsurface explosions.

[Submarine Veterans Pay Tribute To USS Tullibee](#) **[Staff, Gulf Live, 30 March](#)**

Veterans of the submarine service gathered to pay tribute to the USS Tullibee (SS284), lost in combat during World War II in March 1944.

The seventh annual memorial service for the Tullibee was held at the Mississippi Submarine Memorial, located on the grounds of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Ocean Springs.

The Tullibee was assigned by the U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII to the State of Mississippi to be memorialized.

A bell rang out each time the name of a lost Tullibee crewmember was called out, after which the bell was tolled for each member of the Tullibee Base lost since the base was chartered.

[Take a Sneak Peak at Israel's Secret Submarine](#) **[Fleet Uzi Baruch, Arutz Sheva, 29 March](#)**

New footage from the Israeli Navy showcases the most advanced submarine in the IDF's arsenal: the Dolphin-class INS Tanin (Crocodile).

The nuclear-capable submarine boasts an array of sophisticated weaponry, as well as the latest in intelligence-gathering technology.

It stands at a whopping 68 meters long, compared to 57.3 meters on average for other submarines.

"The submarine will receive more long-term missions, and for a greater amount of time, than submarines" the IDF possesses, one navy officer explained, adding that as a result the Navy had "extended by several days our ability to operate silently and secretly in enemy territory."

The submarine's commander, Lieutenant Colonel "G", echoed those sentiments, adding that as a result of the sensitive nature of the missions it will be undertaking only the most elite navy personnel will be operating it.

"Even the smallest mistake by a soldier could foil the mission in the best-case scenario, and in the worst case reveal the submarine and leave it vulnerable to attack," he said.

Sailors worked closely with the defense ministry, intelligence agencies, the air force and other elite IDF units, he added.

Commander of Haifa naval base General David Salamah explained the importance of Israel's submarine fleet to national security.

Israel's submarines regularly operate "deep within enemy territory", he noted.

"We are talking about a major upgrade to the navy and the entire IDF, in the face of the challenges posed to the State of Israel."